



Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter

Humane Gardening Cultivating Habitats for Wildlife



Member of Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.,
State Garden Clubs Central Atlantic
Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc.



March/April 2025

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President's Message

Most mornings I spend some time gazing out my windows into the woods that border my property. I've seen playful squirrels, multiple bird species, deer and even a coyote. As winter gives its bursts of freezing weather, I've seen these animals use piles of brush, stacks of rocks, trees and leaves as their refuge against the harsh seasonal elements. Deer sleep under the low-lying branches of my pine trees to curb the wind, and small birds pop out of stacked rocks, their winter homes. Their inherent instincts are to use whatever natural resources that are available.

Building a humane backyard habitat for wildlife to counteract the spread of lost wildlife habitat due the spread of development is actually quite easy. Being mindful of providing water, offering natural food sources, eliminating lawn chemicals, shrinking your lawn and putting up a bat house are all great ideas to help man and wildlife coexist.

Despite the season, our backyard wildlife needs us to be stewards of nature to help build a humane backyard habitat for them. My hope is that as we progress through the year 2025, we all learn more about this concept and commit to this stewardship.

Warm regards, Lynne



Chippewa Garden Club

2025 Executive Board

Photo by Bobbie Anderson

Dates To Remember

March

**Tuesday, March 11—Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Broadview Heights Club Room**

**Tuesday, March 25—Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m. Brecksville Community Room A**

Kim Hawkins will present *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Hydrangeas*.

Kim has been a Master Gardener volunteer since 2008. She is particularly interested in perennials, hydrangeas and shade gardening. She currently chairs the Master Gardener training program for Cuyahoga County and co-chairs the Perennial Demonstration Garden. In 2019, Kim was named State Master Gardener of the Year. She lives with her therapy dog in Rocky River.

Kathy Ziemba

April

Friday and Saturday, April 5-6 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, The Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society show and succulent sale.

Tuesday, April 8—Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Broadview Heights Club Room

Friday, April 11, at 11:00 a.m. Senior Enrichment Through Nature Program Creating a decorative carrot design and growing carrots is our topic.

Tuesday, April 22—Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m. Brecksville Community Room A

Sean Fenton, ISA Certified Arborist and Ohio Licensed Commercial Applicator from Bartlett Experts, will discuss *Managing Pests and Diseases in Your Landscapes Naturally*.

2025 Perennial of the Year *pycanthemum muticum* (Clustered Mountain Mint)

Each year the Perennial Plant association (PPA) selects the perennial of the year. *Pycnanthemum muticum* (clustered Mountain mint, blunt mint or short-toothed mountain mint) is the 2025 perennial of the year. This plant is native to meadows and open woodlands in the Eastern United States and west to Texas. It has silvery green foliage that smells minty although it is not a true mint (*Mentha*). Flower clusters are compact, hence the common name.

Mountain mint is low maintenance. It grows best in full sun but tolerates partial shade. It grows in moist, well-drained soils, although it will tolerate clay soil and is drought tolerant. It spreads by rhizomes but is not as invasive as the true mints and reaches heights of 24-36 inches. It is clump-forming.

This species blooms from August to September and is deer and rabbit resistant and disease free. It attracts pollinators such as butterflies, wasps and moths. There are about 20-25 mountain mint species native to the US and Canada. Some varieties are edible, but others can be toxic. Historically, this species was used in folk medicine as a tea and by Native Americans, but caution should be taken as some sources declare this species to be toxic.

Kathy Habib



pycanthemum muticum

Photo by Jo Ann Bartsch

Affiliate Day
Thursday, April 17, 2025
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Woodland Hall, Cleveland
Botanical Garden

Featured speaker
Scott Beuerlein
“Favorite Plants from Favorite
Gardens”

Horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens who runs their horticultural symposiums and plant trails.

He is a contributor to Garden Rant website, and writes two columns for Horticulture Magazine - Deep Roots and Garden Views columns.
\$15.00 registration fee

Registration for the event will be on the Affiliate Council website hfandgaffiliatecouncil.org starting in March and ending April 8. All members of the Affiliate Garden Clubs (2025 affiliate memberships must be current) are invited to attend.

Ikebana Classes By Darlene Hritz
440-915-8740

All classes are at my home in the basement, down one flight of stairs, 9041 Tiffany Drive, North Royalton. Cost: \$30.00 (cash or check); pay at class. Bring a pail to take your flowers home, a notebook and pruners or flower clippers. Bring a Kenzan if you have one. If not, I have supplies you can borrow while you are here. There are six seats available for each class.

I purchase flowers the morning of the class, so please let me know by the day before if you want to attend, or earlier if you can. If you sign up and don't let me know by 9 a.m. the day of class that you can NOT attend, then you will need to pay for the flowers, and you can pick them up later in the day or the next day. Since I don't order flowers ahead, I don't know what I will find at the wholesale location and can't always predict ahead which style we will be working on. But if you check your email by 11 a.m. that day, then I could let you know if there is a certain container you need to bring. If not, I have containers you can use while you are here.

We will be following the curriculum of the Ohara School of Ikebana.

Some of the lessons we will be working on are:

- Rising form in a low bowl or tall vase
- Inclining form in a low bowl or tall vase
- One Row Form
- Circular Form
- Radial Form
- Upright Style
- Slanting Style
- Water Reflecting Style
- Heika - Upright, slanting, or cascading styles (tall vase)

Hana kanade

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Darlene Hritz 440-915-8740

Thursday, April 24, 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 1, 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. only

Thursday, May 29, 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.

The attached was contributed by CGC member,
 Mary Jane Maloney

Orchids: Love in Bloom
Open from February 14, 2025 thru
March 30, 2025 at the
Cleveland Botanical Gardens

Visitors will find 3,000 orchids and over 100 different varieties. All exhibits feature romantic backdrops where visitors can pose together for a photo.

You will find a love swan, a sniffing booth, a tunnel of love and a piano filled with orchids. Exhibits are wonderful and breathtaking. Colors are fabulous-yellow, orange, green, pink, purple-and some exhibits are featured in Kokodamas (Japanese art of growing plants in a moss-covered ball of soil), that Chippewa Garden club members have entered in our past flower shows.

Plan on visiting the Cleveland Botanical Gardens Orchid Show. You will enjoy! **Debbie Schuckert**



Orchids, Orchids and More Orchids

Photos by Debbie Schuckert

Mini Greenhouse and Seed Starting

One way to combat the winter doldrums is to plan a summer garden. On February 7, 2025, Chippewa Garden Club volunteers presented a "Senior Enrichment Through Nature" (SETN) program on how to start seeds in a mini outdoor greenhouse to Broadview Heights senior citizens.

Chippewa Garden Club provided basic supplies that included recycled milk jugs, soil, duct tape and seeds along with a demonstration on how to get the winter sowing process started.

Winter sowing is a technique that allows seeds to germinate outdoors from mid-February until spring. The adapted milk jug provides protection, acting like a mini greenhouse when placed in a sunny location outdoors. Plants started with this technique usually have stronger root systems that will make healthier transplants into gardens and pots as the weather warms. Winter sowing is an easy and more economical way of gardening as small plants purchased at local garden centers are more expensive. Examples of seeds most conducive to winter sowing seeds are coneflower, black eyed Susan, lavender, onion, oregano, kale and spinach.

Many thanks to the Chippewa Garden Club volunteers Bobbi Anderson, Debby Compton, Lynne Evans, Judy LaBuda and Sandy Ladebue for their help in guiding the participants in making their mini greenhouses.

The next SETN program will be April 11th. Call Broadview Heights Human Services Department to RSVP.

Lynne Evans, Senior Enrichment Chair



Senior Gardeners in Action

Photo by Lynne Evans

Creating Habitats For Backyard Birds

Jenny McLain from the Brecksville Nature Center presented *Creating Habits for Backyard Birds* at our February 25 Membership meeting. Our bird population is diminishing, and habitat loss is one of the causes of its decline.

Help by collecting some of the twigs and debris you otherwise throw out and leave them for nesting material in your back yard. Brush piles are also good. Shrubs are a good source of habitat for birds who prefer to nest off the ground but not in the tree tops. Tree top birds like to nest 10-25 feet above the ground, as the branches provide shelter. Sparrows, kill-deer, mallard ducks and geese are examples of ground nesting birds. Mow carefully to avoid their nests.

Providing bird houses in your yard is another way to protect the egg and the hatchling until the chick is a fledgling able to get around on its own.

Plant native plants that have seeds, nuts and insects which provide food for the birds, maintain bird baths and refresh the water frequently and avoid insecticides to help our bird populations thrive. Bird feeders provide additional food to the natural resources.

Other suggestions included using bird tape or stickers on windows to prevent bird strikes and turning off any unnecessary lights at night since outdoor lights at orient birds. At the end, Jenny answered many audience questions.

Pat Gabriel

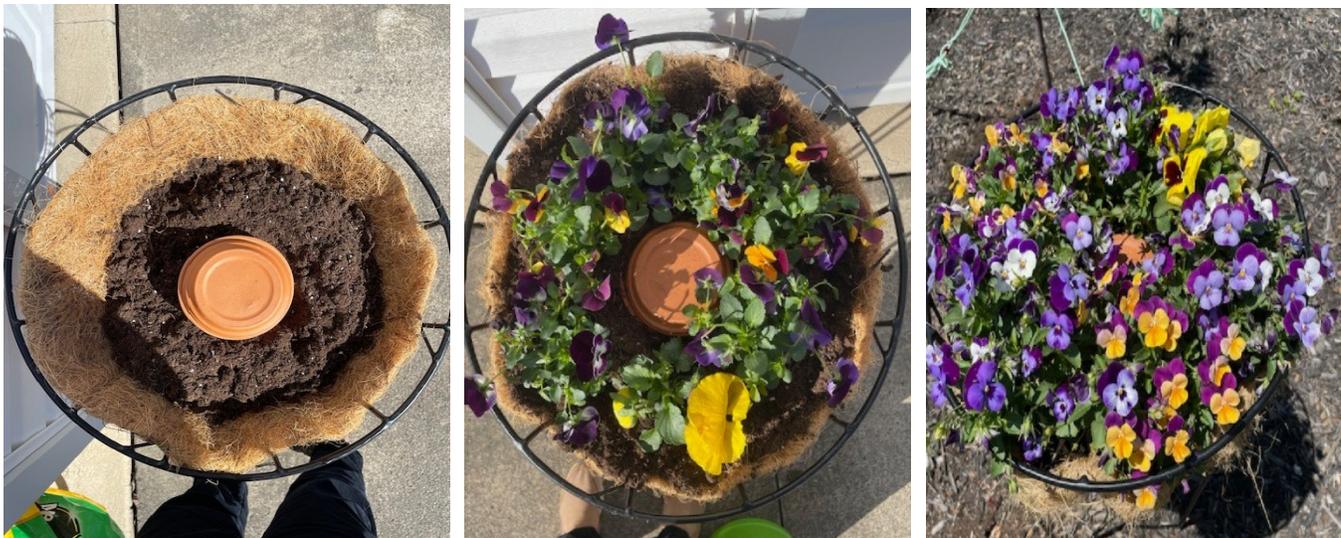
Olla Experiment Results from 2024

Last year I wrote a short article on the use of an olla as a self-watering technique in containers. I had modest success with container-grown butternut squash and wanted to try a different receptacle. Last summer I tried the olla again with a coca coir-lined basket and violets.

Just to refresh your memory an olla is an unglazed clay pot used to provide deep watering to your plants and surrounding soil. Plants can sense the water nearby and route their roots to the pot for their hydration. I used an unglazed terracotta pot as my olla. As seen in the photos, the olla is placed first and then, covered.

The plants are transplanted with potting soil. Once the plants are tamped down, the olla is filled with water and re-covered. Until the plants are established, watering occurs overhead in addition to filling the olla.

The initial watering was done every other day for a week, and the olla was filled once. The routine watering of a coca coir basket is generally once a day. With the olla, hydration was once a week and increased to twice a week when the temperature rose to over 80 degrees Fahrenheit. See my results.



Though the olla method was tested in containers, it is generally used in the ground in smaller gardens. This experiment was done to see how the olla would do in a different setting. If more information is wanted, please refer to the March-April 2024 edition of this newsletter.

Mary Jane Maloney