



November-December 2025

Humane Gardening: Cultivating Habitats for Wildlife

President's Message

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At September's club meeting, members voted for an amazing group of people to be Executive Officers for 2026. I hope that sometime throughout the year each Chippewa Garden Club member expresses their gratitude to our Officers for donating their time and enthusiasm to our group. We are blessed, especially me as your President, to have such an impressive team to keep our club functioning at a level of excellence. As other clubs disband, Chippewa has managed to thrive due to the dedication of these members. Committee Chairs and Project Managers are also in need of congratulations. The work of our club does not stop with these people. As members you are encouraged to share your talents by offering to volunteer for our many meaningful projects.

The Executive Board chose "Mindful Gardening" to be the 2026 theme. The Garden Clubs of Ohio, President Debra Turner, has announced the state's theme as "Plant a Future". These two themes complement each other as they both refer to our role in supporting the concept of being aware of and alert to some of the challenging environmental issues that our planet faces. As we garden and strive to protect our environment, we should consider what Debra has stated, "Who will care for what you plant in 50 years? One hundred years? Or more?"

The program committee is already planning the 2026 agenda offering new and stimulating topics. The schedule will continue with our tradition of promoting volunteerism throughout the new year. The Executive Officers welcome you to all our events and activities. It will be a fun and motivational year!
Warm regards,
Lynne

Dates to Remember

November

Wednesday, November 5 Garden Club of Ohio - Cleveland District Holiday Program – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Woodside Event Center at St. Michaels, Broadview Hts.

Wednesday, November 12 Annual Holiday Fundraiser – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Brecksville Community Center. Sandra Apidone from Countryside Florist will present “The Spirit of Christmas.”

Tuesday, November 18 Budget and Board Meeting – 5:30 PM - 8 PM, Broadview Heights Clubroom

Thursday, November 20 Field Trip to Uncle John’s Nursery, Olmsted Falls, 10 AM – 2 PM Fee is \$5.00.

Saturday, Frost Festival of Lights, November 22 – Sunday, January 4 – Hours vary, Cleveland Botanical Gardens

December

Thursday, December 4 Annual Holiday Meeting – 1800 – 2000 at Brecksville Human Services Building, Gathering Room. Food provided by Antonios

Friday, December 5, Senior Enrichment through Nature (SETN), 1100 at Broadview Heights Community and Recreation Center. Program: Holiday Swag



September Fundraiser Results: \$255.75

September 23, 2025, Membership Meeting

- Attendance: sixteen members and four guests.
- Education Program: Darlene Hritz, an Ikebana instructor of the Ohara School of Ikebana, discussed Ikebana history.
- Election of 2026 Executive Officers. No one nominated from floor; 2025 Board of Executive Officers re-elected.
- 2025 Annual Holiday Fundraiser requirements for members discussed.
- - Co-Vice Presidents discussed plans for annual holiday meeting.
- Media: Committee has started interviewing website designers. Goal is to update our site to make it more intuitive.
- Newsletter: Long time editor, Pat Gabriel, is stepping down. Her tireless dedication to its currency, consistency and boundless information will be hard to replace. Incoming editor: Mary Jane Maloney.
- Montessori School: Club is partnering with the local Montessori School on the 2026 Green Patch Project.
- More information may be found in minutes emailed to members.
Mary Jane Maloney

Broadview Heights Seniors Learn About Owls

Throughout history owls were considered an eerie symbol of Halloween. Their nocturnal habits, silent flight and staring large eyes evoked a shiver to some as they walked outside on a cool autumnal night. On October 3, 2025, Club volunteers presented a program about owls to the Broadview Heights seniors for the Halloween season.

Education was provided on the owl’s anatomy that enables them to hunt effectively, camouflage with plumage and have enhanced sensory function. All owl species are on the Endangered Species list.

Senior participants were guided in creating an autumnal owl craft. The Club provided pumpkins and accessories to make the decoration. Some seniors stated they planned to use the owl as a table centerpiece for Thanksgiving. The owl was described as cute instead of eerie. Many thanks to Club members Roberta, Noreen, Lynne, Judith, and Sandy L. for their efforts in making this program a fun success.

Lynne Evans





Sandy, Noreen, Debbie, Mary Jane, Lynne, Paula, Aggie, Bobbie and JoAnn



South Suburban Montessori School (SSMS) Collaboration

Throughout the summer of 2025 Chippewa Garden Club members Noreen, Ramute and Lynne met with SSMS teachers and volunteers from the school's Parent's Association to begin a partnership focusing on their students' education about flora and fauna. The partnership goals are for the Club to offer a consultative role in planning a space for the students to have practical experience in gardening. The garden will be referred to as "The Green Patch Project" which will feature native habitat for pollinator species to enhance their proliferation and in some cases their migration. The idea of starting a Monarch station is being considered for 2026. On October 10th, the Club joined the school in celebrating its 55th year Anniversary. Members provided supplies to create a Cardinal bird craft along with educational information about Ohio's State bird. Close to two hundred students participated by making the craft and by asking and answering questions about the Cardinal's anatomy, food preferences and habitat needs. The non-profit school has demonstrated great appreciation towards the Club offering its support. We are looking forward to a productive and fun year guiding the teachers, parents, and students towards a deeper knowledge of nature. Lynne Evans

Cleveland District Fall Meeting

Garden Club of Ohio Cleveland District met September 29, 2025, at Woodside, St Michael's Church, Broadview Heights. Programs included "The History of the Japanese Garden" presented by Horticulturist Caroline Watson from the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and "Plant Color" by Instructor Beryl Prusinoski from the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University.

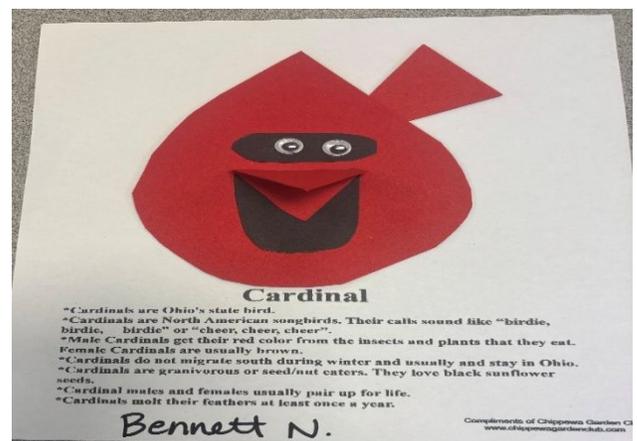
Key highlights:

- Cleveland Botanical Gardens celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its Japanese Garden.
- Water and stones are always features in a Japanese garden.
- Human eyesight can only experience colors pollinators can see.

Our Club was well represented and gathered to present long time member, Jo Ann Bartsch, a plaque for her new Pennsylvania home. Debbie Schuckert



Members: Noreen, Ramute and Lynne



Chippewa Garden Club Autumn Floral Design Presentation 2025

Three Chippewa Garden Club members, Aggie, Margaret and Lynne, gathered their ideas to enhance autumn floral designs. They constructed creative designs for the upcoming seasonal celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas and, presented a program on October 13th at the Brecksville Human Services Center. Guests gained knowledge on how to elevate their designs for the approaching holidays.

Specifics:

Margaret: Demonstrated the differences between the Traditional Mass Design and a Grouped Mass Design. She also created an autumn wreath of various shades of complementary burnt orange and golden yellow leaves including creamy tan toned Hydrangeas, orange Lantern flowers, mixed colored red berries, and brown branches intertwined through the wreath. Her silver Christmas design displayed three burlap flowers sprayed lightly with glitter, small brown pods, twisted burlap spikes, brown lotus pods, and a small silver beaded stems for filler. Pine and other evergreen filler were placed in the container to complete the design.

Aggie: created a beautiful and seasonal wreath that could be used for both holidays by simply changing the accessories on the design. The fall wreath was alive with gourds in every color and shape. Golden-brown Jute fibers were added for more fullness and warmth to the evergreens. Once the Christmas season arrives, pinecones, holly and red berries are added with a finishing large red wreath. Aggie also created a Christmas basket filled with various evergreens, holly berries, and shiny red Christmas balls.

Lynne: created a tall basket of dried flowers that she dried herself to create a “potpourri scented” design. Flowers were selected based on their beautiful scents. Additionally, Lynn created a unique owl for the program. The owl’s body was made of two velvet pumpkins, artificial fall leaves for the wing cord, ears, and face. Burlap and black beads were used for the eyes, and pinecone scales were used to make the beak.

The autumn show featured a rich palette of warm and earthy colors including deep red, vibrant orange, golden yellow and rich browns plant material. Accent colors were burgundy, deep purple and muted creams. These colors were inspired by fall changing foliage and the variety of colors found in the flowers selected for the designs, which were mums, asters, dahlias, carnations, and Gerber daisies. Complementary elements used were berries, grasses, acorns, and a variety of green foliage, throughout the designs. – Margaret DeWolf



Margaret, Noreen, Aggie and Lynne



Aggie Photos by Noreen



***Aquilegia* (Columbine)**

Columbine is a short-lived (2-3 years), early blooming perennial of about 60-70 species. Their habitat consists of meadows and woodlands and grows in sun but prefer partial shade. Part of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae, are deer resistant and drought tolerant. Powdery mildew may affect leaves and stems. Additionally, columbine sawfly caterpillars and leaf miners may attack the plants.

The word "columbine" is Latin for "dove-like" because the inverted flowers look like five doves clustered together. The word "*Aquilegia*" is Latin for "eagle" and refers to petals that resemble eagle talons. There are about 70 columbine species natives to North America including *Aquilegia canadensis* (Wild Columbine) and *Aquilegia coeruleus* (Colorado Blue Columbine), which is the state flower of Colorado. *Aquilegia vulgaris*, native to Europe, is naturalized in parts of North America. There are many hybrids of varying colors and heights ranging from six inches to three feet. Rhizomatous roots make them difficult to transplant so most propagation is done by self-seed. They will pollinate with other species of columbine, creating new species and different colors. Wild columbine is a food source for bumblebees and hummingbirds with some species used as a food plant by moth and butterfly caterpillars. These plants are toxic to dogs and cats and mildly toxic to humans. Flowers of *A. canadensis* were used medicinally by Native Americans.

Kathy Habib





Squire Rich Herb Garden

The Squire Rich Herb Garden is a lovely spot to visit, clip a few herbs, to sit peacefully and enjoy the beauty it offers. A variety of herbs, plants, birds, insects abound Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Garden welcomes everyone.

After a full season of activities and visitors, our Garden is readying itself for resting during the dormancy of Fall and Winter to again reawaken in the Spring. Our dedicated team of Bobbi Anderson, Jim Armstrong, Lynne Evans, Ramuté Mills, Debbie Schukert, and Sandy Spann has tended to all the needed seasonal tasks and will do a final clean up in November.

Ramute Mills

Apple Butter Festival

Brecksville Historical Association's Apple Butter Festival was Sunday, October 8 at Squire Rich Museum. Tom and Bobbi Anderson and Aggie Goss were at the Herb Garden where we passed out pumpkins, shared herb cuttings, and information on the variety of herbs and flowers. It was good to see many young families enjoy the festival and visiting the herb garden to take cuttings. Several visitors commented the Herb Garden looked the "best-ever" from previous years.

Bobbie Anderson



Holden Forests and Gardens Affiliate Council Day – October 2025

Chippewa Garden Club (CGC) is a member of the Affiliate Council of Holden Forests and Gardens (HF&G) The Council promotes opportunities for education and participation in special events throughout the year to Affiliate Member Garden clubs. The primary programs are the Frost Festival of Lights and the Hershey Children's Garden's container project.

- Frost Festival of Lights (11/22/25 to 1/4/2026): CGC sponsors a decorated tree for the show.
- Education: Early Beginnings of the Affiliate Council
- New Projects for 2026:
 - Rejuvenation of Conifer and Elm Collection
 - Restoration of Rose Garden
 - Tropical butterflies return Spring 2026

Mary Jane Maloney