



A member of Garden Clubs of Ohio – Cleveland District, Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

“Mindful Gardening” will guide our 2026 goals!

President’s Message

Welcome to 2026! Debra Turner, the president of the Garden Club of Ohio, chose the theme, “Plant a Future” for her term in office. She envisions the Ohio garden clubs planting with a plan to anticipate what is missing in their gardens or needs further growth to ensure coexistence in nature. To this end, the Board assisted me with a complementary theme of “Mindful Gardening” to guide our educational programs and projects keeping the future in mind.

“Mindful Gardening” is the practice of tending to plants and interacting with nature in a present-focused, intentional way promoting emotional grounding and mental clarity. It is about being in the moment, observing the natural world and connecting with the earth, which may lead to peacefulness, joy, and restoration.

We, as knowledgeable gardeners, can support the interrelationship among beneficial insects, animals, and plant life, which adds positively to the human experience of being connected to nature.

This year, our Programs Committee has scheduled educational programs on how to use the harvests of our planned gardens. Topics such as how to forage, how to experience the Metroparks trails, “Make It and Take It” programs to support fundraising and a design practice program are all included in this year’s calendar.

However, our Club's mission goes beyond educating ourselves. We have many community projects planned to provide education about gardening and nature. I ask all members to evaluate their participation in the Club’s projects this year. Each of you has either the knowledge and/or talent necessary to meet all our goals. Become active on one of the committees!

Our society needs to be reawakened by our inherent connection with nature. Please join me in this endeavor.

With warm regards I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year!

Lynne

Affiliate Leadership

National Garden Club, Inc

President: Donna Donnelly
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Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs

Director: Beverly Kazickas
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Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

President: Debra Turner
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Garden Club of Ohio - Cleveland

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The Holden Arboretum

Chair, Affiliate Garden Clubs:
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Chippewa Garden Club Officers

President: Lynne Evans
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Co-Vice President:
Kelly Manocchio
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Co-Vice President:
Debbie Schuckert
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Secretary:
Susan Porter
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Treasurer:
Kathy Habib

Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA)

In 2025 our club donated \$108.93. These funds promote, educate, and advance natural areas around the state. Ohio projects completed for 2025: Columbus Metro Parks clean up and assistance at the Knox County Park, Honey Run Highlands to remove large autumn-olives in a grassland unit, in preparation for a spring burn. Next Ohio project will be January 15th, at Marbleside, Ohio, to remove Woody Species at the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve. Volunteers needed.

Project Leader: Sandy Labeledue

Seniors in Broadview Heights Make Traditional Holiday Swags

Decorating our homes for Christmas has been a tradition since the days of yore. Colonial and Victorian homes were often made festive with garlands of preserved oranges combined with other natural ingredients to fill their homes with color and fragrant scents. The swags are part of the St. Nicholas legend of gold coins. Dried oranges were used as a symbol of luxury and gold coins to save three poor girls from an ill fate.



On December 5th, the “Senior Enrichment Through Nature (SETN)” team used dried orange slices, pinecones, Christmas bulbs, ribbon, artificial greens and jute twine to the Broadview Heights Human Services Center to instruct seniors in making garlands for their homes. The workshop was festive, friendly and full of good cheer as the group made their own version of the holiday swag. Many thanks to the SETN team: Bobbi Anderson, Noreen Butano, Debby Compton, Lynne Evans, Judy LaBuda and Sandy Labeledue for their help in making this program a fun and merry event.

Project Leader: Lynne Evans

Dates to Remember

January 13

Board Meeting, 4:30 PM
Lynne Evans' home
Incoming executive board and standing committee chairpersons

January 27 - January 28

Gardening School Course 2 via Zoom
National Garden Clubs, Inc. & Ohio Garden Club, Inc. present Gardening School Course 2, Series 10 which includes plant diseases and pests, vegetable and fruit gardening. Copy this link for registration: Garden Club of Ohio.

January 28 1:00 PM

Darlene Hritz's Ikebana Classes
Her home in North Royalton
Email to register:
dar.hritz@gmail.com:

February 6

Senior Enrichment Through Nature Program. 11:00 AM.
Broadview Heights Community Center
Program: "Valentine Memories."

February 10

Board Meeting, 6:30 PM.
Broadview Heights Club Room.

February 10 to February 26

Multiple educational events, i.e., Steeped in Love: ChocolaTea™ Tastings, Galatine's Day, Orchid Care 101, etc.
Cleveland Botanical Gardens
Register for February events at: [Programs & Events » HF&G](#)

February 24

Membership Meeting, 6:00 PM
Brecksville Human Services, Gathering Room.
Program: Ohio's Herbal Apothecary by Geoffrey Rapp

February 26

Darlene Hritz's Ikebana Classes
Her home in North Royalton
Email to register:
dar.hritz@gmail.com

Garden Clubs of Ohio (GCO) Holiday Show - North

On November 5, 2025, six club members attended the annual holiday show at St. Michael's Woodside Event Center. All garden clubs from the north districts provided raffle prizes and offered handmade items for sale. Networking ensued with GCO updates and luncheon served.

In the afternoon Glendalee Burns, a member of the Avon-on-the-Lake and The Herb Garden Clubs, presented a program on where to gather natural resources for seasonal wreaths. She provided recipes for all her display wreaths which she collects from her home garden.

Debbie Schuckert



What's New In 2026?

- Club yearbook is now digital and may be found on website.
- Website upgrade TBA
- Brecksville Home Days Sabbatical
- "Make and Take It" craft programs.
- "Treeless" Arbor Day education

October 28, 2025 - Membership Meeting

- **Attendance:** 19 members and five guests.
- **Education Program:** Tina Graver, owner of Trees and Gardens Consulting LLC in Akron and a Board-Certified Master Arborist and Certified Tree Care Safety Professional, gave a presentation on tree planting and young tree care for long-term success.
- **Treasurer,** Kathy Habib, reported club's certificate of deposit rolled over as per Executive Board vote. A thank you note for our Nature Conservancy donation was received
- Next fundraiser is planned for Spring 2026.
- **Pertinent Standing Committee Updates:**
 - o **Broadview Heights Liaison:** Noreen Butano researching when the new pickleball courts will be completed.
 - o **Holden Forests and Gardens:** Next Affiliate Forum scheduled for April 2026.
 - o **Media:** Discussion about the website update project occurred to include a "Members Only" tab and other additions.
 - o **Membership:** The North Royalton Garden Club has dissolved. Invitations to be sent to former members to visit CGC. Dues will stay at \$25 for 2026.
 - o **Programs:** Committee in final process on confirming 2026 speakers and dates. Two "Make it and Take it" programs will be part of the program schedule.
- **Pertinent Community Project Updates**
 - o **Community Gardens:** Greene Acres Garden plots will close on November 1, with some gardeners growing winter crops throughout the cols season.
 - o **Squire Rich:** The garden is closed and being winterized.
- No Membership meetings in November.
- More information may be found in minutes emailed to members.



Squire Rich in the Snow by Bobbi Anderson

What Exactly does a Consulting Arborist do?

At the October meeting, Tina Graver, a Board- Certified Master Arborist, presented a discussion on planting trees and providing proper care. Tina donated a consultation (value \$140) to our recent Holiday Fundraiser, and I was the lucky raffle winner. Curious about the state of my own trees I asked her to provide an assessment.

My husband Wayne and I had four specific concerns. Our property has many mature trees and bushes. Over the years they have been pruned and shaped to the best of our abilities. After a recent heavy snowstorm our Bradford pear tree lost two large branches.

The three of us walked the property. We were extremely surprised at how many questions we had as Tina assessed the trees, large and small shrubs, and even some grass patches. Her findings included

- The Bradford pear tree needed to be removed before more branches broke off.
- Bentgrass infestations are a plague which are extremely difficult to remove and will likely take several years to eradicate.
- Our beautiful Japanese maple is too big and there's nothing we can do about that (except change it out in the future).
- It's ok to drastically prune down the flame bushes in the fall (Wayne loved this suggestion).
- The Hemlock tree has "Elongate Hemlock Scale" which can be easily treated with a systemic insecticide.
- Because of noticeable damage of our Dogwood tree from the landscaper's weed whips, it needs to be mulched for protection.
- An Adirondack Crabapple or Hornbeam tree were recommended as excellent choices for a spot we're considering.
- Showed us how to prune a Viburnum bush along different sides by the driveway.
- A large Maple is starting to fail and will face removal within one to five years.
- Local resources were provided for design, maintenance and tree removal.
- Provided information on treating pests, recognizing problems and best practices.



This maple tree split is dangerous and may cause failure in the next few years.

We were so pleased with the assessment, information and ideas, we asked her for a quote on treating the Hemlock tree in addition to some options for tree removal and planting in 2026.

If you have questions about the trees and foliage on your property and want a real expert opinion, consider using Tina or other professionals for good ideas and advice. Tina's contacts: Trees & Gardens Consulting, 440-289-7993, tina@treesandgardensohio.com.

Susan Porter

Annual Holiday Fundraiser – “The Spirit of Christmas”

On November 12, 2025, the club held its annual fundraiser. Our program featured Sandy Apisone, florist and owner of Countryside Florist in Richfield. Approximately 180 guests were present to bid on over 35 raffle prizes (crafts, gift cards and floral arrangements). Sandy demonstrated how to make holiday outside containers using simple natural resources. Net funds gained were \$3827.48.

Mary Jane Maloney



Outdoor container arrangement
Photo by Mary Jane Maloney



Photo by Mary Jane Maloney

Frost

*(November Through January)
2025*

Once more Kathy Ziemba’s team was able to create theme-based ornaments to meet the Cleveland Botanical Garden’s concept of “Transitions” for the annual holiday extravaganza. Our club’s tree “Harvest Moon” was robust with symbols showing seasonal change.



Photo by Mary Jane Maloney

Annual Meeting – December 4, 2025

The Club met for a catered dinner at the Brecksville Human Services Building which was coordinated by Vice-presidents Debbie Schuckert and Kelly Manocchio. To the delight of the members the coordinators had made table decorations and favors for the members. After the meal, Lynne Evans, President, started the business meeting. She initially discussed our new theme for 2026: Mindful Gardening. Then, she announced a variety of awards and acknowledgements followed. First to be given was the Blue Vase to member Mary Jane Maloney. The Blue Vase is awarded to the member who has stepped up the most for club projects in the last year. Additionally, Lynne acknowledged select members for their project efforts during 2025 with lovely table centerpieces: Ramute Mills (Squire Rich and Green Patch), Bobbi Anderson (Squire Rich), Jim Armstrong (Squire Rich), Pat Gabriel (Newsletter and many years of service), Sandy Spann (Hospitality), Kathy Habib (many years of service, Treasurer and liaison with the Holden Arboretum). **Life Membership to the Garden Club of Ohio was awarded to Kathy Habib.** Finally, the new Executive Board was installed for 2026.



Chippewa Garden Club
Members 2026

Photo facilitated by Bobbi Anderson

Horticulture - Sedums Kathy Habib

Each year, The National Garden Bureau selects one perennial of the year. For 2026, that perennial is sedum, commonly called stonecrop. This is a large genus of blooming plants known for their succulent leaves and stems that are grown as ornamental plants. There are over four hundred species, mostly from the family Crassulaceae. The genus includes annual, biennial, and perennial plants that are native to the northern hemisphere but also extend into Africa and South America.

There are creeping and upright varieties. Creeping varieties such as *Sedum acre* are used as ground cover and green roofs. Upright varieties such as *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' attract pollinators and are host plants to such pollinators as moths and butterflies

These plants are low- maintenance , drought, pest, and disease resistant.

They can be grown in full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil. Water when planted, but once they have become established in the garden, they are very drought tolerant. They can also be grown in containers.

Sedums can be propagated by stem cuttings placed directly into the soil or in water to root, or by dividing the plant by splitting its root ball.



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

Photo by Kathy Habib



Green roof at Cleveland Botanical Garden

Sedum acre

Photo by Kathy Habib

More resources:

- To receive National Garden Club Newsletter, sign up on their website
<https://gardenclub.org>
- Brecksville or Broadview Heights news as well as the club's meetings, programs and fundraising, subscribe to PATCH
<https://patch.com/ohio/brecksville/subscribe>

"Mindful Gardening"

Mind and Soil [FREE Gardening Guides – Mind & Soil](#)

Headspace [How to practice mindful gardening - Headspace](#)

Gardner Insider [How to Create a Mindful Garden for Stress Relief on a Budget](#)