



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

“Mindful Gardening” guides our 2026 goals!

The President’s Message

As we celebrate another Earth Week and Arbor Day, we are assured that our Club's mission continues. The evergreen mission of taking care of our beautiful earth and nature's biosphere is a community effort that our Club has a strong legacy in joining. We are an important part of a community partnership who are connecting with people for greener posterity.

Many thanks to our Arbor Day volunteers who made Arbor Day 2026 at the Assumption Academy, Lawrence School and South Hills Montessori School a fun educational event. The children were enthusiastic and inquisitive, and they thoroughly enjoyed the Arbor Day craft that we brought to them.

I've been waiting for the garden centers to receive their spring inventory. I am making an effort to plan my garden this year around our 2026 theme of "mindful gardening". I plan to buy plants to attract pollinators and that will also be good material for drying, pressing and for use in botanical arts that I am anxious to dabble in. While picking this season's plant purchases, try to keep in mind an eventual "purpose" that plant will have in your garden. Consider incorporating ideas such as succession blooming or planting in groups of three to five so that pollinators can spot and forage more efficiently. Taking care of oneself is the best gift you can receive. Enjoying your garden by feeling the ambience of nature's environment allows for healing and relaxation.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Membership Meeting,

Warm regards,
Lynne



Affiliate Leadership

National Garden Club, Inc

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Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs

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The Holden Arboretum

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**Senior Enrichment Through Nature
"Swinging Swags"**

Historians have learned that the tradition of hanging decorations on our front doors began with the ancient Roman and Greek civilizations. Evergreens were often fashioned into round designs and worn on heads or placed on walls and doors to celebrate victory, achievements or to denote special occasions.

During the Victorian Era, wreath placement on doors became popular to celebrate the Christmas season. They were referred to as "welcome rings" and were made of holly and ivy.

Today the use of wreaths stays popular to decorate our doors and homes throughout all seasons and events.



On April 10, 2026, Chippewa Garden Club "Senior Enrichment Through Nature" (SETN) volunteers prepared a program for the Broadview Heights seniors to celebrate the spring season called "Swinging Swags".

Instead of wreaths, the group fashioned front door designs out of foraged branches, dried flowers and ribbon. The branches were gathered from yards after a spring weather storm and the dried floral material were carefully dried from prior season gardens and bouquets. Participants of the group were guided in creating their swags by Chippewa Garden Club volunteers; however, their individual creative process resulted in beautiful, personalized decorations for their homes or front doors. These

swags were a beautiful way to repurpose Mother Nature's bounty.

Many thanks to Chippewa Garden Club SETN volunteers Bobbi Anderson, Noreen Butano, Debby Compton, Lynne Evans, Judy LaBuda and Sandy Ladebue for their efforts in making this program a success.

The next SETN program will be in June. *Submitted by Lynne Evans*



Dates to Remember

May 9 – Emerald Necklace GC
“Think Spring! Plant Sale and
Garden Faire 9AM – 2PM
 Brecksville United Methodist Church

May 9 – Perennial Gardeners of
Chesterland Annual Plant Sale
8AM-2PM
 Chesterland Town Hall Parking Lot

May 12 - Garden Club of Ohio -
Spring District Meeting-Cleveland,
9:30 AM
 Location: Woodside Event Center at
 St. Michaels, Brecksville

May 12 – Board Meeting, 6:30 PM.
 Broadview Heights Club Room.

May 14 to May 16 – The Gardeners of
Greater Cleveland Annual Plant
Sale 10AM – 4PM
 Rockefeller Greenhouse

May 17 – Gardenwalk Lakewood
Plant Swap 12PM to 2PM
 Cove Park

May 23 – Gates Mills GC Plant Sale
and Vintage Boutique - 8AM to 12PM
 1280 Chagrin Rd Gates Mills

May 26 – Membership Meeting,
6:00 PM.
 Brecksville Human Services,
 Gathering Room
Program: "Creating Healthy
Habitats for Songbirds"

May 30 – Master Gardeners of
Cuyahoga County Plants in the
Park – Annual Plant Sale 8:30 AM –
1PM
 Kiwanis Pavilion 6363 Selig Dr,
 Independence

June Events

No Membership Meeting in June

June 5 - Senior Enrichment Through Nature
Program. 11:00 AM. Broadview Heights
 Community and Recreation Center
Program: “Terrariums”

June 9 – Board Meeting, 6:30 PM.
 Broadview Heights Club Room.

June 10 – Foster Brown Farm Camp
 Squire Rich Museum, Brecksville, Ohio

June 12 & 13 – Hudson GC’s Home and
Garden Tour Time vary. Info:
hudsonhomeandgardentour.org

June 20 – Brecksville Library Program.
 Members coordinate making Father’s Day
 decorated potted plants for children.

Garden Club of Ohio State Convention

June 15-17, 2026

“*Vas You Ever in Zinzinnati, That Porky Little City*” 2026 convention is at the Embassy Suites, 4554 Lake Forest Dr., Blue Ash, OH 45242 and will be an extraordinary event. It offers a River Boat Cruise, Krohn Conservatory bus trip, workshops, flower show, banquet, and awards luncheon. Information is in the Spring Garden Greetings and on GCO website
<https://gardenclubofohio.org/gco-convention/>

June 19 & 20 Gates Mills GC 2026 Garden Tour
 Info: gatesmillsgardenclubtour@gmail.com

June 27 – Chippewa Garden Club Annual
Member Plant Exchange, 11:00 AM to 1:30
PM. New Site: Squire Rich Historical Site.
 Bring plants to swap, enjoy potluck goodies
 and camaraderie.



Time to celebrate National Garden Week

June 7 through June 13, 2026

The National Garden Club takes the lead to celebrate gardening not on just one day but a full week. This is the time to highlight the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. Our club will bring floral arrangements as well as information on National Garden Week to local skilled nursing facilities and library.



Our spring fundraiser is over! Many members answered the call to have a great meal and help the club continue to fund our community projects and gardening education. Amount earned will be announced at the May membership meeting.

Squire Rich Museum – Opened April 24, 2026

The lovely Herb Garden is pushing up the beginnings of our bountiful mix of flowers and herbs. The plants are sturdy and protected by the fenced in garden. It surely is a place of successful cultivation that reflects our hard work from last year (and especially the lavender that survived our harsh winter and seems so happy in its place now). Our garden is a place of nourishment and refuge, combining access to healthy herbs with a casual design. I love the combination of edibles with medicinal and decorative plants. Consider it a win-win when the plants are both beautiful and good to eat. The Squire Rich team will decide and then add the annual herbs in early May. Some of Museum's flower beds could use a few additions. Cleveland MetroParks reported they are replacing the sign in front of the house with a new one. This opens an opportunity to fill in the unused flower bed surrounding the sign once it is installed.



Photo courtesy of Roberta Anderson

Whoever would like to join the Squire Rich gardening team on Fridays at 10 am, you are more than welcome!

Submitted by Roberta Anderson



Lavender Trails Gaining Momentum

Growing lavender in northeast Ohio is a unique challenge, said Amy and Jim Duxbury, owners of Lavender Trails in Orrville, Ohio, at the March membership meeting. The two retired teachers started the four-acre farm in 2018 on an industrial brownfield behind the Wil-Burt Company. Their 'retirement project' was even more difficult because the site was a concrete dumping ground, which they transformed into 64 rows of lavender. Their goal is to grow lavender, educate the public, allow public harvesting and sell lavender-based products.



They explained how they hand plant, weed, harvest and prune about 2,000 plants at the farm, which uses no artificial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. The greatest challenge, they noted, was Northeastern Ohio weather. They have learned to carefully cover their plants in the winter. Through a lot of trial and error, they found eight different varieties of English, French and Spanish lavender that grow successfully on the land.

The Duxbury's realized that some areas of the plot are too wet for the lavender plants, so they have planted Milkweed, which supports the pollinators. They also collaborate with nearby beekeepers in a beneficial relationship, as the plants are usually covered with plenty of bees in peak season. Both

Amy and Jim are happy to give advice and share their knowledge with farm visitors, showing how to safely harvest lavender when bees are active.

A research professor at Ohio State's Wooster campus has worked with the Duxbury's for several years, bringing his students to the site to conduct various experiments and observations. The Duxbury's believe that Lavender Trails is the only lavender farm in the country growing on a former brownfield.

The farm is open for visitors through the peak season – approximately late June through late July. Opening day in 2026 is June 26th. They sell a variety of personal care products made from lavender oils, as well as honey, fresh bundles, lavender plants, and other local products. This coming summer, they will hold three Sunday festivals with vendors and music. For more information on visiting Lavender Trails, visit their website: www.lavendertrails.com.

Submitted by Susan Porter



Photos courtesy of Lavender Trails Farm



Affiliate Meeting Spring 2026

Our garden club is a member of the Holden Arboretum affiliate garden clubs where opportunities are provided for education, volunteering, exploration, and participation in special events in the forests and gardens. Chippewa Garden Club takes part in the annual Holiday Show. This year the show will showcase a tropical theme via a wreath or tree format. The club has selected the country of Madagascar to guide the decorations. Any member interested in helping with this fun project, please contact Kathy Ziemba.

The educational presentation was on "Tomorrow's Moses Cleaveland Trees: How to continue designating Heritage Trees across Cuyahoga County by Roy Larick Ph.D. Moses Cleaveland, the founder of Cleveland, Ohio, landed at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on July 22, 1796. To commemorate this event, a project was started in 1946 to find and label 150 trees in Cuyahoga County that were at least 150 years old, known as the Moses Cleaveland Trees. At this time there were fourteen such trees in the Brecksville reservation. Today, there are none.



Most of the fourteen trees left in Cuyahoga Valley National Park region are found on private property. The most singular tree is a sycamore estimated to be 350-400 years old. Though most of this tree is hollow, it is still alive.
Submitted by Mary Jane Maloney



Design: Exhibition Table – A Challenge
Class Title: Spring is Here

An Exhibition table was staged on a table covered with white cloth. Table was 4 ft wide by 2 ft deep without height restriction. I used a staging panel 24 in. wide x 48 in long. Plant material used in this design were:

- Gerbera (white)*
- Ruscus hypophyllum*

This design is not functional but is design suggests food service without of table appointments. Plant material You have many options with plates, and underlay if permitted?

Chippewa Garden Club has had many Shows. Exhibition table is a class that members. It allows you to be very be your guide, and you can always ask judges for their help.

Submitted by Debbie Schuckert



created artistically by designer. The requirements as to the type or number must be used for the overall design. napkins and, do I use a staging panel

sections for tables in our past Flower always seems to be a challenge for creative and have fun. Schedule will one of our own CGC Flower Show



Arbor Day Celebrations during Earth Week

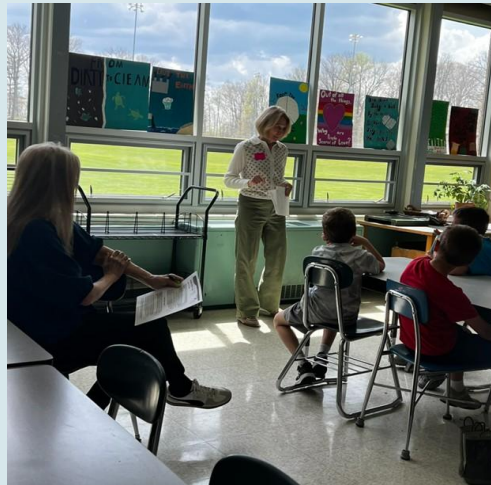
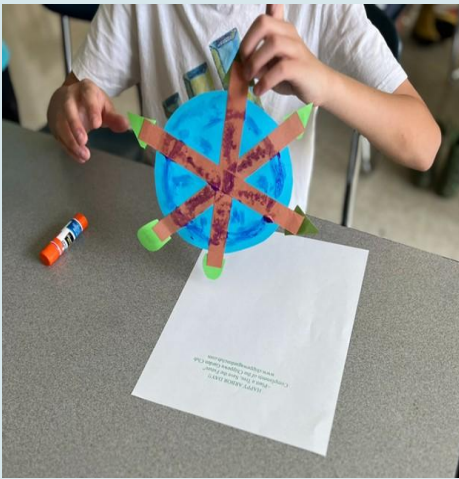
Several members of our Chippewa Garden Club helped with the celebration of Arbor Day at some of the local schools during Earth Week.

This year the highly anticipated activity for third graders was held at Assumption Academy, Lawrence School, and

Montessori School. There will be another opportunity for the students at Brecksville-Broadview Heights elementary school to share in the Arbor Day activities in May.

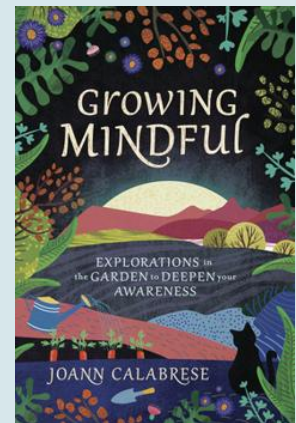
Students were attentive, well-prepared, and eager to learn and to share knowledge about the history and importance of trees in our world. The activity culminated in a craft that included a globe and continents, focusing on the Western Hemisphere decorated with a *Submitted by Ramute Miller*

Photos courtesy of Janice Adams



Book Review: Growing Mindful by Joann Calabrese

As we look to mindfulness as our guiding principle this year, I am struck by how often it is associated with nature and gardening. A short synopsis would be: “Green heals”. This book has a wealth of ideas on how to explore the skill of focusing when in any green space albeit your yard, a park or a forest. The author provides exercises to sense the wonder and magic of nature through garden correspondences and 52 plants to connect to. “... Did you know that bee balm resonates with whimsy, an unexpected quirkiness and playfulness?” *Submitted by Mary Jane Maloney*



Horticulture

Crabapples

Crabapples (*Malus sp.*) are in the same genus as orchard apples, with over 36 species. The fruit, which is smaller than 2" in diameter, defines the crabapple. The trees are small, deciduous, in the rose family, and grown primarily as ornamentals. Depending on the variety, crabapple trees can reach 13-39 feet at maturity. Spring-blooming flowers are red, pink or white, with fruit in the fall. Blooms attract pollinators. They are native to North America, Europe and Asia. They are the only apple trees native to North America. Orchard apples were brought to the New World by settlers from Europe.



The fruit, although smaller than orchard apples, is edible in some varieties. The seeds of all apples (also pears, peaches, apricots, and plums) have a toxic compound, amygdalin, which can become cyanide when chewed: beware of large amounts of seeds!

Because of their bitterness, crabapple fruit is best used in sweetened recipes such as jams and jellies. Fruits may be eaten by raccoon, turkey, fox and deer. Robins, cardinals, bluebirds, and cedar waxwings love this fruit.

Crabapples do not grow true to seed. They must be grown from shoots or twigs grafted onto another apple rootstock. The best time to plant crabapples is in the fall, during dormancy, or in early spring. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Because of their shallow roots, add 2-4" mulch. Diseases include apple scab, fire blight, and powdery mildew.

Member Photos

At the March board meeting a suggestion was made to highlight member photos. I missed sending out a notice to everyone in time for this newsletter. So, to fill the space, I am highlighting a few of my own.

Rules:

1. Picture has been taken by a member.
2. If flora, fauna, amphibians, bugs, etc., please list the biological name.
3. Plant-based crafts made by members may also be showcased.
4. Send Photos to mj_maloney@sbcglobal.net

