

# Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter



**Celebrating Our 70th Anniversary**

<http://chippewagardenclub.com/>

**November/December 2019**

## **National Garden Club, Inc.**

**President—Gay L. Austin**

## **National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110

## **Central Atlantic Region**

**Director—Gail Corle**

## **Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.**

**President—Mary Lou Smith**

10325 Marvin Road  
Harrison, OH 45231-9285

## **GCO Cleveland Co-District**

**Directors—Barbara Schuh**

570 Battles Road  
Gates Mills, OH 44040-9767  
and **Kelly Siemborski**, 7323  
Stoneham Rd. Gates Mills, OH  
44040-9767

## **Chippewa Garden Club**

**President—Jo Ann Bartsch**

7700 Fitzwater Road  
Brecksville, OH 44141

## **Vice-President—Open**

## **Secretary**

**Sandy Ladebue**

6522 E. Sprague Road  
Brecksville, Oh 44141

## **Treasurer—Laura Springer**

3665 Meadow Gateway  
Broadview Hts. 44147

## **Co-Finance--**

**Lynne Evans**

9455 Woodchip Lane  
Broadview Hts., OH 44147

**Kathy Ziemba**

8207 Montridge Ct.  
North Royalton, OH 44133

## **Historian—Margaret DeWolf**

7001 Crestview Drive  
Brecksville, OH 44141

## President's Message

This is my last President's Message, since I will be the "retiring" President next year. My first message was a call to arms ala Doug Tallamy in his *Bringing Nature Home*.

Here's what I wrote in January 2014: "Gardeners work hand in hand with nature. We all know that. But sometimes we need reminders of that relationship, strengthening it, re-establishing those bonds with our birds, butterflies, insects and native plants. Sometimes we need more knowledge, as our world changes, not just reminders."

Pardon the redundancy, but I'm going to say it again as I leave the Chippewa Garden Club presidency. The message needs repeating since the environmental news headlines never seem to get better. We hear about 3 billion birds lost over the last 50 years; the beginning of the sixth great extinction; pollinators dying at amazing rates; insecticides and herbicides in our waters.

Too often it appears the scope of the problem seems overwhelming. I forget to see that small, multiple changes can have an effect. There are things you can do right in your yard. Dr. Tallamy urged us to change our gardening perspective from ornamental ("I grow this because it is beautiful") to environmental ("I grow this because it supports wildlife"). How many of us have made **some** changes in the past several years?

Dr. Tallamy is releasing a new book in February, and I'm sure the message will not have changed significantly but will be getting louder. If you can only make small changes in your yard (reduce that environmentally sterile turf grass, plant natives, provide shelter for birds and insects) we can win the war.

Check out the seven things you can do to protect birds that I've included as the last page of this newsletter (page 7.) Will you join me in the offensive?

**Jo Ann Bartsch**



Entrance Sign to Brecksville  
CGC's First Community Project

# Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter

Page 2

November/December 2019

## November

**Friday, November 1**  
GCO Holiday Program

**Wednesday, November 13**  
Chippewa Garden Club Holiday Program  
at the Brecksville Community Center at  
7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 23**  
Chippewa: Holiday Planter Decorating at  
10:00 a.m. downtown Brecksville.  
Depending on weather, the alternative date  
is Sunday, November 24.



Autumnal Decorations at the Brecksville Historical Association's Apple Butter Festival

Chippewa Garden Club members gave tours of the Squire Rich herb garden to about fifty attendees. Every one had a chance to take home some freshly cut herbs.



Jo Ann Bartsch accepting flowers at the September 10, 2019 GCO District meeting. The flowers were a tribute recognizing NGC's award for the Chippewa Garden Club Newsletter

## December

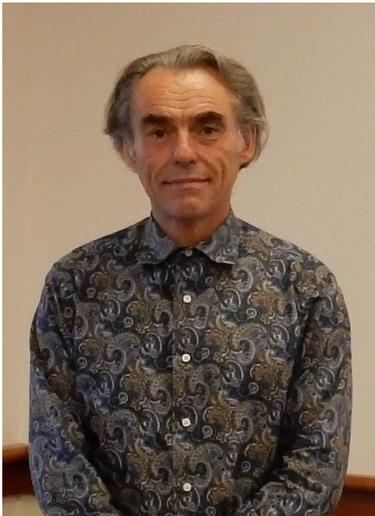
**Tuesday, December 3**  
Budget and Board meeting  
6:00 p.m. at the Broadview  
Heights Club Room.

**Sunday, December 15 at  
2:00 p.m.** Chippewa  
Garden Club's Annual  
Meeting/ Luncheon at the  
Creekside Restaurant in  
Brecksville.

## Johnny Appleseed:

### Fact or Fiction

Gary Esmond, librarian at Cleveland Botanical Garden for fourteen years, presented his talk on Johnny Appleseed at our September membership meeting.



Gary Esmond

Johnny Appleseed, nurseryman, missionary and folk hero, whose real name was John Chapman was born in Massachusetts in 1774 and died in Indiana in 1845. The majority of his work was done around the Mansfield area of Ohio where his family eventually settled. His birth certificate survives, but very little is known about his life before the age of eighteen. There are no diaries or letters. There are land transactions with his signature, and there are memories about him. Urbana University has most of his memorabilia.

John's father was a minuteman during the revolutionary war, and his mother died in childbirth in 1776. John had an older sister and ten half-siblings. He settled in Western Pennsylvania in his early twenties and was known for his eccentric but kind behavior. He was very religious, never married, and lived a solitary life. He became a hero in the War of 1812 when he warned settlers of an Indian attack.

He planted nurseries rather than orchards with seeds obtained from cider mills. He first planted in Ohio in 1801 but eventually planted in five other states, traversing 100,000 square miles. He sold apple seedlings from these cider apples. These apples were not for eating but for making alcoholic apple cider which was an important beverage in colonial times. He owned property but was a poor businessman as far as record keeping and inventory.

Apple seeds produce apples which will be different from the parent tree. (Apple trees today are grafted onto rootstock.) John did not believe in grafting which resulted in his original stock becoming twelve apple varieties that we consume today.

During prohibition, much of what he planted was cut down by federal agents trying to stop the production of alcoholic apple cider. It is believed that there is one remaining Johnny Appleseed tree in Savannah, Ashland County, Ohio.

John followed the Swedenborg doctrine which was to live to do good without reward, to own fewer material goods (he went barefoot and wore ragged clothes), to believe that all things were equal (he was a vegetarian and never carried a weapon). He spread his doctrine through literature and sermons.

"An apple tree is a living sermon from god" – Johnny Appleseed

**Kathy Habib**

## Garden Therapy

CGC garden therapy volunteers presented the program “Herbal Dream Pillows” on October 12<sup>th</sup> at The Oaks of Brecksville. The program was a culmination of other programs throughout 2019 at The Oaks. Seeds were sown, seedlings were lovingly cared for, and plants were bundled and dried to prepare a fragrant potpourri that was used to fill herbal pillow sachets.

The potpourri was made from plants grown by the residents, plus plants donated by CGC members, plants from CGC’s July Flower Show and plants from members’ gardens. Ingredients included herbs, flowers, cloves, dried oranges, bay leaves, cinnamon and lavender.

The result was a visually attractive and sweet scented product.

Residents busily decorated the pillow sachets with lace, ribbon and a heart accessory by using fabric glue. They then filled the pillow sachets with the prepared aromatic potpourri. CGC volunteers Bobbie Anderson, Noreen Butano, Debbie Compton, Lynne Evans and Sandy Ladebue assisted the participants during this process. Everyone commented on the pleasant scent of the potpourri and how cute their created pillow sachets turned out.

The whole activity room was filled with a sweet aroma and with very pleased residents and volunteers!

The final garden therapy program of 2019, “Poinsettias and Snowmen”, will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at The Oaks of Brecksville. All CGC members are invited to participate. Call Lynne Evans with any questions.

**Lynne Evans**



Garden club members helping The Oaks residents

## Green Side Up: Tree Planting Best Practices

At our October membership meeting, Chad Clink from Barlett Tree Experts discussed “Tree Planting Best Practices.” Chad is a board-certified master arborist and a registered consulting arborist.



Chad Clink

Planting stock for trees includes:

- 1) Bare root: **Pros:** small, light weight, can see all of the roots.  
**Cons:** can dry out easily, must plant when the tree is dormant.

2) Container grown:

**Pros:** easy to move, relatively light weight

**Cons:** Substrate grown, may have hidden root issues.

3) Balled and burlap (B&B):

**Pros:** soil-based root ball.

**Cons:** heavy, may have hidden root issues.

Chad recommended inspecting a tree before planting it. Inspect the root ball, branches and trunk. Look for circular roots which can lead to girdling and kill the tree. Look for pests, diseases and injuries to tissues.

He also recommended matching the tree to the site. Practice “Right tree right place.” Locate utilities above and below ground. Call 811 before you dig to locate utilities. The planting hole should be shallow and wide, three times the widest dimensions of the root base. Plant the root flare near the soil grade. Remove burlap and any wire cages. Remove one-third to one-half of the root ball soil. Do not add gravel to increase drainage. After placing the tree in the hole, fill in the hole with site soil. There should be no need to fertilize at this point.

Lastly, top dress the tree with mulch. Do not mound mulch around the base of tree (volcano mulching.)

Leave several inches of space around the trunk free of mulch. Expand the mulch ring under the tree base. It is best to expand it out to the drip line of the tree.

Urban Tree foundation website is a source for planting details and specifications.

[www.urbantree.org](http://www.urbantree.org)

**Kathy Habib**

## Ferns

With the wet spring that we had earlier this year, ferns have had ideal growing conditions. There are over 900 species of ferns. While most grow in the moist tropics, they are found beyond the arctic circle and in the desert.

Ferns originated over 350 million years ago. They range in size from tiny floating water ferns 1/8" in size to tropical tree ferns up to 60 feet in height. Colors range from green, white, silver, yellow, pink, copper and even blue.

Ferns have stems and leaves but do not bloom or produce seeds. Fern leaves are often referred to as fronds. Fronds are composed of a leaf blade and a petiole (leaf stalk.) Fern stems are called rhizomes and usually grow underground. Fern roots are thin and wiry and grow along the stem. Ferns can reproduce vegetatively by rhizomes or sexually by spores found on the underside of the leaves. Clusters of spore producing sporangia are called sori.

Ferns are either perennial and can grow outdoors in NE Ohio or are tender perennials and need grow indoors as container plants. Growing ferns indoors first became popular in England in the 1800s and reached its peak in the 1850s during the Victorian "Fern Craze."

Fern cultivation was a highly fashionable fad, coinciding with advanced technologies in greenhouse structures.

With many ferns, the key to growing them indoors is humidity, so keeping them cooler in the winter helps. Misting creates only a temporary increase in humidity. Growing ferns in a terrarium is a good solution. Ferns prefer bright, indirect light and many benefit from direct sun in the winter. Many tolerate lower light but will merely survive and won't grow much. Pests indoors are scale and mealy bugs.

Outdoors ferns grow in a humus-rich soil, shady to partially shady, well drained and slightly acidic.

They are generally free of garden pests, and deer do not eat ferns.

Fiddleheads are the young uncoiled fern leaves of the ostrich plume fern, which may be eaten. Wash and cook thoroughly in small amount of boiling water for 10 minutes or steam for 20 minutes. Do not eat raw fiddleheads. The CDC has investigated a number of outbreaks of illness associated with fiddleheads which were eaten raw or lightly cooked. These caused an outbreak of food-borne illness in British Columbia in 1990.

Some North American native ferns are:

- Sensitive (can be invasive)
- Royal
- Lady
- Maidenhair
- Male
- Boston (Florida)

**Kathy Habib**



Fossilized fern frond



Osmunda cinnamom (Cinnamon Fern)

**7 SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS**

Do Citizen Science

Make Windows Safer

Keep Cats Indoors

Use Native Plants

Avoid Pesticides

Drink Shade-Grown Coffee

Reduce Plastic Use

## I'm Helping Birds!

- Make Windows Safe
- Keep Cats Indoors
- Less Lawn, Plant Natives
- Avoid Pesticides
- Drink Shade-Grown Coffee
- Use Less Plastic
- Watch Birds, Share What You See

Find out more: [bit.ly/7-simple-actions](https://bit.ly/7-simple-actions)

The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology

Wood Thrush by John Petruzzi/Macaulay Library 56732651; Graphic by Sarah Seroussi.