



The Germinator



PUBLISHED BY THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
87 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MAHONING VALLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



President's Message - March

March is a boundary or border, the nexus between Winter and Spring - coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb. Let's hope so, but with the change in climate, none of the old sayings and understandings hold true. March's flower is the daffodil, my favorite as there are thousands popping up in my yard in Spring. Speaking of daffodils: "She turned to the sunlight and shook her yellow head. And whispered to her neighbor: 'Winter is dead.'" - A. A. Wilne, When We Were Very Young.

This is the month we can begin to plant in our gardens. Onion sets should be installed this month. Peas should be sown in March to give them time to grow before the heat of Summer. Other cold weather crops include radishes, carrots, turnips, beets, rutabaga and leeks. Potatoes can be also be started this month.

Remember to wait until the soil is ready. It should be dry enough to crumble in your hand when you pack it into a ball. You can cover the soil to help it dry faster. If a heavy frost is expected, cover your seedlings to protect them. If you have never tried a cold frame, it's worth the effort. It will extend the growing season both in Spring and in Fall by a month or more.

If you haven't pruned your trees in February, you can still do so in early March. Don't wait to do this because when the weather warms, open cuts can leave trees susceptible to diseases. This is also a good month to transplant trees. It gives them a chance to grow over Summer. Just remember they need more watering.

This is also a good month to sow grass seed. I have sown grass seed on top of snow. Over seeding your lawn at this time of year will help ensure a more attractive lawn because the grass will begin growing long before weed seed can germinate thus crowding them out.

March is the month to get things in order. Clean and repair gardening equipment and infrastructure like fencing and trellises, and get the soil ready to plant. Spring is just around the corner so get ready to welcome it with open arms.

Paul Shanabarger

Mill Creek MetroParks

MARCH EVENTS

Nature Photo Exhibit	All Month
Jewels of Winter (Orchids)	1-8
Philly Garden Tour	2-4
Pig Day Celebration	3
Sugar Shack Shindig	3,10
Woodpecker Walk	4
Walk-In Orchid Clinic	7
MVLNA Spring Clinic	7
Maple Syrup Saunter	10
Twice Loved Book Sale	17-25
Stone Quarries of Mill Creek	18
Mill Creek Photo Clique	18
A Cup & Beyond (Herb Teas)	20
Botanical Mornings	23
Naturalist Series: Mushrooms	24
Winter Survival Skills	24
Indoor Gardening	27
Blue Moon Walk	31

millcreekmetroparks.org

Membership Meeting
Speaker: **Eric Tanner**
Wednesday
March 7th, 2018
7:00 pm

2017 Scholarship Winner
Subject: **Aquaculture**
(Guests Welcome)

Board Meeting
Wednesday
March 14th, 2018
6:30 pm

Austintown Library
All members welcome

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, OH

Please Join Us!

The purpose of The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is to create a better understanding of gardening and to encourage and promote the beautification of our community. In order to meet this endeavor, several civic projects are completed each year.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the D. D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Garden. Members receive a monthly newsletter, "The Germinator," which has timely gardening hints, club news and other local and regional horticultural events. Members also become members of The National Men's Garden Club of America.

Membership is open to residents of the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities with an interest in gardening.

To join, contact us at:
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio
% Membership Committee
123 McKinley Way • Youngstown, OH 44509
or on our website at www.mgcy.org



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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

Central Great Lakes Officers

During the Fall meeting of the Central Great Lakes Region, then National President John Schinker (far right) swore in the region's 2018 officers. They are left to right:



Bob Bell (Akron), Treasurer; Paul Shanabarger (Youngstown), 2nd Vice President; Steve Maki (Lima), 1st Vice President; Marcia Davies (Van Wert), Recording Secretary; Clark Bordner (Akron), Past President; and Lawrence Kell (Cleveland), President; John Schinker, National President

Home & Garden Show

Tom Arens and Bob McGowan were among members manning our club's info booth at last month's Home and Garden Show at the MetroPlex in Liberty.



They answered gardening questions, handed out gardening pamphlets and perennial seeds, and promoted our organization. On very short notice, Bruce Brungard did a great job setting up the display and recruiting members to help fly our flag.

Tree Seedling Sales

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Ravenna, Trumbull, Stark, Lawrence and Mercer counties will hold their annual tree and shrub sales to

raise funds for their projects. Go to the below websites for the link to the brochure and order forms. Early orders are encouraged as some quantities may be limited. Tree and shrub varieties may differ depending on location. There may also be other plants available.

In Portage and Trumbull counties, order by April 6 and pickup April 18-20. In Stark County, order by March 15 for April 9-12 pickup. In Lawrence County, order by April 6 for April 21 pickup. In Mercer County, order by March 30 for April 17 pickup.

www.portageswcd.org/new.html

www.swcd.co.trumbull.oh.us/swcd_tree2018.html

www.starkswcd.org

Members Receive Top Awards

Our organization's top recognition, the Bill Carney Memorial Bronze Award, was presented to Larry Tooker at our February membership meeting. The award recognizes a club member who, for years of outstanding service, has actively engaged in all phases of club activities and projects.

Larry is an MGCY treasure. He is our longest active member and served as our president from 1975 thru 1976. Having been one of Fellows' Riverside Gardens' first Horticulturists only begins to testify to his knowledge and expertise. His many contributions to our club include recruiting speakers for our annual Winter Seminar, his leadership on our Elm Tree Restoration Project, and providing invaluable horticulture advice and historical perspective to club projects.



Bob McGowan received the TGOA/MGCA Silver Medal from Past President John Schinker. The award

recognizes a member who directs/actively participates in a productive national committee, provides service that enhances the national's reputation, and provides community service by participating in activities that furthers the national goals. Bob has long served on the TGOA/MGCA's Executive and Financial Committees.

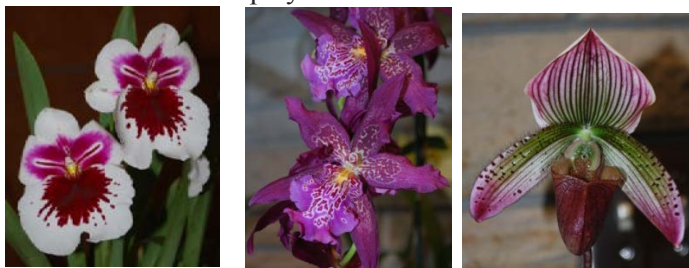


Spring Plant Sale Is On

We have been able to lease the MASCO greenhouse for another season. Don't wait for Chairman John Schinker to call you. Let him know you are willing to help plant, water and tend the plants by calling him at 330-799-6046 or email johnschinker@gmail.com.

13th Annual MGCY Winter Seminar

For one day each winter, gardening enthusiasts from our extended area take leave of their cold winter doldrums by getting a peek at the potential for a fresh growing season offers. With a Chinese auction, door prizes and great food, our club goes the extra mile to ensure the good time expected by our many return guests. A definite mood boost was Fellows' Riverside Garden's orchid display.



The event's highlights are presentations that inform attendees on what plants to buy, and how to best arrange and care for them, and delivered by knowledgeable speakers with enthusiasm and humor. We feel they met those expectations in spades.



Marianne Willburn

Ms. Willburn is a gardening columnist and blogger (*The Small Town Gardener*), author (*Big Dreams, Small Garden*) and master gardener. She has over 20 years of experience gardening in such diverse places as England, California and the Mid-Atlantic. With her husband and two children, she gardens intensively and exhaustively on their 10 acres in Northern Virginia.



Big Dreams, Small Garden - Embrace your space.

Visualize: Accept space limitations; use creative focus to remediating problems; and implement elements of gardens you admire.

Achieve: Group plants and accessories; consider foliage which lasts longer over flowers; create treasure from trash; before you dig, outline the sections; and repetitive use of a plant creates continuity.

Maintain - Remember that each act of creation brings new maintenance tasks; work towards 25% new projects, 75% established projects.

Enjoy - Connect with your garden each day; and share your garden with guests.

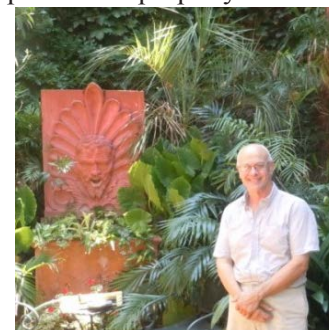
Garden Maintenance for Real Life - What you create you are obligated to maintain; if you cannot maintain it, change it; research the plants you choose.

Scott Beuerlein

Scott is an ONLA Certified Landscape Technician and an ISA Certified Arborist. He is a horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, and is chair of the Boone County Arboretum Collections Assn., while having served on a number of other Cincinnati area horticultural organizations. His numerous articles have appeared in such publications as *Horticulture Magazine* and *American Nurseryman*. He currently writes the 'Only In Ohio' column for *Ohio Gardener Magazine* and is a regular contributor to the 'Garden Rant' blog.



The Sculptor's Garden - The story of sculptor and art historian Ted Gantz who purchased property in the desperately blighted border of the Over-the-Rhine and Prospect Hill area of Cincinnati and created an inspirational urban oasis. His museum-like home includes luxuriant gardens with tropical flora and architectural flourished of Empire-style statuary.



Spring Sings But Autumn Rocks - Scott told us of the plants, shrubs and trees that not only reach their peak blooms in Fall, but whose stems and foliage provide beauty to the landscape year-round.

While this event was a labor of love for Bob McGowan, its most important contributor, we must also recognize the efforts of Dan Miller, Larry Tooker, John Schinker, Dennis Zap, John Fox and all the MGCY members who took part in the pre-seminar set-up and



acted as table captains. We should all take notice of their dedication and try to emulate it in coming club events.



Eastern Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Also known as the eastern hemlock-spruce and Canadian hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* is a long-living evergreen with the oldest, at least 550 years old, being found in Tionesta, PA. While typically reaching heights of 100 ft., exceptional trees may grow to 175 ft. tall. This hemlock's range extends from Canada as far west and south as the Great Lakes states and, from there, New England and the Appalachians. This includes the eastern half of Ohio and all of Pennsylvania.

This iconic tree is currently threatened by the woolly adelgid or HWA (*Adelges tsugae*), a sap-sucking Asian invader first found in the hemlock's native range in the late 1960's. It has since spread rapidly in the southern parts of the tree's range while expanding more slowly northward. Nearly all areas of the Appalachian Mountains have been infested including some southern Ohio counties. A 2009 study by the U.S. Forest Service found that a large number of trees in the southern Appalachians were infested and a large scale die-off is expected by the next decade.



A case study by the U.S. Forest Service, Cornell University and the University of Massachusetts released 900 *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles, which naturally prey on HWA, into a stand of infected hemlocks near Lansing, New York. This site was chosen to sustain a long-term study and left untreated to see how well *L.nigrinus* becomes established which will take 2-3 years for any definitive results.

Planting Milkweed Seeds Now?

Feeling bad about declining Monarch butterfly populations due to fewer milkweed plants, the sole source of caterpillar nutrition? Trying to start plants from seed now is futile because these natives need to go through 'stratification', the freeze-thaw cycles of winter.



Planting is best done in late fall or early winter.

Gardeners can, however, try to fool Mother Nature by folding the seeds into a very slightly dampened paper towel then putting the towel in a zip-lock baggie. Place

the baggie in the back of a refrigerator for 8-10 weeks. Then sprinkle the seeds into the garden being careful not to cover them with soil. To select the most desirable milkweed cultivars when considering appearance and invasiveness, go to: www.savvygardening.com.

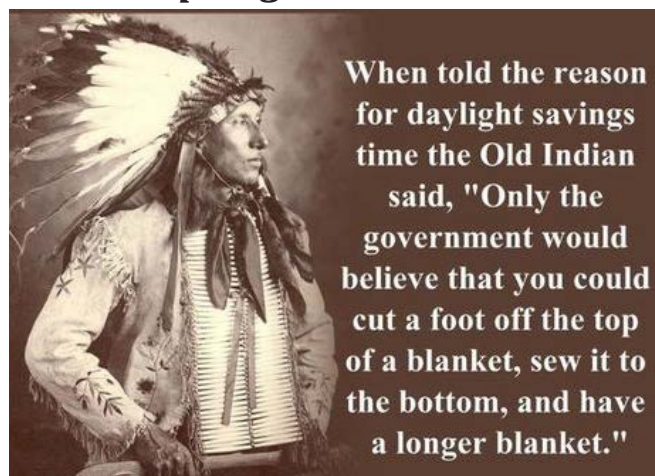
Zone 5 Gardening In March

While the weather might still have you hunkered down indoors with a healthy dose of cabin fever, be advised Spring begins in a few short weeks. Here's a short list of preparations for this year's growing season.

- Start warmth-loving crops like tomatoes, peppers and eggplants indoors under lights.
- Transplant early tomatoes into larger pots and deeper for added root growth.
- Start annual flowers such as marigolds and zinnias indoors under lights.
- Tie up ornamental grasses, and cut back to a few inches above ground level.
- Trim dead or damaged branches from trees, shrubs and roses.
- Begin to plant potatoes, peas, lettuce, radishes and carrots.
- Late in the month, transplant pansies outdoors. Sow nasturtiums and sweet peas.
- At month's end, transplant an early tomato outdoors protected by a Wallo'Water. Fill the hole with warm water before planting.
- Start seeds of perennials indoors under lights.
- Aerate the lawn. Rake up debris and snow mold.
- While many professionals advise against fertilizing lawns in Spring, if you do, use a low nitrogen-slow release product to lessen excessive growth. Cut to no lower than 4"
- Apply crabgrass pre-emergent when soil temps reach 50-55 degrees at 1-2" deep. Don't apply if recently seeded or fall seeds haven't sprouted.



Spring Forward



When told the reason for daylight savings time the Old Indian said, "Only the government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and have a longer blanket."



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March 2018

Thank you to the MGCY Friends for their Civic Fund donations.
Members are urged to give them a visit.

Dick Adgate Florist
4257 Market St
Youngstown, Oh 44512
330-788-5054

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8262 South Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44512
330-726-8727

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info@bairdbrothers.com

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1335 Belmont Ave.
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buckeyemassage@gmail.com

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Canfield, Oh 44406
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www.handelsicecream.com

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330-793-1268

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Cecelajoy87@gmail.com

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Leo's Ristorante
7042 East Market St
Warren, Oh 44484
330-856-5291

Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar
2975 Canfield-Niles Rd
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330-799-2059

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(440) 439-8636 Phone
https://www.petittigardencenters.com/

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www.pitmoss.com

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March 2018



Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio
c/o Newsletter Editor
123 McKinley Ave. • Youngstown, OH 44509

www.mgcy.org



Happy First Day of Spring!
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

calendar of events

March TBD.....	Floriculture	MCCTC Comp	TBA am
March 7	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
March 14.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
March 24.....	Spring Breakfast	FRG	9:00 am
April 4	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
April 11	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
May 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
May 9.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
June 6.....	General Mtg. Plant Auction....	Bdmn Park	6:00 - 7:00 pm
June 13	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
June 27-29.....	National Convention	Fort Wayne.....	TBA

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