



April 2018



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



President's Message - APRIL

At this time of year, the weather forecast is anyone's guess. A killer frost may be just around the corner -or not - so let's talk about our club. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, 'Ask not what your garden club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club'.

Members can begin by regularly attending our monthly meetings. I make a significant effort to book accomplished and interesting speakers, but they don't like addressing small groups. Get friends and relatives interested by talking to them about our club and coming to meetings as guests.

In addition, each of us can support and promote our organization in a number of ways. Bruce Brungard does a great job with media promotions but each of us can lend a hand. Send a letter to newspapers like the Austintown or Boardman News. Better yet, write a gardening article for the Vindicator's weekly 'Valley Grows' edition. Put up notices on church or work bulletin boards announcing club events like our Spring Plant Sale and Plant Auction.

Patronize our sponsor's businesses and mention them to acquaintances. Don't be afraid to approach other businesses for donations. I got over \$800 in new donations by doing this last year. Check out the Sponsors' list in the Germinator to get an idea of what types of businesses may be receptive.

Remember, a club is only as good as its members, and I think we have a darn good club. Let's all work together to make it better.

Thanks,
Paul Shanabarger

MGCY SPRING PLANT SALE

Thursday thru
Saturday,
May 10, 11 & 12

Flowers, Veggies,
Herbs & More

Contact John Schinker:

330-799-6046

johnschinker@gmail.com

or see him at the membership meeting to see how you can help.



Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Apr. 4

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: **Christian Moore**

2017 Scholarship Winner

Matrix Planting/Dynamic Beds

(Guests Welcome)

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, Apr. 11

Austintown Library

(All Members Welcome)

MetroParks March Events

Garden Guide Training	6,13
Photo Clique	7,14
Eagle Watch	8
Baby Farm Animals	13
Plant A Seed To Read	14
Naturalist Series: Ice Age Ohio	14
Traveling Naturalist: Geology	15
Spring Wildflower Walk	15
Daffodil Show	20-22
Hike W/Naturalist (Cohasset)	21
Daffodil Guided Tour	21
Naturalist Hike: Turkeys	22
Botanical Mornings	27
MetroParks Farm Kite Fest	28
Wildflowers Galore	29

millcreekmetroparks.org

HAPPY EASTER!

April 1, 2018



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The Germinator

Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG
82 Members • 2 Associates

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Eric Tanner - Scholarship Winner

It has become increasingly difficult for a student to work their way through college while raising a family. Where it was once common for non-traditional students to successfully complete their education, high tuition and time constraints now make it an almost impossible task. And so it is both refreshing and with some pride in our small contribution to Eric Tanner's accomplishment that the MGCY 2017 scholarship winner has overcome those hurdles.

Eric recently graduated from The Ohio State Univ. Agricultural Technical Institute where he majored in greenhouse management. The 41 year-old has been married (Ashley) for 17 years, and they have an 11 year old son, Kamden. He left his job of 13 years with W. W. Grainger to accept a growing position with Eagle Creek Wholesale in Mantua, OH.

His 'Hydroponic Vegetable Growing' presentation at our March membership meeting was informative and well received. With craft beer brewing becoming increasingly popular, he hopes to make growing hops (*Humulus lupulus*) using hydroponic methods economically feasible. There are a number of obstacles that stand in the way but given the drive and ambition Eric has already demonstrated, we feel he will succeed.

The hops plant is ideal for brewing beer due to its bitterness, flavor, aroma and bacterial properties. Hydroponics has the advantage of being able to tailor nutrients and dosage during various stages of plant growth to create the ultimate hop cone.

Initially, the plant demands large amounts of Nitrogen and lesser amounts of macro-nutrients. During the flowering stage, higher levels of Potassium and Phosphorus with less Nitrogen are required. With these macro-nutrients, a special blend of micro-nutrients (17) is added as the health of the plant is monitored.

Hydroponics would involve a significant investment for infrastructure and materials, but there are advantages over traditional farming. The process allows for a controlled growing environment and the use of integrated pest management. A 5,000 sq. ft. greenhouse can hold 2,000 plants, or the equivalent of 17,000 plants per acre, compared to 1,500 per acre outdoors. In addition, less water, nutrients and pesticides are needed.



Central Great Lakes Region Meeting

The Spring regional meeting will be held April 21 at the Kingwood Center, Exhibit Hall, Mansfield, OH. Our club usually has several members attending. MGCY has a long history supporting the region including many serving as officers.

We put together a car pool after having breakfast at a predetermined location. If you plan on attending and want to car pool, contact Rodney Toth, 330-759-1993, or at rkdahalias@aol.com. Sandwiches will be catered to the Kingwood Center. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish, salad and/or dessert.

Scrappers Baseball Outing

Your Mahoning Valley Scrappers, the Cleveland Indian's farm team, will soon be banging the outfield walls at Eastwood Field. And what has become an annual event, The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown will have a group get-together on Aug. 16 when the dogs play the Auburn Doubledays. The outing is always great fun and a chance to socialize with fellow members and their friends.



Included in the \$15 per person admission is a complimentary meal. Contact Rodney Toth at 330-759-1993, rkdahalias@aol.com or see him at the membership meeting if you plan onto attending.

MGCY Fundraising Proposal

As we all know, this will most probably be our last year to grow and sell Spring Plant Sale inventory at the MASCO greenhouse. At the March Board of Gardeners meeting, a proposal was made to have a Summer Solstice Stag Party on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The proposed venue would be a small golf course with appropriate facilities.

There would be a golf competition, a Texas Holdem tournament, craps and blackjack tables, exotic dancers, a cash bar, and any other fund-raising activities that will help our club off-set the loss of the greenhouse. We will need all members to participate. If no members with dice and card dealing experience volunteers, we'll have to hire some unemployed Campbell pros.

This year, I'm combining Easter and April Fools Day. The kids are out looking for eggs I didnt hide.



Oak Wilt

When it comes to trees, Sarah Woodall knows of what she speaks. Addressing the expanding problem of Oak Wilt, our February membership meeting speaker is an Ohio State Univ. grad with a major in Horticulture. She is a Certified Arborist and, with her husband, John, owns and operates Woodall Tree Restoration in Vienna. John took first place at the 1987 Ohio Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Arborist Jamboree.

Oak Wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) is a serious and often deadly vascular disease of oak trees found throughout the Midwest and reported in a majority of Ohio's 88 counties. The fungus grows throughout and plugs the tree's water conductive tissues and, combined with the host's own defensive reaction to stop the disease from spreading, interferes with water uptake.

Oaks in the red/black group (black, blackjack, pin, northern and southern red, scarlet, shingle and sumard) are extremely susceptible and can die within weeks of infection. Those in the white group (bur, chinquapin, post, swamp and white) are more tolerant of the disease and may survive infection for one or more years while displaying decline symptoms.

Typically, leaves usually begin withering in the upper canopy with whole branches or crown portions turning red-brown. Red oak leaves will show yellowing and browning of leaf margins eventually expanding until the whole leaf turns brown. White oak infestations show less descript symptoms. Eventually the leaves fall from the tree. Infections in late spring will show trees beginning to wilt in mid-to-late summer when water needs are greatest.



In red oaks, spore-bearing fungal mats under desiccating bark produce pressure pads that will force the bark to shed. Sapwood streaking is also a symptom that could also be caused by other diseases like some wood decays and anthracnose. In all cases, however, conclusive diagnosis can only be made by specialized laboratories such as the Ohio State Univ. Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic.

A vast majority of infestations occur when the roots of an infected tree graft with those of healthy trees. Beetles attracted by running sap can also transfer the disease so oaks should only be pruned in winter. Anti-fungal applications of *Alamo* are expensive but the only chemical known to deter the disease. Trenching between trees will help prevent the disease spreading via roots.



Welcoming The Praying Mantis

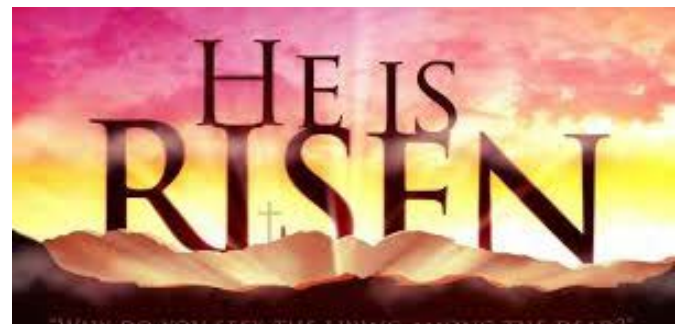
While preparing your gardening and landscaping beds for the growing season, take a good look at the shrubs and ornamental grasses. You might be lucky enough to find an 1 1/2" to 2" object that looks this. It is a praying mantis egg sack or *ootheca* that will contain up to 200 nymphs.



There are three mantid species that are common to NE Ohio: The European (*Mantis religiosa*) that grows to 2 3/4"; the Chinese (*Tenodera sinensis*), 4 1/2"; and the Carolina (*Stagmomantis carolina*), 2-2 1/2". Since the egg sacks appear similar, it's anyone's guess as to the species you'll find.

Keeping these insects around for awhile before they move off may enable you to have several around to take advantage of pests in your yard. The nymphs are born without wings and will molt several times before becoming adults. An old fish tank with fine mesh screen firmly sealed to the top and kept outside would be ideal. The egg sack should be mounted on a stick or attached to the side of the tank in such a way that any glue or tape used will not trap hatching nymphs.

These mantids will hatch several after several weeks of warm weather and, since they are cannibalistic, a food source should be awaiting them. Fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) are a good start. An over-ripe banana or a mixture of beer, mashed potato flakes and yeast powder should attract them. Or you can buy flightless fruit fly starter kits online. As the mantids grow, adding fly maggots bought at a fish bait store will add larger prey. A small dish of water and some plant debris should be placed in the tank to allow for hiding places.



'The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.'

Henry Knox Sherrill

'Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.'

Clarence W. Hall

Agriculture & Climate Change

Vegetable Crops

U.S. farmers produce nearly 25% of all grains on the global market. For any particular crop, the effect of temperature increases will depend on the crop's optimal temp for growth and reproduction. In some areas, warming may benefit the crop types planted there, or allow a shift to crops currently grown in warmer areas. Conversely, if higher temps exceed a crop's optimum temperature, yields and nutrition quality will decline.

Elevated carbon dioxide may increase plant growth, but changing temps, ozone, and water and nutrient restraints may counteract these yields. Extreme temps, flooding and draughts can harm crops. For example, in 2010-12, high nighttime temps affected yields in the U.S. Corn Belt, and premature budding due to a warm winter caused a \$220 million loss in Michigan cherries.

Many weeds, pests and fungi thrive under warmer temps, wetter climates and increased CO2 levels. U.S. farmers already spend \$billions to fight weeds that compete for water, light and nutrients. Weed species from traditionally warmer regions will present more problems to farmers.

Rising levels of CO2 reduce the concentrations of protein and essential minerals in most plant species including wheat, soybeans and rice resulting in threats to human and animal health. Health is also threatened by increased pesticide and herbicide use due to increased pest and weed species and proliferation. Also, recent draughts have lowered waterways used to transport grain resulting in much higher transportation costs.

Meat & Dairy Production

Heat stress can increase vulnerability to disease, reduce fertility and reduce milk production. Draught may threaten pasture and feed supplies. A changing climate may increase the prevalence and variety of parasites and diseases. Warmer winters and an earlier spring may allow some parasites and pathogens to survive more easily. Increased rainfall in some areas will promote moisture-reliant pathogens.

The increased use of parasiticides and other animal health treatments could risk these chemicals entering the human consumption food chain, or lead to the evolution of pesticide resistance. Increased CO2 may increase pasture production but potentially decrease nutritional value resulting in the need for more available feed.

Fisheries

The \$1.5 billion U.S. fishing industry is already under stress from over-fishing and pollution, and warmer water temps and increased acidity due to CO2 absorption is decreasing and relocating existing fish and shellfish populations. Some aquatic lifecycles and marine disease outbreaks have been linked with a changing climate.

Cool Solutions To Global Warming?

Relax campers, you can stop worrying about climate change. We can continue burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas to our hearts' content because science has several tricks up its sleeve to neutralize the effect of greenhouse gases. Here are a few geo-engineering ideas that will save mankind from an uncertain future.

Giant, Space-based Sunshade

While the asteroid which helped wipe out the dinosaurs blocked out 90% of the sun's rays, we would need to divert only 2-4% of the sun's energy to take Earth back to pre-industrial age levels. First conceived in 1989, a 1,250 mile wide glass shield would be so heavy it would have to be constructed on the moon.

A related idea involves 16 trillion flying space robots, each weighing about the same as a butterfly, that would deflect sunlight with a transparent film less than 100th the thickness of a human hair. The robots would steer themselves using existing technology to form a cloud 60,000 miles wide. Shepherding satellites would keep the 'bots from crashing into each other.

Man-made Volcano

The 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo unleashed thousands of tons of sulphur dioxide gas that cooled Earth by a few tenths of a degree. It's been estimated that just two kilograms of sulphur could offset the warming effect of several hundred thousand pounds of carbon dioxide.

Doubting Thomases point out that this would destroy the ozone layer, the chemical which shields Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet rays. What they don't tell you is that large volcanic eruptions produce the same effect and, every spring, a hole appears in the ozone layer over the Antarctic. Just issue everyone a supply of 200 SPF sunscreen and problem solved.

Adding Chemicals To Oceans

The oceans are a key part of the natural carbon cycle absorbing about one-third of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. The problem is that this results in an increase in the acidity of the water reaping havoc on the marine eco-system. The plan is to convert limestone into lime, a process similar to that used by the cement industry, and adding it to seawater. The resulting lowering of the oceans' pH allows more CO2 to be absorbed while maintaining marine habitat.

Another possibility is to add iron to the seas thus promoting algae growth that absorbs CO2 and increases oxygen production. The seas already produce a significant amount of the world's oxygen supply,

This is not an April Fool's Day joke. These potential 'cures' are rife with potential unintended consequences, hugely expensive and not very practical. Wouldn't it be far better to reduce our fossil fuel dependence?

The Germinator

April 2018

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

DICK ADGATE FLORIST

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JOE ALESSI

MGCY Member

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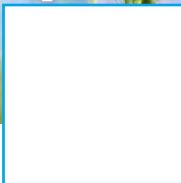
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Earth DAY

APRIL 22, 2018

calendar of events



April 4	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
April 11	Board Meeting.....	APL	6:30 pm
April 21	CGLRG Meeting.....	Kingswoods Gardens...	10:30 am
May 2	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
May 9	Board Meeting.....	APL	6:30 pm
May 10, 11, 12	Spring Plant Sale.....	MASCO Greenhouse...	9-6 pm
June 6	Plant Auction-Pot Luck Dinner ..	Boardman Park.....	6-7 pm
June 13	Board Meeting.....	APL	6:30 pm
June 27-29	National Convention	Fort Wayne.....	Fri. - Sat.
June 29-30	CGLG Convention	Fort Wayne.....	Fri. - Sat.

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
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or on our website at www.mgcy.org



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