

The Germinator



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



President's Message - August

It's July 14th and I still have no red tomatoes! I have lots of green ones though. The plants are very robust, especially the bush variety. (Our own Mr. Fox reports that he has red tomatoes. I believe he has the Giant Eagle variety). I have had great success with cucumbers this year. First time for the cukes called Fanfare. 15 to 20 cukes so far, from only 2 plants. I have had trouble with cukes in the past, so this is great. I also planted 2 cucumber plants called cruncher (or maybe muncher). They are almost ready to pick. Of course I have been blessed with zucchinis, what a dependable crop. My peppers are slow coming to fruit.

I planted about a dozen of the Benary giant zinnias. They did not reach their full potential, but to be fair, they did have something that was eating the leaves. I've trimmed off the bad leaves and they are responding well.

I do not treat my back yard lawn with anything, and the bees are loving the clover flowers. I've never seen so many bees.

Looks like my butterfly bushes are not far from blooming. They are 1st year plants so I'm not sure what I should expect. Hopefully I will have some flowers for the Horticulture Show.

This must be the year of the squirrel, based on how many have taken up residency in my back yard. There is a band of five that come every day (2 of them are those nasty, pesky little ones). They glean the sun flowers that the birds drop from the feeder.

Hope to see you at the upcoming steak fry, Scrappers game and Horticulture Show. Don't forget to encourage our new members. They just need a little push.

Happy harvesting.

Dave

MGCY52nd ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW
Saturday and Sunday,
August 20th and August 21st Fellows
Riverside Gardens


Registration:
7:00 am – 10:30 am on 22nd

Judging: 11:00 am on 22nd

Awards: 4:00 pm on 23rd

Participation:
Open to the Public
Includes Youth Division

Viewing:
Open to the Public
1:00 to 5:00 pm on the 20th and
10:00 am to 4:00 pm on the 22nd



Steak Fry & Membership Meeting

6:00 pm
Wednesday, August
3rd at Larry Duck's
Home Pavilion
5471 Clingan Road,
Struthers (turn north from Rt 224),
look for log cabin home.

Subject:
Horticulture Show – Entry Tutorial

Reservations are required by July 31st.
Please CALL Bob McGowan at
330-518-6397

The fee is \$12 for steak or
salmon and \$8 for chicken.
Dinner includes entree, at least
2 sides, beverage and dessert.
Set up time is 5:00pm.
Feel free to come and help.
You will need to bring
your own place setting.

General Meeting
August 3rd
Fellows Riverside Gardens
7:00 pm

Board Meeting
August 10th
Austintown Library
6:30 pm

All members welcome

Mill Creek MetroParks

AUGUST EVENTS

Health & wellness, golf, children's & family activities, nature hikes, horticulture shows & seminars, workshops, crafts & more:

- 4 Family Tours - MetroParks farm. 10am - 11:30am. Call to Register
- 6 10am - noon - Advanced Master Gardener. Plant ID, Garden Tour, Registration/pay by August 4.
- 7 Bug Day. Kids can earn a "Master of Bugology" degree. 8am - 5pm. Bug stories and crafts.
- 26 Monarchs, King of the butterflies. Age 2-3, 10am to 11am. Register and pay at Ford Nature Center by August 24

For a complete schedule and details:
www.millcreekmetroparks.com



Scrappers Ball Game at Cafaro Field
August 11th picnic at 5:30 pm. game at 7 pm - Come Join us!

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

86 Members • 1 Associate

R U A Gardener? Yes or No?

If you are reading this, the answer is probably *Yes*. It would logically follow that you would want to enter our annual Horticulture Show, August 20-21, at Fellows Riverside Gardens' Davis Center especially if you're a member of our organization. You'd also want to get your friends and family involved. The show is friendly competition, loads of fun and the opportunity to see plants you might like to grow next season.



What's that you say? The weather this growing season was hot and dry, and your tomatoes are the size of plums? For one thing, the conditions have been the same for everyone. For another, there are plants (peppers?) that do well during draughts. So buck up, Bucko, and find some things to enter.

And there's a lot to choose from. The fourteen sections are: *Vegetables; Ornamentals; Fruits; Annuals; Perennials-Biennials; Dahlias; Bulbs, Tubers, Etc.; Roses; Potted Plants; Bonsai; Cacti; Succulents; Woody Plants; and Hanging Containers w/16" limit* with numerous subclassifications within many sections. Adding to the fun is the Larry Whetson Heaviest Tomato contest award of \$25.

Even if you don't enter the show, contact Rodney Toth, 330-759-1193 or rkdahlias@aol.com, to see how you can help make our show a success. We'll need members to help set up the Davis Center on Friday, Aug. 19th, time to be announced.

Canfield Fair Information Booth

Publicity Committee Chairman Bruce Brungard still has several slots available for members who want to help show our flag at the 2016 Canfield Fair, Aug. 31st thru Sept. 5th. Our recent and significant increase in new members is due in no small part to the positive image our information booth and its attending members present to the public. You'll probably be attending the fair anyway so plan your Labor Day festivities accordingly. Contact Bruce at 330-793-1307 or bgbhhi@live.com, to schedule you slot.



Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Steakfry Reservations

One of our club's great traditions is its annual Steakfry that doubles as our August membership meeting. On Wednesday, Aug. 3rd at 5pm, we will meet at Larry Duck's home on Clingan Rd. in Struthers and enjoy the hospitality his beautiful pavilion provides. The menu includes steak, chicken, salmon and great side dishes and desserts. Chef Extraordinaire Charlie Grounds will grill your meat to order, from bloody to charcoal.



The fry also doubles as a tutorial for those entering our Horticulture Show, so you'll want to be there to learn how to best present your entries. You can count on Rodney Toth and Don Brown to play *Stump the Chumps* with some flawed examples of potential entries.

Make your reservations by contacting Bob McGowan, 330-518-6397 or rjfmcgowan@aol.com. The steak is \$14 while salmon and chicken is \$10. Bob has to order the food so get your reservation in by July 31st. There is a rumor that adult beverages may be available.

Germinator Receives CGLR Award

The Central Great Lakes Region of the Gardeners of America/Mens Garden Clubs of America awarded our newsletter its Horticulture Journalism Award for 2016. Awards Committee Chairman Rodney Toth presented the plaque to Editor Dave Campana who accepted it for newsletter staff members President Dave Causer, Photographer Bob Stas and Information Technology Chairman Dan Miller.



The Germinator

Butterflies Are Free

Free for us to enjoy their colorful displays and eccentric manner of flight, delighting us as they evade a clumsy toddler's futile pursuit, and providing us with Bob Coggeshall's educational 'Wonderful World of Butterflies' presentation and demonstration of photographic skill at our July membership meeting.

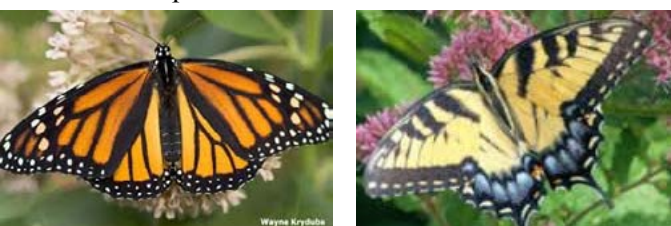
In addition to the milkweed, cone flowers, zinnias and butterfly bushes growing in his landscaping, Bob's property abuts Mill Creek MetroParks thus providing him and his camera with a target-rich environment to shoot and study members of the *Lepidoptera* family. So named for their scaled (*lepis*) wings (*ptera*), the first true butterflies appeared 48 million years ago. The number of species is ten times the total mammal and bird species worldwide with 725 in the U.S., 144 in Ohio and 65 in Mahoning County alone.

We're all familiar with monarch butterflies (family *Nymphalidae* or Brushfoot) and their marathon migration to and from Mexico from as far away as Canada. Milkweed is their primary food source and traditional migration routes have been interrupted by human activity (monoculture crops and urban sprawl).

The latest census, however, shows population recovery due in no small part to the Monarch Butterfly Watch, a University of Kansas sponsored effort. Bob does his part by raising monarchs and MGCY member Bill Laslo (bill.laslo@yahoo.com) will have milkweed seeds available in September. Pictured below are a monarch adult, caterpillar and chrysalis.



Some Swallowtail species (*Papillidae*) take advantage of the monarch's poisonous chemistry that deters predatory birds by imitating its color and wing design. Below are a swallowtail and a female monarch. Note the female monarch has thicker black wing vanes than the male pictured above.



Skippers (*Hesperidae*) have 51 species native to Ohio, many sharing the moth-like characteristics of



stocky build and large head. They resemble a jet fighter getting ready to launch from an aircraft carrier.

Gossamer-winged butterflies (*Lycaenidae*) are small and often brightly colored with false eye

markings on the hind wing and trailing filaments. They fool predators into attacking from the front instead of assaulting from the rear. Larvae of some species eat aphids.



One of the few butterflies classified as an agriculture pest, the larvae of Whites and Sulfurs (*Pieridae*) attack



cabbage, broccoli, kale, cucumbers and squash. Not only do they eat the plants but carry a disease that does even more damage. Control includes:

Handpicking eggs when possible.

Sticky traps to catch adult butterflies.

*Spraying with BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) every 1-2 weeks. Sevin is also effective. After harvest, the remaining pests can be washed away with water containing a small amount of detergent.*

Dampen leaves and sprinkle with cornmeal.

Moths differ from butterflies in that the former normally have thick, hairy bodies, are nocturnal, have feathery antennae and sit with wings horizontal. One unusual variety is the hummingbird or sphinx moth, its larva is the huge tomato or hookworm.



Many thanks to Bob for a great presentation. His photography skill is off the charts, and he is an inspiration to those of us who enjoy nature photography and may want to expand it to include butterflies.

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Curing & Storing Garlic

Allium sativum is a member of the Amaryllis family that also includes leeks, onions and shallots. Commercially, 90% of the garlic grown in the U.S. comes from California while a great deal is imported from China. Just about every gardener we know grows his own. If you are one of us, you've probably harvested your crop but may be in the dark about how to cure and store it.



Like all low acid vegetables, garlic will support the growth of the bacterium botulism. These conditions include improper canning, preparation and storage of fresh herb, and in garlic-oil mixtures. Conditions include warm temperatures and lack of air flow.

Curing harvested garlic involves spreading the heads on newspaper or wire racks in direct sunlight in a well ventilated area for 2-3 weeks, or until skins are papery. It can be successfully stored in mesh bags for 3-5 months in cool (60 degree), dry, dark and well ventilated areas. Many gardeners we know braid the leaves to cure and store garlic under the above conditions. Many people prefer the flavor of hard neck garlic to soft neck varieties but the former doesn't tend to last as long.

Although the texture deteriorates, heads and peeled and unpeeled cloves can be kept frozen in freezer bags but must be used almost immediately. Another freezing method involves chopping the cloves by knife, blender or food processor and mixing with olive oil (1 part to 1) in small containers. The containers should be and remain covered until used. Ice cube trays covered with plastic wrap will suffice for the freezing process, then cubes are individually wrapped and stored in freezer bags,

Better Health Thru Hydration

The Mayo Clinic advises that many heart attacks are triggered by dehydration so it is a good idea to always have bottled water on hand especially during these hot summer days. While many people avoid drinking water before going to bed, a glass before retiring helps prevent stroke and heart attack.



Drinking water during certain times improves overall health: 2 glasses upon waking helps activate internal organs; a glass before a meal helps improve digestion; a glass prior to bathing lowers blood

pressure; and besides preventing stroke and heart attack, a glass before bedtime helps avoid leg cramps.

Besides an aging prostate, waking up during the night to urinate is also due to fluids stored in our legs during the waking hours move closer to the kidneys when we lie down.

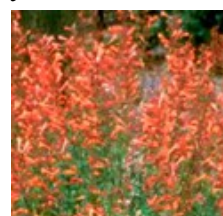
Aspirin

The clinic also gave some information about an over the counter drug in most of our medicine cabinets. Since most heart attacks occur between 6am and 12pm, if you take an aspirin or baby aspirin a day it is best taken before bedtime. In addition to pain in the left arm, heart attack symptoms to a varying lesser degree are intense pain on the chin, nausea and intense sweating. There may be no chest pain during an attack. If you do encounter chest pain, dissolve two aspirin in your mouth and swallow with a bit of water. Bayer now makes a crystal aspirin that dissolves instantly on the tongue and works much faster than the standard variety. Afterwards, call 911 and unlock the front door and sit down nearby. Do not lie down.

Submitted by Joe Alessi, Editor Emeritus

Colorful, Heat Loving Annuals

In the hot, dry months of late summer there are annuals, many from tropical regions, that will jazz up your flower beds and attract a variety of pollinators.



Apricot-orange *Agastache* 'Apricot Sprite' blooms non-stop all summer. These bushy, draught-tolerant mints grow to 18 inches.

Bidens 'Golden Star' is a bright yellow, easy to grow annual that grows to 12" and spreads in low clumps. It is a perfect bed edge that mixes well with other hot-colored plants. This carefree annual requires no deadheading and does well in containers.



Gomphrena haageana 'Strawberry Fields' sets out rounded red blooms from August thru October. This bushy plant reaches 2' tall, endures the heat with long-lasting flowers.

Other heat-loving annuals include *Codiaeum variegatum* (crotons), *Cuphea micropetala* and *Capsicum annuum* - also known as ornamental peppers.

The Germinator

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

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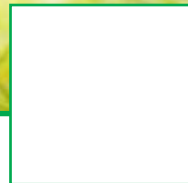
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The Germinator



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www.mgcy.org



calendar of events

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| August 3..... | Steak Fry/General Meeting | Larry Duck's home | 6 & 7 pm |
| August 10..... | Board Meeting..... | Austintown Library..... | 6:30 pm |
| August 11..... | Scrappers Ball Game | Eastwood Field, Niles OH..... | 5:30 pm |
| August 19..... | Setup for Horticulture Show | FRG | 12noon |
| August 20, 21..... | Horticulture Show | FRG | 7:00 am |
| August 31..... | Canfield Fair starts | Canfield Fairgrounds..... | 10 am - 10 pm |
| September 1-5..... | Canfield Fair..... | Canfield Fairgrounds | 10 am - 10 pm |
| September 7..... | General Meeting..... | FRG | 7:00 pm |
| September 14..... | Board Meeting..... | Austintown Library..... | 6:30 pm |
| October 5..... | General meeting..... | FRG | 7:00 pm |
| October 12..... | Board Meeting..... | Austintown Library..... | 6:30 pm |
| October 15..... | Fall Breakfast..... | FRG | 9:00 am |
| October 22..... | CGLG Meeting..... | Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield.. | 10:00 am |
| November 2..... | General Meeting..... | FRG | 7:00 pm |
| November 9..... | Board Meeting..... | Austintown Library..... | 6:30 pm |
| December 7..... | Board Meeting..... | Austintown Library..... | 6:30 pm |
| December 14..... | Christmas Dinner..... | A La Cart, Canfield, OH..... | 6:00 pm |

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