



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

## President's Message - November

Greetings all,

It is October 18th and the weather report is telling us it will be 80 degrees for a high!! Maybe global warming starts now! Last October 18th we had SNOW! I recall having to scrape ice off the windshield.

Has our plant hardiness zone changed due to global warming??

Well, my garden is clear save for some parsley and some celosia. I checked with Don Brown on his tomato crops. He has lots of green tomatoes. He advises that you can save green tomatoes in a bag with a couple apples and they will ripen. They won't be as good, but better than the ones in the store. Some of the ladies at my church make salsa, jam and just plain fried green tomatoes. Try it, you may just like it.

Don't forget our Christmas Dinner this year (December 14th). Please talk to some of our new members about attending. A great way to get to know each other. And the food and entertainment is always great!

I have lots of crab apples and acorns this year. The squirrels and birds are happy to have them. (does this mean a big winter season?)

Dave

**General Meeting**  
 November 2nd  
 Fellows Riverside Gardens  
 7:00 pm

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**Board Meeting**  
 November 9th  
 Austintown Library  
 6:30 pm

*All members welcome*



*Annual Christmas Dinner*  
 Wednesday, December 14th  
 6 PM Social Hour  
 6:30 Dinner

*Meal Choice of:*  
 Chicken Cordon Bleu or  
 Stuffed Pork Chop  
 Cost \$ 20.00 per person  
 (tip included)

*Entertainment provided by:*  
 Robin Roseberry (vocalist)

*Reservations (along with check)*  
 and meal choice to  
 Bob McGowan by December 7th.

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## Mill Creek MetroParks

### November EVENTS

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

- 2..... The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown invites you to attend their general meeting which includes topics by local and regional speakers on horticulture and nature. Drop-in. Free - 7:00pm - 9:pm
- 5..... The Advanced Master Gardener Series II classes are for anyone who has already completed a Master Gardener program. The series of four classes includes - Plant ID: Basics, Perennials, Plant ID: Garden Tour, and Insect ID: Pests and Beneficials. Register/pay by 2/4. \$56/series; \$16/class
- 10..... Squirrels are always so busy, running here and there. What are they hiding? And why? Let's investigate and learn the squirrel's secrets. Ages 3 -6, plus adult. Register/pay at Ford Nature Center by 11/8. \$4 R; \$6 NR. Add'l fee after deadline.
- 12..... Ohio wildlife is busy this time of year. What are they doing? We'll enjoy a short hike to discover how animals prepare for winter, then return to the nature center to create an autumn-themed craft. Ages: 5 years & over with adult. Call FNC for details.musicians. To share the holiday spirit with others, bring a friend.
- 18..... Discover the change of seasons here at Fellows Riverside Gardens with one of our knowledgeable staff members. Register/pay by 11/16. \$5
- 19..... The skin is our largest organ and oftentimes the most neglected. Learn how to craft your own salve with skin-nourishing herbs that will keep you and your skin happy. Led by Mandy Smith. Register/pay by 11/17. \$16; FFRG \$14
- 26..... See Lanterman's Mill dressed in holiday finery for this traditional special event. Taste chestnuts roasted on an open fire, give Santa your wish list, watch artisans demonstrate old fashioned crafts, purchase unique handcrafted gifts, and enjoy entertainment by a juggler, balloon artist and many fine Nov 5th 9:30-10:15 am or 10:15 - 11 am Watch birds with OSU Certified Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Brundage, while sipping coffee (or tea). Bring your favorite mug. Space limited, call to register for a 45-minute session.
- 27..... Santa will make an appearance with some of his animal friends from around the world as he gets his reindeer ready for that big night. Come sit in his sleigh for a special picture and make a holiday craft to take home. Donations accepted. Event is held in the Barn which is not heated; dress accordingly.

For a complete schedule and details:  
[www.millcreekmetroparks.com](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.com)

The

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## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

85 Members • 1 Associate

### 2017 Officers Elected

Until relatively recently when referring to politics in the South, a Democrat candidate's nomination for office was 'tantamount' to being elected. The same holds true for MGCY members who volunteer to serve as officers: Accepting the nomination for office means they've won. And so it was at our October membership meeting when there was but one member willing to stand for each position. Your 2017 officers are:

**President - Dennis Zap**

**1st Vice President - Paul Shanabarger**

**2nd Vice President - Bruce Brungard**

**Treasurer - Bob McGowan**

**Recording Secretary - Joseph Fagnano**

**Corresponding Secretary - Mike Banks**

*Congratulation, gentlemen, and thank you for your service.*

Nominations Committee Chairman Art Roden is to be commended for enduring the frustrating task of finding members willing to serve in the top three positions. Special thanks to Dennis Zap who returns to the presidency after having held that office from 2014 through 2015, and to Paul Shanabarger who is a relative new member but willing to assume the responsibility of leadership.

It is a fact that many now defunct TGCA/MGCA clubs had to disband because the willingness to lead among its members ceased to exist. We hope our club will not come to that crossroads in the future.

### Master Of Horticulture Photography

Richard States is a MGCY treasure. For the past seven years he has dominated the TGCA/MGCA Horticulture Photography competition by winning the Sweepstakes, never scoring less than 250 out of a possible 300 points, and taking Best In Show almost every year. Richard, on the right, is pictured here with 2017 TGCA/MGCA President Elect John Schinker accepting the award.



*Congratulations!*

## Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

During his presentation at our October membership meeting, Richard showed us many of his Best In Section entries from 2012 thru 2016, and gave some insights into his art. One was that you don't need state of the art equipment to take good photographs. Most modern digital cameras suffice provided the photographer has some knowledge of computer programs like *Photoshop*. It doesn't hurt that he employs a \$2000 macro lens. He does not use filters but employs a polarized lens cover and lens hood to tone down the infrared spectrum of natural light while protecting the lens if the camera is dropped. He also avoids shooting in direct sunlight.

Three important considerations: 1) The background is vitally important in that it does not distract the viewer from the photo's main subject nor detract from overall quality; 2) The viewer's attention should be naturally drawn from lower left to upper right; and 3) By imagining a tic-tac-toe grid over the photo, the main subject should never be in the center square.



While this pic is not one of Richard's, it illustrates these rules. The sky and sea background does not distract nor detract, and the cliff draws the viewer's eye up to the lighthouse which is off center.

Here are some of Richard's award-winning photos.



*Trillium grandiflorum*



*Amanita flavoconia*

*Continued Page 3*



'Master' continued from Page 2



*Hydrangea*

We want to thank Richard for an excellent presentation. Attendees at the TGCA/MGCA 2017 Convention will get the chance to learn his techniques.



*Dahlia*



*Asclepias syriaca*

### Garden Forum Horticulture Show

We found significant differences between the MGCY Horticulture show and the Forum Show held at Fellows Riverside Gardens Sept. 17-18. Standard Fruit and Vegetable sections accompany several classes in the Rose, Dahlia and Container sections. In addition, there are several classes in sections for Cut Flowers, Foliage, and Miscellaneous Cut Specimens.

There are also sections for Container Collections, Unusual Plant Materials and Design. Several classes in Design had plants backdropped by manmade materials. The arrangements and displays were quite striking, and well worth the trip to the Davis Center.

Our Rodney Toth entered several dahlia varieties for which the competition was intense. He did take first place and a special horticulture award for his marigold 'Lofty Lady'.



### Beautiful & Healthy Is Hip

This season's roses are but a fond memory, but that doesn't mean that the plant has ceased to produce. In fact, rose seed pods (hips) not only provide fall color to our garden beds but have the makings for vitamin C rich teas, muffins and sweet rose hip jam. Other healthy contents include beta-carotene, bioflavonoids, calcium, iron, phosphorus and vitamins A, B1, B2, E and K. Like cranberries, they are good for urinary tract problems.

Both ever-blooming and once-blooming roses produce hips but some like carpet roses bear hips too small to be worthwhile.

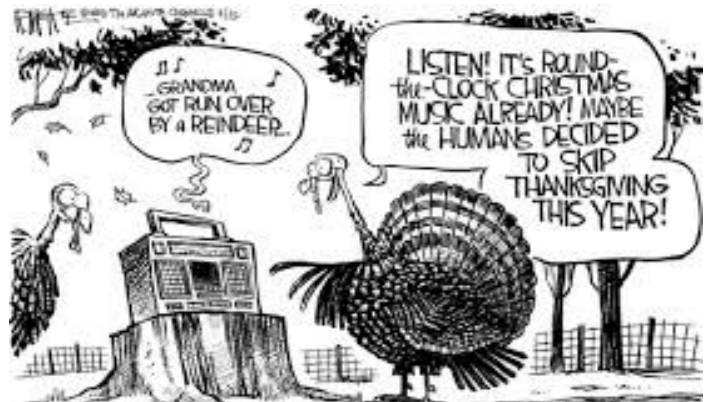


Once-bloomers like tea roses make harvesting easy because the hips ripen all at once. Simply stop dead heading spent flowers at season's end early enough so that frost doesn't ruin the fruit. They start out green but ripen to bright red, orange or purple during fall's short days and cool nights. When ripe they will feel soft to the touch.

With some varieties, the hips are small and making them into edible recipes can be tedious. Others like *Rosa rugosa* hybrids provide abundant marble sized hips making harvesting easy. Preserving by freezing involves taking bits of clean fruit, laying them without touching each other on a wax paper-covered cookie sheet and put them in the freezer. Once frozen place them in sealed freezer bags and return to the freezer.

A winter cold remedy tea is made by defrosting the hip bits, crush and simmer in hot water for 5 minutes. Strain the tea and drink with honey to soothe a sore throat.

### Wishful Thinking



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## ERIC BARRETT'S PRESENTATION

Since his transfer to the Ohio State Extension office in Canfield a few years ago, Educator Eric Barrett's knowledge, enthusiasm and availability have made him a favorite of gardeners and farmers over a wide area. We were surprised and happy when he agreed at the last minute to talk about organic gardening at our September membership meeting. As usual, Eric's presentation covered a lot of ground. Here are a few highlights.

One universal tenet of all horticulture experts emphasizes the need for a soil test every few years. Gardeners familiar with the Penn State test know that in addition to pH (should be 6 to 6.8), potassium, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium levels, there is also the Cationic Exchange Capacity (CEC) level that measures the amount of organic matter in the soil. This very important reading should be at least 15. The test will also recommend amendments for optimum production. At \$9 per test plus postage, it is a bargain.

Back in the Youngstown area's steel making heyday, sulfur from burning coal filled the air and acidified the



soil resulting in the practice of raising soil pH with wood ashes that persists to this day. If the test shows a low

(acidic) pH reading, wood ashes may be used but no more than 2 lb. per 100 sq. ft.

The CEC reading is related to the amount of humus, or composted organic matter that will break down no further. Not only does humus loosen the soil, increase moisture holding ability and provide valuable nutrients, it also enables beneficial micro-fauna (bacteria, fungi, protozoa, worms, mollusks, etc.) to thrive. Peat moss will increase CEC but will also lower pH so a soil test afterward is necessary. Some cover crops increase CEC, crowd out weeds and fix nitrogen in the soil. These include rye, clover and radishes.

Manure is not necessarily humus even when aged because it may not have decomposed completely and may have E coli present. It should be added to the soil in the fall and tilled in to finish the process. Fertilizers made from sewage sludge should be avoided because heavy metals may be present. Rain barrels should be periodically treated with bleach to kill the bacteria from bird droppings on the roof.

Gardeners looking for fully composted manure might want to contact Pat Brown, 330-536-6485, on Cooper Rd. off Rt. 616 in Coitsville/Lowellville. His

aged manure has that "sweet" compost smell. He charges \$25 per half yard if you pick it up.

Crop rotation should not be limited to individual plants but should include plant families:

**Nightshades** - tomatoes, peppers, eggplants

**Melons, Squash & Cucumbers** - also watermelon, pumpkins.

**Goosefoot** - beet, spinach, chard

**Sunflower** - lettuce, endive, artichoke

**Cole** - broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, collards

**Onions** - leeks, garlic, chives

**Peas** - beans, peanuts

**Grasses** - corn, rice, barley, millet

**Parsley** - carrots, celery, cilantro, parsnips, fennel

Before resorting to potentially harmful chemicals when dealing with insect pests, consider using barrier and trap crops as well as row covers. Aphids can be discouraged with a blast of water from a hose. Pieces of cardboard strategically placed will yield slugs hiding beneath. Plop them in a bucket of soapy water. The same fate should be dealt to Japanese beetles and stink bugs as squishing them will only attract more.

North America has long had several species of stink bugs but they are not as numerous nor damaging as the invasive Asian marmorated variety that has few native enemies. It takes a bite out of fruits and veggies then spits it back in not only detracting from the produce's appearance but making it unhealthy to consume. These stink bugs have distinctive white markings on their wings where their closest cousins do not.



## North Coast Chokers? Not This Time

Cleveland sports teams have been known for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

1997 World Series vs Florida Marlins, Jose Mesa blows save in game 7.

2005 regular season - Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen rested most of his starters for the final 3 games against the Tribe. When the Indians couldn't win just one game to qualify for the playoffs, Ozzie made the 'choke' gesture by grabbing his throat.

2007 ALCS vs Boston Red Sox - Ahead 3 games to 1, then lose the next 3. Sox go on to win World Series.

And how can we forget 'The Fumble' and 'The Pass' during the Browns/Broncos AFC Championship games?

This year's injury-plagued Indians have over-achieved well beyond expectations and, win or lose, will forever be champions in the hearts of fans.





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

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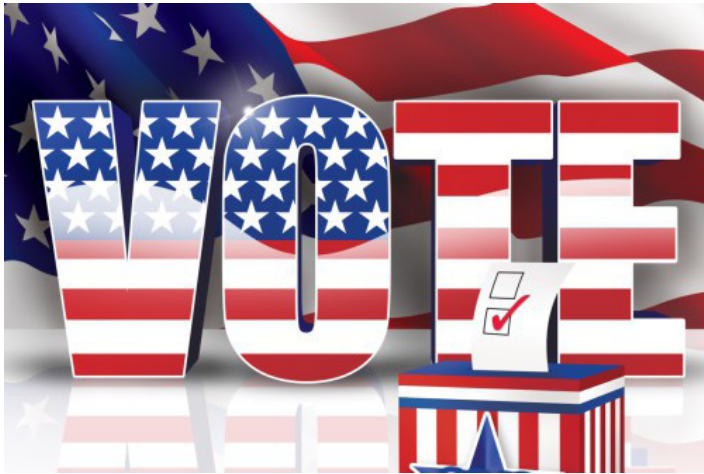
**KESTER'S KRISAS**

**RICHARD STATES**

# The Germinator

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
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[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



Election Day ~ Don't Forget to Vote!  
Tuesday, November 8th

## calendar of events



<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
November 2.....	General Meeting.....FRG..... 7:00 pm
November 6.....	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8.....	Election Day
November 9.....	Board Meeting..... Austintown Library..... 6:30 pm
November 11.....	Veteran's Day
November 24.....	Thanksgiving Day
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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