

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

Nagging isn't one of my natural talents - my wife handles that job in our family - but it seems to be at the top of a president's job description. So, here goes. First, our annual Winter Seminar. We are blessed with an outstanding, experienced committee but need someone to take the helm. Preparation can't begin until that post is filled and time is running out. We promise you will have all the guidance and help you need.

We also need to fill the 1st and 2nd vice president positions along with members actively recruiting meeting and event speakers. Rodney Toth was our July membership meeting speaker, will give a Horticulture Show tutorial at our Steak Fry, and will host our September membership meeting with a guided tour of his magnificent gardens. His dedication is both an example and an embarrassment for the rest of us.

Aside from preparing for our annual Spring Plant Sale, August is the busiest month for our members. Landscape beds need tending and garden veggies are ripening faster than we can eat, preserve or give them away. With all you have to do, we still have a full slate of activities this month and ask that you meet the challenge. Hey, you'll have all winter to rest up.

Our annual Horticulture Show is one of our club's signature events and we really need members to both participate and recruit others to enter exhibits. Here are the 2017 plant section winners: **Vegetables** - mixed basket; **Ornamentals** - gourd; **Annuals** - celosia; **Perennials/Biennials** - ornamental grass; **Dahlias; Bulbs, Tubers, Etc.** - gladiolus; **Roses; Potted Plants** - orchid; **Succulents** - *Echeveria*; **Cactus** - *Rigidissimus echinocereu*; **Wood Plants/Trees** - 'Angels Trumpet'; **Hanging Container** - *Coleus*; **Bonsai** - no entries.

We also have our Annual Steak Fry and our information booth at the Canfield Fair so we'll need everyone to help in any way they can.

Sincerely; *Bruce Brungard*, President

MGCY Annual Horticulture Show

Fellows' Riverside Gardens – Sat. & Sun., Aug. 25-26

Set-up: Noon Friday, Aug. 24 ;

Entry Prep: Sat., Aug. 25, 7am – 10:30am

Awards & Display – Sunday, Aug. 26

Sections for Almost Every Conceivable Plant

\$25 Awards for Heaviest Tomato & Best Zinnia

Steak Fry

Larry Duck's Home

5471 Clingan Rd., Struthers

Setup: 5pm Eat: 6:30pm

Steak or Salmon - \$12

Chicken - \$8 Free Beer

Veggies, Potatoes & Dessert

Side Dishes Welcome

Speaker: Rodney Toth

Subject: *Horticulture*

Show Tutorial

RSVP Bob McGowan

330-518-6397 or

rjfmcgowan@aol.com

by July 27th

MetroParks July Events

Family Tour Thursdays

Family Fun Fridays

Great Lakes Grower 7-31 to 8-2

Yellow Creek Concerts 2,9

Birding 101: *Behivoir* 12

Photo Clique Events 12,19,24,25

Birding The Sanctuary 18

Traveling Naturalist 19

Botanical Mornings 24

Book Discussion:

Hidden Life of Trees 25

MetroParks at Fair 26-31

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG
84 Members • 2 Associates

New Member

John Opincarne - 2240 Stewart, Lowellville, OH, 44436, 330-397-4553, opyjr2@aol.com. John is married (Mary Ann) and retired. He is a gardening generalist interested in all elements of horticulture. Sponsor: John Schinker

MGCY Tops Again

If the rumors are true, some members of The Gardeners of America/Mens' Garden Clubs of America are getting tired of Richard States dominating the national photo competition and *The Germinator* being named the best newsletter. They're making noise about coming after us. Not this year. Richard and our newsletter again took top prizes at the 2018 National Convention in Fort Wayne, IN.

Richard won the Sweepstakes with 269 out of a possible 300 points. He also took Best of Show with his Bulbs section winning photo of *Victoria amazonica*

(giant water lily), and one of three Judges' Choice Awards with Wildflowers section winner *Asclepias*. (milkweed) His other sectional winners: Specimen - *Tricyrtis hirta* (toad lily); Roses -



Rosa - Electroni; Perennials/ Biennials - *Dicentra spectabilis* (bleeding heart); Trees, Shrubs, Vines - *Hibiscus*; Fruits/Nuts - *Vaccinium* (blueberries); and Specialty - *Paphiopedilum* (lady slipper orchid). We'll try to publish his winning photos in a future issue.

The Germinator took first place of clubs with 50 or more members. Like Richard, our newsletter has been top dog for several years in a row. Past National President John Schinker presented the national recognition as well as the Central Great Lakes Region Horticulture Journalism award to Editor Dave Campana at the July membership meeting. Dave accepted the awards on behalf of newsletter's staff members Paul



Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Iden, Dan Miller, Tom Arens and the late Paul Shanabarger.

Scrappers Baseball Outing

Your Mahoning Valley Scrappers, the Cleveland Indian's A-League farm team, have been banging the outfield walls at Eastwood Field and currently have the best New York - Penn League record. What has now 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.



Canfield Fair Info Booth

Once again, our club will have an information booth at the fair, Aug. 29 thru Sept. 3. We'll need members to man 4 hour shifts answering gardening questions and promoting our organization. Contact Bruce Brungard, 330-793-1307, bgbhhi@live.com to pick a shift corresponding to your schedule, or see him at a meeting.



OSU Extension August Events

Aug. 6 - Hope for Newport Community Garden, Focus on Fruit Trees - 420 Clearmont, Youngstown.

Aug. 13 - Flying High Urban Farm & GROW - 100 Broadway, Youngstown.

Aug. 20 - Breakfast With Master Gardeners - 490 S. Broad St., Canfield. Call 330-533-5538. \$15 per person. 9:30am - Coffee, Donuts, Refreshment. Program - 10am-12pm - Subject: TBA

Dog Daze Of Summer



Hugh's Clues

Hugh Earnhart, our resident Renaissance Man, had two articles published recently in *The Vindicator* and we thought we'd pass them along in case you didn't see them. The first regarding a prize hosta was hard to miss because the paper's *Valley Grows* section published each Thursday mistakenly printed it the June 29th edition and again in the July 5th edition. Or maybe the *Vindy* thought they were that important to serious gardeners.

World Cup – 2018 Hosta of the Year - Named in honor of the world soccer championship held every four years (this year in Russia) this cultivar sports curved, verticle leaves 20" across. Combine that feature



with its distinctive yellow hue, and you have "a must have hosta that is unique, artsy and different than anything seen before.

The plant has a somewhat local flavor as it was hybridized by Mansfield resident Doug Beilstein by crossing *H. Komodo Dragon* with *H. Super Bowl*. The



story goes that it nearly ended up in a compost pile but was saved by a sharp-eyed buyer at the 2005 American Hosta Society auction. It's a perfect addition to shade gardens or can be displayed in a container.

The July 4th edition of *The Vindicator* printed four items from Hugh's 'Collection of Recipes for Good Eating'. They were 'Hot Dog & Kale Soup', 'Corn Fritters', 'Grandmother's Coleslaw' and 'All-Star Chili Sauce'. Since no summer cookout is complete without hot dogs, and no dog worthy of the name comes without a good chili sauce, we'll pass this one along.

Brown ¾ lb. ground beef and 1 cup of chopped onions in a medium skillet breaking meat up into small bits. Stir in 1 8oz. can of tomato sauce, ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce, ¼ tsp. hot pepper sauce, ½ tsp. chili powder, ½ tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. black pepper, and 1 tsp. brown sugar. Simmer 10-12 minutes stirring occasionally. We'd give the



sauce a bit more heat but that can be added to taste.

Essential Gardening Tools

We're sure that most area gardeners and flower show enthusiasts are not only familiar with Rodney Toth, but envy his knowledge and skill. He has won many awards for his prize dahlias and usually runs the table at our annual Horticulture Show each August. For many years, his annual 'Open Garden' during Labor Day weekend was a must visit destination for hundreds of area gardeners.

Faced with the prospect of not having a speaker at our July membership meeting, Rodney stepped up and shared a few of his secrets for making our avocation easier and more efficient. Some tools and hardware he displayed are one-of innovations many of us will try to duplicate in the future.

One device he recommends highly is a two wheeled cart that is far superior to a wheelbarrow because it is more stable and can be moved with one hand. He uses metal or plastic plant stakes that are easier to insert into soil and clean at season's end.



A short list of tools includes: Quality gardening pruners and sheers; triangular and hoop hoes for weeding; a short handled, flat bladed shovel for edging; a six-tined fork for turning soil and mulching; a narrow, curve bladed shovel for installing plants; string for establishing straight rows (Rodney knots his at 6 inch and 1 foot intervals for plant spacing); and a kneeling board with 1 foot lines that both prevents compacting turned soil and gages plant intervals.

Late Summer Watering Issues

When & How to Water - The general rule of thumb is deep watering 1-2 inches per week but this depends on a number of factors. Most of us in this area have to deal with clay soil which holds moisture better than sandy soils but presents drainage problems. Adding compost and/or vegetative matter will allow moisture to reach deep roots. A couple inches of mulch will help limit evaporation. Of course, the amount of rain will dictate the amount of watering needed.

Individual plants need varying degrees of hydration. Larger plants, bedding plants and many perennials have shallow root systems needing more water especially when temperatures reach 85 degrees and above. Container plants may require watering multiple times per day. While most of us know that watering in the morning is best to limit evaporation, late afternoon is also okay if leaves are kept dry to avoid fungal issues.



Drip Irrigation - August in Ohio usually means hot, dry days and progressively cooler nights. Keeping plants hydrated when we'd prefer to be doing more enjoyable activities can be time consuming. We all know that spraying with a hose or using a sprinkling system not only wastes water but wets leaves that can lead diseases like powdery mildew. A wand can direct water to the base of plants and meet individual plants hydration needs, but is time consuming and may limit a gardener's ability to reach certain areas.

For years we have been lectured on the benefits of drip irrigation. It saves water and time, and ensures even hydration throughout beds and gardens. But this method is not without its own set of problems. Exposed hoses can be an unsightly mess. They can also be damaged by rabbits, pets, children or gardening tools and, if open to the sun, black plastic hoses can super heat water that will damage roots. When covered with mulch, normally easily seen problems like breakage or clogging can go undetected.

While many gardeners opt for entry level and less expensive systems, better units have timers that do the job even when you're away for an extended period. They also have different nozzles that control the needs of individual plants like succulents. There are sensors that tell the system when it's raining and when water is pooling around plants.

Even with a basic system, drip irrigation can help hydrate tough areas like slopes where runoff and erosion

can be a problem. Gardeners also have the option of providing a slow, penetrating soak or deliver water in bursts when needed. Problems are often due to improper installation or the wrong system for a given site. Do your homework before purchasing to avoid some of the above issues.

How to Water During a Heat Wave - As we've said, individual plants have specific hydration needs and, when extended hot weather becomes an issue, many will tell you when they're thirsty. If a plant looks fine in the morning but is drooping or discolored by mid-afternoon, or if a fast growing plant suddenly shuts down, lack of moisture is probably the problem. One way to tell if hydration is reaching deep root levels is to water as you feel necessary then dig an 8 inch hole. If the soil is moist but not soaked, the area plants should be getting the moisture they need.

Not only will mulch help prevent evaporation during heat waves, but will protect roots from winter's extreme temperatures. Apply 2-4 inches around landscaping plants being sure to leave a space around the main stem. It will keep the moisture where it belongs when watering. Provide shade for container plants. Keep a watering log and see how plants respond during various times of day.

Testing Water for Gardening - While we don't automatically trust any water when taking a drink, so it should be with the hydration we give our plants. The quality of our bed and garden plants is directly related to the quality of the moisture we provide. City/municipal water is regularly tested and monitored. However, if the source is a well, pond or rain barrel it may be contaminated and lead to diseases in humans.

Water sources can be affected by agricultural runoff or, in the case of rain barrels, from animal feces and heavy metals on and in roofing materials. Rain barrels should be cleaned once a season with a chlorine bleach solution, and an ounce of bleach should be added once a month. Pond, well and rain barrel testing kits are available on internet sites. Or contact your local Department of Public Health for info on testing ponds and wells.

While some tests can be pricey, the alternative is to risk a debilitating or worse disease from pathogens and microorganisms that cause E Coli, Salmonella, Shigella, Giardia, Listeria and Hepatitis A. Remember, we often hear of veggie recalls for veggies grown by even the largest and most respected growers. It's far better to be safe than sorry.

Gardeningknowhow.com was the source of these articles. Sign up for its periodic e-newsletter.

The Germinator

August 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

ARTIST AT WORK

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Struthers, OH
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aawfriends@yahoo.com

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN

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www.mgcy.org

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330-533-7278

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MGCY Member
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(330)-788-8739
www.theyoungstownplayhouse.com



The Germinator

August 2018



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

www.mgcy.org

calendar of events



August 1	Steak Fry	5471 Clingan Rd.....	6:00 pm
August 8	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
August 16.....	Scrapper Ball Game	Eastwood Field	5:30 pm
August 24.....	Setup for Horticulture Show...FRG		12:00 pm
August 25-26	Horticulture Show.....	FRG	7:00 am
August 29-31	Canfield Fair	Fairgrounds	9am - 9pm
September 1-3	Canfield Fair	Fairgrounds	9am-9pm
September 5.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
September 12.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
September 15.....	Fall Breakfast.....	FRG	9:00 am
October 3	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
October 10.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
October 27.....	CGLG Meeting	Kingwood Gardens..	10:00 am

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

THE MGCY 2018 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Bruce Brungard
bgbhhi@live.com • 330-793-1307

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

TREASURER

Robert J. McGowan
P.O. Box 724 • Canfield, OH 44406
330-518-6397 • rjfmcgowan@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Joe Fagnano
330-533-2475 (H) • 330-559-5295 (C)
jlfagnano@hotmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Michael Banks
330-707-9089 (H) • 330-565-0592 (C)
mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor
mgcygerminator@gmail.com
Dan Miller
Paul Iden, Photographer