

The Germinator



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

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope everyone had happy and healthy holidays, and that this message finds you prepared to face the rigors of winter with the promise of spring and the growing season not far behind. This is the time of year to do some catalog "surfing", and here's a few I recommend:

Lee Valley---- (www.leevalley.com) This is an all-around great catalog for gardeners, woodworkers, cooks/bakers, and gadget lovers.

Johnny's Selected Seeds---- (www.Johnnyseeds.com). I just ordered Valentine Tomato seeds, a wonderful, early, high-lycopene grape tomato. In order to be ready to plant sugar snap peas on St Pattie's Day, I also ordered legume inoculants. Coating the seeds with it allows the plants to take free nitrogen from the air.

I also bought the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. catalog, (www.rareseeds.com) - Barnes and Noble (\$12) - filled with wonderful photos and stories about an incredible array of rare plants.

I am hoping that members and others who receive this newsletter are getting excited about our annual Winter Seminar on Feb.15th. Members are also encouraged to help with setup at noon on the 14th. Our success depends on everyone doing their part, even if it's a matter of finding new attendees or some new donors for the basket raffle. Download and distribute the enclosed letter to retailers from whom you regularly purchase goods, services and dinners.

In the January newsletter, I suggested that the garden club—like all organizations—needs to periodically engage in a self-assessment. We cannot afford to be content with the status quo, if we want to grow as an organization. I will be introducing this topic at a future board meeting, and then at subsequent general meetings. I hope we can get a good attendance, because member in-put and buy-in is essential.

Remember 2020 is the year for clarity of vision!!

Sincerely;

Tom Arens, President

Winter Seminar:

8:30am, Saturday, February 15th
Fellows Riverside Gardens

Presentations by 4 Horticulture Professionals

Dr. Laura Deeter – Perennials You Must Have

Dr. David Shetler – Bugs; The Good, Band & Ugly

Kirsten Kurtz – Soil Science for the Home Gardener

George Weigel – Garden Failures

Continental Breakfast, Gourmet Lunch, & Basket Raffle

\$65 Per Person – Registration form at MGCY.org – Seating Limited



Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Feb. 5th

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: Janelle Martin, Calalpa Farms manager, will talk about her work there.

Guests Welcome

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, Feb. 12th

Austintown Library

All Members Welcome

MetroParks In Feb.

Jewels of Winter	1-29
Hand Feed a Chickadee	1
Unity Thru Nature	2-9
Dance Classes	4,11,18,25
Orchid Repotting Clinic	8
Hunger Moon	9
Valentine's Day Heart Bowl	11
Nature Photography Exhibit	15-29
Botanical Morning	21
Owl Hike	28
Naturalist Series: Tree Communication & Natural Defenses	29

For All Events & Details, Go To millcreekmetroparks.org

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I got a Valentine's card from my girlfriend. It said, "Take my heart! Take my arms Take my lips!" That's just like her, keeping the best part for herself.

Club News

Kristen Kurtz • WWW.MGCY.ORG
57 Members

Winter Seminar Presentations

On Feb. 15th, our organization will host its 15th Winter Seminar, an annual event eagerly awaited by gardeners over a wide area. This year's speakers will cover a wide range of interesting horticulture subjects that serious gardeners will not want to miss.

Laura Deeter, PhD: *Must Have Plants* – The self-proclaimed 'Garden Hoe' is an Ohio State University Agriculture Technical Institute professor was honored as 'Teacher of the Year' in 2018. She is the author of 'The Complete Guide to Perennials' as well as numerous scholarly articles. Laura's presentations are known to be high energy, entertaining and humorous.



Dave Shetler, PhD: *Bugs; The Good, Bad & Ugly* – A professor of horticulture science at OSU's College of Food Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the 'Bug Doc' holds BS and MS zoology degrees from the University of Oklahoma, and a PhD from Penn State.



George Weigel: *Garden Failures* – George is a Pittsburg area garden writer, speaker and horticulturist. He has authored a pair of Pennsylvania targeted books, and is best known for his long-standing gardening column in the *Patriot News*, a Harrisburg newspaper.



Kristen Kurtz: *Soil Science for the Home Gardener* – With more than 8 years of experience working with soil assessments, Kristen is the manager of the Cornell University Soil Lab. Part of her presentation will involve a demonstration of 'soil artistry'.



The Seminar Committee has put a lot of time and effort into making this a first-rate event, and they deserve the support of all MGCY members. In order for the seminar to break even financially, we have to charge members a half-price attendance fee. Most of us will serve as 'table captains'; assisting others at their table and telling them about our organization.

Sign up now and help make the seminar a success.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Meeting Interesting People

When hyping our annual President's Reception Dinner/Christmas Party, one of the reasons we cite for attending is the chance to get to better know fellow members. Here are a few things discussed at the table occupied by Al and Josephine Pacella, Carlo and Luisa Rubino, Judge Pat and Maleen Cuning, Vince Camp, and Dave and Betty Campana.

On a trip last year to the 'old country', one of the seed groups Al brought back was a variety of gourd. During the growing process, one gourd grew in a shape that inspired the imagination of the Pacella's grandson, Mathew DiIanni.



Matt, 14, plays the saxophone in the Poland High School band. We don't know if he hollowed it out and added reeds, but it must have been tempting.

Mrs. Rubino makes wedding soup sold at their son's YO Donut Shop in Boardman. Dave bought

some for a Christmas Eve dinner and everyone loved it.

TGOA/MGCA Headquarters Moving

The ballots have been counted and members have voted to close The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America headquarters in Iowa and move the operation to the Ohio State University's Wooster campus. It is an unfortunate trend that interest-specific clubs across the nation have seen declining memberships for several years. We hope this cycle will be reversed some time soon.

While we are all a bit sad about the demise of the national's brick and mortar headquarters, the change will help balance its budget and ensure its viability for many years to come. In the mean time, we should all make a concerted effort to recruit new members.

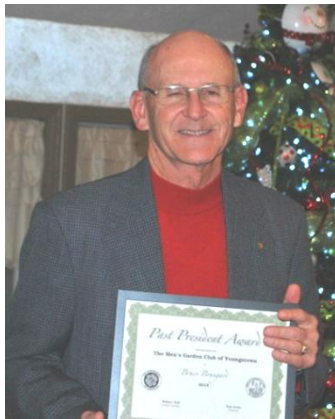
Home & Garden Show Info Booth

Our club will be flying its flag at the Home Show at the Metroplex Expo Center, 1620 Motor Inn Dr., Girard on Friday, Jan 24th thru Sunday, Jan 26th. We'll need 2 members for each four hour (10am -2pm & 2pm-6pm) shift. Call Bruce Brungard, 330-793-1307, to sign up.

2019 President's Reception Dinner/Christmas Party

Those who braved the weather, especially when traveling from SE Mahoning County, were rewarded with a truly enjoyable experience. The President's Reception dinner, combined with festive Christmas spirit, is intended to thank our members for their contributions to our organization and the community during the year. We're sure everyone attending would respond, "You're more than welcome, and back at you for a wonderful time".

As is the custom, President Bruce Brungard greeted attendees as they arrived. As Vice President, Bruce was elevated to the position by the untimely and tragic death of President Paul Shanabarger in 2018. He stepped up to the demands of office and did a commendable job while continuing, in addition his other duties, to promote our club through his media connections and scheduling member participation in manning club information booths at home shows and fairs. Bruce is pictured here with his Past President's Award.



The meal and wines were accompanied by the acoustic guitar duo of Denny Davis and Russ Henner. You can follow them at (Denman15@aol.com and [facebook.com/davisandhenner](https://www.facebook.com/davisandhenner)). Afterwards, they played Christmas songs, some Beatles and Billy Joel, and



finished up with a lively polka. *Jolly Good Show!*

As we've said, the event's purpose is to not only recognize those members who have made significant contributions to our organization and the area gardening community during the year and longer, but to also thank the rank and file guys whose loyalty keeps us united and strong. These are the men who regularly attend



The before-meal prayer of grace was led by Rodney Toth who included a remembrance of Jack Walsh who passed away this past year.

The fare dished out by Al A Carte was excellent with only two caveats: First, there was too much of an otherwise excellent dressing on the spinach salad and, second, they served spinach salad. We're sure the latter complaint came only from John Schinker who has a thing for that veggie dating back to a childhood dislike for Popeye.

meetings; help at the greenhouse and Plant Sales; man our information booths; participate in our Horticulture Shows and Winter Seminars; and do the other little but necessary jobs. *Again, Thank You!*

Those present to receive their awards were:

Tom Arens, Certificate of Honor – Tom has served as Vice President, Winter Seminar Chairman and made considerable contributions to our Greenhouse/Plant Sale. He will be our 2020 President. *Continued on Pg. 4*

Reception Dinner Continued from pg. 3



Carlo Rubino, Certificate of Honor – Carlo donated a beautiful painting for the 2017 TGOA/MGCA National Convention and has been a Greenhouse/Plant Sale stalwart.

Bruce Brungard, Past President's Award.

Dave Campana, Communication Award – Dave has served as editor of our award-winning newsletter, *The Germinator*, for many years.

Other awards will be given at the next meeting attended by the recipients.

Past National and MGCY President Hugh Earnhart administered the oath of office to the members who will provide leadership in 2020. They are:

President Tom Arens and Vice President Ron Fasano. Treasurer Bob McGowan, Recording Secretary Joe Fagnano and Corresponding Secretary Mike Banks will be sworn in at a later date.



l-r: Brungard, Rubino, Arens, Fasano & Campana

Distinguished guests and faithful friends attending were: JoAnn Carney, widow of the late, great Bill Carney; Larry Duck, former director of the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and Chuck and Jen Lahotsky, owners of Chuck's Greenhouse.



Before saying our goodbyes and *Feliz Navidades*, all lady guests were presented with a poinsettia courtesy of Chuck's Greenhouse.

Like we always say, 'you should have been there'.



Just in time for Valentine's Day, we give you:

A Down-to-Earth Love Story

Girl Potato and Boy Potato had *eyes* for each other. They got married and had a *sweet little potato* they called 'Yam'. When it was time, they told her about the facts of life. They warned her about going out and getting *half baked* so she wouldn't get accidentally *mashed*, earn a bad name for herself like 'hot potato', and end up with a bunch of *tater tots*.

Yam said not to worry, no *spud* would get her into the *sack* and make a *rotten potato* out of her. But on the other hand she wouldn't stay home and become *couch potato* either. She would get plenty of exercise so as not to be skinny like her *shoestring* cousins.

After high school, she went off to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Potato told *Yam* to watch out for the *hard-boiled* guys from Ireland, and the greasy guys from France called *French fries*. *Yam* said she would stay on the straight and narrow and wouldn't associate with those high class *Yukon Golds*, or the ones from the other side of the tracks who advertise their trade on all the trucks that say, 'Frito Lay'.

Mr. and Mrs. Potato sent *Yam* to Idaho P.U. (that's Potato University) so that when she graduated she'd really be in the *chips*. Yet, in spite of all they did for her, one day *Yam* came home and announced she was going to marry Tom Brokaw. Tom Brokaw! Mr. and Mrs. Potato were very upset. They told *Yam* she couldn't possibly marry Tom Brokaw because he was just a *commentator*.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN OHIO



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Corresponding Secretary:
Michael Banks
mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

Dear Business Owner,

The Men's Garden Club, in keeping with its mission to provide educational opportunities to the community, is sponsoring an all-day seminar on 2-15-20. As part of this event we are holding a basket raffle to raise funds for our other initiatives such as scholarships and community beautification.

I am requesting a donation from you of either a gift certificate and/or products to be included in a basket.

As a donor, your name will be included in the program brochure, as well in our monthly newsletter, "The Germinator".

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request.

*Our Mission: To create a
better understanding of
gardening through education;
and promote the
beautification of our
community.*

Tom Arens, Seminar Coordinator
330-402-2700



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

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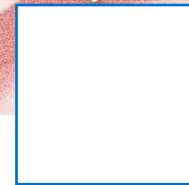
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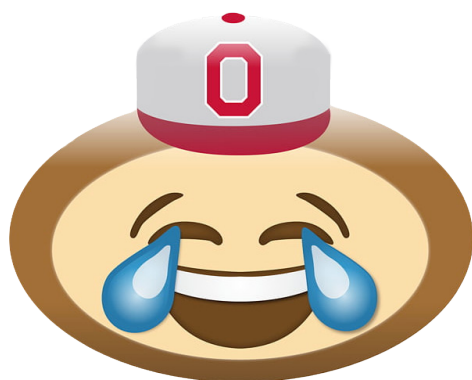
The Germinator

February 2020



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

www.mgcy.org



calendar of events



February 5th..... Membership Meeting FRG 7pm
 February 12th..... Board Meeting Austintown Library 6:30pm
 February 15th..... Winter Seminar FRG 8:30am
 March 4th Membership Meeting FRG 7pm
 March 11 Board Meeting Austintown Library 6:30pm
 March 15th Spring Breakfast FRG 9am
 April 1st Membership Meeting FRG 7pm
 April 8th..... Board Meeting Austintown Library 6:30pm

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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