

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

Happy New Year! 2020 begins with promise and possibility. Many of us begin the New Year by looking in the mirror both literally and figuratively. Are we living up to our potential? Are there habits we should break? Are there changes we need to make? Are we living our best life? The MGCY can also look in the mirror at this time of year.

I have not been an active member of the garden club for very long, so I begin my tenure as president with the uncertainty of someone wanting to respect and understand our long and distinguished history, while also wanting to challenge the club to continue to grow and serve our mission:

“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 my previous “life” as a mental health therapist/administrator, my agency would periodically engage in strategic planning. While this analysis was much more involved than is necessary for our club’s needs, we must be mindful of where we are, where we want to be, and chart a course to our goal. My hope is that in future meetings we can have honest, respectful, and open-minded discussions regarding the direction of the club.

On another note, we are looking forward to our 15th annual Winter Seminar on February 15, 2020. Here we continue our tradition of presenting a premier educational opportunity to the community. We need every available member to participate with their attendance discounted. Sign up now!

This year we have four excellent speakers. They and their subjects are:

Laura Deeter, PhD: *Must Have Plants* – A professor of horticulture science at Ohio State University’s Agriculture Technical Institute, the self-identified ‘Garden Hoe’ was named the institute’s ‘2018 Teacher of the Year’. 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 Shetlar, PhD: *Bugs; The Good, Bad & Ugly* – A professor of entomology at OSU’s College of Food Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the ‘*Bug Doc*’ holds BS and MS degrees in zoology at 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.

Kirsten Kurtz: *Soil Science for the Home Gardener* – With more than 8 years of experience working with soil assessments, Kirsten is the manager of the Cornell University Soil Lab. Part of her presentation will involve a demonstration of soil artistry. We’re looking forward to it.

One component of the seminar is the Basket Raffle, which adds an element of excitement to the day, as well as raises funds to support our other educational initiatives. I am challenging each club member to ask at least one local business—that he regularly patronizes—for a donation of products, services, or gift cards to be included in a basket. Included with this newsletter is a letter of introduction which a member can present to a potential donor, which explains what is being asked for, and why. Please do not approach any donor already listed in the newsletter. We do not want them faced with multiple solicitations. Please contact me no later than 2-1-20 with information regarding donations. (Print raffle enclosure as well.)

I wish all of you a year filled with happiness, health, love, and gardens aplenty.

Sincerely;

Tom Arens

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 8th, 7pm

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: Catherine Cala

Catherine is a member of the YSU campus beautification initiative and will speak about the university’s designation for the 10th year as a “Tree Campus” by the Arbor Day Foundation, and campus beautification progress to date.

Guests Are Welcome

Board Of Gardener’s Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 15th, 6:30pm

Austintown Library

All Members Are Welcome

MetroParks In Jan.

Mahoning Historical Society:

<i>Memories of Valley</i>	1-5
Cardinal Challenge	1-31
Nature Photo Exhibit Submission	4-19
Unity Through Nature	11-31
Dance Classes	14,21,28
Hand Feed a Chickadee	18
Winter Wildflower Arrangement	18
Wildlife Tracking	25
<i>Manifest Your Greatness</i>	26
Bagel Making	28
<i>Jewels of Winter</i>	28-31

For All Events & Details, Go To

millcreekmetroparks.org

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Club News

Kristen Kurtz • WWW.MGCY.ORG
57 Members

Fagnano Gets Premium Internship

Our Recording Secretary, Joe Fagnano, recently received some great news. The Youngstown State University senior, scheduled to graduate in May, was selected to be a Conservation Education Presenter Intern at Disney World's Animal Kingdom. The internship runs from January thru June, in time for him to tend to his lawncare service or probably a more lucrative field.



Joe will work with a team of other educators teaching guests about wildlife conservation in the park. He will move through different stations throughout the day including sites representing Asia, Africa and the new Pandora world inspired by the movie *Avatar*.



He will hopefully be able to send us periodic updates including photos during the course of his internship. We will have to either elect a new Recording Secretary

or find a replacement until his return. That is unless he gets eaten by native fauna or elopes with a Na'vi princess.

Our members have great admiration for Joe and take satisfaction in having provided a minor contribution to his education through club scholarships. He has returned the favor in spades with his involvement in our activities and service in an important office.



Our satisfaction, however, must pale in comparison with the pride Joe's parents, JoAnn and fellow member Greg Fagnano, must feel when considering his accomplishments. Whatever the future holds, we're sure he's destined for great success in the horticulture sciences he loves.

Regional Officers/Awards

The TGOA/MGCA's Central Great Lakes Region's fall meeting in Mansfield saw the installation of officers for the year 2020. They are: Larry Kell, President; Steve Maki, Past President; Bob Bell, Treasurer; and Marsha Davies, Secretary.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

The following awards were also presented: Mark Occhionero, Horticulture Achievement Award; Fred Robinson, Certificate of Appreciation; John & Cheri Kessen, William Moorehouse Award; Steve Maki, Green Bronze Award; and Larry Kell, Delbert R. Bunbar Award.



L-R: John Kessen, Larry Kell, Steve Maki, Bob Bell, Marcia Davies & Cheri Kessen

During the meeting, the operation of the national headquarters in Iowa came into question. It seems the staff was using E & I funds in violation of bylaws. While there was no indication that anyone personally profited from the arrangement, the national's nonprofit status with the IRS was put in jeopardy.

As reported in *The Spade*, the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland's newsletter, some members of that club asked how maintaining its affiliation with the national is in their best interest. They concluded for now that they had more to lose than gain from leaving TGOA/MGCA.

MGCY Holiday Tree at Fellows'

Our organization again contributed to Fellows' Riverside Gardens annual *Winter Celebration: The Magical Woods* by decorating a Christmas tree. Members helping Joe Fagnano were Rodney Toth, his grandson Cole Dotson and Tom Liggett. *Great job, guys.*



Growing Roses In N/E Ohio

This item is condensed from an article in the Nov. issue of *The Spade*, the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland newsletter, reporting on an Oct. meeting presentation by Stuart Kline and written by Carol Poh.

Mr. Kline has been growing roses for 60 years, and is an American Rose Society consultant which publishes a bi-monthly magazine, *American Rose*, and the annually published *Handbook for Selecting Roses*.



He recommends the site helpmefind.com as a source for roses as well as clematis and peonies. When choosing between budded varieties, which may not be hardy, and own-root roses, he recommends the latter. Further, they should be purchased from reputable mail order nurseries no later than January to ensure the best selection. Avoid 'Knock Out' varieties and those sold by big box stores. He also recommends the book, *Right Rose, Right Place*, by Peter Schneider.

Kline says gardeners should think of roses as just another shrub. They need at least 5 hours of direct light, preferably morning sun, daily. Dig a hole 18" wide by 12" deep and fill with equal parts of quality topsoil, compost and sand to ensure good drainage. Avoid planting within tree driplines.

Mulch to a 2-4 inch depth, and fertilize with 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 fertilizer in May, June/July and August. To avoid blackspot, don't water overhead or in the morning. Hydrate to a depth of 2-3 inches. Cleaning out plant debris from rose beds before winter will help avoid some diseases. Prune the shrubs in April, cutting the stem back to healthy tissue.

While powdery mildew, downy mildew, aphids, spider mites and Japanese beetles are serious issues, Kline doesn't recommend specific products to address them.

MGCY member Tom Liggett also wrote a rose care article in his blog. To subscribe, email him at ligtom2@gmail.com.

Using Aspirin As A Rooting Hormone

Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) has long been used for pain relief in humans but does it promote root growth in cuttings? Many gardeners have taken the fact that salicylic acid, a naturally occurring phytohormone in plants that promotes growth, photosynthesis, transpiration, and ion uptake and pathogen defense, and assumed wrongly that its chemical cousin would do the same.

Although there has been limited scientific testing of aspirin's benefits to plants, there is no proof that they exist. In fact, rooting hormone is unnecessary in most plant propagation in herbaceous and soft woody cuttings.

Two naturally occurring rooting hormones in plants are called 'auxins'. They are indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) and indole-3-butyric acid (IBA). IAA is abundant in plants but breaks down quickly. IBA is found in very small amounts and converts to IAA. Synthetic auxins include alpha-Naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) and 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D).

Gardeners may want to do their own experiments by using synthetic rooting hormone on some cuttings and none on others from the same mother plant.

Source: plantmyths.com

Which Indoor Plants Purify The Air?

A number of plants are said to absorb toxins and have become popular, beneficial indoor decorations. Several studies concluded that a small houseplant could remove a range of toxins were conducted in labs. Typically, a plant was placed in a small chamber and subjected to a range of gaseous molecules called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These experiments ranged in density and time of removal. One showed that in just 24 hours, common household ivies could remove two-thirds of the formaldehyde they were exposed to.



A study was conducted by Michael Waring, an environmental engineer and indoor air quality expert at Drexel University. The study which was recently published in the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* reviewed 12 previously published scientific studies that tested 196 plants over a decade. These lab-conducted experiments concluded that a small houseplant could remove a range of toxins. One such study was conducted by NASA in confined chambers in space.

Mr. Waring believes that these tests lacked real-world objectivity. His study involved pumping air with known impurities into a room and analyzing that air after being exposed to a variety of houseplants. The results showed that while these plants may remove a small quantity of VOC's, they couldn't keep up with air exchange and influences from heating and air conditioning, cooking and cleaning chemicals, occupants, and open doors and windows.

The bottom line is that while houseplants add to a home's aesthetic appeal, they do little to improve air quality. Source: nationalgeographic.com

New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners

In winter, resolve to:

- Hang a bird feeder.
- Build a compost bin.
- Invest in an excellent pruner.
- Order heirloom tomato seeds.
- Try new plant combos -smartgardener.com for ideas.
- Prune a crabapple or pear tree into an espalier.
- Ask oldtimers what they grew in their gardens.
- Save and swap seeds with fellow gardeners.
- Build a raised bed.

In spring, resolve to:

- Plant a fruit tree or two.
- Start a compost pile with leaves and grass clippings.
- Plant annual flowers.
- Switch to organic and non-soluble grass fertilizer.
- Weave native plants into your flower beds.
- Take a vegetable and/or cooking class.
- Order a mushroom log and grow your own fungi.
- Sign up for or volunteer at a community garden plot.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Plant more flowers for bees and pollinators.
- Start a rain garden under your downspouts.
- Plant milkweed for monarch butterflies.
- Leave grass clippings for a natural lawn mulch.
- Support local farmer's markets.
- Learn to recognize beneficial insects.
- Plant a climbing rose.
- Provide water for birds, bees and butterflies.
- Try container gardening on a balcony or patio.

In fall, resolve to:

- Grow 3 new varieties of lettuce.
- Think of alternatives to lawn spaces.
- Plant berry-bearing tree or shrubs for birds.
- Learn how to preserve vegetables.
- Use fallen leaves as garden and bedding mulch.
- Plant a dwarf conifer.
- Grow your own garlic.
- Add allium bulbs to deter deer.
- Save veggie and flower seeds for next year.

In every season, resolve to:

- Give plants as gifts.
- Invite and teach kids about gardening.

Join and be active in a garden club.

Source: Chicagobotanic.org

Happy New Year



Cheers to a new year and another chance to get it right.

Oprah Winfrey

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier'.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person.

Benjamin Franklin

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy and joyful and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

Helen Keller

As long as I'm breathing, in my eyes I'm just beginning.

Criss Jami, Killosophy



From Jokes4us.com

My new year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with rum, vodka or whiskey.

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask about my New Year's resolutions.

I resolve to discover the difference between wants and needs. May I have all I need and want all I have.

May all your troubles last as long as your resolutions.

This year may your neighbors respect you, your troubles neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you.

Dear God, my prayer for 2020 is a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix it up like you did last year.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.

Ring in the new year by immediately being thankful you're not in Times Square (wearing a diaper).

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN OHIO



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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



The Germinator

January 2020

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

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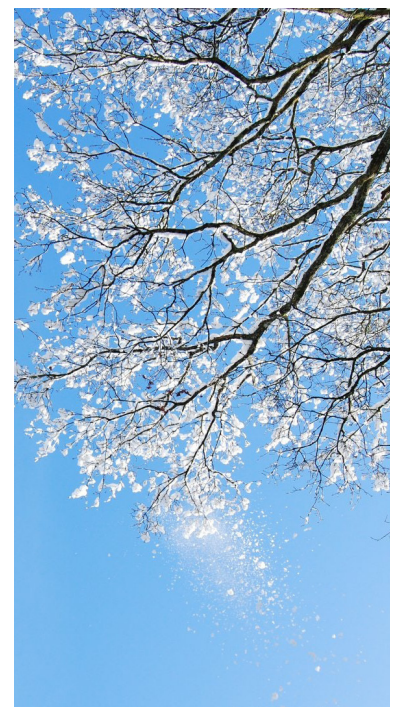
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calendar of events



- December 4 DUES FOR 2020 TO BE PAID Bob McGowan
- December 4 Board Meeting APL 6:30 pm
- December 11 Christmas Dinner A La Cart 6:00 pm
- January 8 Membership Meeting FRG 7pm
- January 15 Board Meeting Austintown Library 6:30pm
- February 5th Membership Meeting FRG 7pm
- February 12th Board Meeting Austintown Library 6:30pm
- February 15th Winter Seminar FRG 8:30am

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
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or on our website at www.mgcy.org

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