

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 Everyone,

As we enter the month of September we are still challenged by a virus that has forced us to sacrifice those activities and traditions that we love: MCGY's horticultural show and the Canfield Fair, for example. For most of us however we have not sacrificed our home gardening activities which provide a welcome solace from the uncertainties of a global pandemic.

We had a membership meeting on 8-12-20 at the Stacey Pavilion in Austintown Township Park. In lieu of our annual horticulture show, we had a small but enthusiastic group who brought in garden specimens to display proudly; and explain the secrets of their success and in one case, failure. We can all learn from our failures, right?

We will continue to have our meetings at the Stacey pavilion for the indefinite future, until the Davis center re-opens. I want to encourage members to attend. Mask wearing is expected as is social distancing. We are hoping to officially welcome our newest member and first female member, Lynn Zocolo, at our September meeting.

In other news, it looks like we will be cancelling our Winter Seminar due to the numerous uncertainties presented to us by the Covid virus. We may also need to cancel the annual Christmas dinner. We are investigating the possibility of aligning ourselves with a local non-profit organization that is constructing a greenhouse on the northside of Youngstown. In doing so we may be able to avoid the uncertainties associated with greenhouses connected to educational organizations. I think having a greenhouse at our disposal affords the club very important educational and social opportunities.

I hope you are well; and hope to see you soon.

Tom Arens

Sept. Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Sept. 2nd
Austintown Township Park
Stacey Pavillion

Kirk Rd. btn Rt. 46 & Turner

Speaker: Jeff Magada

Subject: Flying High

Please Bring Gardening

Specimens

All Members Welcome

September Board Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Sept. 9th, Stacy
Pavillion, Austintown Twsp. Park

All members are welcome and
your input is valued.

Mill Creek MetroParks September Events

While all indoor venues are
closed until further notice, most
outdoor activities are open.

Go to millcreekmetroparks.org
for more information.

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In regard to our club's recent donation to St. Patrick's Church of Youngstown's community garden, this sign was erected thanking us for our generosity. We wish them many more years of successfully promoting horticulture education to St. Pat's neighbors, parishioners and volunteers.



International Day of Peace
September 21

57 Members

2020 Scholarship Recipients

The Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown’s annual scholarship outreach for high school and collage students interested in the natural sciences has yielded two good examples of today’s most promising youth. These well-rounded individuals are excellent students, volunteer in their communities, exhibit leadership qualities and have an admirable work ethic. Our club is fortunate to be able to contribute \$1000 each toward their further education.

Jacob R. Marshall – A recent graduate of Western Reserve High School and the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center’s (MCCTC) Natural Resource & Wildlife Management Course, this fall he will seeking a four year degree from Ohio State University’s Agricultural and Technical Institute majoring in Environmental & Earth Science, and Wildlife Management.



As a means of coping with significant challenges at an early age, Jacob first found refuge then his life’s direction while observing the flora and fauna in the woods near his family’s farm. He made an early contribution toward improving the environment by picking up and recycling trash alone his road. He later volunteered at Mill Creek MetroParks and earned a Certified Volunteer Naturalist Certificate there.

While in high school, Jacob participated in 4H, choir, Future Farmers of America where he was chapter president for two years, and was involved in a variety of sports. MCCTC’s Natural Resource and Wildlife Management Course further cemented his ambition to become a Certified Park Naturalist which requires at least one Bachelor of Science degree.

This summer he worked for the Wolf Creek Auction Center in North Jackson. Past employment includes Big Lots and Youth Work Programs in Austintown.

Former teachers have lauded his work ethic, polite and respectful manner, positive attitude and wide variety of interests. These assets and his ability of overcome serious obstacles give them confidence in the promise of his future.

Sabrina Evans – Also beginning her studies at OSU/ATI this fall where she will seek an Associates Degree, Sabrina has long been interested in the natural world. During her junior year at Beaver Local High School and Columbiana County Career & Technical Center (CCCTC), she found her calling in Landscape and Environmental Design.

Several influences made her even more passionate about her intended educational direction. One was during a field trip to the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburg for its annual Christmas Show where she was amazed by what could be done with plants on a large scale. Another was her exposure to the CCCTC greenhouse watching the explosion of color as the plants matured.



These experiences made her more appreciative of the growing process and possibilities while seasonally employed at L & M Greenhouse. This hardworking young woman has also worked at McDonalds and Geranimo’s Hardware Store. She is an active member of Future Farmers of America, and served as a Student Ambassador at CCCTC giving guided tours to visitors. She carries a 3.5 GPA, and her teachers and advisors give her glowing endorsements.

Sabrina’s ambition is to use her landscape design skills to help revitalize Lisbon, her home town. Some of its grand, older homes have fallen into disrepair and she sees a business opportunity rehabbing and selling them. Her horticulture design skill should enhance curb appeal.

We wish these fine young people the best of good fortune and look forward to meeting when they give their presentations at future MGCY membership meetings.

August Board Meeting

Gardeners over a wide area have long looked forward to our annual Horticulture Show where they can display their finest plant and fruit specimens. The payoff is bragging rights for Best-In-Sections, and a shot at Best-In-Show and possibly winning the Sweepstakes. Not this year. The show was cancelled, like so many of our club’s most important events, due to Covid19 distancing restrictions and the closing of hosting venues.

That didn’t stop several members from bringing some of their finer specimens to the Board of Gardeners meeting at Austintown Twsp. Park’s Stacey Pavillion.

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September Board Meeting Cont'd. From pg. 2

If judges were handing out ribbons, Rodney Toth would have run the table as he has often done in the past. Other members brought some potentially award-winning entries.



l-r: Bruce Brungard (Sunflower); Dave Campana (Amaranthus Phalus gigantus); Toth (Gladiolus mileesh, Jersey Lily 'Naked Lady'); Hens & Chicks bloom; Adenium obesum 'Desert Rose'; and Dahlia AC Pillow).



Tom Arens brought in a beautiful coleus and wandering Jew arrangement (left), Tom Liggett showed a Geranium succulent and a 'Bunny Ears' cactus (right), John Schinker added a nice Candy onion, Ron Fasano displayed a dahlia, and Lynn Hoffman brought in three saplings including a hardy Ginger 'White Feather'.

Let's hope our members and other avid members of the gardening community have a chance to compete in MGCY's Horticulture Show next August.

Plant Watering 'Myths' Exposed

Popular gardening wisdom dictates the need to water in the morning and at the plant base to prevent fungal spores from infecting the plant. Robert Pavlis, editor of gardenmyths.com, challenges this rule by analyzing the harm/benefit of watering from above and how long leaves remain wet when watering is done at night.

Iowa State Univ. advises spray watering 5-9am because leaves will dry more quickly thus minimizing pathogens in the soil that splash up onto the foliage.

Pavlis experimented with a lilac bush that enjoys morning sun then shade after noon to see how long its leaves remained wet when watered thoroughly from above at various times of day.

At 10am when the temperature is 73 degrees, wind speed 13mp and 78% humidity in full shade, the front (sun side) of the plant dried in 35 minutes while the back (shaded side) dried in 70 minutes. When watered at 8pm when the temp was 77 degrees, wind at 10mph and humidity at 51%, the fully shaded front dried in 50 min. while the back dried in 65 min. Given that the drying times are not radically different, the question is... Would an extra half hour make a difference?

Of note is that powdery mildew is not one disease but its various varieties are plant specific. For example, the mildew affecting lilacs is different from the one infecting cucumbers or roses. Some mildew varieties are killed or its germination inhibited by water on leaf surfaces for extended periods. Black spot, the bane of roses, requires 7 hours of wet leaves to attack the plant

Downy mildew is even more plant specific than its powdery cousin, but usually takes 8-12 hours in high humidity for infection to occur. Since drying time varies by only about a half hour depending upon when done, watering time appears unimportant.

Another reason cited for watering in the morning when temps are cooler is limiting evaporation allowing more moisture to reach deeper. Pavlis counters that watering at night allows moisture more time to seep downward. Also, low wind speed and high humidity are also positive watering considerations. Whenever one chooses to water, it should not be done mid-day.

While this article discussed powdery and downy mildews, and black spot, other fungal infections behave differently. Pavlis says it's hard to believe that an extra 30 minutes of drying time will make a difference. In fact, he has his garden sprinklers going all night long to ensure hydration goes deep. He must have a well otherwise we'd hate to pay his municipal water bill.

Common wisdom also makes the case for watering at ground level to prevent spores in the soil from splashing up onto the leaves. The fact is that many mildew spores are air borne and need to await the right conditions to infect the plant. Watering from above not only washes away the spores but also removes dust that inhibits photosynthesis and washes away many pests like aphids and white flies.

Pavlis didn't mention night shade diseases like early blight, late blight, and Fusarium and Verticillium wilts that infect tomatoes and peppers. Successful gardening involves tool sterilization, plant rotation, symptom identification, and preventive measures that include pruning infected plant parts and disease specific fungicides.

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Annabelle Facelift

Few plants are more impressive than Annabelle hydrangeas when they are in their prime. The beautiful eight inch white blooms are a definite eye catcher. But a heavy summer rain will cause the flowers to weigh down their tall, thin stems and flowers end up lying on the ground. Then, all too soon, they begin to fade into a light green – still pretty but less glamorous.



One of our members took a friend's advice and, when the stems reached 12 inches, pruned them back just above a leaf set to a height 8 inches. The bifurcation results in two smaller, later blooming flowers per stem that hold up much better when it rains.. It appears that the plant will continue to produce prime blooms over a longer period.



These photos were taken at the end of July.



ZOOMin' In

Keeping up with the natural world's latest information need not stop due to Covid-19 pandemic-caused cancellation of mass gatherings. How long this situation will continue is unknown but, until we can safely meet again, [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) offers an alternative. The app will enable viewing webinars like the O.S.U. Extension's 'Impacts of Climate Change on Forests & Wildlife' on Sept. 4th, and communicating with other individuals and groups. Computers and smart phones must have audio and video capabilities.

On theverge.com, there is a very detailed explanation on how to set up the app. Our experience is that the setting up process is easy when logging on to Zoom.

Yellow Nutsedge

Your lawn is in dormancy but you notice a series of tall, pale yellow grass-like plants that is definitely out of place. Picking the plant will reveal a four-sided stalk. Sadly, your lawn has been invaded by Yellow Nutsedge

(*Cyperus esculentus*), a difficult to control weed also known as chufa, nutgrass or watergrass.

This plant is not a grass but a perennial sedge with small underground reproductive tubers called rhizomes. While freezing temps will kill the foliage, these nutlets remain viable for up to 3 years and can extend a dozen feet or more underground. Herbicides for dandelions and crabgrass are ineffective. Look for products that contain halosulfuron or sulfentrazone, and expect to need multiple applications and possibly several years for complete eradication.



Happy Labor Day



Labor was the original purchase that paid for all things. It was not gold or silver but LABOR that all wealth of the world was originally purchased.

Adam Smith

Without labor nothing prospers.

Sophocles

This Labor Day, let us value the unity, hard work and perseverance of our dear workers.

Krishna Jangid

Genius begins great works. Labor alone finishes them.

Joseph Joubert



Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your children will be going back to school the next day. It would be called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.

Labor Day means your unemployment check will be a day late.

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

Ace Hardware Canfield
413 E. Main St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-7464

Amish Market
6121 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-248-7034
www.theamishmarket.net

Baird Brothers
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Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-3122
info@bairdbrothers.com

Bernard Daniels Lumber
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www.bdlumber.com

Blooming Crazy
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Debbie Gonda
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buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

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Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-5569

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Vienna, Ohio
330-539-5500
www.colonialgardensohio.com

Crouse True Value Hardware
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North Lima, Ohio 44452
330-549-2144
www.truevaluetrains.com

Davidson's Restaurant
3636 Canfield Rd.
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330-793-0030

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Girard, Ohio 44420
330-759-3121
www.delaquadrilandscape.com

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www.gardenclogs.com

DJ's Greenhouse
1004 East Lake Rd.
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154
724-962-1230
www.djsgreenhouse.com

Elliot's Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
330-758-8889

Garden Artisans
451 Defense Highway, Ste. A
Annapolis, Md. 21401
www.gardenartisans.com

Greenstar Cooperative
12093 Lisbon Rd.
Greenford, Ohio 44422
800-423-3609

Green Team
345 Oakhill Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44502
330-740-2060

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Boardman, Ohio 44512
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Kushner's Garden & Patio
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Youngstown, Ohio 44514
www.kushners.com

Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar
2975 Canfield-Niles Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-2059

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
123 McKinley Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509
www.mgcy.org

Nick's Wine Cellar
105 S. Meridian Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Outdoor Recreation Equipment, 5316
Market St.
Boardman, Ohio
330-782-2004

Parks Garden Center
9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-7278
parksgardencenter@aol.com

Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.
P.O. Box 93-C
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
www.everlastlabel.com

Petitti Garden Center
5509 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-788-0733
www.petittigardencenter.com

Robert McGowan, LPL Financial
MGCY Member
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
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330-533-2320

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8414 Market St.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

Richard States
MGCY Member

Dennis Toth
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Tractor Supply
6225 Mahoning Ave.
Austintown, Ohio 44515
330-792-8235

Vernon's Café
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330-652-1381
www.vernonscafe.com

Wally Gro LLC
Kansas City, MO 64116
1.877.796.6559
hello@wallygro.com

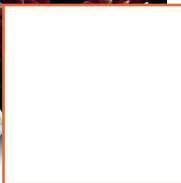
Whitehouse Fruit Farms
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
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www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

Wild Birds Unlimited
90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44512
330-629-2473
www.wbu.com

Youngstown Cityscape
15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330-742-4040

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

www.mgcy.org



calendar of events



Sept 2nd	Membership Meeting	7PM	Stacey Pavillion
Sept 9th	Board Meeting	7PM	Stacey Pavillion
TBA	General Meeting	7PM	
TBA	Board Meeting	6:30PM	
TBA	CGLG Meeting	10AM	Kingwood Gardens

The following events have been cancelled:
Canfield Fair (September 2-7), Fall Breakfast

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 2020 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tom Arens

mansell713@sbcglobal.net • 330-402-2700

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Fasano

ronf10@msn.com • 330-502-9989

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
Tom Arens