

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

resident's Message - JANUARY

First, I would like to thank the members for giving me the honor and pleasure of serving as president of your Men's Garden Club of Youngstown in 2018. When I joined a few years ago, I had no idea I would be an officer let alone president. I hope to do a good job for you and, with your help, I think I will. That out of the way, I would like to talk about gardening a little.

Being January there seems to be little we can do in our gardens, but there are a lot of other things we can do. First, we can take care of our living garden ornaments. I'm talking about the birds that winter-over. This is the time to feed them so that they will still be around in the spring and summer. I have found that Parks Garden Center, one of our sponsors, to be the best place to get food for them. Please give them our patronage and also all the other businesses who donate to our club. You will find them listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

If you're like me, you are getting seed catalogs in the mail every day now. This is the time to look them over and make plans for your gardens this spring. They are seeds produced last fall and don't come any fresher. Don't delay. Some very popular varieties run out early. This is also a good time to draw up a plan for your veggie garden. Doing this will help you rotate crops that shouldn't be planted in the same soil as last year. Revising the plan each year prevents you from doing this.

Again, thank you all and I am looking forward to a great year for the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown. Remember it is up to all of us to make our club great and to bring in new members to keep it going for many years to come.

Thanks,
Paul Shanabarger

Membership Meeting
 7pm, Wednesday, Jan 3
 Fellows Riverside Gardens
Speaker & Subject: TBA
Guests Welcome

Board Meeting
 6:30pm, Wednesday, Jan. 10
 Austintown Library
(All Members Welcome)

MetroParks December Events

Nature Photography Exhibit:
Call for Photos 2-7

Hand Feed a Chickadee	6,13,20,27
Yoga Basics Course	7,9,14,16,21,23,28,30
Salsa Dance Class	9,16,23
T'ai Chi Step One	10,17,24,31
Alcohol Ink Tiles	13
Photo Clique: <i>Backyard Birds</i>	13
Walking in a Wetland	14
West Coast Swing Class	16,23
Laid Back Cooking Chili	20
Winter Trackin'	20
Fragrant Fridays: <i>Essential Oils</i>	26
Fido Friendly Gardening	27
Learn to Make Pierogis	27
Book Discussion: <i>Grace of the Wild</i>	27
Junior Naturalist Training	30
The Blue Moon	30

Fellows Closed Most Mondays
millcreekmetroparks.org

MGCY 13th ANNUAL WINTER SEMINAR

THINK BIG - THINK SMALL - THINK FALLTASTIC

How to create a garden that lives inside us - BIG or small

Saturday February 17, 9am - 4pm

Fellows Riverside Gardens

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Speakers: Marianne Willburn - *Big Dreams/Small Garden*

& Garden Maintenance For Real Life

Scott Beuerlein - *Spring Sings But Fall Rocks*

& *The Sculptor's Garden*

Contact Bob McGowan - 330.518.6397/rjfmcgowan@aol.com

ASAP to reserve your seat. Seminar always sells out early.

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The Germinator

Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Winter Seminar Preview

The 2015 Seminar was held under a heavy blanket of snow, while the weather last year resembled a balmy spring day. Except for a few late arrivals two years ago, the only difference was that the Seminars have gotten progressively more attendee friendly. And this year's event promises to be the best yet.

The Speakers

Marianne Willburn - *Big Dreams/Small Garden &*



Garden Maintenance for Real Life - An award-winning columnist, Master Gardener and the author of *Big Dreams, Small Gardens* (2017), Ms Willburn enjoys speaking to gardeners of all levels on many topics. Her presentations are motivational and informative delivered with happy, positive energy.

tional and informative delivered with happy, positive energy.

Scott Beuerlein - *Spring Sings But Fall Rocks & The Sculptor's Garden* - A horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Scott manages the garden's outreach, and is involved with plant trialing, education, community projects, and runs the zoo's annual horticulture symposiums. He also writes the humorous and insightful *Only in Ohio* column for *Ohio Gardener Magazine*.



At the time of publication, the Seminar price has not been set but MGCY members will receive a discount. Members will be expected to contribute to the event's success usually by being table captains. This means engaging the guests at your table, answering questions about our organization, seeing that water pitchers are full and clearing unwanted articles from your table.

Members always enjoy participating in the Seminar. They meet new gardeners and learn from them, they glean information from the speakers and the event is a fun experience all around. Our Seminar is eagerly awaited by gardeners over a wide area and sells out early every year. MGCY members owe it to our club, community and themselves to do what they can to help make it a success.

Thank You, Mr. Zap

It may not be general knowledge, or maybe you've forgotten, but outgoing President Dennis Zap saved our club's bacon last year. When no one else stepped forward to run for our club's top spot, Dennis reluctantly said he would serve again. Remember, he had previously served two terms a few years ago.

In addition to serving in our club's top offices, Dennis continues to do a great job as our refreshment's chairman. Let's not take for granted the great array of pastries, coffee and drinks he makes available at our membership meetings. There will be a wonderful spread awaiting arrivals at our Winter Seminar thanks to him. He helps cook our Spring and Fall Breakfasts, and often volunteers where needed while other sit on their duffs.

It is a fact that in this day and age, clubs like ours have had a hard time not only recruiting new members but finding those who will assume a leadership role. In recent year, many clubs in The Gardeners of America/Mens Garden Clubs of America, our national umbrella organization, have gone down the tubes because they couldn't find people to serve in the top offices. In our case, we have yet to fill the first vice president's position.

Wouldn't be nice if each of our members made a New Year's resolution to become more involved in club affairs. This not only means volunteering for leadership roles but in all facets of club activities. It was a sad day when we had to give up our Youth Gardening Project because no one wanted to assume the chairmanship. We could be doing more public service projects if only members would follow Dennis Zap's example and become more active in our exceptional organization.

A Tree Worthy Of The Name

Once again, our Christmas tree stood out among those decorated by dozens of organizations and displayed at Fellows' Davis Center during its annual Winter Festival.

Lead by Joe Fagnano, those who helped decorate this beautiful tree were Bruce Brungard, John Fox, Tom Liggett, and Rodney Toth,

Thanks, guys.



The Germinator

A Merry Christmas Dinner

Officially known as the MGCY President's Reception Dinner, the gathering last month at A La Carte Catering was in every respect a celebration full of holiday cheer. It is also the one club event where we throw a party honoring members for their outstanding service during the year and, in the process, giving ourselves a pat on the back.

The forecasted heavy snow fall may have kept the attendance a bit lower than normal, but the brave souls who did show up enjoyed a fine dinner for which the venue if famous, the talented piano stylings of Ms. Jan Crews, and the pleasure of some great company.



Master of Ceremonies Rodney Toth read a Christmas poem and led us in saying grace before we dug into a delicious dinner accented with some fine wines. He also recognized three stalwart members who sadly passed away this year. Past President and Bronze Medal Bill Slabe was one of the most productive members in our clubs history. Longtime Club Photographer Bob Stas documented our club's activities for many years. Dr. Joe Gregori was very active in preparing inventory for our annual Spring Plant Sale. We're sure they're now tending the flower beds embellishing St. Peter's Golden Gate and growing veggies for Jesus' birthday feast.

National President John Schinker recognized several guests who have a long and significant history with our organization. Joann Carney, widow of one of our greatest members Bill Carney for whom our highest club award is named, is a regular at the dinner and remains friends with many members. John called attention to Steve Fabian, age 96, and Jack Walsh, age 94, our oldest members who regularly attend membership meetings.

John also pointed out Chuck and Jennifer Lahotsky, owners of Chuck's Greenhouse, who have helped make our Spring Plant Sale profitable by piggy-backing their stock purchases with ours for increased discounts. Chuck's provided the 195 the poinsettias at deep discount given to Leonard Kirts and MASCO clients at their Christmas parties, and those presented to female guests at this party.

Club Awards

Horticulture Award - John Schinker

We could go on and on about John's contributions to our club, the region and the national including serving as president of each. To earn this award, he merely procured the use of the MASCO greenhouse and turned it into the most profitable fundraiser in TGCA/MGCA. He is our indispensable member and we're glad to have him back after a very serious medical procedure.

Heritage Award - Hugh Earnhart

Hugh too has served in all club, regional and national leadership roles. In earning this award for creating a better understanding of gardening, and promoting the beautification of our community, he initiated our Winter Seminar, and has participated in the club's Horticulture, Scholarship and History committees.



President's Award - Dennis Zap.

Traditionally, club presidents serve two one-year terms at most. Dennis served in that office from 2013 through 2014 and, when others were reluctant to step up, he volunteered for the 2017 term. He also participates in the Greenhouse, Horticulture Show, Awards and Refreshment committees, and much more.

Outstanding New Member - Paul Shanabarger

Within two years of joining our organization, Paul has served as our 1st vice president, and will serve as our president and CGLG 2nd vice president in 2018. He also recruits speakers for our membership meetings and breakfasts, and participates in our Horticulture Show, greenhouse and Canfield Fair.

Communication Award - Dave Campana

With the help of those on the Newsletter Committee, Dave edits the *Germinator* which has won many TGOA/MGCA and CGLG awards.

Bill Carney Bronze Medal & Master Gardener

Award - Winners were not present and will be given their awards at the next meeting they attend.

2018 Officers Take Oaths of Office



Past President Dennis Zap, President Shannabarger, & 2nd Vice President Bruce Brungard. Not pictured: Treasurer Bob McGowan, Recording Secretary Joe Fagnano & Corresponding Secretary Mike Banks.



The Germinator

January 2018

OSU Perennial of the Year

Allium 'millenium' was named the 2018 perennial of the year for a number of reasons. First of all, it is a pollinator magnet (especially butterflies), is easy to grow, low maintenance and a dependable bloomer. The thick foliage is glossy green through spring. In mid to late summer, clusters of 2 inch rose/purple ball blooms appear on thick, strong stems.



The plant grows to 16-20 inches and looks best when combined with bushy, low growing perennials that hide the withering leaves at bloom time. One choice is hardy Cranesbill geraniums. The fleshy bulbs may be lifted and divided, best done after the leaves wither, after several years.

This onion relative prefers full sun, sandy or loamy soil (amended clay base) on the dry side. It is not too fussy about pH leaning toward a neutral acidity. Its wide variety of uses include containers, borders, texture or form accents, cut flowers and dry flowers. The plant is deer resistant and draught tolerant.



Winter Wildlife Protection

With the cold, frozen soil, fallen leaves and accumulated snow, rabbits and mice look to any food source available. They will attack young twigs and thin-barked trees like fruit trees, crabapples and ornamental bushes. It is common to find young trees completely girdled from the ground to several inches high. Smaller plants will be eaten to the ground. Protective tree wraps will help deter mice and rabbits.



Chicken wire or rabbit fencing with close spacing near the bottom will keep rabbits at bay. Removing debris in the garden and landscape beds will prevent mice from nesting therein. They like to have a good place to nest before the ground freezes and don't like to be exposed while feeding thus exposing them to

predators. Informed gardeners never pile mulch against the base of trees to avoid rood girdling, and this also deters mice from attacking saplings. Also consider placing rodent poison in strategic locations.

Deer are a much larger problem and there are some remedies beside installing 8 foot fencing. and motion activated lights to which they soon become accustomed. Repellants are expensive and require repeated applications. Some have had success attaching bars of Irish Spring soap to targeted trees.



A homemade repellent suggested by Utah State Univ. suggests combining an egg and a quart of warm water in a blender, strain with cheese cloth or old panty hose, and place the mixture in a spray bottle. Possible additions are 1 tsp. hot pepper oil, 1 tbl. Tabasco sauce, 2 oz. milk, and 1 tsp. cooking oil or a few drops of dish soap.

Another method is to place an old radio tuned to a 24 hour talk show on top of an inverted bucket. Place another bucket over the radio. Even at low volume, the deer will hear the sound of human voices and stay away.

There are native plant that are very low on a deer's preferred menu. They include bamboo, barberry, boxwood, gooseberry, holly, lavender, rosemary, sumac, yucca, lantana, cinquefoil and dogwood.

2018 - It Remains to be Seen

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old one



leaves.

Bill Vaughan

New Year's Eve, when auld acquaintances be forgot. Unless the tests come back positive.

Jay Leno

My resolution is to take down all the Christmas lights by Easter.

Melanie White



The Germinator

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

DICK ADGATE FLORIST

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MGCY Member

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The Germinator

January 2018



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123 McKinley Ave. • Youngstown, OH 44509

www.mgcy.org



Happy New Year ~ 2018!

calendar of events



January 3	Membership Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
January 9	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
January 10	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
January 16	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
February 7	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
February 14	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
February 27	Winter Seminar	FRG	9:00 am
March 7	Floriculture	MCCTC Comp	9:00 am
	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
March 14	Home and Garden Show	Aust. Plaza	12 noon-8 pm
	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
April 4	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
April 11	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm

*Have a safe and wonderful
New Year!*

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