



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 - Feb.

Well it's February and most of us are in the throes of 'cabin fever'. We can only hope that that rodent Phil doesn't see his shadow and give us another six weeks of winter. If he doesn't, we only get another month and a half. Let us also hope that when winter ends it does really end.

The last few years we have had warm spells that fool our plants into budding too soon only to have winter return and cause a die-off. There is not much you can do to protect most plants. Spring bulbs will come up when they want. Fruit trees will start to bud when they darn well choose. The only thing we can do is watch and hope for the best.

We have a lot of things to get you out of the cabin this month. On Jan. 26, 27 and 28, the Home and Garden Show is being held at the MetroPlex at the intersection of Belmont Ave. and I-80 in Liberty where we will have an information booth.. The hours are 10am-6pm. Contact Bruce Brungard, 330-793-1307 or bgbhhi@live.com, to sign up for a shift..

Our Feb. 7 membership meeting will feature speaker Sarah Woodall discussing 'oak wilt'. And of course, nothing can chase away the winter blues like our annual Winter Seminar. The regular price is \$50 but working members pay \$30.

I hope to see everyone at these events. This is our club, and taking part in its activities is the best way to support it and keep it viable.

Thanks,

Paul Shanabarger

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.mgc.org



Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Feb. 7

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: Sarah Woodall

Subject: Oak Wilt

(Guests Welcome)

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, Feb. 14

Austintown Library

(All Members Welcome)

MetroParks February Events

Naked Tree Hike	4
Jewels of Winter (Orchids)	6-28
Owl Prowl	9
Winter Birding	10
Walk-in Orchid Clinic	10
Ohio Jr. Naturalist Training	12,26
Ceramic Relief Tiles	13
Twice-Loved Book Sale	17-24
Mill Creek Stone Quarries	18
Mill Creek Photo Clinic	18
Cup & Beyond (Herbs)	20
Botanical Mornings	23
Winter Survival Skills	24
Naturalist Series (Mushrooms)	24
Indoor Gardening	27

Fellows Is 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

Four Outstanding Presentations, Chinese Auction,

Door Prizes for Everyone, Great Food & Fun Company

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.

Price: \$50 Per Person - Participating MGCY Members: \$30

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

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.



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*.



While attending members will be expected to contribute to the event's success usually by being 'table captains', their admission is discounted from \$50 to \$30. Being a table captain 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. Contact Bob McGowan (See Pg. 1) to sign up now.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

In Memory of John Kolar

It is a club tradition that, when an outstanding member passes away, a living token of our esteem is planted so that their memory is kept alive in nature as well as in our hearts. John Kolar loved roses, and it was a fitting tribute that a bush be installed at Fellows Riverside Gardens marked with his name.

John was a long-time greenhouse fixture and a tremendous help to Chairman John Schinker transplanting and tending the inventory for our Spring Plant Sale. And for many years, he kept the membership and board meeting minutes as our Recording Secretary.

To put his contributions to our organization in perspective, he is the only member who was honored twice (2005 and 2014 posthumously) with our highest award, the Bill Carney Bronze Award.

Rest In Peace, Dear Brother

Bad News/Good News/The Future?

The Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities MASCO Workshop will be closing in June and, with it, our use of the attached greenhouse. We are also losing our access to the Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse. These facilities were a God-send to our club. For over a decade, they allowed us to grow tens-of-thousands of plants for our Spring Plant Sale the profits from which funded almost all of our projects and activities. The workshop staff were not only extremely helpful lending their expertise but were also our best customers.

With the help of a few Mahoning County officials, we are now attempting to secure a lease for one more year at MASCO. It will be great if we can have another Plant Sale there but, even if this does come to pass, we will be without a funding source for 2019 onward. Members are being asked for suggestions on how we can raise funds going forward. Locating another greenhouse, finding a place to sell plants bought wholesale, or selling gardening-related products at a local venue are a few possibilities. We welcome member input in this time of crisis. It is not an exaggeration to say the future of our club as we know it hangs in the balance.

Thank You, Richard States

Not only did Richard again run the table at the annual TGOA/MGCA Photography Contest by winning almost all sections and the Sweepstakes, but he donated for door prizes beautiful prints of his award-winning photographs to everyone attending the convention banquet. The Certificate of Appreciation he received at our January membership meeting was a small tribute to his generosity.



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Botanical Gardens Then And Now

If there were any doubts about the value of our club's scholarship program and, more specifically, the wisdom of naming Joe Fagnano a recipient the past couple of years, they were put to rest at our January membership meeting. His presentation on the history and current trends in botanical gardens was both educational and done in a professional manner. As one member put it, it showed our small contribution toward his education was money well spent. Wish we could do more.

Landscape gardening is a multi-disciplinary field incorporating aspects of botany, horticulture, the fine arts and architecture. Prior to 1800, it involved the master planning and garden design of manor houses, palaces and royal properties, religious complexes and centers of government.

Though its exact location has never been located, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon in Iraq, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was an ascending series of tiered gardens containing a wide variety of trees, shrubs and vines constructed in the 6th Century BC. The Egyptian and Roman Empires were also among the first to construct horticulture landscapes.

Fast forward and the modern endeavor now includes site planning, stormwater management, environmental restoration, visual resource management, and green infrastructure planning and design overseen by a new profession - landscape architect. Most modern gardens now undertake the additional responsibilities of educational awareness, research and exploration, and preserving both inside and outside natural habitats.

One example that should be familiar to our members is the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. In addition to the many themed landscapes outside, the Gardens has recreated replicas of a Costa Rican rainforest and a



Madagascar desert, complete with native flora and fauna, housed under the multi-story Glasshouse.

Joe also discussed the a Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburg, the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, the Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia and the Epcot Gardens at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Thanks, Joe, for an educational and entertaining presentation.

Scholarship Applications Due

Since 1991, the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown has offered college scholarships to students studying Horticulture, Landscape Design or allied subjects. We are currently offering up to two scholarships of up to \$1000 per year for those with the following qualifications:

1. Graduating high school senior or student enrolled in an accredited community college or university majoring in horticulture or floriculture.
2. Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher based on a 4.0 system.

3. Must currently live in or have attended high school Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark or Trumbull county in Ohio, or Mercer or Lawrence county in Pennsylvania.

4. Must complete an application found at our website - <http://www/mgcy.org/Pages/Scholarship.aspx> and return it by **March 1, 2018**. Send application to:

Mens Garden Club of Youngstown
c/o Robert Schulick
1012 Old Furnace Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44511

Applicants meeting all requirements will be contacted by telephone to schedule a personal interview.

And Something Else Is Due

What could it be? Think, Think. Something's due. Due. Due. Oh yeah, I know. **YOUR DUES ARE DUE!** It's \$30 for regular members and \$10 for lifetime members. Stop procrastinating and send your check made out to the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown to Bob McGowan, P.O. Box 724, Canfield, OH. 44406.

Better yet, bring your check to the February membership meeting and save yourself the price of a stamp. Free coffee and pastries, an interesting gardening presentation and a chance to catch up with old friends. Oh, and we don't hear from you by St. Patrick's Day, you could end up sipping your green ale through a straw.





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THE ANTHROPOCENE

Man's Triumph or Folly?



In the history of Mother Earth, Man's existence is but a blip in geological time. There have been four 'eras' since Earth formed 4.57 billion years ago, the latest being the Cenozoic Era, '*Age of Mammals*', which began 144 million years ago. In addition to the extinction of the dinosaurs, the era saw the emergence of the genus *Homo* 2 million years ago and the arrival of anatomically modern humans 250,000 years ago. Each era not only indicates life's evolution but the changes in the geological processes life forces upon Earth's surface.

Eras are divided into 'epochs' and the Cenozoic has seven. Man's existence, however short, has seen major influences on the planet especially since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution 200 years ago. They include habitat destruction, urbanization, pollution, plant and animal extinctions and degraded arable soil. For this reason, some scientist are pushing for the formal recognition of an eighth Cenozoic epoch, the Anthropocene Epoch or '*Age of Modern Man*'. This is less about scientific wordplay than drawing attention to our dangerous path.

'It's a small world' is a cliché getting more true every day. It's a neighborhood where careless and selfish actions may eventually have dire consequences even for those many thousands of miles away. Americans per capita consume more energy and produce more pollution than any other peoples. But now we have competition in the form of China and India, which constitute over a third of the world's populace. Their and other nations' rapidly growing middle classes are eager to copy our consumption-oriented economic model. This brings us to Man's greatest threat and most demanding challenge....

Climate Change

Man's evolution and ability to dominate our planet would not have been possible without the benefit of a relatively mild and stable climate. A vast majority of the world's scientists are sure the climate is becoming increasingly unstable due to such human activities as burning fossil fuels for energy generation. The resulting carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere prevents our sun's energy from being reflected back into space thus raising Earth's temperature - the *Greenhouse Effect*.

Analysis of Antarctic ice reveals CO₂ levels over the past 800,000 years never reached the present level of 400 parts per million (ppm). Since 1960, it has risen from 310 ppm, and has not been this high since the planet was 11 degrees warmer and the seas 100 ft. higher 10-15 million years ago. Another, more potent heat-trapping gas is methane, the chief ingredient in natural gas, the 'clean fuel'. The sad truth is if only 3% escapes

between drilling, shipping, storage and consumption, the effect on the environment is the same burning coal. Some scientists believe the escape rate is much higher.

Burning fossil fuels and other human activities feed upon one another contributing to an upward spiral of rising climate instability. Arctic Circle temps are rising faster than anywhere on Earth with the region expected to be ice-free in the summer by the turn of the century. Instead of ice reflecting solar energy back into space, dark water absorbs heat. Also, vegetation frozen for thousands of years will rot producing methane. Melting glaciers also expose dark, heat-absorbing soil.

Perhaps the most potent greenhouse gas is water vapor. For each degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) rise in atmospheric temperature, there is a corresponding 7% rise in the air's ability to hold moisture further enhancing the upward spiral. Unwise agriculture practices like the burning of tropical rainforests to grow monocrops such as palm oil trees increase atmospheric CO₂, remove large trees that absorb huge amounts of CO₂, and bare heat absorbing soil. Also lost is the oxygen created by rain forests of which the Amazon alone produces 20% of the world's annual supply. Concrete and other materials involved in urbanization, sprawl and paving also act as solar energy magnets.

Science and the resulting engineering are the study of the physical and natural world but their findings may not be universally seen as beneficial. GMOs, robotics, opioids and advanced weaponry are examples. The scientific process has improved and lengthened our lives, made earning a living less dangerous, and computers and smart-phones have democratized information and communication. And studies by organizations like NASA and NOAA, with nothing to gain from their findings, have proven the effects and trajectory of climate change. Why are we so willing to accept gifts from science but choose to ignore its dire predictions.

And while a majority of Americans accept climate change and Man's involvement as fact, we have allowed certain corporations and politicians to set the national agenda with promises of jobs and economic growth. They ask us to ignore short term 'inconveniences' like strong storms, flooding and draught which will lead to a future cursed with starvation, mass migrations and war. To paraphrase the *Bible's Mark 8.36-38*, '*For what does it profit Man, if he shall conquer the whole world, and lose a civilized existence?*'

The Nov., 2015 issue of *National Geographic* further explains the climate change threat and trajectory, and how innovation and technological advances in renewable and sustainable energy systems are providing alternatives to Man's current Anthropocene path.

The above is the opinion of Germinator Editor Dave Campana, and does not represent official MGCY policy.



The Germinator

February 2018

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

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MGCY Member

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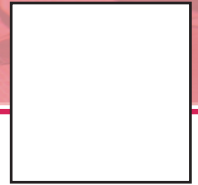
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February 2018



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www.mgcy.org



Happy Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14, 2018

calendar of events

February 7.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
February 14	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
February 17	Winter Seminar	FRG	9:00 am
March TBD.....	Floriculture	MCCTC Comp	TBA am
March 7.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
March 14.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
March 24.....	Spring Breakfast	FRG	9:00 am
April 4	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
April 11	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
May 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
May 9.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
June 6.....	General Mtg. Plant Auction....	Bdmn Park	6:00 - 7:00 pm
June 13	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
June 27-29.....	National Convention	Fort Wayne.....	TBA

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