

# The Germinator



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

## resident's Message - APRIL

As I write this, if today was Groundhog Day, there would be no way that overgrown rat would see its shadow. Its been ten weeks since he cast a shadow and we're still getting frigid temperatures and snow. Matter of fact, I was outside this afternoon and had to walk with my head down because my face was being pelted with sleet.



The good news is that the MASCO greenhouse is going full speed ahead as you can see from the above photos courtesy of Paul Iden. Several members have been great at transplanting seedlings and watering. Now the Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner and we'll need your help. Let John Schinker know what sale day(s) and hours you can work. And of course you'll be buying your garden and bedding plants from us.

In order to have people at the sale, we need to get the word out. Pick up some order forms at the membership meeting and pass them around to friends, relatives and workmates. Getting businesses and organizations to post the form on their public bulletin board is also a good way to spread the word. Remember, this is likely our last plant sale at MASCO and our club's fundraising is in limbo.

*Thanks, Paul Shanabarger*

## MGCY SPRING PLANT SALE

Thursday thru Saturday, May 10 - 12

Flowers, Veggies, Herbs & More

Contact John Schinker - 330-799-6046, [johnschinker@gmail.com](mailto:johnschinker@gmail.com)  
 or see him at the membership meeting to see how you can help.

### Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, May 2nd  
 Fellows Riverside Gardens

**Mindy Frazer-Epstein**  
*Water Conservation &  
 Rain Barrels*

*(Guests Welcome)*

### Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, May 9th  
 Austintown Library  
*(All Members Welcome)*

### MetroParks May Events

Photo Clique: Spring Blooms	9
Children: Animals of Spring	10
<b>Spring Plant Sale</b>	11
Golf Shop Sale	11-13
I Phone Photo Workshop	12,19
National Public Gardens Day	12
Mother's Day Brunch	13
Hummingbird Workshop	13
Birding the Sanctuary	19
Naturalist: Wild Babies	20
Warbler Walk	20
Par 3 Senior Clinic	23,30
Get-Ready-4-Golf Clinic	23
Spring Fling in the Park	23
Botanical Mornings	25
Golf Shop Sale	25,26,28,29
Home Landscape Design	29

[millcreekmetroparks.org](http://millcreekmetroparks.org)

## In This Issue

President's Message .....	1
Announcements .....	1
Club News .....	2
Antlions .....	2
Class Act .....	2
Think Zinnias.....	3
Nightshade Diseases.....	4
Climate-Smart Gardening.....	4
Sponsors.....	5
Club Calendar & Officers.....	6

# The Germinator

## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG  
84 Members • 2 Associates

### New Members

**Paul Iden** - 410 Meadowbrook Ave., Boardman, OH, 44512, 330-360-6086, [paul.iden@gmail.com](mailto:paul.iden@gmail.com). Paul is retired. His hobbies include photography, and he has graciously volunteered to be our new club photographer. Sponsor: John Schinker

**Dominic Leone** - 82 Sping St., Struthers, OH, 44471, 330-360-871, [attydomleone@gmail.com](mailto:attydomleone@gmail.com). Dom is an attorney with an office at 4 State St., Struthers. His gardening interests include growing vegetables. Sponsor: Judge Pat Cunning

*Welcome aboard, gentlemen!*

### May Membership Meeting Speaker

Mindy Frazer-Epstein will give a presentation on Sustainability: Water and Conservation, and will give a demonstration on constructing a railbarrel. Mindy has a BS with a major in biology, and minors in both chemistry and Asian studies. She's a high school science teacher, and coaches track and cross country. She also owns an environmental sustainability and education company. Mindy is a Mercer County Master Gardener, and worked for the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture in the etymology department.

### Antlions For Breakfast

Ants are notorious picnic crashers. So if you are looking for a place to lay down a blanket and open the basket, try to find fine, dry soil with small depressions. They are a good indication that antlion (*Myrmeleon immaculatus*) larvae lurk within. And while their name is a good indication of their favorite food, these beneficial insects also dine on a wide variety of garden pests.



These gardeners' friends were the subject of our Pancake Breakfast speaker, Lillian Quaranta, an Ohio State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. She also shares member Bob Shulick's passion for water color art. After attending members stuffed their faces, her enlightening and entertaining power-point presentation topped off a great way to spend an early spring morning.



The antlion larvae hide waiting for their victim to venture close to its nest. The unsuspecting victim begins to slip and slide

## Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

down the fine soil and end up on the wrong end of some of the most formidable mandibles in the insect kingdom.

When the larva attains its maximum size, it undergoes metamorphosis in a globular cocoon either inside or outside its nest trap.

What emerges is an adult similar to a damsel fly. Flying at dusk or at night, its contribution to our gardens continues as it feeds on nectar while pollinating our flowers and vegetables.



Many thanks to the guys who prepared the food. It was a \$5 bargain missed by too many members.

### One Class Act

Four-time MGCY scholarship winner Christian Moore's April membership meeting presentation was as much about his character and potential as his subject's content. Our club was privileged to have had the opportunity to help this fine young man pursue his dream of becoming a landscape architect. Spending any amount of time with Christian will convince one that his future has sky's-the-limit possibilities and that he is an all-round class act.



His summer of 2016 was spent on educational exploration while camping in numerous U.S. National Forests. Last summer he toured several European gardens after interning at the Hermannshof Botanical Gardens in S.W. Germany. There he studied landscaping techniques counter to the accepted norm.

Attend any of our club's Winter Seminars and the theme of at least one speaker will be what is known as 'block planting'. Shorter, border plants near walkways backed by progressively taller plantings coordinated by the 'color wheel' and primarily the same plant species year after year. There should be areas with differing themes that include art and structures.

Block planting advantages are ease of maintenance, easy movement between beds, controlled appearance, layering of color and easily distinguished species. Disadvantages include constant maintenance, heavy irrigation and less resilience.

### Flux In The Garden - Matrix Planting

Hermannshof Botanical is a renowned experimental and trial gardens of nearly six acres of centuries-old parkland in Weinheim north of Heidelberg. Evolving over the past 30 years as a publicly funded garden, it has

*Continued on pg. 3*

*Class Act continued from pg. 2*

pretty much set the benchmark for naturalist planting design in Germany. Being located in a Zone 8 area allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of plant species with many native to North America and Asia. The hot, dry summer climate is ideal for prairie plants adapted to poorly nutrated soil and requiring no water after the first year.



Matrix landscapes are ever-evolving with surviving pioneer perennial species competing with new arrivals, and less successful plants being replaced by more dominant species through natural processes. After the first installation that requires significant effort, the advantages include planting on dry sites, hills and shade; large and urban sites; and ecological interventions like drainage ditches, industrial site rehabilitation and wetland reserves.

In a letter to our organization thanking us for our small contribution to his education, he wrote, *'The MGCY scholarship was one of the first received to support my Ohio State University education. Your continued sponsorship these past four years has allowed me to receive world-class training as a landscape architect, and it has been my privilege and honor to be associated with such a fine and civic-minded group of gentlemen. Please accept my application for life membership as a symbol of my gratitude to you and your continued work.'*

*Welcome aboard, Christian Moore*

## Think Zinnias

This beautiful, hearty, easy to grow plant is a native of Mexico, the southwestern U.S. and Central America. Its origin provides a good indication of why zinnias are a perfect choice for lazy gardeners and such locations as cemetery plots - plant them, water them in and you'll have to tend to them maybe once a month. They do well

in dry conditions and will continue to bloom all summer.

Zinnias require full sun, warmth and well-drained soil rich in organic matter. They can be directly sown or transplanted into the garden. If starting indoors or in a cold frame, use fine potting soil. Outdoor soil should be 70--80 degrees. If the soil is poor or heavy clay, add compost or leaf mold. Success outdoors involves sowing seeds 2-3 inches apart in loose soil, cover and tamp in with 1/4 inch of same. When seedlings reach one inch, thin shorter varieties to 6-8 inches and taller species 10 inches apart.



To encourage bushier plants, pinch off an inch or so from the main stem from young plants. Deadhead regularly to encourage continued blooms. A second feeding should be done at mid-season with 5-10-5 fertilizer. Zinnias have no major insect problems. Mildew can be an issue in low-sun, crowded and/or excessively wet conditions. Remember that there is a cash award for 'Best Zinnia' at our annual Horticulture Show in August so get started now.

## What I Learned From My Mother

- My mother taught me RELIGION:  
*"You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet."*
- My mother taught me LOGIC:  
*"Because I said so, that's why."*
- My mother taught me IRONY:  
*"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."*
- My mother taught me the science of OSMOSIS:  
*"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."*
- My mother taught me about CONTORTIONS:  
*"Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"*
- My mother taught me about KARMA:  
*"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."*

## Thank You For Your Service

- "Better than honor, glory and History's iron pen,  
Was the thought of duty done and the love of his fellow men"*  
Richard Watson Gilder
- "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them."*  
John F. Kennedy
- "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."*  
Elmer Davis
- "The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree."*  
Thomas Campbell
- "And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free; And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."*  
Country Singer Lee Greenwood

## Nightshade Diseases

**Fusarium & Verticillium** are soil-borne pathogens attacking many types of plants with ornamental flowers and some vegetables topping the list. It can survive indefinitely in contaminated soil. Greenhouse and closely grown plants are common victims. Members of the nightshade family like tomatoes, potatoes and peppers, are particularly susceptible.

The fungus enters the roots of young plants and the organism blocks water and nutrient transmitting vessels in the cells. Wilting is one of the first signs of infection. As time goes on, foliage becomes yellowed and growth is stunted. Symptoms are worse during daylight with the plant seeming to recover over night. Some plants die while others produce few flowers or fruit.



The best ways to prevent the disease is by rotating crops and sterilization. Pots should be washed in a 10% bleach solution. Beds can be "solarized" by spreading black plastic over the area in full sun for a month effectively cooking the fungus. If contamination is suspected, wash tools and shoes, remove and burn old plant debris, and definitely do not compost. Water at soil level to avoid splashing leaves.

Fungicides can be used as a root or bulb soak. Remove old soil and place in a bucket of fresh water with the appropriate amount of fungicide. In addition to crop rotation and sanitary practices, buy resistant varieties with "F" and "V" on the plant tag.

**Blossom End Rot** indicated by dark brown or black spots that enlarge as the fruit rots. It is an indication of a lack of calcium during fruit set. This could be because of too much available nitrogen, uneven watering. Remove affected fruit and provide regular, deep watering.



**Anthracnose** small, round, sunken spots appear on the fruit. The spots will increase in size and darken in the center. This is often caused by the fungus being splashed onto the leaves from the soil. It can also take hold on Early Blight spots or dying leaf. Wet weather promotes the disease. Overripe tomatoes that come in contact with wet soil are especially susceptible. Copper sprays offer some resistance. Remove the lower 12 inches of leaves to avoid contact with the soil. Again and with the other diseases, water at the plant's base only.



## Climate-Smart Gardening

Here are 6 simple tips gardeners can follow to help fight for a healthier future for our planet:

1. **Lay Off Synthetic Fertilizers** - Chemical runoff will work its way into waterways disrupting natural ecosystems. It takes 4-6 tons of carbon emitted into the atmosphere to produce a ton of nitrogen fertilizer.

Compost, manure and worm castings provide both macro and micro-nutrients. Also consider sheet composting (lasagna gardening) where alternating layers of carbon and nitrogen materials are placed directly on the soil and break down over time resulting in more productive soil.

2. **Plant Trees and Perennials** - Their size and longevity ensure more CO2 is removed from the air and sequestered underground. They require much less attention than annuals and their root systems prevent water and wind erosion. Placed strategically, they provide shade in summer and wind protection in winter reducing utility bills and weather damage to homes.

3. **Stop Wasting Water** - Warmer temps will mean increased evaporation resulting in some areas drying out while others will experience increased precipitation. It is estimated that watering lawns and gardens represents 30% of residential water, 50% of which is lost to runoff and evaporation. This is a real problem for many cities already experiencing severe water shortages.

For small and medium sized gardens, hand water at the plant base or consider drip irrigation. Watering less will result in deeper root growth. Also consider establishing a rain barrel. And stop watering the lawn - it will green-up when the rains eventually arrive.

4. **Focus on Soil Health** - Arid conditions will kill off beneficial micro-organisms, and heavy rains will wash away nutrients. Adding compost and growing cover crops will add organic matter to the soil and help mitigate these conditions.

5. **Low- or No-Till Approach** - By not disturbing the soil, gardeners will maintain micro-organisms and build organic matter otherwise lost to wind and water erosion. Organic levels increase through reduced tillage as does organic carbon thus reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers.

6. **Use Hand Tools When Able** - Few of us want to go back to the old push lawn mower but there are hand garden tools that do a great job. A 'broadfork' consists of 5-6 8inch tines on a crossbar connected to 2 handles reaching to chest level. The tool will lightly aerate soil preserving soil structure and beneficial organisms.



# The Germinator

May 2018

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

## DICK ADGATE FLORIST

4257 Market St  
Youngstown, Oh 44512  
330-788-5054

## JOE ALESSI

MGCY Member

## ARTIST AT WORK

337 Elm St  
Struthers, OH  
330-755-4922  
aawfriends@yahoo.com

## BAIRD BROTHERS

7060 Crory Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-3122  
info@bairdbrothers.com

## PAM BAYTOS

330-547-2126  
levi05@zoominternet.net

## BERNARD DANIELS LUMBER

260 Railroad St  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-2211

## ANTHONY BILLET

188 Palestine Ave  
Youngstown, Oh 44512  
330-758-8225

## BLUESTONE PERENNIALS

7211 Middle Ridge Rd  
Madison, Oh 44057  
800-852-5243  
www.bluestoneperennials.com

## BRENT AND BECKY'S BULBS

7900 Daffodil Lane  
Gloucester, Va 23061  
877-661-2852  
www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com

## CARRADINE CHIROPRACTIC

8286 South Ave, Bldg B  
Youngstown, Oh 44512  
330-758-4446  
www.carradinechiropractic.com

## CHARLY'S RESTAURANT

4455 Kirk Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44515  
330-799-5569

## COLONIAL GARDENS

1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Road SE  
Vienna, OH 44473  
http://www.colonialgardensohio.com

## CONIFER KINGDOM

PO Box 1581  
6450 Branch Creek Dr, NE  
Silverton, Or 97381  
503-874-4123  
www.coniferkingdom.com

## CROUSE TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

1178 Market St  
North Lima, Oh 44452  
330-549-2144

## DAVIDSON'S RESTAURANT

3636 Canfield Road  
Canfield (Cornersburg), OH 44406  
330-793-0033

## DJ'S GREENHOUSE

1004 East Lake Rd  
Transfer, Pa 16154  
724-962-1230  
www.djsgreenhouse.com

## DR WILLIAM S. DIORIO

Podiatrist  
Center Road  
Poland OH 44514  
330-757-9444

## EARTH SUN MOON TRADING CO.

111 North Center St  
Grove City, Pa 16127  
888-458-16127  
www.earthsunmoon.com

## EARTHBOX

1350 Von Storch Ave  
Scranton, Pa 18509  
800-821-8838  
www.earthbox.com

## ELLIOT'S GARDEN CENTER

1283 W. Western Reserve Rd  
Poland, Oh 44514  
330-758-8889

## FAMOUS HAIR #91

421 East Main Street  
Canfield, OH 44406  
330-702-0213

## FITNESS TOGETHER

6579 Ironwood Blvd  
Canfield - Howland -  
Poland, Oh 44506  
330-702-1311  
www.ftyoungstown.com

## GARDENING-INDOOR

9215 Market Street  
North Lima, OH 44452  
330-758-0272  
www.gardening-indoors.com

## DEBBIE GONDA, LMT

23 Lisbon Street  
Suite A  
Canfield, OH 44406  
330-402-7303  
buckeyemassage@gmail.com

## GREEN VALLEY SEED

7472 Akron-Canfield Rd, Rte 224  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-4353

## GREIER AG CENTER

9585 Columbiana-Canfield Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-6937

## HANDEL'S ICE CREAM

3830 Starr Centre Dr  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-702-8270  
www.handelsicecream.com

## HANDYMAN HARDWARE & SUPPLY

4351 Kirk Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44511  
330-793-1268

## HOUSE DOCTORS WINDOW & DOOR

998 Tibbetts-Wick Rd  
Girard, Oh 44420  
330-539-0111

## JOHNNY'S RESTAURANT

7807 Market St  
Youngstown, Oh 44512

## KESTER'S KRIAS

MGCY Member  
Pulaski, Pa

## KRIDLER GARDENS

4809 Homeworth Rd  
Homeworth, Oh 44634  
330-525-7914  
www.kridler-gardens.com

## LEO'S RISTORANTE

7042 East Market St  
Warren, Oh 44484  
330-856-5291

## LOU'S BEER & WINE CELLAR

2975 Canfield-Niles Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44515  
330-799-2059

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN

123 McKinley Ave  
Youngstown, Oh 44509  
www.mgcy.org

## PARKS GARDEN CENTER

9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-7278

## ROBERT MCGOWAN, LPL FINANCIAL

MGCY Member  
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-2320

## SALVATORE'S ITALIAN GRILL

8720 East Market St  
Warren, Oh 44484  
330-609-7777

## PAUL D. SHANABARGER MGCY Member

## RICHARD STATES MGCY Member

## VERNON'S CAFÉ

720 Youngstown-Warren Rd  
Niles, Oh 44406  
330-652-1381  
www.vernonscafe.com

## VILLAGE PHARMACY / ACE HARDWARE

10395 Main Street  
New Middletown, OH 44442  
(330)-542-2803

## WEDGEWOOD PIZZA

1622 Raccoon Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44515  
330-799-2102

## WHITEHOUSE FRUIT FARMS

9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-4161

## WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Youngstown, Oh 44512  
330-629-2473

## THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE

600 Playhouse Lane  
PO Box 11108  
Youngstown, OH 44511-1108  
(330)-788-8739  
www.theyoungstownplayhouse.com



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

[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



Remember those  
 who served ~  
 All gave some,  
 some gave all.



## calendar of events



- May 2..... General Meeting..... FRG ..... 7:00 pm
- May 9..... Board Meeting ..... APL ..... 6:30 pm
- May 10, 11, 12 ..... Spring Plant Sale..... MASCO Greenhouse... 9-6 pm
- June 6..... Plant Auction-Pot Luck Dinner .. Boardman Park..... 6-7 pm
- June 13 ..... Board Meeting ..... APL ..... 6:30 pm
- June 27-29..... National Convention ..... Fort Wayne..... Fri. - Sat.
- June 29-30..... CGLG Convention ..... Fort Wayne..... Fri. - Sat.
- July 5..... General Meeting..... FRG ..... 7:00 pm
- July 11..... Board Meeting ..... APL ..... 6:30 pm

## 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](http://www.mgcy.org)



## THE MGCY 2018 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Paul Shanabarger  
 pdshanab@aol.com

### 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

### 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Bruce Brungard  
 330-793-1307 • bgbhhi@live.com

### 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  
 Paul Shanabarger • Dan Miller  
 Paul Iden, Photographer