

The Germinator

April 2017



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



President's Message - April

First of all, I would like to congratulate our membership for helping make the 2017 Winter Seminar a resounding success. From set-up to captaining tables to clean up, our members did a wonderful job.

The only thing missing was the presence of Bob Fink, for years our leading recruiter of sponsors and a great supporter of the seminar. *We miss you, buddy.*



Spring has sprung, and it's an exciting and busy time for gardeners including members of our club. There is a multitude of horticulture-related information available including presentations that offer both learning experiences and a source of ideas for improving our landscapes and veggie beds, and growing plants for our Plant Auction Dinner in July and our Horticulture Show in August.

Here are a few items for your consideration:

Woodland Wonders From The Wild - April 2, Fellows Riverside Gardens. Join Barry Glick for an entertaining and educational look at some of the plants, including woodland wildflowers that we usually overlook on hikes.

Arbor Day, April 28.

Fall Hosta Forum, Sept. 15-16, in Edinboro, PA. Among featured speakers is Paul Zammit, one of the most knowledgeable and entertaining horticulture speakers you will ever see. For details contact Karen Schmidt, karensmg@aol.com or Google [Fall Hosta Forum](#).

Bruce Brungard recommends this eco-friendly herbicide: Gently stir a gallon of vinegar, a cup of Epsom salts, and an ounce Dawn dishwashing liquid in a bucket to dissolve the salt. Add to a spray bottle and be careful not to mist valued plants. The *Vindicator* has a 'Valley Grows' section in every Thursday edition and, in the March 16 issue; an OSU Master Gardener did an article on herbicidal vinegar. I didn't know such a product existed and am not sure what type of household vinegar is best.

Thanks,
Dennis

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL CONVENTION
July 19 - 21 (Optional Tours July 22), Cleveland, OH
 Join National President John Schinker and other MGCY members who have helped organize 'The Garden Scene in 2017'. See page 4..

Annual MGCY Spring Plant Sale

9am - 6pm, Thursday thru Saturday, May 11-13
MASCO Greenhouse, South Ave. Ext. at Bev Rd.
Stunning array of garden & landscape annuals at great prices!
Support your club by working before and during the sale.



Membership Meeting
7pm, Wednesday, Apr. 5
Fellows Riverside Gardens
Speaker: Cassie Nespor
 Subject: **Past Medical Quackery**
 - Guests Welcome -

Board Meeting
6:30pm, Wednesday, Apr. 12
 Austintown Public Library
 South Raccoon Rd.
 -All Members Welcome-

MetroParks Events

Senior Golf League Signup	1
Book: <i>End of Country</i>	2
Bald Eagle Watch	2
Woodland Wonders	2
<i>It's Ephemeral!</i> - Spring Breeding	
Amphibians	2
Dance Classes	4,11,18,25
Garden Guide Training	6,7
Daffodil Weekend	7,8
Farm Animal Baby Shower	9
North American Owls	9
Wildlife Photo Workshop	9
Birding the Sanctuary	15
Traveling Naturalist	15
Easter Brunch	16
Earth Day Meditation Retreat	22
Botanical Mornings	28
Plant a Seed to Read Festival	29
Spring Trolley Ride	29

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In This Issue

President's Message	1
Club News	2
Gardening For Birds.....	2
2017 Winter Seminar	3
Playboy Centerfold.....	Insert
National Convention Details	4
Sponsors.....	5
Club Calendar	6
Club Officers	6



Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

84 Members • 2 Associates

New Members

Robert Tillman, 1890 N. Fox North Rd. Hubbard, OH, 44425, 330-984-2904, yankeerunner@aol.com. Robert is retired, and his gardening interests include fruits, vegetables and flowers. Sponsor: Rodney Toth.

Gerald Peskin, 2012 Crestwood, Youngstown, OH, 44505, peskin_signs@sbcglobal.net, 330-759-1180, 330-565-4721. Gerald is retired. His gardening interests include vegetable gardening and orchids. He also enjoys golf and traveling. Sponsor: Paul Shanabarger.

Welcome aboard, gentlemen

Home & Garden Show

Our club will again have an information booth at the Canfield Fairgrounds Home and Garden show to be held April 7-9. Publicity Chairman Bruce Brungard will have a sign-up sheet at the April membership meeting, or contact him at bgbhhi@live.com, or call 330-793-1307. Sign up early to get a slot that coincides with your schedule. Bruce will also need help with setup.

Greenhouse Needs Volunteers

While the only things being planted this early are salad veggies, and indoor and cold frame seeding, there is a lot going on at the Bev Rd. greenhouse. In preparation for our Spring Plant Sale, May 11-13, members are now filling flats with annual sprouts and watering daily. Greenhouse and Plant Sale Chairman John Schinker is asking for volunteers. It is every member's duty to participate where able to ensure our club's primary public service funding source is a success.

Gardening For Birds

With the increased frenzy around our feeders due to returning feathered friends, March membership meeting attendees enjoyed a timely presentation by Mandy Smith, Mill Creek MetroParks Education Manager and former Education Coordinator of the Pickering Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Easton, MD.

The primary reason for bird species decline is loss of habitat, and it is important for us to mimic natural food and shelter sources. Native plants (Dogwood, berries, sunflower, zinnia, cosmos, Echinacea, etc.) provide food and seed heads should be left intact during winter.

Shelter includes tree cavities, brush piles and nesting boxes. Make resources as natural as possible including small water containers at ground level in lieu of tall bird baths. Clean, fresh water should be provided daily.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Eagle Scout Project Funded

Poland, OH Life Scout Josh Porter is pursuing his Eagle Scout ranking by building 20 "fast plant" seed growing kits for STEM middle school science classes that would teach horticulture basics to 700 students over a year's time. He is receiving guidance and support from the OSU Extension Office in Canfield.

Josh estimates the project will cost \$2,500, and our club was among several Mahoning Valley organizations from which he has solicited funds. He admits response has been slow. At our Board of Gardeners March meeting, we agreed to donate \$1,250 toward the project's seed-growing packages and grow-light assemblies.



Raised Bed Project For City Schools

A presentation by Youngstown City Schools' Director of Strategic Initiatives and club member Pat Lowry will solicit member interest in helping with building raised vegetable beds at each city school. The produce grown will supplement cafeteria purchases and teach city youth gardening skills.

Tools, materials, soil and staff supervision will be donated by the Board of Education. Bed building events will take place at Choffin Vocational School at 5pm on April 12 and April 29.

As we understand the project, members will be asked to help build the beds, and mentor students on proper planting and watering techniques. It is the intent of Superintendent Krish Mohip that education be a year-round endeavor. At present, a quarter of the system's students stay until 7pm with three meals provided.

OSU Extension April Seminars

Reptiles & Amphibians of NE Ohio - 6:30-8:30pm, April 11, Canfield Fairgrounds. Call to reserve. Free.

Perennial School - 6:30-8:30pm, April 18, Canfield Fairgrounds. Call to reserve. \$20.

How to Grow Great Veggies - 6-9pm, April 25, Canfield Fairgrounds. Call to reserve. \$20.

mahoning.osu.edu - 330-533-5538

What Rabbits Can Teach Us

We all know carrots improve the animal's night vision, but they are also responsible for the hare's legendary reproductive abilities. A Cornell University study found that a daily cup of carrot greens will improve eyesight *and* cure most erectile dysfunction.



2017 MGCY Winter Seminar

An early morning snow storm caused several guests to be either late for last year's seminar or to miss it altogether. If anyone missed this year's event it was probably because they'd rather spend the day enjoying the sunny, mid-60's weather. Poor choice. There will be many such days this year while this year's seminar was



one to remember. And there was plenty of chances to enjoy the wonderful weather during breaks.

In actuality, no prepaid attendee missed the event which was sold out well before the deadline. The crowd enjoyed a continental breakfast and, upon taking their



seats, they were revved up by our high energy Master of Ceremonies Rodney Toth. Nobody does it better.

For several years now, Saratoga Restaurant of Warren has catered the delicious buffet lunch. Afterwards, attendees had a chance to take in Fellows Riverside Gardens' *Jewels of Winter* orchid display.



While intended to bring a touch of the tropics during the usually cold, dreary days of winter, these beautiful, exotic plants on display were a welcome diversion no matter the weather outside. Nature lovers also had a chance to shop Fellows' Antonucci Library for some

excellent bargains on used books and magazines on everything from roses to birds, and edible wild plants to



children's story books.

All that's well and good, but what puts derriers in the chairs is an all-star speaker lineup. It started with a man who himself was worth the price of admission.

Paul Zammit is a pint-sized ball of energy with a fall-down hysterical delivery. His two presentations were *'Elements of Great Gardens'* and *'365 Days of Gardening; Eye Candy for Every Season'*. Paul is the Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden, has given presentations and led tours in the U.S., Canada and Europe, and was awarded the Young Professionals recognition by the Perennial Plant Association.



Nancy Drobnick is an herbalist, master gardener and award winning designer of unique gardens. Her *'Dynamic Design Brings a Garden to Life'* presentation focused on the metaphysical and horticultural influences incorporated in Miriam's River House, she and her husband's showcase business location in Bentleyville, OH.



Jerry Fritz is president of Jerry Fritz Garden Design and Linden Hill Gardens in Ottsville, Pa. He holds a BS in Ornamental Horticulture and is a member of numerous professional organizations including the Perennial Plant Assn. His presentation was titled *'Cutting-Edge Plants for the Landscape'*.



From scheduling to publicity to set-up to captaining tables, our membership participation in this event was outstanding. But if we are to give credit to one person for the seminar's success, it would be Bob McGowan. He lined up sponsors, organized guest's printed packets, and ferried speakers to and from the airport. Dan Miller was also a big help. *Thanks to all.*

**TGOA/MGCA National Convention, July 18 - 21**

**Hosted by Gardeners of Greater Cleveland,
Gardeners of Greater Akron & Mens Garden Club of Youngstown**

Where: Cleveland Airport Marriot (CAM), 4277 W. 150th St., Cleveland, 44135, 216-252-5333. Hotel is newly refurbished with large meeting space, bar and restaurant. Close to 'Kamm's Corners' restaurants and shops. 2016 Republican National Convention held at CAM. Rooms are \$94/night (well below government rate) for whole stay. Each room has Wi-Fi. There will also be a hospitality room. Underground parking for hotel guests & free parking for attendees.

Registration: Tuesday at CAM front desk & Wednesday by Great Lakes Ballroom (1st floor). You will receive a list of local restaurants, shops and area map.

Meals: In order to keep the cost of the convention down, attendees are on their own for breakfast. Lunch & Dinner will be provided. CAM has an excellent restaurant. There is a Denny's next door, and several other fast food restaurants 5 minutes away. Ask CAM desk about full service restaurants nearby. A coffee maker and mini-fridge is in each room.

Other Cleveland Attractions: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Indians play Blue Jays Friday & Saturday, and shopping at nearby Crocker Park.

Price: If application & payment made: by Mar. 1 - \$240; by June 1 - \$260; afterward - \$290. Cancel: \$50 after June 1. Price by the day: Wed., July 19 - \$85; Thur., July 20 - \$90 + \$11 w/o AHS card; Sat., July 21, \$120.

Schedule of Events:

Tuesday, July 18: Executive Board Meeting in president's suite. Registration in lobby by front desk.

Wednesday, July 19: Morning - National Directors and E & I meetings. Tours of CAM Kitchen and Hotel Culinary Garden. There will be a horticulture show with a limited number of entries per person due to limited space.

Noon - Lunch in Great Lakes Ballroom hosted by Pres. John Schinker and Past Pres. Tom Davis. Door prizes.

Afternoon - First & Second Seminar sets. Sign up early to get choice. Seating limited.

Thursday, July 20: Tour Day! University Circle including Cleveland Botanical Garden (save \$11 with American Horticultural Society or reciprocal membership card with your registration), and Rockefeller Greenhouse. Also Lakeview Cemetery for memorial service, graves of famous people, and outstanding horticulture and arboriculture collections. Also Eton Square for horticulture displays, shopping & snacks. Then dinner and door prizes at hotel.

Friday, July 21: Morning - Seminars. General membership meeting followed by lunch & door prizes. Afternoon - Seminars. Central Great Lakes Region meeting. Evening - President's Reception Dinner w/cash bar. Awards, installation of officers and after dinner speaker.

Saturday, July 22: Tours for CGLR members (different from Thursday tour). Limited bus seating so sign up early.

Seminars

Horticulture Show Basics - Peggy Moody - Wed., 1pm - 2:15pm & 2:30pm - 3:45pm. Want to be a show judge or learn how to best present show entries? Peggy is a master level judge & chairs a flower show school.

Gardening & Garden Center Trends - Jeff Griff - Wed. 1pm - 2:15pm & 2:30 - 3:45pm. Jeff is president of a large greenhouse, landscape, florist and garden center.

Hydrangeas - Eric Barrett - Wed., 1pm - 2:15pm & 2:30 - 3:45pm. Since transferring to the Mahoning County OSU Extension a few years ago, Eric has shown a wide range of horticulture knowledge & expertly imparts it in lectures.

Plant Nutrition & Lighting - Fri., Mark Occhionero - 10:45am - 11:45am. Mark is pres./owner of Top Garden Products and can show how to grow indoors using hydroponics and the right lighting.

What's In A Name - Fri., Ellen Speicher - 10:45am - 11:45am & 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Ellen is the former Fellows Riverside Gardens asst. horticulture director & director of its Master Gardener program.

Dragonflies - Judy Semroc - Fri., 10:45am - 11:45am & 2:30pm - 3:30pm. Co-author of a book on N.E Ohio dragonflies & damselflies, Judy is a featured speaker at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Photography - Richard States - Fri., 1:30pm - 2:30pm & 2:30pm - 3:30pm. Want to take horticulture pics suitable for framing? Learn from Photo Competition Sweepstakes winner many years running.

Pollinators - Denise Elsworth - Fri., 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Denise is Director of the Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Education Program, Ohio State University.



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Thank you to the MGCY Friends for their Civic Fund donations.

Members are urged to give them a visit.

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www.mgcy.org



Easter Sunday - April 16, 2017

calendar of events



April 5	General Meeting	FRG.....	7:00 pm
April 7-9.....	Home and Garden Show.....	Canfield Fair Grounds.....	10 am - 5 pm
TBA	CGLRG Meeting.....	Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield, OH.....	10 am
April 12	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
April 21	CGLR Meeting	Cleveland Airport, Marriot	TBA
May 3.....	General Meeting	FRG.....	7:00 pm
May 10.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
May 11 - 13.....	Spring Plant Sale	MASCO Greenhouse.....	9 am - 6 pm
June 7.....	General Meeting Plant Auct..	Casserole or Pot Luck Dinner Bdmn Pk.....	6/7 pm
June 14	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
July 5.....	General Meeting	FRG.....	7:00 pm
July 12.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
Aug 2	General Meeting	FRG.....	7:00 pm
Aug 9	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
Aug 24.....	Scrappers Outing	Eastwood Field.....	TBA
Aug 26 - 27	Horticulture Show		
Aug. 30-Sept. 4.....	Canfield Fair.....	Canfield Fairgrounds	9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sept 6.....	General Meeting	FRG.....	7:00 pm
Sept 13.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm

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