



The Germinator



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

President's Message - December

'Tis the season to be joyful and merry!

This will be my last president's message and I would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year. My hope is that you will continue to support the new president as well. At the last meeting, we held elections for officers, and the new president will be Paul Shanbarger.

The first vice-president position is still vacant if anyone is interested. I would love to see all of the positions get filled. The 2nd vice president is Bruce Brumgard, Bob McGowan is treasurer, our recording secretary is Joe Fagnano, and corresponding secretary is Michael Banks.

The Christmas party has been set for December 13th at 6 pm. The price will be \$20 per person, which will be held at Al A Carte Catering in Canfield. Cocktails will begin at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Following dinner and some great musical entertainment, we will have our installation of officers.

I would like to wish everyone a safe a happy holiday.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting!

Thanks,
Dennis Zap

No Membership Meeting
Board Meeting
6:30pm, Wednesday, Dec. 6
Austintown Library
(All Members Welcome)

MetroParks December Events

Winter Celebration Toyland	2,3,5-10, 12-17,19-24, 26-31
Winter Celebration Nights	2,9,16,23,30
Mill Creek Photo Clique	2
Holiday Camp	3,10,17
Boxwood Tree	5
METROMUTTS Jingle Bells Hike	9
12 Days Christmas Sale	10, 12-21
Remembering Volney Rogers	12
Christmas Bird Count: Coffee & Hikes	16
Nature Photo Exhibit	19-24,26-Jan.

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MGCY President's Reception Dinner Club Awards, Entertainment & Good Company

6:00pm, Wednesday, December 13

A La Carte Catering, 429 Lisbon Rd., Canfield, OH

Entrees: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Stuffed Pork Chop

Also on Menu: Twice Baked Potato, Spinach Salad, Asparagus,
Cheesecake and Adult Beverage

Price: \$20 per person. Send check payable to MGCY to Bob McGowan, PO Box 724, Canfield, OH 44406 Deadline: Dec. 6



Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

Elder Justice Initiative

In a departure from the horticulture and nature based subjects usually addressed at our membership meetings, our November speaker discussed the growing minefield seniors face from scammers, insurance and investment options, and other complications of modern-day life.

Sylvia Pla-Raith is director of the Elder Justice Unit, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's staff's effort to:

Identify, investigate and prosecute elder abuse cases.

Improve services to senior citizens.

Raise awareness of warning signs of abuse, and

Build local capacity to protect older adults.

Projections for 2020 show Mahoning and Trumbull Counties having a 60+ population of 30-35%, and that is expected to grow to 35-50% by 2040. As all aspects of life, both legal and illegal, become increasingly sophisticated, there is a significant need to protect senior citizens - many of whom are members of our garden club. The Ohio Attorney General's website offers a great deal of valuable information for seniors and their relatives and caretakers.

Among the services designed to meet the needs of seniors are programs targeting elder abuse, information on filing complaints against nonprofits and for profit entities, Medicaid fraud, patient abuse and neglect, and elder fraud. During Sylvia's presentation and in the questions from her audience, fraud in general seemed to be on everyone's mind.

Scammers use a variety of tactics to make their offers seem legitimate. Their initial contact usually occurs by telephone, mail, e-mail, phony websites, and door-to-door solicitation. They often try to convince consumers to send them money or give personal information such as bank account or Social Security numbers. Common signs of a scam are:

You're contacted by phone or in person by someone representing a government agency or utility about owing money.

You've won a contest.

You're pressured to "act now".

Large down payment is required.

Company refuses to provide written information.

Company has no physical address, only P.O. box.

Insist on cash or money order payment.



Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Common Scams Affecting Seniors

Identity Theft - Using personal information (Social Security number, credit card number, bank account number, etc.) to make purchases fraudulently. Never provide this information to anyone you don't know and personally trust.

Other scams involve: Advanced Fee Loans, Credit Repair, Fake Checks, Foreclosure Rescue, Home Improvement Fraud, Living Trusts, Prizes/Sweepstakes Fraud, Predatory Lending, Phony Charities, Investment Fraud, Reverse Mortgage Abuse and Sale of Annuities.

Protect yourself by staying informed. Research Businesses and Charities through the Better Business Bureau and Ohio Secretary of State. Read the fine print. Know your rights (For example: Stores must post return policy; ads must include a sale's exclusions and limitations); paying to receive a prize is illegal in Ohio.

Report Fraud - If you have notified the company in writing of a consumer complaint and receive no resolution, file a complaint with the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

For more information on who to contact, go to ohioattorneygeneral.gov.seniors.elderabuse.

Club Holiday Tree at Fellows

A tree is waiting to be adorned and adored so join us at 5pm, Tuesday, November 28, to help decorate our club's Christmas tree at the Davis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens. If you can bring some dried flowers, plants or any preserved item from your garden, landscape beds or natural world, please do so. One member brings a hornet's nest the size of a basketball.

Our tree will be among dozens non-profit and civic organizations decorate for the annual holiday festival at Fellows. This year the title and theme is *Winter Celebration: Toyland*. You can show young relatives the toys of your youth. There are giant game pieces, ten-foot toy soldiers and more. Go to millcreekmetroparks.org for the schedule. Tree info: Joe Fagnano, 330-559-5295, or jlfagnano@hotmail.com.



New Horticulture Judges

What would be the point of having a flower show if you don't have someone knowledgeable and unbiased to choose between the entries? Show judges play an important role in the gardening world and we're happy to announce Terry and Robert Voland, Paul Shanabarger, Tom Arens and Tom Liggett have begun learning the ropes and subtle nuances of this very important function.



Ten Awesome Plants for Autumn

Although our bi-annual Pancake Breakfast speaker has been Fellows' Riverside Gardens' Assistant Garden Supervisor for less than a year, Rob Chizmar brings a great deal of experience to his new job. An alumnus of Kent State University where he worked at the Drain Estate Gardens, and at Lake Metro Parks in Cleveland, he displayed a great deal of horticulture acumen while discussing native plants, their cultivars and how they brighten fall landscapes. You might not be able to find these plants now, but look for them in the spring.



Low Scape Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) - This smallish shrub (1-2ft. high x 1 1/2-2ft. wide) sports glossy green foliage and pink flowers in spring turning to red/orange with black fruit in autumn. Needing part to



full sun, it is draught resistant. It requires aggressive pruning after the first year to ensure density.

Eastern Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) - This small shrub (1-2ft. x 1-2ft) has fruit clusters topped by an umbrella in spring with foliage changing to orange/red foliage in the fall.



Dwarf Witch Alder (*Fothergilla gardenii*) - A mid-sized shrub (2-3ft x 2-3ft) having misty blue foliage with honey-scented flowers in spring, white bottlebrush



flowers in summer and yellow/orange/red in autumn. It will grow in almost any soil but needs periodic watering.

Other Plants Discussed

Firepower Nandina - (*Nandina domestica*)

Seven-Son Flower - (*Heptacodium microioides*)

Japanese Beautyberry - (*Callicarpa japonica*)
poutrqaArp]

Black Lace Elderberry - (*Sambucus nigra*)
Fall Blooming Crocus - (*Crocus sativus*)

GM Moth Experiment

The diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostela*) is an invasive, insecticide-resistant crop pest originally



from Europe. Its caterpillar form attacks cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and other *Brassica* plant species in the Americas, Southeast Asia and Australia.

After completing lab and cage trials at Cornell University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has okayed a small, open-air trial that will release 10 to 30,000 of these moths weekly onto a 10 acre *Brassica* field. The males have been genetically modified to carry a gene that kills female offspring before they mature. Fewer females available for mating should result in an overall population decrease.

This GM moth strain comes from Oxitec, the same + firm behind a plan to release GM mosquitoes with the lethality gene in Florida, and pink bollworm moths that threaten cotton fields. Several agriculture and environmental groups oppose these trials.

What can go wrong? Film buffs will remember a line from the movie, *Jurassic Park*, "Nature will find a way." Finding a way to do what is the \$64 question. There are many examples of invasive species being introduced to solve a problem that ultimately resulted in a much bigger problem.

Landscaping with Cranberries

While many gardeners would like to grow their own cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, some would like to have the best of both worlds by also using the plant as a ground cover. Pinkish flowers appear in spring followed by larger red-skinned fruit. The dark green leaves turn bronze or red leaves in winter. Cranberries prefer cool, moist, humus-rich soil in full sun, and do poorly in hot, dry sites.

'Hamilton', a sparsely fruiting dwarf cultivar, has thick foliage that turns bright red in the fall. It is a good choice for a rock garden, trough, or patio or path edge.

The Germinator

Thoughts of Christmas

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Roy L. Smith

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Norman Vincent Peale

Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money.

Anonymous (Anon)

Love the giver more than the gift.

Brigham Young

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; it makes no noise but softly gives itself away.

Eva Logue

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love that transformed all manner of hearts for two thousand years.

George Matthew Adams

Pictured here is

Leonard da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi' (Savior of the World) that recently sold for a record \$450 million.



Remember while December brings the only Christmas day, In the year let there be Christmas in the things you do and say.

Anon

The earth has grown old with its burden of care, But at Christmas it always is young.

The heart of the jewel bursts lustrous and fair,

And its soul full of music break the air when the song of angels is sung.

Phillips Brooks

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to every child, a good example; to yourself, respect.

Oren Arnold

Next to a circus, there ain't nothing that packs up and tears out faster than the Christmas Spirit.

Frank McKinney Hubbard

Even before Christmas has said 'hello', it's saying 'buy, buy, buy'.

Robert Paul

I heard the bells on Christmas Day,

Their old, familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet,

The world repeat,

Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (*Christmas Bells*)

Confessions of a 'Seenager'

I just discovered my age group. I'm a 'seenager' (Senior Teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager - only 50 years later.

I don't have to go to school.

I get a monthly allowance.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into any place I want, and allows me to purchase goods and services at a discount.

The people I hang around with aren't scared of getting pregnant. Actually, they aren't scared of anything. They've been blessed to live this long.

I don't have acne.

The brains of us 'seenagers' are slow because they hold so much information which takes longer to process.

Scientists believe this is why we become hard of hearing - too much pressure on the inner ear.

Also, I often go to into a room and forget the purpose of doing so. It's NOT a memory problem, just nature's way of me getting more exercise.

And when I commit an occasional social faux pas like former President George H. W. Bush grabbing a handful, people laugh it off as merely a geezer moment.

SO THERE!!!

I have more friends I should send this to but, right now, I can't remember their names.

So, please forward this to your friends - they may be my friends too.

Submitted by a club member whose brain is so full, he often expels **Facts And Reasoned ThoughtS** from an otherwise nonverbal orifice.



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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



Happy New Year's Eve! - Sunday, December 31, 2017

calendar of events



Dec 6Board MeetingAustintown Public Library.....6:30 pm
Dec 13Christmas Dinner.....A La Cart in Canfield, Ohio.....6:00 pm

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



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