



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 - May

This year is really flying by! It is June already!

I would like to thank everyone who donated their time for helping out at the greenhouse to assist in the watering and planting of the flowers as well as everyone who helped out and attended the plant sale over Mother's Day weekend. I thought we had a great turn-out, even if the weather didn't completely cooperate. We sold quite a few flowers and did fairly well for the club, especially with the competing plant sales in the area.

Coming up in June, we will have our Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner and our plant sale. Please plan to bring a side dish and some plants that you don't want or are willing to share with others. In the past years, the dinner is a nice time to relax and socialize with one another and just have fun. There is no speaker for the event.

I look forward to seeing you all there and hope all of you have a chance to get out and enjoy the warmer weather!

Thanks,
Dennis

Membership Meeting

5:30pm, Wednesday, June 3

Boardman Park

Plant Auction - Pot Luck Dinner

- Guests Welcome -

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, May 10

Austintown Public Library

South Raccoon Rd.

-All Members Welcome-

MetroParks Events

Ikebana Floral Arranging	3,4
Cohasset Nostalgia Tour.....	6
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Par 3 Senior Clinic.....	8
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Family Fun Fridays.....	9,16,23,30
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Wetland Walkabout.....	11
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Golf Shop Sale.....	18
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Live At The Morley.....	21
Botanical Mornings.....	23
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Tractor-Wagon Rides	25
Yellow Creek Concert Series	29
4th of July Golf Sale.....	30

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 19 - 21 (Optional Tours July 22) , Cleveland, OH

Join National President John Schinker and other MGCA members who have helped organize 'The Garden Scene in 2017'.

See April Issue, Page 4, for convention details

Annual Plant Auction - Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, June 7 - Open 5:30pm/Eat at 6pm

Come join the fun at one of our club's most enjoyable yearly activities.

Great food and lots of interesting plants at low prices.

Bring entree/dessert, plates, flatware and plants, plants, plants.



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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

Regional Horticulture Award

During the Central Great Lakes Region Spring meeting, our own Terry Voland was awarded its prestigious Horticulture Achievement Award. Terry lent his considerable talents to our club's Elm Tree Restoration, Youth Gardening, and Horticulture Committees for many years. In addition to being an accomplished gardener and orchard grower, he and his wife, Kathy, have three very talented children. He is seen here receiving the recognition from TGOA/MGCA President John Schinker.



Congratulations!

A Peek Into The Future

Our club, like most of its old, flatulent members, has a tendency to look backward when considering the worthiness of its projects and members participation. This is understandable because we've accomplished a lot in our eighty-seven years of existence. But during our May membership meeting, we again became acquainted with a young man who is destined to become a leader in his field.

Christopher Moore will begin his senior year at Ohio State Univ. majoring in Landscape Architecture. He stood on a chair while receiving his third MGCY Scholarship from Committee Chair Bob Schulick. Along with fellow 2017 scholarship recipients Joe Fagnano and Eric Tanner, these young people represent the best in American's youth.



Chris is making the most of his stay at OSU. Last summer he participated in a two month tour of national parks in the Western U.S. and Canada with five other students. They studied various parks' aspects - Chris' specialty was 'trail research' - and their findings will be

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

published in 2018 in a National Parks Service book. He considered Joshua Tree one of the most interesting landscapes due to the changing flora at various altitudes. The group tried to climb Pike's Peak but only two made it do to thin oxygen.

He said that while federal funding for our national parks has diminished over the years, local governments and public and private organizations have taken up the slack. Some members in the audience remarked on how the purchase of a Senior National Parks Pass has saved them a lot of money over the years.

This summer he will tour and study the iconic botanical gardens England, France and the Netherlands, and will have an apprenticeship at a botanical garden in Germany. During his senior year, Chris will continue as a research assistant in a study developing plants that will remove nitrogen, phosphates and silt from drainage ditches. He will also be involved in a sustainable food growing study at a solar house on the OSU campus.

We look forward to following Chris's post-college career - it's bound to be filled with interesting accomplishments and success.

The 'Blessings' Of Ethanol

Like all conscientious homeowners, you've shown due diligence in winterizing your yard and garden equipment. Stabilizer was added to the gasoline and the engines run dry. Yet, when you tried to start them this spring with fresh gas, one or more of them refused to start. What you have is a gummed-up carburetor and clogged exhaust ports.

Many small engine mechanics refuse to work on them and, those who do, install a new carburetor rather than do a rebuild. If there is any good news attached to this common scenario it's that carbs are relatively inexpensive and, with patience, easy to install. Small comfort for an unnecessary problem. Go to pure-gas.org to find stations selling ethanol-free high test gasoline.

As we all know the culprit is ethanol, that miracle biofuel made primarily from corn that was intended to address two pressing problems: A diminishing world supply of crude petroleum and climate change. Fracking and advanced oil deposit location technologies have addressed the first and, no matter your views on global warming, the amount of energy (coal or natural gas) required to refine ethanol far surpasses that of gasoline.

Government mandates have resulted in huge amounts of farm land that could be used for other crops to be dedicated to raising corn. The cost to consumers: Higher food prices; car engine performance and mileage reduced; and billions in taxes going to subsidize corn agriculture (Monsanto) and refineries.



2017 MGCY SPRING PLANT SALE

Another Spring Plant Sale has come and gone, and Greenhouse/Plant Sale Chairman John Schinker and all members who took part should be proud of the results. Some transplanted plugs into trays, others were on the daily watering committee, and a goodly number showed up to assist customers and tend the inventory. Despite a



colder-than-normal late April and early May, the MASCO greenhouse was in full bloom when customers began arriving on the first day of the sale.

As he does every year, John tweaked the inventory based on previous years' demands. Wave Petunias have long been one of our most consistent sellers and this year customers had a choice of 19 varieties. There were also



Red Pepper Stuffers, a tomato with a hollow interior that can be stuffed. There may be some available along with other sale leftovers at our Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner on June 7th at Boardman Park.

Perhaps we are coining a new addition to the free enterprise lexicon when we say, "Lessons learned are profits earned". New or not, it certainly applies to the number of hanging baskets available at the sale. As most know, our club has a working agreement with Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson where we combine supply orders to get larger purchase discounts. In addition, Chuck's prepares our baskets. Last year John ordered 150, they sold out quickly and he had to buy more at a

much higher price. This year he bought over 200 and that seemed to satisfy demand.

For the first time, Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia*) shrubs were available. While they are easily propagated, grow fast and require little attention except for hydration, they must be brought inside during colder months. If you bought one, ask John or Rodney Toth about the care and feeding of this beautiful plant.



Besides John, the one person who contributed the most toward the Sale's success was Bruce Brungard. Over the late winter/early spring months, he tended the bedding plants at the Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse intended for the big order we received from the Youngstown Country Club. Geraniums started from cuttings were also early residents at Kirtz. Bruce also periodically manicured the hanging baskets. We'd also like to thank Lynn Zocolo who tended the cash register thus freeing John to spread his expertise around.



To say everything went like clockwork would be a bit of a fib. The tomato plants were started a bit too early; though definitely healthy they were too big for that time of year. One member relayed info regarding planting tomatoes in trenches. He said the trick was to lay the plant on its side for a few days so that the top portion begins bending up toward sunlight. This makes it easier to stake that portion without snapping the stem.

Even the most successful Sale will leave some plants unsold, but these will not be orphans for long. MASCO clients who will receive one at the Annual Pizza Party we host. Some will decorate the War and Police monuments in downtown Youngstown and Smokey Hollow. Others will beautify beds at Akron Children's Hospital, Paul C. Bunn School and MASCO. And, may we hope, a few could show up at the Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner.



Spotted Wing Drosophila

Drosophila suzukii or the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) is one of the latest Asian invaders laying waste to native flora. First found in California in 2008, it is now devastating rasp-, black-, and blueberries in the West, far North and most states East of the Mississippi. Strawberries, grapes and stone fruits may also prove susceptible.

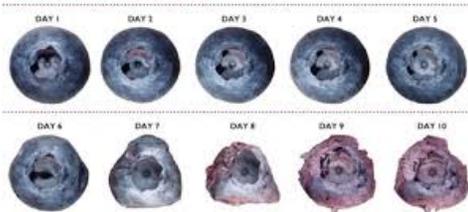
The adult fly is small, only 1/12 - 1/8 inch long. Males have clear wings with dark spots while females have no such wing markings. The larva are white with a cylindrical body that tapers at one end. With a life cycle of only 7 to 10 days, 10 to 12 generations can occur



during a growing season. While feeding symptoms may not appear until after harvesting, it can make the fruit susceptible to other insects, rot fungi and bacteria.

The best monitoring method is setting traps between fruit setting and harvest. Drill 3/16 to 3/8 inch holes in the upper portion of a 32 oz. lidded plastic cup filled with apple cider vinegar and a drop on unscented dishwashing liquid. A yellow sticky card available at some ag stores may aid in identification.

Infected blueberry



Since multiple generations occur during the growing season, sanitation is important in avoiding infestations. Frequently harvest crops to ensure ripening fruit is not available to SWD for an extended time. Remove all old fruit from stems and the ground. Place discarded fruit in sealed plastic bags; do not compost or bury it. If fruit looks intact but infestation is suspected, place it in the refrigerator to stop larvae development. Fruit should be safe to eat as there is no known health risk from SWD.

Exclusion using 80 gram netting or floating row covers can be effective in denying adults access to fruit. Insecticides target adults before they lay eggs and are ineffective against larvae. More than one application will be necessary. Among the insecticides approved for organic use are: Pyrethrin, Spinosyn, Malathion, Permethrin and Esfenvalerate. At most these insecticides have a residual effect of 10 days.

Source: University of Minnesota Extension

Tips From National Gardening Assn.

Summer squash - This easy to grow plant is traditionally grown in hills; 4 to 6 seeds are sown in a one foot circle and thinned to the two healthiest plants. Hills should be 3 to 4 feet apart, but row planting also works. The plants need consistent moisture so mulching is advised. Applications of water soluble fertilizer every few weeks will ensure a long, bountiful harvest. Pick early and often. Leaving a short stem portion attached will ensure longer freshness when refrigerated.

Spotted and striped (black and yellow) cucumber beetles are the biggest problem as they transmit a deadly bacterial wilt when feeding. Row covers will work when the plants are still seedlings but will need to be removed when the plants flower. Kaolin clay will repel the beetles. Some gardeners also use yellow sticky traps - waterproof material painted yellow and coated with sticky material like Tanglefoot.

Powdery mildew is a fungal disease promoted by humid conditions so good air circulation is important. Remove and dispose of (don't compost) infected leaves as soon as they appear. Also dispose of plant debris at the end of the growing season. Among the organic and non-organic fungicides that should be applied as soon as powdery mildew is detected is a 10% milk to water solution.

Squash bugs can also be a problem. Handpick adults and nymphs and put them in soapy water. Insecticides such as pyrethrin as effective. Keep mulch away from the plant base as it provides a base for these bugs to gather.



Ripening & Harvesting Tomatoes - Since 'love apples' ripen from the inside out, skin that is firm and red foretells tasty, ripe fruit within. The red color, however, will not appear when temperatures rise above 86 degrees over an extended period. During such times it is best to pick them when they're pink and place them in an area with no direct sunlight or no light at all. Temps should not exceed 70 degrees.

Still having green fruit when the first frost is predicted is not a time to panic. Simply cover the plants with old sheets as the next frost will probably not occur for another couple of weeks. If a heavy freeze is on the way, pick all the tomatoes that are 3/4 normal size and showing some color as these can be ripened indoors.

Among the methods for ripening green tomatoes are covering them between sheets of newspaper or wrapping them individually, placing them in a dark room and checking them every few days. The newspaper helps trap ethylene, a natural ripening agent.

Sign up for The National Gardening Association monthly newsletter at Garden.org.



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
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Youngstown, OH 44511-1108
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www.theyoungstownplayhouse.com



The Germinator

June 2017



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

www.mgcy.org



Happy FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 18, 2017

garyvarvel.com

calendar of events



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
July 19-21.....	TGOA/MGCA National Conference..... Cleveland Airport Marriott	TBA
July 21.....	CGL Regional Meeting	Cleveland Airport Marriott..... TBA
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	MGCY Horticulture Show	FRG..... TBA
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
Oct 4.....	General Meeting	FRG.....7:00 pm
Oct 11.....	Board Meeting..... Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
TBA	Fall Breakfast	FRG..... 9:00 am
TBA	CGLG Meeting..... Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield, OH.....	10:00 am
Nov 1	General Meeting	FRG.....7:00 pm
Nov 8	Board Meeting..... Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
Dec 6	Board Meeting..... Austintown Public Library	6:30 pm
Dec 13	Christmas Dinner..... A La Cart in Canfield, Ohio	6:00 pm

THE MGCY 2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dennis Zap
zappy4@aol.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Shanabarger
dpshanab@aol.com

2ND 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
Paul Shanabarger • Dan Miller
Joseph Alessi, Jr., Editor Emeritus
mgcygerminator@gmail.com