



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 - September

We have the Scrappers game and the Horticultural Show behind us, and we are looking forward to having our table at the Canfield Fair. I would like to thank everyone who signed up to help man the table at the fair.

We also have the summer picnic behind us and I would like to give a special thanks to our cooks, as the food was delicious! Thank you to Larry Duck who was kind enough to host us at his house.

Pretty soon it will be time to clean out our gardens as we wrap up harvest season. Unfortunately, my garden didn't do so well this year, although there were plenty of beans! I guess there is always next year. Fall is a good time to think about what we want for spring and to plant various bulbs like tulips, so give it some thought.

We will be having officer elections in October, and my term as president of the club will be up. I encourage you to think about volunteering to be an officer, as we can always use new leadership. As the old saying goes, you only get out of something what you put into it.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next meeting.

Thanks,
Dennis

Summer's End

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

Dr. Seuss

By all these lovely tokens September days are here. With summers best of weather and autumn's best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?

John Steinbeck

There is something deep within us that sobs at endings. Why, God, does everything have to end? Why does all nature grow old? Why do spring and summer have to go?

Joe Wheeler

One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter.

Henry David Thoreau



Membership Meeting

7:00pm, Wednesday, Sept. 6

Speaker: Marilyn McKinley

Subject:

OSU Ext. Master Gardeners

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, Sept. 13

Austintown Public Library

South Raccoon Rd.

- All Members Welcome -

MetroParks Events

MetroParks Farm at Fair	1 thru 6
Golf Shop Sale	1 thru 4
Hike w/ Naturalist	3
Relax, Restore & Renew	9, 16, 23, 30
Traveling Naturalist	9
Birding the Sanctuary	16
Garden Forum Show	16, 17
Wildflower Hike	17
Brown Bag Birding	19
Waltz/Swing Dance Classes	19, 26
Botanical Mornings	19, 29
Sunset at the Farm	23
Autumn Welcome	24
Mobility thru Walking	28
Tree/Shrub Landscaping	30
Autumn in the Woods	30

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

82 Members • 2 Associates

Steak Fry & Hort Show Tutorial

If there has ever been a better friend to our club than Larry Duck, we are at a loss to say whom it might be. From enabling our use of the MASCO greenhouse to grow Spring Plant Sale annuals while Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities Director to hosting our annual Steak Fry at his home's beautiful pavilion for several years, Larry has earned our enduring gratitude. To show our appreciation, National President John Schinker gave Mr. and Mrs. Duck two beautiful vases left over from the national conference door prizes.

The Fry's perfect setting was complimented by ideal weather, great food, good company and an opportunity to bone up on presentation subtleties in preparation for our Annual Horticulture Show. Larry's hospitality aside,

Bob McGowan is the club member most responsible of the event's success. Bob



not only grilled the chicken and salmon, but purchased most of the vittles including the steaks Charlie Grounds so expertly grilled. Among those who brought side dishes were Bob, Charlie, Paul Shanabarger and Rodney Toth.



As has become a Steak Fry tradition, Rodney, our resident flower show expert, asked attendees to judge what was good, bad and to rate (1-4) ten plant exhibits

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

he brought. We all learned that foliage represents only 5-10% of an exhibit's show value, so if you have an otherwise beautiful flower with minor insect or disease damage don't be too quick to dismiss it as an exhibit.

Which brings us to the bottom line: Most of us have perennials or annuals growing in our yards that are respectable enough to enter. As the name Men's Garden Club of Youngstown implies, we are an organization whose primary focus is Mother Earth's abundant and diverse flora, so it seems reasonable to ask every member to make an effort that helps ensure the diversity and success of our Annual Horticulture Show.

Takes From National Convention

During the Awards Dinner, TGCA/MGCA President John Schinker was surprised and humbled when his Bill Hull Memorial Cup award was announced. The award recognizes members/amateur gardeners who have performed long-term horticulture service to their community and the national organization, both over a minimum of ten years. Among the specifics cited was his development and profitable operation of the MASCO greenhouse that funds many of our projects and activities.

Also cited: Managing the Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse; establishing the Senior Memorial Garden on Austintown's Javitt Ct.; TGOA, MGCA horticulture judge; three terms as MGCY president and committee participation; Central Great Lakes president and other services to region; TGOA/MGCA office holder including president, national director, and chairman of 2017 national convention. *Congratulations, but they didn't have to tell our club's members. John has been the life's blood of MGCY for many years.*

Bob McGowan was also recognized for years of service to the national with the Silver Medal which is awarded to members who: Directs a productive national committee; officer exhibiting outstanding leadership and active participation in committees; leadership and service that enhances TGOA/MGCA reputation through his accomplishments; and community service by participating in activities that further the national's goals and objectives. Bob has been TGOA/MGCA Executive and Finance committees' member for many years.

CGL Region Needs 2nd V.P.

The Central Great Lakes Region needs someone to step up to assume the responsibilities of Second Vice President. Our club has a history of regional leadership including Bill Carney, Hugh Earnhart, Rodney Toth and John Schinker who went on to hold national office. It would do us proud to again have a club member looking after our interests on the regional level.



TGCA-MGCA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

'The Garden Scene in '17'

The 2017 convention of The Garden Clubs of America/Mens Garden Clubs of America, held at the Airport Marriott in Cleveland, was hosted by the combined efforts of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland, the Gardeners of Greater Akron, and the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown. In addition to committee members John Schinker - Chairman, Bob Bell - Vice Chairman, Tom Davis - Vice Chairman, and members Clark Border, Larry Kell, Les Knight and Sam Morlan, we must thank all those who played a part in making it an event to remember.

The hotel's facilities were excellent for our purposes and the staff was always helpful. The conference was well planned to the last detail and included two firsts: A well stocked hospitality room due to the efforts of Georgia Schinker and Kay Toth; and a horticulture show with 80 exhibits so good that Rodney Toth didn't win any significant recognition. Best in Show went to a 'mouse ear' hosta leaf.



While the Cleveland and Akron clubs admittedly led the way with planning and logistics, we provided a lion's share of door prizes. During most lunches and dinners, our members distributed interesting and useful items like the bird houses Dennis Toth made and displayed at our membership meeting. Each attendee received a doorprize. But MGCY really shined at the Awards Dinner. Everybody got to choose between an award winning photo print provided by Photography Contest Sweepstakes winner Richard States, and a gorgeous vase provided by a donor who preferred to remain anonymous. These were gifts of significant value that not only testify to the generosity of the donors, but shine a positive light on our club.

In addition, most of the seminar presenters and the dinner's keynote speaker had a Youngstown area flavor. Keith Kaiser, former horticulture director at Fellows Riverside Gardens and now president of the new Pittsburg Botanical Gardens, spoke of the importance of cooperation between public and private entities when it comes to facilities like the ones his career has served. Seminar speakers, former Fellows Assistant Horticulture Director Ellen Speicher, Ohio State

Univ. Extension Educator Eric Barrett, and MGCY member and photographer extraordinaire Richard States provided half of the conference educational offerings.

Permit us to say that Keith, Ellen and others who gave years of dedicated service to Mill Creek MetroParks should have been given more respect in regard to the circumstances of their separation during reorganization - circumstances that have left a bitter taste in the mouths of many Fellows' Friends.

Tour Day not only took us to two of the Cleveland area's green jewels; the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, a ten acre wonder founded in 1930 and the first of its kind in the U.S., and the Lake View Cemetery where the national memorial service was held. During our travels by bus, our guides gave us a running commentary about Cleveland's rich history and ongoing renaissance. It was obvious that the Cleveland club had worked overtime in research and preparation.

We didn't do too shabbily in the awards department, either. John Schinker received the prestigious Bob Hull Memorial Cup, and Bob McGowan was awarded the Silver Medal and Spade Award for recruiting two or more members during a single year. For the umpteenth time, States took both Best in Show and the Sweepstakes in the photography contest. His reign is not without some controversy. Some sore losers falsely accuse him of being a professional which we all know isn't true. It's just that he is so much better than competition that includes some excellent photographers. *The Germinator* won the newsletter competition among clubs with 50-100 members.

While attendance at the conference met the committee's goal, we were a bit disappointed that more MGCY member didn't partake in at least one of the event's interesting and educational activities. Attendees from Youngstown's were:



Dave Campana, Paul Shanabarger, Rodney Toth, Kay Toth, Hugh Earnhart, Mary Kay Earnhart, John Schinker and Georgia Schinker. Richard States not shown.

Long-time MGCY alumni who have been involved with TGCA/MGCA all say that all of our members should attend at least one national convention. Given the relatively close venue and our club's participation in co-hosting the event, this was the one.



CONVENTION TOUR DAY

Hats off to all who helped plan and execute the Tour of greater Cleveland in general and, specifically, two great points of horticultural interest on the second day of the Convention. We were not only impressed by beautiful exhibits in the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and Lake View Cemetery, but also the area's rich history and extensive revitalization.

Three who went above and beyond were our tour guides



Cleveland club members Fred Robinson and Dave Rittenhouse, and bus driver, Tammy.

Cleveland Botanical Gardens

The gardens were founded in 1930 on ten acres in the University Circle area also home to several museums. In 2014, the gardens and the Holden Arboretum joined forces pursuing urban greening and forestry initiatives, environmental research, and educational programs.

Due to time limits, our tour was confined to a few of the gardens. Of delight to children of all ages are the LEGO sculptures throughout the gardens. They include a



butterfly, hummingbird, dragonfly, tortoise, peacock, deer, spider, birdbath, ant mosaic, and a grandfather and granddaughter gardening.

GLASS HOUSE - Two Continental Extremes

Under a massive glass enclosure with a computer controlled climate system, we transitioned between a desert in Madagascar and the rainforests of Costa Rica. Included are 350 species of exotic plants, 50 butterfly species, birds, reptiles and amphibians moving about us. Cinema buffs will remember the butterfly (*Morpho fabricius*) from the movie, 'Papillon'.



We had several of those among many other species fluttering about. Vegetation



included "upside down" baobabs, bottle-shaped pachypodiums and strangler figs.

In addition to the Glass House, there are the Gateway Garden, Perennial Border, Topiary Garden, Children's Garden, Restorative Garden, Herb Garden, Inspiration Gardens, Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, Terrace Garden and Woodland Garden. Along the way there was signage explaining such natural phenomena



leaf-cutter ants, thousand cankers disease, oak wilt, a Costa Rica butterfly field guide, and a display of numerous butterflies emerging from their cocoons.

An important element that keeps the gardens in is such beautiful condition is volunteers like Bill. These unpaid but dedicated people work everywhere from the gift shop to pruning to planting to sweeping floors.



Lake Park Cemetery

Our last stop was the 285 acre cemetery, the final resting place of over 100,000 departed including John D. Rockefeller, Pres. John Garfield, Marcus Hannah and John Hay. While it has a remarkable variety of large mature, understory and ornamental visit-worthy trees, the purpose of our visit was the TGOA/MGCA Memorial service conducted by Rev. Bob Pindell at the Wade Chapel to honor and remember those who passed



away in 2016 including MGCA Past President and Bill Carney Bronze Award winner Bill Slabe, and Bob Fink who helped ensure the success of many Winter Seminars by procuring Chinese auction prizes.



CONVENTION SEMINARS

As the old saying goes, "Gardeners are always learning", so what would a gathering of green thumbs be without the opportunity to enhance their skill and knowledge. Here we briefly cover just a few.

POLLINATORS - Denise Ellsworth

Pollinators play an indispensable role in the natural world by transferring pollen from the male reproductive part of a flower (stamen) to its female counterpart (pistil) thus ensuring the perpetuation of the species. Wind and rain account for some pollination but animals account for most.

While pollinators include beetles, wasps, flies, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, bats and the larva of many other insects, bees account for a lion's share of pollen movement. There are over 4000 bee species and most have a preference for the flowers they visit. Also, visiting bees will vary depending upon the time of year.

We are most familiar with social species like honeybees and bumblebees that live in colonies or hives. Some species are solitary like ground nesting species where each female will have multiple cells. A number may nest in the same area without any cooperation.

Other species nest either in naturally occurring cavities or, like carpenter bees, create their own by burrowing. Carpenter bees can cause a great deal of damage and, other than replacing the wood they chew into, they can be difficult to evict. Woodpecker activity may be an indication of their presence.

One species that concerns entomologists is the Rusty Patch Bumblebee which is considered endangered. It has an orange spot surrounded by yellow on its abdomen. If you see one you might want to report it to the OSU Extension.



HYDRANGEAS - Eric Barrett

These beautiful plants come in 5 varieties: 'Smooth' which bloom on new wood (prune out some stems for larger flowers); 'Oakleaf' which bloom on old wood and should be pruned after flowering; 'Bigleaf' which bloom on old and new wood, and should be shaped after flowers fade; 'Climbing' bloom on old wood and are pruned only to shape; and 'Panicle' which bloom on new wood. All prefer partial sun and except the Bigleaf s which do best in nearly full shade.

Among Eric's favorites are 'Incrediball', a Smooth

variety, that resembles 'Annabelle' but with much stronger stems; 'Alice', an Oakleaf variety; and 'Bobo', a Panicle variety.

GARDENING MYTHS - Eric Barrett



As usual, Eric covered a lot of ground during his presentation, so we'll just pass on old wives tales that hold some truth or are just plain hooey.

Remove tomato suckers to increases air flow, more fruiting energy, and creating natural insecticide.

Except for porous seed (beans), presoaking is okay.

For use as a mulch, coffee grounds must be composted.

Our area has an aluminum deficiency.

Lower pH with aluminum sulfate.

Calcium from egg shells prevents blossom end rot.

Tomatoes love magnesium - Epsom salts a good source.

Few mills = less sulfur in the air; less need to lime.

2lb. wood ash= 1lb. lime.

Adding potassium may deplete magnesium.

Prune in the afternoon when plants are dry.

WHAT'S IN A NAME - Ellen Speicher

When you meet a smarty-pants who knows the scientific names of many plants, they usually turn out to be excellent gardeners. They'll tell you that there is a 7 tier hierarchy beginning with Kingdom (Plantae) and ending with Genus and Species. The last 2 are of concern of most gardeners. Sugar maple trees are of the genus 'Acer' - Latin for sharp, hard wood. The species is 'Acer saccharum'. Those who want to explore the subject in depth can check out the following books:

'Dictionary of Plant Names' and

'Sterns' Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners.'

Other Presentations:

HORTICULTURE SHOW BASICS - Peggy Moody

GARDEN CENTER TRENDS - Jeff Griff

SUCCULENTS - Jeff Havel

PHOTOGRAPHY - Richard States (See Page 6)





Richard States' Photography Competition Entries





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

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The

Germinator

September 2017



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

www.mgcy.org

Have a safe Labor Day



Labor Day
Monday, September 4, 2017

calendar of events



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



See you at the Canfield Fair!
Wed., Aug. 30 - Mon., Sept. 4

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