



# 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 - Apr.

A huge ATTABOY to Bob McGowen and his Winter Seminar Committee for their efforts to put out another awesome Winter Seminar. I heard compliments even before the program started! I think your team could start a business as everything was outstanding.

We can certainly not complain about weather so far this Spring, (except for a little too much rain).

We had our Spring Breakfast yesterday, April 12th. It was our best one since I joined the club about 5 years ago. Attendance was about 20, counting our visitors. And, Bob McGowan was sure to get an application to the potential members.

Jay Coy was our guest speaker and his topic was Heirloom Tomatoes. There were dozens of questions. Our visitors seemed pleased with our little event. We left them with some ideas and mentioned some upcoming events, like our plant sale in May, June Auction, and Horticulture Show in August.

If you have any speaker candidates for our General Meetings, let Pat Cunning know. We could use a couple.

Don't forget, our Home and Garden Show will soon be with us. We need to fill in the rest of the blanks on our booth schedule. If you can, it would be a good idea to team up with some of our newer members.

Dave

**WANTED**

**REWARD**  
\$\$\$\$

**Wanted:**  
Chairman of  
Youth Gardening  
Committee

**Wanted:**  
Chairman of  
Winter Seminar  
Committee

## Mill Creek MetroParks

### APRIL EVENTS

Health & wellness, golf, children's & family activities, nature hikes, horticulture shows & seminars, workshops, crafts & more:

- 10th Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society Tuber Sale - Unique varieties. 9am - 4pm
- 13th Mosaic Flower Pots - Create a Mosaic Flower Pot. 6pm - 8pm. Register by 4-11
- 21st Sprout Club - Marimo Moss Pet to take home. Register by 4/19. Age 3 - 5
- 23rd Over 200 daffodils on display. 9am - 5pm
- 26th Designing a garden for the very young and young at heart. 6pm - 7pm

For a complete schedule and details:  
[www.millcreekmetroparks.com](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.com)



April is National Gardening Month  
Keep Growing Together!



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**General Meeting**  
April 6th, 2016 - 7:00 pm

**Board Meeting**  
April 13th, 2016 - 6:30 pm  
Austintown Library  
All members welcome



## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG  
78 Members • 42 Sponsors

*Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

### **TGCA-MGCA National Convention**

The Garden Clubs of America-Mens Garden Clubs of America will be holding its annual convention from Wednesday, July 13th thru Friday, July 15 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In addition to national organization business, the schedule is filled with interesting gardening presentations, tours and social gatherings.

Our own John Schinker, presently 1st national vice president, will be sworn in as president. It would be nice to have some MGCY members there with Past President Hugh Earnhart to celebrate the occasion. There is still an opening for a club member to represent our specific interests at the convention. A generous stipend has been provided that will cover most travel, meal and lodging expenses. See Dave Causer if you're interested.

#### **Schedule of Events**

##### **Wednesday, July 13th**

Registration, board meeting, presentations: *Conifers, Senior Nutrition, Painting Class (\$20), Square Foot Gardening, and Montreal Botanical Gardens*; and shuttles to farmer's market, and dinner.

##### **Thursday, July 14th**

Tour of the Green Bay Botanical Gardens (including memorial program), tour of Rose Hill Gardens, tour of Ponderosa Farm, and tour of LaLuzerne's Garden w/ picnic.

##### **Friday, July 15th**

Membership meeting (scholarships), presentations: *Bulbs for All Seasons, Roses, Growing Organic, Chocolate is a Vegetable, and Worm Composting*; dinner, photography show & awards, entertainment, and installation of officers.

For more info & registration form, go to [tgoa-mgca.org](http://tgoa-mgca.org).

### **Central Great Lakes Regional Awards**

April 9th is the deadline to submit regional award recommendations so, if you feel one of our own has met the below criteria, please submit a letter citing his contributions to our organization or the gardening community.

**Certificate of Honor** - In recognition of services or outstanding achievement.

**Environmental and Conservation Achievement** - Enhancing the environment and conservation of natural resources through gardening.

**Green Bronze Medal (Highest Regional Award)** - Outstanding achievement and contributions in furthering TGOA/MGCA and the art of gardening.

**Horticultural Achievement** - Outstanding achievement in field of horticulture.

**Horticultural Journalism** - Writers contributing to gardening and horticulture.

Send your recommendations ASAP to Rodney Toth at [rkdahlias@aol.com](mailto:rkdahlias@aol.com)

### **Winter Pancake Breakfast**

Great food and a popular speaker were on the menu at Fellows Riverside Gardens for the twenty-some members and guests at our annual Winter Breakfast. Led by Bob McGowan, Charlie Grounds and Dennis Zapp, the kitchen crew put together a tasty meal that had most belts loosening a notch. Thanks, guys, for a job well done.

Jay Coy, the Jackson 'Maters heirloom tomato guru, gave a presentation on starting seeds indoors. He has over 450 heirloom varieties of which he usually grows 30-40 each year. He doesn't have a greenhouse but relies on four or five cold frames to protect some 7000 plants. While the subject was tomatoes, Jay said most of the information applies to most plants.

He soaks seeds a few days in a kelp/chamomile tea solution to discourage diseases, then puts them in sterile soil-covered flats. He adds a wetting agent and lime to lower the pH. Chicken grit is sprinkled on top to help the sprouts shed their shells. The flats are placed on furnace ducts that supply the heat necessary for germination. Tomato seeds pop at 80 degrees while peppers require about 95 degrees.

Once the seedlings break the soil place them under fluorescent light for four to six weeks then it's out to the cold frame. Keep the plants as close as possible to the lights to avoid their getting leggy. Once the first true leaves appear begin to fertilize with kelp or Miracle-Gro at one quarter recommended strength. A fan will help deter diseases and strengthen stems.

Jay's seed saving technique involves soaking the jelly-like seed sacks for a week stirring daily. Once they separate, rinse and dry thoroughly. Store in individually marked packets in a cool, dry place like a refrigerator. If you're looking to win our Heaviest Tomato contest, first pick a naturally large variety like Big Zak. Choose a few of the largest on the plant then cull the rest.

Cucumbers tend to get powdery mildew from moist leaves so they should be allowed to climb. Either plant the seeds in hills or buy the smallest plants. Make two plantings to ensure longer availability.

Jay's spring plant sale usually runs from May 10th to June 10th. He then sells his produce at farmer's markets in the Youngstown area. For directions and more info, go to [JacksonMaters.blogspot.com](http://JacksonMaters.blogspot.com).



## 2016 MGCY WINTER SEMINAR

### *They Like; They Really Like Us*

In paraphrasing part of Sally Fields' speech accepting the 1985 Best Actress Oscar for *Places In The Heart*, we are making reference to how the 11th Annual Winter Seminar attendee's felt at the event's conclusion. Participating members had to be proud of how their



efforts produced a near flawless and greatly appreciated production. The proof is in the number of people who attend regularly and sell out the venue year after year.

Some loyalty can be expected when you serve good food. That niche was filled with a continental breakfast and an excellent lunch catered by Saratoga Restaurant in Warren. And with the generous donations of our sponsors, it doesn't hurt to add the excitement of a Chinese auction. The true test of a successful gardening seminar, however, is putting on a program catering to the varied interests of those attending.

Once again we had nice mix gardening subjects and experts. To the credit of our presenters, they held everyone's attention even when their particular topic was low on some people's gardening priorities.

### **David Culp - *The Layered Garden***

David Culp is a former contributing editor to *Horticulture* magazine, has written numerous gardening articles for recognized publications, served as chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society and earned the Garden Writers Association's 2013 Best Overall Book award for his *The Layered Garden*. His Brandywine Cottage in Dowington, Pa, features a series of plant habitats of differing styles emphasizing four season interest.

Although he has traveled extensively in search of the most appealing plant species and varieties, he feels a garden should also be a reflection of its home area. This means maintaining the topography and most native trees while introducing a variety of textures and colors. Hard

structures like fences, walls and walkways draw the visitor's eye to an area and helps them appreciate the subtle beauty of nearby plants.

If possible, a landscape will include some mature native trees and an understory of young trees and shrubs. Fronting vegetation should be arranged less like a football team photo with players sitting, kneeling and standing, but more in waves of height with all still being visible. Varying textures are a primary consideration, and a black and white photo will greatly help the designing process. And forget the color wheel with its



this-color-goes-with-that imperative. Orange and purple flowers of differing textures can be appealing and, especially in spring, an entire landscape may be varying hues and textures of green.

Dave feels that an important part of gardening and its results involves daily observation of the plants' life cycle and the animals that inhabit and visit them. He uses no herbicides or insecticides and waters plants only during their first year. The soil's only amendments and fertilizers are compost and leaf mold..

For his second presentation, Dave talked about "50 Plants I Can't Live Without". Among his favorites that he collects and breeds are *Helleborus* (*Christmas rose* - left) and *Galanthus* (*nivalis* - right). Both bloom in winter and have near four season foliage. Two larger



decorative trees he favors, Japanese pussy willow and red twig dogwood, have great winter interest and tolerate soggy areas less suited for most other plants.

*Continued - Page 4*



## Winter Seminar

*Continued from Page 3*



*Susan Cohan & David Culp*

### Art In The Garden - Susan Cohan

Susan is the principal of Susan Cohan Gardens, a boutique residential design studio. Her landscapes designs, ranging from intimate courtyards to country estates, have won numerous awards. She is on the board of directors of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, teaches college landscape design and has lectured at the New York Botanical Gardens.

Successful garden design expresses the owner's confidence and individuality while being visitor friendly and engaging guest interest. It will also have the duality of serving as an entertaining focal point and a place for quiet reflection. An important consideration should be the season and the time - day or evening - when it will be used most.



There are three design styles that can be employed individually or in combination.

**Traditional** - This style involves keeping with a main idea involving repetition of shape (rounded, rectangle), structure (pergola, stone planters), statuary, furniture, antiques and large plant containers - galvanized and fiberglass are cheaper and last longer than wood and terracotta. Antique stores, rummage sales, flea markets and trash day pickups are possible sources of interesting

objects to focus attention. Design often has a regional - Florida, California, local, etc. - flavor.

**Rustic** - This style emphasizes organic, weathered, handmade and rough-textured objects. Salvage yards and old farms are possible sources.

**Contemporary** - Here we see repetition of geometric shapes, textures and plants. The lines and objects are clean and simplistic with a minimalistic bent. There is more space between objects than with other styles.

### Light Up The Night - Edison Electric

After fourteen years in the landscape industry, Ed Wojciechowski started Edison in 2004. The company specializes in accent lighting for homes, gardens and decks. Their expertise was on display along the walkways during Fellows' Annual WinterFest. They specialize in LED lighting which last longer, is more efficient and durable, and gives a better color rendering.

The reasons for adding lighting to a home and landscape include: Making them warm and inviting; curb appeal; security; connecting spaces; adding drama; lengthen use time; and enhancing an entertainment area.

Among the objects that nighttime lighting improves are architecture, trees, statutory art, landscape beds, water features, and walking areas.

### So Many To Thank

Learning how to better serve our audience is an evolving process. Last year we ensured there wasn't a bad seat in the Davis auditorium by adding multiple viewing screens and improved the sound system. This year's improvements were minor but still improved the overall experience: The Chinese auction moved much faster and more efficiently.

We can't say enough about how well the seminar committee planned for and managed every detail. The efforts of Bob McGowan, Larry Tooker and Lynn Hoffman stood out. While the committee had no official chairman, Bob took charge and supervised many crucial aspects. Larry once again procured speakers who were not only knowledgeable but entertaining as well. As chairman of several previous seminars, Lynn has set the standard and blueprint for all subsequent seminars. Also making major contributions were: Bruce Brungard, Dave Causer, Joe Fagnano, Bob Fink (*get well soon*), Bill Laslo, Dan Miller, Art Roden, Carlo Rubino, John Schinker, Bob Schulick, Rodney Toth, Dennis Zapp and all table representatives not previously mentioned.

And let's not forget the many fine businesses and special members (Joe Alessi, Cor Kester, Bob McGowan and Bob Senn) making Chinese auction donations. We should consider them first when making purchasing decisions.



## April Fools & Hoaxes

April 1st is a day of tricks and pranks, and we should be wary lest we look like fools. But when some like Rush Limbaugh say human activity-caused climate change is a hoax, they're not seeing the seriousness of the situation. For decades, 85% of scientists and tens of millions of Americans have been saying otherwise. That makes it a *CONSPIACY*, and we're going to expose some of the culprits.

You've heard the arguments: Heat waves, heavy downpours, draughts, hurricanes and other extreme weather events have been increasing in length and intensity; Greenland, Antarctica and other great glaciers are melting; dissolving permafrost is releasing the greenhouse gas methane; the Marshall Islands are disappearing; and our huge naval base at Norfolk, Va. is threatened by rising sea levels.

These malcontents cite a current world population of seven billion and growing, and with decreasing fresh water and arable top soil, they ask how can we continue to feed all these people and avoid famine and mass migrations?. They want a universal vegetarian diet.

They say 80% of all farm land is dedicated to growing feed crops and grazing for farm animals, and that our current agriculture practices produce more greenhouse gases than all transport vehicles (cars, trucks, trains and planes) combined. We eat an average of 176 lbs. of meat annually; that's just a good sized bacon cheeseburger a day.

And they like to trot out questionable statistics like gallons of water per pound of food: Beef - 5,200; pork -1,600;

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

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wheat - 15 and potatoes - 24. Or how many humans 2.5 acres can support while growing: Beef - 1; chicken -2; wheat - 15; rice - 19 and potatoes - 22.

These Hollywood vegans even suggest there's evolutionary evidence that humans, from teeth to toe nails, are neither carnivores nor omnivores. We're genetically programmed to be herbivores.

Are we back to the days of open range cowboy versus dung burning sod busters and their damn fences? This conspiracy must be stopped before American men are required to weigh 150 lbs., drive Priuses and pee sitting down.

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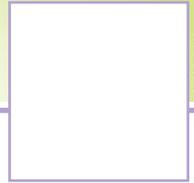
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April 2016



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

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



April Fool's Day  
April 1st

## calendar of events

April 1 .....	National Scholarship Applications due		
April 6 .....	General Meeting .....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
April 8, 9, 10 .....	Home and Garden Show.....	Canfield .....	12 noon-8 pm
April 9 .....	CGLRG Meeting.....	Kingwood Gardens.....	10:00 am
April 13 .....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
May 4.....	General Meeting .....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
May 5, 6, 7.....	Spring Plant Sale.....	MASCO Greenhouse.....	9-6
May 11.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
June 1.....	General Mtg./Plant Auction.....	Bdmn Park.....	6:00 - 7:00 pm
June 8.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
July 6.....	General Meeting .....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
July 13.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
July 13-15.....	National Convention.....	Green Bay, Wisconsin	
Fri/Sat.....	CGLG Summer Convention .....	Wooster, Ohio	
August 3.....	Steak Fry/General Meeting .....	Larry Duck's home.....	6 & 7 pm
August 10.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
August 11.....	Scrappers Ball Game .....	Eastwood Field, Niles OH.....	5:30 pm
August 19.....	Setup for Horticulture Show .....	FRG .....	12noon
August 20, 21.....	Horticulture Show .....	FRG .....	7:00 am
August 31.....	Canfield Fair starts .....	Canfield Fairgrounds.....	10 am - 10 pm
September 1-5.....	Canfield Fair.....	Canfield Fairgrounds .....	10 am - 10 pm
September 7.....	General Meeting .....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
September 14.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm

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