



# 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 - Feb.

Happy Winter !

As I write this message, on January 21, we are going through the coldest days yet this season, (measured in the negative degree range).

But all is not lost. The ice skating pond at Mill Creek is frozen with 4" of ice. And snow is on the ground, so get the sleds out of storage.

The Winter Seminar is on February 20 and there is a great deal of activity going on, as usual. With only a little over 4 weeks to go, things are starting to solidify and...

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Be sure to get your reservations in soon as this event sells out every year. If you are looking for some planting ideas, revisit our February 2015 Germinator for some ideas. You may have seen the "Grey Striped Mammoth" which has timely garden tips. I've been under the impression that the Grey Striped Mammoth was the biggest. Much to my surprise, there appears to be others as big or bigger! I will further investigate.

Dave

**General Meeting**  
February 3rd, 2016 - 7:00 pm

**Board Meeting**  
February 10th, 2016 - 7:00 pm  
*All members welcome*

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Ohio  
Please Join Us!

The purpose of The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is to create a better understanding of gardening and to encourage and promote the beautification of our community.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the D. P. ... Center. ... Fellow ... horticultural events. Members also become members of The National Men's Garden Club of America.

Membership is open to residents of the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities with an interest in gardening.



To join, contact us at:  
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio  
% Membership Committee  
123 McKinley Way  
Youngstown, OH 44509  
or on our website at [www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)

## Greater Youngstown H&G Show

MGCY Board voted to again participate in The Greater Youngstown Home and Garden Show. This year it will be held at the Canfield Fair grounds April 8-10 from 10 am--5 pm. Members are needed to fill time slots either 10-1:30 or 1:30 -- 5. Two are needed for each slot. Sign up will happen at the Feb meeting. Support your club.

## Mill Creek MetroParks

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

- 1..... Nature Photography Exhibit, call for photos  
Entries accepted, Jan 30 - Feb 7
- 6..... Saplings - Eco Friendly Sweetheart

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Age 6 + Create a Heart Felt Decoration (Valentine Mobile)

6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Easy growing plants

9:00am - 10:30am

13 Coffee with the Birds

9:30am - 10:15am

20 Winter Seminar - Creating an Inviting Garden  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
Through Plants, Light and Art

Presented by The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, and Mill Creek MetroParks

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

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Mill Creek Ice Skating and Sledding is now open.





# The Germinator

## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

78 Members • 1 Associate • 32 Sponsors

### 'Creating An Inviting Garden'

Subtitled '*Plants, Art & Light*', our annual Winter Seminar will be held Saturday, February 20th, at the Davis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens. In addition to an impressive lineup of three speakers giving four presentations, each attendee will be treated to morning beverages and baked goods, a delicious lunch served by Saratoga Restaurant and Catering, a goody bag and table favors. There will also be a Chinese auction featuring an impressive array of horticulture related packages, a 50-50 raffle and a gardening book sale.

MGCY member admission has been discounted to \$35 and we'll need at least 22 members to serve as table captains to answer questions and assist attendees at their table. This event traditionally sells out early so contact Bob McGowan ASAP to reserve a table.

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#### Speaker Lineup

**Robert Culp** - '*Fifty Plants You Can't Be Without*' and '*Layers of Color*'. Andywine Cottage in Downingtown, Pa. boasts a 2 acre garden where he has layered plants in a way that as a result, the color never stops changing.

He has been awarded the Perennial Plant Assn. 2014 Garden Media Award for his online education program, *Create A Layered Garden*. His *The Layered Garden* was voted 2013 Best Overall Book by the Garden Writers Assn.

**Susan Cohan** - '*Art In The Garden*'. Susan is the principal of Susan Cohan Gardens, a boutique design studio specializing in residential landscapes. She is a nationally certified landscape designer and has received numerous awards for her landscape and floral designs.



She is a contributing editor to *Garden Design*, has written for many gardening periodicals and authors her popular blog, *Miss Rumphius' Rules*.

**Ed Wojciechowski** - '*Lighting In The Garden*'. Ed has owned Edison Landscape Lighting, 9883 South Ave., Poland, Oh, since 2004. They specialize in accent lighting for homes and decks. They also offer a wide array of landscape designs and installations including custom patios, walkways and retaining walls for individual homes and businesses. If you attended Fellows Riverside Garden's Annual Winter Celebration, a



### Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

significant portion of the 50,000 lights illuminating the walkways were provided by Edison Landscape Lighting.

Speaking of the Winter Celebration, our club sponsored one of the nights as noted in the prominently displayed sign at the Davis Center entrance.



### Members Receive Awards

We are proud to report two of our members received national parent organization awards. The awards were presented by TGO-MGCA Vice President John Miller. Dave Culp received the award for his *Perennials* article in *Perennials* magazine. Joe Alessi received the award for his *Perennials* article in *Perennials* magazine. Receiving the region's Spark Plug Award honoring new members who immediately make important contributions to their home club was Joseph Fagnano. Joey assumed the important position of Recording Secretary and has contributed in many other ways including organizing our club's Christmas Tree decoration at Fellows Riverside Gardens.



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Also recognized for their contributions with Certificates of Appreciation were Mike Banks, our Recording Secretary, and Mike Beautis who served as our Second Vice President and organized our Canfield Fair booth.

### MGCY Scholarship Deadline

Applications for our organization's annual scholarship(s) must be in by March 1st. High school seniors interested in studying horticulture, nature sciences or ecology, and current college or university students enrolled in those disciplines are eligible. Applicants must be residents of Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Mercer or Lawrence Counties. Contact Keith Kaiser, Fellows Riverside Gardens, for details.

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## UNINVITED VISITORS

Depending upon where they live and what types of plants they grow, gardeners can expect to attract unwanted attention from varmints. How to effectively resolve conflict with property owners while maintaining a healthy and diverse wildlife population was the subject of Ohio Division of Wildlife Communications Specialist Jamey Graham-Emmert's presentation at our January membership meeting. Most of the following information can be found at wildohio.com, publication 5083 (R0912).

### Conflict With Humans

All animals need three essentials - food, water and shelter - to survive. Nesting or repeated visits indicate the presence of one or more of these elements and, since it is far easier to remove the *Welcome* mat than evict a squatter, the first step is to remove temptation. Start with these basics:

1. Remove outdoor food sources such as trash cans without tight fitting lids and pet food. If possible, put trash outside in a bin with a lid.
2. Do not feed wildlife. Not only does it encourage unwanted visitors but increases the risk of disease and attack.

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When securing ground level access, be sure to bury an "L" shaped portion of the mesh underground to prevent tunneling.

4. Caulking cracks and holes can deter bats, mice, carpenter bees and other small invaders that can maneuver their way into unimaginably small crevices .

5. Keep the property free of the trash piles, outside stored vehicles and high grass that invite critters to take up residence.

6. Bird feeders can be squirrel-proofed by hanging them from tree limbs with thin cord. Also available are feeders with gravity-operated treadles or weight-operated gates.

7. Chimneys should be capped.

8. Cut tree limbs that hang low over roof.

### Harassment Techniques

Once an unwanted animal sets up residence, it must be convinced that moving is safer and preferable to staying. In doing so, it must be remembered that some species, such as migratory birds, are federally protected and all or some hazing techniques may be illegal.

Effectiveness depends on a continuous, concentrated and caustic assault on the animal's senses. The technique must be applied daily even if it takes weeks to succeed. It must be

concentrated on where a particular animal is nesting and not diluted over a wider area allowing the animal to get used to the discomfort. And the more severe, the faster and more successful the results. The animal must be frightened enough that, for example, a raccoon residing in the attic does not simply move to an uncapped chimney.

### Hazing Techniques

Used by themselves or in combination, harassment efforts can be divided into the following categories:

**Visual** - The least effective harassment technique, shining a flashlight or laser or strobe usually only encourages the animal to move a short distance away at best. Exceptions may involve raccoons, opossums and skunks which prefer dark hideaways. Letting in light by removing lattice skirting from around decks and porches may prove successful.

**Audible** - Only slightly more effective are continuous loud noises such a stereo with a subwoofer playing heavy metal music. Most often the animal will move a short distance away. Ultrasonic devices usually don't work because most animals, except bats, cannot hear in the ultrasonic range.

**Tactile** - Studies have shown motion-activated water jets especially deer.

Flooding may succeed but come with some dangers. A flooded den may cause a mouse or rat to drown. Food damage may result in a flooded den. Also, a frightened animal may come

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Because they prefer hot attics (90-110 degrees F), bats are the only animal where temperature alteration may be effective. Adding an attic exhaust fan may do the trick but avoid doing so in late spring when the young are born.

Most animals don't like anything sticky to get into their fur so smearing molasses or other such substances around their den entrance ways may solve the problem.

**Biological** - Predator urine has proven to be somewhat but not totally effective. Most animals tend to become used to it. Don't use it around food plants and wear protective clothing. Other chemical repellants have been shown to have limited success.

Visit [icwdm.org/controlmethods/Hazing](http://icwdm.org/controlmethods/Hazing) for more details.

### Other Related Considerations

Trapped raccoons, skunks and opossums cannot be legally relocated onto property without the owner's permission. Sick animals can be trapped and humanly euthanized anytime.

Twelve inch strips of Mylar or VCR tape nailed atop two foot stakes has proven an effective Canadian Geese deterrent.

For advice on chronic animal problems that the above information fails to solve, contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 330-644-2293.



# The Germinator

## Gardening As The Snow Flies

We're probably not telling most of you anything you don't know about the benefits and satisfaction gained in starting your vegetable and landscape annuals (or perennials) from seed. Perhaps the biggest selling point is the opportunity to try different varieties of plants unavailable at local greenhouses. Whether its saving last year's heirloom or leftover seeds, trading with friends or a swap club, or ordering from catalogs that offer numerous varieties and new introductions, it's fun and validates the axiom: *Gardeners are always learning.*

You could spend the bucks for a setup like this four tier system that comes complete with 48" T8 fluorescent fixtures, trays and inserts partially pictured below, or you can build



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Provision must be made to raise the lights even with a multi-tier system that allows for more starts with like growing levels on each tier. Our member's one tier system compensates for differing growth rates by segregating like-growing plants in different quadrants and tilting the lights to maintain an equal height over the plants. It sits atop an old mortar mixing trough to catch runoff. A 2x4 frame lined with vinyl sheeting sitting under a shelf system will perform this function.

There are a number of containers on the market for starting seed but, if flats and 6-packs are good enough greenhouses, why not use old ones in good condition. They should, however, be washed thoroughly with a 10% bleach solution. The germination time and rate of each plant, especially older seeds, should be checked by soaking them in wet paper towels and observing viability and germination time. Some species commonly take longer than others. Use only sterile soil designed for starting seeds and thoroughly soak it prior to sowing. Water soluble fertilizing should begin when first true leaves appear. Plant condition will dictate the amount of fertilizer used but start by using less.

When to sow depends upon the type of plant and days recommended for it in relation to the Last Frost Date (LFD). Here is where things can get confusing because, due to climate

change, some internet sites have our area still in Zone 5 with a LFD of May 30th. Burpee Seed, however, has us in Zone 6 with the LFD set at April 15th and the Farmers' Almanac sets the Akron LFD at April 18th. For the below sowing dates we'll use the Burpee. The sow date spread allows for later sowing.

In the below chart, **SS** indicates **starting seed indoors**, and **DS** means **directly sow in the garden**. (\*) indicates second crop. Except for early crops like lettuce and snap peas, generally sow and transplant when soil reaches 65-70 degrees.

PLANT	SOW	TRANSPLANT
Asian Greens	(DS) Apr & *Aug	
Beans	(DS) mid May & *mid July	
Beets	(DS) Apr - mid June *Aug - mid Sept	
Broccoli	(SS) mid Feb - mid Mar *(SS) mid June - mid Aug (DS) Apr & *Aug - mid Sept	mid Apr - May *Aug - mid Sept
Brussel Sprouts	(DS) Apr	
Cabbage	(SS) Mar & *July	Apr - mid May *Aug - mid Sept

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# The Germinator

February 2016

## THE PREZ SEZ

Tired of the news coverage of the upcoming presidential election? Well, gird your loins because this month the TV ads will begin in earnest and we can expect robocalls at dinner time. Feb. 15th is Presidents' Day and, believe it or not, some of these guys have muttered some interesting words over the years.

**The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves.**

George Washington

**I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.**

Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Nearly all men can stand adversity,**

**but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.**

Abraham Lincoln

**Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The tree grows slowly, but we think of it; the tree is the real thing.**

Abraham Lincoln

**I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made it for me.**

**President of the United States or not, I don't care.**

**Who**

**honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C student, I say you, too, can become president of the**

**United States.**

George W. Bush

**We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles.**

Jimmy Carter

**Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.**

John Adams

**It is neither wealth nor splendor, but tranquility and occupation which give you happiness.**

Thomas Jefferson

**Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly.**

John F. Kennedy

**History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside.**

John F. Kennedy

**Defeat doesn't finish a man, quit does. A man is not finished when he's defeated. He's finished when he quits.**

Richard M. Nixon

**Well, I screwed it up real good, didn't I?**

Richard M. Nixon

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

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**Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same.**

Ronald Reagan

**True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.**

Franklin D. Roosevelt

**If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.**

Theodore Roosevelt

**There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right with America.**

William J. Clinton

**If you can't convince them, confuse them.**

Harry S. Truman

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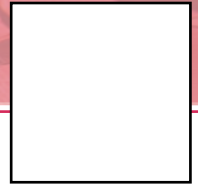
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Boardman, OH 44512  
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February 2016



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

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Sunday, February 14, 2016

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February 3.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
February 10.....	Board Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
February 20.....	Winter Seminar.....	FRG.....	9:00 am
March 2.....	Floriculture.....	MCCTC Comp.....	9:00 am
	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
March 12.....	Spring .Breakfast.....	FRG.....	9:00 am
April 6.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
April 8- 9-10.....	Yng Greater Home and Garden Show Canfield 10:00an to 5:00 pm		
April 13.....	Board Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
	CGLRG Meeting.....	Kingwood Gardens..	10:00 am
	Seed to Read.....	FRG.....	10:00 am -3:00 pm
May 4.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
May 5-6-7.....	Spring Plant Sale.....	MASCO Greenhouse.....	9 am-6 pm
May 14.....	Board Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
June 1.....	General Mtg. Plant Auction....	Bdmn Park.....	6:00 - 7:00 pm
June 8.....	Board Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm

**PRESIDENT**  
David E. Causer  
330-549-3669 • [davidcauser14@yahoo.com](mailto:davidcauser14@yahoo.com)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Pat Cunning  
[adopcenter@aol.com](mailto:adopcenter@aol.com)

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Bruce Brungard  
330-793-1307 • [gbhhi@live.com](mailto:gbhhi@live.com)

**TREASURER**

Robert J. McGowan  
P.O. Box 724 • Canfield, OH 44406  
330-518-6397 • [rjfmcgowan@aol.com](mailto:rjfmcgowan@aol.com)

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Joe Fagnano  
330-533-2475 (H) • 330-559-5295 (C)  
[jlfagnano@hotmail.com](mailto:jlfagnano@hotmail.com)

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Michael Banks  
330-707-9089 (H) • 330-565-0592 (C)  
[mcbankspaint@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbankspaint@yahoo.com)

**GERMINATOR STAFF**

David Campana  
David E. Causer • Dan Miller  
Robert P. Stas, Photographer  
Joseph Alessi, Jr., Editor Emeritus  
[mgcygerminator@aol.com](mailto:mgcygerminator@aol.com)