



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 - July

I'm starting this message on the 17th. After what seemed to be a long string of hot, dry days, we finally have some rain today in North Lima. I hope everyone got at least a shower. I have used up the water in my rain barrel and hope to get enough rain to refill it.

My garden is so-so, the tomatoes look nice and healthy but not too tall as yet. Once again my peppers are not faring well at all. I've planted them in several locations to see if that will make a difference.

I have a nice little bed of beets. If you have never had beets fresh from the garden, try them. My son, who never liked beets, thinks they are great.

I forgot to plant my token cherry tomato plant this year. I also forgot my zucchini plant. I went to Lonardos (on Southern Blvd) and found a couple zucchini plants but didn't see a cherry tomato. Oh well, I'll get one next year.

So far, my cucumber plants are doing well. They have flowers, so there is still hope. I've noticed a lot of bees around. We need all the bees we can get.

I have seven butterfly bushes now. It is almost incredible how much they have grown since last fall.

Thanks to Paul Shannabarger, our club has a large advertisement in the Youngstown Playhouse 2015-2016 season playbook. (about 1/2 page describing our club and inviting potential members.) The Youngstown Playhouse is another one of those treasures that many people in our area are unaware of.

To all members - please share your garden experiences with the other club members, especially our new members. Before you know it, August will be here and we will have a great opportunity to bring our prize plants at the Horticulture Show. (August 19 - 21).

To all sponsors: PLEASE talk to your new members and encourage them to bring plants to the show in August AND remember the Canfield Fair will be coming soon after the Horticulture Show.

Dave

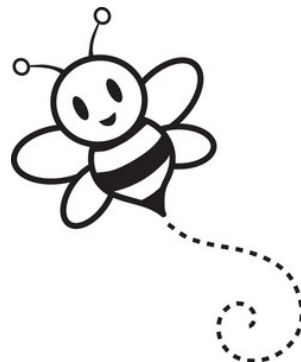
In Memorium Bob Fink



General Meeting
July 6th
Fellows Riverside Gardens
7:00 pm

Board Meeting
July 13th
Austintown Library
6:30 pm

All members welcome



Mill Creek MetroParks

JULY EVENTS

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

- 17th.... An introduction to Tree ID. How to identify different tree species. Moderate, 1.5 miles
 - 19th.... 10am - 3pm, age 7-9. Three day Wilderness Camp. Register and pay at Ford Nature Center by July 12th
 - 22nd... 9am - 10am Discover Bountiful Blooms at Fellows Riverside Gardens with knowledgeable staff member. Register and pay by July 20th.
 - 31st.... 1pm - 2:30pm. Chat with a naturalist about the Lily Ponds wildlife and recent improvements.
- Call Ford Nature Center for details.

For a complete schedule and details:
www.millcreekmetroparks.com

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

86 Members • 1 Associate

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Make your reservations by contacting Rodney Toth, rkdahlias@aol.com or 330-759-1003. Cost is \$14 per person and the deadline for payment is the July 6th membership meeting. Make checks payable to the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown.

New Member

Arnold Lees - 27 Benita Ave., Youngstown, OH. 44505, 234-855-2390, PERUCRAFTS1@gmail.com. Arnold is retired and married (Herminia). His gardening interests include the landscaping in Crandall Park. He is a member of the Upper N. Heights Neighborhood Assn. Sponsored by Bob McGowan.

Preview To MGCY Horticulture Show

It's only the beginning of summer but serious club gardeners should already have their sights set on August 20-21 when we will hold our annual Horticulture Show at Fellows Riverside Gardens' Davis Center. Now is not too early to begin preparing your favorite plants for a day of enjoyable competition.

Veteran's Memorial Planting

On Tuesday, May 24, members from the Youngstown Men's Garden Club and employees from Fellow Riverside Gardens spent the morning cleaning up the beds and planting flowers around the Central Square and Smoky Hollow war memorials adding a touch of summer to each. These memorials honor fellow Americans who gave their lives freeing families from slavery, fascism and Communism during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, and Viet Nam, and honoring law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.



It's not until you work around these memorials that you stop and think of the sacrifices these individuals endured to make our country what it is today.

The Central Square Memorial honors those who gave their lives for their country in the war of the rebellion 1861 – 1865. With all the bloodshed from these wars and the freedom we enjoy today, take a few minutes on Memorial Day to give thanks to them for the freedoms we enjoy.

We want to thank Jack Moss and his helpers from Fellows Gardens, and MGCY members Rodney Toth, Dan Burns, Dave Causer and John Schinker for their help in beautifying the memorials.

Dave Williams, Civic Committee Chairman

No matter how small or expansive your growing area(s) may be, there is a category for every pampered plant imaginable so there is no excuse for not taking part. You'll also want to get family, friends and kids involved. Adding to the fun is the Larry Whetson Heaviest Tomato contest award of \$25 so you'll want to cull those Big Zacs down to the 2 or 3 largest per plant and feed that baby like it was your first born son.

A preview and show schedules will be given at our annual Steak Fry on August 3rd. First time entrants and as well as show veterans will pick up tips on how to best present their entries. On top of that, you'll get a great meal at a very reasonable price.

Canfield Fair Information Booth

Publicity Committee Chairman Bruce Brungard will soon be passing a signup list for members who want to help show our flag at the 2016 Canfield Fair, Aug. 31st thru Sept. 5th. Our recent and significant increase in new members is due in no small part to the positive image our information booth and its attending members present to the public. We'll have 36 slots to fill so plan your Labor Day festivities accordingly.



Germinator Contributions Appreciated

We often ask for member contributions to and suggestions for newsletter content. Those who have done the most are Bruce Brungard, Paul Shanabarger and Dave Causer who assembles the newsletter's page 1. Content suggestions are not only welcome but every member's duty.

Also, if you are involved in a club project or event, please supply a short account of the event and members involved. Also club photographer Bob Stas should be called beforehand for newsletter photos.

Dave Campana, Editor

Annual Scrapers Picnic

Join fellow members, their families and friends, for a fun evening of Mahoning Valley Scrappers baseball and a picnic on August 11th at Eastwood Field. Food will be served at 5:30 pm while the game begins at 7:00pm.





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Plant Auction & Pot Luck Dinner

One of the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown's great traditions is our Plant Auction. Members and guests bring a wide variety of plants that get snapped up at bargain prices. Not only is it loads of fun but a chance for everyone to socialize in the informal setting of Boardman Park. And the buffet of entrees and desserts: *Magnifique!*

Don Brown did a great job as this year's auctioneer



and, while he does have extensive horticultural knowledge and the greenest of thumbs, it helped that most of the items were labeled. After all, many plants in vegetative state can appear to be something else. There was also an instance or two where something had been growing in someone's landscape for years and they had no idea what it was.

With the usual hostas and flats of leggy tomatoes were some exotic items including several American chestnut whips that will hopefully survive to become giant tributes to our nation's past.



Everyone departed happy with bellies full of tasty food, arms heavy with purchases and heads spinning with the question: *Where the heck am I going to put these things.*



The event was another great example of why our members love this club.

Ashley Loves Plants and We Love Her

For the past several years, MASCO client Ashley Kannal's grandparents, Larry and Donna Kannal, brought seeds to the greenhouse and John Schinker helped Ashley sow them in flats. After the Plant Sale, John would give the Kannal's the plants to take home.

Between studying horticulture at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and visiting the MASCO greenhouse, Ashley has become intensely interested in working with plants. John encouraged her to enter last year's MGCY Horticulture Show where her entries received several blue ribbons.

Club photographer Bob Stas documented her show and greenhouse activities in a photo collage that John presented to Ashley at a Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting attended by a number of her family members. The board then passed a



resolution naming her *Employee of the Month*. John took the occasion to thank them for their all their assistance with the greenhouse and their employees' loyalty as Plant Sale customers over the past twelve years.

To show their appreciation for the attention given their granddaughter, the Kannals donated a substantial (unsolicited) check to our club. While their show of gratitude is greatly appreciated, it is thanks enough to have Ashley in our most cherished circle of friends. John must surely consider her interest in our club's activities a most gratifying byproduct of all the time and hard work he puts in at MASCO.

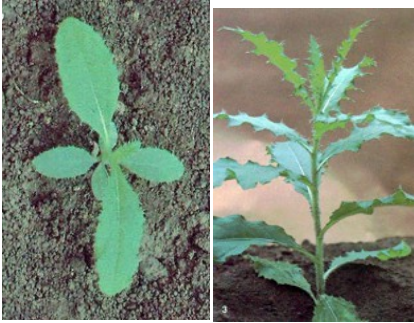


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Canada Thistle

The *Vindicator* recently published an article on the invasive Canada Thistle in its weekly *Valley Grows* section but neglected to supply photos. Below are pics of a mature seedling and a young, maturing plant. We aren't showing a mature, flowering plant because, upon seeing one, it would immediately be identified as a thistle.



The Penn State Univ. Extension website explains why this noxious plant is so hard to eradicate. It easily propagates through a root system up to 17' both horizontal and deep. Each

mature plant can also disperse up to 600 seeds that easily germinate and can stay viable for years.

There are two kinds of control with a possible combination of both:

1) For those with farms and large lawns, continued tilling, mowing and applying herbicides prevents flowering and seed production, and depletes root energy eventually starving the plant.

2) For smaller areas, hand weeding and cultivating along with the application of herbicides eventually does the trick. When using a cultivator, remember that the plant can also propagate from bits of leaf and root so care must be taken to remove the debris.

Yellow Nutsedge

Another *Vindicator* blurb referred readers to a website discussing a lawn invader emanating from deep, energetic tubers - yellow nutsedge.. The PSU Extension website describes the plant as "...an erect, grasslike



perennial. The leaves arise from a central triangular stem forming a clump that grows to 1 to 3 feet high." The yellow-green leaves are 1/8 to 1/2 inch wide, and are smooth and shiny on the upper surface that rises well above turf grass. In our area, the weed emerges in the hot, dry days of late summer.

Control is difficult due to the depth (32 inches) and staying power of the tubers. When herbicides are used, they must remain active for 10 - 12 weeks to outlast the

tuber's ability to sprout. Despite its weedy appearance, nutsedge is grown in southern Europe, western Asia and much of Africa for its tubers which taste like almonds and are very nutritious.

A turf supply business on N. Meridian Rd. in Youngstown recommends Nufarm Proseedge, a selective herbicide applied with a sprayer whenever nutsedge is identified. Maintaining healthy turf - keeping grass at 3+ inches and fall fertilizing - will discourage this and other weeds.

War On Weeds

If you hate dealing with weeds as much as we do, there are a few things you can do to make your gardening experience more enjoyable this summer. You may not agree with some of these solutions but those who don't can write a rebuttal.

An ounce of prevention (mulching) is a good first step. Be advised that using grass clippings will transfer weed seeds from the lawn to the garden or beds.

Once weeds appear, get them while they're young with shallow roots preferably when the soil is moist. Skip most small weeds that will soon be overshadowed by spreading perennials. Also, low growing groundcover-type weeds may be ignored as they will prevent more visible ones from popping up.

Since digging and tilling disturbs the web of beneficial microorganisms in the soil, instead pull by hand or use a loop hoe. If you repeatedly lop off what grows above ground, the root system will die.

Plants grown close together offer no room for weeds as does succession gardening - replacing spring annuals with summer verities, and summer verities with fall annuals. For example: Spinach then cucumbers then lettuce.

Powdery Mildew

A fungus that produces white or gray powdery splotches on leaves and stem, this condition may attack any plant but lilacs, crab apples, phlox, monarda, roses, grapes, squash and cucumbers are among the most likely targets. High humidity, crowded plants and poor air circulation as conditions that encourage this fungus.

Control includes keeping plants healthy, choosing resistant varieties and not planting non-resistant plants in shade. Remove and destroy infected plant parts, improve air circulation by thinning and pruning, and avoid fertilizing until the problem is corrected as the fungus prefers to attack young, succulent growth. Water in the morning so plant leaves can quickly dry.

Fungicides should include potassium bicarbonate, neem oil, sulfur or copper. Look on the web for home remedies made from baking soda or milk.



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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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Youngstown, OH 44512
330-758-8225

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JOE ALESSI

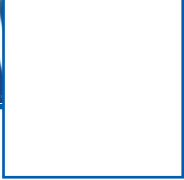
KESTER'S KRISAS

RICHARD STATES



The Germinator

July 2016



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

www.mgcy.org



calendar of events

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
October 5.....	General meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
October 12.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
October 15.....	Fall Breakfast.....	FRG	9:00 am
October 22.....	CGLG Meeting.....	Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield..	10:00 am
November 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
November 9.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
December 7.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
December 14.....	Christmas Dinner.....	A La Cart, Canfield, OH.....	6:00 pm

THE MGCY 2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David E. Causer

330-549-3669 • davidcauser14@yahoo.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Cunning

adopcenter@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

David E. Causer • Dan Miller
Robert P. Stas, Photographer
Joseph Alessi, Jr., Editor Emeritus
mgcygerminator@aol.com