

The Germinator



PUBLISHED BY THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
85 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MAHONING VALLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



President's Message - Jan.

It is December 14 and we are having record breaking warm days. There should be no reason for not having all the leaves picked up and garden cleaned. The warm weather has also given us time to put up our outdoor holiday decorations. There should be lots of great houses decorated.

Speaking of Christmas, if you have not seen the MGCY Decorated Tree at Riverside Gardens, make the effort. It is truly awesome, thanks in a large part to the good eyes and effort of our own Joe Fagnano. I've heard compliments from folks at my church.

Most of you will remember Jamey Graham-Emmert of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. She was our speaker back in 2013. She brought in a coyote and several other specimens. Here is a brief bio of Jamey:

Jamey Graham-Emmert, a native of southeast Ohio, serves as a Wildlife Communications Specialist for the Division of Wildlife's northeast Ohio district and is stationed in Akron. After graduating from Hocking College with an Associate Degree in Wildlife Management, she began her career with the Division in 2003. Jamey's responsibilities vary greatly and include serving as a liaison between the Division and the news media, conducting informational workshops, creating educational displays at various events, and partnering with educators who want to provide educational experiences to youngsters regarding conservation of our natural resources. Be sure to attend the meeting on January 6th.

Have a happy holiday season.

Dave

General Meeting
January 6th, 2016
7:00 pm

Board Meeting
January 13, 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. In order to meet this endeavor, several civic projects are completed each year.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the D. D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Garden. Members receive a monthly newsletter, "The Germinator," which has timely gardening hints, club news and other local and regional 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

*Have a safe and wonderful
Happy New Year!
2016*

Mill Creek MetroParks

JANUARY EVENTS

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

- 16 Bird in the hand 9:30am – 10:30am
Black capped Chickadees – may land in your hand
- 16 Overwintering birds are hungry 10:30am – 11:30am
Create easy to make feeders
- 21 Sprout Club: Spices, age 3-5 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Explore the world of plants and spices
- 23 Coffee with the birds. Watch birds with Jeff Harvey 8:45am – 9:30am
while sipping coffee. (bring your favorite mug)
*For a complete schedule and details:
www.millcreekmetroparks.com*

Mill Creek Lakes

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (WTV) – Mill Creek Park officials said Monday that they expect to re-open the park's lakes some time next year but are still working to improve the park's water pollution situation.

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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.

Speaker Lineup

Robert Culp - *'Fifty Plants You Can't Be Without'* and *'Layered Gardening'*. Robert's Brandywine Cottage in Dowingtown, PA., boasts a 2 acre garden where he mastered the design technique of layering - interplanting many different species in the same area - so that as one plant passes its peak another takes over resulting in a nonstop parade of color.



He was 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 an award winning, nationally certified landscape designer and well-known in the landscaping and design communities for her work and writing.



She is a contributing editor to *Garden Design*, has written for many gardening periodicals and authors her popular blog, *Miss Rumphius' Rules*. She has received award recognition from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and three annual Louise Melton Memorial Design Awards at the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show.

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. He is proud to offer the highest quality products and customer satisfaction.

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

Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree



Prior to our Board of Gardeners' December meeting, we added our unique touch to Fellows Riverside Gardens' annual holiday tree display in the Davis Center. Members donated a wide variety of horticulture-related items, the most unusual of which were two very large yellow jacket wasp nests from Don Brown. Many thanks to Joe Fagnano for coordinating the decoration assembly and installation.

MGCY Donation To Fellows Celebration

Our Board of Gardeners recently agreed to be an evening sponsor during Fellows Riverside Gardens' annual Winter Celebration: The Forest that runs from Dec. 5th to Jan. 3rd. The Davis Center will feature a re-imagined forest complete with enchanting fairies, a life-sized eagle's nest, floral blooms and holiday trees. Every Saturday and Sunday, the grounds will be open 'til 8pm where you can stroll among the 50,000 twinkling lights in the Electric Garden. Shop in the Gardens for that perfect gift or decoration and enjoy refreshments at the Garden Cafe.

Club Breakfast Dates Set

See Bob McGowan for your 2016 TGCA-MGCA calendars (beautiful and only \$3) so you can note a reminder of our Club Breakfasts being held on the Saturdays of March 12th and October 15th at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

The Germinator

2015 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION DINNER

In making our point, it may be a stretch to quote Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* when she says to her lover, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet". However, while many of us refer to our club's annual December get-together as the Christmas Party, its true name - the President's Reception Dinner - is more in keeping with the real reason for the event.

Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown exists to better understand and preserve Nature's botanical bounty, and to develop and pass on our collective knowledge through public service projects and educational presentations. And it is because of our member's efforts that our organization is a valued Mahoning Valley entity.

The President's Reception Dinner is the one event where the club thanks its members for their contributions; thus the event's title. The fact that it occurs so close to the celebration of Jesus' birth, with its spirit of charity and goodwill, just makes the dinner's essence a bit sweeter.

President Dave Causer greeted each arriving guest at the A La Carte Hall, and after a bit of socializing, Rodney Toth led us in prayer followed by a poem of grace:

*The platters were loaded with goodies,
Turkey and trimmings galore.
When the family gathered for Christmas,
Knowing what would be in store.
Each one found a place at the table,
They chatted and laughed with glee.
For this was the usual Christmas,
With a feast by the Yuletide tree.
Then came the toasts and the laughter,
'Til a child raised his innocent face.
To ask them a simple question,
"Will we ever say Christmas grace?"*

Throughout this time, except for Rodney's contributions, we were treated to the vocals of Steve Fazzini. His entertaining repertoire included Sinatra standards, Christmas carols and pop tunes that had some of us up and dancing. His talent and program selection gave the event a true party atmosphere. *Note: The giggling coming from at least one table was probably due to either the festiveness of the occasion or the nice assortment wines at each table.*



Awards

Awards Committee Chairman Rodney Toth and Past President John Schinker took turns presenting our club's most important recognitions for outstanding service during an extended period or the past year. In ascending order of importance, they are:

Certificate of Appreciation - For demonstrating a willingness to actively engage and promote club activities and/or projects.

Mike Banks - Corresponding Secretary & Greenhouse Committee

Mike Beudis - 2nd Vice President

Carl Rubino - (right) Greenhouse Comm. & Winter Seminar

Certificate of Honor - For providing exemplary and energetic service in several areas of horticulture activity and club projects.



Bruce Brungard - Member of the Greenhouse, Horticultural, Information and Technology, Newsletter, Nominations and Publicity Committees. Busy guy. Bruce is responsible for the dramatic increase in print and broadcast media publicity regarding MGCY projects and events.



Outstanding New Member Award - For a member with two or less years of service to MGCY and having made a significant contribution to its activities.

Judge Patrick Cunning - Pat almost immediately volunteered for a much needed position of leadership in our organization, that of First Vice President.

Horticulture Award - For having made an outstanding achievement in the field or horticulture.

Rodney Toth - Rodney is the epitome of all things horticultural. As chairman of the Horticulture Committee, he is the driving force behind our annual Horticulture Show. He also serves on the Greenhouse Committee, helps out at Fellow's annual Pumpkin Walk and is a certified show judge for MGCY and the American Gourd Society, and is a senior judge for the American Dahlia Society.



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For nineteen years, Rodney and his wife, Kay, have hosted their annual Toth's Open Garden during Labor Day weekend where hundreds of visitors tour the magical array of plantings he installs each year. He also serves as auctioneer at our Plant Auction and as emcee at our President's Reception Dinner.



Heritage Award - For ten or more years of service promoting MGCY's original purposes of "creating a better understanding of gardening and encouraging and promoting the beautification of our community".

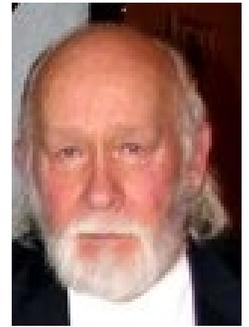
John Schinker - John has served as president at the local (MGCY) and regional (CGLR) levels, and is currently First Vice President of TGOA-MGCA. As chairman of the Greenhouse and Plant Sale Committee, he is the driving force behind our most important fund-raising effort, a job that involves maximum time, effort and skill.

John has also been involved in the youth gardening efforts of Fellows Riverside Gardens and MGCY, and numerous club public service projects including the Memorial Gardens at Javitt Court in Austintown. It would not be overemphasizing his contributions to our organization if his name was added to the Heritage Award title.

Bill Carney Memorial Bronze Award - For giving years of outstanding service while actively engaged in all club activities.

Dan Miller - There are a select few MGCY members for whom the term "irreplaceable" truly applies. These men provide talents and service that would have our organization reeling if they were no longer able to serve. And if there is one area where our membership is on average, relatively unskilled, it is in the area of internet technology.

Dan runs the computer-generated audio/visual setup for our Winter Seminars and, when needed, assists our guest speakers. He is a fixture at our Winter Seminars and Horticulture Shows registration tables and is keeper of those events' records. He is a valued member of the Newsletter Committee and has printed a ton of labels for our Plant Sale.



And who do members turn to when they have a computer-related question? Dan, of course. Our organization, and particularly those of us who are technologically challenged, owe this really sweet guy a token of our gratitude and this award is a step in that direction.

Not available to receive their awards were:

Communications Award - For major contributions expanding horticultural awareness through some form of media.

Bob Fink - In addition to the Newsletter Committee and the MGCY information booth at the Canfield Fair, Bob recruits sponsors and assembles their donations into auction packages for our Winter Seminar.

Master Gardener Award - For providing significant service in promoting gardening in the community.

John Fox - John has been involved in our Youth Gardening Project, the MGCY greenhouse gardens, our Horticultural Show, Veteran's Day memorial plantings and numerous other civic projects. He also serves as our Membership Committee Chairman.

Officers Installed

Officers elected to serve in 2016 were sworn in by TGCA-MGCA Vice President John Schinker. They are, from



left to right, Pres. Dave Causer, 1st Vice Pres. Pat Cunning, 2nd V.P. Bruce Brungard, Treasurer Bob McGowan, Recording Secretary Joe Fagnano. Not pictured: Corresponding Secretary Mike Banks.

Good luck, gentlemen, and thank you for your service.

Among the invited guests were Chuck and Jennifer Lehotsky, Chuck's Greenhouse; Larry Duck, former MCDD Director and who now holds a similar position in East Liverpool; and deceased member Fran Myer's widow, June, who was escorted by a very attentive gentleman. It was a great start to the holiday season.

The Germinator

What Winter?

As we write this, red, red robins are still bob, bob, bobbing along and we're having record high temps for this time of year. It's hard to believe that 12 months ago we were nearly up to our freezing butts in snow. Here are some reminders of what we are "sadly" missing.

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner



Because the birdsong might be pretty,
But it's not for you they sing.
And if you think my winter is too cold,
You don't deserve my spring.

Erin Hanson

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation.
Sinclair Lewis

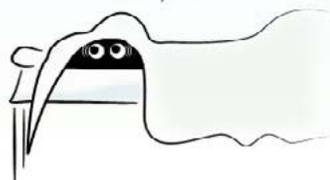
Winter is nature's way of saying, 'Up yours'.
Robert Byrne

No animal, according to the rules of animal etiquette, is ever expected to do anything strenuous, or heroic, or even moderately active during the off-season of winter.
Kenneth Grahame

December's wintry breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory.
John Geddes

Winter Haiku

I wake, reluctant;
Too cold to get out of bed
But I need to pee.



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

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Are ye the ghosts of fallen leaves,
O flakes of snow.
For which through naked trees,
The winds a-mourning go? John Tabb

Authors unknown

It's never too cold for ice cream.
Winter either bites with its teeth or
lashes with its tail

Every mile is two in winter.
I like these cold, gray winter days.
Days like these let you savor a bad mood.
The problem with winter sports is
that they generally take place in winter.

But take heart:

If winter comes, can spring be far
behind? Percy Shelley
No Winter lasts forever; no spring
skips its turn. Hal Borland
Laughter is the sun that drives
winter from the human face.

Victor Hugo

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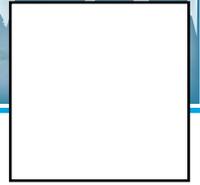
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The Germinator

January 2016



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

www.mgcy.org



Happy New Year - 2016!

calendar of events

January 6.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
January 13.....	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
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 9	Home and Garden Show	Aust. Plaza	12 noon-8 pm
	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
April 6	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
April 12	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
	Spring Plant Sale.....	MASCO Greenhouse	9-6
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

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