



# 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 - Mar.

Well, by now everyone knows why we live in northeast Ohio. SNOW.

I can tolerate snow up to about 6" deep. After 6" its time to put one of God's greatest gifts to work. The snow blower! I love my snow blower. I got it last year. If I had it to do over, I would have gotten a heated handle. Also, I would have bought an auger style. It throws much further.

You all likely know about the "reorganization" at Mill Creek Parks. I feel sad and angry, especially for Keith. And there may be other layoffs. I have had limited communication with Keith. He seems to be handling this with the same professionalism we have all come to expect. He will be missed by The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown.

Based on past experience, I'm guessing Mr. Schinker will be wanting to plant a few thousand "plugs". (Maybe by end of March??). Stand by.

Here's a fun fact about potatoes. What Country produces the most potatoes?? If you guessed China, you are correct. 90 million tons, half of which is exported and/or fed to livestock. The public do not care for potatoes, except for french fries. Potatoes are looked upon as peasant food. China's government wants to encourage people to eat more potatoes. They use less water and are fast growing.

To those going to the seminar, see you Saturday.

*Dave*

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

## Mill Creek MetroParks

### MARCH EVENTS

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

- 2.....Orchid walk up Clinic  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Bring your orchid for expert evaluation
- 6.....Egg – Stravaganza - egg decorating, age 12 and up. 11:30pm – 3:30pm  
Call March 1st and 5th to register
- 25.....Botanical Mornings – Blossoming Spring at Fellows Riverside Gardens

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

### Mill Creek MetroParks News

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (WKBN) – Mill Creek MetroParks announced Thursday that it will open Lakes Newport and Glacier for public use on March 1. The regular boating and fishing season for Mill Creek MetroParks runs March 1 to November 30.

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**General Meeting**  
March 2nd, 2016 - 7:00 pm

**Board Meeting**  
March 9th, 2016 - 7:00 pm  
*All members welcome*





# THE Germinator

March 2016

## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

80 Members • 1 Associate • 32 Sponsors

*Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

### New Member

**Thomas Liggett**, 6565 Moff Rd., Atwater, Oh 44201, 330.947.3388, business - 330.233. 3638, [ligtom@att.net](mailto:ligtom@att.net). Tom is a heavy equipment mechanic with SDS Earthmoving in Diamond, Oh. His spouse is Jean Hannen. He enjoys growing veggies and flowers, and is a member of the Alliance Garden Club. Other interests include welding, leaded glass and beekeeping.

*Welcome Aboard*

### John Fox - Master Gardener

In recognition of his dedication to our organization by providing significant service to the gardening community, John Fox was awarded the MGCY Master Gardener Award at our February membership meeting.



When our club is involved in a project, chances are John will contribute more than his fair share of effort and expertise. He has been a valued member of the Greenhouse and Plant

Sale Committee, the Youth Gardening Committee, Memorial Day monument plantings and many more. He is also the Membership Committee Chairman whose duties include compiling the data and expediting the printing of our Membership Directory.

*Congratulations and Many Thanks*

### MGCY Gardeners' Breakfast

Our next breakfast will be held Saturday, March 12th, at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Guests are welcome. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. The speaker will be heirloom tomato guru Jay Coy. Price is \$5. We'll begin eating at 9am. If you can help with preparations, show up at 7:30am. In order



for Bob McGowan to have an idea how many will be attending and who will be available for prep, see him or call 330.518.6397, or email [rjfmcgowan@aol.com](mailto:rjfmcgowan@aol.com).

### Home & Garden Show Booth

We'll be showing the flag at the Home & Garden Show Friday thru Sunday, April 8-10, at the Canfield



Fair Grounds. It is a great opportunity to build public awareness of our contributions to the community, give gardening advice and recruit new members. We would prefer at least two members per four hour session so call Dan Miller, 330.540.0954, to schedule your slot.

### Windows 10 Printer Upgrade

One of the downsides of the *Germinator* being mainly delivered via email is that, when readers who have upgraded to MicroSoft Windows 10 try to print it out, it doesn't work. Upgrading the operating system requires also upgrading the printer. Before upgrading the operating system, go to the printer's website and see if there is an upgrade for your printer. Below are the websites of four of the most popular printer brands.

Canon - [www.usa.canon.com/...windows-10-upgrade](http://www.usa.canon.com/...windows-10-upgrade)

HP - [support.hp.com/us-in/document/c04568195](http://support.hp.com/us-in/document/c04568195)

Brother - [support.brother.com/s/id/os/windows.html](http://support.brother.com/s/id/os/windows.html)

Epson - [www.epson.com/support/windows10](http://www.epson.com/support/windows10)

If you have an older printer model and there is no listed upgrade, and you are satisfied with the present operating system (say Windows 7), we suggest that you reconsider going to Windows 10. Be advised, that most brands only offer upgrades from Windows 7, 8 and 8.1. In most cases you will have to delete your old printer driver before upgrading. These sites usually give detailed instructions.



## Horticulture This & That

### ***Aeroponic Tower Garden***

When Bob Lilko was growing up on Youngstown's west side, he dreamed of having his own vegetable garden. Fast forward to twelve years ago when he had an 800 sq. ft. garden in Mayfield Heights. Like many realized dreams, Bob's began to lose some of its luster as time restraints and age taxed his ability to maintain the plot.

His presentation of the Aeroponic Tower Garden at our February membership meeting provided an alternative for people in his situation who still want to grow their own fresh veggies. People living in condos where board bylaws prohibit gardens may also find this system fitting their needs.



The system is comprised of a 20 gal. base that serves as a reservoir for water and liquid nutrients, and a pump that distributes the solution up through five stacked sections each having four notches for plants. A sterile medium block (rockwool) is placed in each notch and a seed planted therein. The kit includes all of the above including nutrient solution and a pH tester because, as time passes, the reservoir solution will require adjustment due to increased acidity.

It would probably take some experimentation to learn what plants for which the system is best suited but we'd expect



to see annual flowers, lettuce and herbs in the top section; the middle sections for plants like bush beans; and the bottom section for vining.

The system does best on patios, decks and in indoor areas with south or east facing windows. Indoor growing requires frequent turning. Bob says indoor fluorescent lighting is sufficient. Stronger lighting can be bought online or at hydroponic gardening centers where nutrients and rockwool are also available. At over \$500, the system may be more suited when deployed as an annual floral decoration with some herbs and salad greens added.

For more info, contact Bob at [rlilko@aol.com](mailto:rlilko@aol.com) or go to [www.towergarden.com](http://www.towergarden.com).

### ***Deer /Talk Radio Strategy***

Long drives through rural areas often means radio reception is limited to AM talk radio with an opinionated motor mouth - Glenn Beck? - yammering in your ear. Depending on your patience or political leaning, you might imagine reaching through the dashboard and grabbing him by the throat. Turns out Bambi doesn't care for inane chatter either.



Member Paul Shanabarger had tried many repellants and deterrents to keep varmints away from his plants. Then, knowing that most animals will avoid humans, he placed an old radio atop a bucket, tuned it to an all talk radio station and placed another bucket over it to keep it dry. The volume needn't be set very high as deer have excellent hearing. Paul hasn't had any deer problems since.

### ***OSU Master Gardener Training***

Training will begin March 9th for Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener/Naturalist volunteers at the extension offices in Canfield. Classes be on Wednesdays, 9am - 3pm, through May 11th. Volunteers provide such community educational services as: Answering gardening questions from the public; conducting plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens and disabled; and other activities. For an application visit <http://go.osu.edu/2016class>. For more info call 330.533.5538.

### ***Orchid Exhibit At Fellows***

The *Jewels of Winter Orchid Exhibit* will be on display



at the Davis Center Tuesday to Sunday, 9am - 5pm, through March 13th. During the heart of winter, find the spirit of the tropics by observing plants like tomatoes and cucumbers these exotic beauties on display. The "Flying Duck" orchid - *Caleana major* - center, evolved a pollination strategy that lures a male wasp into attempting to mate with what it believes is a female.

There will be an orchid walk-up clinic on March 2nd, 6pm-8pm. An expert will examine, evaluate, talk about your plant's culture and help repot if necessary.



## More Horticulture

### Natural Seedling Fungicide

Many of us will soon be sowing seeds in flats and one common problem is a fungal attack on sprouting seedlings known as "damping-off". One type of this fungus prevents germinating, but the most serious type kills seedlings not long after they sprout. The plants rot at their bases and fall over, or just wither and die.

If a gardener runs into this problem, he should consider using ground or milled sphagnum moss across the flat or in between the rows of seeds. The acidity of



the moss prevents the fungus from developing.

Sprinkle a quarter inch of ground sphagnum between the rows of seeds or lightly dust it across the top of the entire tray. If the ground or milled variety is

unavailable, simply run regular sphagnum between your hands to grind it yourself. Having an oscillating fan gently blowing on the seedlings also helps prevent disease and promotes strong stems.

*Gardener to Gardener E-newsletter at nga@garden.org*

### Too Much Organic Matter In Soil?

*Building Great Soil*, an article at Garden.org, is a very good tutorial on improving your garden by amending the soil. A soil test is the first step and, in most cases, results a recommendation to add organic (compost or green manure) matter. While most experienced gardeners hype the benefits of compost, one expert prefers green manures and cover crops.

Making and spreading compost is labor intensive while green manures usually involves only sowing and tilling. In addition, some cover crops like buckwheat attract beneficial insects. The downside is that summer cover crops like buckwheat take up space. A partial remedy is to plant a summer cover crop in one quarter of the total growing area and work it into a crop rotation scheme.



The article recommends first time cover-croppers start with buckwheat and goes on to describe the various means of introducing it into the soil. Also mentioned were summer crops of Sudan grass and sunn hemp. Fall planted green manures include vetch, sweet clover and bell beans.

In most cases, there is no such thing as too much organic matter in garden soil. In the clay soils that most of our readers deal with, however, you can have too much of a good thing. Excess organic matter will often result in severe soil cracking. To prevent this, no more than one third of the soil should be vegetable matter. When planting to a six inch depth, the general rule is to add no more than three inches of organic matter.

### MetroParks Shakeup

*The recent Mill Creek MetroParks reorganization came as a surprise to many of us who value our area's "Emerald Jewel" and use its facilities. With the board of directors reported full backing, first year MetroParks Executive Director Aaron Young "downsized" some positions and redefined others.*

*Among those losing their jobs were Naturalist Ray Novotny and Horticulture Director Keith Kaiser, both of whom had served the park system for nearly three decades. This was probably only the first step in a stated effort to increase efficiency while reducing costs.*

*For many Men's Garden Club of Youngstown members, Keith was the face of Fellows Riverside Gardens. Nonprofit organizations who have used the Fellows and Davis Center facilities for meetings, projects and educational events are grateful for his assistance. Our club has long enjoyed his cooperation with our Winter Seminars, Horticulture Shows, Fall Plant Sales and other functions held at Fellows. He also led our Horticulture Scholarship search.*

*While hoping that the reorganization brings the intended results, we have to wonder about the reported methods used. For Keith to be called on the carpet, fired and then made to immediately clear out his office under the watchful eye of park police seems inappropriate considering his position and length of service. Given his knowledge and skill, we're sure Keith will be okay.*

*To paraphrase an old Irish toast, we wish that fateful Friday was the worst day of the rest of his life and the lives of Ray and the others who took the hit. We also hope that our club's and other nonprofit's excellent relationship with MetroParks continues to our mutual benefit.*

Dave Campana, editor



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March 2016

## Bunnies, Chicks & Easter

Resurrection Sunday, one of the most important Christian celebration occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If you go by the Gregorian calendar, which most of us do, that can be anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Some eastern and Orthodox churches, however, use the Julian calendar which dates the celebration between April 3 and May 10. Now that we've cleared that up, let's take a lighter view of Easter.



"Poor guy. Right before Easter too."

What happens when you pour steaming water down a rabbit hole?  
**You get a hot cross bunny.**

Where does the Easter bunny eat breakfast?  
**IHOP**



Just say you hid the eggs and they'll be looking for hours.



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

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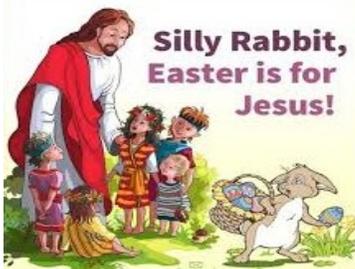
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A man noticed his not-so-bright neighbor walking a peacock on a leash and had to ask, "What are you going to do with that bird?"  
"I just wanted to be sure," the neighbor said with a smile, "That my Easter eggs were organic."



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March 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)



Happy First Day of Spring!  
Sunday, March 20, 2016

## calendar of events

March 2	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
March 3	Floriculture	MCCTC Comp	8:00 am
March 9	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
March 12	Spring Breakfast	FRG	9:00 am
March 25	National Photography entries are due		
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	FRG	7:00 pm
May 4	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
May 5, 6, 7	Spring Plant Sale	MASCO Greenhouse	9-6
May 11	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
July 6	General Meeting	FRG	7:00 pm
July 13	Board Meeting	FRG	7:00 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	FRG	7:00 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

## THE MGCY 2016 OFFICERS

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