

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 - October

My garden looks lean now. Only a handful of tomatoes and a parsley bunch. Except for the sweet 100s, - they were first to turn red and last to survive.

Several gardeners complained about blight this year. I came out very lucky I guess. I had only a few blight stricken tomato plants. I did make an effort to trim off the lower leaves and made sure to allow air to circulate among the plants. My pepper crop was a flop. Guess I need to get some calcium next year.

Thanks to all who manned the booth at Canfield Fair. Fair goers seemed to love the flower bulbs. We always seem to run out. Thanks to Bruce Brungard for procuring the bulbs. Hope we had some potential club members.

Don't forget our Fall Breakfast on October 15 at 9 am. Contact Bob McGowan if you would like to come in a little early and help out in the kitchen. This is a fun event and very casual. A great time to get to know some club members.

Also - the Seed Swap is October 2nd from 2 pm to 4 pm. A good time to find some seeds you may want to try. Maybe some heirloom. In addition to swapping seeds there will be some free seeds as well. This is a public event, so bring a friend or two.

Halloween is just around the corner, October 31st.

And last but not least - a HUGE Thank You goes out to Rodney and Kay for allowing us to visit their awesome gardens. What a treat!

Dave

HAPPY HALLOWEEN MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016



The Fall Breakfast will be held at Fellows Riverside Gardens on Saturday, October 15th at 9 am - Cost is \$5

SEEDS

Seed Swap is Sunday, October 2nd from 2 pm to 4 pm.



Mill Creek MetroParks

October EVENTS

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

- 1st Discover and enjoy the Autumn Wildflowers at Mill Creek Preserve. 8 am -9:30 am. Call Ford Nature Center for details.
- 1st Pick a Pumpkin Wagon Tour. 11 am – 2pm Wagon Ride Tour stops at the Pumpkin Patch to pick your pint size pumpkin. Decorate your pumpkin to take home. Maze and barn will also be open, \$1 wagon ride, \$3 wagon ride and pumpkin.
- 5th Men's Garden Club of Youngstown General Meeting 7 pm – 9 pm local and regional speakers on Horticulture and Nature. FREE – open to the public.
- 8th Invasive Plants – Issues and ID. 10 am – noon. Join Mandy Smith as she introduces Ohio's most common invasives and the ecological issues they cause. 10 am -noon. \$10
- 13th.... Pumpkin carving. 9 am - 3 pm Carve pumpkins for display at the Pumpkin Walk at Twilight event on 10/16 Carving tools will be available or bring your own.
- 28th.... Botanical Mornings. Discover the changes of seasons at Fellows Riverside Gardens with a knowledgeable staff member. \$5 Register and pay by 10/26.

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

General Meeting
October 5th
Fellows Riverside Gardens
7:00 pm

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Board Meeting
October 12th
Austintown Library
6:30 pm

All members welcome

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

86 Members • 1 Associate

Akron Children's Hospital Family Garden

One of the most worthy endeavors ever conceived by our organization was the Youth Gardening Project at Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman. But after only a few years in existence, it became increasingly difficult finding enough young people willing to participate.

All the planning and hard work that went into building the thirteen raised beds and composting bin, not to mention establishing a horticulture curriculum suited for kids, was in jeopardy being so much wasted effort.

Fortunately, several hospital employees and patient's parents saw the garden as a potentially therapeutic



activity for children on the mend. There was so much interest that each of the thirteen beds was divided in half for a total of twenty-six growing plots. Greenhouse and Plant Sale Chairman John Schinker donated some of our leftover plants toward the effort.



As you can see from the photos taken by Bob Stas, the sense of achievement these children receive from raising flowers and vegetables makes one think that the original project was destined toward this end. And while some volunteers lack basic gardening skills (one planted

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

14 tomato plants in a 4' x 5' plot), we hope some with more skill will step forward to help. Any volunteers?

Canfield Fair Club Promotion Booth

Publicity Chairman Bruce Brungard is to be congratulated for not only organizing a well thought out display of horticulture information and handouts at the Floral Building, but also for setting up the booth and taking it down himself. There were plenty of tulip and daffodil bulbs given away, and American elms were won by twelve lucky drawing participants. We were also able to recruit a few potential new members.



The building had several horticulture judgments during the six day fair and on that Thursday we were happy to see Hugh Earnhart's zinnia won Best In Show. In another building, Judge Pat Cunning's peach pie took first place in the *Men's Baking* contest.



Many thanks to the members who worked the booth especially Dennis Zap, Richard States, John Schinker, Paul Shanabarger, Greg Fagnano and Bruce who pulled multiple shifts. Also doing their share were: Tom Arens, Mike Banks, Ted Barritt, Mike Beaudis, Tom Beck, Dan Burns, Vince Camp, Dave Campana, Dave Causer, Judge Cunning, Joe Gregori, Bob McGowan, Dan Miller, Greg Riddle, Art Roden, Terry Volland and Rodney Toth.

MGCY Fall Breakfast at Fellows

Tell Bob McGowan you want to attend the Oct. 15th event featuring a great meal and speaker for only \$5.

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MGCY 52nd Annual HORTICULTURE SHOW

For a number of reasons, this was the best show in several years. First of all, despite a less than optimal growing season, there was an increase in the quality and quantity of entries. And while there were familiar names with Best Of Section (BOS) honors, nobody ran the table to claim the Sweepstakes crown. Also, several newcomers made a very good showing. We were disappointed that last year's Sweepstakes winner Cindy Salerno didn't participate.

Winner's Circle



In the Youth Division, a pretty new face smiled her way to a Sweepstakes win. Julianna Ng had three BOS entries including her Best In Show (BIS) cherry tomatoes in the Vegetables Section. Robert Voland took BIS with his vegetable basket, and Rodney Toth had high points honors including five BOS's.

Youth Division Best Of Sections

Vegetables - cherry tomatoes - Julianna Ng (BIS)

Ornamentals - orn. peppers - Ng

Annuals - marigolds - Ng

Potted Plants - *Mimosa pudica* - Kevin McHugh

Kevin was second in total points.

Adult Division Best Of Sections

Vegetables - Mixed Veggie Basket - Robert Voland

If you're looking for vegetable varieties to grow next season, you could do a lot worse than try Robert's BIS



mix of Aristotle pepper, Big Beef hybrid tomato, Crimson Red watermelon, Fairy Tale eggplant, Serenity bi-color corn & One Ball summer squash.

Ornamentals - ornamental

peppers - Rodney Toth

Fruits - blue Concord grapes - Terry Voland

Annuals - marigold 'Moonsong' - Toth

Perennials/Biennials - ornamental grass '*Arundo donax*' - Toth

Dahlia - 'Hy Clown' - Toth

Bulbs, Tubers, etc. - Calla lily '*Sunshine*' - Toth

Potted Plants - *Epicia* 'Butternut' - Mark Occionero

Bonsai - *Pincus mugo* var. *mughus* - Kevin Wegendt



Most previous shows had very few bonsais, and the big uptick in the quality and quantity of this year's entries was a nice surprise.

Succulents - potted garden including *Gasteria*, *Euphorbia*, *Crassula*, *Aptenia*, *Kalanchoe*, *Rhipsalis*, *Echevaria*,

Portulararia, *Sedum marganiancum*, *Echevaria* & *Cryptanthus* - Occionero.

This was a very impressive display by a new exhibitor who placed third in points.

Cacti - Madagascar palm - Dennis Dunleavy

Woody Plants - Rose of Sharon - Dave Campana

Hanging Basket - *Euphorbic milii* 'red crown of thorns' - Toth

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Horticulture Show Continued from Pg. 3

Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato - 3 lb. 13 oz. - Don Brown, who places second in show points. It was the heaviest since the contest was renamed for our dear departed friend. Club shutterbug Bob Stas would have taken a picture of the ugly monster but he was afraid it would crack the camera lens.

We are always delighted to see our friend Ashley Kannal won several ribbons and picked out plants she would like to grow next season.



Many thanks to the show judges who traveled some distances, and showed great diligence in examining and rating the entries.



Bottom row: Sheila Bowman, Bev Patrick, Cheryl Bordner, Julie Henry & Leroy Hart. *Top row:* Tom Davis, Clark Bordner, Les Knight, & Mark Occionero.

In addition to members who classified, clerked and assisted other exhibitors prepare their entries, we wish to thank Dan Miller who handled registration and tabulated



the results, and Ted Barritt, Bruce Brungard, Dave Causer, Charlie Grounds, Miller, Art Roden, John Schinker, Stas and Horticulture Show Chairman Rodney Toth who prepared the Fellows Riverside Gardens' Davis Center for the show

We had a great time and will hopefully see you and your plants next year.

Honeybees - Indispensible Pollinator?

You may have heard that if it weren't for honeybees flowers wouldn't bloom, trees wouldn't bear fruit and many other plants would disappear. Not necessarily. The bees weren't introduced to North America until the early 1600s by Europeans. Before that, fruits and vegetables were pollinated by native birds and insects including wild bees.

European bees were brought to the Americas for the production of honey and beekeeping became a profitable enterprise. Native Americans called them the 'white man's fly', and many tribes learned the art of keeping bees. North American farmers soon came to rely on the domesticated honeybee for pollination.

With honeybee decline due to mite infestations that don't affect wild bees, some farmers are returning to the practice of allowing wild vegetation to grow between



crops thus facilitating the nesting habits of feral bees.

Above images of 'Native Bees of Eastern North America' from pinterest.com

Submitted by Tom Liggett from the Alliance Garden Club newsletter.

Universal Homemade Fertilizer

Add to one gallon of water:

- 1 tablespoon household ammonia (neutralizer)
- 1 tablespoon saltpeter (potassium nitrate)
- 1 teaspoon Epsom salte (magnesium sulfate)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda (phosphorus)

Source: Gardeners of Greater Akron

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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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KESTER'S KRISAS

RICHARD STATES

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

www.mgcy.org



Happy Halloween!
Monday, October 31st

calendar of events



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

*It's Harvest Time ...
and time for leaves!*

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