

# 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 - September

Last Wednesday we had our annual Steak/Salmon/Chicken fry. It's safe to say that a good time was had by all. If you have never attended this event, give it a try, you will be pleased. I guess that about 18-20 members attended.

I finally managed to get my garden to wake up. I've picked dozens of cucumbers and zucchini over the last two weeks. I had two varieties of cucumbers this year, one which is new to me called FANFARE. It was a high producer. My wife put up about a dozen jars of bread and butter pickles.

About 2 weeks ago I picked my first two red tomatoes, unfortunately when I turned them over they had, you guessed it, blossom end rot!! I called our guru of tomatoes, (Don Brown). He said it is a difficult problem, caused by low calcium, poor watering, crop rotation and drought. There are things we can try next year, but few to no treatments this year. I went into my garden and trimmed away all suckers and low lying stems, which will give some air movement. So far I have had no further end rot.

I planted some beets this year and I think they about 2 weeks away from harvesting. The leaves are almost 11" tall. They are kind of a pain in the but to plant and thin, but you can't beat that home grown flavor.

I usually don't do a late season of planting, but I thought I'd give it a try. I started some plants from seed (zucchini seemed a good choice). They have their second set of leaves and I'll transfer them to the garden this week.

Reminder #1 - This is the 20th year anniversary for Rodney and Kay's open house. Sadly, it is the last one as well. The date is September 4th. Please plan to attend. It is well worth the short drive.

Reminder #2 - Our Horticulture Show is August 20th and 21st. Sponsors - please get your new members to not only attend, but bring a plant or two or more.

A HUGE thank you to Rodney for the great horticulture impact he has had on the public for 20 years.

*Dave*

**General Meeting**  
 September 7th  
 Fellows Riverside Gardens  
 7:00 pm

•

**Board Meeting**  
 September 14th  
 Austintown Library  
 6:30 pm

*All members welcome*



Canfield Fair is  
 just around the corner.  
**August 31 thru**  
**September 5th.**  
*See ya there!*

## Mill Creek MetroParks

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

- 7th ..... 7pm - 8:30pm  
 The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown invites you to attend their General Meeting that includes topics by local and regional speakers on horticulture and nature. Drop in. FREE.
- 10th.... Herbal ciders 10am - 11:30am  
 Learn to make & and craft your own nutritious vinegar based tonics, called herbal ciders with confidence and creativity. Led by Mandy Smith. Register and pay by 9/8 \$15
- 17th.... Floral drawing: Colored pencil workshop. 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10am - 12:30pm
- 17th.... 10am - 5pm Garden Show presented by the Garden Forum of Greater Youngstown.
- 23rd.... 9am - 10am Discover the beautiful blooms at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Register/pay by 9/21. \$5
- 24th.... Autumn Plant Sale. Ornamental cabbage, gourds, pumpkins, mums, spring bulbs.

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

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# The Germinator

## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

86 Members • 1 Associate

### Congratulations John Schinker

#### TGOA/MGCA President Elect

During the Mens' Garden Club of Youngstown's eighty-six years in existence, there have been a select few members who have dedicated time and effort above and beyond what is expected from even an active member. While several are still making significant contributions, newly elected president of



The Gardeners of America/ Mens' Garden Clubs of America John Schinker has made the greatest impact in maintaining our positive reputation and financial stability.

In addition to serving in an executive capacity for our club and the Central Great Lakes Region, he has developed relationships in the community that presents our organization is the best possible light. These include Paul C. Bunn School, Mill Creek MetroParks' Veggie Garden Program and the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

For nearly a decade he has chaired our Greenhouse and Plant Sale Committee resulting in unprecedented income that finances our civic projects and higher education scholarships. He has done all this with an aura of sincere humility choosing to lead by example.

Having served at all three national vice presidential levels, John knows what is expected of him and what he would like to accomplish during his year in office. One important goal is to increase the number of local clubs especially in the south and west where they are often hundreds of miles apart.

Visiting the widely dispersed clubs is also high on his to-do list as many members don't see the advantage of belonging to a national umbrella organization. Talking to members across the country will give him an idea of how to make the national more relevant. Current President Billy Clark will be attending the Central Great Lakes Regional meeting on Oct. 22nd at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield and John would like to see our club well represented.

## Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

### MGCY Annual Steak Fry

Warm temps, low humidity and a cloudless blue sky combined to make a normally pleasant summer outing absolutely perfect. Looking back, we can't remember a Steak Fry where the weatherman didn't cooperate. What's made it even better over the past few years is that we've enjoyed the hospitality of Larry Duck at his spacious and well-appointed pavilion.

Grill master Charlie Grounds cooked the steaks to order and it didn't hurt that Bob McGowan marinated them beforehand. Bob also grilled the chicken and salmon. In addition to side dishes, pies and cakes topped off the banquet. One delight was Charlie's sweet and hot pepper appetizers. We should also recognize Refreshment Committee Chairman Dennis Zapp's contributions to this event and all other club functions where food is served.



The Fry doubles as a Horticulture Show tutorial where Rodney Toth and Don Brown bring various plants



and veggies testing members' category and presentation IQs. Although the growing season has not been the greatest due to limited rain, we hope to have a good showing from not only members but also outside entrants. Last year's Sweepstakes win by a nonmember presents a challenge to our membership.



Everyone had a great time and we look forward to next year's Fry. We hope all members make a resolution to attend.



# The Germinator

## RODNEY and KAY'S

### 20th Annual Open Garden

You are invited to visit Rodney and Kay Toth's gardens **Sunday, September 4, 2016, 10:00am until 6pm., at 5637 W. Liberty St. (Rt. 304), Hubbard, OH, 44425 (2.5 miles east of Belmont Ave., State Rt. 193).**

**Note! This is their last one.**

There are several major landscapes that feature many **special dahlias**, different and unusual varieties of tomatoes such as 'Wapsipinicon' in the **Giant Tomato Forest**, peppers such as 'Hungarian Paprika', hosts, coleus such as 'The Flume', annuals, perennials, the **Great Gourd Tunnel** (a forty foot long gourd arbor) and its new sibling with 'Gremlin Gourds'. The **Grandchildren's Garden** with plants such as Cobra Beans, Voodoo Lily, Megaton Cabbage, 'Yaya' Carrots (and much more), a **Super Castor Bean Garden**, the **Marigold Garden**, the **'Cusbow Squash' Garden** and the **Potpourri Pole** with Climbing Hyacinth Beans.

Special guests will include **Singing Entertainment** by Monica Toth Baker at 2:00pm, John Schinker from the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown with **Mums**, and Alice Lang with **Decorative Gourd Art**. Come and have a relaxing day visiting and sharing with friends. **Note: Admissiion is Free with ample parking.** For additional information or to arrange **Garden Club Tours** on other dates contact Rodney Toth, 330-759-1993.

*The Toth's Annual Labor Day Open Garden is widely recognized as one of the best private displays of gardening expertise and variety in the Mahoning Valley. If this is indeed their last one, we encourage everyone to make an effort to attend. You won't be disappointed.*

## Pickles by Brian Crane



## 'THE DRUNKEN BOTANIST'

Subtitled, *'The Plants That Create The World's Great Drinks'*, this New York Times Best Seller by Amy Stewart explores the origins of many alcoholic beverages brewed from plants, some dating back many millennia. Also included are the chemical reactions involved in the fermentation process and ingredients that further enhance the appeal of these concoctions.

In the book's forward, she writes, "Around the world, there is not a tree or shrub or delicate wildflower that has not been harvested, brewed and bottled. Every advance in botanical exploration or horticultural science brought with it a corresponding uptick in the quality of our spirituous liquors". One example is a chapter on Agave which includes a "Classic Margarita" recipe.

Agave is a member of the *Asparagales* family whose relatives include asparagus, hosta, hyacinth and yucca. The plant blooms about every eight years and these blossoms are the source from which tequila, mezcal and many other spirits are distilled or fermented.

While agave is known to have been a food source in Mexico for at least 8,000 years, archeological digs reveal the first record of a fermented drink made from the plant's sap, *pulque*, dates back to 200AD. This information from a mural showing the Aztec goddess of agave, Mayahuel, breast feeding pulque to some of her 400 rabbit children.

The sap results from cutting the flowering stalk just as it begins to form supposedly producing a gallon a day (250 gal. per year) from a single plant. Fermentation occurs quickly due to the presence of *Zymomonas mobilis*, a natural bacteria found in many tropical plants.

From time to time, we will be doing more articles from this very interesting book.

# The Germinator

## A Dangerous Invader

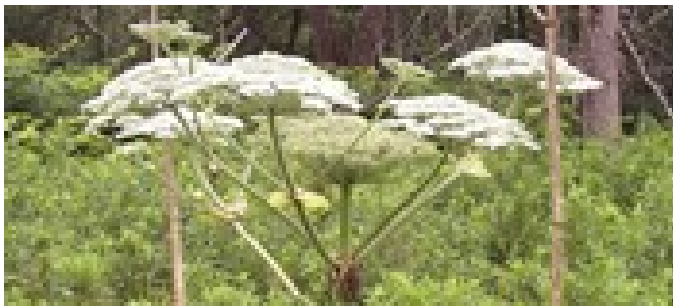
Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is on the federal and Ohio noxious weed lists for good reason. It not only rapidly produces a tall, dense canopy that displaces native plants, but its sap causes human skin to become highly sensitive to ultraviolet light. Swelling and blistering occur lasting up to two weeks sometimes



results in scarring. Eye contact can cause temporary and sometimes permanent blindness.

Native to the Caucasus region of Eurasia and introduced to Europe, it first

appeared in the U.S. a century ago. Originally imported as a landscaping ornamental due to its massive size and eye appeal, it escaped to become well established in New York and Pennsylvania, and has taken hold in Ohio's northeastern border counties. It favors moist, well-drained soil, full sun and is often found along the edges of ditches, ponds, lakes and streams.



The plant is a biennial in the Carrot and Parsley (*Umbelliferae*) family, is hardy to Zone 3 and can grow to 15 ft. Leaf size, which can reach 5 ft. wide, and shape varies depending on its plant location and the age of the plant during its five year life cycle. The stem is hollow with white hairs at nodes.

Giant hogweed flowers in late June to early July with an umbrella-like top of multiple white flowers. Each plant can produce up to 20,000 seeds. Look-



a-likes include poison hemlock, wild carrot and cow parsnip.

Caution should be exercised when trying to remove the plant as cutting produces noxious sap that attacks the skin. It is controlled by cutting, mowing, digging, removal of flowering tops and herbicides, and can take up to five years to eradicate it from an area. While multiple applications may be necessary, the most effective strategy is spraying with Triclopor and glyphosate (in Roundup and other products) in the fall after the first frost.



Source - *Ohio State Univ. Extension FactSheet ANR-35*

## Planting Now For Fall Harvest

If gardeners in our area plant now, it probably won't be too late to enjoy autumn veggies. Almost everything that can be grown in spring can be sown in mid-summer with some like broccoli and cauliflower actually doing better. That is because spring temperatures can swing wildly between freezing and high 80's.

Lettuce and greens, peas, radishes, carrots and beets are sown as seeds while broccoli, cauliflower and collards should be planted in flats then transplanted. If temps remain high, shade cloth supported with half-inch PVC hoops can be used. If there is an unseasonable temperature drop later, the cover can double as frost protection. This hoop system can be erected and removed quickly depending on the weather forecast.



Crops like carrots, kohlrabi, spinach and some lettuces are somewhat frost tolerant and can be harvested into early December. Turnips, mustards, kale, collards and tatsoi will continue growing all winter but should only be harvested when temps rise above freezing. In the spring there may be a fresh spurt of vigorous growth. Once the thermometer dips, fall gardening becomes much easier with little weeding and watering needed.

Source - *Learn2Grow.com*



# The Germinator

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

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# The Germinator



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 c/o Newsletter Editor  
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[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



Labor Day - Monday, September 5th

## calendar of events

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

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