

The Germinator



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

President's Message

We are saddened by the passing of Bill MacPherson, a very active member whose many club contributions included hosting several important club activities. Bill's used car business' customers testify to his honesty and attention to detail.



Bill MacPherson
 1940-2018
Rest In Peace,
Dear Brother

On a more positive note, Greenhouse and Plant Sale Committee Chair John Schinker announced an agreement between our club and the Mahoning County Joint Vocational School. Its greenhouse is more modern with a capacity nearly matching that of MASCO. We will begin planting in March, and hope participation matches last year's enthusiasm.

We hope to have a good turnout at our annual President's Reception - Christmas Dinner on Dec. 12th. Come join your fellow members and their guests as we thank you for your contributions to our organization and the community. Good food, club awards, entertainment, poinsettias for the ladies, and friendly interaction with fellow members. If you haven't attended one of these events, you've missed a great time.

The speakers that have been lined up for our annual Winter Seminar (Pg. 3) represent some of the best horticulture has to offer. We need members to sign up ASAP to be table captains assisting the other seven attendees at your table. Your attendance fee will be discounted.

Please pay your 2019 dues promptly so that our Membership Directory can be printed and distributed in a timely manner, and fill out the attached insert when mailing your check.

Sincerely; *Bruce Brungard, President*

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wed., Dec. 5th
 Austintown Library.
All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting

Christmas Party
 6pm, Wednesday, Dec. 12th
 A La Cart Catering - Canfield
Guests Welcome

MetroParks In Dec. Winter Celebration Frozen In Time

A sparkling winter wonderland brought indoors in celebration of the Gardens Diamond Anniversary. Enjoy the annual holiday tree walk, scavenger hunt and seasonal blooms. Dec. 1-31

Accepting donations of non-perishable food items for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Breakfast w/Santa 8

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

Christman Party/President's Reception Dinner

6pm, Wednesday, December 12th

A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Rd. (Rt. 62), Canfield, Oh

Menu: *Chicken Cordon Bleu or Stuffed Pork Chop*

Major Club Awards, Poinsettias for Ladies & Wine

Entertainment: Canfield High School Coral

Price: \$20 Per Person – Check Payable to MGCY - Select Entrée

RSVP Bob McGowan, PO Box 724, Canfield, OH, 44406 by Dec. 5

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG
85 Members • 2 Associates

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

New Member

Robert Pounds, 10330 Washingtonville Rd., Canfield, OH, 330-219-8263, Mysticsoul555@aol.com. Robert's spouse is Jill Snyder. He describes himself as a Jack of all trades, master of none. His gardening interests include flowers and trees. He is a member of both the Canfield and Youngstown Community Bands.
Sponsor: John Schinker

Welcome aboard!

For The Birds

It's winter and our feathered friends may need your help finding food. Ice and snow covering the ground and the continuing loss of wild spaces can make it difficult for birds to maintain their potential populations. Jeff Harvey, owner and operator of Wild Birds Unlimited in Boardman and Mill Creek MetroParks Commissioner, told us what we can provide during these harsh months at our November membership meeting.

Sunflower seed, especially black oil varieties, is the seed that will attract the largest number of bird species.

Along with striped sunflower, it can be purchased shelled to limit messy debris. Peanuts also come shelled and unshelled. There are ground mixes that include millet and other mixes that can be purchased shelled or not.



Mixes containing red milo, sorghum, buckwheat, canary seed and wheat should be avoided as these are just fillers. Any quality mix should contain at least 50% sunflower seed.

Suet, a mixture of lard, seeds, nuts and berries, is especially attractive to all woodpecker varieties. It usually comes in cake form but some varieties can be smeared on structures such as trees and fences. Audubon Society recipe:

- 1½ cups shortening (palm oil)
 - ¾ cups nut butter (any kind)
 - 3½ cups wild bird seed
 - 1 cup quick oats
 - ½ cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray



Mix dry ingredients – set aside.

Combine shortening & nut butter, melt under low heat and stir until completely combined.

Combine dry ingredients & melted mixture.

Spoon mixture into ice cube trays, freeze for 1-2 hours.

Plants & Trees – It is important to plant native species so birds don't disperse invasive plant seeds. Native plants and birds have evolved together in a given area and mutually benefit one another.

Evergreens give winter shelter, spring nesting sites and year-round protection from predators. Oaks provide acorns for chickadees, woodpeckers, crows, finches, nuthatches, jays, towhees and game birds.

Other beneficial trees are: Dogwood (game & song birds; beech (blackbirds, chickadees, jays & titmice); holly (finches, woodpeckers, waxwings, & thrushes).

Fruits of many native shrubs and small trees are on many a bird's menu. Serviceberry, holly, bayberry, rose, yew, blueberry and viburnum are not only bird magnets but are great additions to landscapes and gardens. As for perennial flowers, Jeff is partial to sunflowers and coneflowers. Though a bit unsightly, resist removing spent vegetation. The birds will thank you.



Club Dues are Due

Our annual Membership Directory contains vital club information. In addition to member information, it provides the year's club events, committee chairmen and members, and past member significant awards.

For the directory to be accurate, and printed and distributed in a timely manner, it is vital that members submit their dues ASAP.

An insert is attached to this Germinator issue asking about preferred individual club activities. Please fill it out and mail it with your dues to Bob McGowan, P.O. Box 724, Canfield, Oh., 44406. Regular members - \$25; lifetime members - \$10.



Winter Seminar Program Set



When the Mens' Garden Club of Youngstown was founded some 88 years ago, perhaps its most important mandate was to provide horticulture education and appreciation to the community. Our annual Winter Seminar goes a long way in satisfying that important purpose by providing out-standing presentations and other entertaining activities. Gardeners over an extended area have come to expect nothing less.

This year's theme is 'GARDENING POTPOURRI – 'A Mix of Gardening Topics from Trees to Turf and In Between'. The speakers will explore the rich heritage of growing, caring for, and appreciating plants.

If we are to continue filling Fellows' Riverside Garden's D.D. Davis Center on Feb.16th, every able member must do his part to help make the event a success. A discount is offered for member participation including setup the day before and acting as a seminar table captain. Seminar Committee Chair Tom Arens recently announced the slate of speakers recruited by Larry Toker, and it is an all-star lineup.

The Speakers

Scott Zanon – Owner of Desirable Trees & Turf, and author of 'LAND-SCAPING WITH TREES IN THE MIDWEST – 'A Guide for Residential and Commercial Properties', Scott is a consultant providing advice and services to the green industry regarding trees and turf grass issues. He holds BS degrees in Horticulture and Agronomy.



Irvin Etienne – Horticulture Display Director for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Irvin writes for *Fine Gardening* and *Indiana Gardening* Magazines. He has expertise in a wide range of topics including container and rooftop gardening, garden design, ornamentals, trees, shrubs, fruits, perennials, vegetables, fruits and herbs.



Louis 'The Plant Geek' Raymond – The *Boston Globe* writes, "Louis experiments in his own garden like a mad scientist, searching out plants that most people have never seen before, and figuring out how to make them perform." He is a garden designer in Rhode Island and also writes horticulture articles at LouisThePlantGeek.com.



Easy-Care House Plants

If you're looking to put more variety in your indoor garden, or want to find a long-lasting Christmas gift for black-thumbed relatives and friends, here are a few plants to consider.

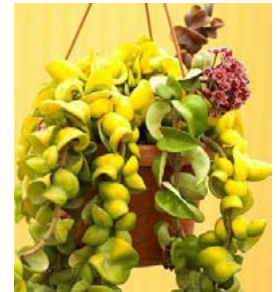
Peperomia – The interesting leaves of this plant vary from heart shaped to narrow, waxy to waffle-like in texture, and colors ranging from green to reddish to silvery gray. It occasionally produces slender flowery spikes. The plant tolerates low light and is small enough (6–12" high and wide) for tight spaces.



Christmas Cactus – A care-free cactus offering graceful arching appearance with long, segmented stems and whorls of satiny flowers in lilac, deep rose, salmon, red-orange or white. Expect blooms in mid-late December. Pinching stems encourages a fuller plant and more blooms. Prefers bright light in well-drained, moderately dry soil. Plant is 8-12" high by 6-18" wide.



Hoya – This fast-growing plant shows off both smooth, shiny foliage and pink and white flowers with red centers. The waxy, sweetly scented flowers give it its common name – wax plant. Hoya can be adapted for hanging, trellis or trained topiary. Easiest cultivar is *Hoya carnosa*. Medium to bright light for flowering.



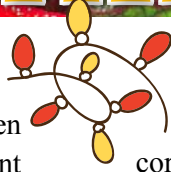
Other easy-to-grow house plants include:



Aloe, *Anthurium*, Asparagus fern, Peace lily, Snake plant, Cast-iron plant, *Dieffenbachia*, Chinese evergreen, *Dracaena*, English Ivy, Ficus, *Philodendron*, Parlor palm, Spider plant, *Tradescantia*, *Plectranthus*, and Arrowhead vine.

Source: www.midwestliving.com

Gardener's Christmas Wish List



Right now you're probably getting that most often asked question before the big day, "What do you want for Christmas?" Here are a few items that may provide an answer. Don't be coy. They're askin' so why not tell them the truth.

Rain Gage - Gardeners always like to know how much rain fell over-night. There are a wide range of products available. This AcuRite model sells for \$6.33. Or you could just use an old bucket and ruler.



Weather Prediction - Who needs the Weather Channel when you can get all you need to know from the AcuRite Weather Station (\$150). It gives you the following functions: Indoor/out-door temperature and humidity with trend indicator; wind speed and direction; rainfall history; self-emptying rain bucket; current barometric pressure with trend indicator; heat index; wind chill; dew point; current, month and all-time rain-fall records; 12 and 24 hour weather forecast; weather icons (rain likely, partly cloudy, cloudy, snow likely, rain/snow mix likely); and clock and calendar display, and the information is for your exact location. Sensor can be up to 300 ft. away.



Two Wheeled Cart - Rodney Toth feels this is an essential tool for serious gardeners because it can be moved with one hand. Prices range from \$40 to almost \$600. This 6 cubic ft. heavy duty Costway model sells for \$85.



Stirrup Hoe - Another of Rodney's favorite gardening tools, this one from Gardener's Supply costs \$25 but there are cheaper models out there.



Long-Handled Digging Fork - The long handle enables standing on the tool for deep soil penetration and leverage. There are some 6-tine and more models out there but we haven't been able to find them. This 4-tine model with a 53 inch handle from Howland Supply sells for \$55.



Happy Holidays

Relax! Before you accuse us of being politically correct 'snow flakes', we're just recognizing that there are other religious celebrations in December besides Christmas. For example:

Chanukah (Hanukkah) celebrates the 2nd century BC victory by the people of Israel over the occupying Greeks who sought to have the Jews accept their culture. Upon reclaiming the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they tried to light the Menorah with a one day supply of oil. The oil miraculously lasted 8 days thus the length of the celebration.

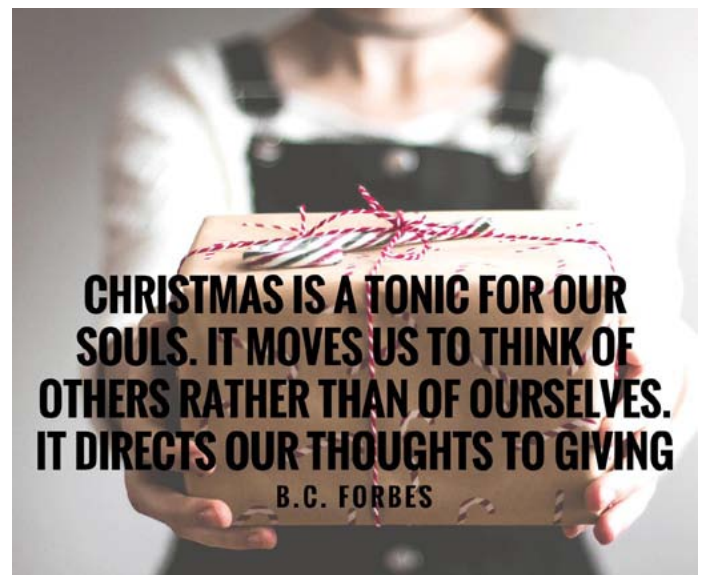
Ashura (Dec. 6) is celebrated by Sunni Muslims remembering that the Prophet Muhammad fasted in solidarity with the Jews who were observing Yom Kuppur, the Day of Atonement.

Bodhi Day when Buddhists recall that Siddhartha Gautama vowed to sit under a tree and not rise until he had achieved enlightenment. The title 'Buddha' means 'enlightened one'.

Yule (Jul - Dec.22) is an ancient Scandinavian winter solstice festival where fires are lit symbolizing the heat, light and life-giving of the returning sun.

Kwanza is the week-long African-American and pan-African event that begins on Dec. 26. It celebrates family, community and culture. It also has religious overtones in its emphasis of 'imani', Swahili for faith.

So Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all, any way you wish to celebrate during this season of faith, love and charity.



The Germinator

December 2018

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

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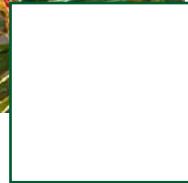
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Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio
 c/o Newsletter Editor
 123 McKinley Ave. • Youngstown, OH 44509

www.mgcy.org

calendar of events



December 5Board Meeting APL 6:30 pm
 December 12Christmas DinnerA La Cart, Canf, OH..6:00 pm



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

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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