

The Germinator

April 2020



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

President's Message

Greetings, Fellow Gardeners

As I write this, we are in the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic and our lives are being profoundly affected by the imperative to contain it

The Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Center will be closed for the indefinite future so we have had to cancel our Pancake Breakfast and our April membership meeting. It is entirely possible that the May and even June meetings will also be cancelled. Libraries are also closed so we don't know when we can hold our next board meeting.

We have also had to cancel our annual Spring Plant Sale. This was a difficult but necessary decision that had to be made immediately based upon our having to invest up front a substantial amount of money in plant starts and materials that we cultivate and grow for our in May. Given that we will not have access to the Mahoning County's Career and Technical Center's greenhouse for the indefinite future, we cannot run the risk of losing this investment.

I want to thank John Schinker for the investment of time and money he has made in planting and propagating many plants that were previously moved to the greenhouse. Sadly, we will likely not be able to salvage them. Our Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner in June may also be in jeopardy and, I would assume, that too will have to be cancelled.

We will stay in contact with you regarding matters related to the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown. I want to encourage members to stay in contact with one another during these challenging times. If you need help, ask for it. If you can give help, offer it. As has been said often these days. "We are all in this together".

Remember that while we have to practice 'social distancing', we can get as close as we want to our plants. They can provide us some comfort in these trying times.

Take Care, **Tom Atkins**, President

Membership Meeting

Our April Membership Meeting has been cancelled due to Fellows Riverside Gardens closing because of the Corona Virus situation. Hopefully we'll see you at the May meeting.

Board Meeting

If not cancelled,
6:30pm, Wednesday, Apr. 8th
Austintown Library
All Members Welcome

MetroParks In April

Tree Communication & Natural Defenses	Mar. 31
Nature Photo Exhibit	1-12
Men's Senior Golf League Signup	1-?
Meditation Course	1,8,15,22,30
Plant a Seed to Read	4
Animal Baby Shower	5
Dance Classes	7,14,21, 28
Traveling Naturalist	11
Easter Brunch	12
Easter Golf Sale	12
Botanical Mornings	17
Colorscapes	17-30
Daffodil Show Weekend	17-19
Birding the Sanctuary	18
Singing Frogs Night	27
Laid Back Cooking	28

For All Events & Details, Go To
millcreekmetroparks.org

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Club News

Kristen Kurtz • WWW.MGCY.ORG
57 Members

New Members

John D. Dotson, P.O. Box 42, Canfield, OH, 44406, 740-202-3461, johnny.dotson@aol.com. John is a case worker and the Garden Director at FlyingHigh, Inc., 6 Federal Plaza Central, Youngstown, OH, 44503. He is married (Debra), an O.S.U. Extension Master Gardener, a 32 degree Mason and a gardening generalist.

Tom McGiffin, 855 N. Ward Ave., Girard, OH, 330-501-9786, tsmcgiffin@gmail.com. Tom is former member who decided life is better when you're with MGCA.

Welcome Aboard, Gentlemen

Landscaping with Paving Stones

Jack Beggs, our March membership meeting speaker, is the owner-operator of Jack's Custom Landscaping specializing in hardscape installation. In addition to providing a detailed handout, he walked us through the process of installing paving bricks for such projects as an outdoor patio. Pavers have several advantages over concrete including inexpensive repairs.

The area in question must not tend to hold standing water with a 1½-2" slope per 10', otherwise drainage pipes must also be installed. Approximately a foot of soil needs to be removed. While code calls for a 4" base, Jack uses 6"-8" base of ¾" (#304) limestone gravel applied at 2" intervals. The base should extend 6" beyond the intended paver boarder to ensure against winter heaving.



Tamp as if cutting a lawn making lateral then vertical passes. A laser level, especially for larger jobs, is a good choice but string with a line level can also work. When using a mechanical tamper, the machine jumping around a bit will indicate the base is sufficiently compacted. Afterward, bedding (paver or limestone) sand needs to be applied, screed (a straight 2"x4" board) and tamped to a 1" level. Several applications may be necessary. Edge restraints are then installed.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

When purchasing pavers, add 10% to the measured area – another 5% for a curved design. The pavers are applied in a linear manner butted tightly together with those requiring cutting applied last. Jack recommended dropping the pavers straight down to avoid bedding sand making them uneven. The best joint sand has a polymer ingredient that hardens once moistened. It also needs to be vibrated in. Sealing is not necessary but can extend the surface life. The general cost is \$18-24 per square foot. jackcustomlandscape.com or jackcustomlandscape@gmail.com

2020 Vision

The Gardeners of America/ Men's Garden Clubs of America will hold its national convention will be held at its new headquarters, the Ohio State Univ. Agriculture Technical Institute in Wooster, OH, from Monday thru Wednesday June 14th-16th. This is a departure from the usual week-end agenda and will also be a day shorter.



The good news is that it is within easy driving distance and will be much cheaper due to attendees having the option of staying in college dorms. The nearby Hilton Garden Inn is also an option.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on June 14th; business meetings followed by seminars will be on the 15th, and tour day which will include the Secrest Arboretum on the 16th. We will pass along more details when they become available.

Flying Our Flag

Monster SilkScreen of Poland recently ordered 25 men's pink polo shirts from a supplier which misread the invoice to read 250. The supplier didn't want the shirts returned and erased the bill. Mr. Franklin Styne, Monster SilkScreen owner and operator, attended our Winter Seminar and was very impressed. He decided to donate one shirt which includes the MGCY logo, free of charge, to any member wanting one. Sizes run Small to XXLarge.



Since we won't be having an April meeting, a signup sheet will be passed at our next membership meeting. Once the orders are received, our club's logo will be embossed with delivery at subsequent meetings. To expedite your order, call 330-758-6662. Mr. Styne also filled out a club membership application and we look forward to welcoming him aboard.

Remember, only real men dare wear pink.

GARDENS APLENTY IN 2020

MGCY 15th Annual Winter Seminar

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is now in its tenth decade of service to the Mahoning Valley fulfilling its mission: "Promoting a better understanding of gardening through education and to practice horticulture diversity for all segments of the community". Throughout the year we host a number of signature events including our Spring Plant Sale, Plant Auction/Casserole Dinner and Horticulture Show. None, however, promotes horticulture education nor enjoys the public support than our annual Winter Seminar. We are proud that 150 avid gardeners over a wide area return year after year. This is due in no small part to our tweaking every detail so that the attendee's experience is memorable and fun.



A great deal of thought, time and preparation goes into every element. When guests arrive to register, they are given an individualized folder containing a seminar program with speaker bios, speaker handouts, brochures from supporting businesses, and a rating questionnaire on each seminar element. They can then enjoy a continental breakfast with a generous variety of beverages, fruit and pastries.

Once seated, a MGCY member at each table provides for guest's needs and answers their questions. The party really got started when club members Ron Fasano, Rodney Toth and Tom Arens serenaded the crowd with the "Garden Song" (They're all retired and there's no danger of second careers.). During breaks, guest could enter the raffle for twenty sponsor-provided, well appointed baskets, five of which contained a beautiful, handmade birdhouse. At mid-point, a gourmet lunch with desert satisfied the most discriminating taste buds. There were also periodic door prizes awarded.



Speaker Presentations

This frosting on the cake is nice, but guests come mainly for the speakers who impart their expertise while being entertaining at the same time. This lineup didn't disappoint. The audience appreciated the variety of subject matter with each professional explaining the sometimes complex subject matter in layman's terms.



Dr. Laura Deeter, *Must Have Plants* – A full professor of Horticulture at Ohio State University's Agriculture Technical Institute at Wooster, Laura teaches a multitude of classes including Woody & Herbaceous Plant Identification, Landscape Design & Construction, Sustainable Landscaping, Plant Health Management, and Ecology. She has been awarded the ATI Distinguished Teaching Award twice, the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, the American Horticulture Society Teaching Award, and the Perennial Plant Assn. Service Award. Attend one of Dr. Deeter's presentations and you'll understand why she is in such demand as a national speaker. She admits to being afflicted with two conditions common to many gardeners: *CHAD*, or *Compulsive Horticulture Acquisition Disorder* where one never sees a plant they don't want, and *Zone Denial* where an optimistic Zone 6 gardener will try to grow tropical plants. Her favorite birthday gift one year was a bag of 'poo'.

Laura Deeter continued from page 3.

Her 'must have plants' include: Dogwood varieties, some are shrub-like while others grow to 25-30 feet. She loves the exfoliating bark, red fruit and the fact that they are deer resistant; and Black Gum Tupelo preferring the American Beauty Berry as opposed to the more available Japanese variety.



Kirsten Kurtz, *Soil Science for the Home Gardener* – While pursuing her MS degree in Natural Resources at Cornell University, Kirsten is the manager of the university's Soil Health Laboratory, a global leader in soil health analysis. She is also involved in communications, extension, teaching and giving guest lectures. She also organizes the annual Soil Painting Festival at Cornell where international artists use only various soils as their medium.



Her inspiration and drive is motivated by the challenges facing global soils. Our planet has lost a third of its arable soil and 50-70% of its carbon stock – the food on which plant-nourishing microbes depend - will be depleted in 60 years. This would leave much of our world's growing population facing starvation unless scientists like herself can find solutions.

Dr. David Shetlar, *The Big, the Bad, the Ugly, the Ugly & the Weird*. The 'Bug Doc' teaches outreach education on turf and ornamental entomology and related topics. After teaching at Penn State and working as a research scientist at Chemlawn Services, he joined O.S.U. in 1990 becoming a Professor Emeritus in 2017. He has coauthored several books including *Garden Insects of North America*, 2nd edition, and a long list of research publications.



The Doc gave a very interesting presentation which included the strange, erotic antics of some insect mating. Female praying mantises begin eating the male during mating but keep him alive long enough to maximize sperm intake. There may be several firefly species in a given area distinguished by differences in flash patterns. One species female cannibalizes her mate. The firefly larva eat slugs and snails but suffer from habitat loss. To assist pollinators and beneficial insects, provide bee nests, debris piles and bare ground. He also expelled worries about the lantern fly which is easily eradicated but keeps being reintroduced.



George Weigel, *My Garden Failures*. George has been writing garden columns for The Patriot News and PennLive.com in Harrisburg for nearly 3 decades, and ran his own consulting and design business for home gardeners. A retired Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturalist, he has written 5 PA specific gardening books, been a long-time member of GardenComm, PA Horticultural Society's Gold Medal Plant committee and was the recipient of the National Garden Club's Award for Excellence.

George's humorous presentation covered the many gardening mistakes he has made, but photos of his landscape designs show his tremendous skill, ingenuity and tenacity. Among his revelations were that groundhogs can climb fences and trees, and can be easily caught with cantaloupe rinds; that mole damage is easily repaired, and that you need a 9-10 ft. fence to keep out deer.

So Many To Thank

At the top of the list is our president Tom Arens. In his second year as seminar chairman and with Larry Tooker's help, he actively recruited seminar speakers; along with Bob McGowan, Bruce Brungard, Tooker and Ron Fasano procured sponsor donations for the basket raffle, and coordinated all facets of the seminar. We



must also thank Dan Miller and John Fox who handled registration; Ron Fasano and Linda Arens who managed the basket raffle; Dennis Zap for the Continental breakfast; the many members who ran the previous day's seminar setup and who acted as table captains; basket raffle donors including Dennis Toth for his beautiful, hand-make birdhouses; Petite Garden Center for the table center pieces; Fellows Riverside Gardens for providing the venue; and Kravatz Catering for a delicious lunch. *But most of all, we must thank our attending guests who continue to make our seminar an event highly anticipated by dedicated gardeners.*



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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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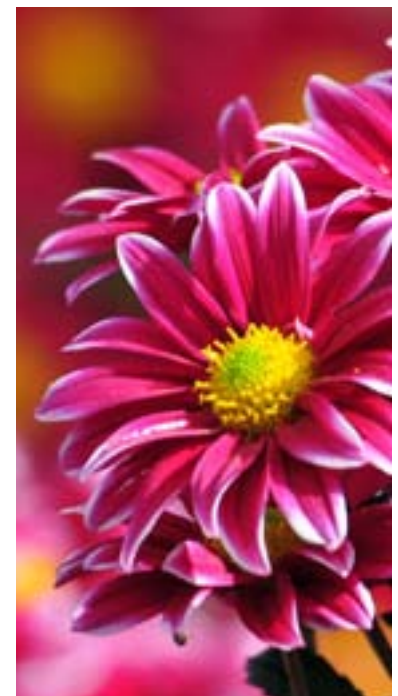
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calendar of events



- April 1st Membership MeetingFRG CANCELED
- April 8th..... Board MeetingAustintown Library CANCELED
- May 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 Spring Plant SaleMCJVS CANCELED
- June 3rd..... Plant AuctionBoardman Park..... TBA
- June 10th..... Board MeetingAustintown Library 6:30pm

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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