

The Germinator



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays Everyone,

The holidays this year will be unlike any in memory for most of us. However while we may have to celebrate remotely, we can still retain the essence of friendship and family. We do not need large gatherings to remember what we are thankful for; or to remember the meaning of Christmas; or to hope for a better new year.

Our club will be entering a period of "dormancy" due to safety considerations. We have cancelled our Christmas dinner as well as our Winter Seminar. Membership and Board meetings will be cancelled until February. We will also be publishing a combined Jan/Feb edition of the Germinator. That being said we are excited about some issues and opportunities that the club will face in 2021.

Changing our name: We now have 2 female members and one more has recently applied, so "MGCY" is quickly becoming a misnomer. We have discussed some possible new names in our recent meetings. Here are some ideas: Mahoning Valley Garden Club, Mahoning Valley Garden Society, Greater Youngstown Garden Club, etc. Obviously we can mix and match the various elements of these ideas. We will be discussing this issue in detail at our February meeting. Please feel free to present your own ideas. This will require a change of our constitution, which you can soon view on our website.

As reported in last month's Germinator we are moving forward on our partnership with Flying High, a non-profit organization that operates the Grow Urban Farm on the northside of Youngstown. Dennis Penner, with John Schinker's help, will co-ordinate our activities in the greenhouse there.

One final note, its time for all members to pay annual dues. This year the amount has been reduced to \$11.00. Dues should be sent to Bob McGowan, P.O. Box 724, Canfield, OH, 444406. I would like to see all dues paid by year's end. I have some concerns about members who don't pay dues or are chronically late. Paying dues is a condition of membership. I will be making personal calls to all members who have not paid dues by 12-15-20, to discuss their intentions.

I wish you all happy holidays in whatever way you choose to celebrate them.

Tom Arens

**December & January
Membership Meetings
Cancelled**

**December & January
Board Meetings
Cancelled**

**President's Reception
Dinner/Christmas Party
Cancelled**

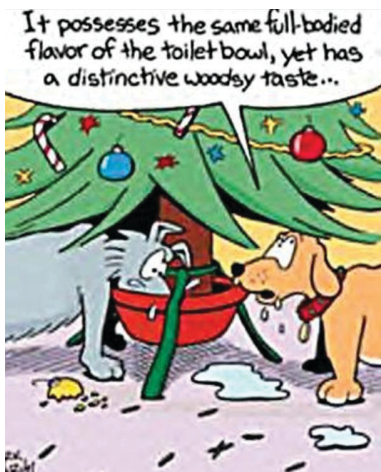
**Thanksgiving Day and
Christmas Eve & Day
Dinners with Family, and
New Year's Eve & Day
Parties
Cancelled**

**Life As We Know It
Cancelled**

**Mill Creek MetroParks
December Events**

While all indoor venues are closed until further notice, most outdoor activities are open.

Go to millcreekmetroparks.org for more information.



Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. Calvin Coolidge

Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store. Dr. Seuss

I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. Charles Dickens

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand. Mother Teresa

The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the naughty women live. George Carlin

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I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. When I sat on his lap, he asked me for my autograph. Shirley Temple

57 Members

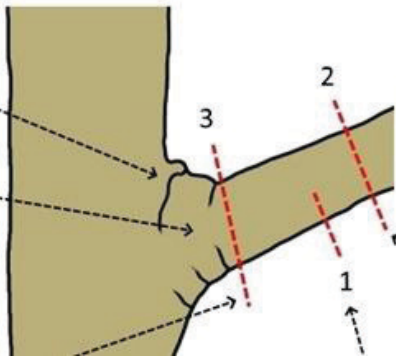
Club Treasurer & New Member



Congratulations to our newly elected club treasurer, Terry Volland, who will take office when sworn in next year. With Terry is Kathy Volland, his wife and our newest member.. She has accounting experience and will be of great help to Terry when he assumes office.

Tree Pruning Done Right

Tim Leyden, Parks Greenhouse arborist, was the speaker at our November membership meeting. His talk covered some pruning basics that were easy to follow and others, like Auxins and Cytokinins, that flew over most of our member's heads. These are tree hormones that circulate between a tree's roots and its apical bud. It's quite complicated so, if interested, do some research.



Young trees can be pruned every two years while mature trees should be pruned no more than every five years. Cutting large branches involves three cuts. The first is a foot or so from the trunk a third of the way through the underside. This prevents bark stripping of the trunk when the branch falls. The second cut removes most of the branch leaving only a short stub. The third cut removes the stub while preserving the branch collar. Cutting flush to the trunk or leaving a stub invites insects and disease.

May thanks to Tim for an interesting presentation.

Poinsettia Care & Appreciation

Due to a massive bug infestation, our club had to cancel our annual President's Reception Dinner/Christmas Party. In addition to having a good time with great friends, each lady present would have received a poinsettia from Chuck's Green-house. Well, we don't have the party plants but we do have Tom Liggett's article about this traditional holiday plant in his November issue of Tom's Garden Blog. Email him at ligtom2@gmail.com.



The poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is native to Central America, near Southern Mexico, and was introduced to the U.S. in 1828 by Joel Roberts Poinsett. Poinsett was the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico and had a passion for botany. Enamored by the plant's bright red color, he sent some home to South Carolina to be propagated.

The colorful leaves turn from green to red, or its other variety's colors, through a process called *photoperiodism*, a response to certain amounts of light. In order to turn poinsettias red, the plant must receive as much direct sunlight as possible during the day. At night, the plant must be covered so that it receives absolutely no light for twelve hours. After about ten weeks, flower buds should appear and the plant can be placed near a window day and night as long as isn't exposed to cold drafts.

This summer, Tom planted last year's poinsettia in his garden and it grew into a 30 inch bush. He brought it inside and, at publishing time, was undergoing the ten week pigmenting process.



Pesticide Contamination

When gardeners are asked why we go through the trouble of growing our own fruits and vegetables, we cite a number of reasons: Better taste and nutrition; saving money; observing the processes of the natural world; learning and experimenting with new techniques and varieties, and sharing our experiences with like-minded people. The October issue of *Consumer Reports* gives us one more important consideration – the dangers to our health due to consuming pesticide-laden produce.

More than 80% of Americans do not eat the 2½ cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit recommended for good nutrition. And while the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has set standards on acceptable levels of 450 pesticides it deems safe for consumption, CR feels some of these levels are too high and that others should be banned outright. The intelligent consumer should consider how much of a particular food should be consumed, and where and how it's grown.

One way is to consume produce bearing the USDA organic certificate. These standards allow the use of pesticides but only when nonchemical methods, such as crop rotation, failed. Even then, farmers can't use those that could be harmful to people or the environment. Again, CR sees some of these standards as too liberal.

CR developed ratings for 35 fruits and vegetables grown using standard farming practices or organically, domestic or imported, and if they were offered fresh, frozen, canned or dried. The results covered 49 products. Almost half posed little risk, but 20% such as fresh green beans, peaches and potatoes were troublesome. Spinach was worrisome no matter how or where it was grown. (Editor's note: *It is my experience that spring spinach develops disease relatively quickly without chemicals. When planted in the fall, it also goes bad but returns in the spring vigorous, tasty and long lasting.*)

The EPA says overexposure to certain pesticides is tied to asthma, bronchitis, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, and prostate and lung cancers. Scientific studies also cite damage to neurological, cardiovascular and endocrine systems as well as the

The ability of scientists to comprehensibly study the influence of these chemicals on human health is limited because it would necessarily involve exposing humans to dangerous experiments. The use of animals in testing is informative but not conclusive. In addition, the affects of pesticides usually involves long term exposure. Often omitted from studies are how fetuses, infants and children the affected, and toxicity of "inert ingredients". CR believes the efforts of government agencies are often influenced by powerful political forces and leave much to be desired.

Six pesticides that play an oversized role in undermining food safety, the safety of produce Americans regularly consume, and threaten their health:

Acephate breaks down into a chemical called *methamidophos*, which damages the brain and nervous system, and has been banned since 2009. Fresh green beans; also frozen and canned beans, summer squash, celery, mangoes and watermelon.

Chlorpropham is used to keep potatoes from sprouting and is banned in the European Union. Thyroid problems and found in 90% of non-organic potatoes.

Chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxin whose biggest risk lies in non-organic peaches; also organically grown broccoli and grapes. Contamination in organic produce is often due to drifting spray from non-organic farms.

Cyhalothrin is thought to interfere with the neuromuscular system. While non-organic cherries the hold most, non-organic kale, lettuce, nectarines, tomatoes, spinach, snap peas and frozen green beans are affected.

Famoxadone is a hormone disruptor found in organic and non-organic spinach.

Fludioxonil has hormone disrupting effects and found most in peaches and nectarines, but also in non-organic apples, cherries, kiwi, pears, plums and potatoes.

Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) and Dicamba are considered by the World Health Org. as probable cancer-causing agents.

Guide to Safe Produce

Excellent (10+ daily servings) & Very Good (3-10 daily servings) Non-Organic Domestic & Imported, Organic Domestic & Imported – Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cilantro, Corn, Onions, Sweet Peas, Scallions, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberries, Grapefruit, Oranges, Applesauce, Bananas, Prunes, Raisins, Canned Peaches.

Good (1-3 DS) & Fair (1/2–1 DS) Non-Organic Domestic & Imported – Asparagus, Lettuce, Kale, Celery, Grapes, Kiwifruit, Plums, Watermelon, Blueberries, Nectarines, Plums.

Fair (1/2-1 DS) & Poor (1/2 DS) Non-Organic Domestic & Imported – Fresh Peaches, Cherries, Fresh Green Beans, Spinach, Potatoes.

All organic produce tested excellent except domestic Broccoli, imported Peas, domestic Spinach (poor) but imported organic Spinach rated very good; Frozen Cherries, Fresh Grapes (domestic), Mangoes (imported).

Removing Pesticides

The USDA advises washing all produce, both peeled and unpeeled 15-20 seconds under running water. On tough skinned produce like apples and potatoes, use a vegetable brush 20 seconds under running water. Washing with baking soda doesn't improve results. Washing does not remove systemic chemicals.

Ohio State Extension News

During normal years, the Ohio State Extension provides seminars on a wide variety of agriculture and wildlife subjects. During these unusual times, these educational productions are now easily viewed using the Zoom app. Go to zoom.com to download the app and make these webinars available on your home computer.

The Woodlands Stewards productions are listed at woodlandstewards.osu.edu, and you can sign up for upcoming webinars and the quarterly newsletter. Available are woodlands and wildlife management classes covering a wide range of topics, information on OSU's annual woodland, water and wildlife conference, and a tree diagnostic workshop. Also, by visiting go.osu.edu/mahoning, or calling 330-533-5538, you can sign up for the Extension's other announcements.

While the *Germinator* would like to provide information on upcoming webinars, the list release usually conflicts with our publishing schedule. An exception is *The Importance of Dead Wood for Wildlife* webinar scheduled for 10am - 12pm on Dec. 11th. OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources will share how dead wood (standing and on the forest floor) is important to a variety of animal species.

Local Sources of Food & Ag Products

In a recent *Vindicator* edition, the Extension listed businesses providing a wide array of locally produced products including meats, vegetables, fruit, and plants including trees. The list is also available at the Extension's website. It includes:

Angiuli's Farm Market	Austintown Farmer's Market
Bison Ranch	Brungard Farm Inc
BZ's Bees	Catalpa Grove
Countryside Farm & Market	Detwiler Farm
Ellsworth Berry Farm	Flowers from Stillmeadow
Fodor Tree Farm	Frog Pond Farm & Dairy
G. Burbick Farms	Garper's Garden
Goodness Grows	Grass N Grace Farm
Green Gate Farms	GROW Urban Farm @ Flying High
Haus Cider Mill	Her Primitive Ways
Hirst Tree Farm	Horst Packing
Huffman Fruit Farm	Kenreich Farms
Kushner's Garden & Patio	Lady Bug's Farm
Lake Milton Farmer's Market	Lake to River Food Co-Op
Lonardo's Greenhouse	Less & Less Farm
Let It Bee Honey	Lamport Farm
Liste Farms	Lutz Greenhouse
McMaster's Farms	Molnar Farms
Moore Farms	Misty Maple Sugar House
Northside Farmer's Market	Pioneer Trails Tree Farm
Park's Garden Center	Premium Pastured Meats
Red Road Apothecary	Rhodes Farm Market
Spencer Meats	Snyder's Orchard
Stepuk Tree Farm	Santoro Swine Genetics
Spacey Acres Llama Ranch	Spring Rose Farm Market
Stahl's Farm Market	Wehr Spring Valley Farm
Whitehouse Fruit Farm	Wilcox Tree Farm

Religious Holidays

A vast majority of Americans celebrate Christmas, from praising the birth of God's son, Jesus, to holding parties and exchanging merchandise recipients may or may not want. While many believe the United States is a Christian nation, it is in fact a liberal, secular democracy that in principle holds all religions in equal regard. In or near December, the following religious holidays are celebrated by many of our fellow Americans.



Mawlid el-Nabi, Nov. 20-21 – The birth of the Prophet Muhammad celebrated by reading his teachings.

Advent Fast begins, Nov. 28 – Orthodox Christians fast for 2 weeks, light candles, hang wreaths and attend church.

St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6 - The birth of St. Nicholas, a role model for gift-giving (Santa Claus).

Hanukkah, Dec. 2-10 – eight day Jewish festival of lights celebrating the Maccabean revolt in Egypt.

Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8 – Catholics honor Jesus' mother Mary who they say was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12 – Catholic Mexicans and Mexican Americans honor the appearance of the Virgin Mary in Mexico City.

Posadas Navidenas, Dec. 17 – Hispanic celebration of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Solstice, Dec. 21 – Pagan and Wicca believers honor "the winter-born king by the rebirth of the sun".

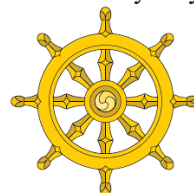
Christmas, Dec. 25 – The birth of God's only begotten son, Jesus, which offered redemption for our sins and eternal life.

Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathustra), Dec. 26 – Adherents to Zoroastrianism, one of the oldest monotheistic religions, honor the death of their prophet.

Holy Innocent's Day, Dec. 28 – Christians honor the deaths of children killed by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 30 – Catholic day honoring Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Watch Night, Dec. 31 – Christians thank God for the safety they received during the year.



Rohatsu (Bodhi Day), Jan. 24 – Buddhists celebrate through meditation the Buddha's decision and vow to sit under the Bodhi tree until he reached spiritual enlightenment.

Happy Holidays and Blessings to all!

The Germinator

December
2020

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

Ace Hardware Canfield
413 E. Main St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-7464

Amish Market
6121 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-248-7034
www.theamishmarket.net

Baird Brothers
7060 Crory Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-3122
info@bairdbrothers.com

Bernard Daniels Lumber
260 Railroad St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-2211
www.bdlumber.com

Blooming Crazy
8277 Market St.
Youngstown, Ohio 44512
330-758-8131
www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com

Bluestone Perennials
7211 Middle Ridge Rd.
Madison, Ohio 44057
www.bluestoneperennials.com

Bread Chef
800 E Western Reserve Rd
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
330-729-990

Bruce Brungard
MGCY Member

Buckeye Therapeutic Massage
Debbie Gonda
545 N. Broad St.
Canfield, Ohio
330-402-7303
buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

Charly's Restaurant
4455 Kirk Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-5569

Colonial Gardens
1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.
Vienna, Ohio
330-539-5500
www.colonialgardensohio.com

Crouse True Value Hardware
1178 Market St.
North Lima, Ohio 44452
330-549-2144
www.truevaluetrains.com

Davidson's Restaurant
3636 Canfield Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-793-0030

Delaquadri Lawn Maintenance
1270 Trumbull Ave.
Girard, Ohio 44420
330-759-3121
www.delaquadrilandscape.com

Delanni Imports
2770 Hilltop Dr.
Napa, California 94558
www.gardenclogs.com

DJ's Greenhouse
1004 East Lake Rd.
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154
724-962-1230
www.djsgreenhouse.com

Elliot's Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
330-758-8889

Garden Artisans
451 Defense Highway, Ste. A
Annapolis, Md. 21401
www.gardenartisans.com

Greenstar Cooperative
12093 Lisbon Rd.
Greenford, Ohio 44422
800-423-3609

Green Team
345 Oakhill Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44502
330-740-2060

Gardening-Indoor
9215 Market St.
North Lima, Ohio 44452
330-758-0272
www.gardening-indoors.com

Handel's Ice Cream
3830 Starr Centre Dr.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-702-8270
www.handelsicecream.com

Handyman Hardware & Supply
4351 Kirk Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44511
330-793-1268
www.handymanaustintown.com

Hartford Orchards
6953 OH-305
Hartford, Ohio 44424
330-772-2100

Heritage Country Store
364 Lisbon St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-5551
www.heritagecountrystore.com

Home Again Consignment Furniture
7689 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512

Home Depot
7001 Southern Blvd.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-965-4790

Hot Pepper Wax
305 Third St.
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125
800-627-6840
sales@hotpepperwax.com

Jack's Custom Landscape
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-953-7737

Jimmy's Italian Specialties
3230 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

Kravitz Delicatessen
3135 Belmont
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
330-759-7889
www.kravitzdeli.com

Kridler Gardens
4809 Homeworth Rd.
Homeworth, Ohio 44634
330-525-7914
www.kridler-gardens.com

Kushner's Garden & Patio
2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
www.kushners.com

Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar
2975 Canfield-Niles Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-2059

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown
123 McKinley Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509
www.mgcy.org

Nick's Wine Cellar
105 S. Meridian Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Outdoor Recreation Equipment, 5316
Market St.
Boardman, Ohio
330-782-2004

Parks Garden Center
9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-7278
parksgardencenter@aol.com

Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.
P.O. Box 93-C
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
www.everlastlabel.com

Petitti Garden Center
5509 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-788-0733
www.petittigardencenter.com

Robert McGowan, LPL Financial
MGCY Member
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-2320

Stone Fruit Coffee Co.
8414 Market St.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

Richard States
MGCY Member

Dennis Toth
MGCY Member

Tractor Supply
6225 Mahoning Ave.
Austintown, Ohio 44515
330-792-8235

Vernon's Café
720 Youngstown-Warren Rd.
Niles, Ohio 44406
330-652-1381
www.vernonscafe.com

Wally Gro LLC
Kansas City, MO 64116
1.877.796.6559
hello@wallygro.com

Whitehouse Fruit Farms
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-4161
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

Wild Birds Unlimited
90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44512
330-629-2473
www.wbu.com

Youngstown Cityscape
15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330-742-4040

The Germinator



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c/o Newsletter Editor
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www.mgcy.org



calendar of events



- Dec. 2 Membership Meeting 7PM CANCELLED
- Dec. 9 Board Meeting 6PM CANCELLED
- Jan. 6 Membership Meeting CANCELLED
- Jan. 13 Board Meeting CANCELLED
- Feb. 3 Membership Meeting 7PM Location TBA
- Feb. 10 Board Meeting 7PM Location TBA

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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