

# The Germinator



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,

March brings us the first major milestone for us home gardeners: St Patrick's Day. Traditionally this is the day for pea planting. My preference is the consider them a fruit, because of their right off the vine. let them soak bit of a head start. I dust the wet peaslant which allows the nitrogen from the air. After draining the water, with a legume innocu-plant to take in free variety, remember to provide at least 7 feet of vertical growing space. I have a homemade A-frame structure over which I drape netting.



sugar snap variety. I instead of a vegetable crunchy, sweet flavor, Before planting, I like to overnight to give them a After draining the water, with a legume innocu-plant to take in free If you use the climbing

Our Winter Seminar was a huge success. Approximately 150 people attended. The speakers were both entertaining and informative. Big thanks to all members who helped out with the set-up the day before; and those who helped out on the day of the seminar. Special thanks to Dennis Zap who provided an excellent continental breakfast, as usual. Thanks also to my wife Linda who made the apple cakes and worked the basket raffle. Thanks also to Rodney Toth's brother Dennis, who donated 5 beautiful, homemade birdhouses to the basket raffle.

**Spring Pancake Breakfast** is March 21 at 9am; 7:30am for those wishing to help cook. I will bring fresh frozen, plump blueberries that I picked last year for those who like them in their pancakes. This will be a "Show & Tell" event. I encourage those who attend to bring a tool, a gadget, or a tip related to gardening or the larger issue of earth stewardship (eg., recycling, renewable energy, etc).

In the January and February president's message, I've written about the importance of the MGCY doing a self-assessment, to ensure its continued growth and development. We will be discussing this in more detail in the near future meetings, but for now I would like to offer the metaphor of monoculture as an object lesson for all organizations including the MGCY. Farmers understand the dangers of planting the same crop year after year in the same fields. Soil becomes depleted, plants become more vulnerable to threats from diseases and insects. Organizations can learn much from agricultural science about the importance of creating a diversity of influences and conditions to promote optimal growth.

Sincerely; *Tom Arens*, President

## Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: Jack Beggs, a custom landscaper, will discuss landscaping that enhances gardening.

Guests Welcome

## Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wednesday, Mar. 11

Austintown Library

All Members Welcome

## MetroParks In March

Jewels of Winter	1-31
Golfing Signups Begin	1
Dance Classes	3,10,17,24,31
Orchid Repotting Clinic	4
Indoor Gardening	7,28
Awakening Moon Walk	7
Spring Clinic/Trade Show	11
Bluebird Nestbox Workshop	14
Naturalist Hike	15,22
St. Pat's Day Golf Sale	17
Botanical Mornings	20
Birding the Sanctuary	21
Traveling Naturalist	22
Birder's Toolbox	28
Tree Communication & Natural Defenses	31

For All Events & Details, Go To

[millcreekmetroparks.org](http://millcreekmetroparks.org)

## In This Issue

President's Message .....	1
Club News .....	2
YSU Beautification Project.....	2
Catalpa Grove Farm .....	3
Landscaping w/Tall Plants.....	3
Seed Longevity & Storage.....	4
Seasonal Thoughts.....	4
Sponsors.....	5
Club Events & Officers.....	6

## Club News

Kristen Kurtz • WWW.MGCY.ORG  
57 Members

### YSU Campus Beautification Project

For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Youngstown State University has been designated a 'Tree Campus USA' by the Arbor Day Foundation. Created in 2008, the program honors higher education entities for effective campus management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. Out of nearly 4,000 universities and colleges nationwide, only 250 achieve this status. YSU's recognition confirms the university's longstanding commitment to a culture that values the nearly 2,000 trees of some 95 species on the 145 acre campus.



Catherine Cala, recent YSU assistant director of Alumni and Events and chair of the university's Campus Beautification Working Group, outlined the project's planning, progress and continuing efforts at our club's January membership meeting. She cited the effective forest management by YSU's Grounds Dept. Associate Director Dave Ewing as well as the Campus Beautification Initiative. Alumni and friends add to floral diversity by purchasing tree species not yet present on campus. The most recent installation was a Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) in memory of Distinguished Professor Ray Beiersdorfer.

In the past decade, YSU has added 17 species of 7 genera to the campus. They are: Chinquapin Oak, Common Hackberry, Golden Catalpa, Kentucky Coffeetree, Osage Orange, Persimmon, Sassafras, Shingle Oak, Silver Linden, Smoke Tree, Striped Maple, Sugarberry, Swamp White Oak, Tulip Poplar, White Birch, White Fringe Tree and the American Elm 'Valley Forge'.

A ceremony honoring YSU's Tree Campus USA recognition and awards covering District 6 (13 eastern Ohio counties) was held last year at Fellows Riverside Gardens where Cala and Ewing gave a presentation. Our own Lynn Hoffman represented our organization and its Elm Restoration and Evaluation Project which donated the American Elm to YSU.

Before touring the YSU campus or any area where a tree might catch your fancy, you may want to download a tree identification app for your Android or iPhone. They are: *Virginia Tech Tree ID*, *LeafSnap* and *Botany Buddy* (Apple products only). These free apps have other information and educational aspects making them a must for nature lovers.

*Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

### CGLR Awards Nominations

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Central Great Lakes Region will hold its annual Spring Meeting at the Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield. During the meeting, the region's awards committee will consider nominations for the below recognitions. If anyone feels a fellow member(s) meets the criteria, please send nomination(s) to the listed committee members on page 3 ASAP.

**Green Bronze Medal** – Recognition for a member of TGOA/MGCA who has rendered outstanding service to his or her regional organization. Past MGCY members receiving this award were Earl Hensch, George Hoover, Leo Laner, Rodney Toth, Bill Carney and John Schinker.

**William Moorehouse Award** – Individual who has rendered to the CGLR significant service to gardening (all phases of horticulture, conservation & landscaping) in his or her respective community. Past MGCY winners were Bill Carney, Richard Smith, John Schinker, Ted Vegas and Rodney Toth.

**Delbert R. Dunbar Award** – Recognizing a region member who has rendered outstanding service to TGOA/MGCA, CGLR and their local club. Past MGCY winners were George Hoover, Bill Carney, Hugh Earnhart and John Schinker.

**Horticulture Achievement Award** – Person in their region who has made outstanding achievements in the field of horticulture. Past MGCY winners were Warren Knopp, David Goerig, John Schinker, Ray Carroll, Larry Tooker and John Kolar.

**Horticulture Journalism Award** – Individual whose writings or media presentations have contributed to gardening and horticulture. Past MGCY winners were - Joe Alessi and Dave Campana.

**Certificate of Honor** – Criteria open to the discretion of the committee. Past MGCY winners were George Hoover, Charles Clark, Bill Carney, Hugh Earnhart, John Kolar, Bob McGowan, Bill Slabe, Dick Smith, Larry Whetson, Mary Kay Earnhart, Rodney Toth, John Schinker and Dave Causer.

**Certificate of Appreciation** – Discretion of the committee. Past MGCY winners were George Hoover, Charles Clark, Bill Carney, Hugh Earnhart, John Kolar, Bob McGowan, Bill Slabe, Dick Smith, Larry Whetson, Hugh & Mary Kay Earnhart, Rodney Toth, John Schinker, Cor Kester and Dave Causer.

**Certificate of Appreciation** – For services rendered to the CGLR. Past MGCY winner was John Schinker.

**Environmental Conservation Achievement** – Recognizing outstanding achievement in enhancing the environment and conservation of natural resources through gardening. Awarded to a individual, community, organization or governmental agency. *Continued Pg. 3*

*Continued from Pg.2, Club News*

Past MGCY Environmental Conservation Achievement Award winners were Hugh Earnhart and Lynn Hoffman.

**Spark Plug Award** – Recognizing a first or second year member who has shown outstanding activity on the local, regional and/or national level. Past MGCY winners were Joe Fagnano, Paul Shanabarger and Tom Liggett.

Send nominations to either:

Rodney Toth, Chairman, 5637 W. Liberty St., Hubbard, OH 44425, 330-759-1993, [rkdahlia@aol.com](mailto:rkdahlia@aol.com).

Mary Ann Ferguson Rich, 1166 Broadview Rd., Tallmadge, OH 44278, 330-630-9625, [mafr43@hotmail.com](mailto:mafr43@hotmail.com).

John Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784, 260-854-2988, [lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com).

## **MGCY Home Show Info Booth**

Once again our organization helped those attending the Home Show in Liberty Township relieve their winter doldrums and look forward to spring. Members handed out printed gardening information, bulbs and seed packets, and advised attendees on how best to improve their landscape beds and vegetable gardens. They also promoted our club to potential members.

Many thanks to Bruce Brungard for setting up and taking down the display booth. Other members who worked the show were Tom Liggett, Dennis Zap, Ron Fasano, Rodney Toth, John Schinker, Terry Volland, Rex Luckage, and Tom Arens.

## **Catalpa Grove Farm**

For those living south of Youngstown or don't mind a destination drive for the finest vegetables and plants, you can't beat the Catalpa Grove Farm in Columbiana. Janelle Martin, farm manager and our February membership meeting speaker, has worked at the family-owned business for 15 years. Her knowledge was impressive and members questions received well-informed answers.



The first crop is candy onions started in late January. They go into the ground in mid-April and are harvested in time for July 4<sup>th</sup> barbecues. The farm uses plastic soil cover and drip irrigation. Another early project is preparing hanging baskets. Varieties of flowers are planted at different times, some in late January, to allow for varying growth rates. In addition to Jack's Petunia Feed, a fungicide drench is applied. Catalpa also installs flowers in a variety of used containers including old shoes, buckets, etc.

Strawberries are picked and sold daily. The day-old berries are made into or packaged for pies and slushies.



Tom Arens, a regular customer, is a big fan of the slushies and as well as their sweet corn. Corn is planted in holes drilled into plastic soil cover. The target date is July 4<sup>th</sup> "weather permitting".

In addition to an impressive variety of vegetable and bedding annuals, and fruits and veggies, the farm grows mums, and gourds including pumpkins. They offer pumpkin kids hay rides, school tours, cut flowers and workshops limited to 35 participants (sign up early). They are also increasing perennial production as people become more interested in pollinators.

Catalpa Grove Farms opens March 21<sup>st</sup>, and is located at 41473 St. Rte. 14, Columbiana, OH., 330-482-4064, [catalpagrove.com](http://catalpagrove.com).

## **Best Tall Flowering Plants**

Gardeners often view their landscapes from a horizontal perspective while ignoring the vertical aspects. When attempting to provide a backdrop for little plants or highlighting vertical landscape features like fences, tall plants are a logical choice. Additional elements to consider are color, texture and growing conditions. Also a variety of plant heights will enhance landscape dimensions, act as a privacy screen and anchor an otherwise lackluster space.

Whether one desires annuals or perennials, shade or full sun plants, here are a few suggestions:

**Foxglove** – Perennial with spikes of funnel-shaped pink, white and violet flowers (5ft.).

**Joe Pye Weed** – Striking wildflower (7ft.) that attracts butterflies.

**Hollyhock** – Produce striking, large flowers attracting bees and hummingbirds (8ft.).

**Love Lies Bleeding** – Unique, hanging, blood-red flower panicles in the Amaranthus family (5ft.).

**Cosmos** – Annual, delicate, daisy-like flowers with some varieties reaching 4ft.

**Delphinium** – Stunning flower spikes in all shades of blue and purple. Some varieties grow to 6ft.

**Bugbane** – Scented white flowers in summer and red-to-purple foliage as blooms fade (shade, 4ft.).

**Desert Candles** – Cluster of pretty flower growing on stalk with no leaves. Need wind protection or staking.

## Longevity of Stored Seeds

With seed catalogs filling our mail boxes and email in-boxes, many of us who start our favorite and heirloom plants from seed would like to know how long our stored seeds will maintain good germination rates. Here is a list of plant seeds that generally have the general longevity listed below:

**Up to 5 years** – Most annual and perennial flowers, artichokes, cucumbers, melons, radish.

**Up to 4 years** – tomatoes, eggplant, summer squash, winter squash, pumpkins & gourds, beets, turnips.

**Up to 3 years** – cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots.

**Up to 2 years** – corn, okra, peppers, spinach.

**Up to 1 year** – lettuce, onion.

As stated, these are generalizations and prudent gardeners will want to check germination rates especially if they're not sure how old the seeds are. Place 10 seeds on a damp paper towel, fold the towel over the seeds and put it in a plastic, zip-lock baggie. Place the towel on top of a refrigerator and check how many have germinated after 10 days. If 6 or less have sprouted, the seeds may not be worth planting.

Of course, viability depends on how well harvested seeds have been stored. For short or long-term storage it is vitally important that the seeds are sufficiently dried. One expert recommends harvesting several days after a rain. Place them on wax paper. The drying process may take up to 30 days.

Seed envelopes in an air-tight plastic are a good choice but sealed mason jars are an option for larger seeds like beans. Adding silica gel packets to the container to absorb any possible moisture adds an element of insurance. These packets can be reused. Storage should be in a consistently cool, dark location.

For long-term storage consider freezing seeds in a glass jar, with a refrigerator being a good, second choice. When recovering seeds from a freezer or refrigerator, set the jar out for 12 hours so it can reach room temperature. Expose the seeds to air by opening the lid for a few days before planting. Refreezing unused seeds may reduce viability so, when storing, you may want to put only the amount of seed you plan to sow for each year's chop in separate containers.

*These recommendations are best case scenarios. We know gardeners whose seed has lasted much longer.*

## Bimis Ar Meisce

*Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?  
Because they're always a little short.*

*Never try to iron a four leaf clover.*

*You don't want to press your luck.*

*Seamus walked into a bar on St. Patrick's Day and started ordering martinis. After each drink, he would put the olives in a jar. When the jar was filled with olives, he paid his tab and staggered out the door. A customer asked the bartender, "Excuse me, but what was that all about?" "Nothing unusual", the bartender replied. "His wife merely sent him out for a jar of olives."*

It's OK to pretend we're Irish on St. Patrick's Day. We pretend we're GOOD on Christmas don't we?



## Time to SPRING Forward

*Winter can be pretty dreary with all the bare trees, so when spring comes it's such a re-leaf.*

*'I glanced out the window at the signs of spring. The sky was almost blue, the trees were almost budding, the sun was almost bright.'*

Millard Kaufman

*'The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter.'*

Jen Selinsky



*'There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter.'*

Rachel Carson

*'I love spring. It's that wonderful period after the hard frosts of winter, but before the hard work of summer.'*

# The Germinator

March 2020

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

**AMISH MARKET**  
6121 South Ave  
Boardman, Oh. 44512  
330-248-7034  
[www.theamishmarket.net](http://www.theamishmarket.net)

**BAIRD BROTHERS**  
7060 Crory Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-3122  
[info@bairdbrothers.com](mailto:info@bairdbrothers.com)

**BLOOMING CRAZY**  
8277 Market Street  
Youngstown, OH 44512  
330-758-8131

**BERNARD DANIELS LUMBER**  
260 Railroad St  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-2211

**BREAD CHEF**  
880 E Western Reserve Rd  
Yo., Oh 44514  
330-729-9900

**BLUESTONE PERENNIALS**  
7211 Middle Ridge Rd  
Madison, Oh 44057  
800-852-5243  
[www.bluestoneperennials.com](http://www.bluestoneperennials.com)

**BUCKEYE THERAPEUTIC  
MASSAGE**  
Debbie Gonda  
545 N. Broad St  
Canfield, Oh.  
330-402-7303  
[buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net](http://buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net)

**CHARLY'S RESTAURANT**  
4455 Kirk Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44515  
330-799-5569

**COLONIAL GARDENS**  
1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd  
Vienna, Oh  
330-539-5500

**CREEKSIDE FITNESS**  
1419 Boardman Canfield Rd  
Yo., Oh 44512  
330-758-0667

**CROUSE TRUE VALUE  
HARDWARE**  
1178 Market St  
North Lima, Oh 44452  
330-549-2144

**DJ'S GREENHOUSE**  
1004 East Lake Rd  
Transfer, Pa 16154  
724-962-1230  
[www.djsgreenhouse.com](http://www.djsgreenhouse.com)

**ELLIOT'S GARDEN CENTER**  
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd  
Poland, Oh 44514  
330-758-8889

**FIVE POINTS  
DELUXE CAR WASH**  
2271 E. Western Reserve Rd.  
330-757-4023

**GARDENING-INDOOR**  
9215 Market Street  
North Lima, OH 44452  
330-758-0272  
[www.gardening-indoors.com](http://www.gardening-indoors.com)

**HANDEL'S ICE CREAM**  
3830 Starr Centre Dr  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-702-8270  
[www.handelsicecream.com](http://www.handelsicecream.com)

**HANDYMAN HARDWARE  
& SUPPLY**  
4351 Kirk Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44511  
330-793-1268

**HERITAGE COUNTRY STORE**  
364 Lisbon St  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-5551

**HOT PEPPER WAX**  
305 Third St.  
Greenville, PA 16125  
Phone: 800 627-6840  
[sales@hotpepperwax.com](mailto:sales@hotpepperwax.com)

**HOUSE DOCTORS  
WINDOW & DOOR**  
998 Tibbetts-Wick Rd  
Girard, Oh 44420  
330-539-0111

**JIMMY'S ITALIAN SPECIALTIES**  
3230 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44515  
330-759-2904

**KRIDLER GARDENS**  
4809 Homeworth Rd  
Homeworth, Oh 44634  
330-525-7914  
[www.kridler-gardens.com](http://www.kridler-gardens.com)

**KUSHNER'S GARDEN & PATIO**  
2421 E. Western Reserve Road  
Youngstown, OH 44514

**LOU'S BEER & WINE CELLAR**  
2975 Canfield-Niles Rd  
Youngstown, Oh 44515  
330-799-2059

**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF  
YOUNGSTOWN**  
123 McKinley Ave  
Youngstown, Oh 44509  
[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)

**PARKS GARDEN CENTER**  
9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-7278

**PETITTI GARDEN CENTER**  
5509 South Ave  
Boardman, Oh 44512  
330-788-0733  
[www.petittigardencenter.com](http://www.petittigardencenter.com)

**PITMOSS**  
2603 Duss Avenue  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
724-385-0413  
[www.pitmoss.com](http://www.pitmoss.com)

**ROBERT MCGOWAN, LPL  
FINANCIAL**  
MGCY Member  
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-2320

**SAM'S WEDGE INN**  
1685 S. Raccoon Rd.  
Austintown, Oh 44515  
[samswedginn.com](http://samswedginn.com)

**RICHARD STATES**  
MGCY Member

**RICHARD STATES**

**VERNON'S CAFÉ**  
720 Youngstown-Warren Rd  
Niles, Oh 44406  
330-652-1381  
[www.vernonscafe.com](http://www.vernonscafe.com)

**VILLAGE QUILTS**  
17 W Main St  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-0545  
[www.villagequiltscanfield.com](http://www.villagequiltscanfield.com)

**WAGS N WIGGLES RESORT**  
7910 Akron-Canfield Rd (224)  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-702-9247

**WALLYGRO LLC**  
Kansas City, MO 64116  
1.877.796.6559  
[hello@wallygro.com](mailto:hello@wallygro.com)

**WHITEHOUSE FRUIT FARMS**  
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd  
Canfield, Oh 44406  
330-533-4161

**WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED**  
90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Youngstown, Oh 44512  
330-629-2473

**THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE**  
600 Playhouse Lane  
PO Box 11108  
Youngstown, OH 44511-1108  
(330)-788-8739  
[www.theyoungstownplayhouse.com](http://www.theyoungstownplayhouse.com)



# The Germinator

March 2020

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

[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



## calendar of events



March 4th .....	Membership Meeting .....	FRG .....	7pm
March 11 .....	Board Meeting .....	Austintown Library .....	6:30pm
March 21st .....	Spring Breakfast .....	FRG .....	9am
April 1st .....	Membership Meeting .....	FRG .....	7pm
April 8th .....	Board Meeting .....	Austintown Library .....	6:30pm
May 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 .....	Spring Plant Sale .....	Mah. Co. Joint Vocational School .....	TBA
June 3rd .....	Plant Auction .....	Boardman Park .....	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](http://www.mgcy.org)

## THE MGCY 2020 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Tom Arens

[mansell713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mansell713@sbcglobal.net) • 330-402-2700

### 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Fasano

[ronf10@msn.com](mailto:ronf10@msn.com) • 330-502-9989

### 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

### TREASURER

Robert J. McGowan

P.O. Box 724 • Canfield, OH 44406  
330-518-6397 • [rjfmcgowan@aol.com](mailto:rjfmcgowan@aol.com)

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Joe Fagnano

330-533-2475 (H) • 330-559-5295 (C)  
[jlfagnano@hotmail.com](mailto:jlfagnano@hotmail.com)

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Michael Banks

330-707-9089 (H) • 330-565-0592 (C)  
[mcbankspaint@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbankspaint@yahoo.com)

### GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor  
[mgcygerminator@gmail.com](mailto:mgcygerminator@gmail.com)

Dan Miller

Paul Iden, Photographer  
Tom Arens