

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

Greetings Everyone,

Autumn has officially arrived! As of this writing we have been spared a killing frost but don't count on it for long. Get your house plants in; mulch your perennials; and pack up your dahlias, glads, and cannas in one of those styrofoam containers that we never know what to do with, but hate to throw away.

We will be having our next membership meeting on Nov. 4th at the Stacey Pavilion at Austintown Township Park. Please feel free to bring in your horticultural specimens for show and tell. Members are asked to consider a new name for the club since we have started to admit women. Suggestions are welcome, and we will discuss them at the November meeting. We need to ensure that our new name is not a duplicate or even close to, an existing club.

Our December meeting will be on the 9th at Ala Carte Catering in Canfield. There is still time to sign up for it. The cost is \$20. We will be following strict safety protocol including limiting the number of persons at each table and mask wearing when not eating. Entertainment will be the guitar duo that played last year.

Membership dues have been decreased to \$11 for this upcoming year only. Please send yours in or pay at the next meeting.

Anyone interested in purchasing calendars should contact John Schinker or see him at the next meeting.

The club has an exciting opportunity to begin working with an organization called Flying High which operates the Grow Urban Farm on the northside of Youngstown. Jeff Magada, the executive director spoke at our September membership meeting. We will have access to Grow's greenhouse and will be a resource to the organization whose mission it is to provide wholesome, affordable food to persons who live in areas of Youngstown commonly referred to as "food deserts". Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to get involved with this important civic initiative.

Stay well and hope to see you soon,

Tom Evans



Christmas Party/ Prez Reception Dinner



**Wednesday, December 9th, 5:30pm, Dinner at 6pm
A La Carte Catering Hall, Canfield, OH**

Top Club Awards & Poinsettias for Ladies

**Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Stuffed Pork Chop,
Wedding Soup, Twice Baked Potato, Wine & Dessert**

Entertainment: Acoustic Guitar Duo

Seating per table: Two couples, or one couple and one single, or three singles. Masks required when not dining.

**Contact Bob McGowan, 330-518-6397, or rjfmcgowan@aol.com,
or send \$20 check per person with entrée choice to P.O. Box 612,
North Jackson, OH 44451 **Deadline for response: Dec. 1st****

Nov. Membership Meeting

*7pm, Wednesday, Nov. 4th
Austintown Township Park*

Stacey Pavillion

Kirk Rd. btn Rt. 46 & Turner

*Speaker: Angie Bowman,
Parks' Nursery Manager*

*Subject: Tree & Shrub
Maintenance*

Bring a Garden Item

All Members Welcome

November Board Meeting

*7pm, Wednesday, Nov. 11th, Stacy
Pavillion, Austintown Twsp. Park*

*All members are welcome and
your input is valued.*

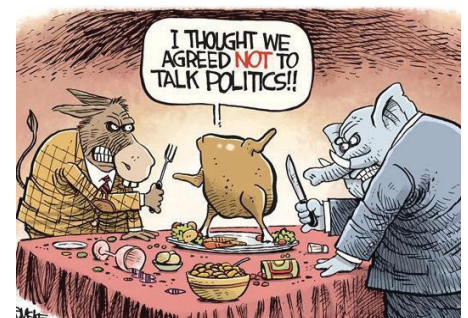
Mill Creek MetroParks September Events

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

. Go to millcreekmetroparks.org

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MGCY 2021 Officers Elected

Next year's club officer slate was elected at our October membership meeting and we wish to thank them for their willingness to serve. They are:

Tom Arens – President

Ron Fasano – 1st Vice President

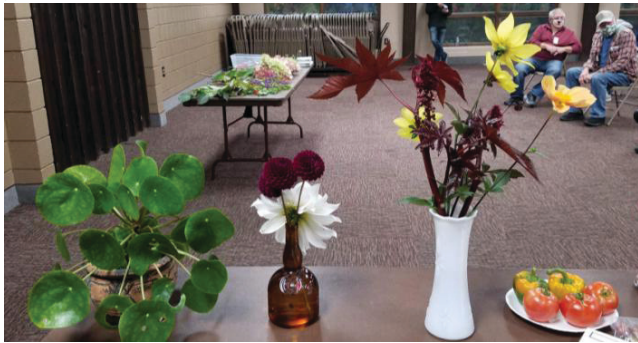
John Schinker – 2nd Vice President (To begin serving as soon as his badly twisted arm heals.)

Mike Banks – Recording Secretary

Terry Volland – Treasurer

Mike Banks – Corresponding Secretary

They will be sworn in at our annual President's Reception Dinner/Christmas Party and we hope to see a good turnout.



Since we didn't have a Horticulture Show this summer, members have been bringing plant specimens to our membership meetings. Rodney Toth brought beautiful dahlias as did Tom Arens; Tom Liggett showed a Chinese money plant that is a traditional gift there; Bruce Brungard displayed tomato and pepper varieties, and Lynn Zocolo brought horse chestnut, red and bottlebrush buckeyes.

Good Dues News

Last month's *Germinator* had both accurate and inaccurate information. It is true that we need members to pay their dues early so that our 2021 Membership Directory can be distributed in a timely manner. Due to the Covid19 situation, however, our national has chosen to lower its portion from \$15 to \$1 for next year only.

The bottom line is that 2021 dues will be \$11 instead of the usual \$25 for a year's membership. At this time, Lifetime Member dues are unknown. **Send your \$11 check to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH, 44451.** If you already sent a \$25 check to the address listed in last month's newsletter, it will be destroyed unless you want it returned.

Even though our club's primary income sources were cancelled, we have incurred significant expenses. They include two \$1000 scholarships, \$600 to St. Pat's Church Community Garden, and an \$800 for an Eagle Scout project at Akron Children's Hospital.

All of us joined our organization because we love gardening and our club's many activities. Help us maintain our solvency by paying your dues ASAP. We promise when this crisis is finally over and, with your support, MGCY will be back stronger than ever.

Akron Children's Hospital Project

Lukas Peters is a deaf, 17 years old Eagle Scout candidate with Troup 60 in Boardman. His project involves replacing 17 raised beds in Akron Children's Hospital's Family Garden and replacing the garden's sign. After a major cleanup and removal of the badly deteriorated wood beds, he began building new raised



beds and will soon fill them with good gardening soil.

Some beds will be tall enough for elderly patients and those in wheelchairs. Each bed will be maintained and supervised by individual ACH departments. The main expenses will be for treated lumber, hardware and gardening soil. He has an estimated budget of \$3,260 with any funds not spent to be donated to the hospital.

The proposal was presented to our Board of Gardeners at its September meeting by Bob McGowan, and the board voted to donate \$800 toward Lukas' project. We hope to provide photos of the project's development in future *Germinator* issues.

National Calendars Available

We defy anyone to find a more beautiful calendar for \$5 than the one our national puts out every year. The photos are by members including our own Richard States are breathtaking. To order, contact John Schinker, 330-518-4384 or johnschinker@gmail.com.

Germinator Issue Changes

Due to the lack of club activities and timely gardening information, a single issue will cover January and February, 2021. Thereafter, the *Germinator* will resume monthly issues.

Dennis James On Autumn Color

Many thanks to our long-time friend for making the 45 minute drive to Austintown Park to give a presentation at our October membership meeting. Dennis has just completed 37 years as owner/operator of DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens, djsgreenhouse.com, in Transfer, PA. Many of our club's members patronize his nursery and give it rave reviews. In addition to tours, he conducts gardening workshops throughout the summer.

While he brought a number of examples of plants that provide autumn color to landscapes, some lasting



well into winter, his main topic was hydrangeas. When purchasing plants, be sure they are marked "hearty perennial" indicating they are very likely to endure harsh winters. The most hearty are *Hydrangea arborescens* (smooth) varieties like Invincibelle and Lime Rickey, and *H. paniculatas* (Panicle) like Limelight and Pinky Winky. Both bloom on new wood and should be pruned in late autumn or early spring. These are Proven Winners varieties.

Dennis brought a Proven Winners color handout that showed its varieties of *arborescens* (9) and *paniculata* (8). It is interesting to note that the former are derived from the native Annabelle but with great improvements. They include standard white, lime, lavender and in various shades of pink/red. Some have sturdier stems and smaller flowers that deter drooping. Potential buyers would like to know how large the plant will become so the handout includes average size at maturity.

Dennis also provided a second handout that gave important information on all six hydrangea species including growing and pruning tips, sunlight and water needs, and maximizing blooming and color. Generally, these shallow-rooted plants require well-drained soil and regular watering, but don't tolerate wet feet. While they have the reputation as shade plants, they all do best with

four hours of morning sunlight. Hydrangeas should be fertilized with 10-10-10 once a month May through August. Panicles will tolerate full sun in Northern climates. Color can be altered in some species but homework should be done before purchasing. Adding pennies, nails, aluminum foil or coffee grounds to the soil will not change color.

Unlike Smooths and Panicles, Bigleaf (*H. macrophylla*), Mountain (*H. serrata*), Oakleaf (*H. quercifolia*) and Climbing (*H. petiolaris*) all bloom on old wood. They can be deadheaded but should not be pruned.

Why Hydrangeas Don't Bloom

Smooth varieties should bloom within 2 years if mulched and kept watered to allow root systems to develop.

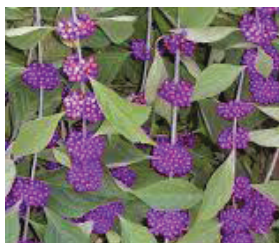
Panicles should bloom after 2 years. They should get 4+ hours of sunlight. If cut back, it should be done in the fall. Pruning should be done in late winter or early spring so buds aren't removed. Watch for deer damage.

Bigleaf and Mountain varieties should not be pruned. Mountains may be susceptible to extreme cold snaps and should be protected. They may suffer deer damage and too much shade.

While Climbers should bloom within 5 years, Oakleafs may take a bit longer, and suffer from deer damage and too little sunlight. Again, these two species should not be cut back.

These handouts can be seen at provenwinners.com.

Dennis brought several other plant branches that provide excellent fall and winter color. Winterberry is a deciduous holly that usually requires 6-7 females per male plant. Purchase from a reliable source because even expert nurserymen can be fooled as to gender. The beautiful berries will last as long as the birds will let them.



Another plant that gives late seasonal color is beautyberry. While its white flowers are small and unimpressive, the fall berries are a beautiful shade of purple. This plant will provide more lasting color because birds aren't particularly fond of its fruit.

Another lasting plant Dennis likes is goldenrod. It has an undeserved reputation for causing allergies and is a good source of honey.

Kudos to Dennis for a great presentation.

Selecting & Planting Spring Bulbs

In autumn, the ebbing hours of sunlight predict our gardens and beds will soon lose their production and beauty. It is, however, a time to prepare for the promise of warm months to come. And, like robins, the blooms of early spring herald nature's immanent rebirth.



If spring flowering bulbs are planted too early, chances are they will not bloom. Tulip, hyacinth, crocus, snowdrop, allium and scilla bulbs should be planted when the ground is cool but six weeks before the soil freezes making October through November the ideal time. Summer blooming bulbs like gladiolus and dahlias must be dug up in fall and replanted in spring.

When purchasing spring bulbs, make sure they are not mushy or have moldy spots, and select the largest of that variety. If choosing to order online, research the most highly rated sources. Since many bulbs have similar appearances, be sure to label their containers so they don't get mixed up.

Choose areas exposed to a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight and not prone to holding excess moisture. When planting bulbs in groups, it is often more efficient to dig one large hole rather than multiple individual ones. Dig deep enough to accommodate larger (2 inch) bulbs that need to be planted 6 inches deep, which means at minimum 8 inch deep hole. Amend the soil with compost and/or peat moss.

The rule of thumb is planting 3 times bulb diameter deep and 5 bulbs per square foot give or take the anticipated size of the resulting plant. Be sure to plant the bulb pointy end up, roots down. Add slow release fertilizer and lightly tamp the area. Give the area a good soaking and cover with a few inches of mulch.

Consider planting in spring's bare spots like under trees, in annual beds, and along walkways where perennials won't appear until later. Think of how the resulting spring color will enhance an otherwise drab landscape. If planted behind perennials, the spent foliage will be hidden when summer comes.

Resist the urge to include too many colors or varieties. Two or three in an area will look more tasteful and interesting. Think bright, contrasting colors like orange tulips and grape hyacinth. Another option is muted pastels that offer something more elegant.

Rodents love digging up and snacking on freshly planted bulbs so you may need to cover the area with wire mesh weighed down with stones. Deer and rabbits enjoy munching on fresh sprouts but don't necessarily care for allium, daffodils, hyacinth, spring starflower and snowdrops.

Source: birdsandblooms.com

Being Thankful



Remember God's bounty in the year. String the pearls of His favor. Hide the dark parts, except so far as they are breaking out in light! Give this one day to thanks, to joy, to gratitude.

Henry Ward Beecher

Thanksgiving comes to us out of the prehistoric dimness, universal to all ages and all faiths. At whatever straws we must grasp, there is always time for gratitude and new beginnings.

J. Robert Moskin

Thanksgiving dinners takes eighteen hours to prepare, and are consumed in 30 minutes. Football half times also take 30 minutes. This is not a coincidence.

Erma Bombeck



Better than honor and glory, and history's iron pen, Was the thought of duty done, and the love of his fellow men.

Richard Watson Gilder

Honor to the soldier, and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause - honor to him who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle.

Abraham Lincoln

Within the soul of each Vietnam veteran there is probably something that says, 'Bad, war, good soldier'. Only now are Americans beginning to separate the war from the warrior.

Max Cleland

What is the most disrespectful question you can ask a vet? Why didn't you become a real doctor?

The Germinator

November
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



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

www.mgcy.org



calendar of events



- Nov. 4 General Meeting 7PM Austintown Park
- Nov. 11 Board Meeting 7PM Austintown Park
- Dec. 2 Board Meeting 7PM Austintown Park
- Dec. 9 Christmas Party 6PM A La Cart Catering

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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