

# 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

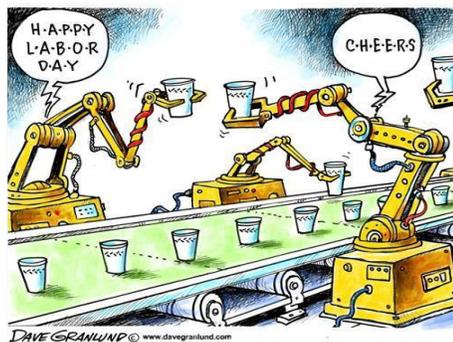
I doubt this message will reach you before the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown's annual Horticulture Show so I'll presume it was as successful as past events. Past shows have made it a much awaited event for our area's gardening community. I'd also like to presume more of our members entered the show than last year. Our Horticulture Shows and Winter Seminars have set our organization apart from other clubs in the area, and it should be important to all members that we hold those traditions dear.

We had a good time at last month's Steak Fry. They just seem to be getting better due in no small part to Carlo Rubino's and Al Pacella's homemade wines. Bob McGowan saved the day when Larry Duck's grill died. How many people do you know carry a charcoal grill in the trunk of their car. Larry plans on hosting an Ohio State football party soon. He intends to rectify problems with last year's event by having it earlier in the season during warmer weather.

We were all sad to hear of The Gardeners of America/Mens Garden Clubs of America closing its national office. Fewer member clubs with declining membership is an unfortunate national trend because people seem less interested in joining organizations with focused, public service agendas. This sad trend will hopefully reverse itself when people come to realize how not associating with like-minded citizens has diminished their lives.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next membership meeting and, until then, enjoy what's left of summer.

Sincerely; *Bruce Brungard*, President



And people should eat and drink and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are the gifts of God. - Ecclesiastes 3:33

What we do is a measure of who we are. If we imagine our work as labor, we become laborers. If we imagine our work as art, we are artists. - Jeffery Patuade

No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence - Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Membership Meeting

7pm, Wed., Sept. 4th

Speaker: Parker Maynard  
'Grow' Urban Garden Manager

Guests Welcome

## Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wed., Sept. 11th

Austintown Library

All Members Welcome

## MetroParks In September

Nature Photo Exhibit	1-30
Golf Sale	1-2
MetroParks Farm @ Fair	1-2
Traveling Naturalist	7
Yellow Creek Hike	8
Dance Classes	10-24
Laid Back Cooking	10
Naturalist Series: Caterpillars	11
Indestructible House Plant	19
Birding the Sanctuary	21
Sunset at the Farm	21
Stream Monitoring	22,29
Wetlands in Fall	22
Hypertufa	23
Botanical Mornings	27
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For All Events & Details, Go To:  
[www.millcreekmetroparks.org](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org)

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## Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

84 Members • 2 Associates

### Annual Steak Fry

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown's Steak Fry is one of our club's annual events that encourages member interaction on a more personal level. Many who attend regularly go out of their way to make the occasion fun. Some bring homemade appetizers, deserts and libations. We can always count on Charlie Grounds providing his sweet red pepper garnish and, this year, Vince Camp brought his better half Donna's delicious biscotti.

And then there were the wines. Carlo Rubino blessed us with his cabernet, and Al Pacella brought his Barbara and San Giovese blend. While most homemade wines as a rule would be better suited for making vinegar, these vinos were exceptional. They are certainly on par with reds selling for \$15 or more.

Larry Duck's large pavilion is a great venue, rain or



shine, for this event. The perfect weather made the fry that much more enjoyable. From his days as Mahoning County's Developmental Disabilities executive director to hosting our fry, Larry is one of our most appreciated supporters and friends.

Bob McGowan does the lion's share of work going into making the fry a success. He expertly grills the salmon and chicken while Charlie is unsurpassed at preparing steaks to order. And the meals are provided at bargain prices. When Larry's grill went on the fritz, Bob pulled a charcoal grill from his car trunk and saved the day.



Rodney Toth gave a tutorial on presenting Horticulture Show entries more pleasing to show judges' eyes. It's important that

*Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

entries are classified correctly, and the question arose on how to categorize hydrangeas. Herbaceous species are perennials while those that bloom on old wood are classified as woody plants.

It was a great evening of fun and fellowship. As always, you shudda been there.



### Big Changes To TGOA/MGCA



It is no secret that our national umbrella organization has been steadily losing affiliated clubs and members for an extended period resulting in a \$72,000 deficit for the 2018 fiscal year. At last year's convention, a committee headed by Past President John Schinker was tasked with studying the problem and recommending solutions. Their findings have led to some major changes adopted at the 2019 convention in July.

It was decided that the national headquarters in Johnson, IA, will be closed. The national will no longer have any paid staff. If members have questions regarding national business, they are urged to consult the web site, [tgoa/mgca.org](http://tgoa/mgca.org). Information not covered there can still be had at the national's public service number but expect a delay for response to recorded messages.

There is a chance that the national will be moved to Ohio State Univ. at Wooster's Agriculture and Technical Institute which has offered an office and equipment. It would be administered by volunteers from the Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown clubs. In order for these changes to take effect, members will be asked to vote on them within 90 days.

The following will serve as 2019 national officers:  
Carl Christensen, President, DePere, WI  
Leo Olson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mason City, IA  
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Tallmadge, OH  
Larry Kell, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Bay Village, OH  
Frank Mitch, Immediate Past President, Oberlin, OH  
Miles Duck, Treasurer, Mason City, IA

## Pollinating Under The Stars

When mentioning pollinators to most gardeners, bees and butterflies first come to mind. On further thought they might mention various insects, wasps, birds and mammals. But many of us forget that moths rule the night when it comes to moving pollen between plants. Most moths are nocturnal visiting white, fragrant flowers like jasmine and moon flowers, and gourd family plants.

Among the most visible is the large (5" wing span) sphinx moth (*Lepidoptera sphingidae*) whose rapid wingbeats propel it fast and strong. While most are nocturnal, some visit flowers during the day. They are also referred to as "hummingbird" moths due to their ability to hover and a long proboscis



tube used to suck necture. Their larvae are called hornworms due to a harmless thorn on their rear ends. Also known as "tomato worms", these large caterpillars pupate in soil or leaf litter and do significant damage to agricultural crops.

## Bacterial Leaf Spot On Peppers

This bacterial disease (*Xanthomonas campestris*) is a very common infection that causes spots and yellowing of leaves and disfigures fruit. It thrives in areas with hot summers and frequent rainfall. The lesions begin on the lower leaves. As it progresses, light brown spots with purple centers appear. The disease produces spotting and raised cracks on fruit. There is no cure once the disease takes hold and it can be fatal to the plant.



The bacterium is spread by infected plant debris and seed. The first line of defense is destroying, not composting, plant debris and turning the soil over. Pepper and tomato crops should be consistently rotated. Keep garden tools sanitized. Purchasing disease resistant plants is also important. Seeds should be soaked in a 10% bleach solution before sowing. If bacterial leaf spot has been a problem in the past, early applications of fungicides containing copper will help prevent the disease's reappearance.

## Extending The Growing Season

Autumn's approach doesn't mean gardeners have to put away their hoes, rakes and shovels. There are many veggies that can be sown at this time of year but it is also important to take advantage of the last days of summer warmth. The exception is cabbage family crops that should be started indoors. This includes its cousins Bussels sprouts, cauliflower, kohlrabi and kale.



When sown directly, it is important to consider the first expected frost date (FFD). In our area, this generally means very late October. The *Farmer's Almanac* sets the Canfield FFD as Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, while other sources set the Zone 5 FFD as Oct. 16-31, and Zone 6 FFD as Nov. 1-15. We will give the OSU Extension FFD for our area if the information becomes available before we publish this issue. Consult the seed packet to determine the number of days to maturity. Count back from the FFD for the best time to sow. It is best to purchase fast maturing varieties.

Spinach, Leeks, radishes, mustard greens, turnips and collard greens are considered "hardy" and will withstand some frost. To err on the side of caution, "semi-hardy" veggies might be planted a bit earlier. They include beets, lettuce, carrots, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, endive, rutabaga, Irish potatoes and celery. Some protection like row covers may be necessary if the weather turns colder than expected.



## *It's Your Home, Stupid*

Dave Campana

*Once in a while, I abuse my position as our newsletter editor to purge my spleen of concerns for our environment. With all the scientific evidence concerning Man's degradation of Earth, I am at a loss as to why so many otherwise intelligent, informed people continue to deny, are ignorant of or just unconcerned about the future of our planet.*

One definition of 'science' is, "The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment". Scientists probe ever deeper into the physical world seeking 'truth', their findings subject to peer review.

Observation and experiment have been essential to survival long before humanoids walked the Earth, with the fittest finding the best sources of food and shelter. They have evolved strategies and physical traits that allowed for advantage over competitors in changing environments. Species unable to adapt became extinct.

Man's big brain using the 'scientific method' has led to an ever expanding bank of knowledge. Our success has allowed us to domination of our home, the planet Earth. Tools of stone have so evolved that we can probe the mysteries of genetics, explore distant worlds and better understand everything in between. Scientific discovery, whether intentionally focused or not, while a boon to Mankind, has sometimes resulted in serious unintended consequences.

We have gone from fire to successfully harnessing the power of the atom, but now have the ability to destroy all life on Earth. The descendants of witch doctors who once used magic potions and rituals to treat illness are now curing cancers and AIDS. Some new potions, however, have lead to serious addictions. Hunting and foraging have become efficient industrial agriculture, but chemically dependent mono-crops pollute and poison the environment.

Communication, once word of mouth, now mainly involve mass media, social networks and cell phones at the expense of personal interaction. Computers and the internet have greatly democratized knowledge and made commerce and industry much more efficient. Our reliance on high tech, however, has not only exposed vitally important systems to exploitation, but is now a venue for misinformation and crime. Where we once took from the Earth only what we needed to survive, we now rape the environment to create more convenience for ourselves while creating ever-growing mountains of trash.

Our greatest sin, one that may eventually cause the collapse of civilization, has been our mis- and overuse of fossil fuels for heat and energy generation. Without them, the world would be a much more savage place. But combustion yields carbon dioxide which prevents solar radiation from being reflected back into space. This warming effect allows air to hold more moisture, and water vapor is even more effective at trapping solar energy. And the cycle goes round and round.

As world temperatures rise, glacier and sea ice melt exposing the dark features of soil and the ocean. Where ice and snow once reflected heat, dark soil and water absorb it. NASA photos from space have documented the decline of many glaciers. They also show the decline of ice at the North Pole exposing long frozen plants that decay producing methane, a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide. Natural gas, the 'clean fuel', is essentially methane. If more than 2% escapes during fracking, which it often does, we may as well be burning coal.

Warmer temperatures cause the ocean to rise. If you doubt water expands when heated, fill a hummingbird feeder with cool sugar water in the morning then check the level in mid-afternoon. Glacier melt also compounds the problem. With vast numbers of people living along the coasts of the world, we'll be in big trouble if the Greenland and South Pole glaciers continue to deteriorate.

Fossil fuels hold CO2 trapped in plants eons ago. Not only are we releasing it by burning fuels but cutting down rain forests that are doing so today. Oceans also absorb vast amounts of the gas but are becoming increasingly acidic, devastating reefs and mangroves, the nurseries for many fish species.

We wouldn't have evolved as we have without a stable climate. Oh, Mother Earth will throw a draught or flood at us once in a while but, of late, they have become more common and severe. While the U.S. has not yet suffered greatly, the environment has significantly changed in many parts of the world.

Reports by scientists from NASA, NOAA and our finest universities continue to study our changing climate and agree that human activity has, at the very least, contributed to the problem. Compare their motives and what they have to gain as opposed to those who call climate change a 'hoax'.

*Earth is our home, and the chance that our descendants can relocate is slim.*

# The Germinator

September 2019

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

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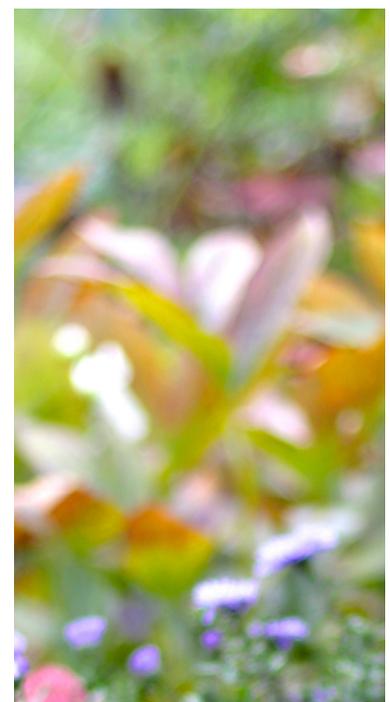
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# The Germinator

September 2019

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

www.mgcy.org



**Grandparents' DAY**  
September 8th

## calendar of events



September 4.....	General Meeting.....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
September 11.....	Board Meeting .....	APL .....	6:30 pm
September 14.....	Fall Breakfast.....	FRG .....	9am - 11am
September 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
September 9.....	Board Meeting .....	APL .....	6:30 pm
October 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG .....	7:00 pm
October 9.....	Board Meeting .....	APL .....	6:30 pm
TBA .....	CGLG Meeting .....	Kingwood Gardens ..	10:00 am

## 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)

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