



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

President's Message

Another Spring Plant Sale in the books and, I must say, our club should be very pleased. John Schinker and all who helped must be commended for coming through under challenging circumstances. After years of tweaking the MASCO operation to near perfection, they had to return to square one at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center greenhouse. In addition to the asset of experience, they received invaluable assistance from MCCTC Floral Design and Landscaping Instructor Mary June Emerson.

We as an organization can't rest on our laurels, however, as we have two very important events in the coming months:

Our **Plant Auction/Casserole Dinner** is one of our most awaited activities. On top of the chance to buy great plants on the cheap, and having a fine meal with good company, it's just plain fun. No serious member or gardener would want to miss it. In addition to bringing a casserole dish and/or desert, be sure to bring plants. Remember, guests are more than welcome. There will be plants there that are potential Best-In-Section winners at our next important club event:

The annual **MGCY Horticulture Show** in August is another entertaining activity where friendly competition is the rule. Participation by our membership has been declining of late and we really need to turn that around. Encourage non-members to enter the show as well as younger gardeners who have their own separate division.

Our national, The Garden Clubs of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, will be holding its convention in July. If you think you might attend talk to convention veterans Hugh Earnhart, John Schinker and Rodney Toth about what to expect. In August we also have our annual baseball outing in support of our Mahoning Valley Scrappers.

Sincerely; *Bruce Brungard*, President

Plant Auction/Casserole Dinner

Boardman Park Community Building – Last Building Heading South
 Wednesday, June 5th – Setup from 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:30
 Please Bring Casserole/Desert, Guests, Dinnerware &
Plants! Plants! Plants!



A Father is someone you look up to, no matter how tall you grow.

Dads hold our hands a little while, and hold our hearts forever.

Membership Meeting

7pm, Wed., June 5th

Fellows Riverside Gardens

See: Plant Auction

Guests Welcome

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wed., June 13th

Austintown Library.

All Members Welcome

MetroParks In June

Ikebana Exhibit	1,2
Traveling Naturalist	2
Flower Gardening Course	4,11
Family Fun Fridays	7,21
Photo Clique Walk	8
Family Nature Club: Hidden Pools	8
PGA Qualifier	8
Tree ID 101	9
Family Tour Thursdays	13
Shakespear in the Park	14-16
Golf Shop Sale	14-16
Birding the Sanctuary	15
Garden Forum Show	15,16
Live at the Morley	20,26
Naturalist Series: Coyotes	20
Family Park Camping	22,23
Cooking Steak	25
Botanical Mornings	28

Check out more events at:

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

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Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

New Member

Ron Fasano, 4299 Glenwood Ave., Boardman, OH., 44512, 330-502-9989, ronfio@msn.com. Ron is retired and enjoys urban and pollinator gardening, and growing flowers. His other activities include kayaking, jewelry making and woodworking. He is also a member of Flying High and ACTION.
Sponsor: Bob McGowan

Denny Frank, 6020 Boulder Creek Dr., Austintown, OH, 44415, denny6020@yahoo.com, 330-792-2188, 330-881-0383. Denny is interested in home horticulture.

Welcome Aboard

2019 Scholarship Winner

This year's scholarship recipient is Christopher Thompson, a sophomore at Kent State Salem majoring in Horticulture with an emphasis on Urban Forestry. He is a graduate of Richmond Heights High School. After beginning his studies at Kent State's main campus, he transferred to the Salem campus where he currently resides.

Christopher has had a passion for plants since he was a small child. He furthered his knowledge by planting his own garden, joining garden clubs and volunteering at greenhouses. Despite attempts at other life pursuits, he has always been drawn back to horticulture. His goals include getting a summer internship, completing his Associate Degree, and receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Congratulations and Best of Luck



Scrappers Baseball Outing

Join fellow members, friends and family on Aug. 8th when our Mahoning Valley Scrappers meet the Auburn Doubledays at Eastwood Field. There will be a complimentary meal beginning at 5:30pm with the game beginning at 7:05pm. Reserve your seat(s) with Rodney Toth, 330-759-1993, or at rkdahlias@aol.com.



Price is \$15 per person.

New America Elm Presentation

On April 23rd, the City of Youngstown Parks and Recreation Dept. hosted the 2019 Tree City USA Awards Ceremony, Region 6, at Fellows Riverside Gardens' Davis Center. The region encompasses Ohio's 13 N.E. counties. The event honored individuals and organizations that have worked to preserve, protect and increase Urban Forestry Programs, while providing up-to-date information on practices and procedures. The keynote speaker was Tyler Stevenson, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources.

Among those making presentations was our own Lynn Hoffman, one of MGCY's founding members of our American Elm Tree Restoration and Evaluation Project initiated in 2010. The American Elm, *Ulmus Americana*, was favored by early colonists for its beauty and was America's most popular shade tree until almost all were wiped by Dutch Elm Disease in the mid 20th century.

Surviving trees were cross-bred resulting in varieties more resistant to the disease. Mill Creek MetroParks funded the initial grove planted in its wetlands area fronted by Western Reserve Rd. Other trees have been planted to honor deceased MGCY members, the first of which was a memorial to the late Bud Kindelan in Boardman Park.



Lawn Care Presentation

In addition to being an excellent photographer, Dick States knows quite a bit about horticulture. Photos of his wonderfully landscaped property in Warren, anchored by a beautiful *Kousa* dogwood, made that point perfectly clear. His Power-Point presentation at our May membership meeting was a practical – at times quite technical – explanation of turf care basics.



One of the first considerations is which seeds to choose. For full sun areas, perennial bluegrass and/or perennial rye is best. For shaded areas, perennial fescue and/or perennial bluegrass will provide the best results. Never seed with tall fescue or annual bluegrass. Expensive seed available at the big box stores will often have coatings, fillers, annual grass seed and seed for undesirable plants. Read the labels carefully.

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When purchased by weight, rye grass will have 250,000 seeds per pound requiring 5-9 lbs. to seed 1000 sq. ft.; fescue has 500,000 seeds per pound with 4-6 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.; and bluegrass has 2,000,000 per pound with 2-3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. needed. As one can easily see, bluegrass is definitely the better bargain. Dick said an 'Improved Bluegrass' mix is available J.R. Landscape in Canfield, Green Valley Landscape Supply, Canfield, Course Mills True Value Hardware, North Lima, and Elliot's Greenhouse in Poland. Apply 6 seeds per square inch.

While we have nagged incessantly about getting soil tests every few years for gardens and landscapes, lawns should also be tested. Turf soil pH is very important when it comes to fertilizing. A 6.5 pH reading is ideal with the grass absorbing 100% of fertilizer applied. Fertilizer becomes less efficient as acidity increases. For example, with a 5 pH, over 50% of the fertilizer is wasted. The same is true as soil becomes more alkaline.

Nitrogen is by far the basic nutrient most likely to be deficient in soil for healthy plant growth. While water soluble nutrients disappear quickly under heavy precipitation, insoluble fertilizer will keep feeding over a much longer period. While Dick fertilizes his lawn four times a year, he advises those who fertilize only once a year to do so in the fall with 45-0-0 insoluble. Although many turf fertilizers no longer contain potassium, Dick's regimen includes one application of 5-10-10 insoluble.

When it comes to organic vs. inorganic fertilizers, Dick says there is little practical difference between them and he uses both. He also discussed the advantages on no-till agriculture. He recommended the following sites: www.brownsranch.us/category/videos, www.oradc.ohio.edu and www.gardenmyths.com



Dwarf Tomatoes

Tom Liggett

Gardeners with limited growing space have many choices of tomatoes to choose from. Dwarf tomato varieties are well suited for growing in containers, hanging baskets and patio beds. Growing time to maturity is quick and maximum height is 2 to 3 feet. There are a lot of sizes, shapes and colors available.

The "Dwarf Tomato Project" was conceived in 2005 and is a world-wide all volunteer tomato breeding project. There are over 70 new varieties that are perfect for those who choose or require container gardening, and provide colors, sizes and flavors that were previously only grown on indeterminate plants.



These plants are patio-sized but yield full-size fruit. The central growth stem is very stout and the foliage tends to be a darker bluish green and have wrinkled, or *rugose* leaves. Yields will be less but the



ability to plant them closer together or in 5 gallon pots is adequate compensation.

Another bonus of growing in pots is that they can be moved indoors when frost is forecast, thereby extending the harvest period. They could actually be grown in a heated greenhouse into early winter provided enough light is available. One very good source for these seeds is the Victory Seed Company, Molalla, Oregon. www.victoryseeds.com

Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance.

Ruth E. Renkel

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there. He is a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

Anonymous

2019 SPRING PLANT SALE

As far back as memory serves, the Mens Garden Club of Youngstown's annual Spring Plant Sale has not been without some serious challenges. Back when we



grew in hoop greenhouses on Market St., spilt herbicide on the planting tables from the year before wiped out many seedling flats. And then there was the blown-out greenhouse panel and a white fly invasion at MASCO.

This year Plant Sale Chairman John Schinker and member volunteers had to adjust to the unfamiliar setup at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center's growing facilities. The aisles between tables were too narrow for carts so customers had to hand-carry



purchases assisted by member volunteers. In addition, this spring has been unusually cool and cloudy. State-of-the-art watering tables were a blessing limiting the hours needed to hydrate the young plants.

Taking new growing facilities and a location possibly unfamiliar to regular customers into consideration, John wisely decided to downsize inventory. He also



reduced sale days from the traditional three to two. The inventory included the usual vegetables and annual flowers, and there was an assortment of large house

plants including rubber plants (*Ficus elastica*) and snake plants (*Sansevieria*).

MCCTC Floral Design & Landscaping Instructor Mary June Emerson who most recently managed the greenhouse was immensely helpful as were other staff members. Our most valuable associate Ashley Kannal, who attended MCCTC, adores Mary June. She came to the sale with her aunt Donna and uncle Larry Kannal.



L-R: Larry & Donna Kannal, Mary June Emerson, John Schinker & Ashley Kannal

The two beautiful ceramic pots containing a variety of annuals raffled at the sale were won by Elaine Reedy of Austintown and Georgiann Ballard of Canfield.



Our membership really stepped up during the growing process and sale. The assistance of Tom Arens, Mike Beaudis, Bruce Brungard, John Fox, Tom Liggett, Rodney Toth and Terry Voland was invaluable during transplanting. They and other members assisted customers during the sale.



There may be some unsold plants at our annual Plant Auction/Casserole Dinner this month at Boardman Park. Don't miss the chance to get them at bargain prices while enjoying good food and great company.

Many thanks for making the Plant Sale a success.

The Germinator

June 2019

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

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The Germinator

June 2019

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

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calendar of events



June 5.....	General Mtg/Plant Auction	Boardman Park.....	6/7:00 pm
June 12	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
July 3.....	General Meeting.....	FRG	7:00 pm
July 10.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
August - TBA	Steak Fry/General Meeting	Larry Duck's Home	6/7:00 pm
August 8	Scrapper Ball Game	Eastwood Field	5:30 pm
August 14.....	Board Meeting	APL	6:30 pm
August 23.....	Setup for Horticulture Show...FRG		12:00 pm
August 28-31	Canfield Fair	Fair Grounds.....	9am -9pm

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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