

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



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## Presidents Message...Bob Bell



WOW! Summer is flying right by, if you don't like the heat and humidity that's a good thing, however, if you like heat and humidity then enjoy it while you can.

There is much to write about but I won't repeat everything we did at the Summer Conference - just try to hit the highlights. Most of you know by now that we changed our name to The Central Great Lakes Gardeners. Thanks to Frank Mitch for all his efforts in making that happen. Among other reasons it will make it easier to find us when anyone does a web search. Since our meeting Bill Lanning is making us legal.

Jim, my brother, announced that he plans to hold a Judging School for 6 to 8 people at any site in our region. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Not that all of our judges are getting old; but well you know what I mean. Jim can be reached at 330-644-6768 or email at [bell8676@aol.com](mailto:bell8676@aol.com).

We had a discussion regarding support for the 2012 GCOA Annual Conference sponsored by the Youngstown Club. The Region (if I recall correctly) has committed \$500, but they will need additional support from other individual clubs.

Hugh Earnhart, National President, presented the nominees for the CGLG 2012-year officers. All were elected by acclamation. Leroy Hart and Cheri Kessen move up and Tom Davis will be the new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. Marcia Davies and Bill Lanning keep their jobs for another year. Congratulations to all and thank you for your participation. Thank you to Hugh and committee for your work.

Thank you to Rodney Toth and team for your efforts. The awards presentations are a great way to cap off a wonderful conference.

I want to acknowledge one of the good people in our organization. Not that all of our members aren't good people, but this person has gone over and above just being involved, of course I am referring to the editor of the JAB, Joe Alessi. Joe is retiring effective the completion of this edition. Joe, thank you, your efforts have been noticed. Your awards have been well earned. Our best wishes to you and to your family.

Thank you Leroy Hart for your idea of a summer conference in "Amish Country." We are so fortunate to have access to this community in our region. Leroy with his right hand man Sam Morlan led us on a wonderful journey around the area. The bus on Friday was a great idea especially with the warm weather.

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What you do for others can live forever!

Now Read These!



## REGIONAL CLUB NEWS

### 15th ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN

This is your personal invitation to visit the Rodney and Kay Toth home gardens, Sunday, September 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

There are several major gardens that feature numerous different and unusual varieties of dahlias, tomatoes, peppers, hostas, coleus, annuals, perennials, and a forty-foot long gourd arbor.

New this year is the Grandchildren Garden consisting of eight triangular sections. The Potpourri Pole is back with the Dutchman's Pipe, and a new must see plant, the Blue Sky Vine.

Special guests will include singing entertainment by Monica Toth Baker at 1:30 p.m., karaoke by Joe Weinel at 3:30 p.m., and Alice Lang with decorative gourd art. Also available will be The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown potted mums.

Don't miss this opportunity see a very unique home garden, have a relaxing day visiting, and sharing garden tales with friends, and the chance to meet some new "Green Thumbs"

Admission and ample parking are FREE. For additional info or to arrange Garden Club Tours on other dates contact Rodney Toth at 330-759-1993.

The R&KToth private gardens are located at 5637 W. Liberty St. (Rt. 304), Hubbard, OH 44425 (2.5 miles east of Belmont Ave., State Rt. 193).

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*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

After lunch we boarded the bus to ATI in Wooster. Ken Cochran and two of his young men took us on

a tour of the grounds where we were not only able to see some of what ATI is doing there but also look at the remains of the tornado that passed there last September. Many of our clubs and individuals have contributed time and funds for the clean up of ATI.

Next, the bus took us to Lemans Hardware in Kidron, Ohio. Our guide pointed out that this store sells many of the products in use daily by the Amish community. I am fairly certain we helped their local economy too!

It was then that we noticed a storm in the distance that brought us a few sprinkles. From Lemans the bus arrived in Charm, Ohio. It took several minutes for the bus to maneuver around and through the traffic and downed trees being cleared from the road. Here we discovered the storm had really hit.

The next day we were told that it was a tornado, but when questioned further, it may have been a wind shear; most likely the latter. We saw many trees down and fully-grown corn stalks lying flat. When we arrived at the Amish home a large tree had barely missed the house where we ate dinner.

Saturday morning we were scheduled to have two speakers. Only the first showed up but she filled in well for the second. Denise Ellsworth is the County Extension Agent for Summit and surrounding counties. Her talk was on beneficial insects. When the next speaker didn't arrive, she hooked up her computer again with her hundreds of pictures and started answering our questions. Great job.

We ate lunch, then on to Heinis Cheese Factory. I noticed that some got there early and were tasting the delights of the bakery and ice cream store across the street. Next was the Breitenbach Winery. This is the first time that I have had a complete tour of a winery. I bought only two bottles. If I heard right this is one of the largest wineries in Ohio.

*(Continue to page 7)*



What you do for others can live forever!

## It's Only My Opinion

What keeps a Star-like club glowing and its members active? The mindset of each member as an individual, and the composite mindset of the total membership are paramount for staying the course and continued growth.

Can the leadership by members that are elected or appointed change either growth or activity? I believe yes, but only if the general membership can be convinced that the leaders are on the right track. What is the right track? It's what the members want it to be.

A knowledgeable leader learns what the members want, and then finds a way to help them get it; it's the prerequisite for successful leadership. Not all your members will want the same thing, which is the reason for promoting the numerous committees, projects and events. Fail in this area and you will see the membership begin to decline, lower meeting attendance, fewer work project volunteers, and leader candidates.

The President is only one segment of a successful organization. Each chairperson must do their job or get out of the way of those willing to do the tasks demanded. Complacency is an opponent of success.

It behooves a president to find, convince, appoint and oversee each chairperson that will do his or her job efficiently. But he and they alone cannot do all that is required. The full membership must pitch in and be willing to help.

The Membership Chairperson must do more than count the heads. Their duties are more important than many believe. It's their job to find ways to recruit new members, then help these members feel welcome by being well informed about club events, projects and privileges. A well-informed member is a more cooperative active member.

It is the responsibility of every new member's Sponsor to assist the Membership Chair with the

new member. Many Sponsors fall short of their obligation in this area to the new member.

Committee members should take turns acting as greeters, welcoming both members and guests at all your club meetings and events. The meet and greet helps to promote a friendly get to know one another.

The Club's Newsletter editor is armed with the very vital task of writing the history, being inspirational and informative. A newsletter can be your most powerful tool keeping the membership in a family-like personal, caring mode. A newsletter is the world's open window into an organization's successes, mental attitude and historical pride.

Not taking full advantage of your newsletter to help promote every aspect of the club is doing a disservice to the entire membership. I repeat, "A well-informed member is a more cooperative active member."

Most of the one or two page newsletters from the variety of organizations that I have read, are not cost effective or able to do a complete job of being inspirational, provide enough information, give credit when due, and do not adequately record their history.

The Membership is of course the most important aspect of all the preceding text, for with out them all of this page would be blank, but because of them all the preceding words are written.

Too often there are too many members that do nothing at all, except enjoy the efforts of others. Like the weeds in my garden, I wonder how they got there and what's their purpose.

If my opinion makes you unhappy, then let your newsletter editor have your rebuttal or respond as intentioned, with a positive mindset by becoming a more active member or one of your club leaders to help it continue to glow. BE A STAR! Joe Alessi



*What you do for others can live forever!*

Article from the Findlay Club The Ban, Editor John Platt

**To give your fruit tree a boost, let it Bee:**

Honeybees have been under a great deal of stress lately. It's no wonder. Working under the thumb of a queen bee, the average honeybee spends seven days a week collecting nectar and pollen along with its 70,000 hive-mates. To service the nation's growing demand for food, honeybees work for months on end without a break. As soon as they finish pollinating one crop, their hives are transported to the next crop. From Canada to Florida, California to Maine they are always on the move, frantically pollinating almonds, blueberries, raspberries, cranberries, cucumbers, apples, peaches, pears and more.

It appears the workload is getting to them. Honeybee population levels have dropped by 50% in the past 25 years. Colony collapse disorder, which was first identified about three years ago, is wiping out entire hives almost overnight. Colony collapse disorder and other problems have been blamed on pests and diseases, pesticides and herbicides, inbreeding, genetically modified crops, lack of diversity, habitat loss and climate change.

Native bees, of which there are more than 4,000 species in the U.S., are under similar stresses. They have definitely experienced population losses, but are proving to be much harder than honeybees. Native bees have two big advantages over honeybees.

First is the fact that they are solitary; they work for themselves and live independently. This makes them far less susceptible to disease and pest problems.

Secondly, because they don't live in hives, they can't be "enslaved" for commercial agriculture, which increases their exposure to toxins and takes them out of their natural habitat.

The downside? Native bees don't make honey. Researchers for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are studying native bees and other pollinators to understand how we can encourage these insects, and ultimately give honeybees a break.

Mason bees (genus *Osmia*) are a type of native bee that's quite common throughout most of the U.S. They are usually a little smaller than a honeybee, and typically metallic blue or blue-black in color. They get their name from their habit of nest building, which is to seal off the cells where they lay their eggs, with a mortar-like application of mud.

Mason bee "hives" are commercially available (picture below is from Gardener's Supply.com) or can be made easily at home from paper straws, etc.

There are about 140 species of mason bees in North America. All are solitary bees. The males do not have a stinger, and the females will only sting if trapped or squeezed. This makes them an ideal neighbor for the home garden, since they pose little to no threat of stinging.



In the wild, mason bees lay their eggs in small natural cavities such as woodpecker holes, insect holes and hollow stems, but they seem to be just as happy to lay their eggs in artificial nesting cavities such as wooden blocks with holes drilled in them, cardboard tubes and paper straws. Since mason bees are unable to excavate their own nesting cavities, they seem to be quite happy to use whatever location is suitable.

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*(Mason Bees continued from page 4)*

Female mason bees emerge in early spring and immediately begin to forage for pollen and nectar, that they collect from fruit trees, berries, flowers and vegetables. They pack this food into the far end of their nesting cavity until they decide there's enough there to feed a young bee. Then the female backs in, lays an egg and seals up the cell. This process continues until the bee has filled the entire chamber with a series of pollen/nectar/egg cells.

Interestingly, the eggs that are destined to be female are always deposited at the back of the nesting chamber; the male bees will emerge first.

Once the mason bee has completely filled one chamber, she will begin filling another one. This pollen collecting and egg laying will continue for four to six weeks, after which the bee will die.

Mason bee larvae hatch just a few days after the eggs are laid. They munch away on the food that's been stored in their cell, which usually lasts them about 10 days. Then the larva spins a cocoon and pupates. By autumn, the insects look like an adult bee, but they remain inside their cocoons throughout the winter. When the weather warms in the spring, the males chew their way out first; the females emerge several days later.

Mason bees are very effective pollinators. Just two or three females can pollinate a mature apple tree! Mason bees will also work in cool or rainy weather when honeybees are more likely to take the day off.

Mason bees actually prefer to make their nests close together. An artificial nesting chamber takes advantage of this trait. Bees appreciate the convenience! In the wild, their eggs are laid in natural cavities that are rarely re-used. To avoid pest and disease problems, artificial nesting boxes should be carefully cleaned or disposed of after one or two seasons of use. Bee seeing you!

## MY STATE SIDE PLOT OF GRASS

As a gardener, you might enjoy reading the following story about one of our brave soldiers that circulated on the Internet.

**IT'S PRICELESS!!!!** I can't think of a better word.



The picture of this Army soldier in Iraq with his tiny 'plot' of grass in front of his tent is heartwarming!

Here is a soldier in Iraq, stationed in a big sand box, the desert. He asked his wife to send him dirt (**U.S. soil**), fertilizer, and some grass seed so that he can have the sweet aroma, and feel the grass grow beneath his feet.

When the men of the squadron have a mission that they are going on, they take turns walking through the grass and the **American soil** -- to bring them good luck. Of all the things he could have asked his wife to send to him from home.....he asked for American soil. WOW!

**NO RIDING MOWERS NEEDED!** If you notice; like Stan Hardy of Laurel & Hardy, he is even cutting the grass with a pair of scissors. Sometimes we are in such a hurry that we don't stop and think about the little things that we take for granted. Upon receiving this, say a little prayer for our soldiers that give and give (and give up) so unselfishly for us. How do you feel now?



What you do for others can live forever!

## Plug the Holes in Your Hostas

Have you ask yourself, “Why do my hostas have holes in them and by summer look really bad?”



A common source of holes on hostas is slugs and snails, they feed at night, so you are unlikely to see them, but you know by the holes they were there.

To discover if it is slugs, look for silvery slime trails in garden beds and on the leaves. Since some plants are more susceptible to slug injury, check around those particular plants to detect slugs. Now that you know the cause, what can you do about it?

Chemical slug pellets and baits do work, but be careful as many of these contain harsh chemicals that can be harmful to children, pets and other wildlife. As with any chemical always read and follow the direction on the label.

Another approach you can try is a beer trap. Place a small shallow container, such as a jar lid, level with the soil and fill with beer. Slugs will be attracted to the beer, crawl in, and drown. Gritty materials such as diatomaceous earth scattered on the soil surface may also work.

A last approach you might want to try is to lay wet newspapers on the ground over night. The next day check beneath the paper to find slugs that have taken refuge from heat and sun. You can then kill the slugs by dropping them into a 10 to 20 percent solution of ammonia and water. Salt applied directly on the slug will also kill them.

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## Curb Appeal

Curb appeal, its what a passer-by looks for as they view a property’s landscape! Is your home entry inviting, does it say, “Welcome”; does it make you want to see more?

Research shows that the value of a home increases 10-25% with mature trees, and a well maintained landscaped yard that will continue to appreciate in value.

Two elements to consider are color and contrast. Color has the most impact (you might use an artists color wheel to help with color & contrast selection).

Color could be added by painting the front door, that is then enhanced with aesthetic, and compatible containers that are planted with flowers or foliage that add to the overall design that tie it all together.

Contrast is obtained by using various shades of green, red, and yellow. Some shrubs have interesting textural foliage that can soften a planting. A plant like hostas with their many forms and colors is a good choice for impact. However, too much contrast can create confusion, so allow for breaks in your design.

Large drifts and mass plantings (groups of a least five of the same plant) are more pleasing to the eye and can capture more attention.

As always, you must consider every plants soil, exposure, drainage, sun or shade, requirements. Rely on your nurseryman to help select your plants. It can be an expensive undertaking; you won’t want to make avoidable mistakes by planting in the wrong place.



Curb appeal doesn’t happen overnight. It takes careful planning, time and work. As the plants mature, and come into their full beauty and potential, you will surely see all your efforts and enjoyment maximized.

Edited from the Mansfield Club Newsletter, The Greenhorn, Editors Dean & Pat Wells.



What you do for others can live forever!

*(President's Message continued from page 2)*

The last stop for the weekend was at the Werther's Carving Museum and Gardens in Dover, Ohio. I have been there twice before, once in grade school and once in the „70s. I remember Mr. Werther taking my school class on the tour personally. In addition to the tour we ate a nice dinner there, spent a bundle of money at the gift shop and ended with our awards.

The fall meeting will be at Kingwood Gardens in the gatehouse. We agreed to pay Kingwood \$50 for the use of the room. If the gate is manned, tell them you are with the Central Great Lakes Gardeners. You can drive up past the home to the gatehouse parking lot as we did in the spring. See you October 8<sup>th</sup> in Mansfield, Ohio. Bob

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## APHORISMS

*An aphorism is a short, pointed sentence expression wise or clever observation or a general truth.*

**1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.**

2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

**3. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.**

4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

**5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.**

6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

**7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.**

8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

**9. Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job.**

10. No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car.

**11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.**

12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 AM. Like this: It could be a right number.

**13. No one ever says, "It's only a game." When their team is winning.**

14. I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.

**15. Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.**

16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

**17. Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? And rap music will be the Golden Oldies.**

18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.

**19. After age 50, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead.**



**2011 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES**  
 Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932



Regional Meeting – October 8, 2011 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – Bob Bell – 330-673-3553  
 Regional Meeting – April 14, 2012– 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – Leroy Hart – 330-836-1407  
 CGLG Annual Regional Conference – 2012 –TBA – Cheri Kessen – 260-854-2988

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