

The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER


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Spring 2010

President's Message...John Kessen

 trust that everyone has had a great Christmas and New Year and is now looking around the corner to the start of a new growing season. As gardeners I know that we are looking forward to trying some new plantings. Spring is a great time of the year.



The CGLR is looking at an unusually busy year, because of hosting the 2010 TGOA/MGCA National Convention. Your convention committee has been very busy preparing for the convention. The registration materials are in the January/February TGOA/MGCA National Newsletter and on the TGOA/MGCA web site. Our convention committee has planed a site meeting in Grand Rapids in late March and a regular meeting after the Spring CGLR meeting at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio on April 10. I really want to urge the members of the CGLR to plan on attending the national convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 10-12, 2010 at the Grand Rapids Hilton. The registration fee is \$235 and includes all nine meals, speakers, presentations and field trips. Our rate is \$89 per night at the Hilton Hotel. We suggest that you arrive on Wednesday and depart on Sunday. Those who have seen the facility feel it is a great location.

This year we have some new committee heads. The new committee chairman for the Flower and Garden Show Judging is Jim Bell with the Akron Club. Our new chairman for the Youth Program Committee is Cheri Kessen with the Fort Wayne Club. She is, also, serving as the chairman of the national committee. Cheri is very interested in having volunteers join the regional and national youth gardening committees.

Our spring meeting will begin at 10:00 AM in the Gatehouse at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The business meeting will be in the morning. We will go to lunch together and start the afternoon with a 1:30 pm presentation by Chuck Gleaves, Director of Kingwood Center. His topic will be the gardens at Kingwood Center. After his presentation we will finish our remaining business and adjourn.

The CGLR will be presenting our Summer Workshop on July 30 & 31, 2010 in the Cleveland Area. Our Vice President, Bob Bell has put together a great two-day event. We will be utilizing Holden Arboretum for the event. Please support our CGLR events.

I want to see the CGLR continue to grow. Please share your ideas and comments with me at any time. Yours in gardening, John

CGLR Youth Committee Chairperson, Cheri Kessen writes that the gardening information bank is growing. If you are interested in serving on the committee, visited children gardens, have projects, ideas or activities to help encourage children to become involved, please let me know. Every little item and idea helps! Thanks a bunch. Cheri ckessen2001@yahoo.com



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What you do for others can live forever!

SPRING POND OPENING

By Ron Thomas, Colonial Gardens Landscaping.



Spring is in the air and nothing says *Spring* quite like starting up your pond. I have been helping pond owners for twelve years and have learned a few important things to do.

The pond opening process begins in early spring, as the days grow longer. Once your pond water warms to around 50 degrees or so, activity starts to happen and it's time to take action. Begin by removing your pond deicer and netting then wash them thoroughly to store until next fall.

Assess the quality of your water. Does it have a color to it? Is there a large amount of debris [leaves, twigs etc.], or possibly foul odors? Expect to find hair algae and some slight discoloration or cloudy water – so don't panic, this is normal.

Following my proven processes, it is NOT necessary to completely drain your pond every year, or even every few years.

However, if your water is dark brown or black or has a foul odor, it may require a partial water change or possibly a full cleanout. If you are not sure whether or not a change is necessary, give a call to your local pond person.

First, test your water for pH, buffering capacity, nitrites, nitrates and ammonia. Testing your water is very simple using test strips or a testing kit. This is very important in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Next remove any leaves or dead vegetation using a proper net; this makes great compost! While doing this, inspect the fish for unsightly spots, blotches, open sores or anything out of the ordinary. For optimal outcome, it is better to treat any problems as soon as they occur. Please remember, it is very important to NOT feed your fish until water temperature is 55 degrees or higher. Feeding fish too early can be harmful to their health and may even cause death in some instances. Premature feeding may also lead to algae blooms in your pond.

If your water plants are pushing new growth, they can be brought back up to their summer homes. If they are not pushing new growth yet, simply wait until they are and bring them up at that time. Once your plants show steady signs of new growth, begin fertilizing accordingly.

Now that your pond is all stirred up, it is time to reinstall the pump. Clean out the skimmer and any waterfall boxes and stream of winter debris. Reinstall your filter media back into the falls boxes.

Be sure to replace lava rock each season for optimal biological filtration. Reinstall all filter mats or pre-filters and hook up the pump and let it run. Be sure to hose off the filter mats for the first few days when needed and double check for any changes in the pond water level.

If additional water is needed, use a water conditioner that specifically removes chloramines before adding new water. Chloramines are used to purify drinking water and are ok for us, but if you don't use a water conditioner to remove, they will build up in the pond to the point where they can severely burn the gills of your fish.

With the waterfalls running, now it is time for water additives. Add concentrated bacteria to help jump-start the biological filtration for the first couple weeks. In our area fish become active much sooner than the water plants and the bacteria helps break down fish wastes and other debris faster.

If you have excess string algae, you have a choice of good additives to choose from. Lastly, pond salt is extremely beneficial for pond fish. It helps their gill functions, kidney functions, helps them maintain their good slime coat, and ultimately helps them fight off a myriad of other ailments.

All that is left to do is make sure you have enough submerged aquatic plants and other plant life to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Then start your grill, call your friends and enjoy your most successful pond season yet.

Ron, is a member of the Youngstown Club.



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NEWSPAPER MULCH

One of the easiest and cheapest ways to mulch is by using newspaper with leaves spread on top of the paper. Place 5 or 6 sheets of newspaper down in the aisles and cover with leaves. Soak the paper and leaves and they will stay in place and stop any weeds from growing.

*From the Stow Club - "Manure Spreader"
Editor, Jerry Stranathan*

NEWSPAPER GARDENING

*By Mike McGroarty, McGroarty Enterprises Inc., P.O.
Box 338, Perry, Ohio 44081*

Newspapers have become very earth and plant friendly. Today the ink used in most if not all newspaper is soy based and will not harm the plants in your garden.

Gardeners are learning that newspaper is a great addition to the soil, to the compost pile, or it can be used to keep weeds at bay. Shredded newspaper can be used to mulch around plants to help control weeds and retain moisture.

Remember weeds need sunlight to grow, so if you can block the sunlight you can greatly reduce the number of weeds in a garden. Then as an added bonus the newspaper decomposes to enrich the soil.

If you are planting a new garden you can spread newspaper on top of the soil to help keep your garden free of weeds. In this application it's best to water the garden, then lay 8 or 9 pages thick of newspaper, wet it down and then cover with mulch.

Using the glossy full color printed advertisements and magazines that come in the newspaper is not recommended, use only the newsprint.

Check Mike's Backyard Growing System. <http://www.freeplants.com/system-basic.htm>

GARDEN HINTS

To prepare a new garden plot where a lawn now exists, try laying on top of the sod old carpeting cut into the shape of your garden plan. Within a few weeks the grass, roots and sod will be decomposed and be ready to till.

Old carpet works well in the aisles of your garden, also scrapped strips of particleboard oftentimes eight feet long, its free and found discarded at home construction sites in the burn pile. These materials will last for as long as two or three seasons before they decompose and then you merely have to lay more on top. For years I have used both with great success to eliminate walking in mud, suppressing weeds and trapping slugs.
Editor.

The richest person in the world is the one who finds pleasure in everyday duties.

The trouble with common sense is that is so uncommon.

A century ago America was known as the melting pot. Today, it's more like a pressure cooker!!

From the Mansfield Club - "The Greenhorn", - Editors` Dean & Pat Wells

Hang a banana peel somewhere near your sugar-water feeder. Fruit flies will flock to the skin, and hummingbirds (like the ruby-throated) will gladly feast on the protein rich visitors.

Taken from: Birds & Blooms Aug./Sept'09. As printed in the Findlay Club - "The Ban", Editor, Anita Lanning

Gardening is a tonic for the young, old, man or woman. When you garden your soul is at peace and your heart is fulfilled.

From the Bluffton Pandora Club - "Edelweiss News" - Editor, Pat Flinn



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Pests of Concern



urtis Young, PhD was guest speaker at The Gardeners of Lima meeting. Dr. Young is an entomologist with The Ohio State University Extension office, and teaches OSU classes. His topic was “*Pests of Concern*”. He said that there are many beneficial organisms that you want to keep. But, if not careful the good organisms will be gone along with the destructive. And, some destruction can sometimes be tolerated because sometimes the cure may be too toxic. But a few pests of concern that he talked about are described below.



The European Elm Adult Flea Weevil

The European Elm Flea, a really tiny weevil—not actually a flea, although it jumps like a flea, is a new concern for elm trees. Elm trees lined streets until several decades ago, he said. In some places the elm trees represented an example of monoculture because only elm trees were planted.



Damage by European Elm Flea Weevil Larvae

Then *Dutch elm disease* spread by the elm bark beetle (Pictured next below) killed nearly all of the elm trees. Dr. Young said monoculture is not good planting strategy.

He said the Princeton American Elm tree is a new elm variety that shows promise for using elm



trees again because it is resistant to known insects and known diseases.

Bagworms on conifers are another problem. Manually squashing the bag containing the worm is effective, but it is unrealistic to find every bag on a tree. And the only time a tree can be treated with insecticide is when the worm emerges from the bag around mid-June.

Japanese Beetles are a problem, too. You can stop a Japanese beetle problem before it starts by inspection of your property around mid-May to the end of May for Japanese Beetles. If you kill those you find, you may stop more from arriving later. Because these beetles that you kill now are the “scouts”. They are searching for new territory for the hoard that arrive later.

Imidacloprid is fairly new as the active ingredient to look for in a pesticide. It is systemic and goes through the soil and into plant, he said. Reading the entire label of any insecticide used is mandatory.

For more information:
ohioline.osu.edu/lines/pests.html - has fact sheets for all garden pests at the above OSU Extension website. Also, www.ohioline.osu.edu – is a good starting point for garden information as is Ortho www.ortho.com prints helpful books for identifying and dealing with pests of concern. Or talk to the Ortho pros at 1-800-225-2883.

*From the Lima Club “Springs N Sprouts”,
Editor, Teresa Heath.*



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IT'S TIME TO PUT THE BOOKS ASIDE



Every would be green thumbed gardener has been dreaming of their garden each time their eyes or mind wandered from reading the cold pages of some book in their hands by peering out a window while trying to imagine the piles of snow covering the garden, and once melted would become. They know that now is the time for sowing seed indoors, followed very soon to the garden to do all things necessary.

As this is being written, many of us are inundated with twenty plus inches of snowfall, with more expected. Yes, but we're all seasoned to the weather and know that the daily weather fluctuating from cold to warm and back to cold again accompanied by a sunny or overcast sky helps to remind us, that March 20th is the first day of spring and close at hand.

Every gardener must ask themselves a few questions. Were you able to complete the chores last fall to put your garden to rest during the winter months? Do you have your tools cleaned, plants or seeds selected, according to your overall garden plan? Did you clean the garden of its leaves and other debris? If you answered yes, then you are ahead of many other gardeners. However, if "NO" is your answer, then it's time to get busy and begin making those preparations before you turn the soil.

You will also want to finish cleanup by cutting ornamental grass to within three inches above the ground. Spring sprouts are beginning to emerge. Also, cut back any dead parts left on perennials. Pull and remove annuals left in the ground. Weed, and keep weeding while the plants are young!

If your soil is more than adequate you'll be able to grow just about anything, allowing for the crop's proper sun, light, air and water requirements. The condition of the soil is critical. Soil testing has proven it's worth time and again.

Add nutrients recommended by your soil test. A soil test is similar to a Doctors exam prior to determining if we might need medication. You can test the soil anytime of year; however, I like to test before March so that I will have the soil amendments ready to apply in April. To learn more about soil test kits, contact your local County Extension Educator.

Be on the lookout for pests. Learn the difference between the beneficial and non-beneficial insects. Those that are beneficial are insects; those that are not are pests!

Make note of where spring bulbs need replaced. Certain species of wildlife enjoy gourmet foods the same as we humans. Bulbs are one of the foods on their menu. Note where the blanks are in your bulb beds and plan to replace or plant with new types. One of the last items on wildlife's bulb food is daffodil, a popular choice for the home gardener to grow.

As the weather warms, completely remove or uncover any mulch or dressing you applied last fall to protect tender plants. Redress mulch around your perennials, but don't cover them. Allow for the tender shoots to reach and stretch for the light and breathe.

Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs or trees until after they finish blooming. Learn which spring bloomers need pruned immediately after flowering, like the "Snow Mountain Cherry", prune too late and you may lose next year blooms.

Divide summer and fall-blooming perennials with 3" shoots, it's beneficial for most plants and will help you feel better when you share your prizes with other gardeners, and neighbors.

You'll be helping to beautify your surrounding while at the same time spreading the good news that gardening is a happy exercise for everyone to relish. Time to get moving, enjoy the good earth.



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WHY KEEP IT TO YOURSELF?



With all the gardening knowledge, experience, ideas and club news it is surprising that you don't flood the JAB pages with information to share, information that many of your fellow members would like to learn and utilize in their gardens. Two years ago in the first revised JAB newsletter [Spring issue 2008], we wrote about the importance of member newsletter contributions.

"It's critical that a newsletter does not become a one-person show that could deteriorate once again to be discontinued."

The CGLR is fortunate to still have, by my count thirteen clubs numbering hundreds of members, all have an interest in gardening. The JAB has managed to give you eight pages of gardening news three issues per year. Some local club editors are not able to fill their newsletters to eight pages because of lack of contributions by their members.

Why eight pages? That is what is cost effective; the cost of printing and postage to send the JAB to every member is what caused the JAB to be discontinued three years past. That is equal to four sheets printed on two sides of which postage cost is one first class stamp.

Today the JAB is mailed to only the President and the Editor of each club and the CGLR Officers. They in turn are to make the JAB available with a hard copy or E-mail to their members.

There is much talk about diminishing club membership throughout the nation of garden clubs, the importance of any organization's newsletter it to keep in touch with their members.

How many newsletters are seen from nearly every organization that you are a member or in which you have an interest? Newsletters are mailed or E-mailed by companies or organizations because they are tantamount to the advertising for the goods

and services they provide; how else would you learn about these items and their value?

Is it not the same to use your local newsletter as another tool for acquiring new members? If you do not save yours received at home, recycle by adding your phone number to the mail label and giving it to a garden acquaintance or leave it with your barber or hairdresser. If you receive it via E-mail, then forward it to anyone with gardening interest.

Show and tell your community what your club is all about and what you do for them, beautification, education and the purpose of your garden group.

Editors, if you have some information in your newsletter that you feel the CGLR should have make it known.

Okay, I cleaned out the E-mail inbox and have the space for your info, Summer Issue deadline is June 30, 2010.

European Sawfly Damage

When inspecting plantings in early spring, homeowners, Nursery personnel and Christmas tree producers often are dismayed to find that pines have been stripped of needles. This means aesthetically unacceptable spindly or dead looking plants; that may survive with proper treatment.



Although similar in appearance, sawfly larvae are not true Caterpillars. They possess a pair of fleshy prolegs on each body segment.



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CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

Gardening Education And Excellence In Horticulture Since 1932

To: ALL CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION TGOA/MGCA CLUBS
FROM: THE C.G.L.R. AWARDS COMMITTEE
RE: YEAR 2010 C.G.L.R. 61st ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

Dear Club President and Awards Chairperson,

The Awards Committee would like to have all C.G.L.R. Clubs participate in the awards program. **Please review the enclosed material with your members as soon as possible and refer this material to your Awards Chairman. Also, please save this material for future reference.**

The following are once in a lifetime awards: THE WILLIAM MOOREHOUSE AWARD (Replaces THE MASTER GARDENER AWARD. Previous recipients are not eligible for this award.), THE GREEN BRONZE MEDAL and THE DELBERT R. DUNBAR AWARD.

In addition to the awards above we call your attention to the following: HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT, HORTICULTURE JOURNALISM, CERTIFICATE OF HONOR, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT and the SPARK PLUG awards. There are many people deserving of these awards. **Please help us honor them by nominating them for an award.**

Awards will be presented at the C.G.L.R. 61st ANNUAL CONFERENCE which will be hosted by The Akron Men's G. C., July 30 & 31, 2010 at the Holden Arboretum and Kirtland, OH area. The conference is open to all C.G.L.R. Club members. **Please encourage your members to attend!!!** For more info contact CGLR First Vice President, Bob Bell at 330- 673-3553 or by Email to mrrnbell@hotmail.com.

The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1, 2010. This is necessary to give the Awards Committee ample time to select winners, order and prepare the awards. You may re-nominate a person if they were previously nominated but did not receive the award. Please e-mail or mail nominations and supporting data to all the committee members listed below or bring nominations and data to the C.G.L.R. meeting at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield on, April 10, 2010. **NOTE!** Criteria and a list of past recipients of these awards can be located on the CGLR web site (<http://www.acorn.net/cglr>) under REGION MEETINGS – SPECIAL IMPORTANT NOTICE – Submission Details and Instructions.

Respectfully submitted by your C.G.L.R. Awards Committee,

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2010 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES
CGLR - Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932



Regional Meeting – April 10 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – John Kessen - 260-854-2988
 Regional Conference – July 30-31 – 12:00 PM – Cleveland, Ohio Area TBA - Robert Bell – 330-673-3553
 Regional Meeting - October 9 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio - John Kessen - 260-854-2988

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