

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



*The 2009, 2010, 2011 Regional Award Winning Newsletter  
Published Thrice Annually By the Central Great Lakes Gardeners  
Indiana – Michigan – Ohio – Pennsylvania.*



Volume 12 Issue 1

Spring 2012

## President's Message-Leroy Hart

In this my first message to you as your president of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners, I want to look back upon the past year and look forward to the coming events of this year.

Last year Bob Bell treated us to two excellent programs at the Mansfield meetings of the region: John Martine told us all about gourds in April and Tom Dayton, owner of Dayton Nursery in Norton, spoke in October. I don't want to brag (too much) but several of you told me how much they enjoyed the summer meeting in Amish Country.

The coming events I am anticipating: Some of us from the Akron Club are going on a trip arranged by Kingwood Center. The primary goal is the Philadelphia Flower Show. This show is billed as the world's largest indoor flower show. Also, it is only a flower show, not like most of these shows we attend which have more home exhibits than gardening exhibits. Also, we will visit Longwood Gardens and Winterthur Museum and Gardens.

On April 28, I will be at the Spring Conference at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Our speaker will be Douglas Beilstein, a dentist in Mansfield. His hobby is the breeding and cultivation of hostas. His collection includes over 1200 plants and he has developed new cultivars which have been registered.

June 12 and 13 is the National Convention in Youngstown, called the Buckeye Bash. Knowing the Youngstown club and the great work they do this will be a really great convention. After that I am looking forward to the regional summer meeting on July 27 and 28 at the Michigan State University.

Cheri Kessen, the first vice-president, is heading the committee developing this event and knowing Cheri, it will be a great show. The final event of the year is the October 6 meeting at Kingwood Center with Denise Ellsworth as speaker.

Contact Leroy Hart at [gardengabber@neo.rr.com](mailto:gardengabber@neo.rr.com)



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### President's Thoughts

As I re-read the presidents' messages from past issues of JAB, I see that the presidents usually talked about gardening and their experiences as a gardener. Well, I won't go that route for this issue. Maybe for the next issue, I will tell about my gardening experiences. I can hear my friends laughing because they know about my gardening.

But there is one subject I would like to discuss in this issue. That is: What can I, as a member of a club, do to support the club? Some of you know that I am a retired United Methodist minister and I will share with you the answer I would give when one of my parishioners asked what they could do to support the church. I believe that the answer to this question can be pertinent to our garden club and to all organizations to which we belong. The answer to this question has four parts: you can support the church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. How can we apply these four steps to our garden clubs?

Support the club by your prayers. Every one can do this, even the old and ill members who cannot participate actively, even attend meetings, because of age, health, poor eyesight etc. They can pray for the success of the club. Most clubs have what some call a Sunshine Chairman who keeps the club informed about illnesses, deaths etc of club members. We can pray for these members and their families. Also, while not exactly a prayer, we can have good and positive thoughts and wishes about our club. We can maintain a positive, not a negative attitude.

Support the club by presence. This is a little more difficult to do. Not every member can attend meetings. Some are house bound, some others cannot drive at night, others have commitments that they feel are more important than club meetings. However, if, for some reason, you cannot attend evening meetings, you could attend the various work projects carried out by your club.

Support the club by your gifts. This isn't as important to garden club as it is to the church. A

garden club doesn't have a paid staff or a building to maintain, but it is important that a club has a dependable source of income. All of the clubs in our region have service projects in the community which require funds. Others have scholarships they fund. All clubs have other expenses so it is crucial that club dues are paid and fund raisers are supported. At some point a club may want to undertake a special project that is beyond the club's normal income and special funding is needed. All of our clubs are under the national club's non-profit status and so members can make tax deductible contributions to their club. The Akron Club has an endowment fund and several members have made contributions Also you can mention your club in your will.

Support the club by your service. This is the most difficult. There are some members in every club who are physically incapable of working on a club project. But each member should do all he or she can to support the club.

Thank you and see you in Mansfield on April 28.

Leroy Hart





### Natives for diversity and sustainability

Native plants are good for you. Natives, experts say, are more adapted to local soil. They can survive local conditions such as severe winter weather and summer drought. They provide food and cover for wildlife and foster helpful insects and bees.

For some gardening enthusiasts, looking for nursery tags that identify plants as native species has become second nature. But are we really getting the true natives? Last several years plant professionals try to go native by creating what some are now calling “nativars” - native species that have been genetically manipulated to enhance certain garden-desirable traits. Dr. Alan Armitage, University of Georgia coined the word “nativar” to mean cultivar of a native species. Breeders who work to get native plants to develop different flower colors, a variegated leaf or non spreading growing habit, they may be sacrificing some of the plant’s environmentally beneficial qualities. These plants do not perform as well as “true natives”.

Think about the native having a flower that is light lilac color in the wild. But you can find some nativars of the same plant to be red or purple. Some plant experts worry that nativars, if they cross-pollinate with native species, will change the genetics. Wild populations could change to be less able to survive. <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/flpmssy6920.pdf>

The qualities we are looking for in our natives come with true natives. The biggest benefit is a garden that has proved to be a magnet for insects and birds and is easy to care for because of plants that can “thrive on neglect”.

So just keep looking and ask questions to select those natives that will sustain your garden and the environment. Some natives to look for in the Midwest region: Compass Plant (silphium laciniatum); Cup plant (silphium perfoliatum); Prairie dock (silphium terebinthinaceum); Rough Blazing Star (liatris aspera); Mountain Mint (pyonanthemum virginianum); Ohio Spiderwort (tradescantia ohioensis); Tall Ironweed (vernonia fasciculata).

Douglas Tallamy is professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. Tallamy wrote *Bring Nature Home* (Timber Press, Inc. 2007); a book that discusses the vital need for “citizens to plant native plants”. Tallamy’s research shows how native plants installed in landscapes support a larger amount of creatures compared with landscapes made up of non-native plants. More and more species of wild life are becoming threatened each year. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. It is also not just about one species; all species are connected by a web of life. If one species becomes rare and extinct, then all the other species dependent upon that species for food also are threatened.

“Humans are dependent on plants, animals and insects for our very existence. If we lose insect pollinators, for example, many of our food crops would be in jeopardy” (Tallamy, 2011). Homeowners can help stop and reverse this trend by planting landscapes with some native plants. Tallamy used the term “carrying capacity” (2007) noting that certain species of plants have a high carrying capacity which means the plant fosters a large community of species, animals, and insects.

### Sustainability in our landscapes

Ricky Kemery is Purdue Extension Horticulture Educator in Allen County, IN. He discusses using native plants to create sustainable landscapes. We all can implement his ideas in our own gardens.

Everyone has responsibilities for the future of our planet. This includes responsibilities in our homes and gardens.

Sustainable landscaping practices can produce significant economic and environmental benefits. Savings include reduced labor, (as Ricky said, he does not like to “work hard” in his garden) water, and fertilizer costs, Also lowering hauling expenses and disposal fees. Grasscycling, composting, and mulching return valuable organic material to the soil, which increases the water-holding capacity of soil, reduces erosion, and conserves water. *Cont. p4*

## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

*Cont. from p.3*

Proper watering, fertilizing, and pruning along with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can encourage healthier, disease-resistant plants and can reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, and other toxic runoff entering storm drains and polluting creeks, lakes, and rivers.

Choice of plants assists with sustainability. Use of native plants has numerous benefits.

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org) is dedicated to teaching Indiana communities about the plants that are native to our area and hence thrive for us under our locale conditions.

Midwest Invasive Plant Network [www.MIPN.org](http://www.MIPN.org) has a complete list of invasive plants and the alternatives that can be used in our landscapes with much better success.

Plants that are native to Indiana offer so many benefits- especially in landscape design and land reclamation and restoration. One might wonder “Why grow anything else?” Many native plants are essentially self sustaining and they seldom spread to environments where they are not wanted. Spreading is a common problem with many exotic, non-native or ornamental plants.

Let’s think about using the many native species that are now available in local nurseries, like: Trees- Tulip Tree, (liriodendron) Perennials - Purple Coneflower (echinacea purpurea), Cardinal Flower (lobelia cardinalis) and Grasses like Little Bluestem (schizachyrium scoparium) or Prairie Dropseed (sporobolus heterolepis). Rickey Kemery recommends trees such as Ohio Buckeye (aesculus glabra) and Eastern Red Cedar (juniperus virginiana) as well.

A visit to Purdue Cooperative Extension Services “Prairie Garden” Display Garden in Fort Wayne, IN would give you many suggestions about natives to use. Purdue CES is located on IPFW campus.

Purdue CES

## Spring 2012



Quotes: “I know nothing more inspiring than that of making discoveries for oneself”.

- George Washington Carver

“The need to restore healthy ecosystems is of global importance. Though large-scale prairie and savanna restoration in the agricultural Midwest may no longer be an option, we do have the change to attempt to rebuild ecosystems in places such as restoration areas. These will be proving grounds, blazing the way for future attempts. Perhaps the greatest legacy this generation can leave to future generations will be through the restoration of ecosystems”.

Pauline Drobney in *Where the Sky Began* by John Madson.

“Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there and I am prepared to expect wonders.”

Henry David Thoreau

“The prairie sings to me in the forenoon and I know in the night I rest easy in the prairie arms, on the prairie heart.

Carl Sandburg, *Prairie*



## Kathy's Kibitzin' About Sustainability

*"The rule of no realm is mine, neither Gondor nor any other, great or small. But all worthy things that are in peril as the world now stands, those are my care. And for my part, I shall not wholly fail in my task, though Gondor should perish, if anything that passes through this night can still grow fairer or bear fruit and flower again in days to come. For I too am a steward. Did you not know?"*

Gandalf, in J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

Prior to the invasion of the interior of the continental United States by white men, vast expanses of grasses, that came to be known as prairies, covered about 1.4 million acres. The area stretched north to south, reaching from southern Canada to Texas and from the Rocky Mountains west then east to Indiana, with hit-and-miss pockets in Ohio and Michigan.

Today prairies cover less than 1% of the original area. Prairies are now one of the rarest and most endangered eco-systems in the world.

Native American way of life, the animals that inhabited the prairies and climate created the diverse ecological system we call prairies. It is made up of deep-rooted herbaceous plants, mostly grasses, that can withstand, drought, fire and grazing animals. The tender growing points of the plants are about 1" below the surface of the soil, so fast moving prairie fires don't damage them, while they do take out any accumulating thatch, woody perennials and other weedy invasions trying to take hold.

The sharp hooves of grazing bison helped with aeration of the soil along with the many small burrowing animals. Nutrients were replaced with the ash of the fires and animal waste. The long tap roots could reach many feet below the soil line to bring water up to the plant. This eco-system and the native inhabitants coexisted in harmony and mutual benefit for 10,000 years.

As the Europeans entered the vast area of grasses with their plows, they began the process of breaking down the symbiotic relationship between man and environment. The rich soil began being plowed and turned over by hundreds of settlers. Fires were controlled; bison killed by the millions for the body parts that had market value; Indians were moved to non-productive reservations and expected to live like the white man. The sustainable way of life that allowed the prairie to flourish was destroyed.

Now as we begin to see the light, we are trying to reclaim some of those prairie areas and plants. We are learning that non-native plants, animals, diseases and insects bring destruction to a native eco-system. Think emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, mustard garlic, autumn olive....the list goes on and on.

Many of the native plants are being hybridized to bring us demanding gardeners, more color, longer blooms, disease and animal resistance. The jury is still out on whether or not these altered plants will be able to support our native animals and insects. Or will they too become invasive over time as our climate changes?

Just think about it as you make your landscape and gardening selections this spring. What can you do to sustain your native habitat?

Kathy Lee, [igarden2@aol.com](mailto:igarden2@aol.com)

The Gardeners of America - Fort Wayne

*(Resources: compiled from various internet sites, & *PrairieEarth* by Wm Least-Heat Moon*





### *Some popular sayings and customs*

*(Don't swear to their authenticity)* from the 16th century.

<http://www.snopes.com/language/phrases/1500.asp>

People took their yearly baths in May. A large tub served the whole family with men bathing first, then women, children and babies last. The water got so dirty that anything in it disappeared. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

By June, people were beginning to reek again so brides carried a bunch of flowers to hide their body odor. Thus the tradition of the bridal bouquet.

Houses had thatched roofs; straw piled high, with no wood beneath. It was the only place small animals (cats, mice, insects) could find warmth in winter. Since there was nothing to prevent bugs and droppings from falling into the living area, folks rigged a sheet suspended over the bed. And so the canopy bed was born.

In those days, cooking was done in a big kettle hung over the fire. It cooled overnight and was reheated in the morning. Something, mostly vegetables, was added each day sometimes over a long period. This gave birth to the saying, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old". When important visitors came, a slab of bacon was purchased to show off – "bringing home the bacon" – then shared in small pieces while "chewing the fat".

The rich had plates made of pewter. Foods high in acid caused lead to leach into the food causing poisoning. This happened often with tomatoes. For the next 400 years, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Lead cups combined with binge drinking often knocked people out for days. They were laid out on a table with people sitting around eating and drinking and wondering if they would wake up. They were "holding a wake".

Some of these dead drunks ended up being buried alive so a string was often tied around their wrist and connected to a bell above the grave. They were either "saved by the bell" or "dead ringers."

**"Where have all the acorns gone?"** Not as catchy as the song from the 1960's, but still a good question.

In 2010 we had so many acorns from our Red Oak Trees you couldn't see the ground. Then in 2011 – not one! Why is that?

No one really knows, but Red Oaks do have "boom and bust" years for producing acorns. They also seem to somehow coordinate big and lean years across a broad area. In 2011 the effects were seen all over the Northeast. One reason for alternate years of large and small crops is that the trees have to "rest up" after a big year. Another is called "predator satiation hypothesis." In a big year there are too many acorns for the squirrels to eat them all, so some sprout. The next year is a lean year and many of the squirrels die from lack of food. This helps keep the oaks regenerating and the squirrel population in check.

Red Oaks (and their cousins the Black and Scarlet Oaks) have acorns that mature in two years. So the acorns for the fall of 2012 have already been growing 7 months. We'll have to see how many we get this year. Maybe the big rains will help the acorn crop. Maybe they hurt the wind pollination last spring.

Low acorn crops mean a tough winter this year for mice, voles, chipmunks, squirrels, wild turkeys and deer. They all depend on acorns for winter food. Fewer mice mean that there will be more deer ticks looking for a meal next spring. That is not good news for areas with Lyme disease. It will also mean that hawks and owls will have fewer rodents to catch. And that is not good news for many birds. The deer will be VERY hungry and looking to our gardens for food.

So "Where have all the acorns gone?" Nobody really knows. It just shows how much we still have to learn about basic aspects of plants and trees.

Tom Davis -Cleveland TGOA/MGCA



### Central Great Lakes Gardeners News

The **2013 Calendar** Pre-Order Form is now accessible on our website Home Page. Deadline for ordering is March 31, 2012. We are looking for Central Great Lakes region to combine orders to ensure a lower rate. 2013 Calendars will be available at the June Convention for clubs to pick up. This will save shipping charges.

Please see the **Central Great Lakes Region Gardeners Awards for 2012**. Committee notes from Rodney Toth, are attached to this newsletter



Central Great Lakes Gardeners 2012 Officers.  
Installed at Fall Regional Meeting



National Officers for TGOA/MGA 2012

**The Jan/Feb 2012 TGOA/MGCA National Newsletter** is now on our website in Members Only. Here is a short cut for your download if you wish to access <http://bit.ly/tlzx7q>

Jim Bagwell and Tom Wilten have advised that the **National TGOA / MGCA Scholarship manual** has been revised and is now “good to go.” Any clubs wishing to sponsor students for scholarships need to have a copy of this revised manual with its application forms. The revised manual is now on our website on the Awards Manual page in Members Only. Here is a shortcut to the manual: <http://bit.ly/u26Gvj>

Please see attachments about **Buckeye Bash, TGOA/MGCA National Convention** in Youngstown, Ohio, June 13 and 16, 2012.

### Convention Photography Class

On Thursday, June 14, during the 2012 National Convention, Richard States, the author of multiple prize-winning pictures will present “the how and what” of taking photos of garden scenes, flowers, trees, and shrubs. He will emphasize close-up (macro) photography. Following the presentation, will be an opportunity for a limited number of people to sign up for a hands-on workshop on Saturday, June 16.

Mr. States recommends the following equipment for the hands-on workshop: a DSLR camera; tripod; cable release; macro lens or lens with macro mode; and a polarizer. However a “point and shoot” camera is OK as well.

**The Great Lake Gardeners Summer Conference** will be held in East Lansing, MI. Plans are forming for great food in fabulous surroundings and fantastic educational field trips. Best of all the guided tours and seminar speakers are expected to be exceptional. Save The Date July 27 - 28, 2012.

Do not throw this away. Please refer it to your President, Awards Chairman and Newsletter Editor. Also please send me an e-mail as a confirmation that you have received this information. Thank you. Rodney Toth – [rkdahlias@aol.com](mailto:rkdahlias@aol.com)

## CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

### *Gardening Education And Excellence In Horticulture Since 1932*

To: ALL CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS TGOA/MGCA CLUBS

FROM: THE C.G.L.GARDENERS AWARDS COMMITTEE

RE: YEAR 2012 C.G.L.GARDENERS 63rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

Dear Club President and Awards Chairperson,

The Awards Committee would like to have all C.G.L.GARDENERS Clubs participate in the awards program. Please review the enclosed material with your members as soon as possible and refer this material to your President, Awards Chairman and Newsletter Editor. 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.GARDENERS 63rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE which will be hosted by The Fort Wayne GOA, July 27 & 28, 2012 in East Lansing, MI. The conference is open to all C.G.L.GARDENERS Club members. **Please encourage your members to attend!!!** For more info contact Cheri Kessen [lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com).

The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1, 2011. 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. GARDENERS meeting at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield on April 14, 2012. **NOTE!** Criteria and a list of past recipients of these awards can be located on the CGL GARDENERS website (<http://www.cglr.org>) under REGION AWARDS – Submission Details & Instructions.

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

Rodney Toth, Chairman  
5637 W. Liberty St.  
Hubbard, Ohio 44425  
330-759-1993  
[rkdahlias@aol.com](mailto:rkdahlias@aol.com)

Kay Musgrave  
4215 Gallmeyer Ct.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
260-492-6233  
[kgrdchr@msn.com](mailto:kgrdchr@msn.com)

Fred J. Robinson  
7191 Auburn Rd.  
Concord, OH 44077  
440-358-1464  
[fjrtree@roadrunner.com](mailto:fjrtree@roadrunner.com)





2012 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES  
Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932

National Convention- June 13 - 16, 2012. Buckeye Bash Youngstown Ohio - [www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)  
Regional Meeting- April 28 - 10:00AM Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio - Leroy Hart - 330-836-1207  
CGLA Annual Regional Conference - July 27 - 28 M S U campus - Cheri Kessen - 260-854-2988

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CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS 2012 OFFICERS

President -Leroy Hart  
633 Schocalog Road  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
330-836-1407  
[gardengabber@neorr.com](mailto:gardengabber@neorr.com)

1<sup>st</sup>. V. P. -Cheri Kessen  
1205 Limberlost Trail  
Rome City, IN 46784  
260-854-2988  
[lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Tom Davies  
35 FoxGlen Rd.  
Moreland Hills, OH 44022  
440-498-0472  
[tsd123@roadrunner.com](mailto:tsd123@roadrunner.com)

Secretary - Marcie Davies  
PO Box 524  
Van Wert, OH 45891-0524  
419-238-9351  
No Email

Treasurer - Bill Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, OH 45840-9303  
419-423-1010  
[bilan2@bright.net](mailto:bilan2@bright.net)

Past President-Bob Bell  
1821 Sandy Lake Road  
Ravenna, OH 44266-8202  
330-673-3553  
[mrrnbell@hotmail.com](mailto:mrrnbell@hotmail.com)

National Director-Cheri Kessen  
1205 Limberlost Trail  
Rome City, IN 46784  
[Lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:Lakelover60@yahoo.com)

National Director -Anita Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, OH 45840-9303  
[amlan@thewavz.com](mailto:amlan@thewavz.com)

National Director - Frank Mitch  
2065 Kemery Road  
Akron, OH 44333-1937  
[fmm2065@hotmail.com](mailto:fmm2065@hotmail.com)

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JAB Editor - 260-627-0912 - [fmarggie@yahoo.com](mailto:fmarggie@yahoo.com) concerning publication or how you too can become an active member of  
CGLG. National Web - [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org) - Regional Webs - [www.cglr.org](http://www.cglr.org) & [www.cglgardeners.org](http://www.cglgardeners.org)



Central Great Lakes Gardeners  
Margarie Faley, Editor  
14626 Flint Creek Crossing  
Leo, IN 46765

Garden Clubs of Central Great Lakes Gardeners

**Indiana** - Fort Wayne -Cheri Kessen 260-854-2988  
**Michigan** - Maple City - Marion Frank - 517-264-5617

**Ohio**

Akron - Leroy Hart -330-836-1407  
Bluffton-Pandora - Patrick Flinn -419-358-6766  
Cleveland -Vince Staffileno -444-285-7143  
Cuyahoga Falls Vohn Adams 330-936-5096  
Erie County -Harrison Smith -419-627-0763  
Findlay -John Platt - 419-694-1302  
Lima - Teresa Heath -419-516-8020  
St. Mary's -Dagmar Oliver -419-586-8912  
Van Wert Connie Weber  
Youngstown - Dave Campana -330-545-9023

**Life Members/ At Large Members**

Gerry Herman - 330-688-5782 [ga71Herman@yahoo.com](mailto:ga71Herman@yahoo.com)



**YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
BUCKEYE BASH**  
Dave Campana, Editor – MGCY *Germinator*



The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is hosting 2012 TGCA-MGCA National Conference, June 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, and we make these promises: Conference veterans will come away saying it was one of the best yet, and those attending for the first time will consider making it an annual summer getaway.

We know how to organize educational and entertaining horticultural events. In February, our ninth annual Winter Seminar sold out early and was enjoyed by 144 gardeners. In addition to five top-



notch

presentations, there was a raffle, a Chinese auction and a book sale. And the food: Delicious breakfast pastries and beverages, and a sit-down gourmet lunch.

**CONFERENCE TOPICS & SPEAKERS**

**Flower Show Judging I & II - Peggy Moody**

**Why Native Plants – Bob Kehres**

Bob is co-owner of Ohio's largest native seed supplier of plants for wetlands, habitat creation, prairie, erosion control and residential markets including rain and butterfly gardens.

**Photography I & II - Richard States**

Richard is a retired high school horticulture educator and award-winning photographer. In addition to giving photo seminars, he has had ten slide series published by Ohio State University. A post-presentation photo walk will be offered to a limited number of participants.

**Herb Gardening - Marian Sebastiano**

**Container Gardening & Garden Design (separate)**

**– Dr. Laura Deeter**

Dr. Deeter, a professor at the Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute, has won numerous teaching awards. Her humorous, high energy style will be displayed at the Awards Dinner where she will be the keynote speaker.



will

**The Color Purple & New Plants (separate) - Maria Zampini**

Maria is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation nursery person now focused on all aspects of her company's new plant development and marketing. She lectures and writes for many gardening magazines.

**New American Elms - Dr. James Slavicek**

Dr. Slavicek, a research biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, is nationally recognized for developing elms resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. He is a consultant for MGCY's Elm Tree Project.

**Hostas & Companion Plants - Dennis James**

Dennis owns a full service nursery stocking everything from annuals to trees including 150 hosta varieties and plants for rock gardens.

**Community Gardening - Ian J. Beniston**

Ian is Deputy Director of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp. encouraging residents to invest in their homes.

**Climbing Vines in the Garden - Keith Kaiser**

As Horticulture Director, Keith heads operations at the 4,500 acre Mill Creek MetroParks and the twelve-acre Fellows Riverside Gardens.

**What's in a Name - Ellen Speicher**

Ellen is MetroParks Assistant Horticulture Director.

**Youth Gardening - Lynn Zocolo, Dave Causer**

Lynn heads MetroParks' Veggie Garden and Dave is the MGCY Youth Gardening chair.

*It's an unbeatable lineup that you won't want to miss. More info at [www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org).*

