

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



The 2009, 2010, 2011 Regional Award Winning Newsletter  
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Indiana – Michigan – Ohio – Pennsylvania.



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Summer 2014

## President's Message- Tom Davis



Dear Central Great Lakes Gardeners,  
Well, the calendar says “May,” the temperatures say “April” and some of my plants are saying “March.” Over the past couple of months the most common topic of conversation has been the winter just past. It actually wasn’t that bad compared to “normal” for Cleveland and our climate zone norms. The persistence was unusual. I can’t remember a winter that was more relentless. As a consequence, we didn’t have many Spring Beauties (one of the earliest wild flowers) until May and the flowering trees have yet to put in an appearance. As most of you have heard me say, “That’s why I plant native species in my Somewhat Native Garden.” At this rate, things may not look normal until mid-June.

Whether your interest is annuals, vegetables or perennial plants, we all know you can’t rush the season. When the soil warms things will sprout and seeds will germinate. As much as I’d like to get my patio tomato plants going, it is still too early.

I did rush the season a little bit by going on a long field trip with New Jersey Audubon to South West Louisiana in April. My wife and I have been members for over 20 years dating back to our corporate transfer to the Garden State. The focus of the trip was on birds, but we usually find time for a visit to a garden and definitely botanize as we go. I was able to point out a Red Buckeye that was in bloom to the group. Later that same day we admired the beautiful flowers on a Cross Vine. I may have to add one of them to my collection. It is a zone 6 plant, so I’d be pushing it a little bit, but don’t most of us do that? The birding was also

successful and I was able to record my 500<sup>th</sup> Life Bird in the USA. That has been a goal for many years.

I’m looking forward to the Summer Meeting on July 18 & 19 and the visit to Stan Hywet Hall. Sam Morlan and his committee have a great program lined up for us. Jim Bill will be holding a horticultural show, so plan your entries (only three per person please). I hope to see you all there! We can trade stories about what survived the winter and what didn’t. (I hope all your prize plants did just fine.)

Congratulations to all the clubs – especially Youngstown! – for the HUGE 2015 calendar order that secures the lowest price for us. Selling calendars was a fund raising activity several clubs mentioned at the April meeting. The round table discussion of money raising ideas was very popular and I’m sure everyone picked up at least one idea to try in their own community. At the October 11, 2014 meeting we plan to hold another round table. This time it will be on “Membership Recruiting and Retention.” *Continued p. 2*



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*See email addendum -  
Summer Conference Registration*

## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

*Continued from p. 1* Start thinking about ideas to share now, and plan to attend – especially if you are on your club’s membership committee.

Elsewhere in this issue of the JAB I’ll share some information from the annual reports clubs submitted in January. I continue to be impressed with ALL the good work our Region and our Clubs are doing. We are part of a remarkable organization. Let me know what you think would help us to continue to grow and improve.

Good gardening to you all,

Tom Davis  
440-498-0472

[tsd123@roadrunner.com](mailto:tsd123@roadrunner.com)



### “To Do” List for Members and Clubs in the Central Great Lakes Gardeners

1. Make reservation for the Summer Conference July 18 and 19 in Akron, OH.
2. Send your ballot for National Officers to David Moody by June, 2014. Our John Schinker from the Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown has been nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. You can find the ballot in the March/April (p.6) National Newsletter. Vote for John !
3. Send your Email address to Sheryl Bacon at National Headquarters [tgoasecy@qwestoffice.net](mailto:tgoasecy@qwestoffice.net). You need to do this to continue to receive the National Newsletter for free. Mailed copies will now cost \$1 each. Better yet, have your club secretary send Sheryl all the Email addresses from your club.
4. Plan to attend the October 11, 2014 Regional Meeting at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield, OH. The focus of the meeting will be on recruiting and retention of members.
5. Enjoy the spring flowers, volunteer at your club’s plant sale, support children’s gardening, plant some vegetables and have a great gardening summer.



## Summer 2014



### PLANTING A GARDEN

Plant an angry wise man and *Scarlet Sage* will come up  
Plant a box of candy and *Candytuft* will come up.  
Plant Cupid’s arrow and a *Bleeding Heart* will come up.  
Plant some steps and *Hops* will come up.  
Plant days, months and years and *Thyme* will come up.  
Plant Christmas Eve and *Star of Bethlehem* will come up.  
Plant orange blossoms and *Bridal Wreath* will come up.  
Plant a sermon and *Jack in the Pulpit* will come up.  
Plant grief and *Weeping Willow* will come up.  
Plant Cinderella at midnight and *Lady’s Slipper* will come up.  
Plant a ship that has nowhere to go and *Portulaca* will come up.  
Plant Star Spangled Banner and Union Jack and *Flags* will come up.  
Plant claws and a ‘roar’ and *Tiger Lilies* will come up.  
Plant a Richmond caterpillar and *Virginia Creeper* will come up.  
Plant contentment and *Heart’s-ease* will come up.  
Plant what a married man never has and *Bachelor’s Buttons* will come up.  
Plant sad beauties and *Bluebells* will come up.  
Plant a labyrinth and *Maize* will come up.  
Thanks to Cheri Kessen for this.

### From the Editor,

Reminder: We will be sending most of you Central Great Lakes Gardeners Newsletter JAB via email. Please be sure you will be able to access JAB using Adobe pdf.

JAB will be sent to the Senior Officers of the CGLG Clubs and they will in turn send to their membership. JAB is not sent to individual members of CGLG Clubs.

There will still be some clubs that will receive JAB in paper copy; however it is more efficient for the club to send the newsletter email.

Marggie, Editor



## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

### 2014 Perennial Plant of the Year- Panicum Virgatum ‘Northwind’

The Perennial Plant Association has announced the 2014 Perennial Plant of the Year is Panicum virgatum ‘Northwind’

#### Description

‘Northwind’ is a dark green, upright, rigid clumping grass selected by Roy Diblik from ‘Northwind’ Perennial Farm. Diblik describes this grass’ unique flower stalks as being similar to an arranged bouquet placed in the center of a clump of foliage. Most of the seed heads are situated in the middle of the clump, rather than arching away from it like most other grasses. ‘Northwind’ blooms in late summer and is a fast grower. Its foliage turns golden yellow in fall.

#### Landscape Uses

Switch grass gets its name from the peaceful swishing sound it makes when blowing in the wind. All parts of this grass are very sturdy, and will remain standing through winter unless snows are heavy. This provides important cover for birds during the coldest days of winter. This grass every versatile from a design standpoint; it is effective as a specimen, in masses, for screening, alongside ponds or streams or even in large containers.

#### Culture

Panicum is native grass that is very easy to grow and is a good grass for beginners. It will grow in any soil, from sand to clay, is drought tolerant once established, and even withstands periodic flooding. Grow this grass in full sun. It will tolerate light shade, but will flop over if the shade is too heavy. Panicum is wind and salt tolerant, making it a good choice for seaside gardens or along roads that are salted in winter.



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### Runners-Up for the 2014 Perennial Plant of the Year:

#### Calamintha nepeta subspecies nepeta (Catmint)

- A reliable ground cover tolerant of most soil and is hardy in zones 4 – 9.



#### Eipmedium x versicolor ‘Suphureum’ (Barronwort)

– Slowly spreading ground cover that performs well in full shade, including dry shade.



**Hosta ‘Blue Mouse Ears’ (Hosta)** - Cute small hosta forms a dense clump of thick, heart-shaped, blue-green to grey-green leaves.



### The Perennial Plant of the Year Program

The Perennial Plant of the Year was introduced in 1990 by Perennial Plant Association (PPA). The selection process is conducted with a vote for the Perennial Plant of the Year by members each summer. <http://www.perennialplant.org/>

## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

In 2014 we celebrate *Artemisia* spp.  
Herb of the year 2014

### Artemisia.

This diverse herb family contains many strikingly different plants, from the highly decorative *Artemisia ludoviciana* “Silver King” to the delicious and tender French tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus* “Sativa”). *Artemisia* has a long history, prominent in folklore, its virtues used in numerous ways: to protect and heal, create tasty beverages and foods, decorate the home and work its magical properties.



### Tarragon: the Celebrated Culinary Artemisia

The starring culinary *Artemisia* is French tarragon, *Artemisia dracunculus* “Sativa”, which more than makes up for the lack of the other artemisias in the kitchen. Tarragon’s strongest devotees in Europe have been cooks rather than doctors or herbalists. The French are famed for their use of tarragon in cooking. However it has been used for centuries throughout Europe and Russia. Tarragon is considered one of the royal herbs, in the kitchen, in fact as well as legend

‘From times of old  
Subtle yet bold  
In sauces fine with meat or fish,  
Tarragon defines the dish’

The Latin’s named this herb “*dracunculus*” because its serpentine root structure suggested little dragons. We think the flare of fieriness that warms the palate sparks more brilliant draconic images. Tarragon’s multi-faceted flavor heralds rich historical associations: glowing tapestries and

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paintings of dragons, their scales gleaming as greenly as the plant in the garden.

The “Little dragon“ was the favorite herb of Charlemagne and was cultivated in the gardens of Tudors. Thorough the centuries it has become more used and respected for its regal presence in the kitchen. Arab doctors used its pleasant flavor and numbing properties to mitigate the effects of swallowing bitter medicines. Evelyn wrote of tarragon as “good for the heart, lungs, and liver”.

### Cultivation

French tarragon, it should be obtained from an herb supplier. It must be started from a cutting or by root division. Mexican tarragon, *Tagetes lucida*, is a member of the marigold family, with a coarser but similar flavor. Commercial seed usually is that of Russian tarragon, a close *Artemisia* relative: however, it lacks the essential oils necessary for culinary use.

It is best to buy rooted cuttings or small plants. Tarragon has a shallow lateral root system. It likes a well-drained rich soil a bit on the sandy side, and a sunny spot free from the shadow of other plants. Mature French Tarragon will grow from two to two and on half feet tall; like rosemary and sage. To insure the most flavorful tarragon, the roots should be divided in two to three years after the plants are well established. The divisions should be treated as plants and will thrive with water and fertilization.

Tarragon dies back each winter even in temperate climates: in cold climates it should be well protected with mulch.

Excerpts from *Herbs in the Kitchen* by Carolyn Dille and Susan Belsinger, Interweave Press, 2000.



*Artemisia Ludoviciana*



## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

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### Kathy's Kibitzin' for JAB

“If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years left to live.”  
-- Maurice Maeterlinck, *The Life of the Bee*

Well! That is a shocking statement! I don't know what research is behind Mr. Maeterlinck's comment, but it certainly sets out a clear message about the possible consequence in the demise of the pollinators. And you've read here before of the importance of the bee to the pollination of the fruits and vegetables we eat.

The European honey bee that most people see and recognize as a bee is not native to North America. It came with some of the early pioneers and quickly escaped domestication. It hasn't learned yet how to pollinate tomatoes and eggplants. And it does a poor job of pollinating some of our native fruits and vegetables such as squash, cherries, blueberries and cranberries. Those plants depend on native bees.

Native bees separate into two different ecological types; long-tongued and short-tongued. Well, and then there are the medium tongues! As you might imagine, they seek nectar from different type flowers; the long-tongued bees get nectar from tubular flowers like morning glory, hollyhock, and squash plants. The short tongued take nectar from flat flowers like asters, dill, carrots and fennel.

Native bees choose from two types of nesting. Many are miner or digger bees. They find a flat area that seems safe from flooding and burrow into the ground, forming a network of tunnels and pockets. They may do this as a solitary bee or in small colonies. Each chamber will hold one egg and enough food for the larvae to last until it is adult and ready to emerge. Then the pocket is sealed. Each nest has many chambers.

The hole nesting bee chooses a hollow reed, or hole in a tree, or it may use it's powerful jaws to dig a suitable hole. Once the nest is established, the female bee goes about laying her eggs, filling it with nectar, then sealing each chamber with

mud or perhaps, in the case of a leaf-cutter bee, with a round disc of leaf cutting.

This information came from a great article you can download and read for yourself at <http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/BeeBasicsBook.pdf>.

Everything is not sweetness and harmony in this world of native pollinators. There also is a cuckoo bee. Just like the cuckoo bird or cowbird, this species of bee does not build it's own nest and provision for its young. The cuckoo bees search out the nest of other bees and lay in wait for the female bee to leave. She then goes into the host nest and lays her own eggs and sometimes kills the host nest bee's larva. At any rate, when the cuckoo bee's larva hatch they will kill the larva of the host bee and eat the nectar that was provided for them.

Most gardeners have heard of the disease effecting the honey bee population. But, we don't often hear of the plight of the native pollinators which are also on the decline as reported in this article and others. You can help by learning about and gardening with “pollinator friendly” practices.

Plant a pollinator friendly garden

Avoid pesticides or use of non-chemical solutions for pest control.

Provide a source of pesticide free water and mud.

Plant native plants from your eco-region.

Plant a variety of flowering native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. *Continued on p. 6*





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### TGOA Fort Wayne Club Bus Trip

Members are invited to join Fort Wayne TGOA for their annual Bus Trip on August 23, 2014. We will visit the Museum of Art in Indianapolis to visit a number of gardens and art exhibits. After the Museum we will lunch to the Old Spaghetti Factory, Indianapolis (Lunch is included in registration fee). Next stop will be Minnetrista Gardens in Muncie, IN with many formal and unique gardens like L.L. Ball Gardens, Woodland, Rose and Rain Gardens and many more.

Bus Trip is \$65 per person including snack, lunch and late afternoon snack.

Please contact John Kessen (260) 854-2988 for any questions.

Registrations must be received by July 15, 2014.

### Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

*Continued from p. 5* Maintain a lawn as pollinator friendly. Not saturated with pesticide and herbicides.

Provide nesting habitat for native bees; bare spot for minor bees, or some dead hollow canes or old trees.

Buy or build your own bee houses.

Be a voice to raise pollinator awareness and the things people can do to protect them and provide them habitat. Two more sites for you to visit and bookmark:

[http://www.slideshare.net/Kama158x/t2e319?utm\\_source=slideshow02&utm\\_medium=ssemial&utm\\_campaign=share\\_slideshow\\_loggedout](http://www.slideshare.net/Kama158x/t2e319?utm_source=slideshow02&utm_medium=ssemial&utm_campaign=share_slideshow_loggedout)  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BumbleBeeGuideEast2011.pdf>

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

The Gardeners of America - Fort Wayne

### Central Great Lakes Gardeners News

TGOA Directories in Members Only updated as of May 1, 2014:

- National Directors
- Regional Officers
- Committees

Here is a shortcut to those

Directories: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Members/Luvtodig/Directory.htm>



2014 Youth Gardening Letter posted on Youth Gardening Page in Members Only.

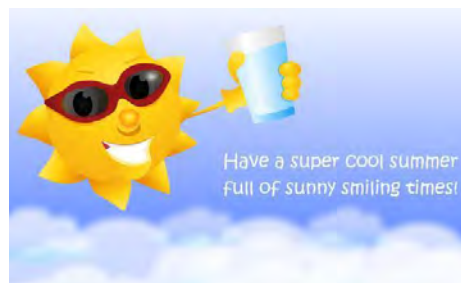
Updated Youth Gardening National Contest Information and Forms posted in the Redbook in Members Only.

Updated Club Officers page posted in Directories in Members Only.

Here is a shortcut to Members Only on the TGOA website: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Members/Luvtodig/MemberPages.htm>

Frank M.

**Please see the attached and revised announcement for the CGLG 2014 Summer Conference in this newsletter.**



### Reminder:

For all my faithful helpers who are working on updating the regional member's at large lists, could you please try to have them finished by regional Summer Conference? If you are not coming to our July meeting, please send your results with someone who is coming or send them directly to me at Cheri Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784.

You probably won't be able to track everyone on your list for various reasons but try your best and bring or send me what you have. Thank you all so very much for your time and effort. Your work on this project is very much appreciated. I would like to have everything wrapped up by the end of July. Thanks again.

Cheri



## Annual Club Reports

Every year the member clubs in the CGLG are required to submit an annual report to the Regional President. In January, 2014 six clubs submitted reports on Programs, Events, Leadership and Awards. The six clubs were **Akron, Cleveland, Findlay, Fort Wayne, Van Wert and Youngstown**. Thanks to the members of those six clubs for their very interesting reports.

Here are some general observations from the reports:

- All six clubs have a complete list of programs for the year. The topics vary widely, but all are related to gardening in one way or another.
- All six clubs had major officer positions filled. Thanks to everyone who agrees to serve their home club or the region.
- All six clubs have a newsletter for their membership. Newsletter editors should be sure to send an electronic copy to all the clubs in the region as well as to the regional officers.
- Some of the clubs reported on membership. Cleveland was up 20 (62 to 82) due to several fortunate circumstances. Membership recruiting and retention will be the focus of the Regional Meeting on October 11, 2014 at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield.
- Some of the clubs reported on their awards program. Awards to deserving members are a powerful motivating tool for club excellence.
- Some of the clubs reported on their service projects. These are a great way to serve your community and attract new members.

If you want to see a report from a club, contact me and I'll arrange to send you an electronic copy.

Tom Davis, President CGLG.  
440-498-0472  
tsd123@roadrunner.com



## Tips for saving water for the garden

- \* Best time to water your plants; Water in early morning (before 9:00AM) or late evening (after 4:00PM), when it is cooler and water is less likely to evaporate. Watering in early morning also helps lower the chances of plant disease caused by fungus.
  - \* Collect rainwater: When the rain falls, collect the water in rain barrels. Place one under a drainpipe.
  - \* Mulch/compost: Adding mulch on top of your soil can help to lock in moisture and prevent the water –stealing weeds from growing. Compost helps by adding moistures
  - \* Make your paths/walkways/driveways porous: Permeable hardscapes help water percolate through, seeping into the ground beneath rather than running off the sides.
  - \* Consider plant selection: When it comes to conserving water in the garden, choose plants with drought-tolerance in mind. Locally native plants are a good alternative because they are already adapted well to your specific climate and rainfall levels. Ask local nursery or surf the web for native species for your area. Try implementing the method of xeriscaping –conserving water through landscape design – to create a stunning garden centered on water conservation. You can also group your plants together based on their watering needs to help make the task of watering not only easier but also more efficient.
- See more in this web link

<http://www.savetherain.info/water-saving-tips/water-saving-tips-in-the-garden.aspx>.

## SUMMER CONFERENCE

I would like to invite everyone personally to attend The Regional Summer Conference in Akron Ohio this coming July 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>. Please register as early as you can so plans can be made.

Remember to bring your plants for the horticultural show.

Friday afternoon we will have our business meet at the Montrose area (RT 77) Holiday Inn hotel. Following the meeting we'll be going to Dayton's Nursery for a tour of the gardening techniques the owner Tom Dayton has developed on the property. Tom has installed a living roof on his farmer's market barn and added an extensive water retention system. Friday evening's dinner is at the Holliday Inn hotel. After dinner there will be a presentation by a member of the Cleveland club concerning the arboreal history of Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.

Saturday we will tour Stan Hywet Hall and gardens. Stan Hywet is a National Historic landmark and is the nation's 6th largest Historic Home open to the public. This majestic country house museum and grounds now cover seventy acres with many unique gardens and exhibits. We'll have guided tours of the Manor house as well as the many gardens including the Butterfly House.

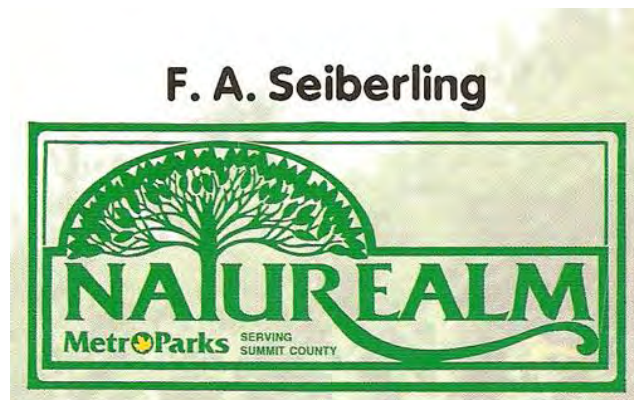
Saturday's lunch is at Papa Joe's, a restaurant on the edge of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. After lunch we'll be touring The Seiberling Nature Realm a Summit Metro park with many interesting exhibits and gardens. You'll have the opportunity to feed Chickadees right out of your hand.

Time permitting our next stop will be at The Mustill Store on the Ohio Erie Canal near downtown Akron.

This store was a stop for canal boats during the canals heyday. In the evening, we will have the awards banquet and dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse. The restaurant is located in downtown Akron in an old portion of The B.F. Goodrich Company along with dinner there will be a short talk about the history of the canal and the role it played in the development of Akron.

Any questions feel free to call or email .

Sam Morlan 330-336-6269 [lorasam88@gmail.com](mailto:lorasam88@gmail.com)







2014 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES

Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932

CGLG Regional Meeting October 11, 2014 Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield, OH Tom Davis 440-498-0472

CGLG Summer Regional Conference - July 18 - 19, 2014 Akron, Ohio Sam Morlan, 330-336-6269

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