

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



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



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Summer 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-



Spring 2016 is upon us and nature is displaying its beauty throughout our region. Beautiful flowering trees and shrubs are blooming all around us and our gardens have awakened after a mild winter. My tulips and daffodils are about over but the rhubarb and perennials are up and growing fast. As I write this in early May, many of our clubs which depend on plant sales for their larger income are having their sales.

We regret that we had to cancel our regional spring meeting scheduled for April 9, 2016, at Kingwood in Mansfield. Many of you were planning to attend, but the snowy weather and road conditions made it very difficult for travel for most of us. Therefore, we cancelled it. We have rescheduled that meeting, combining it with a one day summer conference on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield. The program for the day will include a business meeting with committee reports, a tour of Kingwood Gardens and lunch at Golden Corral. Please plan to attend and encourage others from your club to come with you.

As a gardener and an outdoor person, one of the things that concerns me a little this year is the danger of mosquitoes, ticks, bees, and other insects that may cause harm to us. We know that bees and many insects are pollinators and they are essential for food production so we must not destroy them. However, there are those that we must guard against. There is the ongoing threat of mosquito-borne ailments including the West Nile virus, Lyme disease, La Crosse virus and the Zika virus that is receiving a lot of attention these days

In the recent OARDC Report Newsletter scientist Peter Piermarini says “Ohioans should take steps to avoid mosquito bites.” He says that the only way he can envision Zika spreading in Ohio is “if an infected person comes into the state and is bitten by a mosquito species that can transmit it to another person.”

Here are some tips to protect yourself. Use the best mosquito repellent and follow the label instructions. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and shoes and socks if you are going to be outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, repair window screens, eliminate any standing water around your home and in roof gutters where mosquitoes thrive, and beware of wet and swampy areas in the summer when you are walking or hiking.

Hope to see you at the Regional Meeting on June 25 in Mansfield, OH, and perhaps at the National Convention in July at Green Bay, WI.  
---Les Knight



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Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

## CLUB NEWS



TGOA Website Directory Updates:

- 2016 Club Officers
- 2016 Executive Committee
- Committees

Shortcut to Directory page: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Members/Luvtodig/Directory.htm>

**TGOA /MCGA National Convention. July 13 to 15, 2016 Green Bay, WI.**

Seminar Descriptions for the 2016 TGOA/MGCA National Convention are now on the Convention page.

A shortcut to that page: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Convention2016.htm>

## TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The May/June 2016 TGOA Newsletter is now on our website in the TGOA Newsletter page in Members Only.

It contains National Convention information and 2016 voting ballot,

For your convenience here is a shortcut to that page: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Members/Luvtodig/TGOANews.htm>

Frank M.

**Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Central Great Lakes Gardeners Summer Conference on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Kingwood Center Gardens, Mansfield, Ohio, one day only. The meeting will be held in the Exhibit Hall and will start at 10:00 a.m. with refreshments followed by a business meeting with a set agenda.**

**Lunch will be at The Golden Corral located nearby at your own expense. Mr. Bill Collins, Head Gardener for Kingwood, will conduct a walking tour of the grounds. In case of inclement weather, we will meet inside and Bill will speak to us about the gardens.**

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## Youth Gardening

Revised Youth Gardening Contest Rules and Forms posted in the Red Book page in Members Only.

Rules and Forms for:

- Favorite Flowers
- Perfect Plants
- Container Gardening
- Big Pumpkins
- Sunflowers
- Octopus Outreach



Shortcut: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Members/Luvtodig/RedBook.htm>

Frank M.



**Beautiful Crabapple in Les Knight's back yard.**



## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

### SOME THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FROM LES KNIGHT CGLG PRESIDENT

May 5, 2016

1. Our club is currently planning for our Annual Geranium & Plant Sale on May 6 and 7. Over the years this event has been our main source of income. This year in addition to the geraniums and annuals, we will have professionally grown perennials from a wholesale supplier for sale at reasonable prices.
2. On May 16 our club will hold its annual fish fry dinner followed by a plant auction with plants furnished by members and friends. This is always a fun event for members as they bring their own annuals, perennials, and trees in for the auction. Then, members bid on the plants for the highest bidder. This event is a good fund raiser for the club treasury.
3. In June the club holds its annual Strawberry Festival and covered dish picnic. We rent one of the local metro park shelters and gather for dinner and desserts of strawberry shortcake and ice cream. Another fun event with opportunities to bring family members and guests for possible membership in our club.
4. On Saturday, June 25, the CGLG Summer Conference will be held at Kingwood Center Gardens, Mansfield, OH. 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.
5. In July the TGOA-MGCA National Convention will be held in Green Bay. From what I have heard, our CGLG Region will be well represented. Two of the national officers, John Schinker and Frank Mitch are from our Region.



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6. Our club is pleased to sponsor young men and women for financial scholarships each year. This year in March the scholarship committee interviewed seven candidates for the local and national scholarships. Our club awarded two \$1,000 scholarships this year, one to Robert Ruman and the other to Daniel Zellers. Both were honored at our May membership meeting. Applications for all seven candidates were forwarded on to the National Scholarship Committee in March for consideration.
7. In August (15<sup>th</sup>) the club will hold its membership dinner meeting followed by a Horticulture Show open to all members. Outside horticulture judges will be present to do the judging of the show. Normally the club in Youngstown furnishes a team of judges for us. We appreciate their coming and treat them to dinner.
8. The 2016 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Gourd Show presented by The Ohio Gourd Society, Inc. will be held on October 7, 8 and 9 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware, Ohio. The show theme will be "It's The Great Gourd, Charlie Brown". If you like to grow, decorate and display gourds, you won't want to miss this show. Several people from our region serve as judges for the show on Saturday morning. [www.ohiogourdsociety.com](http://www.ohiogourdsociety.com)

*Continued from p. 7* We are also very pleased the Dahlia Society has made contributions of \$500 for several years. Another member offered a \$500 challenge grant to the membership that was oversubscribed in less than four weeks. All the profits from the plant sale are in a designated account only used for the scholarship program.

If anyone would like to attend the meeting on June 13, please contact Lou Pelton at 440-666-6695 or Tom Davis at [tsd123@roadrunner.com](mailto:tsd123@roadrunner.com) to make a reservation. Information can also be found on our club's new website:

[www.Thegardenersofgreatercleveland.org](http://www.Thegardenersofgreatercleveland.org)



## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

### KATHY'S KIBITZIN' for JAB Season, 2016



*"The single greatest lesson the garden teaches is that our relationship to the planet need not be zero-sum, and that as long as the sun still shines and people still can plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world."*

— **Michael Pollan**

Busy, busy, busy! I know everyone is at this time of year. I hope when you make your plant purchases.....if you didn't start your own from seed....you are looking to know which plants were grown free of herbicides that are still lingering in their various parts.

Another precaution I'll share with you is in choosing the manure for your compost pile. Did you know research is showing the herbicides that were used on the grain that feeds horses and cows is not neutralized in the digestive process of the animal as was previously believed. Studies have shown plants displaying evidence of herbicide damage and the cause was traced to the manure used to make compost. So, it would be a good thing to ask the animal owner if herbicides were used on the animals' feed.

I've had great good fun this past winter season, learning about lacto-fermentation as a method of food preservation and making my own sourdough starter without using commercial yeast. Both of these activities use the natural yeast and chemical process in the environment. I've "pickled" many different kinds of vegetables to try and to share; carrots, celery, bell peppers, sauerkraut, kimchi, summer squash, radishes, corn and tomatoes... some have been more successful and enjoyable than others, so it has been worth the adventure.

I have 2 different sourdough starters; one with all purpose flour and one with whole wheat. At this point I've only made bread one time, but I've made cupcakes, cakes, brownies, cookies, crackers, pancakes, crumpets, biscuits and muffins

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with sourdough as an ingredient. Because it is the beginning of the growing season, I've had to slow down on doing those things for a while. The sourdough starters are resting in the refrigerator and being fed once a week.

And the third consumable, I have going in the house is my own stock of kombucha tea. You might not have heard about kombucha tea. It is a fermented tea that develops a bit of carbonation if you put a tight lid on it. I'm not really fond of highly carbonated drinks, so I use it all within a day or two after I cap it. This drink is made from a SCOBY. That stands for a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast. Again it is a natural process, which you allow to brew on the counter top with a coffee filter over it. I started mine with a bit of "mother" from a purchased bottle of kombucha last fall. After the initial brewing of the tea you can flavor it with fruits or herbs as you wish.

Are you asking why I am fussing with this stuff? Maybe not, but I'll say anyway. The yeast in the sourdough, predigest some of the proteins in the bread and makes it more digestible. The bacteria that performed the lacto-fermentation or "pickling" of the vegetables and the yeast in the kombucha tea, create live probiotics. If you have been listening to any of the latest information about food nutrition, gut health, general overall health, you will have been hearing about live probiotics.

When your grandmother made sauerkraut and let the crock sit in the basement all winter, taking from it periodically, you were getting the benefit of live probiotics. I will warn you that heating the product will kill the culture. Thus, when you buy a processed bag, jar or can of sauerkraut, or any other pickled item, the live culture will have been killed. That goes for yogurt too, so read the label to be certain you are buying live culture yogurt.

How does all this tie into the quote I started with? "*.....people still can plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world.*"  
Kathy Lee, [igarden2@aol.com](mailto:igarden2@aol.com) TGOA Ft. Wayne



## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

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### Creating Spring Containers

Every year the horticulture staff at the Gardens create beautiful mixed containers full of plants well-suited for early spring weather.

Creating these spring containers starts with the plants. They need to be hardy and able to withstand the occasional cold dips in temperature so common in spring. Pansies (*Viola*) are at the top of the list. These hardy cold-tolerant colorful annuals in dozens of colors from are the perfect addition to spring containers. Other annuals to consider for early spring planting include:

- Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) Clusters of tiny fragrant white, pink or lavender blooms. A great “spiller” for your container.
- Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*) – These upright flower spikes are deer resistant.
- Nemesia (*Nemesia*) – Available in oranges, reds, yellows, white and many bicolors these low growing plants melt in the heat and thrive in the cooler temperatures of spring.



- Stock (*Matthiola incana*) – Plant these blooms where you can enjoy their amazing fragrance. Much like Nemesia, they are short lived in high heat making spring the perfect time to enjoy their flowers for longer.
- Larkspur (*Consolida ambigua*) – Related to delphinium but smaller, this old-fashioned flower can be found in blues, pinks, whites and purples.
- Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*) – Small bright blue flowers on low growing plants are perfect for containers.
- Cape daisy (*Osteospermum*) – Daisy flowers in yellows, oranges and whites with eye-popping dark centers. These colorful flowers melt

in the summers and thrive in cooler spring weather.

- China pinks (*Dianthus chinensis*) – These cold tolerant annuals come in reds, whites and pink, but they are named for their frilled petals not their most common color.

Combine these plants in containers as soon as frost has left the ground or temperatures at night are consistently around the freezing point, usually around the first part of April in Iowa. Once planted, water them in well. Combine plants with various heights, colors and textures to create interest. Add cut branches of willow, forsythia or red-twigged dogwood for height. Consider painting the container or branches a bright spring color. All of these plants will tolerate an occasional light frost not below 28°F, but pull containers inside if night temperatures get any lower. The spring containers at Reiman Gardens are planted. Visit the Gardens soon and enjoy the colors of spring!

Prepared by Aaron Steil, Manager of Public Programs Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA

<http://www.reimangardens.com/2013/04/creating-spring-containers/>

<http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/create-planters-that-stand-out/5325.html>



**Herb to Know: Chives**

**Carolee's Herb Farm Newsletter**

[http://www.caroleesherbfarm.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=346:march-2016-e-newsletter&catid=42:newsletters&Itemid=111](http://www.caroleesherbfarm.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=346:march-2016-e-newsletter&catid=42:newsletters&Itemid=111).

“Sometimes when things are too easy or too common, we tend to take them for granted. Such is the case of the reliable chive plant. Since they are so trouble free, easy to grow in nearly any conditions, and extremely abundant, we tend to overlook the contribution they can make to everyday meals. Maybe if they had been included in the Simon and Garfunkel hit as “Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Chives, “they would be more often-remembered and respected members of the herb family!

Actually, chives are one of the most delicate flavored members (along with shallots) of the Allium, or onion, family. They have been used throughout history and should be included in any Biblical garden. In addition to their flavorful leaves, chives should be valued for their lavender-rose blossoms which appear in late spring. These eye-catching spheres of color are wonderful when torn into little bits and added to salads or sauces. The whole blossoms can be steeped in white vinegar. After a week, the vinegar will turn a lovely rose-pink color and have the subtle flavor of chives. This pretty vinegar is very tasty in salad dressings or stir-fry.

The blossoms can also be dried for use in arrangements and culinary wreaths. Be sure to pick them just as soon as they are fully open but before seeds have formed for best color. Picking the flowers prevents rampant self-seeding, so unless you want a carpet of baby chive grass, it is wise to pick the flowers.

Chives are extremely hardy and easy to grow in average soil and full to part-sun. They are 12” perennials that self-seed easily. The leaves can be harvested at any time during the entire growing season, beginning when they are only an inch



tall. Unlike many herbs, the flavor does not grow bitter during the summer months, nor do the leaves get tough. Simply select a few “strands” and clip them off near the base of the plant. They will soon re-grow. Clipping the leaves higher will result in unattractive brown tips, so it is better to harvest at the base. Snip the harvested chives into small pieces with scissors over sour cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, or mix them into cream cheese. They seem to go extremely well with any dairy product, especially cheese sauces and dips. Add them to salads or salad dressings, over baked potatoes, steamed vegetables. They can make bland zucchini come alive! Toss them into stir-fried vegetables or over fresh-sliced tomatoes. Stir them into your favorite biscuit or bread dough, or add them to cornbread batter. Use them in marinades for meat or fish, or simply sprinkle them over grilled or roasted pork, beef, lamb, or chicken.

Chives are one of the earliest risers in Spring, so they have always been included in special Easter dishes. They are an essential ingredient in the “Green Sauce” traditionally used at Easter dinner that includes sorrel, chicory, catnip, mint, and other early spring greens. Chives are especially good with egg dishes, such as omelets or deviled eggs, to brighten the bland flavor of macaroni and cheese or plain hamburger patties. Put two tablespoons of snipped chives into a stick of softened butter and freeze to use throughout the winter on rolls, meats, or freshly popped popcorn”.





## Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

### An Open Letter of Appreciation

Our club, the Gardeners of Greater Akron (GOGA), is an active partner with the teachers, administrators, and students of Crouse Elementary School (Akron, Ohio) in the Crouse Community/School Teaching Gardens (located near the school's back parking lot). Working as mentors to the students, GOGA helps maintain the raised beds, prepare the soil, plant seeds and seedlings, put "beds to bed" in the fall, and more. Inside the classrooms, GOGA members of the Youth Gardening Team assist teachers in delivering lessons designed to integrate students' garden experiences with curricular subjects.



This "letter" is the GOGA Youth Gardening Team's way of recognizing **all** the partners who help Crouse's young gardeners learn the wonders and benefits of preparing, planting, and harvesting vegetables and enjoying the delights of bright and fragrant flowers. Just as it takes a "village" to raise a child, so, too, does it take partners, as individuals and groups, to build and sustain a youth gardening program. The following paragraphs list the ways GOGA and local and national agencies and businesses partner with Crouse School.

**GOGA:** The club donates financially through its yearly budget. Individuals, in addition to their time and sweat in the gardens and classrooms, donate out-of-pocket money, seeds and plants, student recognition awards, tools and wheelbarrows, bed framing materials, soil and compost.

**AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES:** The American Heart Association (start-up raised beds and materials). Garden nurseries and big box stores (soil, compost, composters, seeds/seedlings). Non-profits including Hattie Larham, a non-profit organization that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities (mulch). Creative partnerships such as Plan4Health which helps build sustainable, cross-sector coalitions (tall



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garden beds for disabled students). Training programs for individuals in the science and art of gardening such as Master Gardeners (grants). Historical building and grounds organizations such as Akron's Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens (grants). Community leaders such as Akron's LeBron James and the Bike Kitchen (cardboard from delivered bikes used between garden beds to cover grass and to provide footpaths). And others!

Sometimes partners give anonymously. To those folks, as well as those named above, GOGA sends a shout-out to all its fellow-partners. On behalf of all the Crouse Kids who are learning about gardening, thank you! For questions and comments, contact GOGA member Steve Thompson who facilitates the work of the GOGA Youth Gardening Team ([st@uakron.edu](mailto:st@uakron.edu)).

### Gardeners of Greater Cleveland 2016 Scholarship Program

The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland have awarded scholarships to deserving students every year since 2003. Total awards to date in the Steinmetz/Busta Scholarship program amount to \$23,000. Two of our long-time members – Art Steinmetz and Mike Busta – started the scholarships and were instrumental in turning it into an annual program. The applicants must have been enrolled in a horticultural program of study or exhibited a serious involvement with horticulture outside of high school. They must enroll in a two or four year course of study leading to a degree in horticulture or a closely related field. To help ensure the students will be successful in college, a 2.5 cumulative grade point average is required.

This year the GoGC will award three scholarships of \$1500 each (\$4500 total) at our June 13 meeting. The scholarship winners, their parents and a key teacher are invited to attend the meeting as the club's guests. Mike Busta and Art Steinmetz will also be present to honor their role as the initiators of the GoGC Scholarship program. There will be a short program from the Auburn Career Center, interactive interviews with each student and the presentation of awards. The club raises funds through our annual plant sale and member contributions. *Continued p. 3*



**Youngstown Spring Plant Sale**

On Wednesday morning, May 4th, there were about 40,000 plants and 175 hanging baskets crowded into the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities' (Bev) MASCO greenhouse. By the time the Mens Garden Club Of Youngstown's Spring Plant Sale was over the following Saturday evening, all baskets and 95% of the plants were sold.

Greenhouse and Plant Sale Chairman John Schinker puts in countless hours preparing for our primary fundraiser that enables all other club projects, activities and scholarships. Years of



experience enables him to tweak the inventory to improve sales.

This year he added more petunias, tomato and pepper varieties, and 12" hanging baskets. He had to buy 40 additional baskets at a premium from Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson as the original stock was sold out by Friday morning. Winners of the hanging basket raffle were Marylou Burns of Boardman, Joyce D'Amico of Columbiana and Jean Montgomery of Youngstown.

A significant portion of our inventory is historically purchased by MASCO employees and the families of clients. As a special 'Thank You', they were allowed to shop a day early. This also helped keep manageable the first day's crowd of buyers. Significant purchases were also made by the Youngstown Country Club and member



Rodney Toth who stocks up on plants for his landscaping business.

Leftover plants were donated to the OSU Extension Gardening Partners, Paul C. Bunn School, Mill Creek MetroParks' Veggie Garden Program, Akron Children's Hospital Patient Garden, Dave Williams' planting of the MASCO garden, and our annual decorating of the war veteran memorials in downtown Youngstown and Smoky Hollow. The club will host a pizza party for MASCO clients who will each receive a plant to take home.

John was particularly pleased with the membership's response in planting seedlings, watering, and assisting customers during the sale. In previous years, he often had to call individual members when work needed done. This year all he had to do was make an announcement at membership meetings and guys show up.

While some work like preparing the baskets was delegated to Chuck's, the greenhouse is still labor intensive. Two members who contributed the most were Bruce Brungard who tended the Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse where some plants were started earlier in the year, and John Fox who spent many hours at MASCO. Members who watered daily were a big help. They were: Dennis Zap, Terry Volland, Schinker, Carlo Rubino, Art Roden, Fox, Pat Cuning, Dave Campana, Brungard, Mike Beaudis and Mike Banks.

The plant sale was promoted in a number of ways. The club information booth at the Canfield Fairgrounds in April was organized by Brungard and manned by Beaudis, Campana, Tom Liggett, Bob McGowan, Roden, Schinker, Paul Shanabarger (2 shifts), Bob Stas, Richard States and Zap. And a few days before the sale, Bruce and John talked about the sale with Jessica Briganti on WFMJ TV's Early Show. We apologize if we missed any contributing members.

*Photographs by Bob Stas.*

Contributed by David Campana  
Men's' Garden Club of Youngstown



CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS SUMMER MEETING

June 25, 2016 – 10 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Kingwood Center Gardens, Mansfield, Ohio

**Business Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer

2. Roll Call of the Clubs – Marcia Davies

3. Treasurer’s Report – Bill Lanning

4. Approval of the October 10, 2015 minutes – Marcia Davies

5. Directors Reports – None - Discontinued in 2015

6. Committee Reports:

Awards – Rodney Toth

Health & Welfare – Any Member

Historian – Leroy Hart

Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster Newsletter (JAB) – Marggie Faley, Editor

Judging – Jim Bell

Officer Nominations – Tom Davis

Websites – Frank Mitch

Youth Gardening – Cheri Kessen

7. Old Business:

None

8. New Business:

**2016 National Convention in Green Bay, WI-- July 12-15, Tues thru Fri -- John Schinker**

**2017 National Convention Planning Report – John Schinker**

**Noon or before break for lunch at the Golden Corral.**

**12:30 P.M. – Mr. Bill Collins, Head Gardener, will conduct a tour of Kingwood Center. In case of inclement weather, he will deliver a talk about the gardens.**



**2016 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES**  
**Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932**

CGLG Summer Conference/Meeting June 25, 2016 Kingwood Center, Mansfield OH – Les Knight  
CGLG Fall Regional Meeting- October 22, 2016 Kingwood Center, Mansfield OH – Les Knight  
TGOA MCGA Summer Convention – July 13 - 15, 2016 Green Bay, Wisconsin – Les Knight, 330-633-2616

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