

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER

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Summer 2009

## President's Message...

**John C. Schinker...**



**H**ello fellow gardeners! At this writing I am up to my ears in nearly 50,000 plants as we prepare the greenhouses for the MGCY annual spring plant sale. I am extremely fortunate to have the support of a group of gardeners who consider this to be a labor of love. They all have gardens of their own that reflect their personal interests; why would they agree to work in the greenhouses?

The greenhouses provide plants for our civic projects and the sale proceeds support our club's many activities. I think the main reason is personal, in that they have the opportunity to meet with people who have similar interests. They share information and ideas and enjoy each other's company. It's fun.

The same can be said of the Central Great Lakes Region, reportedly the best in the nation. This past winter, the Akron and Youngstown clubs joined forces in support of the Cleveland club's informational booth at the Cleveland Home and Garden Show. I believe it was a positive step toward mutual cooperation among clubs to achieve a greater goal.

Now that we've taken a positive step, it's time to take a giant leap. At our April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in Mansfield's Kingwood Center Gatehouse, we overwhelmingly approved a motion that stated the Central Great Lakes Region would host the 2010 National Convention. John Kessen has agreed to serve as chairman of the convention committee.

John was chairman of the Fort Wayne Committee that hosted last year's convention. He is a battle-scarred veteran and has already begun planning for the 2010 National Convention.

Time is short and there is much to be done. We all have the same 24-hour day available to us. So to be successful, we need to adjust our priorities. John can't do this alone.

The largest tasks are always completed one small job at a time. Whether your contributions are large or small, contact John at 260-854-2988 or email him at [lakelover60@Yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@Yahoo.com) and offer to share your talents to help have a successful convention.

It is my sincere hope that each club in the region will participate however they can. Let's take that GIANT STEP and work together to make this convention one to which we can all be proud to sign our names. Let's have fun with this project!

See you at the CGLR Summer Conference! John

**The choice you make makes you!**

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**Got an issue? Come tell it to the JAB!**

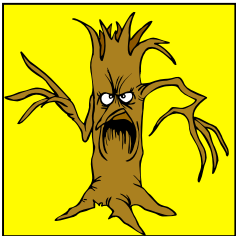
**What you do for others can live forever!**

*The following written by: Charley Adams, ISA  
Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist,  
Mill Creek Metro Parks - Youngstown, Ohio*

**TREE CARE AND SAFETY**

Now that it seems spring is finally here, it is a good time to give the trees in your yard a good inspection to monitor their health. Some obvious things to look for are cracked and broken branches, hangers, and any deadwood.

Proper pruning of these limbs will certainly improve the overall health and safety of your trees. A less obvious but no less important condition to take note of is branch structure and attachment.



Branches growing at less than a 90-degree angle to the parent stem, and, with no visible branch collar forming a v-shaped branch attachment are dangerous to you and your tree. The level of danger increases with the size of the limb.

If you have a small tree you might consider pruning the weak branch to reduce the weight at the end of the branch, thereby reducing the likelihood of failure. If you have a larger tree and there are safety concerns you should consider consulting an ISA Certified Arborist to discuss all of the options available. As a Certified Arborist, I regularly perform hazardous tree assessments. Balancing the benefits that trees provide against concerns for public safety is a difficult and complex challenge.

In addition to checking the condition of your trees I also recommend that you take a photographic inventory of all your trees and plants. In the event of a loss caused by man or nature your insurance may cover some of the loss. Having a photographic inventory and a value assessment from a Certified Arborist may help to recover the investment you put into your trees and plants.

**EMERALD ASH BORER**

If you, as many of us are, concerned about Emerald Ash Borer, there are some control measures that can be effective for your Ash tree. You can purchase FDA approved insecticides at retail outlets or hire a state certified pesticide applicator. The trees will need at least two applications during the growing season. This type of treatment can be expensive, as it requires treatments to be done annually.

These control measures are not a guarantee that the EAB will be eradicated, if EAB populations are high, even treated trees can become infected. In the event of an infestation you may want to include the cost of Ash tree removal in your landscaping budget.

**FERTILIZATION**

Tree roots are growing in the spring and fall so now is a good time to consider fertilizing your trees and plants. There are several important concepts to remember. For most trees a fertilizer maintenance schedule would be every two to three years with a fertilizer ratio 3:1:2 slow release sulfur coated urea. An example would be 15:5:10. Trees prefer this fertilizer ratio.

If you have a certain tree or shrub you are concerned about, I recommend that you take a soil sample or collection of full size leaves exposed to full sun, and send them to the Ohio State University horticulture lab to be analyzed. The foliar sample will give a more accurate diagnosis of the deficiencies than only a soil sample. Your State County Horticulture Agent [The Ohio State extension in Canfield, Ohio] can also help you with the type information to gather and mail your soil or foliar sample.

*[“Tree Care and Safety” Continue to page 3]*

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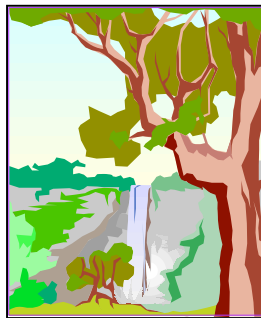
[Charley Adams, "Tree Care..." continued from page2]

Fertilizer will not grow a new root, that's the work of photosynthesis, but fertilization will grow leaves and branches, so it is beneficial if done properly. I recommend that you have a specific goal in mind because fertilizer is expensive and excess fertilizer is bad for the environment.

The best method to fertilize a large tree is to broadcast fertilizer over the entire root zone, this way all of the tree's roots will absorb the fertilizer.

The drill hole method also works but does not reach all of the trees roots. I also recommend drilling some holes to help aerate the soil and improve water penetration during fertilization. When fertilizing, do not exceed 6 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of root area. For large mature trees and Rhododendron, use 4 pounds actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of root area.

Water, as we all know, is very important to the health of trees. Trees need five gallons of water per inch of diameter per week! I recommend that the entire root zone be mulched as far out as the branches of the tree extend. Attempting to grow turf under a large tree canopy is difficult and often produces poor results.



Proper tree care will improve the appearance of your landscape and add value to your property. Always feel free to consult with a certified arborist if you have any questions. Good luck and have a great 2009. Charley.

**"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak a remove all doubt"**  
**Abe Lincoln**

**CGLR SUMMER CONFERENCE**

We're looking forward to sharing the Conference with you at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Goshen College, in Wolf Lake, Indiana.

The conference business meeting opens Friday, July 24 at 1:30 PM. followed by two informative workshop sessions.

The first at 3:00 PM conducted by Dr. Ryan Sensening, "Grazing My Garden: why tall grass prairies might need grazers"

At 4:15 PM Paul Steury will tell us how to work with kids in garden education – followed at 6:00 PM with a barbecue and an interesting hands on activity at 7:15 PM.

Saturday, July 25 following a 7:30 AM Continental Breakfast, we'll start with an 8:00 AM seminar by Dr. Dale Hess and then with a field trip.

We'll break for lunch at 11:00 AM, (not included in the \$75.00 registration fee).

After lunch we start out for Amish Acres. The musical, "Oklahoma", will start at 2:00 PM (included in the registration fee). Before and after the musical we'll have time to visit the shops at Amish Acres.

At 5:00 PM we will have a Threshers Dinner at Amish Acres (included in the registration fee). Awards, etc. will follow the dinner; we'll adjourn around 6:30 PM. There will be an interesting program for the spouses not attending the meeting.

To register, include your Name, Address, Phone, Email address and Club Name with \$75.00 for each person, then mail to, John Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, and Rome City, IN 46784. Phone: 260-854-2988 – or send email to [lakelover60@Yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@Yahoo.com)

**What you do for others can live forever!**

**CRACKPOTS**



elderly woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect. At the end of the long walk from the stream, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For years, this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

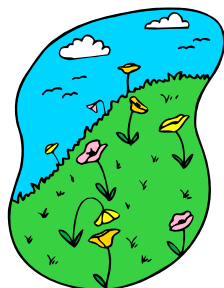
The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, while the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house"

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them"

"For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house"



Each of us has our own unique flaws. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You've got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them to find their true worth; it helps you to learn what's best in you.

SO, to all of my crackpot gardening friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!



**"HELLO SPEEDBIRD 206!"**



The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt, Speedbird 206! Clear of active runway."

Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Two."

The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"

Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."

Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"

Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark, -- And I didn't land!"

**What do you have to share with the rest of us?  
Send it by August 1st to [alessiojepat@juno.com](mailto:alessiojepat@juno.com)  
and read it in the fall issue of the JAB...**

What you do for others can live forever!

**“I need a plant for a spot that seldom gets any sun.”**

By Tim Parks – Nursery Owner



This is a frequently heard statement when your employment is retail horticulture. The problem here is not the right plant but what is the customers’ perception of no sun or shade.

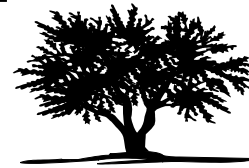
Many times we limit ourselves on what we can plant because we don’t really know how different plants will perform in these shady spots. So let’s talk about what is “sun” and what is “shade”.

Full sun: Plants that commonly carry this label many times benefit from an afternoon of shade or visa versa. The fact is I’ve seen many of these full sun plants actually thrive in these conditions. Take a look when you’re out and about. Observe all the homes that face a northerly direction. The landscapes in front of these homes don’t all have partial sun and shade plantings; many are full sun plants but yet do quite well.



This is just one reason I like to qualify full sun plants as plants that will tolerate a full day’s worth of sun, but also a plant that will perform equally as well with half a day of sun. Many full sun plants will do just fine with indirect light most of the day, one or two feet back behind the shadow line of a north facing home; its lots of light, just not on them.

Partial sun: This is a broad category of plants. Six hours of sun AM, dappled light all day, indirect light and six hours of afternoon light can all work for partial sun conditions. Be careful though when you site these plants in hot afternoon, dry locations; it can be tough for some of these fair skinned beauties.



Shade and dense shade: What is it really?

I like to think of shade as an area that receives no direct sun with strongest light being filtered or dappled and can actually be well lit. *Dense Shade* on the other hand, would be classed only as under story of a wooded area receiving nothing but limited filtered light.

There really should be two classes of shade plants, one being “shade tolerant” for a shady area and the other “shade lovers” for dense shade position.

There are a great many plants that are classified partial sun that do well in shade. But beware; there are a lot fewer shade lovers that will perform in partial sun.

In the end the thought process should not be that there are distinct light categories for plants; rather light categories (full sun, partial sun, shade) with large gray areas between them that a plant will grow successfully. It is with this in mind that you might do something a little bit different this year with your “shade garden”. Thanks for the soapbox. *Tim*



Editor: Tim is widely known for his expertise and skill growing GIANT PUMPKINS. Annually, in October, he hosts the giant pumpkin festival at his Parks Garden Center, located at 9010 Youngstown-Salem Road [Route 62], south of Canfield, Ohio.

To the fun and delight of everyone present, one of the festival highlights includes boat races in an on-site pond using hollowed out giant pumpkins.

*The World Record of 1,556.5 pounds was featured at the festival as is the Ohio record exceeding eleven hundred pounds. Will yours be next to top the scales? Talk to Tim and give it a try!*



What you do for others can live forever!

THREE MULCH RULES FOR TREES

Mulch has all sorts of wonderful benefits for your landscape. But if it's too close, too thick or too coarse, it can also cause problems! Here are three rules for proper mulching.

Not Too Close!

Mulch volcanoes, like this image, are not only an eyesore, but also endanger a tree's health. When mulch is mounded



around a tree's trunk, it keeps the tree's bark consistently moist. These are ideal conditions for a host of insect and disease problems. The warm, humid environment inside a mulch volcano is also a good growing environment for tree roots, which can girdle and eventually kill the tree.

Proper mulching etiquette requires that mulch be applied evenly around the base of the tree or shrub. It should lie flat, and always be pulled back several inches away from the tree's base.

Not Too Thick! Applying mulch around the base



of your trees or shrubs is a good way to suppress weeds and help retain soil moisture. But if the mulch is applied too thickly, the mulch itself will absorb rainwater and overhead irrigation, and prevent that water from reaching the tree's roots. An overly thick layer of mulch can be an inviting environment for insects and even small rodents that can nibble on the tree's bark.

Measuring from the soil surface, your mulch should be no more than 3-5 inches thick. Before applying a fresh layer in the spring, remove some or all of the mulch from the previous year and add it to your compost pile.

Not Too Coarse! Coarsely textured mulch (with individual pieces that are 1 inch or more in diameter) will not pack as tightly as finely textured mulch. Because wind-blown seeds – and light – can get between the larger pieces, coarsely textured mulch tends to be less effective at suppressing weeds. Small plants can also look dwarfed when they're surrounded by big chunks of bark or 2-inch pieces of stone.

Mulching materials vary by region (bark chips and shredded bark mulch in the Northeast, pine needle and stone mulch in the South, compost and straw in the West). Use whatever mulch is most available in your area, but also consider matching the texture of the mulch to the size and type of plants you are mulching around.

**General Mulching Rules**

- Mulch at any time, but early spring, before soil moisture has evaporated, is an excellent time.
- Weed the area and water the soil before applying mulch.
- Spread around plants to the drip line (the diameter of the plant's outermost branches) or cover the entire garden bed.
- Spread a thin layer of mulch – 1 to 3 inches. Thick mulches are harmful to shallow-rooted plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas. Otherwise, 3 inches of mulch is safe for most woody plants, and up to 8 inches can be used for large trees.
- Add more mulch every 2-3 years to continue a supply of nutrients in the soil and maintain good soil coverage.
- Use thick mulches as a top-dressing, do not mix into soil as wood absorbs nitrogen and deprives plants of this nutrient.
- Especially on vegetable beds, avoid mulch that has been exposed to herbicides.

Article information: <http://extension.Missouri.edu>

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“To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.”  
President, Theodore Roosevelt

What you do for others can live forever!

Flower Gardens and Hummingbirds

By Tom Davis – Cleveland Club



One of my favorite gardening activities is to plant certain flowers and then see if they attract Hummingbirds or Butterflies. Why? Well, most of those flowers are pleasing in their own right, and the gyrations of the Hummers and Butterflies throughout the garden are fun to watch.

Hummers are a family that contains the smallest warm-blooded animal in the world (the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba at 0.07 ounce or 2 grams). They are superb fliers able to move forward, backwards, up, down or to hover with ease. Their wings can reach 200 beats per second (a starling's wing beat is 8 to 10 beats per second). They are the most densely feathered of all the birds and the iridescent colors are amazing. They are also restricted to the New World (North, Central and South America) and have a total of about 300 species. Unfortunately of the 16 species found in the USA, Ohio has only one – the Ruby Throated Hummingbird.

Hummingbirds need a lot of energy to sustain their rapid wing beats and life style. They evolved their wings, flight mechanics (they generate lift on the up and down wing beats), ability to hover, their bills, feathers and size all to utilize the nectar in flowers. Many Native American flowers have also evolved to utilize Hummers as pollinators. The tubular shape, red color and abundant nectar in plants like the Cardinal Flower are a good example.

If you want Hummers in your yard there are two strategies you can take. One is to create a garden with plants they feed on. Plants that span the blooming times from mid-April to early October are best. You'll need to plant large patches of each plant so there is enough nectar. And you'll have to provide water (mistors or sprayers work best). My garden is too small and shady to provide enough nectar for even one nesting pair.

Feeding Hummingbirds is relatively easy by a hanging feeder of artificial nectar. They are interested in a reliable supply of nectar, not the "artistry" of the feeder.

Artificial nectar is easy to make and there is no need to buy the expensive mixes at the garden center. Just mix four or five parts water with one part sugar (1 cup of

water to    cup sugar), boil for two minutes, and store in a tightly capped jar in the refrigerator. Please Note! Use no red dye, no honey and no artificial sweeteners!! Do not use more sugar than the 4 to 1 ratio.

Hanging two feeders on the opposite sides of my house to provide two feeding areas works best for me. The small "Perky Pet" brand feeders work just fine. Jon Hardacre hangs several feeders plus extensive plantings of nectar flowers to bring many Hummers to his yard.

Hummers are very possessive of a nectar source and will defend it fiercely. The Aztec god of war was a Hummingbird – and for good reason! A Hummer will drive off and defeat a hawk 5,000 times its weight, much less another Hummingbird.

Maintain your feeders with regular cleaning. Mold can be fatal to Hummers. Once you start feeding, Hummers will find the feeder in a few days. At the peak of the season you may have to refill daily. You can adjust the amount in the feeders and the amount you prepare based on how busy the feeders are.

Other notes:

1. The only Hummer you'll see will be the Ruby-Throated Hummer. In males the red throat will appear black unless the sun catches it just right. The back of all of them will be metallic green. Females and juveniles will have a plain throat.
2. An excellent source of information is on the New Jersey Audubon web site: [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org). Type in the word "hummingbirds" in the 'search' box and follow links to articles by Pat Sutton on Hummers and key nectar plants.
3. Here are a few of the best plants to attract Hummers; Bee balm, Butterfly Bush, Cardinal Flower, Coral Bells, Foxglove and flowering sage plants.
4. Hang your feeders in early May when the Tulip or Black Locust trees are in bloom. You can take them down when they go unused – usually late September.
5. Hummingbird feeders attract bees, wasps and ants. Avoid feeders with yellow parts to limit the bees and wasps. Put grease or oil on the pole or wire holding the feeder to keep ants away.

## 2009 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES

CGLR - Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932

Regional Conference – Friday & Saturday - July 24 & 25 Wolf Lake, Indiana – John Kessen – 260-854-2988

Regional Meeting - Saturday – October 10 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – J. Schinker 330-799-6046

Regional Meeting – April 2010 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – John Kessen 260-854-2988

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### CGLR 2009 OFFICERS

**President** – John C. Schinker  
1296 Macabee Drive  
Youngstown, Oh 44511  
330-799-6046  
[jcspipes@zoominternet.net](mailto:jcspipes@zoominternet.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> V. P.** – John Kessen  
1205 Limber Lost Trail  
Rome City, In 46784  
260-854-2988  
[lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com)

**2d V.P.** – Robert Bell  
1832 Sandy Lake Road  
Ravenna, OH 44266-8202  
330-673-3553  
[mrrnbell@hotmail.com](mailto:mrrnbell@hotmail.com)

**Secretary** – Marcia Davies  
Po Box 524  
Van Wert, Oh 45891-0524  
419-238-9351  
[lhenny@brigh.net](mailto:lhenny@brigh.net)

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

**Past President** – Rodney J. Toth  
5637 Liberty Street  
Hubbard, OH 44425  
330-759-1993  
[rkdahlias@aol.com](mailto:rkdahlias@aol.com)

**National Director** - John Kessen  
1205 Limber Lost Trail  
Rome City 46784  
260-854-2988  
[lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com)

**National Director** - Anita Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, Oh 45840-9303  
419-423-1010  
[amlan@thewavz.com](mailto:amlan@thewavz.com)

**National Director** - Frank Mitch  
2065 Kemery Road  
Akron, Oh 44333-1937  
330-666-2327  
[fmm2065@hotmail.com](mailto:fmm2065@hotmail.com)

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Contact Joseph Alessi Jr., Editor – 330-792-4355 – [alessijoepat@juno.com](mailto:alessijoepat@juno.com) concerning this publication or how you too can be a part of the CGLR of garden clubs. National Web – [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org) - Regional Web – [www.acorn.net/CGLR/](http://www.acorn.net/CGLR/)

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Central Great Lakes Region  
Joseph Alessi Jr., Editor  
3857 Baymar Drive  
Youngstown, Oh 44511-3444

### Region's Family of Garden Clubs

**Indiana** - Fort Wayne – 260-854-2988

**Michigan** - Maple City – 517-264-5617

**Pennsylvania**

### Ohio

Akron – 330-336-9336

Bluffton-Pandora – 419-659-5638

Cleveland – 330-655-0516

Cuyahoga Falls – 330-928-4114

Erie County – 419-627-0763

Findlay – 419-423-1010

Lima - 419-643-8450

St. Mary's – 419-586-8912

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