



THE JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER

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Presidents Message...Rodney J. Toth

Hello Garden Friends
We in the CGLR have had two wonderful opportunities to share time together this summer thanks to two Johns.

The first occasion was the 2008 National Convention June 12 – 14 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Congratulations and much thanks to John Kessen and his team of eight people. Everything was well planned and executed by that small number of people. We had excellent food (I liked the barn), educational seminars, good facilities, enjoyable entertainment and camaraderie. I'm sure everyone was pleased.

The second occasion was the 2008 CGLR Summer Conference July 26 at ATI in Wooster, Ohio. We can thank John Schinker for this effort. On July 25th the early arrivals enjoyed a friendly card game (65 I believe) led by Anita Lanning. Bill Carney caught on quick and was the big winner.

After a brief business meeting on the 26th Ken Cochran, program director at the OARDC Secrest Arboretum enlightened us on Agricultural Research and Development at the Secrest Arboretum followed by lunch (great chicken noodle soup). He then led a guided tour of the Secrest Arboretum, a place where one can learn, explore, wonder and connect with the natural world. The day concluded with a banquet and presentation of awards. Congratulations to those who received awards.

Next years CGLR Summer Conference headed by John Kessen will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Be on the look for future info and details.

On a sad note, we were sorry to learn of National TGOA/MGCA President Chuck Burt's tragic passing. Many of us will remember him for his ever-present smile, his gentle aggressiveness and his spirit of adventure.

Finally we hope to see you at the CGLR Fall Meeting October 11, 2008 at Kingwood Garden (at the Gatehouse) in Mansfield, Ohio.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be at Fire Mountain restaurant in our own private room. The day will conclude with a very special speaker, Laura Deeter from OARDC. No matter what Laura talks about people listen and people are interested. She is definitely A-1. See you this fall.

WE ARE SADDENED TO LEARN . . .

That TGOA/MGCA President, Chuck Burt had a fatal accident while riding his motorcycle, he will be sorely missed, our sincere condolences to his family.

"Do what you can, with what you have with where you are at the time" – President Teddy Roosevelt"

NOTICE: Deadline to submit items for the JAB Spring Issue – FEBRUARY 1, 2009. Articles should have a word count of less than 590 words less space for images. E-mail Editor in MSWord document.

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A TREE PLANTING PROJECT

How important is the action of one individual in the scheme of world events? There are many historical records of world changes that a caring and committed individual has accomplished by having an idea and then take the action to “Make It Happen”.

A person wishing to be anonymous took action upon hearing the news, “Forests Damaged by Hurricane Katrina Become Major Carbon Source”. He had an idea that he could do something to help make a change in his small portion of the world.

NASA determines that Katrina killed or severely damaged 320 million large trees. Knowingly, trees store carbon that prevents large quantities of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere – you know, the stuff that some scientists consider as the cause of global warming.



While debate still surrounds the causes for global warming, replacing woodland forests of which annually tens-of-thousands of acres are made bare demands that only people are able to help correct the problem we cause in a major way. All it

takes is an ever-expanding ripple to create change!

People like this “Committed” neighbor can take immediate action like a grain of sand and start a ripple that will widen to an everlasting circle encompassing many to join hands to help to successfully make that change.

At his own expense he mailed a two-page letter soliciting every homeowner on the two and one half miles of road to join him with this idea, “Let’s plant trees in every front yard on our street to help offset some of the damaged done by Katrina and others.” He also gave them his common sense “Ten Reasons To Plant Trees” acquired from the web site: <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/10reasons>

Trees are known to save energy, money, tax dollars, cool cities, clean water and air, protect and improve soil, act as natural flood control, protect watersheds, absorb carbon dioxide and all the while beautifying our surroundings. You can think of other reasons as well.

In zone 5 he suggests planting the improved Bradford type “Cleveland Ornamental Pear Flowering Tree” pictured on this page. It is gorgeous from spring through fall! It has brilliant snowy-white blooms that are followed by shiny, dark green foliage during the summer. In fall, leaves turn a glossy mahogany-red - breathtaking! This improved selection has stronger limb crotches than the original Bradford, so it is less prone to ice damage. Birds love the fruit! It will also grow to about 30 feet tall and wide.

There may be debate about the variety of tree selection, but little about the idea of the overall project or reasons for being a part of this very worthwhile endeavor wherever you garden. But as with any foreword thinking idea there are always those nay Sayers eager to play their negative role.

I personally salute this man’s effort that in of its self is challenging each of us; it seems to be an excellent civic project for club involvement. I know that once united, many organizations have members with the multiple skills needed to successfully promote a similar project.

Also to be saluted are the many organizations throughout this great country that voluntarily have projects that are similar in nature, but for different purposes. Each of which are important and vital to well-being of the world and its inhabitants.

Additional multi web site information and links can be obtained by searching, ‘carbon footprint’.



GOING, GOING . . . Who’ll put back the trees?

By Joseph Alessi Jr., Youngstown club



**THE UGLY, THE BAD, AND THE GOOD...
GARDENER'S BENEFICIAL INSECTS**

While some may be ugly and some are definitely bad, many prove to be good in the role of a gardener's beneficial insect.

A variety of insects are found in and around our homes, gardens, and yards. Most of these insects are completely harmless and may even provide valuable services. Usually, when we hear of beneficial insects, we think of things like honeybees, ladybugs and 'loveable' preying mantis.

However, rarely seen are the many other insects that help keep those harmful insects from feeding on our gardens and under control. Beneficial insects fall into two general categories: parasites and predators.

Parasites are usually the immature or larval stages of wasps and flies. The adult wasp or fly will lay an egg in or on the egg or immature stage of the pest insect. The pest insect then becomes the host [*the parasite's meal*] for the developing parasite.

Some adult parasites that lay their eggs in the host egg are so small that they are difficult to see without a magnifying glass; others can be up to 1.5 inches long.

A parasite larva usually feeds inside and slowly destroys a single host. Parasites usually take longer to become established than predators, but can severely limit a pest population.



↳ **A tomato hornworm covered with parasite cocoons.**

Aphids that a parasite has attacked take on a bloated appearance and stick to the leaf surface as they die.

Caterpillars often carry several parasite eggs. We often find a large caterpillar with many white parasite cocoons attached to their body.

Predators are usually larger than parasites. Both the adult and immature stages may be predators while only the immature stages of parasites attack pest insects.

Predators include a wide range of insects, mites, and spiders.

Actively seeking and capturing prey predators then either eat the whole prey or will suck out the body contents. A single predator, whether an adult or immature, will kill and eat many prey during its lifetime thus reducing harmful insect populations.

In contrast, parasites kill only one host during their lifetime. Predators may be generalists that will kill and eat any insect they can capture or they may be specialists that feed only on a few specific pest insects.

Usually, the specialists are more valuable in controlling pests since that is all they feed on. Unfortunately generalists may also kill and feed on other beneficial insects.

Various lady beetles showing color and size range.



It will pay you to learn the differences between the good and the bad insects and their larvae by avoiding the ugly and killing the wrong insects. To help arm you with all the right stuff, contact the following sources.

Lady beetle eggs attached to a leaf.



Contact your County Extension Office to acquire additional Entomology Insect Information or visit Clemson University's web site at <http://entweb.clemson.edu/cuentres/eiis/index.htm>.

Thanks to Mike McGroarty for reminding us of "Useful and beneficial insects" To sign up for Mike's online newsletter visit his web site – <http://www.freeplants.com>

By Joseph Alessi Jr, Youngstown Club



CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION SUMMER CONFERENCE

Saturday, July 26, 2008 turned out to be a good day at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio for the Annual Summer Conference. It began with a continental breakfast greeting twenty-one attendees representing clubs from Akron, Findlay, Stow, Van Wert, Youngstown, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The business meeting was brief but informative. Treasurer Bill Lanning (Findlay Club) read the financial report; Bill also reported that the Greater Cleveland Gardeners of America have rejoined the CGLR.

Region Judges Chairperson, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich (Akron Club) updated the list of certified judges. She assigned locations show dates to be judged. Both Gerry Herman (Stow Club) and Larry Whetson (Youngstown Club) submitted their resignations as Horticulture Judge to become effective later this year.

Members asked that we do all we can to keep the Stow Club actively involved in TGOA. They have been members for 40 years and at one point were one of the largest clubs in the country. It shows the necessity of continually recruiting new members to infuse a club with the excitement of new ideas, activities and growth.

The Ad Hoc Committee appointed in April to consider an award in recognition of the many years of dedicated service by Bill Moorehouse (Akron Club) for freely giving to the region, national and local TGOA recommended that the current CGLR "Master Gardener Award" be renamed the "Bill Moorehouse Award", it was unanimously approved Congratulations Bill for A very deserving honor.

It's noted that Members having previously received the "Master Gardener Award" shall not be eligible to receive the renamed award.

Fort Wayne Club President, John Kessen and his committee were commended for their outstanding job hosting The 2008 National Convention.

John surprised all present when he refunded 50% to the clubs that donated seed money for the convention.

The Nominating Committee submitted the name of Bob Bell of the Akron Men's Garden Club for the office of

2nd V.P. of CGLR for 2009. Voting will take place at the Fall Regional Meeting, October 18th at Kingwood Center in Mansfield.

Questions on the Greater Cleveland Gardeners of America Club's 75th Anniversary Celebration arose over the confusion about the incorrect registration address.

Other subjects discussed were Youth Gardening, the Van Wert Children's Garden and Stow Community Gardens.

OARDC Secrest Arboretum Program Director, Ken Cochran's first of two slide presentations covered Secrest Arboretum from the year 1908 to the present. The slides of the various gardens included the Butterfly and Hummingbird garden, Woodscape and Songbird Gardens, the Unique Collections Garden, the Crabtree area and Rose gardens.

After a short break, Ken presented his slide program on "Ornamental and Edibles"...touchstones to nature. His educational handouts were detailed and in color.

After a delicious lunch break, we followed Ken to the Secrest Arboretum. It was a real pleasure to be able to pick the horticultural brain of one so knowledgeable about our favorite subject. Two hours later, a weary, but well-informed group drove our cars for a tour of Quailcrest Farm. We toured the green houses and struggled to keep from bringing home some samples of herbs and perennials. Many of us failed!

We returned to ATI for the closing banquet and presentation of annual awards. Award letters of nomination were read and the well-deserved awards presented to the following named Honorees.

CERTIFICATES OF HONOR:

To Van Wert Club Members, Dale Davies, Marcia Davies & Pam Bockey-Smith.

To Ft. Wayne Club Members, John Kessen, Cheri Kessen, Lynda Heavrin, Kathy Lee, Bernie Holm, Sue Holm.

GREEN BRONZE AWARD:

Anita Lanning (Findlay Club)

HORTICULTURAL JOURNALISM AWARD:

Joseph Alessi Jr. (Youngstown Club)

MASTER GARDENER AWARD:

James Fee (Akron Club), John Schinker (Youngstown Club)

* * * * *



Aquaponics

As our global population grows, people have forgotten how to work with nature to recycle waste. They have forgotten how to return their food scraps back to the land through composting.

We're gaining thousands of new people every day, but daily we're losing thousands of acres of soil to rising oceans, concrete, asphalt and buildings. Hey, have you heard the latest? "God isn't making any more land!"

In a natural pond, fish consume food and excrete waste. Bacteria convert the toxic ammonia in fish waste into nitrate; a nutrient for plants. Microbes, insects and earthworms turn the raw organic matter in fish feces and old plants into humus, the heart of living soil. Humus is the best fertilizer there is for organic vegetables.

Only three-percent of people farm or garden today, whereas a hundred years ago 50% of the people lived on the land and were farmers. Ecological farming offers one life-sustaining solution to overpopulation by restoring the ecological relations between people, fish, animals, plants and microbes.

Even in highly populated cities, people can live ecologically by composting their food scraps and plant a garden and/or fishpond in their yard, rooftop or a container. It takes only a five-gallon bucket to grow many pounds of fresh tomatoes, peppers and other items.

Many of us can still recall that the popularity of Victory Gardens that began during the First World War and then called back into action during World War Two. At that time, no self-respecting patriotic homeowner failed to have their front yard lawn decorated with a garden of fresh vegetables. With all the food warnings that we receive today, be they local or foreign, it may not take another world war to get us back to eliminating some lawns for vegetable gardens, only time can tell. Now what about those fish?

Aquaponics is a farming method inspired by ancient farming systems from the Aztecs to Egypt, based on the recycling of nutrients in nature. In the aquaponics fish tank, the fish consume food and excrete manure, algae grow in the nutrient-rich water, and uneaten fish food falls to the bottom.

These unused nutrients would build-up and contaminate the fish tank, but instead are recycled as a liquid fertilizer for plants. The plants are a natural

biofilter for the fish waste. Beneficial bacteria in the gravel and on the roots have a key role by recycling the wasted nutrients into food absorbed by the plants, while cleansing and purify the water. Without these microorganisms the whole system would stop functioning.

Earthworms metabolize our uneaten and discarded food scraps recycled back into the system with the fish waste solids and old plants, The waste products of each organism, fish, plants and people, become food for another in a continuous cycle of life. There is no waste and no pollution.

A simple home fish aquarium or pond with ornamental or food fish can be combined with a mini garden growing herbs, vegetables or flowers.



A variety of plants grown in Tilapia effluent
(University of Arizona)

A hobby system can serve as a beautiful showpiece or a food production system. Depending on the size, backyard gardeners are learning to set up systems to grow hundreds of pounds of fish; tilapia or perch, and all the fresh vegetables a family needs. People are a key species in the **total aquaponic ecosystem**.

If interested in hobby aquaponics, contact Nelson and Pade, Inc. PO Box 761, Montello, Wisconsin, 53949, or call 608-297-8708; check out the book "Desktop Aquaponics" They also have a comprehensive Aquaponics Curriculum Package with an Educator's Guide and Student Manual that includes a subscription to The Aquaponics Journal, a bimonthly publication.

By Joseph Alessi Jr - Youngstown Club

"Few are born gardeners, but many become so through training and force of discipline"

CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATE

Regional Meeting – Saturday – October 11, 2008 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield, Ohio – 330-759-1993
Regional Meeting - Saturday - April 18, 2009 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield, Ohio – 330-799-6046
Regional Conference – Saturday –, 2009 – To Be Announced – John Kessen – 260-854-2988

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“Angel Oak”

Regions Family of Clubs

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Michigan - Maple City – 517-264-5617

Ohio

Akron – 330-336-9336

Bluffton-Pandora – 419-659-5638

Cleveland – 440-247-5317

Cuyahoga Falls – 330-928-4114

Erie County – 419-625-1874

Findlay – 419-420-3661

Lima - 419-991-6396

St. Mary's – 419-586-8912

Stow – 330-633-9183

Van Wert – 419-238-9351

Youngstown – 330-792-4355