

# The JOHNNY APPLESEED BROADCASTER



The 2009 & 2010 Regional Award Winning Newsletter  
Published Thrice Annually By the Central Great Lakes Region  
Indiana – Michigan – Ohio - Pennsylvania



Volume 11 Issue 1

Spring 2011

## President's Message...Bob Bell



Let's see, it is mid January and you are all gardeners. That means you're probably looking through the newest nursery and seed catalogs. By the time you read this you will have laid out your garden space, ordered your

seeds and are contemplating what plants you will be picking up at the local nursery. Some have seedlings already growing. Some are ready to put new seeds into planting medium to get them growing just in time to transplant into the garden.

By the way, did you get any of your seeds from your club or from a national seed exchange?

We have all picked up a lot of the same gardening ideas. It doesn't mean that we all do the same things at the same time in the same way. Sometimes we differ because our soil, climate, moisture is different, or we just like being different. When we get tips from fellow gardeners we are likely to try some of those tips. Sometimes things work, sometimes they don't, but we usually pass on the results to fellow gardeners.

How do we as gardeners exchange our ideas? If you are reading this letter you are most likely a garden club member. Our meetings with our local, regional or national garden clubs are a means of exchanging our ideas. We call the process communication.

Our newsletters at all three levels are great tools for communication. (In our region, we can thank Joe Alessi Jr. for an outstanding job). We all attend a variety of conferences like the educational one the Youngstown Club held on February twelfth.

This brings me to how I came up with communication as a topic. At the Gardeners of Greater Akron's January meeting I was asked if I was going to the Youngstown Conference. Although I received a copy of Youngstown's "The Germinator" and read through it, I didn't notice the announcement for the conference. On the way home from my meeting I was asked, "Why do we belong to a national organization?"

It's an old topic, I know. But then I put the two thoughts together. (For me, two thoughts are awfully complex). It is about communication. Meeting levels and newsletters at all three levels still don't get the job done. They're a start, but a disconnect remains. What we need to do is make it work even better.

Why doesn't everyone know the advantages of, or why there is, the national organization? Is there any way Youngstown can make Bob Bell pay better attention to their announcement in "The Germinator" and let the other members of his club know about it?

(See President continued on page 3)



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*What you do for others can live forever!*

Now Read These!



REGIONAL CLUB NEWS

**CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



Mark your calendars today to attend the Friday and Saturday, July 29, 30, 2011 annual conference of the Central Great Lakes Region to be held in Amish country, Holmes County. Our motel is one mile outside of Berlin, Ohio.

On Friday afternoon we will take a bus tour, first to OARDC (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center), then around the Amish countryside. We'll end with a real treat at an Amish home for a fantastic tasty home-cooked dinner.

Saturday morning will be the business meeting and speakers. The afternoon will be spent visiting various local attractions, ending with dinner at the World Wide renowned Warther museum.

Spouses are invited to join their mates at the conference. However, any who may wish to go on the Friday, and, or the Saturday afternoon trips instead of to the business meeting and speakers, we will provide maps of locations in the area that might be of more interest them.

More timely details about the conference and the registration form will be included in The Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster summer issue, and your local club newsletter.

Leroy Hart, Vice President, CGLR

**CONSIDER THIS**

The late Ted Bale, a long-time member of the Youngstown Club, continued to help the future of his club by directing that his estate donate \$2,875 to their Land and Building Fund.

**A 2010 CHRISTMAS PHOTO**

The Men's & Woman's Club of Findlay, Ohio



**UPCOMING 2011 REGIONAL AREA EVENTS**

The Gardeners of Lima, Ohio – Plant Sale  
May 6, 7 – Steve Maki – (419) 643-8450  
Geraniums, hanging baskets, vegetable and perennials

Youngstown Club – Plant Sale May 13-15,  
John Schinker – 330-518-4384

Kent Club – Plant Sale – May 27-29

Youngstown Garden Forum, - Flower Show  
May 28 - 29 – 330-746-1676

The Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area  
Are having their Horticulture Show in conjunction  
with Bluffton's sesquicentennial this July 29-30.  
Patrick T. Flinn – 419-358-6766

**Engage with your neighboring garden clubs.**



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## GARDEN HUCKLEBERRY



The Youngstown club's Don Brown received a free packet of garden huckleberry seeds (*Solanum melanocerasum*, *S. nigrum guineense*) last year [2009]. After checking online for advice, he found that the growing cultures are quite similar to tomatoes. Therefore, like tomatoes, he sowed the seeds and then transplanted the seedlings.

Huckleberry is a member of the nightshade family with unripe fruit being bitter and somewhat toxic.

A large quantity of glossy, dark blue-black fruit appear in mid-July, but the berries will not be ripe until they lose their gloss and the inside turns from green to dark purple. One big bonus is that birds don't bother them.



A plant easily produces enough fruit for a delicious pie tasting like a cross between blueberry and elderberry. It is especially good pie alamode.

RECIPE: *Simmer 4 cups of berries in just enough water to prevent scorching for 20 minutes. Add 1 \_ cups sugar, 4 tablespoons corn starch or tapioca. Stir the filling until it thickens, then remove from the heat to cool. Pour into a shell and add the top crust. (The cooked filling is also great in pancakes & muffins.)*

*Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for 10 minutes Then reduce heat to 325 degrees for 30-40 more minutes or until top is nicely browned. Enjoy.*

Reprinted from the Youngstown club newsletter, The Germinator – Dave Campana, Editor

(President - continued from page one)

I would like to spend time during the business portion of our April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at Kingwood Center discussing your thoughts regarding any way we can improve our communication.

I want to thank Hugh Earnhart for his review of last year's Regional Annual Conference. He covered for me very well. Thank you Hugh.

Speaking of the CGLR Summer Conference look for Leroy Hart's notice of the upcoming event for 2011. Keep July 29 and 30 open for this event.

Our program for April 9<sup>th</sup> is "All about Gourds", presented by John Martine from Sardinia, Ohio. Accompanying John will be several boxes of his and his wife's gourds that he will use to tell us about gardening, artwork and other uses of gourds.

John comes highly recommended by my brother Jim, and Lee Hart. The meeting begins at 10 AM as usual, and is at the Gatehouse. You will have to drive into the parking lot below as we did in October. There is a \$5 per car fee unless someone in the car is a member of Kingwood Center.

I am hoping to communicate with members from every CGLR club at the meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Bob

---

Worrying does not take away tomorrows troubles.

It only takes away today's peace.

+

"Old age is mind over matter, if you don't mind it doesn't matter" – Satchel Page

+

DRINKING RESPONSIBLY

I had been drinking at the bar, so I took a bus home.

That may not be a big deal to you,  
but I had never driven a bus before.



What you do for others can live forever!

## How To Control And Kill Creeping Charlie In Your Lawn

By: Mike McGroarty



Some owners have discovered a pesky weed invading their yards and garden beds. With small, scalloped leaves that look very similar to geranium leaves, this vining weed is *Glechoma hederacea*, commonly referred to as creeping Charlie, creeping Jenny, or ground ivy. Although gardeners may hope to never become familiar with creeping Charlie on their own property, this weed pest spreads easily and vigorously. If a neighbor has creeping Charlie in their yard, odds are that it will eventually spread to your yard too. Unfortunately, it is not an easy task to kill creeping Charlie.

Creeping Charlie is a perennial weed that grows low to the ground. A member of the mint family, creeping Charlie will produce the scent of mint when its leaves are crushed. It blooms tiny blue-violet flowers in the spring.

Creeping Charlie will reproduce from its seeds, but it spreads most readily by setting down roots all along its long stems. Its ability to spread easily is a trait that makes it so difficult to kill. Any bits of the vine surviving will happily continue to grow.

Creeping Charlie is resistant to a number of chemical herbicides, making it difficult to control. Its growing habits can also make it a daunting task to kill creeping Charlie, but don't despair. With diligence, you can rid your lawn of this annoying weed. This weed is persistent, so your eradication efforts must also be persistent.

If creeping Charlie is encroaching on your yard from a neighbor's lawn, and it isn't yet widespread, you can control creeping Charlie just by consistently pulling up, and discarding all parts of the plant. Be careful to not toss any stems or roots

into your lawn. They will take root and spread further.

Also, be careful to not mow over the creeping Charlie unless your mower has a bagging attachment that captures all of the clippings. A non-bagging mower will chop Charlie into tiny bits and throw them back out into your lawn where each tiny bit has a chance to set roots, grow and eventually overtake your lawn and gardens.

Small, isolated patches of creeping Charlie can be hand pulled or removed with a hoe. Keep pulling out or hoeing Charlie as it reappears, and over time you can eliminate this pesky weed.

In many cases, however, creeping Charlie is so widespread that hand pulling or hoeing is out of the question. There are still options available that will kill creeping Charlie.



Plants need sunlight to survive and creeping Charlie is no exception. It does prefer shady areas, but creeping Charlie is opportunistic and will grow in full sun if given a chance to establish itself. But, if the sunlight is blocked completely, even it will succumb.

If there is a small patch of creeping Charlie to eliminate, cover the area with heavy cardboard or several layers of cardboard. A bit of soil, some stones or a few boards can be used as weights to keep the newspaper or cardboard tight to the ground so no sunlight can enter beneath it.

(Charlie continued on next page)



## What you do for others can live forever!

(Charlie continued from previous page)

After at least one week, peek under the newspaper or cardboard. If the creeping Charlie looks like it still has some life left to it, cover it again for another week.

Once the creeping Charlie is dead, remove the dead vines and foliage with a rake. Once the area has been cleared of creeping Charlie it can be reseeded so it will once again be a beautiful lawn.

If you are not opposed to using chemicals on your lawn, there are herbicides that will kill creeping Charlie. Look for a broadleaf herbicide that contains the chemical triclopyr or dicamba.

Triclopyr is found in Ortho Weed-B-Gone Chickweed, Clover and Oxalis Killer for Lawns or Weed-B-Gone Max, with a few other products.

Dicamba is found in Trimec and Three Way Lawn Weed Killer and others. If one of these chemicals doesn't do the job, try the other. Research has shown that a creeping Charlie population in one area may be more susceptible to a particular herbicide than it is in another area.

Proper timing is the key if you want to kill creeping Charlie with herbicides. Creeping Charlie is most susceptible to herbicides when it is flowering, and when it is preparing to go dormant in the fall. Make an attack on your creeping Charlie in the fall, right around the time the first frost is expected, or right after the first frost. If treated at this time, the plant will store the herbicide, making it even more effective.

Then in the spring while the creeping Charlie is flowering, hit it again with herbicide. Once the plants are dead, you can rake the dead plants from the area, discard them carefully, and reseed.

If creeping Charlie has invaded a vegetable or herb garden, it would be best to use the newspaper

or cardboard method to smother the weeds. Triclopyr and dicamba should not be used around food crops.

It has often been suggested that boron can be used to kill creeping Charlie. Boron, or borax, is a naturally occurring crystalline mineral salt that was formed millions of years ago in the beds of ancient lakes. However, the disadvantages of using boron may outweigh the advantages. Sure, boron is inexpensive and easy to find. Many supermarkets sell boron; it's known as Twenty Mule Team Borax and is sold in the detergent aisle. Years ago, borax was commonly used as an herbicide but these days it is mainly used as a cleaning product.

The problem with borax is that it is too persistent. It doesn't break down, ever. If too much is used, borax will kill not only the creeping Charlie, but also the grass and other plants in the area. Since borax does not degrade, if too much is used it will poison the earth and nothing will grow in that spot for many, many years. It's not worth the risk, in my opinion.

Creeping Charlie is not native to North America. Like many other invasive plants, creeping Charlie was intentionally introduced to this country. Originally a native plant in Europe, creeping Charlie was brought here with good intentions in the hope it would be a useful ground cover. We know now how well that worked out! But if your efforts to kill creeping Charlie and keep it out of your lawn for good are not successful, you could always look at the problem from another angle and consider it to be a ground cover.

Be as persistent as the borax mentioned above that never breaks down, be determined to rid yourself of old creeping Charlie - *Glechoma hederacea*.

By: Mike McGroarty Enterprises Inc., P.O. Box 338, Perry, Ohio 44081



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## CGLR 62nd ANNUAL AWARDS

The Awards Committee would like to have all CGLR Clubs participate in the awards program.

The following are once in a lifetime awards:

THE WILLIAM MOOREHOUSE AWARD  
(Replaces THE MASTER GARDENER AWARD.  
Previous recipients are not eligible for this award.),

THE GREEN BRONZE MEDAL  
THE DELBERT R. DUNBAR AWARD.

In addition to the awards above we call your attention to the following:

HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
HORTICULTURE JOURNALISM AWARD  
CERTIFICATE OF HONOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AWARD  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
SPARK PLUG AWARD

There are many members deserving of these awards. Please help us honor your deserving fellow members by nominating them for an award. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2011

E-mail your nominations to any of the following Committee Members, or bring them with you to the GCGR meeting April 9, 2011 to Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

Awards will be presented at the CGLR 62nd Annual Regional Conference July 29 & 30, 2011.

Rodney Toth, Chairman – rkdahlias @ aol.com  
Kay Musgrave – kgrdchr@msn.com  
Gerry Herman – ga7herman@yahoo.com

*“It is an honor to honor those deserving of an honor”*

## JOINT VENTURES

CGLR President Bob Bell’s message about communication, prompted me to think about communicating in a different way, working side by side while sharing new ideas...please read on!

The Cleveland Club invited nearby clubs to share in the opportunity to work their gardening booth at the Cleveland Home & Garden Show in 2010.

Members from clubs in Akron and Youngstown joined their fellow gardeners from the Cleveland Club in 2010 and plan to do it again in 2011.

Clubs from Van Wert, Ohio and Ft. Wayne, Indiana have both attended events held by the other. It can be very rewarding in many ways when members from clubs join each other to help make their events a success and learn new methods.

Joint ventures bring people together, and strengthen organizations through meaningful volunteer action. Gardeners are very much alike wherever you garden, when we meet face-to-face.

It was this kind of unity shared by the clubs that make up the Central Great Lakes Region that successfully hosted the 2010 National Conference.

The dynamics of each club, and the area that they serve can be quite different, but what works well with one may also work well with another.

It’s my contention that successful templates will work wherever they are employed. True, they may have to be adapted to your local area, and that is when communication and joint ventures can work.

Shared polices and practices can be adjusted for recruiting new members, hosting a horticulture show, or any other club endeavor. Get together and check it out, start at the CGLR Kingwood meeting!



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## THE GOOD EARTH



he earth's upper layers of soil are usually made up of decaying plant and animal material such as wood, leaves, manure, and grass clippings. The lower layers of soil are made up of rocks and minerals that have crumbled with age and wear. The weather, rain, earthworms, fungi, bacteria, and other small animals help the upper layers break down. When the upper and lower layers combine, soil is formed. Tilling or mixing the layers helps to create good gardening soil.

### SOIL TYPES:

\* Sandy loam is good for most plants. It contains a good mixture of sand and decaying materials. However, too much sand will dry out quickly and is not good for gardens. Add topsoil, organic humus, or compost and then till the plot before planting.

\* Clay loam is heavy and makes gardening difficult. It dries out slowly and sometimes forms a crust on top preventing water to penetrate to the roots. Clay is not good for gardening unless you add sand and organic material, such as compost, to make it easier for plant roots to grow and water to drain properly.

\* Mucky soil is dark, rich in nutrients, and very good for growing many different kinds of vegetables. The nutrients from decaying organic material provide a lot of food for plants. If the mucky soil does not drain well, add sand before you till.

\* Peat soil contains decaying vegetable matter, usually from a forest floor that is high in carbon. Carbon is a nutrient that helps plants grow. Peat soil is light and almost dusty. Add topsoil, organic humus, or compost, and then till.

\* Topsoil is made up of decaying vegetable matter, sand, and peat. It dries out quickly and should be

mixed with heavier soils to add nutrients. Vegetables should not be grown in topsoil alone. Add organic humus or potting soil, and then till. A good practice at the end of the growing season is to empty/mix the contents of hanging baskets and containers into the compost pile or garden.

\* Potting soil is commercially prepared and packaged soil that you can buy at garden centers. It is available in different mixtures for specific purposes.

1. Why would you want to add sand to some types of soil? To improve drainage.
2. Some soil is nutrient rich with carbon. Why is this important? It helps plants to grow.
3. What is the last thing you should do after you amend the soil? Till/mix the layers.

The basis or foundation for successful gardening is the soil that holds and feeds the plants they contain. Paying attention to this critical area is one of the first things you must consider when you realized that your plant would live its whole life with its feet in the soil.

Aside from the weather (heat, cold, wet, dry, sun, shade) your soil is most important if you expect your garden to flourish, put your money and efforts into improving your soil before planting. Learn to feed the soil and let the soil feed the plants!



The ground [soil] beneath our feet is constantly in a flux of change; as plants grow, they are using nutrients, and then the plants themselves recycle, and become the organic material so necessary for the rebuilding of the soil. Thus continuing the saga for maintaining the friable soil that growing plants require.



## 2011 CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DATES

Gardening in Education and Excellence in Horticulture Since 1932



Regional Meeting – April 9, 2011– 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – Bob Bell – 330-673-3553  
Annual Regional Conference – July 29-30 – Holmes County, Berlin, Ohio Leroy Hart – 330-836-1407  
Regional Meeting - October 2011 – 10:00 AM – Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio – Bob Bell – 330-673-3553

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Printed by Just Your Type Graphics - Boardman, Ohio



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

#### Ohio

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Bluffton-Pandora – Patrick Flinn - 419-358-6766

Cleveland – Vince Staffileno - 330-655-0516

Cuyahoga Falls – Vohn Adams - 330-936-5096

Erie County – Harrison Smith - 419-627-0763

Findlay – John Platt – 419-694-1302

Lima – Teresa Heath - 419-516-8020

St. Mary’s – Dagmar Oliver - 419-586-8912

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