

# The Germinator



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Everyone,*

As we approach year's end, I look forward to 2022 when our club can return to something that reminds us of the "old days": a Winter Seminar, greenhouse work, Spring Plant Sale, and other activities that bring us together as a club. But as much as I long for what was, I am excited about what we can be: A diverse, energetic, and civic-minded group of men and women who are passionate about gardening.

I am reminded of what a veteran member said about the club: "We have an opportunity to remake ourselves". He meant that Covid has forced us into a reset. The inclusion of women is part of that reset.

I have approached many of you, especially the new members, to play a role in the GOGY. Each of you has a contribution to make to advance our mission. I understand that some of you have other priorities, but I want to challenge everyone to find a niche—a contribution, no matter how small.

Each of us has different levels of gardening skills, but that is not to say that gardening is all that matters. We all have other interests, skills, and abilities that should be identified and recognized; and may represent an important asset to the club. Towards this end we will be revising our membership directory to include a more holistic description of members. Members can choose to allow the inclusion of more details such as hobbies, skills, and knowledge beyond gardening.

If you haven't yet done so, please pay your 2022 dues.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the president's reception Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at Ala Carte Catering in Canfield. No matter with whom you sit, you will meet friendly people with varied interests and histories including ones you likely share. Please Come! To those of you not attending, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Tom Arans*



## Charlie Grounds



1945 – 2021

*Rest In Peace, Dear Friend*

## Meeting Schedule

**Fellows' Riverside Gardens**

**Board Meeting**

**5:30pm, Wednesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**All Members Welcome**

**Membership Meeting**

**Cancelled in Lieu to Christmas-  
President's Reception Dinner.**

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## Christmas/President's Reception Dinner

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, A La Carte Catering

Cocktails begin at 6pm – Dinner at 7pm

Member Awards, 2022 Officers Sworn In,  
Poinsettias for Ladies



Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Vegetable Lasagna or

Baked Salmon. Wedding Soup, Twice Baked Potato, Green Beans w/Mushrooms. Beverages: Coffee, Tea Dessert: Cherries in the Snow – **BYOB** Soft Drinks or Alcoholic Beverages. \$22 Per Person

Entertainment: Davis & Henner Acoustic Guitars – You'll Love 'Em

**All Attendees Must Be Fully Vaccinated Against The Covid Virus**

Payments and entree choices must be in by Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Send them to P.O Box 612, North Jackson, OH 44451



# THE Germinator

December  
2021

## CLUB NEWS

58 Members

### New Member

**Calvin Clayton**, 1415 Walkermill Rd., Poland, OH, 44514, [cclayton1234@gmail.com](mailto:cclayton1234@gmail.com). Calvin is married (Adrianna) and is employed as a sheetmetal specialist at Clayton Heating & Cooling in Youngstown. His gardening interests include growing flowers for cutting and display. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.

Sponsored by Bob Schulick.

*Welcome aboard!*

### DJ Knows Plants

It's always a special treat when Dennis James, owner and operator of DJ's Greenhouse in Transfer, PA, gives a presentation at one of our membership meetings. Our November meeting was no exception as Dennis gave examples of plants, or combinations thereof, that that extend garden color and interest throughout the year.

Dennis displayed several freshly cut hydrangeas blooms that had retained their color and vigor. These plants should be fed four times a year (may, june, july and august) with Jack's Classic Blue fertilizer. Other plants mentioned were: Heptaconium/Seven Son Flower (leaf, flower and stem beauty throughout year); early amathus (early spring blooms); winterberry holly (females and males required, fall blooms and winter berries); and butterfly bush (in fall, prune dead flowers down to the first leaf set, considered invasive, doesn't support caterpillars but butterflies love its nectar).



While many people fixate on mums during autumn often planting them too late for even the hardy varieties to become established, irises also provide excellent late fall color. Some German iris varieties bloom in spring and fall. Since most of these are hardy in zones much warmer than ours, the rhizomes must be dug up in fall and planted in spring.



Dennis showed a photo of a potted hydrangea, the variety of which escapes us, that was gorgeous. Growing

these plants in containers can be challenging because of aggressive root growth makes repotting difficult. The container should be at least 2 feet wide. In addition to well drained soil, and morning sun and afternoon shade, the plants will need to be watered at least twice a week as they tend to quickly dry out.

The growing medium should be at least 2 inches below the pot rim to allow for ample watering. Care should be taken to remove air pockets in the soil. Prune as one would a regular hydrangea but most varieties need little pruning. Water insoluble fertilizing is best but never do so in late summer or fall. Winter storage in a garage should protect the plant from freezing temperatures. It might be wise to invest in a dolly to move the plant because a container that large will be quite heavy.

We apologized to Dennis for misprinting his name in last month's *Germinator* and he accepted it like the gentleman we know him to be. Check out DJ's Green-house on the web for next year's new plant varieties, classes, events and announcements.

### GOGY Loses Two Stalwart Members

Our organization sadly experienced the passing of two men who contributed significantly to its success and amity among its members.

Dan Burns served as our president from 2010 through 2011 and contributed greatly to many club activities. He was also heavily engaged in the wider horticulture community including the OSU Extension in Canfield.

Charlie Grounds was best known as our club's premier cook and grill master but could be counted on when any job needed done. An email announcement of his passing told of a life filled will skilled accomplishments.

*Rest in peace, dear friends. You'll be forever missed.*

### GOGY Holiday Tree Decoration

Join your fellow members as we adorn a Christmas tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Center at 1pm, Wednesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. We've been doing this for several years and our trees are always one of the most original and captivating. Please bring naturally occurring items like dried flowers, grasses, gourds, bird and wasp nests, fungi - the list is potentially endless.



### Intro to Invasive Plants & Insects

Thursday, Dec. 3rd, Event Center, Warren County Fairgrounds, 665 N. Broadway St., Lebanon, Oh. Registration deadline Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. \$40. Register online at [woodlandstewards.osu.edu](http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu).

## Houseplant Scale Infestation

The first time a homeowner encounters this pest on one of their houseplants, they may think their children spilled something sticky onto the floor. Since scales feed by sucking out plant sap, many of them excrete a sticky substance called honeydew. The presence of a sticky sheen on leaves, floors, or nearby furniture is often the first indication of a scale infestation.

Though there are more than 8,000 species of scale insects, most are not considered to be common garden pests. The handful that are, however, are difficult to both diagnose and treat. Mature scales appear as 3-5 mm, oval-shaped bumps along plant stems, leaf undersides, and in leaf nodes. They're hard to spot since they look much like a part of the plant, and they're immobile.

The only time scales move is when they are in their



"crawler" stage. Females lay eggs under their hard shell; the eggs hatch into "crawlers" and move around to find a suitable place to attach. Soon after they affix to the plant tissue, they form their own hard, protective covering, and there they sit, sucking out plant juices, excreting honeydew, and weakening plant growth.

Scale is a common pest of many houseplants, including ficus, schefflera, ivies, pothos, spider plants, and palms. Carefully inspect newly purchased houseplants (or those being moved indoors for the winter) and quarantine them for three weeks to ensure they haven't come with any piggy-backing pests.

Since their thick, shell-like coat is tough to penetrate, scale can be difficult to control. The best non-toxic method is manual removal. Crush the insects with a cotton ball soaked in isopropyl alcohol and continually monitor the plant for further infestations. Commercial preparations of insecticidal soap are effective, too. Read the label carefully to be sure it's safe to use on your particular species of houseplant. Use a sprayer to apply it to all plant surfaces every seven to 10 days for two months. And, until the scale is gone, keep infested plants away from healthy ones. *Source:*

[savvygardening.com](http://savvygardening.com). Sign up for its newsletter.

## Living Stones

Also published by [savvygardening.com](http://savvygardening.com) is an article about a unique houseplant curiosity. Lithops are one inch succulents in the aizaceae family native to southern

Africa. Their stony appearance comes from a pair of rubbery leaves, separated by a fissure, that camouflages



them from browsing herbivores. New leaves appear each season. They have a single tap root with small root hairs. There are dozens of species with many subspecies that come in a broad variety of colors. Some species also have lines and/or dots that inspire an active collector community.

For a complete guide to growing, propagating, repotting and the various lithop varieties, go to the website.

## Don't Prune These Shrubs in Autumn

*Tom's Garden Blog*, a series of periodic articles published by fellow Gardeners of Greater Youngstown member Tom Liggett is not only well researched but comes from the author's own horticulture experience. In the latest issue, he gives important advice on pruning appropriate for this time of year.

**Oakleaf Hydrangea** – Since they only bloom on last year's wood, only remove dead branches in spring that don't produce leaves.

**Forsythia** – Trimming now will remove the blooms that appear in spring. Prune just after it finishes blooming next spring. New dwarf varieties stay compact and don't get too wild looking.

**Lilac** – Pruning in autumn will result in cutting off next year's blooms. Lilacs can be trimmed after blooming but only a little each year to manage its size.

**Nine Bark** – It shouldn't be trimmed except to remove dead branches, suckers and water sprouts.

**Azaleas** – Like Oak Leaf Hydrangeas, they bloom on old wood. Prune after flowering to maintain shape.

**Rhododendron** – Prune after it finishes blooming but no more than 25% each year to reduce its size.

**Weigela** – A pollinator magnet, don't trim this plant until after it flowers. It sets new buds in summer.

**Deutzia** – Also attractive to pollinators, trim only dead and crossing branches.

Tom is looking forward to next year's plant catalogs and will be writing about them soon. To get his blog, email him at [ligtom2@gmail.com](mailto:ligtom2@gmail.com).

## Homeopathic Cures for Dry Skin

None of us is getting any younger, and our skin is thinning and becoming less resilient. Ever notice a bruise on your arm and have no idea how it occurred, or how your skin is getting more sensitive to the sun? And with winter upon us, less humid indoor air often leads to dry, itchy skin.



There are scores of expensive products designed to address these problems, or one can follow advice from The Old

Farmer's Almanac (omc.com) which recently published as list of dos and don'ts that may help save us from the itchies.

### Dry, Itchy Skin

Apply moisturizer every day immediately after showering or bathing. Choose a lotion brand with petroleum jelly or lanolin high on the ingredients list.

For very dry skin, rub on olive oil before bathing. Substitutes include peanut, sesame or sunflower oils. Avoid steaming hot or lengthy emersions that rob skin of natural oils. Shorter bathing times in lukewarm water are better and, for severely dry skin, limit bathing to 5 minutes. Use a mild, glycerin-based soap and stay away from soaps containing alcohol, a drying agent.

Wash gently. Vigorous scrubbing can irritate sensitive skin. Gently clean around "fold" areas like underarms, neck, feet and groin. Use very little soap on your trunk and limbs.

Try adding lemon juice or vinegar to bath water. Most soaps, being highly alkaline, may cause itchy skin.

Try an oatmeal bath. Blend one cup of oats in a food processor or blender. Run a lukewarm bath and stir the oats into the water. Soak for 15-20 minutes while gently rubbing it into your skin. Rinse with warm water and, while skin is still moist, apply a hypoallergenic moisturezing cream. Then pat dry.

### Dry, Fly-Away Hair

For those of us with enough follicles for dry hair to be a problem, OFA has some money saving solutions that will help expand the Christmas gift budget.

Condition with a mixture of a 2 tbs. olive, coconut or castor oil and a ½ cup of mayonnaise or a mashed, ripe avocado and massage into hair and scalp. Cover with a plastic grocery bag and top it off with a warm, dry towel for 30 minutes. Wash and rinse as usual - maybe twice to remove the oil.

A leave-in conditioner mixture of 2 parts water, 1 part witch hazel, 2 parts vegetable glycerin (available on line or health food stores), and a tsp. of olive or other cooking oil per cup of liquid in a spray bottle. One part aloe vera can be added to the mix. A few drops of essential oil will provide a pleasant scent. Spritz on wet or dry hair before combing or styling.

## 'Tis The Season

*Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words.*

Harlan Miller

*Christmas is the day that holds all time together.*

Alexander Smith

*Some Christmas tree ornaments do more than glitter and glow, they represent a gift of love given a long time ago.*

Tom Baker

*May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.*

Anonymous

*It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.*

Mother Theresa



*And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent.*

Taylor Caldwell

*Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proven by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.*

Pope John XXIII

*Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire; it is a time for home.*

Edith Sitwell

*The color of springtime is in the flowers; the color of winter is in the imagination.*

Terri Guillehets



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December  
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Thank you to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Friends for their Civic Fund donations.  
Members are urged to give them a visit.

## **Ace Hardware Canfield**

413 E. Main St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7464

## **Amish Market**

6121 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-248-7034  
www.theamishmarket.net

## **Baird Brothers**

7060 Crory Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-3122  
info@bairdbrothers.com

## **Bernard Daniels Lumber**

260 Railroad St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2211  
www.bdlumber.com

## **Blooming Crazy**

8277 Market St.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512  
330-758-8131  
www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com

## **Bluestone Perennials**

7211 Middle Ridge Rd.  
Madison, Ohio 44057  
www.bluestoneperennials.com

## **Bread Chef**

800 E Western Reserve Rd  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-729-990

## **Buckeye Therapeutic Massage**

545 N. Broad Street  
Canfield, OH 44406  
330-402-7303

www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

## **Burton Floral & Garden**

13020 Kinsman R.,  
Burton, OH, 44021  
www.burtonfloralandgarden.net

## **Charly's Restaurant**

4455 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-5569

## **Colonial Gardens**

1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.  
Vienna, Ohio  
330-539-5500  
www.colonialgardensohio.com

## **Crouse True Value Hardware**

1178 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-549-2144  
www.truevaluetrains.com

## **Davidson's Restaurant**

3636 Canfield Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-793-0030

## **Delaquadri Lawn Maintenance**

1270 Trumbull Ave.  
Girard, Ohio 44420  
330-759-3121  
www.delaquadrilandscape.com

## **DeLanni Imports**

2770 Hilltop Dr.  
Napa, California 94558  
www.gardenclogs.com

## **DJ's Greenhouse**

1004 East Lake Rd.  
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154  
724-962-1230  
www.djsgreenhouse.com

## **Elliot's Garden Center**

1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-758-8889

## **Garden Artisans**

451 Defense Highway, Ste. A  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
www.gardenartisans.com

## **Greenstar Cooperative**

12093 Lisbon Rd.  
Greenford, Ohio 44422  
800-423-3609

## **Gardening-Indoor**

9215 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-758-0272  
www.gardening-indoors.com

## **Handel's Ice Cream**

3830 Starr Centre Dr.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-702-8270  
www.handelsicecream.com

## **Handyman Hardware & Supply**

4351 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44511  
330-793-1268  
www.handymanaustintown.com

## **Hartford Orchards**

6953 OH-305  
Hartford, Ohio 44424  
330-772-2100

## **Heritage Country Store**

364 Lisbon St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-5551  
www.heritagecountrystore.com

## **Home Again Consignment Furniture**

7689 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512

## **Home Depot**

7001 Southern Blvd.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-965-4790

## **Hot Pepper Wax**

305 Third St.  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125  
800-627-6840  
sales@hotpepperwax.com

## **Jack's Custom Landscape**

Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-953-7737

## **Jimmy's Italian Specialties**

3230 Belmont Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

## **Kravitz Delicatessen**

3135 Belmont  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
330-759-7889  
www.kravitzdeli.com

## **Kridler Gardens**

4809 Homeworth Rd.  
Homeworth, Ohio 44634  
330-525-7914  
www.kridler-gardens.com

## **Kushner's Garden & Patio**

2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
www.kushners.com

## **Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar**

2975 Canfield-Niles Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-2059

## **Nick's Wine Cellar**

105 S. Meridian Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

## **Outdoor Recreation Equipment**

5316 Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio  
330-782-2004

## **Parks Garden Center**

9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7278  
parksgardencenter@aol.com

## **Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.**

P.O. Box 93-C  
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079  
www.everlastlabel.com

## **Petitti Garden Center**

5509 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenter.com

## **Robert McGowan, LPL Financial**

MGCY Member  
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2320

## **Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**

8414 Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

## **Richard States/MGCY Member**

## **Dennis Toth/MGCY Member**

### **Tractor Supply**

6225 Mahoning Ave.  
Austintown, Ohio 44515  
330-792-8235

### **Vernon's Café**

720 Youngstown-Warren Rd.  
Niles, Ohio 44406  
330-652-1381  
www.vernonscafe.com

### **Village Quilts**

17 W. Main Street  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-0545  
www.villagequiltscanfield.com

### **Wally Gro LLC**

Kansas City, MO 64116  
1.877.796.6559  
hello@wallygro.com

### **Whitehouse Fruit Farms**

9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-4161  
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

### **Youngstown Cityscape**

15 Central Square, 2nd Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040

# The Germinator

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451  
[www. GG-YO.org](http://www.GG-YO.org)



## calendar of events



- Nov 19 .....Deadline for Christmas party RSVP.....
- Dec 1 .....1:00pm, Christmas Tree Decorating .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Dec 1 .....5:30pm, Board Meeting..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Dec 1 .....Membership Meeting, cancelled.....
- Dec 8 .....6pm, Christmas Party.....A La Carte Catering, Canfield
- Jan 5 .....5:30pm, Board Meeting..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Jan 5 .....7pm, Membership Meeting..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens

## Please Join Us!

The purpose of the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown is to create a better understanding of gardening and to encourage and promote the beautification of our community. In order to meet this endeavor, several civic projects are completed each year.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the D. D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Garden. Members receive a monthly newsletter, "The Germinator," which has timely gardening hints, club news and other local and regional horticultural events. Members also become members of The Gardeners of America.

Membership is open to residents of the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities with an interest in gardening.

To join, contact us at: Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
% Membership Committee P.O. Box 612  
North Jackson, OH 44451  
or on our website at [www.gg-yo.org](http://www.gg-yo.org)



## THE GOGY

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