



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

After serving as president since January of 2020, this is my last message. I reread my first message and noticed that I said that as a relative newcomer to the club I wanted to “respect and understand our long and distinguished history, while also wanting to challenge the club to continue to grow and serve our mission”. I believe this goal is as true today as it was in 2020.

My proudest moment was when the club decided to admit women as members. We were the last club in the country under the umbrella of the national Gardeners of America to not have women as members. We now have 20, and I am convinced that their presence has added significant value. In fact, we now have 3 women that will serve in top leadership positions in 2024: Clare Neff, Pat Murphy, and Lisa Nicklash.

I hope to see many of you at our annual president’s reception (aka Christmas dinner) at Ala Carte Catering in Canfield on 12-13-23. I have always enjoyed the food, entertainment, and most of all, the fellowship. Please refer to Clare’s emailed invitation for more information.

We are beginning the planning for our annual winter seminar slated for Saturday 2-17-24. It will be held again this year at the Davis center at Mill Creek Park. We will have already arranged for Laura Deeter PhD, from OSU to return as one of the speakers. In my opinion, she is one of the most educational and entertaining horticultural experts in the state. We will need plenty of help from members. More details to follow.

Don’t forget to send your photos to gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com. Show your tools, and share your tips also at our meetings.

Thank-you for your support and encouragement these past 4 years. Please afford the new officers the same.

Finally, let us remember during this holiday season those throughout the world caught up in the turbulence and tragedy of war; and let us do what we can to bring relief, hope, and peace.

See you at the dinner,



Steve Fabian
1923 - 2023

Rest in Peace, Dear Friend

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, December 7th
Stacey Pavilion
Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting, 5:30pm
All Members Welcome
No Membership Meeting
President’s Reception Dinner
12/13 -6pm – A La Cart Catering
Guests Welcome

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Club Dues Are Due

We are about to enter a new year and, with it, members are asked to help fund our many projects. Please forward your dues (\$25 regular membership - \$10 lifetime) ASAP

Tom Arons

President’s Reception Dinner/Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec. 13th, A La Carte Catering, Canfield
Meet-N-Greet at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm

Club Awards, 2024 Officers Sworn, Entertainment, Great Food

Menu: Choice of Salmon, Stuffed Chicken Breast or Veggy
Lasagna, Wedding Soup, Chef’s Salad & Dessert. BYOB

Please send check (\$23 per person) and entrée choice(s) to
Gardeners of Greater Youngstown, PO box 612, North Jackson, OH
44451; Deadline is November 30th.



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Club News

Return to Regular Meeting Hours

While the board meeting will continue to be held at 5:30pm, **the membership meeting will again begin at 7pm.**

Christmas Tree Decorating

We encourage members to meet Wednesday, 9am, November 29th, to help decorate our organization's holiday tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens. We ask you to bring dried vegetation like flowers, grasses, etc. and any naturally occurring items including birds' nests, plant limbs with berries and fungi. Also consider garland, wrapped gifts and fake snow. Even if you can't bring decorations, we'll need your help.



Our club always has one of the most interesting displays at this annual event and we want this year's tree to be no exception.

2024 Winter Seminar

One of the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's signature events is our annual Winter Seminar. This year's event will be held Saturday, February 17th, at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

As in the past, attendees can expect presentations by knowledgeable and entertaining horticulture experts. There will also be a Continental breakfast, a delicious lunch, a Chinese auction, prizes and tons of fun.

Among the speakers will be Dr. Laura Deeter, a professor at the Ohio State University Agriculture Institute in Wooster. Her presentations are always entertaining with a information every gardener should know delivered with often side-splitting humor. Laura has given presentations at several of our seminars and she is back by popular demand.

We will need all hands on deck to ensure this year's event is a success including planning, attendance, and recruiting sponsors for the auction. Stay tuned for more info including how you can help.

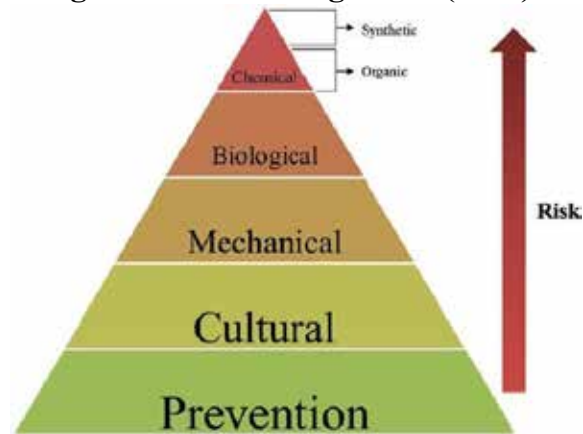
OSU Ext. Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Our November meeting featured a presentation by Dan Sprangue, the extension's clinic director. He is an OSU master gardener after a career as an electrical engineer. Our area is fortunate to have such an important resource and several GOGA members including Bob Schulick have participated over the years.

Dan advised that, although the clinic is officially available on Monday through Thursday, April through October, gardeners can bring specimens year round to the Mahoning County Extension office in Canfield and, when enough build up, clinic participants will come in for an evaluation.

Plant disease pathogens are either bacterial, viral or fungal with fungi causing 80% of the problems. Fungal attacks typically show leaf spots with dark borders; viral attacks show striped discoloration; bacterial attacks result in galls and yellow leaf spots. Symptoms can be similar among pathogens so expert diagnosis is often needed. Fungicides are more successful as a preventative rather than a cure.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Gardeners should try to follow the IPM triangle from the bottom up. Identifying the problem and deciding what action, if any, is required. 'Cultural' methods like sterilizing garden tools and crop rotation may only be required. More serious problems may require 'mechanical' applications like barriers or traps, mulching or weeding. 'Biological' methods are next like releasing beneficial insects or nematodes. Chemical applications are a last and the riskiest resort endangering beneficial insects and bacteria.

Dan said a boxwood fungal disease (*Calonectria pseudonaviculata*) has by far been this year's biggest problem at the clinic and very difficult to cure.



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Christmas Gift Suggestions for Gardeners

Many of us have been told, "You're not the easiest person to buy gifts for". When friends or loved ones ask what we want for Christmas, they may as well be asking, "What is the meaning of life?" because we can't think of anything that costs less than a Corvette. So we shouldn't be disappointed when another sweater shows up under the tree.

Here are a few suggestions that may make their or your holiday shopping a bit easier. All come with a wide range of features, configurations and prices so some research is involved. If none of these items trip your trigger, we're sure there will be some very nice sweaters to choose from.

Hori Hori Gardening Knife – This multi-use tool is great for digging, planting, cutting and trenching. The tempered steel blade has straight and serrated edges for cutting through roots. Some have depth measurements, a steel tipped handle for pounding stakes and a twine cutter/bottle opener notch.



Telescoping Fruit Picker

Many of the sweetest apples are often just out of reach even on dwarf trees. Now even the vertically challenged can pick them with ease. Some have trigger activated grab baskets and telescoping handles. Ask Terry Voland how he likes the one he received at our September meeting.

Kneel/Sit Gardening Bench

– The next best thing to raised beds for those of us of a certain age or are just comfort addicted. Many of these must-have gardening accessories have attached tool holders and fold for convenient storing.



Powered Pruning Saw – Compact and light weight allowing for one hand cordless operation, and with rechargeable lithium batteries, this tool will pay for itself many times over in time and effort saved.



Garden Hose Reel – Wall mounted types offer out-of-the-way storage and easy access. The best guarantee kink-free, automatic contraction.



Mini Garden Tiller – The many varieties are powered by cord, rechargeable lithium battery, and 2 and 4 stroke engines. Even though many gardeners are opting for no-till gardening, there is always a need to loosen the soil at some point. One member has had the same Mantis for at least a dozen, repair-free years and advises using only ethanol-free gas in all small engine tools. Country Mart just east of I-80 on Rt. 46 is the only source in the area we know of.



Raised Garden Bed

– Raised bed gardening is growing in popularity for several reasons: They save wear and tear on knees and backs; they can be

located in the most advantageous places, and relocation is relatively easy; they're great for gardeners with limited space; and crop rotation only involves planting different crops in them each season.

You can buy the treated lumber and build them yourself or can choose wood, galvanized metal or plastic varieties. Just add soil.

Mini Greenhouse – Great for starting plants, hardening off, extending the growing season or growing tropicals, the wide variety available gives serious gardeners the chance to expand their growing experience and expertise.



Indoor Plant Lighting - Gardeners love to exchange heirloom seeds, try new varieties of plants, extend the growing season, or have veggies and herbs year-round. Or if you want to take advantage of the legalization of certain vegetation, this is a great way to keep your new hobby out of prying eyes. Whether using soil or going hydroponic, the wide variety of systems available can take advantage of inexpensive LED lighting.





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A True Sportsman

Our organization has always had members who have led interesting and accomplished lives, and some have been willing to share their experiences through our newsletter. And so we recall Steve Fabian's full century of living.

Steve was born in Girard in 1923, graduated from GHS and, until recently, lived there his entire life. He worked at the Ravenna Arsenal before being drafted into the Army Air Force during WWII serving as an MP. After discharge, his career included 37 years at Youngstown Sheet & Tube (later LTV Steel) in electrical maintenance.

In 1960, he married Sylvia Copich Fabian. Their family includes daughters Caroline (Douglas) Vicchiarelli and Louise (Keith) Vouk, and four grandchildren. When the kids were growing up, the family enjoyed trailer touring a different state every year, and in 1971, they bought a new Pontiac and circled the country traveling 9200 miles. Two brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.

Fifteen years ago the *Germinator* published a short bio on Steve with the same title as this article. His life of adventure included recreational scuba diving in the early 1950s in that sport's earliest days. Equipment has advanced radically since those days including the addition of the BCD (buoyancy compensation device), a vest a diver can inflate and deflate to compensate for depth pressure.

Before the BCD's inception, depth as controlled by the diver's lungs alone. The device also served as an emergency air source in case of a breathing equipment malfunction. During one diving trip to Florida, Steve and a friend speared and landed a 185 lb. Sea Bass. He also spearfished in Lake Erie.

Steve was an avid hunter, fisherman, taxidermist and woodworker. The couple made frequent hunting trips including three to Europe. His basement was filled with the mounted heads of deer, pronghorned antelope, trophy fish and birds. He bagged, stuffed and mounted them all and, like a true sportsman, froze the meat for future meals.

Steve got an early introduction to gardening during the Depression. His father would turn over the soil then say, "It's yours". He started seeds under fluorescent lights and transfer the starts to a greenhouse. Our Plant Sale yellow Greek peppers came from seeds an uncle smuggled into the U.S. after WWII.

Steve honored his Slovenian heritage by playing the button box accordion and two associates entertained us at one of our club Christmas parties.

May Your Holidays Be Joyous

Recent events in Israel and other places have again raised the specter of conflict between the world's religions or variations thereof. This holiday season we should recognize that all were founded on tenets of kindness and goodwill.

Christmas

Most Christians celebrate the holiday on December 25th. It marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the mortal son of God, to atone for the sins of humanity. It sends the message, "Do not be afraid"; that though the world is a fearsome place, His birth proclaims the power of love and gives hope for the future.



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Christmas is a season of kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves.

For it is in giving that we receive.

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind; to cherish peace and goodwill; to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Chanukah - The Festival of Light

Celebrated the second week of December, the holiday marks the successful revolt led by a small band of Jews, the Maccabees, to free themselves of Greek rule.

For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish darkness from the world.



Eid al-Fitr

Observed in December, Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan which commemorates the month the prophet Mohammed was given the first revelations of the Quran. Muslims fast during daylight hours and strive to avoid impure thoughts and immoral behavior.



In the quiet moments of Ramadan, we find a deeper connection to ourselves, to our faith, and to our Creator.



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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

Burton Floral & Garden

13020 Kinsman R.,
Burton, OH, 44021
www.burtonflorallandgarden.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

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

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

Gnome Home and Garden

Shane Burgraf
330.647.6269
www.gnomehomeandgarden.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

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

Kushner's Garden & Patio

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

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

Petitti Garden Center

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

Stone Fruit Coffee Co.

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

Dennis Toth

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

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



December 2023

The Germinator



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



Calendar of Events



- Dec 13 Holiday Party 6pm A La Cart Catering, Canfield
- Jan 3 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Jan 3 2024 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PMStacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 7 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM ... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 7 2024 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM ... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 17 2024 Winter Seminar All Day Davis Ctr., Fellows Riverside Gardens
- March 6 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- March 6 2024 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park

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.

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



THE GOGY 2023 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tom Arens
mansell713@sbcglobal.net • 330.402.2700

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Clare Neff
clare_neff@mac.com • 330.503.6988

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Shane Burgraf
gnomehomeandgarden@outlook.com
330.719.6066

TREASURER

Terry Volland
voskater@aol.com • 330.881.8467

RECORDING SECRETARY

Linda Biggs
ljbigsy@gmail.com • 330.727.1962

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Michael Banks
330.707.9089 (H) • 330.565.0592 (C)
mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor
mgcygerminator@gmail.com
Clare Neff, layout
Tom Arens