



June 2023



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Our annual plant sale was a big success! Major kudos to Bruce Brungard who chaired the sale and his right-hand man John Schinker. Also a special note of appreciation to Clare Neff and Terry Voland who made it possible for us to take debit/credit cards at the sale. Thanks also to Pat Murphy who set up the snack/food table. In the end it was a whole-of-club undertaking. Thanks to all.

The next big event is our plant auction on June 7th. It will be held at our regular meeting site at Austintown Township Park (ATP). It is open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to bring plants for auction and food for the potluck dinner. It'll be a fun night and an opportunity to expand your plant collections.

The club has begun work on our latest civic project, landscaping around the new pond deck on the grounds of ATP. Mike Banks is chairing this initiative and will need plenty of help.

We are a part of The Gardeners of America which is having its annual convention in Dayton from July 26th-28th. Some of us participated in the event last year in Wooster, Ohio and it was a very educational and fun experience. I would expect the same this year. Overnight accommodations will be at the Marriott Springhill Suites. There will be a variety of seminars and talks about horticultural topics. One of my favorites, Laura Deeter, will be speaking. There will also be a horticulture show to participate in. See the TGOA website for more information and registration instructions.

Spring has already been a busy time for the club as will the rest of the summer. Stay tune for a field trip or two that I will be arranging for us. Remember our horticulture show will be on August 28th at the Davis Center.

Happy gardening!

Tom Stens

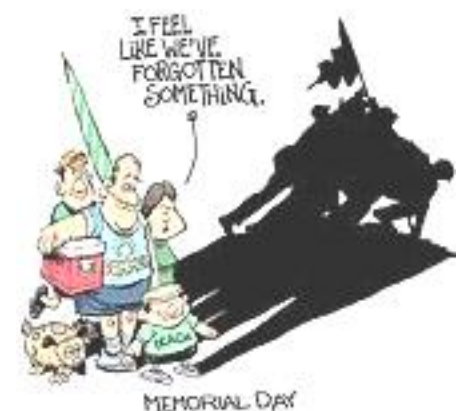


War Memorials Planting
Tuesday, May 23rd, 9am
Central Square, Youngstown
Bring Handtools
& Knee Protection

Meeting Schedule
Plant Auction & Dinner
5:30pm, Wednesday, June 7th
Stacey Pavilion
Austintown Township Park

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Annual Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner

5:30pm, Wednesday, June 7th

Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Township Park

Bring an Entrée and/or Dessert, Personal Beverages, Dinnerware & Plants! Plants! Plants!





Club News

GOGY Annual Horticulture Show

This event is one gardeners over a wide area look forward to each year. Held at Fellows Riverside Gardens Aug. 26-27, this fun competition is overseen by certified judges. Each section winner will compete for Best-in-Show and the Sweepstakes for most total points. The sections this year are: **Annuals, Vegetables, ornamentals, fruits, perennials/biennials, dahlias, bulbs/tuber/corms, roses and potted plants.**

\$25 awards go to the heaviest tomato, largest zinnia and Youth Division (16 y.o.a. and younger) Sweepstakes winner. This popular event is a lot of fun and you don't have to have the greenest of thumbs to participate and win. Now is the time to start preparing potential entries.

Kudos to a Dedicated Member

The *Germinator* staff is always open to your content suggestions and article submissions. One member who frequently forwards article sources is Dan Miller. This is in addition to his dragging our organization (sometimes kicking and screaming) into 21st century technology, developing and maintaining the gg-yo.org website, and helping technologically challenged members.

Dan has done this despite being his wife Kathy's primary care giver which often included weekly trips to the Cleveland Clinic. Sadly, Kathy recently passed away. His contributions to our club are even more heroic given his own medical issues.

Thanks Dan for your dedication. We need you to stay 'vertical'.

No Scholarship Awarded This Year

GOGY Scholarship Chairman Bob Schlick was disappointed in the lack of timely applications for our assistance to horticulture students this year. As in the past, we have been willing to grant two \$1000 scholarships to qualifying area high school seniors and/or college students. Unfortunately, despite significant efforts by the committee and other members, there were no takers this year.

Past recipients who have gone on to successful careers in their fields include Robert Voland, Joseph Fagnano and Christian Moore. Awardees are also eligible for The Gardeners of America scholarship so the loss to students is potentially doubled. Instructors at the OSU Agriculture Technical

Institute have hyped the awards without success. Given our organization's commitment to horticulture education, an examination of our recruitment and/or vetting process is in order.

How Trees Sequester Carbon

Our May membership meeting speaker was retired mental health professional Chris Flak who briefly touched on a subject that would require an advanced university degree to fully understand. Bottom line: Trees are critical to our planet's health by sequestering excess carbon and other pollutants in the atmosphere; generating oxygen; and providing animal habitat and aesthetic beauty.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, trees sequester 800 million tons of carbon a year, or roughly 12% of annual U.S emissions making them the best carbon capture technology in the world. They do this through photosynthesis, pulling carbon dioxide out of the air, binding it up in sugar that builds wood and roots which are about 50% carbon.

Some carbon is subsequently released through decomposition. When a 200 year old white oak dies, its release of carbon is very slow and, ideally, is replaced by younger trees which are very efficient in binding carbon. The net result is much less carbon being released.

Soil types determine carbon-holding efficiency. Canadian tundra holds much more carbon in the form of rotting wood, roots and leaf litter than rain forests which store very little. Areas that stay frozen much of the year are also hold more carbon. As the Arctic continues to thaw sooner due to climate change, not only is more carbon released but rotting permafrost releases methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas.

While rain forests are not very efficient sequestering due to rapid decomposition and poor soil, the large and numerous trees do so while alive. Sadly, much of the rain forest is destroyed each year to grow small, mono-crops like palm oil plants that stabilize very little carbon.

Chris recommended reading *The Green Life Handbook* by Jeremy Rifkin to learn how the average person can help mitigate climate change.

Gardening Tips & Gadgets

A very positive and interesting addition to our membership meetings is the sharing of tools and techniques that enhance the gardening experience. We'll report on them in future issues.

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown Spring Plant Sale

Another annual sale is in the books and, despite getting a late start due to ventilation problems, it couldn't have turned out better. Our membership is to be commended for being there when needed including



transplanting annual starts into six packs and flats, daily watering and assisting customers at the sale.

Special thanks to some who went above and beyond including Greenhouse Committee Chair Bruce Brungard who was ably assisted by past chair John Schinker. We owe John mucho kudos for starting hundreds of tomato, pepper, Brugmansia and coleus



plants at home. When he brought them into greenhouse



sunlight, they really took off.

Let's not forget others whose special talents contributed not only to the sales success but made the experience more enjoyable for those working the event. For the first time, customers could pay with credit cards thanks to 1st V.P. Clare Neff. Being able to buy on credit was and will be an incentive for customers to purchase more plants. Pat Murphy, Helene Viano and Linda Arens provided lunch and baked goods to the delight of members working the sale.

Special recognition goes to the Mahoning County Green Team for expediting upgrades to the greenhouse ventilation system, and to Flying High for allowing us to share the facility where we grew collard greens and spinach for that organization's farmer's markets.

Two huge planters raffled off were won by Angela Laughner and Cheryl Klempay. Raffle tickets for the

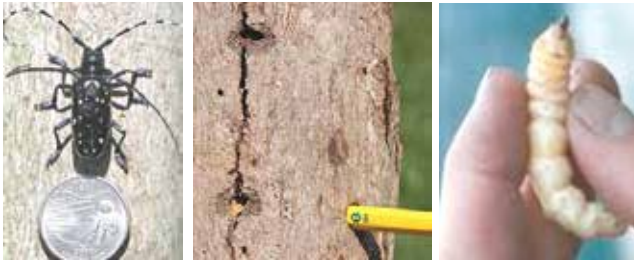


beautiful quilt sewn by Linda Arens began being sold at the sale and will continue at our Canfield Fair booth. Some unsold plants may be available at our annual Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner on June 7th at Austintown Twsp. Park.

Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB)

Ohio State University scientists consider ALB (*Anolophora glabripennis*) to potentially be the most devastating non-native pest in North America. Its arrival has been confirmed in nearby Jefferson and Ashtabula counties so we should report sightings to OSU Extension or the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture. The insect attacks hardwood trees, especially maples, as well as fruit trees. Trash trees like the ‘tree of heaven’ are also a known target.

Adults are active mid-summer through fall. They bore into the tree’s cambium layer with the resulting larvae feeding on the heartwood potentially killing the tree. Rough entrance and pencil-sized exit holes as well as woodpecker activity are telltale signs. Poor flyers, populations are mainly moved in wood debris of over one square inch including firewood. Below are adult, bore hole and grub images.



Garden Watering In Summer

Here are a few tips on keeping your plants hydrated from gardendesign.com. Push a finger a few inches into soil near the stem. If the finger feels cool, no need to water. Watering in the morning is best and late afternoon second. Wet leaves at night encourage fungal development. Avoid getting water on leaves and fruit by using a watering wand or soaker hose to concentrate hydration at the plant base, again avoiding disease. Water deeply so hydration reaches root ball. If soil was very dry, rewater a few minutes later.

Brown leaf edges or yellow leaves indicate over watering. Use recycled plastic bottles for drip irrigation by poking a hole in the bottom burying it next to the plant, refilling via the neck. A few inches of mulch near but not touching the stem will deter evaporation. Containers, especially unglazed clay pots, need more frequent watering.

Consistency when watering tomatoes is important even with disease resistant varieties. Young plants need a deep soak. Over watering fruiting plants will cause cracking and rot. Under watering will decrease production. Never allow water to splash from the ground onto the leaves.

Remembering the Price of Freedom

This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day. It's not a celebration. It is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom.
Tamra Bolton



*In Flanders Fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place. While in the Sky
The larks sill bravely singing, fly
Unheard, amid the guns below.
We are the dead, Short days ago
We lived, felt dawns, saw sunsets glow;
Loved and were loved – but now we lie
In Flanders Field*

“In Flanders Field” – Lt. Col. John McCrae
Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same. Ronald Reagan

Honor Thy Father

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person. He believed in me.
Jim Valvano
A father's tears and fears are unseen, his love is unexpressed, but his care and protection remains as a pillar of strength throughout our lives.
Ama Vanniarachchy





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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

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

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info@bairdbrothers.com

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330-533-2211
www.bdlumber.com

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www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com

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www.bluestoneperennials.com

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www.djsgreenhouse.com

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330-965-4790

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www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

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Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-4161
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

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15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
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[www. GG-YO.org](http://www.GG-YO.org)



Calendar of Events



- June 7..... Potluck Dinner & Plant Auction . 5:30PM .. Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 5 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 5 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- August 2 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- August 2 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- August 26 - 27 Annual Horticulture Show Fellows Riverside Gardens
- August 30 - Sept.4 Canfield Fair

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



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