



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

Time to get your seeds ordered, everyone! I placed my orders from Baker Seeds, Johnny's, and Burpee. I like to order something a little different each year so I ordered "Broccoli Romanesco" from Burpee. Check it out. It's actually quite beautiful. As some of you know, I plant sugar snap peas every mid-March. By June, I'll be eating sweet raw peas right off the vine, pod and all.

We had our first membership dinner meeting on 2-8 at Ala Carte Catering. Spouses and guests were invited. 32 persons attended. Lou Vega, the director of the Mahoning County Green Team was our speaker, and told us about changes expected in the county's recycling practices, as well as a composting initiative designed to turn food waste from all over the county into rich soil.

Lou also had very good news for us about the MASCO greenhouse on South Ave. The county will be purchasing a new controller that will enable us to adjust the heat and ventilation automatically. This is crucial for maintaining just the right environment for growing plants. It will enable us to use the greenhouse for longer periods of times throughout the year. We will be planting leafy green vegetables for Flying High, a non-profit organization that distributes food throughout areas of the community that are considered "food deserts". We will also begin to grow plants for our major fundraiser in May. Bruce Brungard is the greenhouse committee chair. Contact him if you are interested in working in the greenhouse.

By the time you read this we will be finalizing preparations for our annual winter seminar on 3-11-23. There still may be time to register, so check out our website for details.

If you know anyone interested in applying for a scholarship from the club, contact Bob Shulick at 330-727-1647. Applicants must have an academic interest in horticulture, and must have demonstrated an acceptable level of grade performance.

Remember, beginning in March, we will be meeting at the Stacey Pavilion at Austintown Township Park. The park is on Kirk road between route 46 and Turner road. Our meeting room is very large with a full kitchen, and plenty of storage space. It will be ideal to have more membership dinners there. Let me know if you can recommend a good caterer.



Tom Atkins

GOGY Annual Winter Seminar

**Saturday, March 11, 2024 - Fellows Riverside Gardens
Continental Breakfast, Catered Lunch, Basket Raffle
Three Speakers, Four Presentations – See page 2**

The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown – gg-yo.org - returns to a full day seminar. Members will be asked to solicit raffle baskets from their favorite local businesses. Also, we'll need volunteers for prior setup, table assistants and any other help to make this signature event a success. Most of all, we want every member to consider attending. Guests: \$80; Members: \$55.

Contact Chairperson Clare Neff to see how you can help.

Meeting Schedule

Wed., March 1st

Stacey Pavilion,

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting – 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting – 7pm

Speaker: Clare Neff

Sunken Gardens Visit

St. Petersburg, Fla.

Guests Welcome

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Basket Raffle Protocol

Pat Murphy is coordinating the raffle and requests members contact her before visiting a business. This is to prevent multiple visits by our members. Also notify her if your visit was successful. It is important to include phone and email information.

When soliciting businesses, try to emphasize the need for gift certificates. These will bring basket winners into their stores, encourage them to spend more and may turn them into return customers.

The Germinator has been printing the current list of sponsors on page 5 for three years, and this is a good sales point if visiting those businesses. Pat: 330-635-8180; email: pjmurphy0900@aol.com.



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CLUB NEWS

Winter Seminar Speakers

On March 11th, we will return to hosting a full day event. This will include a Continental breakfast, catered lunch, basket raffle, door prizes and three first class speakers delivering four presentations.

Speaking twice will be **Dr. Laura Deeter**, Full Professor and Coordinator of Landscape Horticulture and Horticulture Science at the Ohio State University Agriculture Technical Institute in Wooster, OH. She has received many awards including Instructor of the Year twice. She co-authored *A Complete Guide to Perennials*, contributed to other books, written numerous journal articles and has given many presentations including at our previous seminars. Her presentations are high energy, instructive and humorous. Her initial presentation will be 'Basic Soil Science'; the second is, 'Plants You Can't Live Without'.



Dr. Robert McMahon recently retired as Professor Emeritus at ATI after 29 years where he was Coordinator of the Greenhouse Production and Management Technology. He is president of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland. His presentation will be a 'Complete Guide to Houseplant Care'.



Julie Witmer is owner of the Julie Witmer Garden Design creating ecologically sensitive gardens across the U.S. She has a Certificate of Horticulture from Britain's Royal Horticulture Society. In great demand as a speaker, her topic will be, 'Botanical Opportunities for Unexpected and Diverse Locations'.



Please Pay Your Annual Club Dues

Not only will your dues payment help fund our organization's many commitments, in doing so you show interest in supporting our mission and activities.

We understand that a few of you, for various reasons, get a mailed copy of the *Germinator* each month. Be advised this costs the club more than \$25 per year, far exceeding the \$9 our club nets from your dues. Until those members receiving the newsletter via mail pay their dues, they will no longer receive this service.

An Evening of Surprises

Our organization's first membership meeting that included a dinner at A La Carte in Canfield exceeded most expectations. First, attendance by thirty plus members and guests gave promise of more to come. Second, the meal was excellent and a bargain at \$15.



But the *piece de resistance* came from Mahoning County's Solid Waste Management (Green Team) Coordinator Lou Vega's presentation. At the just prior board meeting, concerns were voiced about our ability to begin planting at the former MCBDD greenhouse because it needed a new ventilation control panel. Lou advised us that the county had okayed this expensive item's purchase and installation. While this vital improvement may not be up and running for up to two months, jerry rigging the existing ventilation is possible.

Lou also said the county is converting the former MCBDD building into a multi-use facility including a sheriff's substation. This will include a state of the art, large capacity composter, and a efficient recycling center for appliances, computers, tvs, paint, and other problematic disposals. The existing recycling system is overburdened, inefficient and expensive. Moving much of it the Bev Rd. facility will help solve these problems.

The area's Second Harvest Food Bank and other food distribution charities often receive perishable produce that arrives unfit for distribution, and the amount discarded is astounding. The food waste will provide the composter with 'green' elements while the 'brown' ingredients will come from nearby Altier's Home and Garden in the form of ground tree bark. The entire process will take from 12 to 16 weeks.

The sanitary engineer's department provides county residents with a number of services. If, for example, you live with one mile of a land fill, your well water will be tested free of charge. The landfills themselves are regularly tested to determine compliance. The county's recycling program runs a deficit each year and the new program will make it much more efficient.

Our initial dinner meeting was a great success. We look forward to the next one which may be at our new meeting location, Austintown Township Park's Stacey Pavilion, which has full kitchen facilities.



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OSU Extension Advice and Activities

You can't do much better than Extension Educator Eric Barrett's weekly advice on various horticulture subjects. Here is an example dated Jan. 23, 2023. To subscribe, send a message to; barrett90@osu.edu

Growing Herbs Indoors

Addressing a question about indoor herbs curling up before they can be harvested, Eric advises the following;

Some herbs started outside can be brought indoors, but in doing so insects and diseases may come with them. The best way to grow herbs indoors is to start them indoors. Start with a new or sterilized pot.

Optimize sunlight exposure by using a window facing south or southwest. Grow lights can supplement natural light.

Use a sterile potting mix to ensure disease-free germination.

Try to maintain a 70 degree environment and avoid drafts from doors, windows and furnace vents.

Pots should have good drainage and watered only when soil is dry to the touch. If the saucer is full of water 15 minutes after watering, drain it to avoid over watering.

For more tips, go to <http://go.osu.edu/insideherbs>

Grafting Vegetable Plants

Farmers and gardeners have been grafting many veggies for centuries. Cantaloupe, cucumber, tomato and watermelon can be grafted with a high degree of success.

Developing new plant varieties is difficult for a number of reasons. Grafting can bypass some of these barriers by combining the traits of two varieties, one providing the rootstalk while the other provides a shoot perhaps enabling gardeners to develop a totally new variety.

This may mean greater levels of vigor, tolerance or resistance to various stresses that plague the two parent plant varieties. If the new fruit is more resistant to soil-borne diseases, fewer pesticide applications may be required, and water and nutrient uptake may be more efficient.

Grafted plants are widely used in hydroponic greenhouses and in the commercial development of new varieties. Successful grafting takes into account rootstalk and shoot compatibility, cleanliness, healing and other issues. Go to <http://go.osu.edu/grafting>.



Choosing a New Crabapple

National Crabapple Evaluation Project (NCEP) plots have been established in several North America locations. One is "Crablandia" at the Secrest Arboretum at the OSU Agriculture Technical Institute in Wooster, OH where the first major planting began in 1951. 700 trees are grown and evaluated there resulting in a list of the best flowering cultivars for landscapes in Ohio. For more info, go to: <http://go.osu.edu/bestcrabapples>.

Numerous species of Malus spp. and cultivars display a diversity of sizes, shapes, bloom times, leaf colors, blooms and fruits. There are over 700 cultivars produced by nurseries and plant breeders. Unfortunately, diseases like apple scab, bacterial blight and frog-eye leaf spot can cause damage from slight aesthetic injury to death of the tree.

The crabapples bloom annually at Secrest at about 200 Growing Degree Days (usually about the third week of April). What a great idea for a daytrip during peak bloom season. Read about Crablandia in Nursery Management Magazine and the scores of trees grown there.

Discouraging Year-round Deer Visits

There are more deer in the U.S. than when the nation was colonized by Europeans, and they cause extensive damage to farm crops, gardens and landscapes.

Repellants should be regularly applied once a week and after a rain starting when tulips begin to emerge, then reduced in late summer and fall as deer become trained to expect noxious odors. Commercial products and DIY recipes are available on the internet.

Install deer-resistant plants but don't expect the animals to be deterred from eating plants that aren't. It is wrong to expect feeding deer will discourage them from attacking your landscape and garden plants. In addition, feeding them cracked or whole corn can lead to corn toxicity, a condition that disrupts their natural digestive system. It can also cause overeating leading to the death of otherwise healthy animals.

Using a fertilizer like Milorganite may help discourage deer for up to 5 weeks. Other DIY repellants include strongly scented soaps in mesh bags, sprinkling human hair, blood meal, and outdated spices and herbs like cinnamon, red pepper flakes, cloves and anything with a strong aroma.

Don't expect any of these methods to be totally effective especially when heavy snow covers the ground.

For more info, go to: <http://go.osu.edu/winterdeer>.



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Eating Well

Most people know that fruits and vegetables provide vitamins and fiber, and are a good alternative to fatty and high-calorie foods. These foods also contain antioxidants that protect human cells from damage caused by destructive free radicals. While our bodies manufacture free radicals to convert food into energy, unchecked they can destroy cell membranes, convert fats in artery-clogging plaque and possibly lead to cancers.

In addition to 3 antioxidants – vitamins C & E, and beta carotene – there are hundreds of other disease-fighting, plant based chemicals. One group, carotenoids, contains more than 500 orange-yellow plant pigments. They assist in photosynthesis by absorbing sunlight not taken in by green chlorophyll.

The primary function of many of these chemicals is to protect plant cells from wind, rain, excess sunlight, invading organisms, and cellular replication errors. By absorbing these chemicals into our bodies, they provide the same benefits they did for the plants that produced them. The best known example is how vitamin C blocks nitros-amine, the carcinogen related to stomach cancer.

Sulforaphane, a substance in broccoli, was found to block tumor growth. Sulfur-containing compounds, onions and garlic, can suppress mutant cells. Genistein, soybeans, has the ability to block blood supply to tumors. Genistein and daidzein in soy are believed to lower breast cancer risk by regulating estrogen. Other beneficial phytochemicals include Indoles (broccoli and cabbage), elgiac acid (nuts and berries), limonoids and flavonoids (citrus fruit rinds), capsaicin (chili peppers), catechins (tea), and lycopene (tomatoes and strawberries). Herbs and spices, including rosemary, cumin and saffron, may also have protective properties.

University researchers found that orange juice extracts, even without vitamin C, reduced precancerous lesi by 40%. It was also found that beta-carotene pills taken alone had no positive effect in risk of heart disease. This led them to believe interactions between it and other beneficial compound is necessary for health benefits to be realized.

Bottom line: Eat fruits and veggies to gain benefits from their interacting compounds.

Go to <http://garden.org> to sign up for the National Gardening Assn.'s weekly newsletter.

Tabhair dom pog, is mise Eireannach

The Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day in gratitude for the service which he did them in bringing to them their most priceless possession...the gift of Faith. Therese Duffy

A good friend is like a four-leaf clover...Hard to find and lucky to have. Irish Proverb

May the wind at your back

Not be the result of the corned beef and cabbage

You had for lunch



Never iron a four-leaf clover, 'cause you don't want to press your luck. Irish Proverb

You know you were brought up by Irish parents if, in any crisis large or small, the first thing said was, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph". Unknown

I drink to your health when I'm with you,

I drink to your health when I'm alone,

I drink to your health so often,

I'm starting to worry about my own. Irish toast

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time...a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

Andrienne Cook

Speaking of Season's Change...

Slush is frozen over. People say that winter lasts forever, but it's because they obsess over the thermometer. North in the mountains, the maple syrup is trickling. Brave geese punch through the thin ice left on the lake. Underground, pale seeds roll over in their sleep. Starting to get restless... Starting to dream green. Laurie Halse Anderson, 'Speak'

A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.

Francis of Assisi





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

Bernard Daniels Lumber
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Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-2211
www.bdlumber.com

Blooming Crazy
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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

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

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330-539-5500
www.colonialgardensohio.com

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www.delaquadrilandscape.com

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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
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Canfield, Ohio 44406
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330-965-4790

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

Robert McGowan, LPL Financial
MGCY Member
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
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330-533-2320

Stone Fruit Coffee Co.
8414 Market St.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

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Austintown, Ohio 44515
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Vernon's Café
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Niles, Ohio 44006
330-652-1381
www.vernonscafe.com

Village Quilts
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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



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Calendar of Events



- March 1 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- March 1 Membership Mtg .. 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- March 10 ... Seminar Setup Noon Davis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens
- March 11 .. Winter Seminar9:00AMDavis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens
- April 5 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- April 5 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 3 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 3 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



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