



May 2023



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

May is a time when gardeners see if their January dreams will come true. Seedlings that some of us have been cultivating in our basements will soon see the light of day and the warmth of the sun. We are discovering if our perennials have survived the winter. I was surprised to discover that just before throwing them away, half of the Dusty Miller annuals I planted were sprouting green at ground level. It certainly is a magical time.

It's also a busy time for our club. We are getting ready for our plant sale which will take place from Thursday thru Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, at the MASCO greenhouse on South Ave, which has been improved by the installation of a new control panel that



will enable us to manage the heat and ventilation properly. Members have been working on watering, transplanting, and pruning annuals, vegetables, and herbs. Bruce Brungard is the greenhouse committee chairman and John Schinker, past chairman, is offering his considerable expertise.

The club has also agreed to take on a civic project at the Austintown Township Park, where a handicapped-accessible deck has been constructed overlooking a scenic pond on the property. We will be planting annuals and perennials around the deck. Mike Banks will be chairing this project. Contact him if you are interested in helping out.

May is also the time when the GOGY and Youngstown Cityscape beautify the downtown square and the Smokey Hollow veteran's memorial. We will be planting annuals on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 9am. All members are invited to help out.

Remember we will be having our annual plant auction on June 7 in place of our regular membership meeting. I mention this early, because many of you will be dividing perennials that have multiplied over the winter. This is a good time to pot them up and get them ready for auction. Extra un-needed annuals can also be put up for auction.

That's it for now. *Happy gardening,*

**Tom Arens**

## GOGY Annual Spring Plant Sale

**Wed.-Sat., May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>**

**We need members to help prepare and maintain plants, and assist customers on the days of sale. Contact Bruce Brungard to help or see him at the May membership meeting.**

## Meeting Schedule

**Wed., May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Austintown Township Park**

**Board Meeting – 5:30pm**

**All Members Welcome**

**Membership Meeting – 7pm**

**Speaker:**

**Chris Flak**

**Subject:**

**How Trees Sequester Carbon**

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*Count the garden by the flowers, never by the leaves that fall. Count your life with smiles, not by the tears that fall.* Riska Jain's Inspirations

*Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas.*



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## Club News

### New Members

**Lois Martin-Uscianowski** – Lois lives in New Springfield and works as a consultant. Her gardening interests include butterflies and other pollinators. She is an OSU Master Gardener, participates in an annual butterfly festival children’s gardening program, and is a member of the Holborn Herb League.

Sponsor: Bob Schulick

**Dawn Reed** – Dawn lives in Canfield. Her garden-ing interests include flowers and herbs. Hobbies include home improvement.

### Spring Plant Sale Update

One of our organization’s oldest and most popular events is also the chief fund raiser for all of our other activities including higher education scholarships, civic activities and donations for horticulture education and awareness to other non-profits.

This year’s event will be held Wednesday thru Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, at the former Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities workshop at South Ave. and Bev Rd. in Boardman.

Our planting began late this year due to problems with the ventilation system and storm



damage. These issues have been addressed and inventory cultivation is well underway thanks to member volunteers led by Bruce Brungard and John Schinker.

Although the inventory is a bit smaller than in years past, there is a nice variety of healthy, beautiful plants. We will need members to help with watering until our Annual Plant Auction in June. Contact Bruce to help out.

### War Memorials Planting

For as long as anyone can remember, our club along with Youngstown CityScape has been planting flowers around the war veteran’s memorials at

Youngstown’s Central Square and Smokey Hollow near downtown. We will meet 9am Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Youngstown Central Square. Bring gardening hand tools. Sign up at the May meeting.

### Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner

Want to acquire some great and often rare plants cheap? Come to our annual auction that doubles as our June membership meeting at Austintown Township Park. The only cost is a covered dish and/or a desert entrée, and plants to be auctioned.

Now is the time to divide those overgrown perennials, start some annuals or hold on to the extra plants you over-bought or cultivated. This is one of our organization’s most popular events because everyone has a great time.

### GOGY Annual Horticulture Show

This late August event is one gardeners over a wide area look forward to each year. Held at Fellows Riverside Gardens, this fun competition is overseen by certified judges. Each section winner will com-pete for Best-in-Show and the Sweepstakes for most total points. The sections this year are: *Annuals, Vegetables, ornamentals, fruits, perennials/bien-nials, 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. Start planning and preparing possible entries now.

### Scholarship Winner Presentation

Joseph Morrison, our 2022 scholarship recipient, is in his second semester at the OSU Agriculture Technical Institute in Wooster. His near term goal is to complete his



associate degree studies there then further his studies at the Columbus campus. Longer term goals include a career in greenhouse /controlled environment horticulture. His presentation was on *pelargoniums*, a family of flowers that are closely related to geraniums. He is seen here with Bob Schulick, Scholarship Committee Chairman.

## Gardeners of Greater Youngstown Winter Seminar

Our first full-day seminar in a few years was very successful except for one small, unexpected hitch. About that later. Fellows' Riverside Garden's Davis Center looked great, the speakers were informative and entertaining, the lunch menu by Kravitz Catering was delicious, and the basket raffle was one of our best ever. Congratulations and thanks to Chairperson Clare Neff and her committee for organizing such a wonderful event. Hearty kudos to members who solicited raffle donations and sponsors for their generosity including Carlo Rubino's steel mill-themed painting.



**L-R: Bruce Brungard, Rodney Toth, Shane Burgraf, Clare Neff, Pat Murphy & Tom Arens. In the background is the beautiful quilt sewn by Linda Arens.**

In what is fast becoming a seminar tradition, Rodney Toth and Tom Arens opened the event singing (with apologies to Peter, Paul and Mary) 'The Garden Song' with the audience supplying the chorus: *Inch by inch, row by row; I'm goin' to make this garden grow.*



We couldn't have asked for a better speaker lineup. They not only imparted helpful info but held our attention throughout their presentations. No hesitation asking for encores.



**Julie Witmer, Dr. Laura Deeter & Dr. Robert McMahon**  
'Botanical Opportunities for Unexpected & Diverse Locations' was the subject of Ms. Witmer's presentation. She owns the Julie Witmer Garden design and holds a Horticulture Certificate from Britain's Royal Horticulture Society.

She espouses using native plants because they are more adaptive to local soils. Julie gave a list of plants to use in a variety of bedding conditions including wet and boggy; damp and shady; damp and sunny; and dry and shady.

Dr. McMahon gave a tutorial on 'Houseplant Care'. He is retired Professor Emeritus from the OSU Agriculture Technical Institute (ATI) in Wooster. He said the #1 reason for ailing houseplants is poor watering habits. The best tool is a finger pushed two knuckles deep into the soil.

Dr. Deeter, sporting an OSU colored Mohawk, is a Full Professor at ATI, honored with many awards and in much demand as a speaker. Her first presentation covered 'Basic Soil Science'. An inexpensive pH meter is sufficient for knowing the approximate soil acidity, all that's necessary for growing most veggies and native plants. Her second talk was 'Hortus Mustus', or plants everyone should have.

She advises her students that farmers should grow winter crops that 'fix' nitrogen. In spring, that vegetation is rolled flat and then seed is drilled into the soil. The use of fertilizers and herbicides is thus diminished, and as is wind and rain erosion.



GOGY members attended in respectable numbers with many helping setting up the venue the day before and cleaning up afterward. It was a full club effort and it makes one proud to be a member.

The 'small hitch' mentioned earlier was other



horticulture events that weekend. That and not having a recent, full day seminar resulted in attendance dropping by about a third. By scheduling in mid-February next year, as we've done in the past, should see crowds returning to normal levels.



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## Off The Wall Gardening Advice

The National Gardening Assn. publishes a weekly newsletter offering gardening advice on a variety of horticulture issues. Sign up at [garden.org](http://garden.org). Here is an example from its 'Search' prompt.

Soak rusty nails in water in an old coffee can and you've just created fertilizer. Acid loving plants like rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangeas will love the boost.

Are your pruner blades and shears blades rusty? Dampen a piece of aluminum foil and rub the surface of the blades. The rust will come right off.

Do you have old, well-used sneakers that are ready for the trash. Hide them in your garden to keep deer and other wildlife away.

Are you growing peppers this year? They love sulfur. Put match heads at the bottom of the hole when transplanting.

If you have an aquarium, save some of the water when cleaning for your plants. They'll love the fish poop.

Dental floss is good for more than cleaning your teeth. Use it for tying climbing plants to a trellis.

Old socks make a great soap holder. Place a bar inside and tie it to a faucet. When done working in the garden, wet it and use it to clean your hands.

## Protecting Plants From Frost

Clear skies with falling temperatures predicted are prime conditions for 32 degree nights, especially when winds are out of the northwest.

Light breezes and humidity are good for plants unless the air is cold. In the absence of wind, the coldest air settles to the ground draining heat from soil and plants.

Planting on the highest and lowest locations is not ideal. The top of a hill will experience the coldest temps first; cold air is heavier than warm and will settle to the lowest point.

Deep, loose, heavily fertilized soil will release moisture more readily resulting in a higher dew point. Heavily mulched plants will freeze more quickly as moisture is prevented from rising and evaporating from soil.

New growth is more likely to be damaged by frost. Maroon and bronze colored leaves tend to be more frost tolerant as are downy or hairy leaved plants. Compact plants and those planted closer together also resist heat loss.

If expecting frost, water them and the soil. Covers need not be directly on the plants. Suspended 6 inches above raises temps 10 degrees below.

## To Mom With Love

*A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take.*

Cardinal Merminlod

*There's no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one.*

Jill Churchhill

*A mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.*

Marion C. Garretty

*When you are a mother, you are never alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice – once for herself and once for her child.*

Sophia Loren

*A mother's love is everything. It is what molds their entire being. When a mother sees her child in danger, she is literally capable of anything. Mothers have lifted cars off of their children and destroyed entire dynasties. A mother's love is the strongest energy known to mankind.*

Jamie McGuire

*All those clichés, those things you hear about having a baby and motherhood – all of them are true. And all of them are the most beautiful things you will ever experience.*

Penelope Cruz

*Fred is 32 years old and single. One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?"*

*"Actually, I've dated several women I'd like to marry", Fred replied. "But when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them."*

*"I've got the perfect solution", his friend responded. "Just find a girl who's just like your mother."*

*A few months later they meet and the friend says, "Did you find a girl your mother likes."*

*"Yes, I found the perfect girl", Fred replies with a frown. "And my mother likes her very much."*

*"You don't look happy, What's the problem?"*

*Fred shakes his head. "My father doesn't like her."*

**Just In Time For Armed Forces Day, May 20<sup>th</sup>**





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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**

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



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



## Calendar of Events



- May 3 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 3 ..... Membership Mtg .. 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 10 - 13 ..... Annual Plant Sale ...9am - 6pm.... MASCO Greenhouse, South Ave.
- June 7..... Annual Plant Auction .. 7:00PM ... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 5 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 5 ..... Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM ..... 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 25-26 .... Annual Horticulture Show ..... 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.

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)



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