

May 2024



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Gardeners,*

Wednesday, May 8th - Saturday, May 11th are the dates of our annual Plant Sale at the Green Team's greenhouse on South Avenue - and we need your help! We're looking for volunteers to help customers during the sale. Contact Bruce Brungard if you're able to donate some time. This is our major fundraiser for the year - and our scholarship committee has recommended 4 deserving students for scholarships this year! What a great opportunity for the Club to help future horticulturists with their education costs.

I'm looking forward to our May meeting - and learning more about StreetScapes and their efforts in beautifying our community. Joining us will be StreetScapes chair - and GOGY member - Sharon Letson.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our April dinner meeting - good food, great conversations and an interesting speaker made for a very enjoyable evening. Our June meeting - Tuesday, June 4th - is another shared dinner, but potluck this time! It's also our annual plant auction. Plan on a fun evening of food, friendship and affordable plants. We will need a few helpers to hand plants to successful bidders... and maybe a volunteer with a little auctioneering expertise.

Also coming up - a collaborative event with Friends of Fellows, to be held in the Davis Center on June 26th. This will be a talk on succulents, perennial and tropical, with succulents for sale following. Time to be determined.

Hope to see you soon!

*Clare*

## **GOGY Annual Spring Plant Sale**

**9am to 6pm, Thursday thru Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Greenhouse at Bev Rd. and South Ave., Boardman, OH**



**Seedlings have been transplanted and are thriving. We now need a good turnout to assist customers during the sale. Contact Bruce Brungard to schedule your shift(s).**

## **Meeting Schedule**

**Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Stacy Pavilion, Austintown  
Township Park**

**Board Meeting – 5:30pm**

**All Members Welcome**

**Membership Meeting – 7pm**

**Speaker: Sharon Letson**

**Youngstown StreetScape**

**Chairperson**

**Guests Welcome**

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## **TGOA National Convention**

The Gardeners of America will be holding its convention on August 13<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> at the Ohio State Univ. campus in Wooster. Included are 8 speaking sessions, tours, a plant show and a banquet. Go to: [gardenersofamerica.club](http://gardenersofamerica.club).

## **Decorating War Memorials**

As we've done for decades, our organization will be planting annuals at the downtown square and the Smokey Hollow memorials just prior to Memorial Day. An email will announce the time and date.



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## Club News

### New Members

**Beverly and John Depuy** live in Struthers and are retired. Their gardening interests include flowers and gardens. They are also members of the Newcomers Club and enjoy league bowling. Sponsor: John Schinker

**David Duffill** lives in Girard with his wife, Charlotte. He is an electrician. His gardening interests include flowers, trees and his veggie garden. To relax, he enjoys walking his dogs in the woods.

**Joan Morris** is a Registered Nurse and lives in New Castle with husband Chuck. Her gardening interests include flowers and vegetables. She also enjoys bird watching and feeding, and reading.

*Welcome Aboard*

### Scholarships Awarded

Our scholarship committee announced its selection of four students studying horticulture at higher education institutions. Unlike last year when no qualified students applied, at least a dozen filled out applications this year. The improvement might be attributed to a concerted effort by more members to reach out to prospective applicants and a slight change in qualification rules. Identities of only two recipients, Angela McKenna (pictured here with Committee Chairman Bob Schulick) and Joseph Morrison, are known at this time. Our June issue will identify them all and provide short bios.



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### Membership Meeting & Dinner

One of our organization's most recent changes is periodically offering a catered dinner preceding the



meeting. April's dinner was the second and, if attendance and satisfaction are any indication, there will be many more to come. A La Carte Catering's meal was as delicious as we've come to expect from the hosts of our

annual Christmas/President's Reception Dinner.

However, we must add that the highlight of the meal was the wonderful homemade cookies and baked desserts provided by Pat Murphy, Terri Hendricks, Helene Viano and Lisa Nicklash. Their treats are available at all membership meetings and we can't thank them enough. Just remember, to cover ingredient expenses we need members to drop a buck in the cup by the coffee urns and participate in our 50/50 drawing.

### Traditional Landscapes vs. Prairie Restoration

Our meeting speaker was Gavin Spitzer, owner and lead designer of Next Nature Environmental. Founded in 2022, it focuses on combating habitat loss through conservation that includes prairie and wetland restoration, and reforestation and wetland restoration. His extensive education and experience enables clients to substitute non-native/invasive foliage in their landscapes with plants that evolved in our area.



Prairies are ecosystems that include grasslands, savannas and shrublands that have temperate climates with moderate rainfall, and are dominated by grasses, herbs and shrubs rather than trees. In North America, the prairie extends from the central third of the continent down to portions of Texas. Although Ohio is technically out of this zone, native prairie plants do well here due to cleared forests, and appropriate rainfall and temperatures. They have deeper root systems and require less watering.



Invasive imports, some more than others, crowd out and displace native plants. They are on fewer wildlife menus thus likely to spread unimpeded. Among the more benign foreigners are hosta, Japanese maple and Eastern hornbeam. A native plant

that mimics hosta is the foamflower.

Some imports are very invasive and have no native predators. The only remedy is to kill them. They include Japanese barberry, English ivy and Chinese silvergrass. Common ninebark shrub is an alternative to J. barberry. It spreads 6'x6', blooms May thru June and is a pollinator magnet. Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*) is great because it blooms the first year. For more info on Gavin's company, go to:



[gswitzer@nextnatureenvironmental.com](mailto:gswitzer@nextnatureenvironmental.com)



# The Germinator



## National Gardening Assn. Newsletter

[Garden.com](http://Garden.com) is an excellent source of a wide range of horticulture information. Log on and sign up for its monthly newsletter. Here is an example of the articles in a recent issue.

**Scallions** - Almost any onion variety sown from seed can yield scallions (bunching, green, spring onions or green tails). If you plant them thickly, at 8" you've got scallions and time to pull them. If a few are allowed to go to seed, they will return next year.

They can also be planted in early November. Scatter seeds onto smooth soil and lightly rake them in. Keep soil moist until sprouts appear. Cover with 3"-4" of hay or leaves. In early spring, remove the mulch and you'll enjoy them much earlier than if planted in spring.

**Sphagnum vs. Peat Moss** - Both originate from the same plant. The most likely source is Canada. Sphagnum moss is harvested while a living plant then thoroughly dried. It generally has a neutral pH. Peat moss, on the other hand, is sphagnum harvested from bogs where successive generations have grown, died and regrown over hundreds of years. It is much more acidic than sphagnum moss and great for acid loving plants like blueberries. For general gardening purposes, soil must be amended with lime or wood ashes to lower the pH.

**Transplanting Annual Flowers** - As our friend Dr. Laura advises, annuals allow gardeners to revamp their landscapes every year. A little more work may be involved but the reward is longer lasting color. Choose plants with unopened flower buds rather than ones in full bloom. Plants grown in greenhouses require 7-10 days of acclimation shielded from strong wind and direct sun. Bring them indoors if threatening weather is forecasted.

Loosen soil with a garden fork, incorporate 1-2" of organic matter and add a complete granular fertilizer. Rake smooth and water thoroughly a day before planting. Water the plants at least an hour before installing. Carefully remove from the pot and untangle roots and plant at pot depth.

**Plants of Special Interest** - This issue also included highlighted plant varieties and their sizes, spacing and bloom times. They are:

Daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Tim Herrington')

Cassiope (George Taylor)

Blireana Plum (*Prunus x blireiana*)

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* 'Double Dream')

Double Daffodil (*Narcissus x odoros* 'Double Campenelle')

Tall Bearded Iris (*Iris* 'Jelly Bean Parade')

## Gardening Knowhow Newsletter

Go to [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com) to sign up for another newsletter providing timely gardening hints. The following was gleaned from a recent issue.

### Spring Check List

Don't compact by walking on boggy soil, but if necessary, lay down planks. Otherwise, amend when soil is merely a bit damp. Rake up debris like leaves and twigs especially around blooming bulbs, and early bloomers like day lilies and iris. Sharpen and sanitize garden tools. Lay mulch along walking paths. Heavy pruning should have been done in fall but now is the time to remove dead and damaged branches.

Start warm weather plants like tomatoes indoors, and sow spring crops like peas, radishes, beet, carrots and leeks outside. Install summer blooming bulbs. Fertilize roses and other spring bloomers like azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons once they've bloomed. Apply compost or another nitrogen rich organic food around trees, shrubs and perennials to help control weeds and retain rain water. Prune ornamental grasses down to 8-12". Remove weeds before they drop seeds.

### Blooming Shade Plants

**Bleeding Heart** - heart shaped flowers/arching stems.

**Hellebore** - begin blooming in late winter.

**Jacob's Ladder** - fern-like foliage/phlox-like flowers.

**Siberian Iris** - long-lasting blooms/low maintenance.

**Toad Lily** - wide range of spotted colors in fall.

**Lungwort** - spotted foliage/varied colors spring blooms.

**Viola** - low growing/long bloom time.

**Foamflower** - Attractive foliage when not in bloom.

**Columbine** - varied colors in spring.

**Begonia** - Also good houseplants.

**Fuchsia** - bright, tube-shaped blooms.

**Impatiens** - bloom from spring until first frost.

**Lobelia** - blooms summer thru first frost.

**Wishbone flower** - multi-colored trumpet shaped blooms.

### Getting Rid of Moles

These varmints are harmless but leave unsightly mounded tunnels. The two ways to do so are traps and poison. The best time to do so is in early spring when they are most active but fall is also a good time. Traps should be set where moles are known to feed. Consider danger to pet and children when using poisons. They can also be hazardous to nearby soil. Using repellents is an alternative. Vegetative barriers include daffodils, marigolds, alliums and castor bean (poisonous). Castor oil is also effective and nonpoisonous.



# The Germinator



## All-American Selections

All-American Selections ([gpbst@ngb.org](mailto:gpbst@ngb.org)) is an independent non-profit organization that tests new, never-before-sold varieties for the home gardener. After a full season of anonymous trialing by volunteer horticulture professionals, only the top performers are given the AAS Winner award designation for superior performance.

Its latest blog showed dozens of vegetables and plants, detailed descriptions, and where the seeds are available.

**Broccoli Purple Magic** – Beautiful color, tight uniform heads, sweet & tender. Available at Hoss, Johnny Seed & Parks Seed.

**Geranium Big EEZE Pink Batik** – Superior container performance, medium vigor & heat tolerance.



**Verbena Sweetheart Kisses** – Low growing. Vibrant red, rose, pink & white blooms. Available at Seeds 'N Such.

**Tomato Zenzei** – Indeterminate, early maturing, high yield Roma type. Park, Jung, Seeds 'N Such.

**Salvia Blue by You** – Early bloomer late spring into fall, winter hardiness and heat tolerance.

**Impatiens Interspecific Solarscape XL Pink Jewel** – Great color, full or partial sun. Park Seed.



**Red Pepper Impact** – Easy to grow Lamuyo-type. Thick, sweet wall even when green. Park, Victory Seed.

**Petunia Bee's Knees** – Deep yellow, non-fading, deep green leaves. Burpee.

**Snapdragon DupleShot Orange Bicolor** - Long strong stems, high flower count, shade tolerant. Harris, Park.

**Zinnia Queeny Lemon Peach** – Lemon-yellow, vigorous 2-4" blooms. Park, Harris, Eden Brothers, Osborn Quality, Select Seeds.



**Cucumber Green Light** – High yield, mini cucumber. Great flavor. Park, Seeds 'N Such, Quality Tomato.

**Rudbeckia x American Gold Rush** – 2" wide golden yellow w/black centers, leaf spot resistant. Monrovia, Park, American Meadows.



**Ornamental Pepper Onyx Red** – Compact, well-branched with dark black foliage and tons of red fruit. Harris, Totally Tomatoes.

**Salvia Summer Jewel Lavender** – Pollinator magnet, great in containers. Park, Harris.

## Happy Mother's Day

If there is a harder job on this planet than being a mother, and that covers many species of animal, we can't think of one. Here are a few thoughts that demonstrate why a place in heaven awaits all good mothers.

*Motherhood is a constant battle between going to bed to catch up on some sleep and staying awake to finally get some alone time.*

*You know you're a mom when you understand why Mama Bear's porridge was too cold.*

*Cleaning with kids in the house is like brushing your teeth with Oreos.*

*Good moms let their kids lick the beaters. Great moms turn them off first.*

*Mom's recipe for iced coffee: Have kids. Make coffee. Forget you made coffee. Put it in the microwave. Forget you put it in the microwave. Drink it cold.*



## They Gave All That We Remain Free

*The legacy of brave men and women who have fought and died for their country is freedom we enjoy as Americans.*

Lucian Adams

*Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality.*





# The Germinator

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

**Agnew Lawn & Garden**  
7700 Market St  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330.758-.114  
www.agnewfarm.com

**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

**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

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

**Marketplace at Creekside Gardens**  
3680 N River Rd NE  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330.856.1641  
https://www.creekside-gardens.com/

**Crouse True Value Hardware**  
1178 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-549-2144  
www.truevalueutrains.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

**Edward Jones Salem, John Wise**  
2380 Southeast Blvd.  
Suite B  
Salem, Ohio 44460  
877.335.9521

**Elliot's Garden Center**  
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-758-8889  
www.elliottsgardencenter.com

**Frame Depot Gallery**  
1043 Youngstown Warren Rd  
Niles, Ohio 44446  
330.652.7865  
theframedepotgallery.godaddysites.com/

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

**Gilmore's Greenhouse**  
2774 Virginia Ave SE  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330.369.4515  
www.gilmoresgreenhouse.com

**Handel's Homemade Ice Cream Niles**  
5140 Youngstown Warren Rd  
Niles, Ohio 44446  
330.505.0865  
https://handelsicecream.com/

**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

**L & M Greenhouse**  
43091 Columbiana-Waterford Rd,  
Columbiana, Ohio 44408  
330.482.3209  
www.lmgreenhouse.com

**Lowe's Home Improvement**  
940 Niles Cortland Rd SE,  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330.609.8000

**L'Uva Bella Winery**  
6597 Center Rd  
Lowellville, Ohio 44436  
330.536.6450  
https://luvabella.com

**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

**Piccadilly Parlour**  
114 S Broad St,  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330.533.4749  
https://piccadillytearoom.com

**Petitti Garden Center**  
5509 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenter.com

**Dennis Toth**  
**Tractor Supply**  
6225 Mahoning Ave.  
Austintown, Ohio 44515  
330-792-8235

**Southside Community Garden**  
PO Box 258  
New Springfield, Ohio 44515  
330-792-8235

**Village Ace Hardware**  
10395 Main St,  
New Middletown, Ohio 44443  
330.542.2802

**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**  
250 E Federal St  
Suite 432  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040  
https://youngstowncityscape.org



May 2024

# 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



- April 2 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- April 2 2024 ..... Dinner Mtg ..... 6:00PM .... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 5 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 5 2024 ..... Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM .... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 8-11 2024 .. Plant Sale ..... 10AM-6PM.. Greenhouse South Ave at Bev Road
- June 4 2024 ..... Plant Auction ..... 7:00PM .... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 2 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 2 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](http://www.gg-yo.org)



## THE GOGY 2023 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Clare Neff  
clare\_neff@mac.com • 330.503.6988

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Murphy  
pjmurphy0900@aol.com • 330.635.8180

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Nicklash  
lisanicklash@yahoo.com • 412.500.1981

### TREASURER

Terry Voland  
voskater@aol.com • 330.881.8467

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Ron Fasano  
ronf10@msn.com • 330.502.9989

### 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