



The Germinator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, All!

Welcome to March and the official start of Spring in just a few weeks!! Hopefully Mother Nature has no weather tricks planned to fool us!

We wrapped up February on a very positive note - the Winter Seminar was a great success, thanks to the efforts of MANY of our members and GOGY's partnership with Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens (FFRG). The Seminar Planning Committee thanks all who worked "behind the scenes" to make the Seminar a perfect launch into Spring!

GOGY's next project - the Plant Sale - is just around the corner. This is our premier event! And Bruce will need EVERYONE'S help to get ready for it. Thanks to Mike Banks who has stepped up to work at the MASCO warehouse, getting everything ready for our Spring Plant Sale. Opportunities to volunteer to help at the greenhouse include plug planting, watering and working the sale (May 6th - 9th). Bruce will be providing sign up sheets at the upcoming meetings, so be thinking how you can contribute to making this another successful sale. If you can't be at the meeting to sign up, you can reach out to him directly to get schedule information. Another way to help is word-of-mouth "advertising" to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family!! We'll also have Plant Sale posters for you to distribute for display available at the April meeting.

Watch your email box in the next week for details about the April membership dinner. We hope you'll take time from your garden planning and planting to join us for good food and to spend time with like-minded gardening friends.

My email (pjmurphy0900@aol.com) is always open for your comments, suggestions, or questions related to our club's operations and activities.

P.S. Clare is always looking for photos for the Germinator - show us what's in bud or blossom in your garden!!



Pat

Meetings Schedule

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Austintown Township Park
Stacy Pavilion

Board Meeting 5:30pm All
Members Welcome

Membership Meeting 7pm

Program:

Mike McBride

OSU Plant & Pest Clinic

Guests Welcome

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Winter Seminar Recap	2
March in the Garden	3
Legend of St. Patrick	4
Our Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Club Officers	6



March 2026



The Germinator

GoGY and FoFRG's 2026 Winter Seminar

If it was possible to create a template for future seminars, the 2026 edition should be downloaded for future reference. Everything from the speakers to the basket raffle and audio/visual went without a hitch. Chairperson Pat Murphy and committee members Tom Arens, Clare Neff, Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood along with Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens members Kathleen Krantz and Deb Metzger are to be commended for organizing an outstanding event



And we have to thank the Byzantine Center at the Grove in Youngstown for its hospitality and delicious food from Bogie's. It's a great location for special events.

Our first presentation was by Mike Madar, owner of the 303 Mushroom Co., who told us about sustainably cultivating gourmet mushrooms indoors. He grows about 40 lbs. a week most of which is sold to restaurants. He also had a booth displaying various 'oyster' varieties. He does not forage outdoors and advises caution. While 25% are edible, 4% are gourmet, 20% are toxic and 1% are fatal.

Then Lee Beers, an assistant professor of botany and plant pathology at the University of Maine, and extension educator at the Agriculture and Natural Resources for Trumbull County told us about best garden practices to reduce pest pressure, reducing reliance on chemicals and growing healthy plants.

While covering the cultural, mechanical and biological aspects of integrated pest management, he advised that pesticides only work when coming in contact with pests; fungicides are a preventative not a cure; and herbicides can drift toward desired plants.

After a delicious lunch and time for attendees to place more tickets in the basket raffle bags, Joseph Tyconievich talked about plant propagation. Joe holds a horticulture degree from Ohio State, is the author of several gardening

books and has extensive experience working in specialty greenhouses.

He advised that when buying perennials, nurseries often apply a chemical to keep the plant small. When the chemical wears off, the plant may grow quite tall. Also, it is time to transplant when the root is as long as the cuttings, and a woody cutting's green leaves mean it is still viable.

Our final speaker was Terry Lanker who offered fresh ideas for modern floral design which was recently an added section to our annual Horticulture Show. She is Faculty Emeritus from Ohio State Univ. where she received numerous teaching awards.

When creating a design, her base is floral foam each block of which absorbs 2 quarts of water. Two important points to consider are not allowing leaves to penetrate the foam, and the item should be attractive from all sides. We have to wonder how often she cuts her thumb while pruning stems. The 6 wonderful centerpieces she created were given to lucky door prize ticket holders.

There were about 50 baskets raffled off with a comprehensive list of its contents.

There were 11 new donors who will be added to the list published in the *Germinator* each month. Tom Arens procured 18 donations while Barb Arquilla, Mike Banks, Bruce Brungard, Vince Campana, Dan Chambers, Scarlett Chelbus, Terri Hendricks, Pat Murphy, Suzanne Murphy, Clare Neff, Lisa Nicklash, Sue Sopko, Birt Underwood and Helene Viano also convinced businesses to contribute.



Barb Arquilla won the beautiful outside garden sculpture donated by GoGY. She also took best in show at our last Horticulture Show.

There so many members to thank in making the seminar such a success many of them contributing in multiple ways. Those who helped setting up the venue were GoGY members Tom Arens, Mike Banks, Bruce Brungard, Susanne Murphy and Helene Viano along with FoFRG members Kathleen Krantz, Deb Metzger and Carol Ann Knock. Raffle ticket sellers were Terri Hendricks, Helene Viano, Mike Banks, Barb Arquilla, Sue Sopko and Dave Campana. Let's not forget audio/visual specialists Shaye Cahill, Nea Bristol and Jim Bleacher.

Another Winter Seminar is in the books and they just keep getting better. Thanks again to those who contributed and to those who attended. Make an effort to help with and attend next year's signature club event.

Plans are already underway for Winter Seminar 2027!

Mark your calendars now for February 27, 2027!



March 2026

The Germinator

OSU Top March Garden Activities in Ohio

March in Ohio is ideal for preparing garden beds, starting seeds indoors, and planting hardy, cool-season crops as soon as the soil is dry and workable. Key activities include pruning woody plants, fertilizing trees and lawns, planting early vegetables like peas and spinach, and attending Extension workshops.

Soil Preparation & Planting: It's important to test your soil before planting. March is a great time to contact the Ohio State Extension Office in Canfield for assistance.

Once the soil is dry, plant hardy vegetables such as asparagus, rhubarb, onions, kale, carrots, and peas. Plant early shrubs, fruit trees, and berries, including blueberries and strawberries.



March is the right time to start seeds indoors. Start tender plants like tomatoes, peppers, petunias, and herbs indoors to transplant later. Be sure to use sterile soil to prevent damping off.

- It's also a great time for pruning & maintenance. Prune woody landscape plants, fruit trees, and grapes before they break dormancy. Trim back any ornamental grasses. For your lawn, rake debris from the lawn, fertilize, and repair damaged areas once the soil is dry.



- Consider educational opportunities, attend local Master Gardener workshops, such as those in Mahoning County, to learn more about soil health, seed starting, and pruning.



- Remember, avoid soil compaction! Do not work in the garden if the soil is too wet; digging in wet soil destroys its structure.

- And don't forget our native wildlife. Continue to feed birds and wildlife, as natural food sources are still limited.

OSU Planting Calendar

March

Garden Planting

After March 15

- Asparagus
- Collards
- Onion (sets)
- Peas
- Radish
- Spinach
- Turnips

After March 25

- Leeks
- Mustard
- Potatoes

April

Garden Planting

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Swiss chard
- Collards
- Leeks
- Lettuce

After April 15

- Broccoli
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cauliflower

- Mustard
- Onion (sets)
- Peas
- Potato
- Radish
- Spinach
- Turnips

May

Garden Planting

- Beans (pole, bush, wax)
- Beets
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Swiss chard

After May 15

- Cucumbers
- Eggplant
- Muskmelons
- Peppers
- Pumpkins

- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Onion (sets)
- Radish
- Sweet Corn
- Turnips

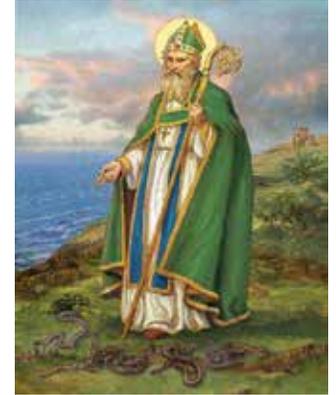
- Squash (summer, winter)
- Sweet potato
- Tomatoes
- Watermelon



March 2026

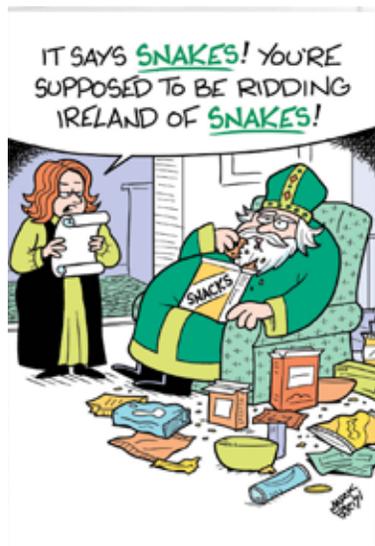
The Germinator

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick is a religious and cultural holiday held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick was a 5th-century Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy family. His father was a Christian deacon and his grandfather a priest. According to the Declaration, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he found God. The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest. According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The Declaration says that he spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland and converted thousands. Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick.



Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and, by extension, celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, ceilithe and the wearing of green attire or Shamrocks. Christians who belong to liturgical denominations also attend Church services. Historically, the Lenten restrictions on fasting and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day, which has encouraged the holiday's tradition of revelry.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador (for provincial government employees), and the British Overseas Territory of Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated in places with a community of large Irish population, such as Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival. Modern celebrations have been greatly influenced by those of the Irish descent, particularly those that developed in North America. However, there has been criticism of Saint Patrick's Day celebrations for having become too commercialized, for their connection to drinking culture and for fostering negative stereotypes of the Irish people.



May your troubles be less
& your blessings be
more and nothing
but happiness come
through your door.

Irish Blessing



March 2026



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.

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

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.burtonfloralandgarden.net

Century 21 Real Estate/Canfield
Tibitha Maheney
6715 Tippicanoe Rd. #102
Canfield, OH 44506
330-501-9085

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

DJ's Greenhouse
1004 East Lake Rd.
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154
724-962-1230
www.djsgreenhouse.com

Edward Jones/Salem
John Wise
2380 Southeast Blvd. Unit B
Salem, OH 44460
330-332-1256

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

From The Heart Floral
41 Lisbon St.
Canfield, OH 44406
330-702-1792
www.fromtheheartfloralandgifts.com

Gardening-Indoor
6951 Southern Blvd.
Boardman, OH 44512
330-758-0272

Heritage Country Store
364 Lisbon St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-5551
www.heritagecountrystore.com

Jimmy's Italian Specialties
3230 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

Kim's Confections
7 Lisbon St.
Canfield, OH 44506
234-414-7099

L&M Greenhouse
43091 Columbiana-Waterford Rd.
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-482-3209

Mijavec Feed & Supply
294 Cheriwood Rd.
Pulaski, PA 16143
724-964-8933

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.petittigardencenters.com

Piccadilly Parlour
114 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406
330-533-4749
www.piccadillytearoom.com

Rumpled Queen
387 S. Broadway St.
Salem, OH 44460
234-320-4014

Star Supply
875 Mahoning Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44502
330-746-2969

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

The Marketplace at Creekside
3680 N. River Rd.
Warren, OH 44484
330-856-1641

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

Village Quilter
17 W. Main Street
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-0545
www.villagequiltscanfield.com

Western Reserve Nursery & Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44514
330-758-8889

Whitehouse Fruit Farms
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-4161
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

The Wild Herb Company
157 S. Main St.
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-892-0682
www.wilderb.com



March 2026

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Calendar of Events

March 3, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
March 3, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
April 7, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
April 7, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
May 7, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
May 7, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
May 6-9, 2026	Spring Plant Sale	10AM-6PM	MASCO Greenhouse	South Avenue
June 2, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
June 2, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
July 7, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
July 7, 2026	General Meeting	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

