



April 2025



The Germinator

President's Message

Happy April, Gardeners - the last few days of warm weather make it seem like Spring is just around the corner... hope you've planned your planting and are gathering seeds.

For me, Spring is the season of possibilities, of hope, of color as daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and even snow drops break through the barren Winter landscape and spread vibrant colors everywhere.

One of the first, colorful signs of Spring is our own Spring Plant Sale! Bruce Brungard and John Schinker report that things are well underway in the Masco greenhouse. We need your help - especially in the crucial watering - as well as the all important help on sale days.



Contact Bruce and get on the schedule! Be sure to talk to your gardening friends and neighbors and encourage them to come out to the sale - it's a great place to get great prices for Spring planting. Proceeds go to a great cause: helping us in our community gardening efforts as well as our scholarship program... a win, win, win!

Our April meeting is a dinner meeting - check your email for the menu, then tell us if you're attending - we need to get attendance number to the caterer!

Clare

April Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, 6:30pm, Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park

Speaker: Bernadette - *Gardening Indoors*

Lemon Chicken, Veggy Lasagna, Salad, Redskins & Green Beans

Sign up with Pat Murphy, 330-635-8180, pjmurphy0900@aol.com

Advise if you can bring a dessert. Deadline: March 24th - \$15

Spring Plant Sale

Wednesday thru Saturday, May 7th - 10th

*We'll need all hands on deck for transplanting,
watering and working the sale.*

Contact Bruce Brungard to see how you can help.



Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 1st

Stacey Pavilion

Austintown Park

Board Meeting - 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Dinner Meeting - 6:30pm

Speaker: Bernadette

Gardening Indoors

Guests Welcome

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Odes to Spring

William Wordsworth - *Lines of Spring*

Through primrose tufts,

In the green bower,

The periwinkle trailed in wreaths;

And 'tis my faith that every flower

Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,

Their thoughts I cannot measure: -

But the least motion which they made

It seemed a thrill of pleasure...

Emily Dickinson - *A Light in Spring*

A Light exists in Spring

Not present on the Year

At any other period -

When April is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad

On Solitary Fields

That Science cannot overtake

But Human Nature feels...

William Shakespeare - *Sonnet 98*

From you have I been absent in the spring,

*When proud pied April dress'd in all his
trim.*

*Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laugh'd and leap'd with
him...*

Club News

GOGY Member Awards

Awards Committee Chair John Schinker presented Certificates of Honor awards to outstanding members at our March membership meeting: Birt Underwood for his many contributions including our Horticulture Show and Winter Seminar; Lisa Nicklash, our 2nd V.P., for her leadership including the Hort Show and Winter Seminar; Barb Arquilla for her many contributions including our Spring Plant Sale and Winter Seminar; Bob Schulick for chairing our Scholarship Committee; and 1st V.P. Pat Murphy for her leadership, seminar participation and those delicious meeting refreshments.



Bottom: Birt Underwood & Lisa Nicklash;
Top: Barb Arquilla, Bob Schulick & Pat Murphy.

Big Seminar Winner

She didn't notice the lottery scratch-off tickets in her winning Winter Seminar basket until she got home. The immigrant from Taiwan and Gardeners of Greater Cleveland member was elated to find her Million Dollar Bonanza instant lottery ticket paid \$50,000.

University Hospitals' Internist Dr. Hui Phu Ew, seen her in a Face Book post, couldn't contain her glee and will use the windfall to update her century Euclid home and its garden areas. She plans to attend our April meeting to thank our organization, and intends to spend big at our Spring Plant Sale for annuals to make her landscapes explode in color.

Congratulations!



DJ: Our Info & Plant Source

In what has become a club tradition, Dennis James has given a presentation at one of our membership meetings every year. DJ's Greenhouse and Gardens in Transfer, PA, is now entering its 42nd year. It is not only a great source of plants, but a great day trip to admire the beauty that the horticulture industry has produced. Our club is planning a group tour sometime in the near future and we hope to have a good turnout.

Dennis also gives classes and demonstrations from April thru November. For example, this month features Spinning Bowl, Veggie, Garden Plate, and Succulent Garden classes. There is also a guest speaker and a Afternoon Tea. Go to www.djsgreenhouse.com for a complete schedule. Reservations are required.

At our March meeting, Dennis displayed a variety of beautiful, unusual house plants, and talked about a variety of subjects including a Q & A session. He cautioned against using systemics in the garden as they can have negative effects on pollinators. He also mentioned a glow-in-the-dark petunia that exhibits bioluminescence.



You're Needed At The Greenhouse

Greenhouse committee chair Bruce Brungard and John Schinker report that activities for our Spring Plant Sale in May are well underway. They'll need volunteers for transplanting plugs and regularly watering. Sign up at our April meeting or contact Bruce. FlyingHigh Inc. rehabilitation services has ordered 100 hanging baskets and another large order is pending so our sale inventory may be somewhat larger than last year.

A Bargain for a Buck

You don't get much for a dollar these days, but for that price you can't beat the refreshments including the delicious baked offerings at our membership meetings. Please remember to put a dollar in the donation cup when partaking of the snacks and drinks. Even if everyone pays, our club still takes a loss on refreshments.



The Germinator



Climate Change Effect on Pollinators



April 22nd marks another Earth Day when many of us turn our attention to the beauty and gifts our planet has given us. The Holocene epoch has given rise to the most diverse flora and fauna ever in the planet's 4 billion year history of life do to a stable climate.. We have, unfortunately, entered the Anthropogenic epoch where human activity has altered the planet's environment in a relative blink of a geological eye.

It started when many primitive cultures went from a hunter-gatherer existence to clearing land and planting crops. Fast forward to the 8.2 billion people alive today facing an uncertain future when it comes to food. Arable land is limited resource that is being depleted at a rapid rate. To make matters worse, the standard of living in many developing nations is rising, as has the demand for animal sourced sustenance.

Pork, chickens, dairy and eggs stress our planet's resources and cause the release of greenhouse gases at a much greater rate than plants. Beef agriculture, however, is much more demanding. It requires 28 times more land, 6 times more fertilizer, and 11 times more clean water. Result: About 5 times more greenhouse gas emissions. Feeding the large and growing world population requires increased reliance on plant-based food sources.

To do so, a healthy population of pollinators is a necessity because 75% of all crops grown around the world depend on them. It is estimated that pollinators contribute nearly \$600 billion to the world economy annually. Without them, crop cultivation becomes difficult threatening food supplies and prices globally.

Plants that have no dependency on pollinators are cereals, roots and tubers, some legumes, sugar, and some fruits and vegetables. Those with little dependency (0-10%) are some fruits and vegetables, oil crops, some legumes and groundnuts. Those with modest dependency (10-40%) are some oil crops, soybeans, some fruits, coconuts, okra, and coffee. Those with high dependency (40-90%) are some fruits, nuts and avocados. Those of which pollinators are essential are some fruits, cocoa beans and Brazil nuts.

Average butterfly populations have halved since 1991, and bee populations face a steep decline. Intensive farming practices involve the use of harmful chemicals but climate change has exasperated the problem. Rising temperatures and increasingly frequent extreme weather events affect invertebrate

food sources and habitats. Blooming times occur earlier than pollinators become active. Wild plants on which insects depend are moving north. One study finds that the sugar content of nectar decreases as temperatures rise. Attracting odors of flowers are also negatively affected.

Pollinators and the plants on which they depend are only able to survive on the specific climate conditions in which they evolved. Fast evolving climate conditions have been known to be overcome (plasticity) by some plants and invertebrates. Some species of wild bees can advance their emergence time when winters are warmer, and match the advancing in the flowering season associated with warmer winters or early springs. But they are the exception.

Most species respond by dispersing to new regions like moving north or to higher elevations. This may not be possible when, do to human activity, new regions do not offer the right habitat. Such affected species see their ranges becoming increasingly smaller until their populations become too small to avoid extinction.

One way the average gardener can assist pollinator populations is by offering nesting areas like piles of pruning debris or bare soil areas. We can also help by planting primrose, garlic mustard (don't tell Metro-Parks), sweet rocket aubretia, and honesty in spring. In summer plant honeysuckle, hebe, lavender, red valerian and yarrow. In autumn plant ivy, hyssop, ice plant, sweet scabious and michaelmas daisy. These plants are predicted to withstand warmer temperatures advancing north.

Editor's opinion: The United States has long been regarded as "the essential nation" where the peoples of the world have long admired and envied our freedoms, democracy and generosity when disasters occur. Stepping up has often resulted in our becoming richer and stronger. While history has bestowed great gifts on this nation, we also bear significant responsibility for the world's deteriorating environment.

The U.S. has now entered an era of isolation and environmental agnosticism. Our billionaire ruling class, living in walled enclaves, seems to feel their riches will put a fence around their butts. Some even see our species living in colonies in space. A saner course would be to set an example and encourage other nations to do all they can to preserve the beauty, diversity and civilization that a stable, predictable climate has so blessed humanity.

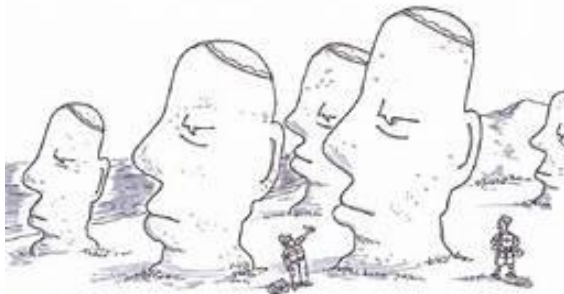


The Germinator



High, Holy & Silly Holidays

THE MYSTERY OF PASSOVER ISLAND



How does the rabbi make coffee on Passover?

Hebrews it.

What were the Jews saying during the pandemic Passover?

"Well, this isn't the worst Passover we've ever had."

Why isn't Jesus kosher for Passover?

Because He is risen.



Our Lord has written of the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.



Gotta love Jesus. . On His birthday we get presents. He goes to live with Dad, and we get chocolate.

Ever consider that golf is just an adult form of an Easter egg hunt?

A farmer plays a prank on Easter Sunday. After the egg hunt, he sneaks into the chicken coop and replaces every white egg with a brightly colored one. Minutes later, the rooster walks in. He spots the colored

eggs, then storms out and beats up the peacock.

I'm combining Easter with April Fools Day this year. I'm sending the kids out to find eggs I haven't hidden.

We were reminded of an old April Fools prank. Heat water near boiling and fill ice cube trays. Add in fake plastic bugs or, if it's for a July 4th party, use live Japanese beetles. The hot water and/or distilled water make for the clearest cubes.

Five DIY Liquid Fertilizer Recipes

Liquid fertilizers offer advantages over granular varieties. They are easier to apply, act more quickly and can be applied more uniformly. They work well for feeding seedlings and new plants, and are much better suited for container plants. Granular products create areas of high salt content, and can wash away in heavy rains. Organic liquid fertilizers are much kinder to the environment. Here are inexpensive DIY teas:

Weed Tea – Half fill a 5 gallon bucket with weeds and add water. Cover with mesh to keep out mosquitoes. Let it sit for a few weeks to brew. Strain off the weeds and use the liquid as fertilizer. Some weeds species will have higher concentrations of nutrients so vary the weeds. Apply no more than every two weeks.

Compost Tea – Solid compost takes time to break down to a level plants can use. This recipe will speed up the process. Put well-aged compost to a third of a bucket and top off with water letting it sit one to two weeks. Strain the mixture. It is best to use it as soon as you strain it. Apply every couple of weeks.

Manure Tea – If you have access to manure, this tea will give plants a nitrogen boost while bearing in mind that too much nitrogen can be a problem especially for flowering and fruiting plants. Use this tea for plants showing a need for nitrogen or to encourage leaf growth.

Fill a bucket to a third and top off with water. Let it stand for a few days, stirring daily. Strain the tea and pour off the liquid to use. Dilute if necessary. The color should resemble ice tea or it will be too strong. Apply every week or two. Manures from chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, horses or cows are fine.

Banana Peel Tonic – Brew by keeping a pitcher or jar of water in the refrigerator and add peels as you consume bananas. The cold temperature will keep it from getting too stinky. After about a week, strain the mixture for a potassium-rich tea.

The resulting potassium boost is great for flowering and fruit production on plants like tomatoes, peppers and squash. Apply it to seedlings and plants every few weeks. Compost the dregs.

Eggshell Tonic – Tea from eggshells provides calcium, a micronutrient for vegetables to promote healthy growth and prevent blossom end rot. Boil 10 – 12 clean egg shells in a gallon of water and let it sit 24 hrs. Strain and water. .

Homemade liquid fertilizers are easy to make. Use these tonics as needed in spring, throughout summer, and year-round for potted house plants.

Source: gardenknowhow.com



**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
330-729-9900

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.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.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

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
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Heritage Country Store
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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
Lois Martin-Uscianowski
Member
330.727.8340

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.villagequiltsanfield.com

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

Windy Knoll Greenhouse
3005 S Range Rd
Columbiana, Ohio 44408
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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown
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www.GG-YO.org



Calendar of Events



April 1, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 1, 2025 Membership Mtg 6:15PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 6, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 6, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 7-10, 2025 .. Spring Plant Sale 9AM-6PM ... MASCO Greenhouse South Ave.
June 3, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
June 3, 2025 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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