



The Germinator

February 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members!

As we prepare to welcome in the month of February, there is a flurry of activity! We are making our way towards the active gardening season and February is an all-important month for gardeners ~ Its a time for research and information gathering as we peruse countless seed catalogs, consider trying new flower or vegetable varieties or re-designing a garden area, recalling what didn't work last year, and always, always seeking ways to successfully manage/control garden pests!! For GOGY members, February has additional interest because of our Annual Winter Seminar on Feb. 21st – just a few weeks away! Registration closes on Feb 1st. Don't miss this opportunity to further your preparation for the planting that is just a short time away!

At the time of this newsletter, our Seminar planning team is wrapping up the final details with the Friends of Fellows team for the event. Donations are being collected and accepted from Community businesses and GOGY members for the much-anticipated basket raffle. If you can spare some time helping with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Reach out to me or Tom Arens for more details. Donating an item for a basket or a gift card for the basket raffle is a great way to support this Club event, if you are not able to attend. Donations can be brought to our next meeting on Feb. 3rd, and will be accepted through Feb. 13t. At that meeting we will also be seeking volunteers for a variety of "helper" jobs at the Seminar. With your help, it will be another successful program! Stay warm and happy garden planning!!

Pat

Meetings Schedule

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Austintown Township Park
Stacy Pavilion

Board Meeting 5:30pm All
Members Welcome

Membership Meeting 7pm

Program:

Williamson Innovation Park
Guests Welcome

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Winter Seminar 2026

Saturday, February 21, 2026
Byzantine Center at the Grove

Doors Open - 8:45am

4 Accredited Speakers

Continental Breakfast, Catered Lunch, Raffle

Baskets, Door Prizes & More!

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

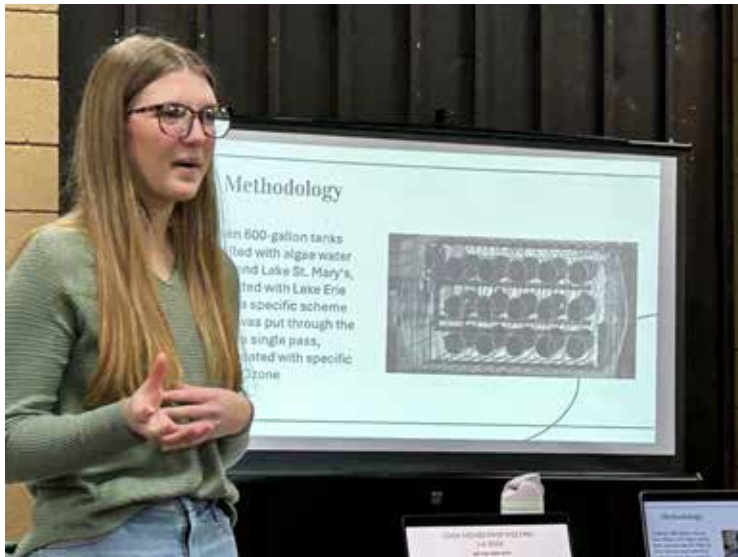




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CLUB NEWS



One Busy Young Woman

Two-time GoGY scholarship recipient MacKensie Kelso returned to our January meeting with a more in-depth presentation on nanobubble ozone technology, or NBOT. Nutrient runoff from farms, industry and animal waste causing HABs, or harmful algae blooms making the water toxic. This toxic water has far reaching effects on wildlife and, ultimately, humans. The NBOT system uses microscopic ozone-filled bubbles for effective, chemical-free water treatment, producing hydroxyl radicals that kill algae and toxins. Successful field trials at lakes in Ohio found the NBOT technology effective at reducing blooms and toxins while being gentler on beneficial organisms than traditional algaecides. Managers at the tested lakes report there was no need to curtail recreational activities after NBOT treatment as was needed in prior years.

MacKensie took part in the project as part of her Environmental Science major at Ohio State, Columbus. This summer she will be interning with MS Consultants here in Youngstown, you may see here out and about with them in MillCreek MetroParks.



While MacKensie is no longer eligible for future scholarships, she wants to thank GOGY members for their support.

"I had no idea of all the additional expenses once I started class," she reports, "but the scholarships helped immensely. I am so grateful for everything."

Looking for Volunteers

GOGY's Committee Chairs are looking for help from a few members. Check out the list of committees and the chair for each and reach out to find out how you can help. Volunteering won't require a lot of time, but will result in greater success for our club.

Membership: Tom Arens- mansell713@sbcglobal.net

Greenhouse: Bruce Brungard- bgbhhi@live.com

Community Proj.: Mike Banks- mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

Scholarship: Tom Arens- mansell713@sbcglobal.net

Hort Show: Lisa Nicklash - lisanicklash@yahoo.com

Hort Show: Birt Underwood - bunderwood@gmail.com

Hospitality: Helene Viano - mavies2@aol.com

Germinator: Clare Neff - clare.neff@icloud.com





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Benefits of Indoor Gardening

Many gardeners enjoy growing a variety of plants indoors – especially when Ohio winters keep us from gardening outside! House plants are great at cleaning the air in our homes and offices, but they have the added benefit of helping boost our immune systems, scrub the air of toxins and help improve our overall well-being. Here are just a few.

Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera has so many benefits that it is hard to name them all. This plant grows great indoors and can be used in juices, applied topically or used as an air scrubber. For best results, keep your plant in a warm area near natural light. Kitchen counters are a good option. Plant in succulent soil that is fast draining, and water thoroughly when the soil is completely dry. The most common mistake when caring for an Aloe plant is overwatering.



on the list. They like direct sunlight and warmer temperatures. Keeping them in front of an east or west facing window will produce full blooms. Water the soil under the leaves as needed.

Warneck Dracaenas

Dracaenas are great air scrubbers and can improve the symptoms of asthma and allergies. They are low maintenance and prefer filtered light or semi-shade. A Dracaena's growth will adjust depending on the amount of light received. The less light the plants get, the less water is needed. Mist the leaves and soil when dry. Other immune-boosting properties include; stress and anxiety reduction, absorption of odors and molds, headache relief, improved mood, improved brain function, increased energy levels, boosted healing, and lowering of blood pressure.



Spider Plants

Spider Plants are especially good at scrubbing the air of carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde. By helping remove these toxins, they increase oxygen levels in a room, which improves a number of body functions. Spider plants are easy to care for and thrive in almost any indoor conditions. They prefer bright indirect light, but will do well in all conditions except direct sunlight. Water thoroughly through the summer and mist the leaves occasionally. Cut back on watering through the winter.



Snake Plants

Snake Plants are among the easiest of all house plants to care for. They decrease levels of formaldehyde which are found in many household products. Snake Plants have also been proven to help you sleep, making them great additions to your bedroom. They are very forgiving, and can go weeks without water or light and still thrive. For best results keep them in indirect light, and water only when the soil is completely dry.



Chrysanthemums

Similar to Aloe, Chrysanthemums have a variety of uses that will improve your overall well-being. They scrub the air of benzene, and the flowers can be used in teas. Mums require a bit more care than some of the other plants



Peace Lily

Symbolizing a harmonious home, the peace lily is one of the most loved houseplants. Above a mass of large, glossy evergreen leaves that stand tall and proud, the plant intermittently sends up white arrow-shaped spathes. The peace lily is a tolerant, unfussy houseplant, it demands moisture and bright, indirect light in the home. The peace lily's current surge in popularity is due, in part, to its impressive air purification powers. Research carried out by NASA found it to be one of the best plants for creating a healthy atmosphere in a sealed and is highly efficient at removing pollutants such as benzene, formaldehyde, acetone, and toluene from the air.

Water regularly during the growing season, so that the compost stays moist. Keep the compost consistently moist in summer, water less frequently in winter. In hard water areas, use rainwater or leave a watering can of tap water to stand for several hours to allow the chlorine to disperse before using it.





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Benefits of Snow

Yes, there are benefits to a large snowfall. While we all moan when the weather forecast warns of a large snowfall, and we all hate the idea of shoveling in order to go anywhere, as gardeners we should welcome the snow - including the 12-18 inches we just experienced, because snow's influence on the weather and climate continues long after the storm ends. Because snow is highly reflective, a vast amount of sunlight that hits the snow is reflected back into space instead of warming the planet. Without snow cover, the ground absorbs about four to six times more of the sun's energy. The presence or absence of snow controls patterns of heating and cooling over Earth's land surface more than any other single land surface feature.

Beyond weather and climate, snow has far-reaching effects on people because of snow's importance to global food and water. In areas that get a large majority of their water from winter snowpacks, snow droughts could mean lower water availability in the spring and summer. It also means lower generation of hydropower.

Snow provides significant environmental benefits, acting as an insulating blanket to protect plant roots and soil from extreme cold, delivering essential nitrogen and moisture as it melts (earning it the nickname "poor man's fertilizer"), and preventing soil erosion while supporting wildlife by creating a unique habitat beneath it, making it vital for healthy ecosystems and water resources.

Insulation:

Snow traps air, acting like a natural mulch that protects plant roots from damaging freeze-thaw cycles and deep frost, preventing root damage and soil heaving.

Moisture:

It slowly melts, providing a gradual, beneficial release of water into the soil, preventing drought risks in spring and summer.

Fertilizer:

As snow falls, it picks up atmospheric nitrogen, which is released into the soil as a natural fertilizer when it melts.

Erosion Control:

A blanket of snow protects the soil surface from wind and water, reducing erosion.

The Season of Love

In all the world, there is no heart for me like yours

Maya Angelou

Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.

Robert A.

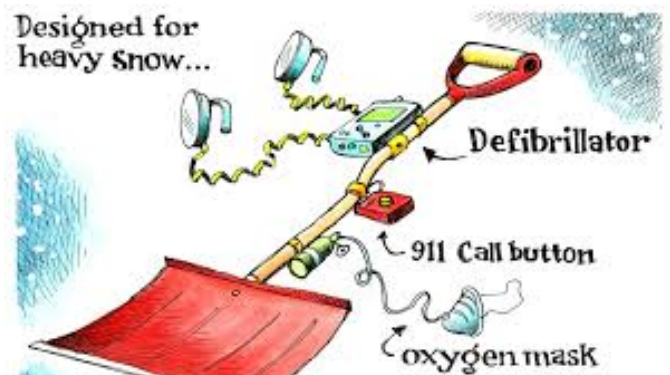
Heinlen, Author

You can't blame gravity for falling in love.

Albert Einstein

If not for you, my sky would fall. Rain would gather, too. Without your love, I'd be nowhere at all. I'd be lost, if not for you.

Bob Dylan





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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.**

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.bloomingcrazy-flowers.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.burtonfloralandgarden.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
<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

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.villagequiltscanfield.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 www.windyknollgreenhouse.com

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Suite 432 Youngstown, Ohio
44503 330-742-4040 <https://youngstowncityscape.org>



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Calendar of Events

February 3, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 3, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 21, 2026	Winter Seminar 2026	8:30AM	Byzantine Center at the Grove	Shady Run Road
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

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

