



The Germinator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All! Happy June!

Summer is finally starting and our gardens are coming into their own ~ we can see our earlier efforts are paying off in buds and blooms. But we know gardens require maintenance, so here we are in the season of intentional watering, deadheading, staking, and of course, weeding. Ah! The joys of gardening!! There are many and we are fortunate to know them!

Many of us will be tending plants purchased at our recent Plant Sale. Thanks to Bruce and Mike, and the watering teams, there were abundant, healthy plants to choose from. To all the members who volunteered to make this Plant Sale another success – THANK YOU!!!

Every year a team of GOGY members volunteer to plant at the Veteran's memorial in town as part of the CityScape beautification project. THANK YOU to those who showed up on May 19th to continue this tradition. For 2027, we hope to also have a GOGY team participate in CityScape's city-wide Planting Day.

GOGY's Community projects at Gabba Camp and in Austintown Park are underway. Mike Banks will be asking for members to volunteer to help maintain the plantings at both sites over the next few months. Please watch your emails for notifications.

Our much-anticipated annual Potluck Dinner (bring your favorite recipe to share) and Plant Auction will take place Tuesday, June 2nd. Many of us have been dividing and culling our plants to share. No doubt those attending will not leave empty handed.... Too hard to resist just one more plant!! Remember, guests are welcome!!! Dinner will start at 6pm; auction starts at 6:45.

Note ~ there will be a July meeting on Tuesday, July 7th with a guest speaker from the Hudson Garden Club, and pending their availability, the introduction of our 2026 Student Scholarship recipients.

Stay tuned for details about upcoming local Garden Tour opportunities during the next few months.

Remember to send photos of your gardens to Clare so they can be shared in this newsletter and/or during membership meetings. I know you have amazing and beautiful things in your gardens!

Wishing you all sun-filled days for gardening!

Pat

To all the Fathers and Grandfathers,
Happy Father's Day!!!



"Gardens give more than beauty—they offer peace, nourishment, and a place where the soul can rest."

- Alfred Austin

Save The Date!

Planning is underway for our 62nd Annual Horticulture Show, scheduled for August 29th & 30th in the DD Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Once again, there is no entry fee, a full schedule will be available for download on our website. Please share with family, friends and neighbors to make this another outstanding event.

Meetings Schedule

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Austintown Township Park

Stacy Pavilion

Board Meeting 5:30pm All

Members Welcome

Pot Luck Dinner 6pm

Plant Auction - 6:45

Guests Welcome

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"Every color means liberty. Every thread means liberty. Every star and stripe means liberty."

- Woodrow Wilson

"In every fold of the flag, there's a story of courage."

- Anonymous

"Our flag is not just one of many political points of view. Rather, the flag is a symbol of our national unity."

- Adrian Cronauer



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Club News

May Meeting Recap

Following the May meeting, Pat Murphy emailed the updated membership directory to all members. If you did not see it in your inbox, please let Pat know. The directory is also available on the members section of our website. If you do not have access to that section of the website, please email Clare - clare.neff@icloud.com. She will send you the invitation to join, you then go to gg-yo.org, enter your email address and set your password.

Tom Arens announced a new gardening apron available to members and Pat Simon took a minute to model it. Let Tom know if you're interested in purchasing, the cost is just \$15.



Annual Plant Auction

It's time again for our annual plant auction! It's your opportunity to thin out your garden, bring those healthy plants to the auction and help fund our community projects. Guests are always welcome to club meetings, but especially for the auction, so

invite your family, friends and neighbors. It's an economical way to add beautiful plants to your garden. Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood are organizing this event and have a few tips to help make the sale a success.



Community Projects

Community Projects Chair Mike Banks was busy in spite of the weather at both Gabba Camp and Stacy Pavilion at Austintown Park.



At Gabba Camp, Mike placed 2 of the remaining baskets from the plant sale and is planning on returning Saturday, May 29th to plant the remaining flowers. Mike could definitely use your help. Text or call 330.565.0592 if you can give him a hand.

Mike was able to plant dahlias from the plant sale at Austintown Park, and is planning on adding annuals to the platform at the lake. Contact Mike for date and time.

Part of the club's mission statement, established almost one hundred years ago, is to use our expertise to help beautify our community. Members are encouraged to join in community projects whenever possible.

Club Events

Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood are opening their gardens - and their home - for members on July 9th. (We heard there was a kitchen remodel including a chef's table)! Details to follow.

Also, on July 30th, Tom Arens has arranged a guided tour of the Hippley Gardens in Columbiana, definitely worth a visit! Tom will have the details.

GOGY Plant Auction

June 2, 2026

Help make our annual plant auction beautiful and successful by bringing healthy, well-prepared plants ready for their new homes!

Plant Donation Guidelines

- Plants should be healthy, pest-free, and attractive in appearance.
- Please pot plants securely in clean containers.
- Clearly label each plant with as much information as possible.
- Include either the botanical name and/or common name.
- Indicate whether the plant prefers sun, part sun, or shade.
- Specify if the plant is an annual, perennial, vegetable, herb, or houseplant.
- Helpful extras are encouraged: bloom color, height, watering needs, fragrance, pollinator appeal, deer resistance, etc.
- Divisions, seedlings, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and specialty plants are all welcome!

Thank you for helping make the auction colorful, informative, and inspiring! 🌸🌿🍷

Please be sure to bring cash or checks for your purchase. There won't be an option for credit/debit cards.



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Meet Our Members



Pat Murphy has held many positions since joining GOGY, from Hospitality Chair to 1st Vice President and now President. Pat attended our 2021 Winter Seminar and enjoyed the sessions so much she joined GOGY in 2022. She is also a

vital contributing member of the Winter Seminar Committee, organizing and arranging the basket raffle, among other duties. In 2023 she completed the OSU Master Gardener program and remains active as a Master Gardener Volunteer.

A lover of all flowers, zinnias are her favorites. While her garden space is limited, Pat admits she doesn't leave a greenhouse without making a purchase. She marvels at her perennials that return each year, attributing it to 'divine intervention', but the care she takes in her plants is probably the true



reason. Pat believes the upcoming 100 year anniversary of GOGY speaks to the determination of members over the years to maintain and promote the club's mission to increase "the understanding of gardening and encourage and promote the beautification of

our community". Based on the current educational and social activities offered to members and the growing engagement in our community, she feels GOGY will continue to grow, building on its strong foundation by adjusting to the needs and interests of both new and long-time members.

A graduate of Boardman High School, she completed undergraduate study at YSU, graduate work at KSU with a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, and continues to provide vocational services. Pat has 2 sisters, 2 daughters, a grandson and a second grandchild expected in January.

Looking Ahead

July 7

We welcome Pat Rydquist, from the Hudson Garden Club for a presentation titled *We Need Spiders!*

Pat is a retired Interpretive Naturalist for Summit Metro Parks where she spent 20 years giving programs on birds, butterflies, moths, history and encouraging preschoolers to love the outdoors. After



retiring and being with her grandchildren until they started school she joined the Hudson Garden Club. There she got involved with their Grants, Scholarship, Herb and

Program committees. She is presently Co-Vice President of the HGC and on the board of the Hudson Heritage Association. She is also working with the City of Hudson's Environmental Awareness Committee to develop resources residents can easily access for information on native plants, trees, water retention, and pesticide free yards..

August 29-30



Our 62nd Annual Horticulture Show returns to the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood are in the planning stages for this

wonderful event. The schedule will be posted on our website as soon as it's finalized.

Lisa and Birt will be looking for volunteer help from members to make this show another success. Contact Lisa - lisanicklash@yahoo.com if you can help.

September 3-7

The Canfield Fair's horticulture show returns, we will be looking for member volunteers to help with our booth. Members are also encouraged to enter the competition. Information is available on the fair's website, look for registration information online.



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How Much Mulch

by Tom Arens



Member Tom Arens, always on the lookout for poor mulching decisions, contributed this information on when mulch is too much.

This time of year gardeners face many dilemmas, but some of the most puzzling are related to mulch. There are mountains of mulch rising out

of the ground at garden centers; and anywhere there is a parking lot, mulch in plastic bags are stacked like a bulwark against an invading army. We cover our gardens with mulch to suppress weeds, retain moisture, feed the soil, or in some cases, just to create "curb appeal". There is much about mulch on-line that you can read/view, so I won't attempt a comprehensive review. The following are some tips that I personally have found useful.

One of the biggest mistakes a gardener can make is using too little or too much mulch. The other is putting mulch where you shouldn't. Here is an easy formula for deciding how much mulch you need. It will require using the middle school math that you may or may not remember.

1. Calculate the area you want to cover in square feet. If your area is not rectangular, you will have to estimate.
2. Multiply by the desired depth, written in a percentage of feet. For example 3 inches is .25 feet. This gives you the number of cubic feet you will need.
3. Divide this number by 27 (the number of square feet in a cubic yard).
4. Mulch is usually sold in cubic yards.

Most gardeners consider 3 inches of mulch as optimum in most areas. Less is ineffective. 6" or more creates the possibility of heating up too much. There are some plants that need mulch and some that don't (see below). For plants in the former category keep the mulch away from where multiple stems emerge from the ground (eg, Hostas).



Of course, mulch covering the flare of a tree will kill it eventually (see "mulch volcanoes").

If you mulch before you plant, scrape away enough mulch and plant directly

in soil.

Other tips:

Use organic mulch such as shredded tree bark or arborist chippings (usually free). I prefer single shredded mulch bc it is coarser and won't decompose as quickly. Avoid shredded pallets or other shredded scrap wood due to the possibility of petroleum/chemical contamination.

Do not use plastic sheeting or even landscape fabric if you ever want to till the ground in the future. I prefer bio-degradable non-colored newspapers or cardboard. The latter is easily available at recycling dumpsters. If you are sure you do not want anything to grow in an area, black plastic sheeting (6 mil at least) covered with stones is a good idea. Another use for black plastic sheeting is to cover an area temporarily in order to kill especially notorious weeds such as thistle.

These plants need mulch: Hostas, Tomatoes, Azaleas/Rhododendrums, Hydrangeas, and newly planted trees and shrubs. These plants do not need mulch as much: Mediterranean Herbs, Daylilies, Bearded Iris, Lamb's Ears, and Lavender.

Facebook Source: gardenloversclub.com



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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.**

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330-482-3209

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724-964-8933

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330-782-2004

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June 2026



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FOR THE GERMINATOR

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Calendar of Events

June 2, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
June 2, 2026	Plant Auction	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
August 4, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
August 4, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Sept 1, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Sept 1, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Sept 3-7, 2026	Canfield Fair		The Fairgrounds	Canfield
Oct. 6, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Oct. 6, 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: gardenersofgreteryoungstown@gmail.com

Membership Committee

P.O. Box 612

North Jackson, OH 44451

or on our website at www.gg-yo.org

