



May 2025



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Welcome to our May meeting ... at the end of April! Sorry for any confusion, but Austintown Park is a location for voting, making it unavailable for us on May 5th.

If you haven't volunteered at the greenhouse recently, you're in for a great surprise - everything is growing and blooming! John Schinker and Bruce Brungard and their troop of volunteers have an amazing array of healthy plants ready for our plant sale. Thanks to everyone who has donated their time and expertise for this very important fundraiser for the club. Help is still needed every day of the sale, tell Bruce the days and times you're available!

Be sure to tell your family, friends and neighbors to stop in May 7th - 10th for their spring planting. You'll notice something new for us this year - miniature sunflowers. Bruce and John made space available for Friends of Fellows, since they aren't able to hold their sale this year. They tell us those sunflowers are a big hit for kids looking for a Mother's Day gift.

We have 2 speakers this month; Joe Morrison, one of our scholarship winners returns with a program on an aspect of the work he's doing at school and Mike Iberis from Second Harvest has a special request.

See you Tuesday!

Clare

Spring Plant Sale

Wednesday thru Saturday, May 7th - 10th, 9am-6pm

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

Contact Bruce Brungard to see how you can help.

Greenhouse Inventory April 5th & More To Come



Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 29

Austintown Twsp. Park

Board Meeting - 5:30pm *All*

Members Welcome

Membership Meeting - 7pm

Speaker: Mike Iberis

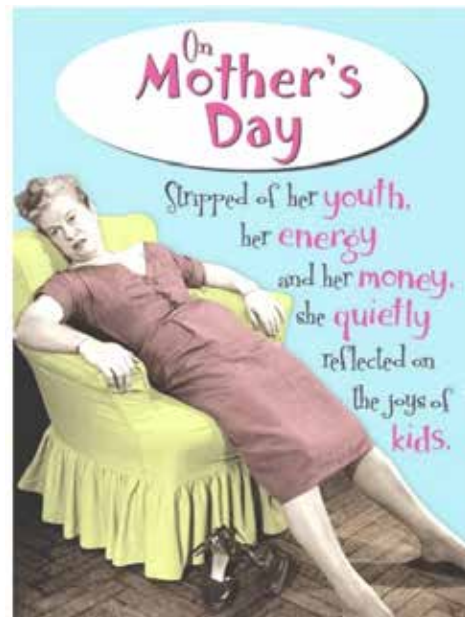
Food Bank Administrator

& 2024 Scholarship Winner

Guests Welcome

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BE BEE FRIENDLY!

May
20th
National
Bee Day



NO PESTICIDES!



Club News

New Member

Susan McMann is a nurse practitioner. She is married (James) and lives in the Youngstown area. Her gardening interests include native plants, dahlias and spring bulbs. She is a member of Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and is an OSU master gardener. Other interests include decorating with and arranging flowers, and healthcare. Sponsor – Tom Arens

Welcome Aboard!

Road Trip

Our organization will be traveling to DJ's Greenhouse and Gardens in Transfer, PA on Saturday, June 7th meeting there at 9am. There will be a breakfast. If you've ever been there or attended a club meeting where DJ gave a presentation, you know what a great place it is for accessing prime plants and touring beautiful landscapes. Contact Tom Arens to reserve a spot. Guests are welcome.

Dave Causer Memorial Tree Planting

Past President Dave Causer passed away recently and, in his honor, our club will be planting a beechnut tree at Austintown Township Park donated by Terry Voland. Dave was a friend to all who knew him and represented our organization with dignity and efficiently. The date and time of the installation will be announced via email.

Lessons With Dinner

It appears combining a catered dinner now and then



with regular club meetings has been well received, and we can expect more in the future. It didn't hurt having A La Catering providing the entrees, and the homemade desserts were icing on the cake.

The April meeting's speaker was Bernadette Bobosky who, along

with her brother, own and operate Gardening Indoor LLC located just north of Home Depot on Southern

Blvd. in Boardman. Among their products are grow lights, organics and hydroponics. Look them up at info@gardening-indoor.com.

Many gardeners are more or less familiar with the process of cutting a small branch from a mature plant, placing it in a growing medium and producing an exact genetic replica of the mother plant. Bernadette and company have make the process easier, faster and less prone to error. She displayed many of the products that make this possible.

The process begins with taking a young, fresh branch or seed and placing it in either a rock-wool, peat or plastic rooting pod. We understand that roots and even leaf clippings can be cloned. The pods



are placed in a domed hydroponic mini-greenhouse. This fixture contains a rooting compound and fertilizer solution with some greenhouses having a self sprayer included. Gardening Indoor has many cloning products including jells, fertilizers and instruction publications particularly suited to the types of plants involved. The water solution needs replaced once a weeks.



We were impressed with how many plants can fit in one unit and how fast the rooting process took place. Because of how fast the process takes place, timing is important. For example, if you cloned tomato plants on April 1st, you would easily have rooted clones ready for transplanting into sixpack flats by April 15th. Many thanks to Bernadette who advised the store has some exotic 'herb' seeds for sale, some of which are feminized and/or produce dwarf plants.

We mentioned earlier the great desserts provided by Pat Murphy, Susan Primrose, Terri Hendricks, Sue Sopko and Lois Martin-Usclanowski. They and other members regularly provide baked treats at meetings and we can't thank them enough.



The Germinator



Improving Clay Soil

As any area gardener can tell you, growing in clay soil presents both positives and negatives. On the plus side, clay is usually rich in nutrients and holds moisture longer during dry periods. The tiny soil grains prevent quick drainage in wet weather, and form a hard, compact medium in dry periods. Garden.org gives some tips on dealing with clay's idiosyncrasies.

Clay can be anywhere on the pH scale, so a soil test is a must. The ideal amendment should take it to 6.3-6.8 for most garden plants. Adding organic matter should improve drainage and lighten heavy soil. In early spring, work in 2-3" of compost and aged manure. When used in raised beds, either mounds or framed, the slow drainage can be an asset in summer.

Late fall, winter and early spring precipitation can compact and/or erode clay soils, so layers of straw or leaves over these months will help prevent these problems. The extra vegetable matter will also improve nutrient content. Compost and manure can be added at any time, but give them a few weeks to break down amendments before planting.

Winter cover crops also greatly improve soil nutrient content and texture. A garden fork is preferable to tilling as it allows most soil clumps to remain intact. It may take a few years for an ideal planting medium can be achieved, but properly amended clay soil is a gardener's dream.

Spinach & Lettuce Essentials

Besides sweet pea pods, the first veggies planted are salad greens. Spinach is primarily a cool weather crop and quick to bolt when temps climb. It must have at least 6 weeks of cool weather from seeding to harvest. Seeding outdoors 4-6 weeks before the last spring frost, and again 4-6 weeks before the first fall frost date, make for ultimate production. Spinach bolts when sun shines 14-16 hours long.

Sow seeds ½" deep 1" apart. When seedlings are 1" tall, thin to 4" apart. Water every few days during dry spells and mulch rows to retain moisture. Cut leaves as soon as their big enough to eat. When weather warms, cut the whole plant close to the ground below the lowest leaf. Harvest again when leaves reappear. Plants will often reappear in spring if left to overwinter.

There are many different varieties of lettuce offering various flavors, textures and colors. It is another cool weather crop sown at 10-14 day intervals until the weather warms. As with spinach, the growing

season for lettuce can be extended by planting in areas with light midday shade. Plant indoors 6-8 weeks before the first frost date and set seedlings outside after 3 weeks 4" apart for leaf lettuce, and 6-8" apart for Cos and loose-leaf varieties. Sow seeds outdoors 1" apart and thin when seedlings reach 1" according to the variety.

Water plants during the summer when rainfall is less than 1" per week. Mulch rows to keep soil cool. Harvest when leaves are big enough to eat. For a steady harvest, cut heading types before they reach full size. Harvest in early morning when leaves are crisp and full of moisture. Plant the fall crop the same time as spinach.

Companions On A Trellis

Some garden vegetables planted together assist in their nutrition and development. Forest Gump knew that peas and carrots made great companions. Corn and potatoes as well as garlic and tomatoes have beneficial relationships. Now garden.org tells us that clematis and roses are ideal companions.

They are both climbers who relish large doses of water, flourish in similar locations and soil, and have similar fertilizing schedules. As they climb walls, posts or a trellis, they provide a lush vertical display in bloom. Alternatively, clematis can be guided horizontally onto shrub or ground cover roses. Before pairing them, care must be taken as to the variety's characteristics.

Large flowered clematis varieties have little or no fragrance and can suffer from wilt. Those with a profusion of small flowers rarely get wilt and are fragrant. They are the better choice. Avoid *C. Montana* as it has a tendency to overwhelm roses.

All types of roses can be matched with clematis and require little pruning once established. Climbing roses can flower repeatedly but require support. Shrub roses are available in ever-blooming varieties, can stand alone, and are hardy and low maintenance. Ground cover roses are hardy and disease resistant.

It is possible to match almost every clematis with a rose, but the beauty of the pairing lies in the size, color, scent and timing of their respective blooms. Among ever-blooming varieties, it's easy to find 2 plants that will flower together spring thru fall.





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A Mother's Love Is With Us Always

Mother is a verb. It's something you do. Not just who you are.

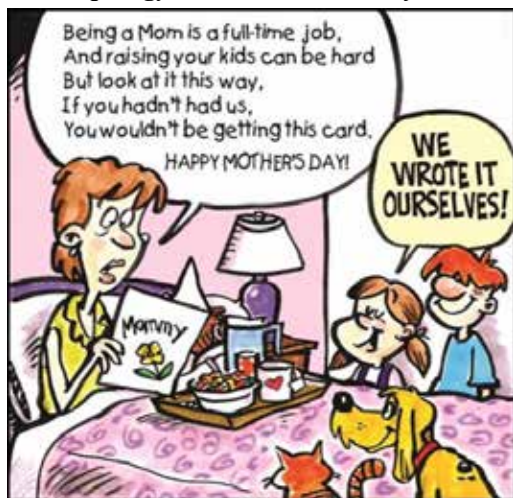
Cheryl Lacey Donovan

Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had and dealing with fears you didn't know existed.

Linda Wooten

The more I go through parenting, the more I say I owe my mother an apology.

Ray Romano



All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his.

Oscar Wilde

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have to hands?

Milton Berle

A Soldier's Sacrifice

*With gratitude, we stand today,
To honor the soldier, who's marched away.*

*Their courage and valor, their love so deep,
A debt we owe, in our hearts to keep.*

*For every battle won, every challenge faced,
Their sacrifice we appreciate, with hearts embraced.*

*In the silence of the dawn, the twilight's glow,
We'll remember their service, a love that grows.*

*A soldier's sacrifice, a gift we'll treasure,
A love so profound, it knows no measure.*

*Thank you, dear soldier, for all that you've done,
Your legacy lives on, in the hearts you've won.*



Dealing With Damping Off Disease

The disease is probably the #1 killer of small seedlings. Rather than a specific disease, it's a type of post-emergent fungal disease common in soils. A white/gray/pink cottony growth appears at the base of the stem which looks darker and very thin. Any leaves may appear green and healthy. Below ground the roots have rotted. Other symptoms include failure to germinate; roots are absent, stunted or grayish-brown with sunken spots; and first leaves are soft, mushy, or discolored gray or brown,



Damping off is easier to detect with seedlings started indoors. The disease does best in cool, wet conditions often from over-watering. When an inch of shoot appears, two inches of the plant is beneath the soil so water only when this area is dry. A fan will keep humidity from gathering at soil level. Heat is another problem. If artificial lighting is used, it should be LED which is cooler. Also, plastic domes should be removed once the seedling breaks ground.

Pots and the growing area should be clean. Old potting soil can be used for repotting but never when sowing seeds. Once symptoms are noticed, the plant is usually a goner especially if the stem is lying on the soil. Potential cures exist but if more seeds are available, it is probably best to start over.

There are anecdotal reports that applying cinnamon, Chamomile tea, sprinkling ground bark around seedlings and sand atop soil provide potential prevention or cure, but there is little proof they work. Most of cures may be related to the use of alcohol in the production process.

Fungicides like Captan does work especially when applied before symptoms are noticed. The problem is the exact fungal species is difficult to pinpoint so a specific fungicide may not work on a particular fungi.

Biological organisms have been formulated into easy to apply products. They include *Bacillus subtilis* (Companion), *Streptomyces lydicus* (Actinovate), *Trichoderma harzianum* (PlantShield, Rootschild), *Streptomyces griseoviridis* (Mycostop), and *Trichoderma virens* (SoilGard). These produces are usually applied prior to symptoms appearing.



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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.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
<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.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
www.windyknollgreenhouse.com

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



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Calendar of Events



April 29, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 29, 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
No Meeting in July
August 5, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
August 5, 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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