October 2026

The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Gardeners!!

And Hello Fall!! It's officially leaf raking time!

Here are a few current pieces of Club information:

Along with the season's favorite décor of pumpkins and cornstalks, the GOGY Scarecrow is on display at Fellows Riverside Gardens for the next few weeks. Thanks to Heather Randall and Suzanne Murphy for managing this project! Stop by and see their creativity!

At the suggestion of the Civic Committee, and with the approval of the board, the planting areas GOGY maintains around Yeager Pond in Austintown Township Park will be re-designed into a pollinator garden. The work on this project has already started thanks to a donation of six perennial plants from Petitti's. Tom Arens and the committee will be seeking additional pollinator friendly plants to add to the area over the next month or so. The goal is to have the bulk of the new plantings in place before the first freeze. If you have perennial plants you would like to donate to this project, please reach out to Tom (330-402-2700) to see what is still needed.

Speaking of plants, as a reminder, the greenhouse co-chairs are asking members to bring any unique coleus they may have to our October meeting. Bruce and Mike are already planning for what will be offered for the 2027 Plant Sale. I hear several new offerings are being considered! …. And they are happy to report the greenhouse roof has FINALLY been repaired!!

As you are cleaning up your gardens, do you have any dried flowers you can contribute to the Xmas tree GOGY will decorate at the Davis Center? If so, please bring to either the October or November membership meetings, or contact Tom Arens (330-402-2700) for delivery arrangements.

At the October Board meeting we will be finalizing the GOGY budget for 2027 and reviewing Board positions. If Board officer positions need to be filled, the Nominations Committee will seek candidates and members will be able to vote on the nominee(s) at the November committee. Members will be updated on both matters at the October membership meeting.

Thanks to Clare Neff, an amazing fund-raising opportunity for our Club through Proven Winners is ready to be offered. See the details in this newsletter!

Hope to see you at the October 6th meeting at 7pm. Remember, interested members are always welcome to come early and listen in on the Board meeting at 5:30pm.

The seasons have changed…. Enjoy all this one has to offer!!

Pat



" With each passing day, a glimpse of Nature's art, October's beauty whispers, etching memories in the heart"

- *Catherine Pulsifer*

Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026
Austintown Township Park
Stacy Pavilion

Board Meeting - 5:30

General Meeting - 7:00

Program

Pat Rydquist
"We Need Spiders"!

President's Message	1
Club News	2
October Garden Tips	3
September Recap	4
Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Club Officers	6



"Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence."

Yoko Ono

"Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits." — *Samuel Butler*

"Spades take up leaves / No better than spoons, / And bags full of leaves / Are light as balloons. / I make a great noise / Of rustling all day / Like rabbit and deer / Running away."

— *Robert Frost*

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Club News

Madam Scarecrow Returns



Heather Randall and Suzanne Murphy breathed new life into our gardening scarecrow, just in time for Scarecrow Row at Fellows Riverside Gardens. This annual event features creative scarecrows from a variety of organizations in our community. Take a stroll through the gardens and enjoy all the creative, colorful, whimsical scarecrows. Thanks to Heather and Suzanne for getting our scarecrow dressed for the occasion!



Scarecrow Row is free and open to the public through October 31st.

Calling All Coleus

Greenhouse co-chairs Bruce Brungard and Mike Banks are already planning for next year's Spring Plant Sale and are asking for unique coleus cuttings to get started.

Grab cuttings from your gardens and bring them to the October meeting. Mike and Bruce will take it from there, take care of them over the winter and offer them at the plant sale next May.



We Need Spiders!



October's program will be presented by Pat Rydquist, Interpretive Naturalist, Arachnologist and member of the Hudson Garden Club.

Pat Rydquist was an Interpretive Naturalist with Summit Metro Parks (SMP) for 20 years. While there she shared her passion for birding, butterflies, moths, and encouraging preschoolers to love all things in nature. She was also president of the Hudson Land Conservancy and helped merge it into the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

After retiring from SMP, Pat continues inspiring her preschooler grandchildren who are budding naturalists. She is presently a Board member of the Hudson Heritage Association, a board member of the Hudson Garden Club and was recently invited to join the City of Hudson Environmental Awareness Committee.

Pat's new passion is arachnids, maybe because they don't fly away or maybe because they are so intricately vital in our ecosystem! To dig deeper into the web of spiders she attended an Ohio Sea Grant Conference on Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie last summer with Dr. Rich Bradley, author and renowned spider specialist at the Ohio State University. Pat will share the life and value of spiders in the hopes others will appreciate their beauty and worth.

Club Fundraiser

Proven Winners PW
A Better Garden Starts With A Better Plant.

Proven Winners offers healthy plants for every garden in every zone... and now GOGY has the opportunity to purchase from their website while earning funds for our club.

The Fundraising Co-ordinator provided the guidelines for purchases, starting with a link that must be used to access their site. Next, purchases can only be made during our 12 day purchasing period, running from Monday, October 12, 2026 through Friday, October 23, 2026.

All purchases through the assigned link will generate 15% back to GOGY. You are able to share the link with family and friends, the more purchases during this time, the more funds will be sent back to GOGY.

So, visit the Proven Winners website early, make your shopping list and return during our 12 day schedule to purchase. And, be sure to share!

Decorate The Tree



It's once again time to plan for the Christmas tree decorating at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Tom Arens is asking for your help in gathering items for the tree - dried flowers, berries, anything garden related.



Give Tom a call if you have decorations you can provide.

October 2026
The Germinator

October Garden Tips

Outdoor Flowering Plants & Ornamentals



- Take time to enjoy he Fall colors in your landscape!
- Spring bulbs can be planted among groundcovers and perennials. As these plants grow in the spring, they will hide the dying bulb foliage.
- Dig cannas, caladiums, elephant ears, gladiolus and dahlias after frost nips their foliage. Allow to dry before storage. Store in a dark, cool, dry place.
- Clean up around your perennial flowers, such as rose and peony. If left on the ground, leaves and stems can harbor diseases and provide convenient places for pests to spend the winter.
- As you clean out the flowerbeds, mark the spots where late emerging perennials will come up next spring to avoid damaging them while working in the beds.
- Leaves can be beneficial to the garden and should not be burned or discarded. Consider using as a mulch or adding to your compost pile.



Vegetable Gardening

- Clean up and discard garden debris after frost especially tomato and pepper plants and squash vines that may have had diseased foliage.
- Plant radishes, lettuce and spinach for late harvest. Harvest can continue until spring if winter is mild enough or by season extension techniques such as a low tunnel, cold frame or hot bed.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons, and sweet potatoes before frost or cover with blankets to protect them from light frost.
- Finish cleaning up garden areas. Compost only non-diseased foliage and plants. Remove all tomato cages and stakes.
- Harvest winter squash and pumpkins with 2 to 3 inches of stem for better storage.

Lawns



- Mow at regular heights until growth stops.
- Fertilize moderately after cool days slow leaf growth. Nutrients at this time will encourage root growth and thickening of turf. Soluble nitrogen fertilizers are used more efficiently by turf in late fall
- Keep leaves from packing and smothering grass. Leaves may also be composted or tilled into a garden as a source of organic matter.

Donna Aufdenberg, Kate Kammler and Kathi Mecham, University of Missouri Extension

October 2026
The Germinator

A recap of member Tom Beck's presentation on the Salem Community Pantry and their ongoing need.

Salem Community Pantry Inc.

Salem Community Pantry Food Distribution Statistics

www.salempantry.com

* This year, the Salem Pantry Volunteers will gather, sort, and distribute over 500,000 pounds of food.
* Every year, approximately 5,500 Pantry shopping carts full of food are selected by our Shoppers.
* On average, each Pantry shopping cart loaded with groceries provides 7 days' worth of food, consisting of three daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). This equals 21 table settings of meals.
* The 5,500 shopping carts provide approximately 115,500 table settings of meals.
  [5,500 shopping carts X 21 table settings of meals per cart = 115,500 table settings of meals per year]
* The number of family members served per shopping cart is 3.25 on average.
* Approximately 375,375 plates of food are served from the shopping carts of groceries provided by the Pantry.
  [115,500 table settings of meals X 3.25 family members eating the meals = 375,375 plates of food per year]

The Slogan of the Salem Community Pantry is "Helping Salem Set the Table."

This year the Salem Pantry will set the table approximately 115,500 times, with over 375,375 plates of food on the tables of children, adults, and seniors, who otherwise may not have had a meal to eat that day in Salem.

You can make it happen when you volunteer.

Pantry Volunteers gather, sort, and distribute food to our Salem Neighbors who need our services. Volunteers also clean the Pantry, do office work, assist with building and vehicle maintenance, and drive our vehicles to collect food. Volunteers set their own work schedules. We distribute food at no cost (free) to our clients who meet eligibility guidelines. Guests shop in-person to select from our assortment of fresh vegetables, fruit, beverages, canned and boxed items, breads, milk products, meat, desserts, and personal care products when in stock.

Call 330-332-5166 to leave a contact message with our office. The Pantry Director will return your call to discuss Pantry Volunteer opportunities. You can visit the Salem Pantry to speak with us in-person on these days and times:

- Monday, 8 am to noon.
- Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 9 am to around 11 am.
- Wednesday, noon to 2 pm (when food is available to process)
- Thursday, 1:30 pm to 6 pm.
- Friday, 3 pm to 5 pm (when food is available to process)

794 East 3rd St (corner of Third & Vine) in Salem, Ohio.
Pantry Office phone 330-332-5166.

The Salem Community Pantry is a Participating Member of the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley.

Other Ways to Help

* Donate food from your home and garden, save plastic shopping bags, egg cartons, place in collection box at Pantry door.
* Organize a food and personal care item collection drive.
* Make a financial contribution.
  Checks payable to Salem Community Pantry
  PO Box 222, Salem, OH 44460.
* Donate using QR Code above.



Thank you to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Friends for their Civic Fund donations. Members are urged to give them a visit.

303 Mushroom Company
2623 OH St 303
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

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.petittigardencenter.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



GOGY OFFICERS 2026

PRESIDENT: Pat Murphy • pjmurphy0900@aol.com • 330.635.8180

1st VICE PRESIDENT: Lisa Nicklash • lisanicklash@yahoo.com • 412.500.1981

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Birt Underwood • jbunderwood@gmail.com •

TREASURER: Terry Voland • voskater@aol.com • 330.881.8467

RECORDING SECRETARY: Terri Hendricks • fillyfive@netzero.net • 330.881.8467

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Michael Banks • mcbankspaint@yahoo.com
330.707.9089 (H) • 330.565.0592

FOR THE GERMINATOR

EDITOR: Clare Neff • clare.neff@icloud.com • 330.503.6988

EDITOR EMERITUS: David Campana • mgcygerminator@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

Oct. 6, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Oct. 6, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Nov 5, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Nov 5, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Dec 12	President's Luncheon	TBD	A La Cart Catering	Canfield, Ohio
January 5, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
January 5, 2027	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 2, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 2, 2027	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
March 2, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
March 2, 2027	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: gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com

Membership Committee
P.O. Box 612
North Jackson, OH 44451
or on our website at www.gg-yo.org