



the Germinator

October 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Autumn! The change of season this year will bring a few changes to GOGY as well. A slate of potential officers will be presented at our October meeting, with elections in November. I will not be returning as President in 2026. I appreciated the opportunity to serve in that capacity and treasure the support I received from each of you. It's time to offer the same opportunity to another member.

I feel blessed having spent time with, and been mentored by, John Schinker. Dave Campana wrote a wonderful tribute to John. I hope each of us are inspired by the contributions John made to this club and this community and help to continue his legacy of service. Volunteer on a committee. Share your talents. It will be most appreciated.

JOHN SCHINKER



Rest In Peace, Dear Friend

Meetings Schedule

Tuesday, October 7th
Austintown Township Park
Stacy Pavillion

Board Meeting 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting 7pm

Speaker: EVA MILLER

2x Scholarship Recipient

Guests Welcome

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Election of GOGY Officers

The election will be held at our November meeting, and all members are not only encouraged to attend but consider running for leadership positions.



At this time, except for the very important 2nd vice president, incumbents plan to either maintain their positions or move to higher leadership roles. All positions, however, are up for grabs to members willing to step up.

The positions are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.



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CLUB NEWS

Birt Underwood, our September meeting speaker, gave a photo slide presentation of tour he and Lisa Nicklash took to the gardens of Southern England. The gardens, some hundreds of years old, featured beautifully landscaped acres of flowering plants and trees in prime condition. Among the most prominently displayed were magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias, and trees dating to the Battle of Hastings.



Among the sites Lisa and Birt toured were Kew Gardens and Kensington Palace. Judging from Birt's slides, you don't have to be a gardener to appreciate the beauty and variety of plants, and the amount of work invested in keeping the various grounds pristine. Due to the Atlantic Ocean's warm currents from the south, areas that include Devon can grow tropical plants year around including tea shrubs.

GOGY Canfield Fair Table

Pat Murphy and Tom Arens are to be congratulated for the impressively adorned display in the Floral Building. Pat especially went above and beyond by setting up the display and, after the fair closed, taking



it all down and storing the numerous components. Tom was in charge of recruiting members for manning the table, and promoting gardening and our club.

Those representing our organization at the table were Patty Sons, Norma Harned, Terri Hendricks, Bruce Brungard, Mike Banks, Helen Viano, Heather Randall, Tom and Pat.

While discussing the fair at our Sept. board meeting, a number of issues came up. A limit set for the number of bulbs handed to each person because we ran out of them early. Also, *Germinator* copies should be given only to potential new members because those went quickly also.

Lisa & Birt Ace Fair Floral Design Competitions

Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood took Best in Show in two Canfield Fair floral design competitions. Lisa won the Best Fair Themed with her 'Fantastic Fair Foods' entry, while Birt won the dried plant design competition with 'Little Mermaid'.



Memorial Trees for Causer & Schinker

It looks like we'll have to install another tree at Austintown Township Park honoring Dave Causer. This will be the third attempt. The first tree donated by Terry Voland was stolen the evening it was delivered and never installed. The second tree, also donated by Terry, died two months after it was planted.

John Schinker was known to love pears above all other fruits so the Board of Gardeners agreed to install a pear tree near the park's pond. The installations will be announced by email, and we would appreciate some help from members when the call goes out.



Gardeners of Greater Youngstown 60th Annual Horticulture Show

What a difference a year makes. Lisa Nicklash, Birt Underwood and the horticulture committee are to be congratulated for a comprehensive, well done show. Fellows' Riverside Gardens' D. D. Davis Center art room was so overflowing with exhibits that the new floral design section had to be displayed in an adjacent area.

Also to be congratulated was the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's membership which answered the call. Twice as many members as last year entered the event with some of the most beautiful and unique plants, many unfamiliar to us. Some credit has to go to our president, Clare Neff, for her promotional article in the *Vindicator's Valley Grows* section.

Many thanks also has to go to Lisa, Birt, Bruce Brungard and Tom Arens for setting up the venue the day before; Julie Shaw, Pat Murphy, Birt and Tom who clerked the exhibits; and judges (L-R) Melissa Davis, Maryann Ferguson-Rich, Tom Davis, Heather Randall, Linda Bezbatchesenko and Dave Rich.



While some members prepared their entries, others helped those new to the show with theirs. Birt was particularly helpful in this area. While the prep area was a bit cramped, more tables were brought in and everything went smoothly. When the entries were ready, Lisa arranged them in their appropriate sections.

We have to say that this year's show was one of the best when it came to the variety and quality of exhibits. The sectional winners were:

Barb Arquilla – vegetables – giant garlic. Barb's exhibit also won Best In Show.

Lisa Nicklash – ornamentals – Sunset variegated angel's trumpet.

Terry Volland – vegetables – water melon.

Helen Viano – annuals – Amaranthus.

Dave Campana – perennials/biennials – Hydrangea multifolia.

Tom Arens – dahlias – ball type dahlia.

Bob Schulick – bulbs, tubers, etc. – Gladiolus.



Lisa Nicklash – roses – Poseidon Florbunda rose.

Rodney Toth – potted plants – Crown of Thorns.

Norma Harned –floral design – floral centerpiece.

The Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato \$25 prize went to **Norm Cappitsee** – 2 lb. 7 oz. The Bo Korody Memorial Largest Zinnia went to **Clare Vayda** – 5 ¼ in. Sadly, there were no entrants in the Dr. Robert Volland Youth Competition and Sweepstakes.

Lisa Nicklash won the Adult Sweepstakes followed by **Terry Volland** and **Cathy Morgan**.

Norma Harned won the 2026 Winter Seminar pass.

Heather Randall and **Lisa Nicklash** won \$25 gift certificates for our 2026 Spring Plant Sale.

Congratulations to all.

With a picture worth a thousand words, here are some colorful pics from a truly memorable show.





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JOHN SCHINKER – *Leading By Example*

For those of us who knew him well, John Schinker's passing leaves a huge void in our lives. He will, however, forever remain in their hearts and memories, and an inspiration to live kinder, more productive lives. His was a life defined by love of family, and dedication to hard work, charity, and intelligent leadership.

John, with twin brother Bill, was born in Youngstown, the youngest of seven children, and lived his entire life in the area. His dedication and quiet tenacity were revealed on the high school football field. A two-way player for the Austintown Fitch Falcons, he excelled at offensive guard and was the smallest defensive tackle in the Steel Valley Conference. John also ran the quarter and half miles in track. He was inducted into the Fitch Athletic Hall of Fame.

Football remained a big part of his life while coaching at St. Christine grade school and the Boardman Pee Wee Football league. A few players went on to play in the NFL. He coached his sons when they became old enough to play, and never missed their and his grandson's games. A big fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes, he also took great interest in the band.

After high school, John earned college tuition toward a math major degree from Youngstown State University while working in the Republic Steel open hearth. Upon graduating from college, management wanted him to become a metallurgist but he instead became a pipefitter at Reactive Metals, retiring in 2002 after a thirty four year career.

More than a few years ago, John was in a friend's wedding party where a pretty young woman caught the bride's garter. His friend told him, 'You'll like Georgia. She's a school teacher, makes good money and owns a car'.



The sales pitch was less impressive than the girl herself. Nature took its course and he and Georgia (nee Zucco) were married fifty six years. He is also mourned by sons John, Jr. and George, daughter Dynele Schinker-Kuharich, and four grandchildren. Georgia has always been a bubbly, out-going counterpoint to John's quiet intensity.

John built a 1,600 sq. ft. garage with a rear section dedicated to a fully equipped woodworking shop. He



planned to make quality furniture upon retiring. But as it is said, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans". While some furniture was made for family and friends and, later, items for our garden club, an interest in gardening took over. John signed up for the Fellows' Master Gardening Course amassing more volunteer hours than any other student. Then club president Joe Alessi talked John into joining the then Men's Garden Club of Youngstown.

His contributions to the club began at the old greenhouse on Market St. in Boardman where most of the men were older and left the heavy lifting to John. Then Greenhouse Committee chair Larry Whetson noticed John's work ethic and said he had found his replacement. Esteemed club members Hugh Earnhart, Joe Alessi, Bill Carney and John approached the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities about the use of its Bev Rd. derelict, unused greenhouse which was part of the facility's workshop. The deal was the county would take care of the greenhouse infrastructure while our club would landscape the grounds, clean out debris and rehab the growing tables which were stored outside and were severely rusted.

A great deal of work went into making the facility what it is today. With some fits and starts and a few moves to other locations, it has been our Spring Plant Sale home ever since. Our club also secured use of the Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse, and we always hosted a pizza party for the clients that included a take-home plant. We also grew mums and cool-weather ornamentals on Fellow's property to raise club income. He quickly learned that there is much more to running a greenhouse than planting a garden. Problems can arise from disease, insects, supply availability, equipment breakdowns and many other situations. He talked to anyone and everyone who could provide the needed information.

A vast majority of our organization's income that goes toward scholarships, other club activities, and savings can be attributed to John's efforts. Now the responsibility of Bruce Brungard, it is hoped members will carry on this tradition.

John's dedication to spreading gardening interest throughout the community went well beyond our club's greenhouse. For many years, he along with Lynn Zocolo and other members mentored kids at the MetrParks Youth Gardening Program. His dedication to children goes back to, as a teen, volunteering at Youngstown's Pearl St. Mission.

We can't account for all of John's contributions to our organization without mentioning leadership. He has held the top executive positions of our national The Gardeners of America, the Central Great Lakes Region and our club. With so many new members since he joined, John was an invaluable source of institutional memory. Our present and future leaders will especially miss that expertise.

Much of the information herein came from an article we wrote about John fifteen years ago. We hope John's contributions to our organization inspire present and future members to honor his memory with their own dedication.



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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.theamish-market.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://lুব-abella.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

Youngstown Cityscape

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



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Calendar of Events



- Oct. 7, 2025 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Oct. 7, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov. 6, 2025 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov. 6, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Dec. 2, 2025 Christmas Party..... 5:30PM A La Carte Catering, Canfield
- Jan. 6, 2026 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Jan. 6, 2026 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb. 3, 2026 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb. 3, 2026 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 garden- ing 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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