



The Germinator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays, Gardeners!

This is my last President's Message... Pat Murphy takes over this space - and the presidency - in January. Joining Pat as 1st Vice President is Lisa Nicklash, elected as 2nd Vice President is Birt Underwood, Terry Voland continues as Treasurer, Terri Hendricks was elected as Recording Secretary and Mike Banks returns as Corresponding Secretary. I'm sure each of them would appreciate your support.

I am honored to have served as your president and blessed to have been able to meet each of you. I have learned so much from this group and continue to grow in my gardening endeavors. Thank you for the opportunity.

Dave Campana has been the editor and driving force of our monthly newsletter, *The Germinator*. All of the insightful articles, the many photographs, the documenting of Club activities and, of course, the memorable quotes and comics in each edition were researched written and photographed by David. This edition of *The Germinator* is the last with Dave as Editor. Please take a moment to thank him for all of the effort he put into each edition.

Starting in January, I will do my best to continue Dave's legacy as editor. I will also be looking for help from you to keep our newsletter timely and informational.

Clare.

Meetings Schedule

President's Reception
5:30 pm, Tuesday Dec. 2nd
Ala Carte Catering
Guests Welcome
Board Meeting
5:30pm Thursday Dec. 11
Canfield Library
All Members Welcome

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President's Reception/ Christmas Party

Ala Carte Catering
Delicious Meal, Davis & Penner
Guitar Duo, Club Awards,
Poinsettias for the Ladies, &
Great Company

Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Baked Salmon & Veggie
Lasagna, Wedding Soup, Salad & Dessert.

\$24 per person, Bring Liquid Refreshments
Remit to Gardeners of Greater Youngstown,
PO Box 612, North Jackson, OH 44451

Include entrée(s) selection, Deadline Nov. 25th

All of us together would be super,
So don't be a party pooper.

*Christmas is not so much
about opening presents as
opening our hearts.*



*Christmas is a baby shower
that went totally overboard.*



CLUB NEWS

New Members

Tom Beck – Tom owns Beck Restorations and lives in Canfield. He is a former member of our club. He is a farmer also grows veggies for his own table. He is the former director of the Salem Community Food Pantry which contributes food to the needy.

Scarlet Chlebus – She lives in Youngstown with her husband and is a respiration therapist. Her gardening interests include veggies and flowers. Other interests include reading, learning and helping.

Welcome aboard

Memorial Trees Planted

Past presidents Dave Causer and John Schinker gave so much of themselves to our organization, and we honored them by planting trees in Austintown Township Park. Park employees dug the holes and Tom Arens, Mike Banks, Bruce Brungard and Terry Voland installed them.

Dave's is a red bud planted at the rear of the park office. It replaces a tree recently planted that died.

John's is a Keifer pear planted near the park pond that should yield fruit next year. On hand were his widow Georgia and several member of their family. Rodney Toth provided a prayer that included sentiments we all have when we think of John.



L-R: Debbie Schinker, John Schinker, Jr., Georgia Schinker, George Schinker, Dynele Schinker-Kuharich, Ray Schinker.

Winter Seminar Auction Baskets

The raffle basket donations go a long way toward paying for our annual Winter Seminar. Begin thinking about businesses you feel will help support our efforts.

The donations can be in any form including items, gift certificates or entire baskets. If you intend to approach a possible donor, let Pat Murphy know so there is no duplication. Last year's raffle was very successful and we would like for you to help us do at least as well.

It's That Time of Year Again

2026 dues are now being collected. Please send a \$25 check (\$40 for family) to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's mailbox on page 6 of the *Germinator*.

There is no other area organization that compares to our signature events and higher education scholarships. We need your participation, and that begins with annual dues. Please be prompt in paying.

Permaculture

As explained by our November meeting speaker Jim Matilik, permaculture is a broad concept applied to regenerative agriculture, town planning, rewilding and community resilience that goes beyond organic gardening to include working with as opposed to against nature, and eliminating waste. The concepts can be applied to land areas large and small.

Dating back to indigenous cultures and constantly being refined, principles like no dig and no till agriculture are being recognized as not only reducing labor but increasing crop yield, health and profitability. Arable land is a limited resource that is continuously being depleted by erosion and inefficient use. And it takes 1000 years for nature to build 1½" of top soil. Jim showed this photo to demonstrate top soil depletion over time.

An example of larger scale permaculture is a project in Holland, MI, where hot water from a power plant was circulated through 190 miles of piping to melt snow and ice reducing salt costs, auto accidents and injury while also reducing the environmental impact on a nearby lake.

Smaller applications like yard landscapes can also mimic natural ecosystems: Grow vertically; grow mutually beneficial plants; compost; save water with rain retention and drip systems; and employ polyculture like progression planting and planting nitrogen fixing plants. Permaculture is a process requiring research for specific applications. Google it.





Weeds Are Soil Whisperers

While we may think weeds can grow anywhere, the truth is they require specific soil nutrients, pH, sun and moisture conditions. The very presence of common garden weeds in various areas of our lawns and beds help us read soil health and identify problems.

A large dandelion colony in your lawn could indicate the soil is too compacted to hold water so deep dandelion roots are able to reach favorable conditions deep down. Specific weeds can tell us when to add amendments, mulches and cover crops. Doing so can solve certain weed problem without using chemicals.

It is important to observe weed patterns over a growing season like repeated clusters, not singular pop-ups. A soil test is the first step. For example: dandelions and wood sorrel indicate low calcium; black medic indicates low nitrogen; and crabgrass is indicative of a nutrient imbalance. A soil meter can confirm suspicions about compaction, drainage, etc.

Sign up for gardenknowhow.com periodic posts for a more detailed fix for specific weed problems from this and bulb articles.

Dandelions can indicate low calcium and compaction. Moss can be caused by shaded, moist, poorly drained soil. Wood Sorrel can be from low calcium or high magnesium.



Plantain is tied to compacted, and acidic low fertility soil. Creeping Charlie indicates poor drainage in shade as well as compaction. Black



Medic is due to dry growing conditions and low nitrogen fertility. Quackgrass indicates nutrient imbalance of high potassium and manganese with low phosphorus and calcium. Stinging nettle is a sign of soil with high nutrients, especially nitrogen.

Improving soil based on identified weeds is a 3 step process based on weed proliferation, nearby plants and future gardening plans. 1 The presence of certain weeds can indicate compaction or drainage problems determined with a percolation test. It may indicate the need to aerate and top dressing with organic matter, or grading. 2. A soil test will indicate soil pH and the need to add lime to overly acidic soil or sulphur to increase acidity. Healthy, dense planting makes it harder for weeds to move in. 3. For lawns, mow higher, water deeply but infrequently, and fertilize according to soil test results. In beds, cover with a good mulch or cover crop.

Getting Bulbs Ready for Winter

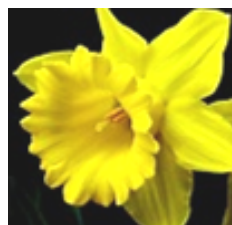
Now is the time to dig up and store tender summer-flowering bulbs that won't survive our winters, and get spring bulbs in the ground. For the sake of brevity, we'll lump rhizomes, corms and tubers into 'bulbs'. Tender bulbs include gladiolus, cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias, calla lilies and dahlias.

Their foliage will die from a heavy frost but the bulb will be okay temporarily. Cut the damaged foliage off and gently lift the bulbs from the ground tapping away loose soil. Air dry most bulbs for about a week in a shady, protected area with good ventilation. Cut off damaged portions or discard bulb with excessive damage. Treat them with a fungicidal dust. Store them in a porous bag or shallow tray filled with peat moss so they don't dry out but can also breathe. Keep them in a cool, dry place that remains about 50 degrees F.



Dahlia stalks should be cut back to about 6" and allowed to dry for just a few days before storing in a shallow, plastic lined box and covered with peat moss. Begonias should be washed immediately and stored like dahlias..

Hardy bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and crocuses need exposure to cold to prepare them for flowering. Look for firm bulbs with no soft or discolored spots. Large bulb will flower the first season while smaller ones will flower in a year or two. Keep them in a cool, dry place until ready to plant. Mass plant rather than in rows.



Plant these hardy bulbs in a spot with at least a half day of sun in well drained soil. Heavy clay soil should be amended with liberal amounts of sphagnum peat moss or compost at a depth 3 times the bulb diameter with point up. Deep planting will discourage damage from burrowing varmints but too deep may result in flowering before completely emerging. Avoid crowd-ing where plants compete for space and resources.

While daffodils are low on critter's snacking list, tulip and crocus bulbs pose tasty treats. If voles are a problem, make a wire screen cage on 4 sides of the bulbs as they are planted leaving the top side open. Lay chicken wire on top of the soil in bulb beds to discourage squirrels and chipmunks from digging them up.



Leave the Leaves?

This bit of horticulture contrarianism does not come from *Garden Myths* Bob Pavlis but none other than the *New York Times*. A study done by scientists from Maryland National Heritage Foundation and the University of Maryland found that raking, mulching or composting of fallen leaves may be unnecessary work and ecologically harmful.

Their two year study found that leaf removal and mower mulching affected the spring emergence of beneficial insects and other arthropods. One square meter of yard where leaves were left in place resulted in almost 2000 creepy crawlies emerging in spring. They include butterflies, moths, parasitic wasps, beetles and spiders that not only pollinate but control pests. This does not include decomposers and detritivores like earth worms and millipedes.

By allowing leaves to overwinter on lawns and in beds, insects that enter a wandering phase will be attracted to those areas. Composting leaves also has its downside. Effective composting requires high heat that will kill overwintering beneficials and their eggs. Raking leaves into large piles will cause insects that normally emerge in spring to miss their instinctive emerging dates and negatively affect their survival.

The scientists also found that a major spring clean-up when spring temperatures reach 50 degrees or when soil warms to a certain point also has its downside. Fallen leaves offer long term benefits for arthropods that extends well into summer because they have evolved to expect that shelter. The trick is to figure out how to meet these natural processes while meeting our desire for healthy gardens and landscapes.

Additionally, traditional fall cleanups over the years will result in a 25% reduction in soil carbon. Carbon adds to soil fertility and its moisture holding capacity thus preventing water runoff and erosion. And while allowing leaves to stay over winter for one year will result in the immediate increase in insects. Carbon depleted soils take years or decades to recover.

What the study didn't answer was the natural tendency of winter winds to blow fallen leaves into large piles against homes and fences, and onto the yards of angry neighbors. And what about the age old tradition of kids and dogs jumping into the piles of leaves you worked so hard to neatly pile.



Christmas: Nice & Naughty

*This is the month, and this is the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of heaven's eternal Kind,
Of wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring.*

John Milton

Fail not to call to mind, in the course of the 25th of this month that the Divinest Heart that ever walked the Earth was born on that day; and then smile and enjoy yourselves for the rest of it, for mirth is also of heaven's making.

Leigh Hunt

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

Mother Teresa

Why is Christmas exactly like your job?

You do all the work and some fat guy is suit takes all the credit.



"I couldn't find any carrots for the nose, so I grabbed this from my moms drawer..."



The Germinator



**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.truevalueutrains.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

Youngstown Cityscape

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



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Calendar of Events



Dec. 2, 2025	Christmas Party.....	6PM	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
March 3, 2026	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
March 3, 2026	Membership Mtg	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 7, 2026	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 7, 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 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



The GOGY OFFICERS 2025

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