



March 2025



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you missed our 2025 Winter Seminar, you missed an amazing day of gardening information. We hosted 4 remarkable presenters, from Eddie Lagucki's topic on the '*Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants*', to the very informative '*Simplifying Your Garden: Less Time & Effort*', from Janet Macunovich. Thanks to the few members who donated baskets for the raffle. Even though there wasn't much response, Pat Murphy and her equally talented sister Judy, created enough baskets to almost cover an entire scholarship. Special thanks also to Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood for all their help on the committee, making sure the baskets made it to the new venue and for keeping everything organized. Kudos to Bruce Brungard for acquiring many, many door prizes and supplying sunflower seeds to everyone who attended. There are so many members who worked to ensure this year's success, including Barb Arquilla and Sue Sopko for taking shifts at the ticket table. My sincere thanks to everyone. While an accident in the Rossi Room at Fellows Riverside Gardens almost canceled the event, the discovery of a new venue, that just happened to be available, saved the day and introduced us to an alternate location.

Our next big event is our Spring Plant Sale - another club fundraiser. Bruce Brungard can use your help in the greenhouse. Reach out and let him know he can count on you.

Clare

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown Spring Plant Sale

Wednesday thru Saturday, May 7th – 10th We'll
need all hands on deck for transplanting,
watering and working the sale.
Contact Bruce Brungard to see how you can help.

Winter Seminar Revisited



CityScape Basket

Dave Goerig
1968 – 2025



Dave Causer
1949 – 2025



Rest In Peace, Dear Friends

Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, March 4th

Stacey Pavillion

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting – 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting – 7pm

Speaker: DJ James

DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens

Guests Welcome

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Club News	2
Scholarship Info	
Fertilizing Test Project	
Seminar Speakers	3
2025 Winter Seminar	3
<i>When Irish Eyes are Smiling</i>	4
<i>The Calendar May Say Spring</i>	4
DIY Liquid Fertilizers	4
Our Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Club Officers	6





Club News

Macro, Micro & Nano Plastic Pollution

The continued and growing proliferation of plastics has science, health and environment professionals increasingly concerned. A person would have to go through life with blinders on to not notice plastic trash everywhere. Large items like plastic bags, packaging, products, etc, aside from being an eyesore, are of less concern than smaller particles. The 'Great Plastic Island' in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii covers 620,000 square miles. Of greater, more immediate concern is the smaller (micro and nano) particles that make their way into our food, water and air.



2024 scholarship recipient Angela McKenna gave a presentation on the problem at our February meeting.



Angela is a senior at YSU studying environmental science and an excellent example of the young men and women who have received our organization's modest education assistance.

Plastics can take hundreds to thousands of years to break down, and the smaller the particles get the more of a threat they become to humans and our environment's health. Large (macro) pieces break down into micro particles which become nano shards of microscopic size. They are ingested by humans and food livestock, taken up in our drinking liquids, and inhaled. It is estimated that humans breathe in a credit card's worth of plastic shards a week.

Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations where collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed nations and their consumer economies discard much more plastic,

and their collection and recycling efforts aren't keeping up. The United Nations is attempting to write a global treaty to address the problem. As with its efforts to address climate change, we can't expect much.

Plastics were invented over a century ago and production exploded after WWII. Inventors found a light, durable material used in every industry on the planet. They have contributed positively to raising worldwide health and wealth. Plastics have led, however, to a throw-away culture with single use items accounting for 40% of total production.

A significant amount of plastic trash enters waterways and eventually ends up in our oceans where it travels around the world. They break down into increasingly smaller particles polluting our water and air, ending up in our blood and organs. Millions of animals, including endangered ones, are killed each year by plastics. Birds and fish, for example, take in larger particles while feeding which disrupts nutrition intake.

As plastic shards become increasingly smaller, they release carcinogenic chemicals and heavy metals. As they enter the airway, they lower blood oxygen and cause inflammation. They also interfere with reproduction and many other bodily functions both studied and yet to be found. Microbes are evolving that attack plastics but scientists fear they may also be harmful to animal health.



It is hoped that more eco-friendly and recycleable materials will soon be invented reducing reliance on petrocarbons. Despite persistent rumors that most recycled plastics end up in landfills anyway or are shipped to developing countries, we should recycle anyway and avoid single use plastics as much as possible.

With apologies to Angela, her presentation contained several scientific terms and processes that defied our limited note taking abilities. Much of this was supplemented with info from National Geographic.

You're Needed At The Greenhouse

Greenhouse committee chair Bruce Brungard and John Schinker report that activities for our Spring Plant Sale in May are well underway. They'll need volunteers for transplanting plugs and regularly water. Sign up at our March meeting or contact Bruce. FlyingHigh Rehabilitation Services has ordered 100 hanging baskets and another large order is pending so our sale inventory may be somewhat larger than last year.



March 2025



FRIENDS 
of Fellows Riverside Gardens

20th WINTER SEMINAR



In baseball parlance, the joint Gardeners of Greater Youngstown – Friends of Fellows' Riverside Gardens Winter Seminar hit it out of the park. The speakers, venue, basket raffle, price, audio/visual setup, food, and other amenities were all first rate. A testament to the committee's dedication, specifically GOGY President and master of ceremonies Clare Neff, was the ability to switch venues when Fellows' Davis Center experienced water damage. Acquiring the



Byzantine Center At The Grove was itself a big dinger.

In her opening remarks, Clare recognized the collaboration between the two non-profits and their dedication to public service. While FOF sponsored the venue and speakers including travel, GOGY handled the speaking roster, audio/visual, registration and many of the other incidentals that made the event successful.

The speakers were all accomplished and entertaining professionals imparting their information clearly despite the sometimes complexity of their subjects. Information is limited here due to limited space, and the fact that serious members of the organizations should have made an effort to attend. We wish to thank seminar committee chair Pat Murphy, Lisa Nicklash and FOF representative Deb Metzger for putting together a first class roster.

Eddie Lagucki, Director of Grounds, Red Oak Camp in Kirtland, OH, talked about *The Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants*. His presentation came via Zoom due to snowy conditions from the north. (We had a half dozen no-shows probably due to the same conditions.) His talk included 5 native plants each (Flowers, Shrubs and Trees) he expects will do well as warming due to climate change advances north.

Joseph Mehalik, Greenhouse Director of Stan Hywet Gardens interspaced humor with his high energy talk about *Winterizing Your Tropical Plants*. Among his recommendations were for tropicals grown indoors and outdoors in our area were: Use Neem Cake for bedding instead of peat moss; use distilled or rain water to limit salts; fertilize with Nutricote 18-6-8;

systemic pest control, and Insecticidal soap when bringing plants indoors. Stan Hywet will hold a 3 day Tropical Plant Sale beginning May 17th.

Janet Macunovich, a professional garden designer and author, told us how to *Simplify a Garden: Less Time and Effort*. Of all the speakers, she was by far



the most inspirational by continuing her work despite having Parkinson's Disease. As we age and/or deal with limited physical abilities, Janet advised to keep going. Smaller gardens, raised beds, low maintenance plants, or volunteering to keep involved in gardening. Her husband is a major source of encouragement. Her advice: DON'T STOP.

Andrew Pratt, Certified Arborist, told us *How to Identify Tree Problems Before It's Too Late*. Left alone without intervention by natural disasters and Man, native trees should live hundreds of years. A tree's leaves will give early indication of problems. Don't prune oaks in spring and summer, no mulch volcanoes, prune correctly were among his recommendations.

Among the improvements realized in the change of venue was the Byzantine Center is at least 50% larger than the Davis Center. If the popularity of our seminar grows, it will be better suited to accommodate larger crowds. This enabled the visual set-up to air from behind the screens. Shaye Cahill, seen here with mother Clare Neff, led the audio/visual team that included Jim Bleacher and Nina Bristol. And while food is a



matter of taste, many in attendance preferred the Byzantine's caterer to Fellows'.

GOGY will be faced with a major decision before next year's seminar. Given the advantages the Byzantine Center offers, FOF is con-

tractually tied to Fellows and wouldn't be able to co-sponsor the event. In addition to losing their share of the costs, we would miss their member participation.

Many thanks to all who provided and assembled basket raffle items, sold tickets and otherwise helped make the event a success. Clare will recognize them and others in her President's message, Pg. 1.



March 2025

The Germinator



When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

After baptizing the Flynn's little boy and attending the ensuing party in Dublin, Fr. O'Connor is driving home to his parish in Cork when he runs a stop sign and is pulled over by a constable.

"Have you been drinking?", the cop asks.

"Just water", the priest replies.

"Then how do you explain smelling like wine and the empty bottle on the passenger's seat?"

The priest looks at the bottle and gasps, "Praise the Lord, He's done it again".



Seamus is sitting in the pub when the bartender approaches and says, "I see your glass is empty. Would you care for another?"

"Don't be daft, ya tosser," Seamus replies. "Why would I fancy two empty glasses?"

The Calendar Might Say 'Spring', But...



'It as one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: When it's summer in the light, and winter in the shade.'
Charles Dickens

Common Houseplant Mistakes

Winter care of houseplants can challenge even the most knowledgeable gardeners. Shorter days and dry conditions demand growers follow regimens that address watering, ambient light, temperature and humidity.

Watering

Many of us fail to realize plant moisture needs are reduced significantly in colder, lower light seasons. Under these conditions, plants grow more slowly. The old test of pushing a finger a couple inches into the soil and coming out dry indicates a need to water. Sometimes, however, plants will need more moisture than in summer. This may be due to more shade from trees in full leaf. Moisture check every few days.

Air Circulating From Heating Vents

Warm or cool, dry air circulating from vents can cause leaves to yellow and drop prematurely. Locations also include fireplaces, radiators and stoves. In addition, opening doors can give plants a cold shock. As with real estate its location, location, location.

Increasing Humidity

Winter's warm, dry conditions can dramatically drain plants of moisture. As a general rule, if humidity drops below 40%, augmentation should be considered. This can be remedied with a humidifier. Clustering plants close together also helps as plants losing moisture will pass some on to those nearby.

Consider a humidity tray filled with pebbles and water. The drawback here is the need for a large container and keeping it filled. Frequent misting is an alternative but leaves should be wiped down now and then to remove buildup of pore-clogging chemicals in city water.

Providing Enough Light

The more light plants get, the better they do. They often need to be relocated to brighter spots during the dark days of winter. Moving them closer to windows helps provided there are no drafts due to poor insulation. Inexpensive to run LED lights can augment low light situations.

Cleaning Houseplants

As mentioned above, water can contain salts and other chemicals that clog plant pores. Dust that robs plants of light and can hide pests needs to be removed. Get rid of dust and chemical buildup by periodically misting leaves and wiping them with a soft cloth or duster.

Sign up at gardeningknowhow.com for periodic emails on gardening subjects.



March 2025



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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.villagequiltscanfield.com

Whitehouse Fruit Farms
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-4161
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

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Youngstown, Ohio 44503
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Calendar of Events



March 4, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
March 4, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 1, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
April 1, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 6, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 6, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
May 7-10, 2025 .. Spring Plant Sale 9AM-6PM ... MASCO Greenhouse South Ave.

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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