

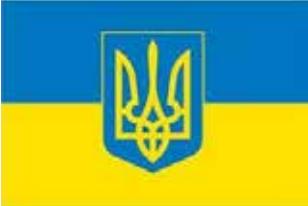


# THE Germinator

## President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

As I write this message I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the suffering and utter destruction happening in Ukraine. As I witness what is happening to innocent families there I cannot help but be filled with empathy and heartbreak for them. While many of you are offering prayers I want to encourage those of you who are able, to consider donating to charities such as Save The Children, World Central Kitchen, or UNICEF.



I want to thank all of you who helped to make our May 5<sup>th</sup> seminar a success. More than 70 persons attended. Our speakers, Ann Rzepka and Laura Deeter, were very well received. I want to especially thank Dan Miller, Clare Neff, and Terry Voland for their efforts.

We are still planning for a May plant sale. This will be a public event with details on our website. Those of you who have expressed an interest in greenhouse work will be called upon to help out. Linda Biggs will be coordinating our efforts at the MASCO greenhouse and Bruce Brungard will do the same at the Leonard Kirtz greenhouse.

Save the date: June 1 will be our plant auction and pot-luck dinner at Boardman Park's Lariccia Community Center. This will also be open to the public. Keep this event in mind when you begin clearing your perennial beds. Think about dividing some plants for the auction. Think about starting some seeds and taking cuttings for the auction. This is a fundraiser for the club, but also an opportunity to obtain some new and exciting plants.

On April 23<sup>th</sup>, the Central Great Lakes Region Garden Club of which we are members, and I am president, will be having a membership meeting at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield Ohio. We will have lunch at 1pm; followed by a brief business meeting; then an hour talk by one of Kingwood's gardeners. Her topic will be "Perennial Solutions for Problem Areas". The meeting will end at 4pm, which leaves plenty of time to stroll through the beautiful grounds. Let me know if you would like to attend. Given the spike in gas prices, it makes sense to carpool. I can help with that.

On a side note: I have been reading a fascinating book of non-fiction called the Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean. It reads like an exciting novel about orchid poaching and collecting in southern Florida. Along the way I'm learning much about orchids and the flora and fauna in the Fakahatchee Strand (swamp).

Lastly we are still taking orders for Polo shirts with our new logo on it. Contact me if you want to order one.

*I hope to see you soon.*

*Tom Atkins*



## Meeting Schedule

Fellows' Riverside Gardens

**Board Meeting**

5:30pm, Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

*All Members Welcome*

**Membership Meeting**

7pm, Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Speaker: John Hippley**

who will tell us about

Hippley Gardens in  
Columbiana

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*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

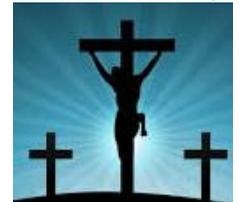
*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.*

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

*From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

Excerpts from the Apostle's Creed





# THE Germinator

## CLUB NEWS

### ***New Member***

**Dan Chambers**, 58 East Western Reserve Rd., Poland, OH, 44514. Dan is married (Mary Ann) and is a retired Youngstown City Schools teacher. His gardening interests include becoming a better gardener and, as we all know, gardeners are always learning.

**Welcome Aboard!**

### ***Club Meeting Location Change***

Beginning in September, our membership and board meetings will be held at a new location. Possibilities include a classroom in the Davis Center, Austintown Park, various Mahoning County libraries and others. If you know of another possible location that would be consistently available the first Wednesday of the month and free or inexpensive, contact Tom Arens.

### ***Spring Plant Sale Update***

While we should have two greenhouses to start annuals for the May sale, access to the old MCDD greenhouse on Bev Rd. in Boardman has been delayed due to two glass panels needing replaced. We've been told we may be able to start planting in mid-to-late March. Contact Linda Biggs if you want to help. Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse is up and running. Contact Bruce Brungard to volunteer there.

### ***Central Great Lakes Region***

Help support the region's new president, Tom Arens, at the spring meeting at Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield. The April 23<sup>rd</sup> event runs 1-4pm with lunch served. A speaker is scheduled. Afterward, there will be a tour of the beautiful gardens. Contact Rodney Toth or Tom if you want to carpool.

### ***Plant Auction***

One of our most popular events, the annual Plant Auction, will be held Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, so start getting your veggies, annuals, perennials and other gardening items ready. Food and beverages will be served. It will be held at the Lariccia Center in Boardman Park.

### ***GOGY Horticulture Show***

The widely anticipated show will be held Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Entries will again be limited to annuals and vegetables.

## ***GOGY Membership Info***

A 2022 version of our membership directory will soon be printed and distributed to members at our meetings. The directory will provide easy access to member's phone numbers, email and mailing addresses and other club information.

### ***Hydrangeas & Good Gardening Advice***

Rex Lester of Elliot's Garden Center gave an excellent presentation at our March meeting that went well beyond the listed subject matter. He began by listing the pros and cons of growing two hydrangea species. He emphasized the main reason blooms turn brown early is lack of water.

*Macrophylla* hydrangea varieties are best known for their blue and pink blooms. They have a tendency to die back and can go several seasons without significant flowering. They prefer morning or dappled sunlight, and need attention to hydration. A new Proven Winners variety is 'Candy Crush'.



*Panicle* hydrangeas, which Rex prefers, also require watering attention, enjoy full sun and have long lasting blooms. They should be planted in early Spring. Rex is excited about several varieties including 'Firelight Tidbit', whose flowers turn from white to pink to red. He is also fond of 'Little Lime Punch' and 'Limelight'.



It is easy to root and grow hydrangeas. As with pruning most perennials, it is best to cut at a 45 degree angle 1/3<sup>rd</sup> above a node. This allows rain water to run off preventing diseases. Hydrangea trees like 'Pinky Winky' are a relatively inexpensive landscape focal point and they grow fast.

Then it comes to general fertilizing, Rex is high on Osmocote although it is a bit pricy. Also in the running is Jack's Bluegills. For lawns, he likes 'Milorganite', a slow release, inexpensive fertilizer that won't have you mowing twice a week.



He feels that all landscapes need evergreens and likes junipers. 'Limeglow' turns yellow to gold as the season progresses and is low growing. Hollies have a high mortality rate and often have browning patches.

When it comes to mulches, a vast majority should be bark because shredded hardwood decomposes quite rapidly. Colored mulches are dyed with food coloring that fades quickly. Rex uses bagged mulch. Though more expensive, it is much easier to work with.



# The Germinator

## GOGY Winter Seminar

*Inch by inch, row by row  
Gonna make this garden grow*

So went the chorus of *The Garden Song* sung by Rodney Toth, Tom Arens and Ron Fasano that marked the event's beginning. It didn't take long for the larger



than expected crowd to join in making for very positive vibes in the Daniel L. Rossi, Esq. Auditorium at Fellows Riverside Garden's Davis Center. And the delicious continental breakfast of baked goods, fruit and beverages only added to the festive mood.



## Native Plants/Cultivars in Home Landscapes

The first speaker was Anne Rzepka Budziak, Director of Arboretum Horticulture, Holden Forests and Gardens, in Kirkland, OH. She began her career at Holden as a volunteer, interned there while in college and now oversees a wide area including the Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden. The garden was established in 1968 and is home to 400 of our state's 1800 native species including 75 which are endangered.



Native plants and wild life have evolved to become mutually beneficial. The plants provide food and shelter and, in return, the wildlife helps pollinate the plants and spread their seeds. The effect of non-natives can run from benign to catastrophic. In worse cases, alien plants and/or animals can displace natives upsetting the local ecosystem so gardeners should do their due diligence before purchasing and installing plants.



Ann ran through an extensive list of plants dividing them by their blooming periods of Spring/Early Summer, Mid-summer and Late Summer/Fall. She told us how only one giant swallowtail butterfly had been seen at Holden in 40 years. Since *Yellowroot* was planted, these insects have become regular visitors.

## Landscaping with Annuals

Dr. Laura Deeter is Professor of Landscape Horticulture and Horticulture Science at Ohio State's Agriculture Institute in Wooster, OH. Attend one of her presentations and it's obvious why she is in such demand as a speaker. Laura imparts her considerable knowledge with high energy and knee-slapping humor.



She says an easy way to distinguish between plant life cycles. Annuals produce lots of seeds and die; biennials produce foliage the first year and seeds the second, then die; and perennials live for 3 or more years. She loves annuals because they allow you to change your landscape every year with new plants including using containers.

Because nurseries fertilize with almost every watering, the plants must be slowly weaned beginning 2 weeks after installation. Feed with whatever you have handy including 10-10-10 but follow directions.

Annual growing soil requirements are simple: 3-4" of well-drained soil and 2" of mulch to save water. The plants usually encounter disease problems in the nursery rather than in beds. New vegetable varieties are being developed as dual-use ornamentals including corn with colorful, variegated foliage. Mites and aphids can be controlled by blasting both sides of leaves with a hose.

The seminar concluded with raffle winners choosing



between several beautiful hellebore varieties from the Petiti Garden Center, soil art prints and \$25 gift certificates for our club's Spring Plant Sale or Plant Auction. Hopefully, all 75 attendees will return for next year's full day seminar.



# THE Germinator

## Well R**O**unded

The title of member Ray Carroll's short bio published in the *Germinator's* August 2007 issue befit this gentleman two ways. First, before losing considerable weight after a health scare, he was a rather portly fellow who was the first to joke about his expansive belt size. But most important, this onetime member of MENSA was as close being a 'renaissance man' as anyone we've met. Sadly, Ray passed away several months ago and we didn't get a chance to say 'goodbye'.

An engineer at Youngstown Sheet and Tube during the '50s and '60s, Ray helped design some of the earliest vacuum tube computers writing software translated into 22 languages. His innovations in the steel rolling mill process were patented. He also taught computer classes at YSU and worked as a technology consultant.

An accomplished rosarian, Ray won many awards, served as president of five rose societies and was a certified judge. He was instrumental in starting several organizations including the Mahoning Valley Rose Society. At the request of Fellows Riverside Gardens, he started its rose show in 1998, and the Ohio State Rose Show was held there in 2007. He also hosted a weekly gardening show on WKBN TV where he was known as the *Garden Guru*.



Visitors to his 50 acre Lake Milton homestead were always impressed with his landscaping talents as we were when he hosted a club picnic some years ago. He liked to say, "He who dies with the most toys wins", and Ray had them aplenty. Among them were earthmoving equipment used to excavate several huge ponds and adorn them with boulders, taken from a nearby quarry, the size of Volkswagens. There were also plenty of toys in his barn including antique cars, farming equipment and an airplane most were in need of major restoration.

Wife Cathy and Ray's home construction was a family affair that included his children and mother, Florence. In addition to using recycled lumber for framing, the 1/2" paneling came from trees on the property that Ray cut, aged and planed.

Ray was concerned with environment issues like climate change – "Help save my grandchildren". He was also a remarkable fundraiser for local causes including an organ for Lake Milton's St. Christine's Church and the Craig Beach Library. He was also a productive club membership recruiter.

He is survived by Cathy who taught school for 24 years, holds numerous college degrees, is an accomplished organist and outscored Ray on an IQ test.

*Rest in peace, dear friend*

## Spring Gardening Thoughts

*We may think we are nurturing our garden when, in fact, our garden is nurturing us.* Jerry Uglow

*Anyone who thinks gardening begins in Spring and ends in Autumn is missing the best part of the whole year, for gardening begins in January with a dream.*

Josephine Nuese

*I'm not aging, I just need repotting.* Unknown

*A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness. And it teaches thrift and industry.*

*Above all it teaches entire trust.* Gertrude Jekyll



*There no gardening mistakes, only experiments.*

Janet Kilburn Phillips

*The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.*

Gertrude Jekyll

*Life begins when one grows a garden.* Chinese proverb

## Fool Me Once...

*April 1<sup>st</sup> – This is the day upon which we are reminded what we are the other 364.* Mark Twain

*We are fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance.* Japanese proverb



*Isn't it appropriate that April begins the tax season, and ends with cries of 'May Day'?* Unknown

*Caution, it's April Fools Day. Some comedian may or may not have put a true story in with the fake news.*



# 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.

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April 2022

# The Germinator



Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451  
[www. GG-YO.org](http://www.GG-YO.org)



## calendar of events



- April 6 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- April 6 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- June 1 .....Plant Auction & Potluck ...7:00PM .....Lariccia Ctr., Boardman 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.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the D. D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Garden. 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  
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