



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

By the time you read this, I will have planted sugar snap peas. Perhaps some of you have done the same. The challenge to all of us with limited ground space is how to grow vertically rather than horizontally. Last year I bought a 16'x4' hog panel from Tractor Supply. These are heavy gauge with 4" square openings. I cut it into 2 8' lengths and zip tied them to in ground posts. This made a very secure, permanent, tall growing structure. In June, I'll grow pole beans, cucumbers and any other plants that that need vertical tying up.



This leads me to a suggestion: I want to allow time at each meeting for members to present gardening tips or tools. Spring stimulates our creativity and problem solving abilities. Let's share them with each other, because that's one of the advantages of belonging to a garden club.

Our Winter Seminar, while lower in attendance (approx. 70) was none the less very successful. We were pleased with the 3 speakers; the food was very good; and the basket raffle generated a sizable profit given the attendance. I want to send out a big thank you to the seminar committee - Rodney, Shane, Bruce, Pat, myself and Clare Neff, committee chairperson.



L-R: Bruce Brungard, Rodney Toth, Shane Burgraf, Clare Neff, Pat Murphy & Tom Arens. Behind them is the beautiful quilt sewn by Linda Arens to be raffled at the Fair, tickets to be sold all year.

Our next big event is our Plant Sale, May 10th to May 13th, at the MASCO greenhouse at South Ave. and Bev Rd. in Boardman. We are working with the Mahoning County Green Team to bring it up to optimal functioning. We will be calling on members to help in various capacities prior to the sale: Transplanting, watering, pruning, etc. On the days of the sale, we will need mem-bers to help customers with questions and carrying purchases to their cars.

Lastly, GOGA is part of the Central Great Lakes Region, an organization comprised of clubs from Akron, Cleveland, Lima, Indiana and Michigan. We will be participating in the Spring Regional Meeting at Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield on April 22nd. We will have lunch at noon followed by the business meeting. Lastly, there will be plenty of time before and after to tour the gardens. I suggest members wishing to attend to car pool. Contact me if interested. *See you soon.*

Tom Arens

GOGY Annual Spring Plant Sale

Wed.-Sat., May 10th-13th

We will need members to help prepare and maintain plants, and assist customers on the days of sale. Contact Bruce Brungard to help.

Meeting Schedule

Wed., April 5th

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting – 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting – 7pm

Speaker: Joseph Morrison

2022 Scholarship Winner

Guests Welcome

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New Members

Lois Martin-Uscianowski – Lois lives in New Springfield and works as a consultant. Her gardening interest include butterflies and other pollinators. She is an OSU Master Gardener, participates in an annual butterfly festival children’s gardening program and is a member of the Holborn Herb Guild.

Sponsor: Bob Schulick

Dawn Reed – Dawn lives in Canfield. Her gardening interests include cut flowers and herbs. Hobbies include home improvement.

For a members’ address, email and phone number go to gg-yo.org., then set up a ‘members’ password.

Refreshments at Meetings

We seem to have gotten away from to putting \$1 in the cup when taking coffee and/or baked goods offered at membership meetings. Helene Viano bakes the pastries from scratch, on her own dime and they are delicious. *A real bargain for a buck.*

Horticulture Show

The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown will be holding our annual Horticulture Show in August, an event greatly anticipated by gardeners over a wide area. Exhibits will be evaluated by certified judges with Best in Show vetted from Best of Sections.



Sections: **Vegetables; Ornamentals; Fruits; Annuals; Perennials/Biennials; Dahlias; Bulbs/Tubers/Corms/Roots; Roses and Potted Plants.**

In addition to these sections which carry no compensation other than bragging rights, \$25 cash prizes will be given for the Youth Division Sweepstakes (16 yoa and younger), heaviest tomato and largest zinnia.

Our August membership meeting will include a tutorial on how to best prepare and exhibit entries. Now is the time to start planning and growing those special plants for this popular event. We want as many entries as possible and potential exhibitors should view this competition as a chance to expand their horticulture knowledge while having fun.

Not Just Another Roadside Attraction

Our March membership meeting featured a talk by First VP Clare Neff on one of her favorite stops when

vacationing in Florida - the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg.

In 1911, plumber George Turner purchased 6 acres of an ancient lake that would become a world famous botanical attraction. He painstakingly drained the property leaving a huge depression of rich muck soil that was ideal for tropic and subtropical plants.

The property became so popular that his family began charging for tours. The Turner family maintained the original vision of a tropical sanctuary until the City of St. Petersburg purchased the property in 1999 to preserve this historic former roadside attraction. The Gardens have been designated as a historical landmark.



There are over 500 tropical and subtropical plant species amidst pools and cascading waterfalls, lushly exhibiting over 50,000 tropical plants and flowers. Included are Japanese, cactus and butterfly gardens. Many plants are quite large due to their extended cultivation and protection. The Gardens are also home to a flock of 20 Chilean flamingos, macaw and cockatoo parrots, and a kookaburra some of which are rescues.

Sunken Gardens offers horticulture and other educational programs. Included are ‘Cameras for Kids’, ‘Propagation Techniques’, ‘Growing Microgreens’, ‘Rain Gardens and Barrels’, and ‘Think Outside the Pot: Mounting Orchids’. Also offered are self-guided and docent-led tours, horticultural programs and special events including weddings. A children’s book titled *Sophie & Zack at Sunken Gardens* features the venue’s history, plants and animals.





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Earth Day and the State of Our Home

April 22, 1970 is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement when, in fact, it began with Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller, *Silent Spring*. The initial focus was on the vast amounts of smoke and sludge produced by burning coal in factories, and the inefficient combustion of and the lead in transportation fuels. Until then, air pollution was accepted by many, oblivious to health concerns, as the 'smell of prosperity'.

The movement intensified as more people became aware of the pollution from oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, loss of wilderness and mass extinction of wildlife. Resulting legislation has addressed environmental education, occupational health and safety, clean air and water, endangered species, and agriculture and environment chemical safety. Various forces including affected industries have worked to mitigate or remove these laws with some success.

Climate Change

That over 90% of scientists studying Earth's climate agree that the planet is warming primarily due to human activity is highly unusual given the scope of the subjects studied. While 97% of current scientific papers published support this view, only 60% of Americans agree. The few climatologists counted as deniers are merely uncertain about Climate Change severity or trajectory.

Much of this disparity can be attributed to the divisive nature of our politics (left or right) where, no matter the question, one side will automatically dispute issues supported by the other. But the seriousness of all other disagreements pale in comparison.

We know the Earth is warming from a number of sources. For over a century, the heat trapping nature of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases has been known. Despite their relatively small percentage, they prevent an outsized amount of the sun's radiation from being reflected back into space. Since the Industrial Revolution began, the amount of these gases produced by burning fossil fuels has dramatically increased.

Temperature records since the mid 19th century confirm an unnatural increase, and measuring methods have since become much more accurate. Computer models inputting these and natural indicators like ice cores and tree rings are constantly being adjusted as new, verifiable information becomes available.

Surface temperatures tend to mask the scope of the problem because the oceans presently absorb 90% of the

heat trapped by greenhouse gases. One study estimated that between 1997 and 2015, oceans absorbed as much heat as it did in the previous 130 years. Ice sheets and glaciers are shrinking while sea levels rise. Arctic sea ice is disappearing. The oceans have become increasingly acidic upsetting some ecosystems like coral reefs, the nursery for many sealife species.

Earth's warming has many animals moving Northward and to higher elevations bringing insects, viruses and fungi against which native species have no natural defense. Plants are flowering sooner and, when a natural freeze occurs, fruiting is interrupted. Droughts, floods and wildfires have gotten more extreme. All of These conditions are putting entire ecosystems in flux leading to mass extinctions. This has huge implications for human food sources from agriculture to sea food.

Past major changes, warmer or cooler, have been caused by changes in solar energy, ocean circulation, volcanic activity and the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Nothing except greenhouse gases can explain the changes our climate is undergoing over such a relatively short period of time. Even now, climate refugees escaping floods, droughts and declining agriculture are invading what are now more stable areas and this will only increase disrupting world peace.

The Industrial Revolution and modern technology have increased atmospheric carbon dioxide from 280 parts per million (ppm) to the present 420 ppm and that measurement is rapidly climbing. Greenhouse gases aren't the only reason for temperature increases. Less snow, ice and trees result in less radiation being reflected back into space. To put it in perspective, carbon dioxide concentrations have not risen above 280 ppm in the last 800,000 years, a period when most of Earth's flora and fauna –including mankind – have evolved. Worse case scenarios predict the Earth's temperature to rise 9 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.

The bottom line is, if we continue on our present trajectory, all life on Earth will face huge adaptation issues at best. Not only must we stop pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere but work to remove the excess. Otherwise, the negative aspects of Climate Change will continue to worsen threatening all life as we know it including a large proportion of the human race.

The Germinator staff realizes some members and portions of the American public feel aspects of Climate Change are overblown or untrue. This article's conclusions are based on respected scientific sources like

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Amazing Annual Vines

Jack's beanstalk isn't the only show-stopping vine. There are annual varieties with gorgeous flowers that grow almost as fast. What other seed packet can be used to frame a door or trellis, soften the corner of a house or mask an eyesore like peeling house paint?

There are new varieties being developed all the time from heirlooms like Dutchman's pipe, morning glories, moon flower, sweet peas and nasturtium. Lesser knowns that are becoming increasingly popular include Chilean glory vine, Spanish flag and purple bell flower. Hyacinth bean produces large, deep purple, flowers with an alluring sheen in late summer. The Mt. Fuji series of morning glories, whose sky blue, violet, deep purple and crimson flowers (depending on variety) are marked with a white pinwheel-like pattern and picotee border.



Nearly all annual vines do best when sown a week or two after the average last frost date. When started indoors, they grow so quickly they may become stressed in their small space and may suffer transplant shock. Finicky germinators like sweet pea may be started indoors as backups. Also, if spring brings too much rain or excessive heat, backups will save your season.

Start in peat pots or cardboard egg containers so delicate roots aren't disturbed. Plants started outdoors will quickly catch up and surpass those sown indoors. Most prefer well drained soil but limit the amount of fertilizer as too much nitrogen will limit the number of blooms. Transplant when the first true leaves appear, then fertilize with 5-10-5 upon blooming. garden.org.

Hydrogen Peroxide for Germination

Seed germination rates depend upon: Seed age; shell thickness; seed species; requisite moisture, oxygen and warmth; and whether it has undergone scarification either mechanically or naturally (freeze/thaw cycle or passing through an animal's digestive system).

Chemical scarification with a diluted H₂O₂ solution will also soften the shell and add an additional molecule of oxygen to hard shelled seeds like spinach and beans. Mix 1 oz. of 3% food grade hydrogen peroxide with a pint of water and soak seeds 2 to 24 hours depending on shell thickness. Use food grade because it contains no heavy metals nor stabilizers.

40 Days & 40 Nights

Lent is the solemn Christian religious observance commemorating Jesus fasting for 40 days in the desert and enduring Satan's temptation. Most observe this period by not eating a certain item or giving up an activity until Easter. Here's the lighter side of Lent..

At 4pm one afternoon, a new customer entered a bar and ordered two draft beers. He left after alternately sipping both glasses dry.

After the routine went on for several consecutive days, the bartender's had to ask, "Since beer goes flat fast, why not order one at a time?"

"Me brother still in Ireland", the man replied, "and we share a pint at the same time every day."

After a week of the same routine, the man orders only one beer. Fearing the worst, the bartender asks if the man's brother is okay.

"Oh, he's fine," the man says. "He's just observing Lent."

Lent is when we determine which addictions we still have some control over.

Lent was invented so Catholics could take another shot at their New Year's resolutions.

No Fool Like an April Fool

Today's the day to propose marriage. If they say "yes", great. If they say "no", you can just say, "April Fool!"

Why are babies born on March 31st the easiest to prank April Fools Day?. They were literally born yesterday.

On April Fools Day, teenagers snuck into the police station and stole all the toilets. At a news conference, the chief said, "At this point, we really have nothing to go on".



Great Gag: *Unscrew the shower head and slip a bouillon cube into the pipe, then replace the head. If undetected, someone is going to smell like chicken for the rest of the day.*



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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.**

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413 E. Main St.
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Calendar of Events



- April 5 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- April 5 Membership Mtg .. 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 3 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 3 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- June 7..... Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- June 7 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- May 10 - 13 Annual Plant Sale MASCO Greenhouse, South Ave.
- August 25-26 Annual Horticulture Show Fellows Riverside Gardens

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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