



# THE Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Holiday Greetings to all GOGY members!*

By now, most of you should have put your gardens to bed for the season. But before too long we'll be getting seed/plant catalogs, and we can start daydreaming about our 2023 gardens. Don't be afraid to try something new, but also remember to learn from the mistakes you made this year. I must confess most mistakes I make are the result of not following the information on the plant tags regarding spacing and height requirements. This is a good time to start a garden journal while your mistakes are fresh in your mind.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the President's Reception/Christmas Dinner on 12-14-22 at Ala Carte Catering. There will be good food, good company, and good entertainment. See more information in this issue of the Germinator.

It is time for all members to get their dues in before the first of the year: \$25 for individual membership; \$40 for a 2-person family membership; and \$20 for each additional family member.

We are actively planning our annual winter seminar in March of 2023. Clare Neff will be coordinating the event and has assembled a committee of members to work on various aspects of it. By the first of the year, we should have the location and speakers planned. Next we will work on the meals and the basket raffle. There is much to do to prepare for this event and I hope I can count on many of you to help out. Remember our mission as a club, mandates that we provide educational opportunities to our community in matters relating to gardening and horticulture.

Since many of us will now be spending more time indoors, I have some reading and watching recommendations. Two Netflix documentaries: *Kiss the Ground* and *Breaking Boundaries-The Science of our Planet* are excellent. A book called *Regenerative Gardening* by Stephanie Rose is described as "80 practical projects for creating a self-sustaining garden ecosystem".

*Wishing all of you a heathy, safe, and happy holidays!* **Tom Atkins**

## **GOGY President's Reception - Christmas Party - Dinner**

**Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, A la Carte Catering, Canfield**

**Meet 'n Greet 6pm, Dinner at 7pm**

**Davis & Penner Acoustic Guitar Duo - You'll love 'em**

**Top Club Awards, Poinsettias for Ladies, Lots of Fun**

**Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast or Salmon or Vegetarian Lasagna**

**Wedding Soup, Spinach Salad, Twice Baked Potato, Veggie Blend &**

**Cherries in the Snow. Beverages: BYOB - wine, beer, etc.**

**\$22 per person. RSVP by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> either at Board Meeting or send check and entrée choice(s) to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH 44451**

## **Meeting Schedule**

### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, 5:30pm, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Austintown Library**

***All Members Welcome***

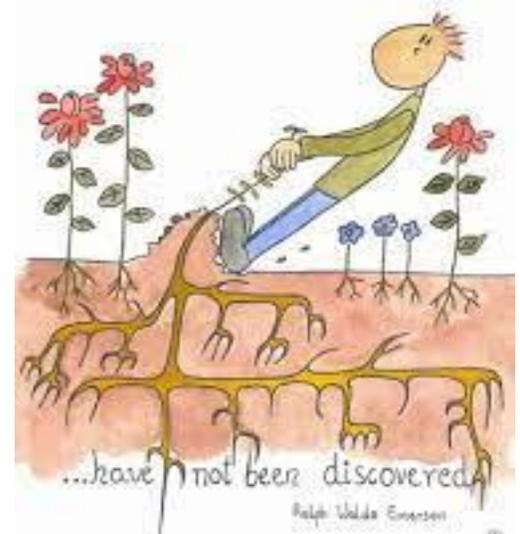
### **Membership Meeting**

**President's Reception Dinner.**

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What is a weed?  
A plant whose virtues...





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## CLUB NEWS

### New Member

**Birt Underwood** lives in Lisbon, OH, has an electrical engineering degree and is involved in internet technology at CDK Global. His gardening interests include hostas, perennials and flowers. He belongs to the Western PA and Midland Hosta Societies. Hobbies include woodworking and beekeeping.

Sponsor: Lisa Nicklash

*Welcome Aboard*

### New Club **DUES** Structure

With our organization's recently becoming coed, several of our newer members have significant others and offspring who have joined. Addressing this situation, the Board of Gardeners has established a new dues structure: Individual membership is still \$25 per year; a dual membership is \$40; each additional family member will be charged \$20 per year.

Speaking of dues, our 2023 membership dues are now being collected by Treasurer Terry Voland. Bring your payment to the November meeting or send a check to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH, 44451.

### Taylor Loves Elephant Ears

Taylor DeLand, GOGY's 2021 and 2022 Scholarship recipient, is in her second year at OSU's Agriculture Institute majoring in greenhouse management.

Her studies include hydroponic and aeroponic growing systems. This busy young woman also works several jobs to help pay her tuition. She gave a presentation on Elephant Ear plants at our November meeting.



*Colocasia esculenta*, is hearty in zones 9-12 and considered an invasive species in tropical regions as it is toxic to animals and humans. In colder climates it is grown as an annual often dug up and brought indoors during winter month.

Capable of growing to 15 ft. tall and 8 ft. wide, its massive leaves make for an interesting specimen plant. Elephant Ears need only partial sun but require lots of water and fertilizer. Spider mites and aphids are among the pests needing control.

### Eric Barrett On Fall Cleanup

There are few people over a very wide area who can match Ohio State Extension Educator Eric Barrett's horticulture knowledge, and it's always a privilege when he gives a presentation to our organization. And so it was at our November membership meeting when he discussed fall cleanup.

Work done prior to the beginning of winter will help ensure a healthier landscape next spring. Remove warm season vegetable and annual plants roots and all to prevent overwintering insects and diseases. If choosing to compost, make sure the pile reaches 135 - 160 degrees. Otherwise bag and trash them out. Cold tolerant veggies can be left in for a while.

Take advantage of the few remaining Indian summer days. Dead stems and foliage of most perennials and wildflowers should be pruned. Certain ornamentals with winter interest like tall grasses should be left uncut. This includes seed heads of *Achillea* (yarrow), *echinacea* and *rudbeckia* which provide food for overwintering birds.

Fall is also a great time to divide perennials and plant new ones. Be sure to apply at least 2" of organic mulch to newly planted perennials to retain soil temperature and moisture, encourage root growth and prevent soil heaving. Tender bulbs and tubers like those of tuberous begonia, canna and dahlia should be dug up and stored after the first frost.

Mulch leaves into lawns with several mower passes. Leaves can also be placed in the garden or compost bin. Fall is also a good time for corrective pruning of tree and shrub branches. Recognizing and removing dead, damaged, diseased, and rubbing or crossing branches is easier when leaves are gone.

Thick layers of leaves will cause unsightly lawn bare spots where weeds will take hold. Gardeners should try to maintain an area for dead wood, leaves and bare ground where pollinators can overwinter.

Check out Eric's OSU Extension hydrangea fact-sheet HYG-1263.

### Norman Cappitte, 1940 - 2022

Norm, a former GOGA member and gardener extraordinaire, recently passed away. He and son Gregory presented some of the most wonderful exhibits at our annual Horticulture Show. Among them were both Norm winning the Heaviest Tomato and Gregory winning the Largest Zinnia competitions two years in a row. We hope Gregory continues the family tradition.

*Rest In Peace, Dear Friend!*

# The Germinator

## Indoor Gardening with Houseplants

As the last leaves flutter to the ground and seed catalogs begin appearing in mail boxes and emails, most gardeners begin longing for the next growing season. Not only can tending to houseplants take up the slack between harvest and sowing, they can add a natural beauty to our indoor living spaces. To get a general idea of what's available, go to [www.gardeningknowhow.com](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com) and click on 'house-plants', then 'specific houseplants'. A list of 125 species will appear with a description, photo and care requirements.

With its red, white and green foliage, the *Stromanthe sanguine* 'Tristar', or 'prayer plant', is an attractive

Christmas decoration or gift that can grow 2-3 ft. tall by 1-2 ft. wide. Be forewarned, however, as its care can be demanding. Most notably, humidifying either by regularly misting and/or using pebble trays is required. Still, gardeners in need of a horticulture fix may accept the challenge.



## Reusing Potting Soil

What do you do with the medium used for annuals or when repotting? Dan Miller found this article at [HouseDigest.com](http://HouseDigest.com). First, carefully inspect old plants for disease or insect damage. Soak in insecticide and fungicide to be sure.

Begin by removing old plant material and loosen any compaction. Using tap water and over-fertilizing can lead to salt buildup. Inspect leaves for tiny crystals or a foggy film. Flush the soil thoroughly to remove excess salts then allow it to thoroughly dry.

The soil can also be sanitized by putting a 3" layer on a baking sheet and covered with aluminum foil. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees and, when soil reaches 180 degrees, bake for 30 minutes.

A year's use will often drain soil of necessary nutrients. The soil can be revitalized by mixing in an all-purpose enrichment containing macro nutrients and beneficial microbes. Finished humus from a compost pile will also replenish nutrients and beneficial microbes.

## Overwintering Plants in Containers

Annuals grown in containers should be discarded at season's end but many potted perennials, shrubs and trees can be maintained over winter.

The more cold-hardy the plant, the more likely it can be kept alive. A general rule of thumb is a USDA hardiness zone 2 times colder for container plants and using larger containers that offer more insulation for roots. Our area is generally considered zone 5 so plants rated safe at zone 3 can be left outside. Water the plant before soil freeze. Evergreens will benefit from an anti-desiccant spray or a screen to block the wind. Large wooden or concrete planters can usually be left in place.

Clay, ceramic or glazed pots are likely to crack. If they must be used, however, wrap them in bubble wrap or an insulating material covered with plastic. Burying the pots will also provide insulation. They can also be moved to an unheated garage, shed, cold frame or basement. Soil moisture must be checked periodically but don't overwater which will produce root rot.

Another method is to group pots close together in a location protected from the wind and cover them with straw, compost, shredded leaves, bark mulch, evergreen boughs or a thermal blanket. One or a few plants can be placed inside a box, larger pot or wire enclosure around which some insulating material can be added. Moisture must always be checked because dry soil freezes faster than moist. In spring, remove protective covers gradually to give plants time to acclimate.

Source: <https://extension.psu.edu/overwintering-plants>

## Winter Plants for Wildlife

Given the increasing loss of wildlife habitat, city and suburban gardeners can help native wildlife survive in winter. Most important is the choice of plants.

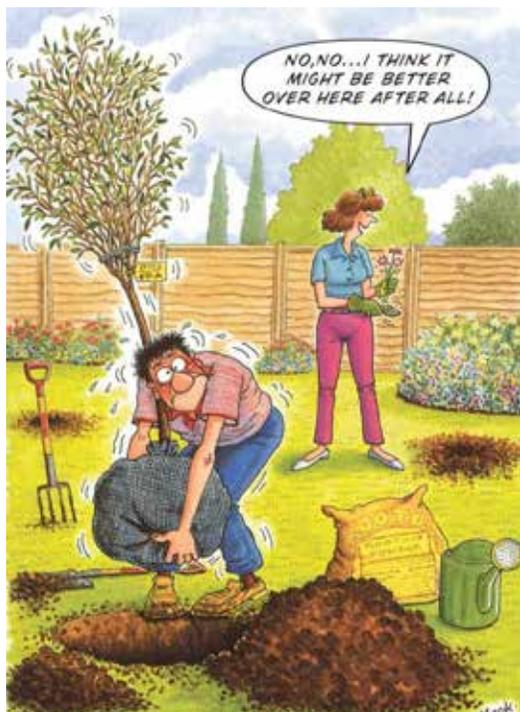
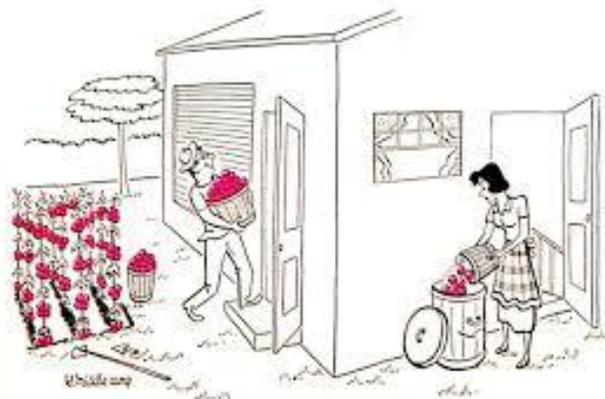
Pyramidal evergreens, both in needle and conifer form, not only offer shelter but provide food in the form of cones and fruit. These include varieties of juniper, arborvitae and false cypress.

The wide leaves of broadleaf evergreens like rhododendron, gardenia and holly deflect the elements even better than conifers especially closer to the ground.

Ground-hugging evergreen varieties of moss, juniper, cypress and pigsqueak offer birds a perch to observe their surroundings and provide protection from predators. Source: [provenwinners.com](http://provenwinners.com)

# The Germinator

## Gardening – Fun & Funny



## 'Tiz the Season

*And this, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent...* Taylor Caldwell

*May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.* Anonymous

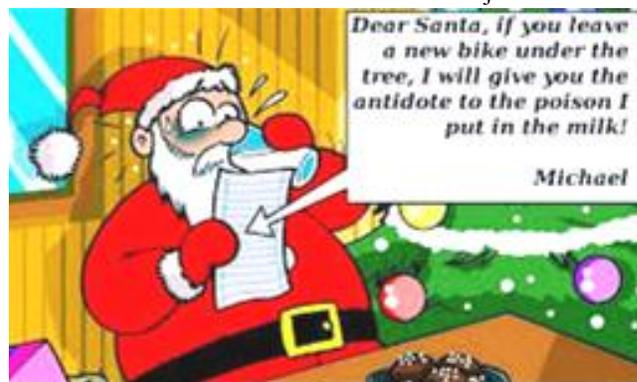
*Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see.* The Polar Express

*Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand.* Dr. Seuss

*Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.* Winston Churchill

*A good conscience is a continual Christmas.*

Benjamin Franklin



*I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: A rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.* Maya Angelou

*Adults can take a simple holiday for children and screw it up. What began as a presentation of simple gifts to delight and surprise children around the Christmas tree has culminated in a woman unwrapping six shrimp forks from her dog, who drew her name in a gift exchange.* Erma Bombeck

### How About Some Christmas Puns?

*Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can ho, ho, ho.*

*Why is Santa afraid of getting stuck in a chimney? He has Claustrophobia.*

*How do you wash your hands over the holidays? With Santatizer.*

*How can you tell that Santa is real? Because you can always sense his presents.*

*What nationality is Santa Claus? He's North Polish.*

*What brand of motorcycle does Santa ride? Holly Davidson.*

Since you haven't had enough, here's a few more.

*What's a snowman's favorite song? 'Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow'.*

*What goes 'Oh Oh Oh'? Santa walking backwards.*



# 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.

**Ace Hardware Canfield**  
413 E. Main St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
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**Amish Market**  
6121 South Ave.  
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www.theamishmarket.net

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info@bairdbrothers.com

**Bernard Daniels Lumber**  
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330-533-2211  
www.bdlumber.com

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www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

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13020 Kinsman R.,  
Burton, OH,44021  
www.burtonfloralandgarden.net

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Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
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**Colonial Gardens**  
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www.colonialgardensohio.com

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Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154  
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www.djsgreenhouse.com

**Elliot's Garden Center**  
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330-758-8889

**Garden Artisans**  
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Annapolis, Md. 21401  
www.gardenartisans.com

**Greenstar Cooperative**  
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Greenford, Ohio 44422  
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www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

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**Kridler Gardens**  
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Homeworth, Ohio 44634  
330-525-7914  
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Youngstown, Ohio 44509

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Boardman, Ohio  
330-782-2004

**Parks Garden Center**  
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Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7278  
parksgardencenter@aol.com

**Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.**  
P.O. Box 93-C  
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079  
www.everlastlabel.com

**Petitti Garden Center**  
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330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenters.com

**Robert McGowan, LPL Financial**  
MGCY Member  
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**Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**  
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**Richard States MGCY Member**

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**Village Quilts**  
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Kansas City, MO 64116  
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**Whitehouse Fruit Farms**  
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**Youngstown Cityscape**  
15 Central Square, 2nd Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040



# The Germinator



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



## calendar of events



- Dec. 7 ..... Board Meeting ..... TBA ..... Austintown Library
- Dec. 14 .... President’s Reception .....6pm ..... A La Carte Catering, Canfield
- Jan 4 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... TBD
- Jan 4 ..... Membership Mtg .....7:00PM ..... TBD
- Feb 1 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... TBD
- Feb 1 ..... Membership Mtg .....7:00PM ..... TBD

## 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 Georgianna Parker Room at Boardman Park. 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](http://www.gg-yo.org)



## THE GOGY 2022 OFFICERS

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