

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year Everyone,

What a year it has been! I hope everyone is well. Just like the flora in northeastern Ohio, our club has gone into dormancy for the winter. But similarly we will enjoy new growth and revitalization as Spring approaches. At this time of year I am reminded of the following quote by Josephine Nuese:

*“Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the Spring and ends in the Fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.”*

We have much to look forward to in the new year, which portends to be less restrictive and more open with the advent of the vaccine. Most of us should be able to receive it fairly soon since we are of a “certain age”. In the meantime we need to approach the “light at the end of the tunnel” with caution. I would like to hold a board meeting sometime in February with our first membership meeting to be held on March at Austintown Township Park.

In addition to dreaming about this year’s garden, we should be preparing our tools for the work that lay ahead: eg, cleaning and lubricating pruners, saws, shovels, etc. As I think about garden tools, I am noticing a box that I received for Christmas which contains something called the “Root Assassin”. Anyone ever hear of this? Turns out it is a shovel-like implement with a triangular head, lined with a saw-toothed edge. I think it will come in handy when I have to move hosta plants in the Spring.

Of course this is also the time to order seeds from the many sources available. One of my favorites is Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. Not only is it a beautifully laid out catalog, it offers some very exotic and intriguing plants to grow from seed.

Please continue to stay safe and remember that we can remain physically distant but socially close!

Until we meet again, **Tom Arens**



*In autumn, the Indians asked their chief if winter would be unnaturally cold. Not knowing, he advised them to collect more wood to be safe. He then phoned the National Weather Service for its prediction. The agent advised, “This winter will be quite cold indeed”.*

*The chief went back to his people and told them to speed up wood collection and stockpile more than usual. A week later, he called the service again to see if its prediction had changed. He was again advised that the coming winter would be unusually frigid.*

*The Indians obeyed their chief and began gathering every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later, the chief again called the service for advice on how harsh the coming winter would be.*

*The service agent replied, “Indications are this winter will be extremely cold. The Indians are gathering wood like crazy”.*



*Hesitant to receive a Covid19 vaccination? Think about the 300 million who died from Smallpox in the 20th century alone, and the millions who were crippled or died from Polio until medicines were developed to virtually eradicate these diseases. Also consider the serious lasting effects many of those infected suffer long-term. It's a no-brainer. GET THE SHOT.*

### 2021 Club Officers

- President: Tom Arens**
- 1st Vice President: Ron Fasano**
- 2nd V.P.: John Schinker**
- Recording Sec.: Mike Banks**
- Treasurer: Terry Voland**
- Corresponding Sec: Mike Banks**

*We wish to thank our officers for their dedication and service to our organization and encourage our members to support them by participating in our club's activities.*

### Mill Creek MetroParks December Events

*While all indoor venues are closed until further notice, most outdoor activities are open. Go to [millcreekmetroparks.org](http://millcreekmetroparks.org) for more information.*

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## Club News

55 Members

### **Lehotsky's Donation to St. Elizabeth's**

Our friends Chuck and Jen Lehotsky, owner operators of Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson, donated 614 Poinsettias to St. Elizabeth Medical Center just in time for the Christmas weekend.

Every year they grow thousands of plants and have a long time relationship with our organization where gardening supplies are bought in bulk thus providing both parties discount savings. Members who have worked on our annual Spring Plant Sale and those attending our Christmas Parties can attest to their amity and helpfulness.

The poinsettias were unsold inventory and the Lehotskis thought their gesture would bring some holiday cheer to the hospital's patients and staff. Their kind act was no surprise to those who know them.

### **Tom's Blog**

Fellow member Tom Liggett has been writing his gardening blog for some time and we can count on it for timely and well researched information on a wide variety of horticulture subjects..

Since we have little to report on club activities, here is a condensed version of one of his recent articles. You can get the full versions and future articles by sending a request to his email at [ligtom2@gmail.com](mailto:ligtom2@gmail.com).

#### **The Language of Flowers**

Floriography is a means of communication through the use or arrangement of flowers. For centuries, certain flowers have meaning for culture throughout the world. Gifts of various blooms, plants and arrangements were used to send of coded message to the recipient when those feelings dare not be spoken.

Victorian England was one such suppressed society where one way a young man could let the object of his affection know he was single by placing a certain blue flower in his lapel buttonhole. The flower became known as "bachelor's buttons" (*Centaurea cyanus* or cornflower).



### *Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

Just in time for Valentine's Day, here are a few colors of blooms that can convey your feelings to that certain someone.

Light Red – Admiration

Dark Red – Deep Love

White – Innocent, Pure Love;

Remembrance.

Pink – A Mother's Love;

Affection

Purple – Capriciousness

Yellow – Disappointment; Rejection

Striped (any color) – Regret.



### **Myths Involving House Plants**

Robert Pavlis is a horticulture contrarian who regularly exposes some fallacies of common gardening knowledge. Whether his ideas are correct or not, they cause us to rethink some of our practices. Here's a few items about indoor plants. Sign up at [gardenmyths.com](http://gardenmyths.com).

The size of the pot doesn't determine how big the plant will grow. Roots will only grow as large as it takes to sustain the genetic size of the plant.

With few exceptions, distilled water may harm plants because it lacks minerals.

Chlorine in city water will not harm plants because it is essential to growth in small amounts.

Letting water sit before watering is not required.

Wilting leaves may not mean they need water; they may have too much.

Succulents should be watered thoroughly and then watered again when the soil is completely dry.

A sickly plant doesn't necessarily mean it needs more fertilizer which may actually be harmful. It may actually be dormant which means no fertilizer.

Small stones at the bottom of the pot doesn't increase drainage. They should be mixed into the soil.

Applying mayonnaise or milk to make leaves shiny may harm the plant by attracting dust, pest and/or clogging the leaves stomata openings.

Plants don't purify the air in your home.

Most indoor plants are tropical so they don't go dormant but grow all year long.

Tropicals love humidity but misting only increased it for a very short period of time. The same is true of pebble trays where evaporation only reaches the top of the tray.

## New Plants For A New Decade

Between our social calendars having few entries due to the Covid19 situation and our cold, gloomy weather limiting outdoor activities, we have to search for meaningful ways to spend our free time. It is, however, the perfect time to research and order some new plant varieties for our gardens and beds.

### Proven Winners

#### 'Firefly Amethyst'

**Achillea** – Height: 18-22", Spread 32-36", Exposure: Full Sun, Zones 3-8. Finely textured foliage, sturdy stems, billowy habit & broader foliage.



**'Queen of Hearts' Brunnera macrophylla** – Ht. 16-18", Spr. 28-36", part to full shade, zones 3-8. Massive heart-shaped leaves w/ pronounced silver overlay.

**'Orange You Awesome' Echinacea** – Ht. 18-22", Spr. 16-20", full to part sun, zones 4-9. Excellent basal branching, large flower size. Also 'Yellow My Darling'.



**'Sound of My Heart' Hemerocallis** – Ht. 28", Spr. 18-24", Full to part sun, zones 3-9. Reblooming Daylily with 5" flowers. Blooms best in early summer and continues thru early fall.

**'Candy Crush' Hibiscus** – Ht. 4-4½", Spr. 4-4½", full to part sun, zones 4-9. Upright, columnar Hibiscus similar to 'Cranberry Crush' except with vivid pink flowers.



**'White Profusion' Salvia nemoros** – Ht. 16-20", Spr. 16-20", Full sun, zones 3-8. Flower stems are self cleaning and plant reblooms for a long time each summer.

During our October membership meeting, Dennis James from DJ's Greenhouse and Gardens in Transfer, PA., gave a presentation that included examples of Proven Winners' hydrangea varieties including *H. arborescens* (smooth varieties) like 'Invincibelle' and 'Lime Rickey'; and *H. paniculata* like 'Limelight' and 'Pinky Winky'. Since Dennis sells PW products, he may be able to order some of the above and other new PW offerings this spring.

### Burpee

**'Lilac Cascade' Buddleia** – Ht. 5', Spr. 6', full sun, zones 5-10. Short enough for viewing pollinators like butterflies, bees and hummingbird. Deer resistant. Abundant and cascading plum-lavender plums in late summer and fall. We were unable to format this pic to do this plant justice.



#### 'Tiger Eye' Sunflower

**Dwarf Hybrid** – Ht. 24-30", Spr. 24", full sun. Pollinator magnet, eight 5" blooms per plant. Sturdy branches hold up plant. Container ideal.



### Harris Seed

**Broccoli Asteroid F1** – Sowing temp. 70-75 degrees, matures in 77 days. Vigorous upright plants harvest easily with a clean stem and healthy foliage.



**'Red Snapper' F1** – Grow on temp. day 60-65 degrees, harvest 70 days. Early, 8-12oz., continuous set fruit. Good heat set potential and strong disease resistance.



### Johnny's

**'Salanova' Red Batavia Lettuce Seed** – Purplish leaf tips and deep, bright green base. Compact, upright and slow bolting. Pelleted for longer shelf life.



#### 'Nero Tondo' Organic Spanish

**Radish Seed** – Uniform and resistant to bolting. Large (2-4") fruit. Black skin; crisp, hot white flesh.



Rodney Toth sent us this information about a plant he finds intriguing. It is a *Celosia plumose* 'Chinatown Red', and seems to be widely available. Scarlet plumes w/ deep plum-burgandy foliage. Flower heads form on every node. Applications include mass planting, border edging, groundcover, and containers. Ht. 16", Spr. 8", Spacing 6", full sun.



# The Germinator

Jan. - Feb.  
2021

## Winter



*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant:  
If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not  
be so welcome.*

Anne Bradstreet

*In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.*

William Blake

*Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human  
face.*

Victor Hugo

*No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.*

Hal Borland

*One kind word can warm three winter months.*

Japanese Proverb

*To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring.*

W. J. Vogel

*What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of  
winter to give it sweetness.*

John Steinbeck



*When the snowman had a DNA test, he found out he  
was 86% water, 9% dirt and 5% dog pee.*



## 2020 – Goodbye and Good Riddance

*May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's  
Resolutions.*

*My 2021 resolution is for everyone else to gain the 25  
pounds I refuse to lose.*



*If you were born in September, it's pretty safe to assume  
your parents started out the New Year with a Bang.*



*If 2020 was a person, it could be sued for pain, suffering  
and lost wages.*

## Please Be Mine, Valentine

*I once fell in love with someone who knew only 4  
vowels; they didn't know 'I' existed.*

*On Valentine's Day eve, a guy walks into a post office  
and notices a middle-aged man putting 'love' stickers on  
pink envelopes and spraying them with perfume. When  
asked what he's doing, the man replied, "I'm sending out  
500 Valentine cards signed 'Guess who?'" When asked  
why, he replied, "I'm a divorce lawyer".*



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Thank you to the MGCY Friends for their Civic Fund donations.  
Members are urged to give them a visit.

#### **Ace Hardware Canfield**

413 E. Main St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7464

#### **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

#### **Bernard Daniels Lumber**

260 Railroad St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2211  
www.bdlumber.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  
330-729-990

#### **Bruce Brungard**

MGCY Member

#### **Buckeye Therapeutic Massage**

Debbie Gonda  
545 N. Broad St.  
Canfield, Ohio  
330-402-7303  
buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

#### **Charly's Restaurant**

4455 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-5569

#### **Colonial Gardens**

1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.  
Vienna, Ohio  
330-539-5500  
www.colonialgardensohio.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

#### **Delanni Imports**

2770 Hilltop Dr.  
Napa, California 94558  
www.gardenclogs.com

#### **DJ's Greenhouse**

1004 East Lake Rd.  
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154  
724-962-1230  
www.djsgreenhouse.com

#### **Elliot's Garden Center**

1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-758-8889

#### **Garden Artisans**

451 Defense Highway, Ste. A  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
www.gardenartisans.com

#### **Greenstar Cooperative**

12093 Lisbon Rd.  
Greenford, Ohio 44422  
800-423-3609

#### **Green Team**

345 Oakhill Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44502  
330-740-2060

#### **Gardening-Indoor**

9215 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-758-0272  
www.gardening-indoors.com

#### **Handel's Ice Cream**

3830 Starr Centre Dr.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-702-8270  
www.handelsicecream.com

#### **Handyman Hardware & Supply**

4351 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44511  
330-793-1268  
www.handymanautintown.com

#### **Hartford Orchards**

6953 OH-305  
Hartford, Ohio 44424  
330-772-2100

#### **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

#### **Home Depot**

7001 Southern Blvd.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-965-4790

#### **Hot Pepper Wax**

305 Third St.  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125  
800-627-6840  
sales@hotpepperwax.com

#### **Jack's Custom Landscape**

Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-953-7737

#### **Jimmy's Italian Specialties**

3230 Belmont Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

#### **Kravitz Delicatessen**

3135 Belmont  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
330-759-7889  
www.kravitzdeli.com

#### **Kridler Gardens**

4809 Homeworth Rd.  
Homeworth, Ohio 44634  
330-525-7914  
www.kridler-gardens.com

#### **Kushner's Garden & Patio**

2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
www.kushners.com

#### **Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar**

2975 Canfield-Niles Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-2059

#### **Men's Garden Club of Youngstown**

123 McKinley Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44509  
www.mgcy.org

#### **Nick's Wine Cellar**

105 S. Meridian Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

#### **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

#### **Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.**

P.O. Box 93-C  
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079  
www.everlastlabel.com

#### **Petitti Garden Center**

5509 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenter.com

#### **Robert McGowan, LPL Financial**

MGCY Member  
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2320

#### **Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**

8414 Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

#### **Richard States**

MGCY Member

#### **Dennis Toth**

MGCY Member

#### **Tractor Supply**

6225 Mahoning Ave.  
Austintown, Ohio 44515  
330-792-8235

#### **Vernon's Café**

720 Youngstown-Warren Rd.  
Niles, Ohio 44406  
330-652-1381  
www.vernonscafe.com

#### **Wally Gro LLC**

Kansas City, MO 64116  
1.877.796.6559  
hello@wallygro.com

#### **Whitehouse Fruit Farms**

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

#### **Wild Birds Unlimited**

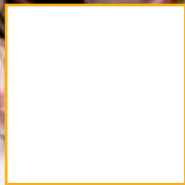
90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512  
330-629-2473  
www.wbu.com

#### **Youngstown Cityscape**

15 Central Square, 2nd Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040

# The Germinator

Jan. - Feb. 2021



Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451

[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



## calendar of events



Feb. 10.....Board Meeting ..... 7PM .....Austintown Township Park

Mar. 3 .....Membership Meeting .... 7PM .....Austintown Township Park

Mar. 10.....Board Meeting ..... 7PM .....Austintown Township Park

## Please Join Us!

The purpose of The Men's Garden Club of 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 National Men's Garden Club of America.

Membership is open to residents of the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities with an interest in gardening.

To join, contact us at: **Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio**



% Membership Committee  
P.O. Box 612  
North Jackson, OH 44451  
or on our website at [www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



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