



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

I'm not sure when you will be reading this message, but my guess it will be sometime between Christmas and New Year's. I hope the holidays are finding you happy and healthy. This is a special time of year for gardeners, while the air is cold and the arrival of plant/seed catalogs.

We envision our gardens with new varieties of plants and vegetables, as well as the tried and true reliable ones. We resolve not to repeat the mistakes of last year. We survey our yard looking for just a little bit more gardening space. We hope that our gardening dreams come true.

I recently picked up a copy of the 2023 Whole Seed catalog put out by Baker Seeds. Barnes and Noble has it for \$15. I know it sounds like a lot, but this is no ordinary catalog. At more than 500 pages, it is chocked full of photographs, recipes, and information about rare seeds from all over the world.

We are planning to have a full-day winter seminar on 3-11-23 at the Mill Creek Park Davis Center. We will have 4 speakers, continental breakfast, lunch, and a basket raffle. I am calling on all members to be prepared to help in any way they can.

Our February board meeting will be held at Ala Carte Catering at 5:30pm on 2-8-23, followed by a dinner membership meeting at 7pm. We will have a speaker also. Members are invited to bring a guest. Cost is \$15 per person. You must register a week in advance by notifying me in person or via text or email.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year

Tom Arns



Larry Tooker
1939 - 2022



*Rest In Peace,
Dear Friend*

Meeting Schedule

Georgianna Parker Room
Boardman Park

Board Meeting

Wednesday, 5:30pm, Jan. 4th

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 7pm, Jan. 4th

Speaker: Joseph Morrison

2021 & 2022 Scholarship Recipient

Guests Welcome

GOGY Annual Winter Seminar

Saturday, March 11, 2024

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Continental Breakfast, Catered Lunch

Speakers:

Dr. Laura Deeter – Best Gardening Practices

Bob McMahon – Complete Houseplant Care

Two additional speakers to be announced.

The Gardeners Of Greater Youngstown returns to a full day seminar.

Members will be asked to solicit raffle baskets from their favorite local businesses. Also, we'll need volunteers for prior setup, table assistants and any other help to make this signature event a success. Most of all, we want every member to consider attending.

Contact Chairperson Clare Neff to see how you can help.

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Winter Seminar Announcement	1
Club News	2
New Member	
New Dues Schedule	
Kirtz Students' Pointsettias	
Dinner Meeting	
Assorted Dinner Pics	
Prez Reception/Xmas Dinner	3
Invasive Sparrow	4
Happy New Year	4
<i>Baby, It's Cold Outside</i>	4
Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Officers	6



The Germinator

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 also 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 January meeting or send a check to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH, 44451.

GOGY Gift to Leonard Kirtz Students

Our organization has had a long relationship with the Leonard Kirtz School for children with disabilities. The school has been kind enough to give us use of their greenhouse, and we have given Plant Sale plants to the students and hosted a spring pizza party for them.



On December 15th, members John Schinker, Tom Arens and Bruce Brungard presented a beautiful poinsettia to each student and Principal Gina Symsek. As members who have worked in the greenhouse are well aware, many of the students face significant challenges, and we can't praise the school's staff enough for their kindness and dedication.

February Meeting/Dinner

As anyone attending our President's Reception/Christmas Dinner knows, the food served at A La Carte Catering in Canfield is excellent. It is the perfect location for our initial attempt at combining board and membership meetings with a sit-down dinner. The Cleveland and Akron clubs have been doing this for years with great success. The cost is \$15 per person – a little more than a value meal at Mickey D's. Details and a sign up sheet will be provided at our January meetings.

Random Christmas Dinner Pics





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2022 President's Reception/Christmas Dinner

Many Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's members work throughout the year toward its mission: "To create a better understanding of gardening, and encourage the beautification of its community". Activities include horticulture presentations and seminars, college scholarships and public projects. The dinner is our organization's way of recognizing outstanding service as well as the general membership for their efforts.

The dinner also strengthens membership cohesion by allowing us to get to know one another on a more personal basis. Sitting at one table were two newly sworn club officers, one a long time member, the other a relative newbie stepping up to assume a much needed leadership role. A surprise reunion occurred at that table when a member and a quest who had been neighbors many years ago were able to reconnect.

Festivities began with club emcee extraordinaire Rodney Toth's invocation. He started by remembering members recently deceased. They were Ray Carrol, Dr. George Guju, Hugh Earnhart and Dave Williams. Rodney then sang *Edelweiss*, a song about a snow-blooming mountain flower (*Leontopodium nivale*), symbolic of Austrian anti-Nazi resistance during World War II.



Rodney then led us in a prayer of grace. The entrees catered by A La Carte in Canfield were excellent. One sad note, however, was the proprietor's reluctance to give up her delicious salad dressing recipe. Our February membership meeting may be held at A La Carte which will include dinner.



Throughout the event and back by popular demand, the acoustic guitar duo of Davis and Henner serenaded the gathering with '60's thru '90's popular songs and Christmas stylings.

Guests having a special relationship with our organization included Gina Symsek, principal of the Leonard Kirtz School for children with significant disabilities. Not only is she to be commended for her dedication to a worthy calling, but she allowed our club to grow annuals for our Plant Sale when we were in dire need of such a facility.

Chuck and Jen Lahotsky operate Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson, and partner with our club for nursery product and starter plant discounts. They also provided the poinsettias given to the women present.



Valued friend Joann Carney is the widow of Bill Carney, a historic figure in our national, regional and local gardening organizations.

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown members honored that evening were *Outstanding New Member* Clare Neff, who will begin serving a second term as First Vice President, heads our Winter Seminar Committee and has provided invaluable technology assistance to the club.



Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Kaddy Kimbel and Pat Murphy. Kadey worked at the Leonard Kirtz greenhouse and Canfield Fair Booth. Pat chairs the Social and Refreshment Committee baking refreshments for our meetings. A *Past President Award* was given to Tom Arens who has served two terms as our president and will be starting his third.

John Schinker, past president of our local, regional and national organizations, swore in our 2023 officers. They are President Tom Arens, 1st Vice President Clare Neff, 2nd V.P. Shane Burgraf, Treasurer Terry Voland and Corresponding Secretary Mike Banks. Not pictured is Recording Secretary Linda Biggs who was also awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation*.



S. Burgraf, T. Voland, C. Neff, T. Arens, M. Banks, J. Schinker

A great time was had by all. Plan to attend next year. As with all our signature events, *Ya shudda been there*.

The Germinator

Sparrows Birders Love to Hate

Of the many small, brown birds visiting feeders, one stands out with its physiology, behavior and history. Less than 200 years ago, house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were unknown in North America. In the mid-ninth century, a William Shakespeare fan thought it would be nice if birds mentioned in the bard's writings inhabited New York City so he released house sparrows in Central Park. It has since become among the most prominent species in all but Antarctica and the most inhospitable areas of Earth.

A great deal of the house sparrow's success can be attributed to the development of agriculture in the Middle East when urban sparrows split from their wild cousins. Two mutations lead to the urban birds' success; a larger beak and more robust skull to crack open agricultural seeds, and a digestive enzyme that helps break down starchy foods like wheat, corn and potatoes. While these birds remove some harmful insects, they do significant damage to crops. Another element of their success is their prolific breeding, up to four times a year.



The house sparrow is stout and stocky with shorter legs and a thicker bill than other sparrows. Both sexes are brown backed with a pale buff underside. Males have white cheeks, a black bib and a rust head often with a gray cap. The size of the male's bib may indicate dominance in the flock. Females have pale streaks behind their eyes. Part of their success can be attributed to their prolific breeding, up to four times a season.

Why do some birders hate house sparrows? First of all, they dominate many other native birds. When visiting a feeder, they'll eat at their leisure while other small birds quickly fly off, especially when their tougher cousins arrive. They are known to drive off or even kill other birds for nesting and feeding sites.

Happy New Year

We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched.

Ellen Goodman

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

C. S. Lewis

Every moment is a fresh beginning.

T. S. Eliot

Many years ago, I made a New Year's resolution to never make New Year's resolutions. Hell, it's been the only resolution I've ever kept.

D. S. Mixell



Baby, It's Cold Outside



Winter reminds us that everyone and everything needs quiet time.

Katrina Mayer

In the midst of winter, I found there was within me an invincible summer.

Albert Camus

A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations, but look what they can accomplish when they stick together.

Unknown

The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in quite another. And if this is not enchantment then where is it to be found?

J. B. Prestley



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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.**

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
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Bluestone Perennials
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www.bluestoneperennials.com

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Canfield, OH 44406
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www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

Burton Floral & Garden
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www.burtonflorallandgarden.net

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330-799-5569

Colonial Gardens
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www.djsgreenhouse.com

Elliot's Garden Center
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330-758-8889

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

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Greenford, Ohio 44422
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Jimmy's Italian Specialties
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Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

Kravitz Delicatessen
3135 Belmont
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www.kravitzdeli.com

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

Kushner's Garden & Patio
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www.kushners.com

Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar
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Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-2059

Nick's Wine Cellar
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Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Outdoor Recreation Equipment
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Boardman, Ohio
330-782-2004

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parksgardencenter@aol.com

Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.
P.O. Box 93-C
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www.everlastlabel.com

Petitti Garden Center
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Boardman, Ohio 44512
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Canfield, Ohio 44406
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www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

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



January 2023

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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown
c/o Newsletter Editor
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Calendar of Events



- Jan 4 Board Meeting 5:30PM Georgianna Parker Rm, Boardman Park
- Jan 4 Membership Mtg7:00PM Georgianna Parker Rm, Boardman Park
- Feb 8 Board Meeting 5:30PM A La Cart Catering, Canfield
- Feb 8 Membership Mtg7:00PM A La Cart Catering, Canfield
- March 1 Board Meeting 5:30PM TBD
- March 1 Membership Mtg7:00PM TBD
- March 11 .. Winter Seminar9:00AMDavis Center, 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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