



January 2024



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Gardeners,*

This edition of the Germinator welcomes the New Year – with new officers – and a new meeting day! At the December board meeting, members approved changing the meeting day from Wednesday to Tuesday to better accommodate busy schedules. I hope everyone will join us Tuesday, January 2nd, as we launch this new year. I welcome the opportunity to lead this club into 2024, hopefully following in Tom's footsteps, meeting each challenge as he did, focusing on the best interests of this club and each member.

Tom promoted GOGY enthusiastically, encouraged civic participation, fostered more member participation in meetings and cheered every member accomplishment. This is a high bar that Tom set, with your help, we will continue his legacy. One main focus is to have a positive impact on the Valley by developing civic projects for local non-profit organizations.

Mike Banks and his team did a wonderful job on the Austintown Park project last year. Several other ideas have been mentioned for 2024 and Mike has agreed to serve as Chair of the Civic Committee. I look forward to seeing how these projects progress.

We are finalizing plans for the 2024 Winter Seminar. Pat Murphy is again in charge of the catering and basket raffle, she would appreciate your help. Lisa Nicklash is researching and confirming speakers for the event. Keep the date open and please share with your gardening friends.

Bruce Brungard reports that the greenhouse is already bustling with activity, the temperature is steady at 47 degrees and planting has begun for this year's plant sale. Great news for our fundraiser!

It's always exciting to begin a new year with a renewed spirit of comradery, Let's continue this club's legacy of community pride by sharing this wealth of gardening knowledge, making each of us a better gardener, and a better person.

*Have a Wonderful New Year!*

*Clare*

## **GOGY Annual Winter Seminar**

**Sat., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Center. Breakfast Refreshments, Catered Lunch, Basket Raffle, & TOP-NOTCH HORTICULTURE PRESENTATIONS**

**We need all members to help in any way they can:**

***Promote the event to fellow gardeners; procure raffle sponsors (printed info for prospective sponsors at Jan. & Feb. meetings); help with setup; represent club and assist attendees at event tables.***

### **Meeting Schedule**

**Tuesday, January 2nd**

**Stacey Pavilion**

**Austintown Township Park**

**Board Meeting, 5:30 pm**

**All Members Welcome**

**Membership Meeting, 7 pm**

**Guests Welcome**

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

*I pray this winter be gentle and kind – a season of rest from the wheel of the mind.* John Geddes

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

*How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose if there was no winter in our year.*

Thomas Wentworth Higginson



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## Club News

### Thank You, Tom Arens

No organization be it governmental, business or private, can be successful without wise, proactive leadership. Where similar clubs have languished for lack of members willing to accept responsibility, The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown (formerly The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown) has remained vibrant and successful over its 90 plus year history because of past officers like the late Bill Carney and Hugh Earnhart, and Rodney Toth and John Schinker.



None we can think of, however, encountered the serious issues Tom Arens faced during his four years as our president. The biggest challenge occurred when women were allowed to join our organization. Most members were either for or ambivalent to the change while a few quit despite the fact that the club had no choice in the matter. One predicted women would take over the club then let it languish. He has been proven wrong. Not only are many newer members among our most active but they have accepted leadership positions.

Other issues Tom faced included the Covid pandemic when many of our annual events like the Winter Seminar and Horticulture Show had to be cancelled and/or significantly diminished. Then there were our Spring Plant Sale and meeting location that had to find new homes. We were able to return to the Bev Rd. greenhouse thanks to a partnership with FlyingHigh, and obtaining the use of Austintown Twsp. Park for meetings. Tom will be the first to admit these changes were not his doing alone, but he inspired members to take the initiative to help make them happen.

And although Tom stumbled a bit when it came to club rules and procedures, he soldiered through with his greatest asset – a proactive, optimistic attitude. He has made our membership meetings more interesting by adding elements that encourage member participation and introduced catered dinner meetings. He leaves office with our club healthier than he found it and now passes the mantle to the capable hands of Clare Neff.

Tom's contributions to our club will not end with his leaving office. He will become our membership chairman and hopefully be able to raise our rolls to levels we once enjoyed with a wider inclusive mix.

### GOGY Holiday Tree at Fellows

The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown again joined the many Mahoning Valley non-profit organizations participating in Mill Creek MetroPark's annual holiday celebration at Fellows Riverside Garden's Davis Center. This year's theme was *A Parade of Trees*.

Members decorated our tree with hydrangeas in various colors, alliam, red hawthorn berries, bird's nests and a variety of feathers. Rodney Toth decorated gourds to resemble snowmen and a penguin.



**L-R: Mike Banks, Tom Liggett, Dan Chambers, Suzanne Murphy, Bruce Brungard, Rodney Toth, Helene Viano & Mike Beautis. Clare Neff took this pic.**

Many thanks to the park for sponsoring the event each year. We hope you had a chance to take in all the displays and festivities.

### Winter Seminar Update

We are finalizing plans for the 2024 Winter Seminar - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Murphy is again in charge of the catering and basket raffle, she would appreciate your help in both of these endeavors, please reach out to see how you can assist. Lisa Nicklash, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice



President, is researching and confirming speakers for the event. The Winter Seminar is returning to February this year – on the 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Details are on the website and Save The Date notices have been sent to everyone who has attended in the past. Keep the date open and please share with your gardening friends.



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## 2023 GOGY President's Reception Dinner

Each year, the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown honors members whose efforts throughout the year make our organization the premier garden club in the area. The festivities include a catered dinner at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, swearing in of the club's officers for the coming year, entertainment and a chance for members to interact on a more personal, informal level.

Outgoing President Tom Arens began the program by thanking the membership for supporting his efforts during his terms in office. During those eventful four years, we transformed from an all-male organization to admitting women for the first time in the club's 90 plus years of existence. We also survived significant disruptions caused by the Covid pandemic. Almost all would agree that those trials made us stronger, more united and a testament to member support of Tom's leadership.

### 2023 Award Recipients

Our long-serving Awards Committee Chairman Rodney Toth, while praising proactive participation in club activities, lamented the fact that some of our highest awards weren't awarded because those most deserving have not been members long enough to receive them. The rules governing award eligibility were adopted long ago and perhaps it is time to revisit those requirements.



L-R: Rodney Toth, Mike Banks, Pat Murphy, Terry Voland, Helene Viano & Clare Neff

**Birt Underwood & Lisa Nicklash**, Certificate of Appreciation for assembling and recording Horticulture Show scores and conducting a club tour of their gardens. Lisa will also serve as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

**Helene Viano**, Certificate of Appreciation for her helping provide delicious refreshments at our meetings and at the Horticulture Show. She also participated in our landscaping project at Austintown Township Park.

**Dan Miller**, Certificate of Honor for his many years serving as our Technology Chairman and helping so many technology-challenged members become internet savvy.

**Pat Murphy**, Outstanding New Member who took over the Refreshment Committee that has members

lining up for her baked goods at meetings. She will also serve as our First Vice President and on the Scholarship Committee.

**Clare Neff**, Communications Award for preparing our newsletter for printing and email, updating the club website, and alerting local media to club activities. She will also serve as our 2024 president.

**Mike Banks**, Horticulture Award for organizing club's landscaping at the Austintown Township Park pond. He is also our Corresponding Secretary.

**Terry Voland**, Master Gardener Award for his expert assistance at our Plant Sale greenhouse, Street-Scape and vocational school. He also serves as our Treasurer.

Throughout the event, the guitar duo of Henner & Davis again entertained us with a nice mix of '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s songs intermixed with holiday classics. We hope to have them back again next year.



### 2024 GOGY Officers

John Schinker has served as an officer in The Gardeners of America national organization, the Central Great Lakes region and as our president multiple times. He swore in our 2024 slate of officers.



L-R: Jon Schinker, Corresponding Secretary Mike Banks, Treasurer Terry Voland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Murphy, Recording Secretary Ron Fasano & President Clare Neff.

As is the custom, each lady present received a beautiful poinsettia compliments of Jenn and Chuck Lahotsky of Chuck's Greenhouse in North Jackson. Our organization partners with them for discounts on supplies for our annual Spring Plant Sale.



We all had a great time and every member should plan to attend next year.

## 2024 Trends in [gardendesign.com](http://gardendesign.com)

Our annual Winter Seminar almost always has a speaker presenting novel ideas of enhancing our landscapes, and this website's article should appeal to our event's traditional audience. Among the topics discussed were edimentals, naturalistic planting, rain gardens, climate change adaptation, gravel gardens and insect pests. The site offers regular emails.

'Edimentals' refers to mixing edible plants that are pleasing to both the eye and taste buds. While they are typically perennials including shrubs and trees, others like pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*) have to grow indoors or as annuals in colder climates.

A few examples include dahlias and daylilies (both flowers and tubers), chicory flowers, currants and gooseberries, elderberries, asparagus and fennel. The process is a great way to incorporate design elements such as color, texture and form within a traditional vegetable garden or landscape.

Among the advantages are less care needed than annual veggies with longer fruiting times, and perennials are better at withstanding drought and insect infestations. Some annuals that can be included in the mix are rainbow chard, kale and nasturtiums.

'Naturalistic Planting' consists of native plants, drifts of flowers and grasses, that give a soft, prairie-like effect. The result is a slightly wilder, neither manicured nor neglected, effect taking a cue from nature. Other than a showcase of orderly plant collections, the focus is on plant diversity blending with surrounding nature welcoming wildlife and pollinators.

Among the advantages: Lower maintenance because the plants reseed and keep their structure throughout winter; promoting wildlife welfare, soil health and providing cover for pollinators; and flying your artistic gardening freak flag.

'Rain Gardens' are a way to counter drought that is a regular occurrence in many regions. When rain does come, it is often a deluge that quickly runs off paved and lawn surfaces. In addition to capturing wasted water, rain gardens minimize roof and driveway pollutants, and helping to slow potential flooding downstream.

Plants chosen for rain garden need to handle feast or famine amounts of water. They include natives, grasses and sedges that have long, deep root structures.

## Another Year for Self-Deception?

Maybe they should be called 'New Year's Revolutions' because each new year we resolve to change negative aspects of our lives only to 360 back into the same old habits. Perhaps this year will be different.



*If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.*

Fred DeVito

*Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.*

Albert Einstein

*Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're right.*

Henry Ford

*A worthy New Year's resolution, perhaps, is to take no hatred into the new year without requiring it to restate its purpose.*

Robert Brault

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*

Edith Lovejoy Pierce

*Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.*

Carl Bard





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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  
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

**Burton Floral & Garden**  
13020 Kinsman R.,  
Burton, OH,44021  
www.burtonflorallandgarden.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

**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

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

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

**Gnome Home and Garden**  
Shane Burgraf  
330.647.6269  
www.gnomehomeandgarden.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

**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

**Kushner's Garden & Patio**  
2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
www.kushners.com

**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

**Petitti Garden Center**  
5509 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenter.com

**Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**  
8414 Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

**Dennis Toth**

**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

**Village Quilts**  
17 W. Main Street  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-0545  
www.villagequiltscanfield.com

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

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



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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
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www. GG-YO.org



## Calendar of Events



- Jan 2 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Jan 2 2024 ..... Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 6 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 6 2024 ..... Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 17 2024 ..... Winter Seminar ..... All Day ..... Davis Ctr, Fellows Riverside Gardens
- March 5 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- March 5 2024 ..... Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown 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.

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 2024 OFFICERS

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