



July 2023



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Well we finally got some rain, after 21 dry days! Mother Nature's kindness comes just in time for the return of the Japanese Beetles. She's funny that way.

Our plant auction was a big success and well-attended. There were lots of interesting plants; and we all enjoyed the camaraderie that happens when die-hard gardeners get together. A big thanks goes out to Rodney Toth for reprising his role as auctioneer. Thanks also to Pat Murphy for setting the stage for our pot-luck dinner.

Many thanks to members Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood for inviting us to their home and gardens, a horticultural wonderland of many, many Hostas and other beautiful plants. Are there any other exceptional gardens out there for us to tour? I'm sure there are. Let me know.

Remember 7-26 to 7-28 is the national convention of the Gardeners of America, of which our club is a member. The convention will be held in Dayton. There will be informative presentations, field trip to a local arboretum, a horticulture show, and a mystery bus tour. Go to the TGOA's website for more information about lodging and registration. You will need the password "lily" to access the convention information.

On 5-23 a bunch of us worked with Cityscape to plant flowers on the downtown square and at the Smokey Hollow Veterans' memorial. Work has also started, under Mike Banks' leadership, on the landscaping project at the new pond deck at Austintown Township Park. Those interested in helping should contact Mike.

Remember: bring your tips and tools to our meetings. John Schinker brought a giant radish last month, so bring your horticultural anomalies also.

I'll be in Hawaii with my family for our July meeting, so Clare will hold down the fort. See you all in August.

Happy gardening!

Tom Atkins

GOGY Annual Horticulture Show

Saturday & Sunday, August 26th & 27th

Fellows Riverside Gardens – Setup Friday at noon

Sat. -Entry prep begins 7:30am – Judging at 10:30am

Sections: Annuals, Vegetables, Ornamentals, Fruits, Perennials, Dahlias, Bulbs (Tubers/Corms/ etc.), Roses & Potted Plants.

\$25 Awards for Heaviest Tomato, Largest Zinnia &

Youth Division (16 YOA & Younger) Sweepstakes Winner



Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, July 5th

Stacey Pavilion

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting, 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting, 7pm

Speaker: Shane Burgraf

Subject: Gardening Lessons Learned

Guests Welcome

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Summertime, And The Livin' Is Easy

To lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

John Lubbock

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

Sam Keen

Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancin' feet.

Bob Marley





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Club News

New Members

Karen Vargas is an accountant at a Stow, OH business and, with her husband David is in the process of beautifying their 5 acres in Canfield including selection of the right plants. She is also involved in the Canfield Village Christmas display.

Elsa Higby lives in Youngstown and is a consultant involved in composting, urban farm management, renewable and regenerative agriculture. Her gardening interests include native plants.

Sponsor: Bob Schulick

Ellen Hardgrove lives in Columbiana and is a retired teacher who worked with special ed students on gardening projects. Gardening interests include perennials, annuals and vegetables. She and her husband, Thomas, recently moved to the area and she applied for membership at our Spring Plant Sale. **Terri Hendricks** lives in Austintown and is a software analyst. Her gardening interests include growing flowers and vegetables. She is also into horses.

Butterflies Are Free ...

... and so is the 11th Annual Butterfly Festival being held, rain or shine, 1pm to 4pm, Saturday, July 15th, at 104 Williamson Ave. on Youngstown's Southside. Member Lois Martin Uscianowski and friends will treat attendees to food, music and live butterflies. Let's support a fellow member who bought several pollinator attracting plants at our Plant Auction.



GOGY Annual Horticulture Show

This event is one gardeners over a wide area look forward to each year. Held at Fellows Riverside Gardens Aug. 26-27, this fun competition is overseen by certified judges. Each section winner will compete for Best-in-Show and the Sweepstakes for most total points. The sections this year are: **Annuals, Vegetables, ornamentals, fruits, perennials/biennials, dahlias, bulbs/tuber/corms, roses and potted plants.**

\$25 awards go to the heaviest tomato, largest zinnia and Youth Division (16 y.o.a. and younger) Sweepstakes winner. This popular event is a lot of

fun and you don't have to have the greenest of thumbs to participate and win a section or better. Now is the time to start preparing potential entries.

Our August membership meeting will include a tutorial on how to best select and display show entries.

War Memorials Plantings

Our organization's oldest, continuous civic project going back many decades has been planting flowers around the Civil War Veterans Memorial in downtown Youngstown and, more recently, the Smokey Hollow Wars Memorial in time for holiday celebrations.



This is done in conjunction with Youngstown CityScape's hundreds of volunteers decorating planters and other sites in the greater downtown area



several days later. CityScape volunteers, including GOGY members Bob Schulick and Jack Moss, continue watering and tending to the plantings throughout the growing season.

Austintown Park Pond Project

Our organization's newest civil project will be planting annuals and perennials on and around Yeager Pond at Austintown Township Park. Contact Mike Banks to help with this project.



The park board has allowed us to hold our meetings there at a discounted cost, and this project is a small way we can thank them.



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Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner

Anyone on the fence about joining Gardeners of Greater Youngstown should be sold after attending our auction. Good food, great plants sold relatively cheap and tons of fun. The 2023 edition was at least as good as past events, maybe more so.

We have come to expect good food at this event and were not disappointed. But the dessert table was not to be believed. Our photographer neglected taking a pic of it and should be taken to the woodshed for this omission. Suffice to say, we had some wonderful bakers (or buyers) among the members and guests. Many came back for seconds especially those with a sweet tooth.



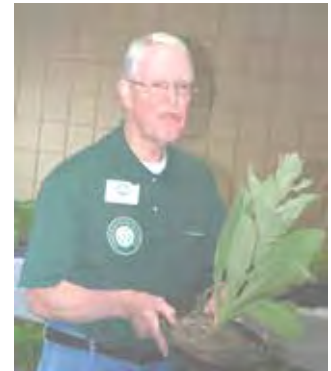
The plant selection was also great. There were a few herbs and potted geraniums left over from our Spring Plant Sale, and an eclectic mix of annuals and perennials producing some spirited bidding and happy winners. As usual, some very knowledgeable plant mavens revealed themselves.



One was 2nd V.P. Shane Burgraf who is relatively new to our organization. He knew a great deal about many of the plants offered including their appearance, mature size and sun/shade requirements. We are fortunate to have him in our organization, not only for his horticulture expertise, but also for his willingness to assume a leadership role.



As we've come to expect and appreciate, Rodney Toth did his usual stellar job as head auctioneer ably assisted by Tom Arens. It just so happened Rodney was celebrating his 80th birthday accompanied by wife Kay, daughters and son-in-laws Lora (John) Massie, Lisa (Miles) Dotson, Kristin Weinel



and grandson Cole Dotson. Another photo op missed. Heather 'Antheia' Randall, Greek Goddess of Gardens and Blossoms, enhanced the bidding excitement.

If there was a theme for many of the plants auctioned, it had to be plants that attract pollinators – especially butterflies. There were an abundance of butterfly bushes, milk weed and other plants likely to be seen at the 11th Annual Butterfly Festival on July 15th put on by member Lois Uscianowski and friends. See pg. 2.

Special thanks to Pat Murphy who oversaw the setup of Austintown Township Park's Stacey Pavilion and all those who brought plants and food. And the tablecloths gave notice that we are no longer a men-only club. We all had a great time and look forward to our annual Horticulture Show where some of these plants may reappear.

Upcoming OSU Extension Events

All are at the Extension Office, 490 S. Broad St., Canfield, Oh. For complete list, go to <https://Mahoning.osu.edu/events>.

Garden Art Series - *Fairy Gardens*, July 5th, 6pm, (\$25 for entire series).

Mornings w/Master – *Essential Oils*, July 11th, 10am, \$15.

Naturalist Series – *Invasive Insects*, July 20th, 6:30pm., \$5 (\$30 for entire series).



No-Till Gardening

You don't have to till the earth to produce new growth. Not only are farmers increasingly employing no-till agriculture, but the practice is catching on with residential gardeners. While plant production may be lower the first year, future yields will be progressively increase according to Gardeningknowhow.com.

A plant's root systems are specialized with only the top roots meant to absorb rich soil nutrients. Spreading fertile soil through-out the entire root system will force the plant to absorb more nutrients than optimal, disturbing its ability to take in minerals usually found deep underground. Showy, fast growth will result but will do more harm than good in the long run.

Earthworms and nematodes are essential to healthy soil, and tilling not only damages their environment but can kill them. Tilling will loosen the soil for better aeration, but will also disturb the natural bonds holding it in place and make it much more prone to erosion.

In addition to fewer weeds, the benefits of no-till gardening include: Less compaction because tilled soil will eventually settle in less than optimal structure; less work including weeding, fertilizing and watering; and a more natural soil structure.

A raised bed, no-till garden begins with short mowing a grass or weedy area and covering with 4-6 layers of wet newspaper or cardboard equivalent. Lay the bed frame on top and apply alternating layers of compost, manure and mulch. The last application should be a thick layer of mulch which will keep roots cool, retain moisture and deter weeds. Shredded leaves, grass clippings and straw (not hay) are good choices. This has also been referred to as 'lasagna gardening'.

Planting can be done immediately being sure to disturb the soil as little as possible. Deep rooted vegetable (potatoes, beets, carrots, etc.) planting should be put off until the soil has become established. At the end of the growing season, plant a cover crop such as winter rye, buck- or winter wheat, or clover. They will die back naturally in spring and are an excellent source of organic material and nutrients.

Once established, a no-till garden bed is best left alone. Over time, the soil will become a balanced, natural environment for plant growth – no digging required.

We Hold These Truths to be Self-evident

that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Nearly two and a half centuries ago, the future United States of America's 13 colonies declared their independence from England, and succeeded after the War For Independence.

Early last year, the sovereign state of Ukraine was invaded by Russia, a neighbor from whom it has historically endured repression ethnic cleansing and mass murder. Civilians have been a prime target of this Russian assault and have suffered greatly.

Although U.S. assistance to Ukraine has become a political issue in our never ending election cycle, nations agreeing with our founding principles should do what they can to help stifle this and future illegal aggressions imposed upon democratic nations.

Let every nation know whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to secure the survival and success of liberty.

John F. Kennedy

People in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story is each other. But that is not who we are. That's not our America. Our United States of America is not about us versus them. It's about We the People.

Ruth Gader Ginsburg

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he loves. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

Abraham Lincoln





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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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parksgardencenter@aol.com

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www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

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Calendar of Events



- July 5 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 5 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- July 26-28TGOA National Convention.....Dayton, Ohio
- August 2 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- August 2 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- August 26 - 27 ... Annual Horticulture Show Fellows Riverside Gardens
- August 30 - Sept.4 Canfield Fair
- Sept 6 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Sept 6 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



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