

The Germinator

June 2021



PUBLISHED BY THE GARDENERS OF GREATER YOUNGSTOWN
92 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MAHONING VALLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone

June is the gateway to Summer! We are excited with the anticipation of growth, re-connection, re-openings, and many other possibilities. We are planning to have a horticulture show this year; and hope to participate in the Canfield Fair also.

Notice the photo of me and an employee of Austintown Township Park, Carolina Spaulding. The two of us planted a Kousa Dogwood tree, donated to the park by our club. The donation was in appreciation of the Park's willingness to allow us to use the Stacey Pavilion for the last year while the Davis Center was closed.



Well its official: we are now the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown, GOGY for short. Remember the new name reflects the club's commitment to the inclusion of women. We have 5 new female members and a few more in the process of applying. Exciting times!

See the notice below about our June membership meeting which will be our annual Plant Auction. We will be meeting at an open air pavilion at Austintown Township Park. Bring your outdoor chairs for comfort.

The club has begun to work with Flying High, the non-profit agency that operates the GROW Urban Farm. Members will be providing advice and education regarding the planting and growing of vegetables, that will be made available to inner city neighborhoods.

Hope to see many of you soon, Tom Atrens

PLANT AUCTION

6pm, Wed., June 2nd

Austintown Township Park - Pagony Pavillion

*Get a jump on summer with some great plants!
Bring your favorite perennials, annuals & veggies
Grasses, shrubs, trees, bulbs, cacti and succulents welcome.
Guests with plants also welcome!*

We'll have pizza & soft drinks but the venue is not appropriate for outside dishes & desserts. Bring a lawn chair for your comfort.

After a year of being locked down, let's have a good turnout for one of our club's most popular signature events.

"And so with the sunshine and the great burst of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer." - F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby

PLANT AUCTION

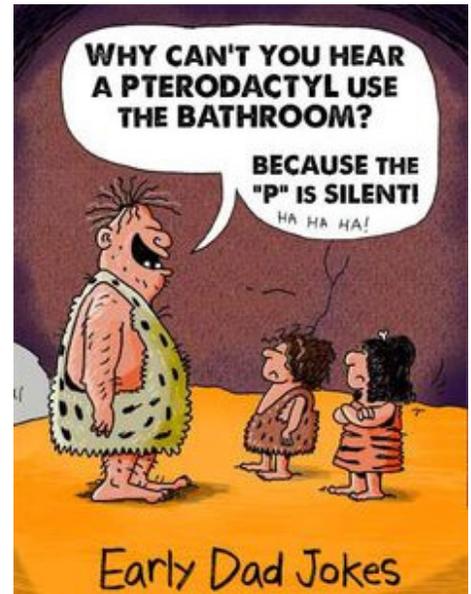
6pm, Wed., June 2nd
Austintown Twsp. Park
Pagony Pavillion

BOARD MEETING

7pm, Wed., June 9th
Austintown Twsp. Park
All Members Welcome

MetroParks Activities

*The D.D. Davis Center is scheduled to reopen soon.
For a listing of events, go to:
millcreekmetroparks.org*



Early Dad Jokes

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Club News	2
Operation Pollination	2
Scholarship Winner.....	2
Garlic Mustard	3
Propagating Milkweed.....	3
Summer Gardening Tips	4
Salute to Fathers.....	4
Sponsors.....	5
Calendar of Events	5
Club Officers	6

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June
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Club News

55 Members

Barb Arquilla, 3260 Lynn Rd., Canfield, OH, 44406. Barb is married (Fred) and retired from FedEx. She belongs to the Tri-County Horse Club and she enjoys everything about gardening. She also likes riding, baking, cooking, crochet and reading.

Sponsor: Terry Voland

Sue Sopko, 8087 Sigle Ln., Youngstown, OH, 44514. Sue is retired and enjoys growing vegetables.

Sponsor: Terry Voland

Welcome Aboard!

The Germinator will no longer publish the email address and phone numbers of new members due to possible privacy issues. For an updated member list email John Fox at ourmrdickens@icloud.com.

Operation Pollination

While the widely publicized precipitous drop in Monarch Butterfly numbers has prompted action by environmental groups and government agencies, the epidemic decline of native pollinators should alarm anyone involved in agriculture or values the natural world. In addition to overuse of insecticides, habitat loss is a major source of the problem.



To address habitat loss, Rotary International has launched 'Operation Pollination' where affiliates partner with local groups and agencies to provide insect-friendly oases using native plants. The Youngstown Rotary partnered with the Mahoning County Land Bank to install its initial 2,000 sq. ft. plot at the corner of Ohio and Lauderdale Aves., Youngstown, this past Earth Day.

Addressing our May membership meeting, project representatives Elayne Bozick and Nick Derico advised how this plot is the first of four planned in the city. Other project partners include Mill Creek MetroParks, First Energy, the Mahoning Soil and Water Conservation District, Struthers Rotary and Mahoning County OSU Extension's Master Gardener program.

This and the other planned Operation Pollination native plant installations will not only provide pollinator habitat but will help beautify and enhance quality of life in urban neighborhoods, decrease vacant lot maintenance demands, and serve as a template for similar projects. And it will help provide a migration corridor for Monarch Butterflies from as far north as Canada to as far south as Central America.

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

GOGA Scholarship Winner

We can't recall a more impressive and deserving candidate for our annual \$1000 scholarship than **Taylor Deland**. A recent straight-A graduate of Lisbon David Anderson High School and the Columbiana County Career & Technical Center majoring in Landscape and Environmental Design, she will begin seeking an associate's degree in Greenhouse Management at Ohio State's Wooster Agriculture Technical Institute this fall.



During her high school career, Taylor has been a busy young woman. In addition to being an excellent student, she has been: A reporter for her tech school's Future Farmers of America; secretary of the Columbiana County Junior Fair Board; secretary for the National Technical Honor Society; treasurer of the Rough Riders 4-H club and a Lisbon varsity softball team member.

In preparing her for a greenhouse manager position and eventually owning her own business, her past and present employment includes Diamond Cut Nursery and Dillon's Fruit Farm. Her teachers and employers all attest to her work ethic and leadership skills. We look forward to meeting her at our Plant Auction on June 2nd.

Arens to Lead CGL Region Next Year

Our President Tom Arens was asked to assume The Gardeners of America's Central Great Lakes Region presidency for 2022 and he accepted.

Congratulations, Tom

OSU Extension Events & Programs

All are provided on Zoom and free unless otherwise stated. Call 330-533-5538 for questions and to reserve a spot.

Learning to Coexist with Black Bears – 6:30 pm, Wed., June 9th.

Pollinators in Urban Centers: Vacant Land Habitats – 5:30pm, Tues., June 15th.

Integrated Pest Management for Vegetable Gardeners – 11am, Wed., June 23rd.

Make & Take Garden Art (hypertufa) – Classes at 3pm & 5:30pm, Tue., June 29th. Cost: \$10 on ZOOM, \$25 in person.

A Concert of Crickets & Katydid – 6:30pm, Wed., July 7th.

Garlic Mustard: Pull or Don't Pull?

We don't know if Mill Creek MetroParks still asks volunteers to help eradicate garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*) by pulling up emerging plants in spring. If it does, the practice may be encouraging the plant's invasive ways according to a long term Cornell University study. This is especially true of established populations.

Native to most of Europe as well as parts of Asia and Africa, this cabbage family member was imported to North America from Europe as a culinary herb that combines the spicy tang of mustard with a hint of garlic. This biennial begins inconspicuously with triangular, heart-shaped leaves with toothed margins and a wrinkled leaf surface. In the second year it sends up a tall spike with four-petal white flowers. The resulting seeds can remain viable for over ten years.



Garlic mustard is neither browsed by herbivores, nor affected by local insects and diseases. Its high reproductive rate often produces a thick monoculture in forests. Not only do its roots alter soil chemistry at the expense of natives, but harms the mycorrhizae beneficial to tree health. The dense invasions compete for water, nutrients and sunlight curtailing forest regeneration.

The Cornell study found that eradication attempts may actually prolong the infestation period and further damage the ecosystem. This is especially true of areas with limited deer and earthworm populations which drive the infestation. Under these circumstances, the plant's numbers and vigor diminishes over time resulting scarce populations and stunted plants within a decade.



Pulling garlic mustard where it's abundant prolongs its run robbing soil of a great deal of nitrogen, macro- and micronutrients, and organic matter. Mass removal also risks the site being trampled, and soil and native plants may be inadvertently removed. The study also states that deer populations should be limited to 5-7 per square mile with the added benefit of less Lyme disease.

Earthworms – No Friends of the Forest

During the last ice age, native earthworm populations, especially in what are now our northern states, all

but disappeared. That changed when European immigration brought non-natives in plant soil and ship ballast.

European earthworms are invading previously worm-free American hardwood forests, and are consuming the rich layer of leaf litter on the forest floor. The problem is further exacerbated by logging and fishermen dumping unwanted bait. As a result, herbaceous plants and tree seedlings are replaced with grasses and sedges. Ground nesting birds like Ovenbirds and salamanders are more vulnerable to predators. Reduced leaf litter also holds fewer bugs, a prime food source for these and other animals.



While earthworm activity in gardens (loosening soil and making nutrients more available to plants) is beneficial in gardens, it's just the opposite in forests. After the last ice age, worm-free forests developed a slow fungus-based decomposition process characterized by a deep organic litter layer on the forest floor. Worms feed on the litter making it decompose much faster at the detriment of forest floor plants and ground-dwelling animals.

Milkweed Seed Propagation

During our May membership meeting presentation, Operation Pollination speakers Elayne Bozick and Nick Derico passed out milkweed seeds. Most milkweed varieties need stratification or 30 days of cold exposure to break their dormancy cycle, and this can be done



indoors. In nature, this keeps the plant from germinating when natural conditions are unfavorable. Saveourmonarchs.org offers the following method.

Materials needed: 1 quart Ziploc bag, paper towels, a Sharpie pen and milkweed seeds. Wet the paper towel and gently wring it out so it is merely damp.

Sprinkle one to two dozen milkweed seeds arranged so that when you fold the towel, the seeds won't overlap. Fold the towel into four corners. Place the towel into the bag and label with date and seed type. Mark your calendar 30 days ahead.

Store the bag in the refrigerator (33-38 degrees). Make sure the seeds are somewhere safe where they will not be disturbed, possibly in a Tupperware container. Check the seeds after a few weeks to see if they started to sprout. If so, immediately plant directly in soil.

Summer Gardening Tips

Here are some ideas from Savvygardening.com on how to keep perennials, annual flowers and veggies in prime condition during summer's heat.

1. To keep perennials looking their best, trim them back when they are done blooming to remove spent flowers and seed pods. The remaining flowers in bloom will stand out much better.

2. Deadhead spent annual flowers and seed pods to encourage more blooms.

3. Squash borers are a common vegetable garden pest and begin to surface in early summer. Check the base for mushy sawdust or holes in the vine. The plants can be saved by digging out the borers and bury the vines with soil.

When planting squash seeds or transplants, cover the area with floating row cover or a layer of insect netting. When the plants have 2-3 sets of true leaves, remove the row cover and snugly wrap a 1-2 inch strip of aluminum foil around the base of each plant being sure the foil extends ¼ inch below the soil's surface. This will prevent female borers from laying eggs in this vulnerable area. Florist tape is an alternative. Every two weeks, rewrap the stems so they don't become girdled.

4. Some annuals like petunias may begin to succumb to the heat especially when they're in containers. Judicious pruning will have them looking much better.

5. Trim herbs regularly so they produce longer.

6. Pull out spent cool-season crops including peas, broccoli, radish and lettuce. Add a couple inches of compost or aged manure to the area and replant with late-season crops. Second sowings of turnips, carrots, beets, kale and others will be ready for fall harvest.

7. A few new potatoes can be harvested from under still green plants by moving mulch aside and prying them up with a pitchfork. By leaving the plant intact, it will continue to produce until late summer. New taters have thin skins and should be eaten within a few days.

8. Feed annuals and container plants with foliar fertilizer every few weeks through late summer. Kelp and seaweed fertilizers, and fish emulsions are good choices.

9. Plan for cool and cold-season crops throughout fall and winter. Root crops should be seeded in mid-summer, and leafy greens like spinach in late August or early September. Some will reappear in spring.

10. To get a jump on the gardening season and have plants last longer in cooler months, build a cold frame.

11. Don't allow crops like pole beans and zucchini to over-ripen. Continued harvesting will keep production coming. The excess can be shared with family, neighbors or a food bank.

A Salute To Dads

It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.

Ann Sexton

This is the price you pay for having a great father. You get the wonder, the joy, the tender moments – and you get the tears at the end, too.

Harlan Coben

One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters.

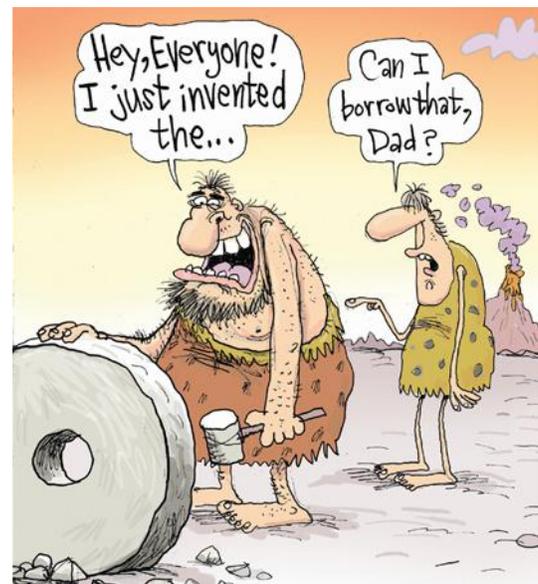
George Herbert

Dad taught me everything I know. Unfortunately, he didn't teach me everything he knew.

Al Unser

I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life.

Sidney Poitier



I want to congratulate all the men who are working diligently to be good fathers whether they are biological fathers, or stepfathers or just spiritual fathers.

T. D. Jakes

You don't have to deserve your mother's love. You have to deserve your father's.

Robert Frost

A good father believes that he does wisely to encourage enterprise, productive skill, prudent self-denial, and judicious expenditure on the part of his son.

William Graham Sumner

Son, brother, father, and friend. There is room in the heart for all the affections, as there is room in heaven for all the stars.

Victor Hugo

A Salute to Old Glory - June 14th

We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear: Peace, security, liberty, family and friends, our home...But when we look at our flag and behold it emblazoned with all our rights, we must remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties.

Every glory that we associate with it is the result of duty done.



Calvin Coolidge

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2021

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

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330-729-990

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Burton, OH, 44021
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545 N. Broad St.
Canfield, Ohio
burtonfloralandgarden.net

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Youngstown, Ohio 44515
330-799-5569

Colonial Gardens

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Vienna, Ohio
330-539-5500
www.colonialgardensohio.com

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330-549-2144
www.truevaluetrains.com

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3636 Canfield Rd.
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330-793-0030

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330-759-3121
www.delaquadrilandscape.com

Delanni Imports

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www.gardenclogs.com

DJ's Greenhouse

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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
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www.gardenartisans.com

Greenstar Cooperative

12093 Lisbon Rd.
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800-423-3609

Gardening-Indoor

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330-758-0272
www.gardening-indoors.com

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Home Depot

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Boardman, Ohio 44512
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sales@hotpepperwax.com

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Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

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

Kridler Gardens

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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

Nick's Wine Cellar

105 S. Meridian Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

The Needle's Nest

64 Colonial Dr., #C
Canfield, OH, 44406
theneedlesnest.com

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
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Dennis Toth

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330-792-8235

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www.vernonscafe.com

Wally Gro LLC

Kansas City, MO 64116
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hello@wallygro.com

Whitehouse Fruit Farms

9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
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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
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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown
c/o Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451

www. GG-YO.org



calendar of events



- June 2..... Plant Auction 6PM Austintown Township Park
- June 9 Board Meeting 7PM Austintown Township Park
- July 7..... Membership Meeting 7PM Austintown Township Park
- July 14 Board Meeting 7PM Austintown Township 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.

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 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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