

# The Germinator



PUBLISHED BY THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO  
92 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MAHONING VALLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Everyone,*

Greetings, everyone March marks the time of the year when gardeners can do something very specific outdoors besides hunt for the first crocus that is peaking out of the ground. The 17th, St Patrick's Day, is the proverbial date for planting peas. My preference is sugar snaps, a variety that can be eaten raw and in the pod. Tastes like fruit. Of course there are other cold-weather crops that you can plant but you should get peas in so they have plenty of time to reach maturity before it gets too hot.

The MGCY board met on 2-10-21 to discuss among other things, changing the name of the club. As most of you know we have started to admit women, and so, Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is an obvious misnomer. We started receiving suggestions back in the Fall, and the board has narrowed them down to three, to be voted on at our next membership meeting 3-3-21.

The suggested names are:

1. The Garden Club of Mahoning Valley
2. The Garden Club of Greater Youngstown
3. Gardeners of Greater Youngstown

Another important club activity that we need to discuss is the status of our Spring Plant Sale. We will not have access to the MCCTC greenhouse in Canfield, but we will be able to use a large heated hoop house that was built by Flying High, a vocational rehabilitation agency that runs the GROW Urban Farm on the Northside of Youngstown. We have also committed to be a consultative resource to the agency.

I am hoping that many of you will have received one or both vaccine shots by our next membership meeting. Remember however that we will need to continue to practice the recommended protocol of social distancing and masking at our meeting. I want to remind those of you who have not yet paid the \$11 membership dues for 2021 to do so as soon as possible.

*Until we meet again, **Tom Atkins***

*St. Patrick's Day is a good reminder of why we have lots of Irish pubs and hardly any Irish restaurants.*



*After enough green beer, we all become "wee" folk.*



*O'Malley proposed to his girl on St. Patrick's Day. He gave her a ring with a synthetic diamond. The excited lass showed it to her father, a jeweler. He took one look and saw it wasn't real. The young lass returned to her future husband and protested his cheapness.*

*"It was in honor of St. Patrick's Day," O'Malley said. "I gave you a sham rock."*



## March Membership Meeting Wed., 7pm, March 3rd Austintown Twsp. Park

Please Attend! We need your input on the club name change and other important decisions facing our club.

*Guests Welcome*

## March Board Meeting Wed., 7pm, March 10th Austintown Twsp. Park

*All Members Welcome*

## Upcoming Nature Podcasts

*Tree Communications*

Tuesday, March 9th, 6pm

Register at:

<https://go.osu.edu/treecommunication>

*Native Perennials for Pollinators*

Wed., April 21st, 6:30pm

Register at:

<https://go.osu.edu/nativeperennials>

Go to Youtube to watch:

*Grow Lots of Tomatoes – Not leaves*

[https://youtu.be/pw-7RoH\\_uic](https://youtu.be/pw-7RoH_uic)

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## Club News

55 Members

### **MGCY Scholarship(s) Offered**

Club Scholarship Chairman Bob Schulick requested and received permission at our February Board of Gardeners meeting to advertise for applicants for our organization's 2021 education assistance to students studying horticulture. One and possibly two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded depending upon applicant qualifications and the availability of club funds. The applicant must meet the following requirements:



1. Must be pursuing a college degree in Horticulture, Landscape Design or an allied subject.
2. Must be a current graduating high school senior or currently enrolled in a credited community college or university while continuing their education in a horticulture program with either horticulture or floriculture as a major at a post-secondary two-to-four institution.
3. Must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 based on a 4.0 GPA system.
4. Must currently live in or have attended high school in Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark or Trumbull counties in Ohio; or Mercer or Lawrence counties in Pennsylvania.

Interested students should contact Robert Schulick at [oldsman2@aol.com](mailto:oldsman2@aol.com) who will forward an application via email. Three letters of recommendation from three professors or two professors and an employer, plus transcripts described on the second page of the application included with the completed application. This can be done with the above email address or mailed to:

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown  
c/o Robert Schulick  
1012 Old Furnace Rd.  
Youngstown, OH 44511

Because of the Covid19 situation, there may not be in-person interviews with applicants. Applicants meeting all requirements will be contacted by telephone as to their status.

Deadline for scholarship applications is April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## *Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930*

### **Old Dog, New Name**

Our organization is about to undergo a second name change in its ninety-two year history. Founded in June, 1930, and named The Steel City Men's Garden Club, there are a number of stories we've heard about our founding fathers' reasons for coming together.

During the Great Depression, many men were unemployed. With time on their hands and little money in their pockets, they took to growing table vegetables, a task commonly handled by women in many European cultures. Another 'old husband's tale' was that they thought men could surpass women in the art of growing flowers and beautiful plants.

Some time in the 1940's, the name was changed to The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown and, until just recently, was one of the oldest men's garden clubs in the country. The organization has long been known for its contributions to horticulture education, civic projects, annual Horticulture Show, and Spring Plant Sale among other popular activities..



Now we will undergo another name change that will reflect our decision to admit women to the membership. What our new handle will be is yet to be determined but, rest assured, we will continue providing public service through horticulture to our area. And we will continue to be associated with The Gardeners of America umbrella group.

### **Donation to MetroParks Veggie Garden**

Our organization has long supported the Mill Creek MetroParks' Veggie Garden Program, through volunteering and donating club funds. Our Board of Gardeners



recently voted to donate \$250 for materials.

Lynn Zocolo, our club's first female member, has long been the lead Veggie Gardens educator. We are proud to have her and congratulate her for her service.



## Indoor Pests

### Fruit Flies

Although they most commonly invade our homes in summer and early fall when over-ripe produce provides feeding and breeding platforms for these members of the *Drosophiidae* family, they can turn up in even the coldest months of the year. This has become even more true in recent years as our foods are imported from increasingly distant lands. And with these imports comes other members of the family with differing traits.

A more common variety is *D. melanogaster* which measures 3-4mm in length, with a tan thorax and an abdomen that is black on top and gray underneath. The overall color can range from tan to dark brown. Lighter colored varieties may have red eyes but dark eyes appear in more deeply pigmented individuals. Adults can lay up to 500 eggs, and the entire lifecycle from egg to larva to adult can be completed in one week.



Fruit flies are especially attracted to overripe fruits and vegetables, but they also breed in drains, garbage disposals, empty bottles and cans. All that is needed is a moist film of fermenting material. Though they may fly in from outdoors, an initial infestation usually occurs when produce with eggs is brought into the home. A single rotting potato or other produce forgotten in the house or refrigerator is all that may be needed. Also wine and beer making equipment as well as indoor compost bins must be inspected regularly and kept clean.

A fruit fly infestation won't go away until the source is found and corrected. This can be difficult and time-consuming. Inaccessible breeding sites like garbage disposals and drains can be inspected by taping a clear plastic storage bag over the opening overnight and seeing if any adults are found inside. Remove the garbage disposal seal and thoroughly clean. Breeding sites should be sprayed with a 'pyrethrum-based', aerosol insecticide.



One of our members found that a small glass containing 4 oz. water, 1 tbsp. sugar, 2 tbsp. cider vinegar and a few drops of dishwashing liquid works as a great trap. Use a clear glass because the dishwashing liquid breaks the water's surface tension and the bodies sink to the bottom where they can be observed.



### Fungus Gnats

Members of the Mycetophilidae and Sciaridae families are common pests of indoor plants, especially where humidity and moisture are high with the presence of rotting vegetation. They're hummingbird-noticed as harmless adults seen flying around plants or gathering at nearby windows. As adults, these non-biting pests are only a flying nuisance. In the larval stage, however, they feed on tender plant roots in the soil.



Adults are delicate, grayish black, mosquito-like (about 1/8" long) with long legs and one pair of clear wings. The larvae are 1/4" long with shiny black heads and elongated, whitish bodies. Adults live about one week and lay up to 300 eggs. The entire life cycle lasts 3-4 weeks and a new generation begins. Multiple generations can simultaneously occur. Look for signs of sudden wilting, poor growth and yellowing. Plants affected include geraniums, African violets, carnations and poinsettias. Serious infestations can kill a plant.

Prior to purchasing plants, carefully turn up the soil near the plant base and check for larvae. Since they love moisture, check for water holding, organic material like peat moss. If you have an infested plant, allow the soil to dry to a depth of 1-2" which will kill the larvae and discourage egg-laying adults. Commercial products include 'Gnat Nix', yellow sticky traps, 'Mosquito Bits' and 'Microbe-Lift BMC', 'Flying Insect Killer' and 'AzaMax'. Top dress houseplants with Beneficial Nematodes to destroy larvae.

The most noticeable differences between fruit flies and fungus gnats are that the former are much better fliers and stockier with shorter legs.

## Help Save The Monarch

Recent surveys indicate Monarch Butterfly populations are in serious decline in North America. Milkweed is the sole source of caterpillar nutrition, Trying to plant milkweed from seed is often a futile endeavor because native varieties need to go through 'stratification', the freeze-thaw process cycle of winter months.



The process can be duplicated by folding the seeds into a slightly moistened paper towel and then putting it in a zip-lock plastic baggy. Put the baggie in the back of the refrigerator for 8-10 weeks. Sprinkle the seeds on bare ground or in a container for later transplanting when foliage is small being careful not to cover with soil.

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2021

## Getting a Head Start on Flower Beds

March 12<sup>th</sup> is 'Plant a Flower Day', and gardeners in colder climates are especially anxious to put winter and Covid19 isolation behind them. To do so, your area's 'Last Frost Date' is of utmost importance. In our area, depending on the source, this is anywhere between the last week of April to the first week of May.

Plants that have been initially grown in warmer climates or started indoors will require a 'hardening off' period. When you bring the plants home, gradually expose them to a sunny location for increasing hours per day before bringing them in for the night. Upon having done this for a week or so, leave the plants out over night when temps will not reach freezing. Covering the plants at night will add additional insurance against damage. Once this is done, a number of plants will withstand several frosts before being negatively affected.

Many gardeners already know that pansies and snapdragons are pretty cold tolerant. However, there are some new introductions of cold tolerant plants in recent years. These include *Argyranthemum* 'Marquerite Daisy' which comes in



yellow and white. Some excellent examples are 'Golden Butterfly (cream)', and 'Pure White Butterfly'. Another daisy-like flower is *Osteospermum* 'Symphony'.



*Nemesia* and *Diascia* are in the same family as snapdragons. Colors are mostly pastels from lavender to pink through coral and apricot. Varieties include 'Bluebird' and 'Sunsatia' *Nemesia*, and 'Flirtation' *Diascia*. *Alyssum* is another great cold weather plant but the 'Princess' and 'Knight' varieties have the added advantage of being able to take the heat while blooming through summers hottest days. And the blooms are super fragrant.



Other candidates for early spring planting are *Dianthus* (Pinks), *Heuchera* (Coral Bells), *Heucherella* (Foamy Bells) and *Bracteantha* (Strawflower). *Dianthus* comes in many forms, from bedding types to taller ones. Coral Bells are grown mostly for their fantastic foliage. 'Primo' (Black Pearl) has black foliage, and 'Dolce' has iridescent purple foliage. For bright coloring, try 'Sundance' Strawflowers.

Source: [Provenwinners.com](http://Provenwinners.com)

## Put Some SPRING In Your Step

As we write this in mid-February, we're hoping Ole Man Winter has had his last hurrah. The Vernal Equinox occurs on March 20<sup>th</sup> and we'll be soon planting lettuce, sugar peas and spinach, walking around in t-shirts and shorts, and enjoying the extended hours of daylight savings time which begins March 14<sup>th</sup>. But, as Henry Van Dyke once said, "The first day of spring is one thing, but the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month".



Others have had more cerebral thoughts about nature's annual renewal.

*Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil.*

Bishop Reginald Heber

*In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.*

Margaret Atwood

*In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.*

Mark Twain

*Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth had gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love.*

Sitting Bull

*People ask what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I tell them I stare out the window and wait for spring.*

Rogers Hornsby

*The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created spring.*

Bernard Williams

*There is something infinitely healing in the repeated returns of nature; the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.*

Rachel Carson

*To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.*

George Santayana

*Now every field is clothed with grass, and every tree with leaves; now the woods put forth their blossoms, and the world assumes its gay attire.*

Virgil

*Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.*

Luther Burbank

*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.*

Charles Dickens

*Spring cleaning never killed anyone, but why take the chance?*

Author Unknown



# The Germinator

Mar. - Apr.  
2021

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.handymanaustintown.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



- Mar. 3 ..... Membership Meeting .... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park
- Mar. 10 ..... Board Meeting ..... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park
- Apr. 7 ..... Membership Meeting .... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park
- Apr. 14 ..... 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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