



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Mother Nature works her painterly magic this time of year. The shortened days and lower temperatures depletes the trees of their green-producing chlorophyll, and allows the red, yellow, and orange pigments to emerge. Soon the leaves will rain down, turn brown, and begin the process of returning to the soil. Autumn may seem like a time for idle waiting for spring, but our club has much to plan and work on before then.



John Schinker and Bruce Brungard are hoping to get the MASCO greenhouse up and running properly soon. Keeping it at a steady 55-degree minimum temperature will enable us to use it throughout the winter for various activities, such as propagating, etc.

We are planning for an annual winter seminar in early March. This is a tradition that our club has maintained in an effort to present our community with the opportunity to learn more about various aspects of gardening. Clare Neff will co-ordinate his event, but will need to assemble a group of members to work with her, on site and speaker selection, publicity, food/refreshments, basket raffle, etc. In the end this will need to be a club-wide effort.

Four of us from the club attended the Gardeners of America's annual convention at OSU's Agricultural and Technical Institute in Wooster Ohio.



This is a very impressive campus, the center of the state's horticultural science. There was an array of informative speakers, tours of the greenhouses, and Seacrest Arboretum.

About a dozen of us visited the Hipley Gardens in Columbiana recently, and what a magical, wonderful place it

was. The brainchild of former landscaping teacher, John Hipley, is a place that should be on every gardeners list of must-see sites. More than just a gardener, John is a designer and builder. Check out his website for photos.



At our October meeting the 2023 slate of officers was elected: Myself, president, Clare Neff-1st VP, Shane Burgraf-2nd VP, Terry Volland-Treasurer, Linda Biggs-Recording Secretary, and Mike Banks-Corresponding Secretary.

We are approaching a busy time of year and each of us in his/her own way will celebrate the multiple holidays over the next few months.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Tom Atkins

Meeting Schedule

*Our new (temporary?) meeting location will be the Georgianne Parker Room, Boardman Park. **Board Meeting** Wednesday, 5:30pm, Nov. 2nd All Members Welcome **Membership Meeting** Wednesday, 7pm, Nov. 2nd Speaker: Eric Barrett OSU Extension Lead Educator *Guests Welcome**

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President's Reception Dinner aka GOGY Christmas Party
A La Carte Catering, Canfield
Wednesday, Dec. 14
Meet & Greet 6pm, Dinner 7pm
Davis & Penner Guitar Duo
\$22 per person, menu to be announced at meetings and via email. Alcoholic beverages (BYOB) permitted. **RSVP by Dec. 7th** either at the Membership or Board meetings, or send check to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH 44451. Please include menu choice(s).



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CLUB NEWS

New Members

Stephanie Hyde lives in Warren and is an educator at OH WOW in downtown Youngstown. She is married (Brent) and enjoys working with ceramics and stained glass. In addition to increasing her gardening skills, she is interested in trading plants – perfect for our club’s Plant Auction. Sponsor: Tom Arens

Susan Primrose is retired and lives in Boardman. Her gardening interests include growing vegetables and flowers. She also enjoys cooking, woodworking, antiques, travel, masonry and ceramics. Other membership organizations include ACTION and Americorps. Sponsor: Ron Fasano

Leslie Davis is a customer service representative and lives in Boardman. Her gardening interests include indoor plants, flower beds and succulents. She is also into photography. Leslie is active with Friends of Fellows’ Riverside Gardens.

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

Welcome to the Green Oasis

Boardman Park is celebrating its 75th birthday this year and Executive Director Dan Slagle told our October membership meeting audience about his 50 years with the park, its history and features.

Two centuries ago, the property was a 160 acre farm that included an osage orange (monkey ball) tree orchard some of which still remains. In 1947, William F. Maag, publisher of the Youngstown Vindicator, purchased 123

acres and quickly added 72 more. Subsequent to becoming a public park, additional donations of land came from the Arni Nashbar Family and the Dr. James Kerrigan Nursery.

In its present form, there are 227 managed acres, 60 of which are developed for recreation and meeting places, and the rest is green space for hiking and enjoying nature. In prepandemic 2019, the park hosted over 500,000 visitors.

Park Features

Facilities available for reservation: Elton Beard Cabin, capacity 72; Georgeanna Parker Activity Center,



capacity 40; LFCC-Boardman Rotary Room, capacity 120; LFCC- Stambaugh Room, capacity 112.

Outdoor pavilions w/capacity: Edgewood & Ex-Serviceman’s (50); Chester Long & Hofmaster (100); and Thomas C. Masters (150).

Other facilities available that are popular to wedding parties: Gazebo & Maag Outdoor Arts Theater (75); and St. James (church) meeting House (125).

Recreation amenities: Bocce, tennis, pickleball, disc golf & sand volleyball courts; Tot’s & Kid’s playgrounds; dog park; and a hike & bike trail.

Congratulations to Dan Slagle and all park donors, tax payers, management, staff and visitors as two milestones are celebrated.

Perennials Saved for Plant Auction

Jenny Metzler of North Jackson requested that our organization find new homes for perennials in her beautiful garden because she was no longer able to properly tend them. Tom Arens, Helen Viano and Birt Underwood dug up the fox glove, hostas, hydrangeas, day lilies and bulbs. Tom and Rodney Toth will store them until our 2023 Plant Auction.



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Preparing Veggie Gardens for Winter

While still fresh in their minds, gardeners should make a map of their vegetable garden plants including the specific variety. Doing so will facilitate crop rotation thus avoiding diseases and unbeneficial insects that attack plant families like nightshade (tomato, pepper, potato, etc.), cucurbits (zucchini, squash, cucumbers, etc.) and brassicales (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.).

Rotation also allows soil nutrients, micro organisms and beneficial invertibrates to naturally replenish. Specific plant varieties that showed serious disease or insect damage should be replaced by resistant varieties next year. Keep the maps for 3 to 4 years.

Chopping and burying plant debris and tree leaves will help replenish soil nutrients, but debris exhibiting serious disease and insect damage should be removed as many pathogens and destructive insects can overwinter in plant residue. Also consider leaving a debris pile to allow places for beneficial insects to overwinter.



Preparing soil for next season's crops may begin with a soil test if one has not been done for three years. If compost is the main amendment used and heavy on the food scraps side, an excess of phosphorous is often the result. This can be amended with carbon-rich tree leaves.

If garden soil is left bare over winter, erosion and soil depletion can result. One solution is planting winter cereals like rye, wheat or triticale which must be plowed under in spring. Other covers to consider are leaves and mulch. If manure is used, wait until soil is 50 degrees or colder and till it in immediately because the longer it sits on the surface the more nitrogen evaporates.

All reusable tools, harvest containers and food contact surfaces should be kept clean as possible and regularly sanitized, not just at the end of the growing season. First remove excess soil, vegetable matter and other debris. While there are many sanitizing, hydrogen peroxide-based products on the market that do a great job, 2 teaspoons of household bleach per gallon of water is an economical alternative.

Source: <https://extension.umn.edu>

Big, Ugly - but Beneficial - Monster

We don't know if any of our readers have locally encountered a 'Wheel bug' (*Arilus cristatus*), but we're sure they were impressed. A member of the assassin bug (*Reduviidae*) family, the common name derives from a distinctive, serrated crest on its back resembling a wheel. While this 1½ inch bug is easily spotted -



they like brightly lit areas at night - the small, immature nymphs look entirely different, usually red sans 'wheel'.

Anyone plagued with brown, marmorated stickbugs will be happy to hear that this imported pest is high on wheelbug's menu. The bad news is it's bite can cause hours of a serious burning sensation and pain followed by a dull, throbbing ache for several days.

We don't know of any local sightings but they are reported to common in the Mid-West and New England with new locations being identified at a relatively rapid rate. The combination of climate change widening their possible range and the introduction of brown, momatrated stinkbugs ensures local encounters with this ugly, beneficial assassin will become increasingly common. Just remember, 'handle with care'.

Banana Peels, Not Just for Composting?

Bananas are a favorite American fruit but what to do with the peels? Up 'til now, they either ended up in the compost bin or the trash. Some people have begun repurposing them into 'banana water', a compost tea fertilizer made by soaking the peels in water. The proposed benefits are controversial.

Bananas are rich in potassium, a macro-nutrient whose benefits are well known. It helps plants effectively move water and nutrients between cells, grow healthy roots, create blossoms, produce fruit, fight disease and survive drought.

While there are a number of fruits higher in potassium, bananas are a good human source food. For plants to benefit, however, peels must be broken down by microbes and fungi for nutrients to become available. Even with the small amount of potassium absorbed, the fertilizer will still lack other necessary macro and micro nutrients. This tea may also be harmful because banana farming is chemically intense with some compounds possibly negatively affecting the plants. Also, banana water tends to attract fruit flies and gnats.



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Dr. George Guju

1932 – 2022

Rest in Peace, Dear Friend

The history of our organization includes a membership of people not only skilled in horticulture but having interests, skills and charitable involvements far beyond gardening. An iconic example was George Guju who recently passed away.



Even before entering the Army during with the Korean War, he had been considering a dentistry career and ended up serving in a medical unit. George eventually graduated from Ohio State Univ. School of Denistry and established a practice lasting over 40 years. He regularly traveled to Guatemala and Mexico providing dental services to indigent people. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years and helped usher two of his sons through the Eagle Scout program.

George's horticulture skills were apparent to anyone touring his 2 ½ acres in Canfield. In addition to vegetables, his fruit trees, berry bushes, and Concord and Niagara grape vines were dedicated to making wine, brandies and mead from honey. He did the entire process himself from picking and sorting to double fermentation to quality control – sipping the fruits of his labor.

Another diversion was wrenching on his antique cars which over the years included a 1930 Ford Model A, a 1930 Nash and a 1965 AMC Marlin fastback. A history buff, George belonged to the Mahoning Valley Civil War Roundtable, the World War II Heritage Roundtable and the Nixon Dental Study Roundtable. He also enjoyed woodworking and golf. As an active member of the then Mens' Garden Club of Youngstown, he served on the Scholarship and Auditing committees.

George was the son of Romanian immigrants and he visited their homeland several times including working as an interpreter with the International Dental Federation. The country was then part of the USSR and he was saddened by the poor and suppressive living conditions.

George and Theresa "Teddi" were married in 1956 and were lovingly together until her death in 2017. They raised two sons and three daughters who gave them nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A short bio in a 2009 *Germinator* article made reference to another dentist who served during the Korean War, Dr. Walter "Painless" Waldowski, a fictional character in the *MASH* TV series. As to who would be considered 'the best equipped', our vote goes to Dr. George Guju hands down.

Giving Thanks...

A thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us. James Faust

Give thanks for a little, and you will find a lot.

Hausa Proverb

Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day.

Robert Caspar Lintner

Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes of which all men have some.

Charles Dickens

No one has ever become poor by giving. Anne Frank



...To Those Who Served

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in service of country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude.

Harry S. Truman

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

Benjamin Disraeli

Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility.

Eleanor Roosevelt



May their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.

Daniel Webster

A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.

Bob Dylan



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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
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www.theamishmarket.net
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330-533-3122
info@bairdbrothers.com
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330-533-2211
www.bdlumber.com
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www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com
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330-758-8889
- Garden Artisans**
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Annapolis, Md. 21401
www.gardenartisans.com
- Greenstar Cooperative**
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Greenford, Ohio 44422
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www.handelsicecream.com
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sales@hotpepperwax.com
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www.kushners.com
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330-799-2059
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Boardman, Ohio
330-782-2004
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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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330-533-2320
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www.StoneFruitCoffee.com
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hello@wallygro.com
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www.whitehousefruitfarm.com
- Youngstown Cityscape**
15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330-742-4040



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calendar of events



- Nov. 2 Board Meeting 5:30PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Nov. 2 Membership Mtg7:00PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Dec. 7 Board Meeting TBA Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Dec. 14 President’s Reception ...6pm A La Carte Catering, Canfield
- Jan 4 Board Meeting 5:30PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Jan 4 Membership Mtg7:00PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman 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 Georgianna Parker Room at Boardman Park. 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



THE GOGY
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