



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

We are entering what is for me, my favorite season: Autumn. The cool weather. The changing colors of deciduous trees, and the mums and asters. In Ohio, Mother Nature is getting ready to put herself to bed.

I wanted to thank all members who participated in our annual horticulture show, especially Rodney Toth, the organizer of the event. I was pleased with the number of new members who participated. One new member Josh Kaglic, brought his entire family, kids and all, to enter the show. I want to also thank two new members, Shaye Cahill and Claire Neff, who are already working with Dan Miller and Dave Campana (respectively).



We are excited about the prospect that we will have access to a greenhouse next year. This means that we will be able to have a plant sale, our first in two years. It is rare that a garden club has a greenhouse to work in, and we are fortunate to have to one.

Our September speaker was arborist, Sarah Woodall, who spoke about caring for our trees. A major takeaway from her talk was: Don't be too eager to prune your oaks. Wait until November, and don't prune after February, otherwise you risk killing your tree and possibly your neighbor's from oak wilt.

We are excited to be in the final stages of picking our new logo. At our October meeting we will be taking our last vote. We will also be voting for 2022 officers. I hope to see many of you then. Remember, the expectation is that if you are not vaccinated (and most members are), you should be wearing a mask.

*I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the October meetings.*

**Tom Atkins**

## Thoughts Of Autumn

*The heat of autumn is different from the heat of summer. One ripens apples, the other turns them to cider.*

Jane Hirshfield

*Autumn is like a second spring when every leaf is a flower.*

Albert Camus

*"Come, little leaves," said the wind one day. "Come to the meadows with me and play. Put on your dresses of red and gold for summer is past and the days grow cold.*

George Cooper

*Is not this a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love – that makes life and nature harmonize.*

George Eliot

*Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.*

Samuel Butler

*Of all the seasons, autumn offers the most to man and requires the least of him.*

Hal Borland

## Meeting Schedule

Fellows' Riverside Gardens

### Board Meeting

5:30pm, Wednesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>

All Members Welcome

### Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Taylor Deland

2021 Scholarship Winner

Taylor is a freshman at the OSU Ag Tech Institute Wooster, and will talk about her greenhouse employment.

Guests Welcome

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## CLUB NEWS

58 Members

### Election of Officers

Any organization worthy of the name requires members who are willing to provide leadership and tend to its day to day maintenance. Tom Arens has been our president for the past two years, probably the most trying period in our club's history. Navigating the challenges of the Covid 19 epidemic when our club's most iconic activities had been shelved, and guiding us through the necessary process of admitting women to our membership has not been easy.

Yet Tom has managed to accomplish this while minimizing the associated problems that could have crippled our ninety-years-old organization. Agree with some or all of his decisions or not, one has to admit he provided the leadership that stabilized our membership rolls and prepared us for a return to normalcy. We need more members willing to help us stay on an even keel because these same challenges, though somewhat abated, are still with us.

We will hold an election of officers at our October membership meeting, the first step toward keeping us not only viable but strong. While we encourage any member willing to add their name to the list of those willing serve before the votes are tallied, here is the slate as it stands. We are happy to note there are two women vying for **First Vice President**.

**Clare Neff** is founder/CEO of LED3 LLC in Canfield and, though a relatively new member, has lent her expertise to the *Germinator* resulting in a significant reduction in production costs.

**Diana Palmer** operates an accounting/financial planning business in Cortland, and her expertise as well as some other skills can be valuable club assets.

**President – Tom Arens**

**Second Vice President – John Schinker**

**Treasurer – Terry Voland**

**Recording Secretary – Open**

**Corresponding Secretary – Mike Banks**

### Do Your Dutie – Pay Your Dooze

Our organization has long depended upon income from our annual Spring Plant Sale but, due to the Covid pandemic, we have not held one for two years. Yet our outlays for scholarships, grants and the newsletter have continued to be met. Please pay your dues ASAP and help maintain our financial viability.



## Girdled Tree Roots

We were fortunate to have certified arborist Sarah Woodall, Woodall Tree Preservation, Inc., return for another membership meeting presentation. Her last talk centered on the problems and solutions involving Oak Wilt disease. While she and her husband have limited their business to installing and pruning shrubs, they still consult home owners and businesses having potential problems with their trees. She subsequently touched on a number of tree diseases and answered questions at our September meeting, but her main focus was the problem of girdled root systems in trees.

When large roots overlap one another or the trunk, the negative effect on hydration and the nutrient cycle can cripple or kill a tree. One of the main symptoms to look for is limited leaf production in the upper canopy. The leaves may smaller, wilted or sparse, or turn to fall colors too early. While maples, oaks and apple trees are the most common victims, any species can be affected. When girdling roots are small, a section can be cut out provided the tree's base or large roots are not harmed.

Girdling is most noticeable when the exposed root flair shows root circling or overlap.



A healthy tree will have noticeable root flair radiating away from the trunk. When a tree has been planted too deeply or when a volcano of mulch (apply only a few inches at most) covers a portion of the trunk, one can bet that some girdling is occurring below.

Planting in hard soil must be overcome by digging a larger hole and amending the fill, scoring the sides of the hole to allow root entry, and removing the ball wire and as much of the burlap as possible so roots can be spread.



Sarah also discussed other tree problems including *Armillaria* disease the main symptom of which is honey-colored mushrooms at the trunk's base. This can indicate significant hollowing of the trunk.

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## 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Horticulture Show

For many people, gardening is a solitary activity involving limited human interaction. They may admire the work ethic, skill and results, but don't understand how the time and effort can contribute to a full, enjoyable life. Attending the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Plant Auction in June or its Horticulture Show last month would have significantly altered that perception.

Witness attendee enthusiasm at our last two events after what seemed an eternity of cancellations and lockdowns. This Horticulture Show, held at Fellows' Riverside Gardens, was limited to only three sections (annuals, individual vegetables and six mixed vegetables) instead of the usual fourteen, but the large number of participants and entries was surprising. While gardening was a good way to pass time in isolation, they couldn't wait to get reacquainted in friendly competition.

Members made a significant contribution towards



the show's success by setting up the Davis Center before the show, and cleaning up and storing equipment afterward. Too bad there wasn't a 'best of legs' section. Before judging began, members not only prepared their own entries but helped other participants arrange theirs.

There was nice array vegetables including herbs



including massive garlic heads. The best of section vegetable winner was a green tomato shown by Joshua Kaglis. At left are Certified Judges Judy Henry, Clark Bordner and David Rich who evaluated all 3 adult sections.

The mixed vegetables section was won by Rodney Toth who showed a 'Sugaretti' squash, a 'Big Boy' tomato, a 'Kennebec' potato, a 'Red Bull' pepper, a 'Stuttgart' onion, and a 'Musik' garlic head.



Rodney's entry also won Best in Show and he took the Sweepstakes competition with the most points awarded.

The annuals section was the most widely entered, dominated by zinnia exhibits. There may be two reasons



for their popularity: They require very little care including watering; and there was the Boe Korody Memorial \$25 prize for the largest entry.

While Greg Capitte's exhibit rated only a yellow ribbon, it was obviously the largest zinnia. The best of annuals section was won by Toth with his 'Chinatown' celosia. The Capitte family made it a two-fer when Norman Capitte won the Larry Whetson Memorial Largest Tomato \$25 prize with a 2 lb entry.

The Youth Division was dominated by siblings Isaiah, Mia and Noah Carelly. Isaiah took a best of section with a beautiful sunflower, and also won the \$25 Youth Sweepstakes prize donated by Robert Voland. Mia took best in vegetables section with her "Lunchbox" orange pepper and Best In Show.



Top L-R: Joshua Kaglis, Rodney Toth, Greg Capitte & Norm Capetti. Below: Mia & Isaiah Carelly.

We look forward to seeing the Carelly kids and all the other participants at next year's Horticulture Show. The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown will continue to see that area gardeners have the opportunity to gather at our events God and Covid willing.

# The Germinator

## St. Patrick Parish Gardens

It has been over two years since our organization donated funds for St. Pat's in Youngstown to update its garden's growing facilities. Most of these funds went toward improving the hoophouse including new plastic, doors, potting tables and soil.

We toured the grounds with Jesse McClain who oversees the facilities and activities. He advised that, except for one neighborhood resident, the plots and other infrastructure are tended by commuting parishioners, 4H Junior Gardeners, Pastor Fr. Kevin Peters and Pastor Emeritus Fr. Edward Noga. In fact, Fr. Noga was mowing between the plots while we were there. Jesse praised his dedication to the gardens and said he will soon be installing the 12 Stations of the Cross on the grounds for parishioner prayer and contemplation.



In addition to the well-tended flower and vegetable raised beds, amenities include 4 very busy bee hives, a fire pit with stone seating, a nicely planted angel shrine,



tables with umbrellas and an apple orchard with a couple dozen trees. More apple and pear trees will be installed this fall.

*We'd say it was money well spent.*

## Preparing Gardens for Winter

Fall is the best time to prepare soil for the next growing season. Nutrients levels used over summer may need to be supplemented and added now so they can break down during the coming months. How much organic matter, phosphorus, and potassium to add as well as optimum pH can be found in a standard, inexpensive soil test. Adding organic matter like compost, aged manure or leaves should break down over winter and help clay soil with drainage.

While some tests do not provide nitrogen levels, 2 lbs. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. can translate into 33 lbs. of soybean meal or 15 lbs. dried blood. To main perfect potassium levels, 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. equals 14 lbs. of Sul-Po-Mag. No extra phosphorus is needed. Commercial fertilizer should have a "0" for the middle number.

For small gardens or raised beds, consider leaving the soil untilled to maintain soil structure, beneficial microbes and worms. Remove any weeds, spent plants and debris, then add compost and amendments and lightly work them in with a garden fork. This may be impractical for large gardens, so just till in the amendments. However, tilling adds the risk of erosion so consider covering the garden with mulch.

Another way to deter erosion is to introduce winter cover crops such as winter wheat, winter rye and annual rye grass which also add nutrients. Seeds should be sown 6 weeks before the first expected frost date and lightly covered with soil. Let it grow until early spring, till under and wait a few weeks before planting vegetables.

### Which Manure Is Best?

Animal manure has been used for millennia but not all poo is the same. It depends upon the animal, its age and health, food, bedding, and how it was collected and stored. Also important is whether it is fresh, composted, aged or dried. If in doubt, have it tested.



Raw manure should never be used to side-dress plants. It should either be tilled into soil at least a season prior to planting, or fully composted and aged. Composting greatly reduces the risk of illness and weed seeds germinating. If the manure doesn't contain a lot of bedding add leaves, grass clippings, food waste or newsprint. The pile should reach 131 to 170 degrees for at least a week. Then add limestone, turn and aerate the pile and let it cure for 2 to 4 months.

The garden type, manure and applying times are as follows: Flowers – cow & horse - early spring; Vegetables, Root Crops & Acid-loving Plants - chicken, cow & horse – chicken, cow & horse - fall & spring.

Source: *Almanac.com* (Old Farmers Almanac)

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# The Germinator

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  
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www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

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www.burtonfloralandgarden.net

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330-758-8889

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MGCY Member  
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330-533-2320

**Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**  
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**Youngstown Cityscape**  
15 Central Square, 2nd Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040



October 2021

# The Germinator

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451  
www. GG-YO.org



## calendar of events



- Oct 6 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows’ Riverside Gardens
- Oct 6 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows’ Riverside Gardens

## 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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