



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

As I write this it is early September, the transition from summer to autumn has clearly begun. The Japanese Beetles have begun their subterranean "sleep". The Monarchs are emerging from pupae in preparation for a long flight south. Mums and Asters are blooming. My Beautyberry Bush is becoming dotted w purple. Milder days and cooler nights. This is my favorite time of year.

The Canfield Fair is behind us now and as most of you know the GOGY was given a 31-foot booth site in the commercial building. I want to thank the members who helped with set-up, staffing, and take down of our booth. Thanks to Carlo Rubino and Clare Neff who contributed a painting and a quilt that was raffled off. See their photos below. Thanks also to Tim Parks who loaned us bales, plants, and décor to fill out our space.

I want to remind you--though some of you know this already--to not be fooled by vendors who sell "hardy" mums. Dennis James from DJ's Greenhouse taught us several years ago about the difference between hardy and perennial mums. The former will tolerate the chilly/cold temperatures of late fall or early winter but will not re-emerge next spring and bloom next fall. I bought a perennial mum from DJ three years ago when it was barely 12 inches in diameter. Now it's almost three feet in diameter!

The GOGY board decided that we will have an annual winter seminar in 2023—sometime in March. We are looking for a venue that can accommodate about 200 people. If you know of a place—inexpensive or free--let me know. I will be asking members to serve on ad hoc committees to organize the basket raffle, selecting speakers and topics, set-up and take-down, continental breakfast, etc.

We will be electing 2023 officers at the October meeting. The following positions need to be filled: President, 1st and 2nd vice-presidents, treasurer, and recording and corresponding secretaries. At the meeting, nominations will be considered and the election will be held.

Save the date: On Wednesday 12-14-22, we will be having the president's reception at Ala Carte Catering in Canfield. Its a fun night with good food, good company, and good entertainment. More information to come.

See you soon,

Tom Atkins

Canfield Fair GOGY Info Booth Photos



And

Meeting Schedule

Our new (temporary?) meeting location will be the Georgianne Parker Room, Boardman Park.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, 5:30pm, Oct. 5th
All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 7pm, Oct. 5th
Speaker: **Dan Slagle**
Mill Creek MetroParks Manaager
Subject: *Prepping the Park for Winter and Spring.*

ALSO: Election of officers and Awards Nominations. For list and criteria for awards, go to the club website at gg-yo.org.

Guests Welcome

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CLUB NEWS

New Member

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.

Veggie Garden Improvements

Our organization has a long and short history with the Mill Creek MetroParks’ Farm Veggie Gardening Program which teaches gardening skills to young people. Lynn Zocolo represents both eras. Lynn has worked for MetroParks for 20 years, 17 of which she has administered the program. Lynn was also the first woman to join our club when we went coed a short time ago.

A number of our members have volunteered with the program over many years including Bill Carney, Bud Kindelin, Joe Alessi, John Schinker and Rodney Toth.

In the recent past we donated funds to the program for materials used in its activities. One item was lumber to replace an old split rail fence fronting the gardens but construction was delayed due to Covid restrictions. The



new, approximate 100 ft., structure includes brightly painted slats depicting carrots, onions, squash, beans and zucchini. Check it out when next visiting the farm.

Our Fine Feathered Friends

Jeff Harvey operated Wild Birds Unlimited for many years before recently retiring. He is currently a Mill Creek MetroParks commissioner. A lifelong birder, he shared some interesting avian insights with us at our September membership meeting.

He began his presentation discussing birds common to our area during the various seasons of the year, but his talk soon switched to those once rarely seen. Serious birders will travel long distances to observe a rare visitor and so it was one recent winter when a traffic jam occurred in a nearby rural neighborhood with many cars sporting out of state license plates.

Word had spread that a deer falcon or gyrfalcon (*Faco rusticolus*) had been sighted. It’s the largest falcon species, known to hunt animals much larger than its 2 ½ to 4 lbs, and an animal desired by serious falconers worldwide. It breeds in the Artic and is almost never seen this far South.



Colors range from silver to brown to mostly black.

Another bird that likely to draw a crowd because it



was once never seen in our area, but becoming increasingly common, is the black bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). It is native to Texas and Eastern Mexico.

Other birds that were once rarities but becoming increasingly common are the clay-colored sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) and the blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*). In fact, the number of bird species visiting Mahoning County is steadily increasing. In 2016, 208 were spotted by area birders; in 2021, 222 were seen.



The point is that our changing climate has produced a new normal where there is no normal, and bird mobility allows them to find new food and nesting resources when their traditional habitats become less desirable.

And this begs the question: *What happens when a new species arrives and competes for resources with established animals.* Animals that specialize in a specific food source are likely to lose out to larger, more aggressive competitors.

We hear anecdotal reports that the increased number of bald eagles at area lakes has lead to a decrease in osprey sightings. Birds with a more flexible, generalist diet should fare better.



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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's 57th Annual Horticulture Show

This year's show featured a decent number of exhibitors considering the sections were limited to only annuals and vegetables. There were again \$25 prizes for the Larry Whetson Memorial heaviest Tomato, Boe Korody Memorial largest zinnia and Youth Sweepstakes winner contests.

Upon entering the D. D. and Velma Davis Education and Visitors Center at Fellows' Riverside Gardens, exhibitors had to register with Dan Miller. Dan would later tabulate points toward the Adult and Youth



Sweepstakes winners. He was seen here with John Schinker who judged the Youth entries and GOGA President Tom Arens who is also a certified judge.

The smallest detail can make the difference between an average entry and one worthy of a blue ribbon, best in section or best of show awards. Stem length, slight imperfections like insect bites, similarity and number of



items in a single entry, color, cleanliness and many other factors were on the minds of exhibitors as they prepared their entries in the Center's Library. Pictured on the left is Linda Biggs; on the right is Rodney Toth who took second in the Adult Sweepstakes; an unknown exhibitor and Ronnie Jones. Below them is Terry Voland, who won the Adult Sweepstakes, preparing his basket of mixed vegetables.



Flower show judges are only human with some subjectivity always possible, but we trust this show's

crew was as objective as possible given their extensive experience and with most from out of town. They were



John and Angela Anderson, Jim Bell, Dave Rich, Maryann Ferguson Rich and Tom Liggett. John Schinker judged the Youth Division.

Isiah Carely, age 12, won the Youth Division Sweepstakes with his Best in Show mixed vegetable basket of cue ball zucchini, banana pepper, serendipity bi-colored corn, English long cucumber, jet set tomato



and black shine eggplant. He is mentored by Terry Voland and Josh Kaglic. He is pictured here with sister Mia (10) and brother Noah (8), who took third place. Israel Zink took second with his Best of Section Matt's wild cherry tomatoes.

Terry Voland took Best in Show with his 'serendipity' bi-color corn and the Adult Sweepstakes. He also had the best vegetable entry with his mixed basket of cue ball zucchini, bi-colored corn, Aristotle pepper, jet set tomato, Carolina Cantaloupe and rosa blanca eggplant. Lisa Nicklash was second in the Sweepstakes which included her Best of Annual Section 'Plumtastic' Petunia. Rodney Toth was third.



As they did last year, Norm Cappitte had the heaviest (2.4 lb.) tomato while Gregory entered the largest zinnia. Anyone know what these guys use for fertilizer 'cause we'd like to get our hands on some.





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Landscape Fabric Weed Barrier

There are several reasons why gardeners should avoid using petroleum based landscape fabric in beds and gardens.

They can seriously degrade the soil ecosystem below by compacting the soil resulting in nutrients, water and air not reaching the root rhizosphere. The dark fabric can absorb heat where it isn't covered by mulch or where gaps occur damaging the soil web. While porous, the fabric is inefficient in evenly dispersing water so lower areas may become overly saturated. In addition, organic matter won't be effectively incorporated into the soil where earthworms and other soil life can transform it into nutrients available to plants.

Gardeners use landscape fabric to suppress weed growth saving time and effort, but weeds will eventually break through or take root in the mulch making them difficult to remove. The fabrics also complicate changing landscape design and installing new plants.

Perhaps most important are health and environmental concerns. These fossil fuel based products break down into microscopic particles that can enter the foods we eat. Even if not used in vegetable gardens, these particles degrade soil health. The process of extracting fossil fuels significantly damages the environment by polluting soil and water, and leaking greenhouse gases like methane into the atmosphere.

A better way

Rather than using landscape fabric or imported mulch, choose eco-friendly and sustainable natural options. Select a diverse range of plants including perennials and self-seeders that will help create lower maintenance over time.

Combine plants less likely to compete with one another to create a dense, layered bed with less space for weeds. Include ground covers. Line beds, borders and pathways with spring bulbs or other plants to suppress weed and grass ingress. Use organic, locally sourced mulches to control weeds and add fertility to the soil.

Source: www.treehugger.com

Autumn Is Here

*Oh, it's a long, long time from May to December,
But the days grow short when you reach September.
When the Autumn weather turns the leaves to flame,
One hasn't got time for the waiting game.*

September Song sung by Frank Sinatra

*Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.*

Fall, Leaves, Fall by Emily Bronte

*I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day.
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away.
Twirling it by the window pane,
With thousand other down the lane.*

*I love to see the shaking twig,
Dance till the shut of eve.
The sparrow on the cottage rig,
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summers lap with flowers to lie.*

Autumn by John Clare





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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
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

Buckeye Therapeutic Massage

545 N. Broad Street
Canfield, OH 44406
330-402-7303
www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

Burton Floral & Garden

13020 Kinsman R.,
Burton, OH, 44021
www.burtonfloralandgarden.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

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

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

Village Quilts

17 W. Main Street
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-0545
www.villagequiltsanfield.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

Youngstown Cityscape

15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330-742-4040



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



calendar of events



- Sept. 22-24GOA National Conference OSU CFAES Wooster, OH
- Oct. 5 Board Meeting 5:30PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Oct. 5 Membership Mtg7:00PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Nov. 2 Board Meeting 5:30PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Nov. 2 Membership Mtg7:00PM Georgeanna Parker Room Boardman Park
- Dec. 7 President’s Reception ...TBD A La Carte Canfield

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



THE GOGY 2022 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tom Arens
mansell713@sbcglobal.net • 330-402-2700

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Clare Neff
clare_neff@mac.com • 330-503-6988

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

John Schinker
johnschinker@gmail.com • 330-518-4384

TREASURER

Terry Voland
voskater@aol.com • 330-881-8467

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tom McGiffin
tsmcgiffin@gmail.com • (330)501-9786

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Michael Banks
330-707-9089 (H) • 330-565-0592 (C)
mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor
mgcygerminator@gmail.com
Clare Neff, layout
Tom Arens