



October 2023



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Fall is my favorite time of year! Strange isn't it, a gardener loving fall. Gardeners, like gardens, need a rest too. I wish we could go straight from fall to spring. Not crazy about winter. Fall is also a time to grow cole crops. No I didn't make a typo and write "cole" instead of "cold". Cole crops are also known as Brassicas: broccoli, kale, mustard, etc. Also lots of you are buying "hardy" mums this time of year. They are inexpensive and beautiful, but don't be fooled into thinking that they are perennials. They are hardy enough to withstand the cold and chill of autumn but will not likely survive the freezing temperatures of winter. Go to DJ's nursery if you want mums to last year after year.



We had a very energetic, enthusiastic, and well-attended meeting in September. Members brought photos, tools, and tips, garden art, and samples from their gardens. I want to encourage everyone to continue this practice. It makes for a more active and educational, and fun meeting. Photos should be emailed a week in advance to: gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com.

I want to encourage members to contribute to the monthly Germinator: articles, images, tips, etc. Send them to Dave Campana's email at: mgygerminator@gmail.com. I can't guarantee that everything you send will be used, or used right away, but send them anyway.

Our October meeting is an important one in that the membership will be voting on officers for 2024. If anyone is interested in any position (president, 1st and 2nd vice president, treasurer, corresponding secretary, or recording secretary) let me know. I am going to be contacting some of you to be on committees that need filled. After consulting with Clare, we decided to not have a dinner meeting in October since we have a full agenda. We will be scheduling future dinner meetings for spring and fall.

As in years past, we are hoping to get a Christmas tree to decorate at the Davis Center. Mike Banks and Dave Causer will be coordinating this project. Members should start gathering plant specimens to adorn our tree. Mark your calendar: Our annual president's reception/Christmas party will be on 12-13-23 at Ala Carte catering in Canfield. Details to follow.

Lastly, our decision to eliminate the half hour time buffer between the board meeting and membership meeting seems to have been a mistake for a couple of reasons. **Therefore we will return to our original schedule: Board meeting at 5:30pm and membership meeting at 7:00pm.**

See you soon,

Tom Atkins

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, October 4th

Stacey Pavilion

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting, 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting, 7pm

Nominations for and elections for club officers will be accepted. We need members to step up for these leadership positions.

Speaker:

Mark Noark, Arborist

"Good Trees for Residential Properties"

Guests Welcome

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Giant Pumpkin Weighoff

**Park's Garden Center, Canfield
October 14th, time to be announced.**

Not only will there be gourds weighing close to a ton, but other vegetable competitions including some free seeds.



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Club News

In the many years the *Germinator* has reported on our organization's monthly membership meetings, we can't recall any that didn't hold our interest. It isn't that some may have been humdrum, but they are well in the past - gone and forgotten. The point is our meetings have become increasingly educational, interesting and fun. Great speakers, member participation and delicious snacks are among the reasons every member should attend if possible.

And so it was at our September meeting. Dennis James, owner of DJ's Garden Center in Transfer, PA, is always a crowd favorite, and we are fortunate he speaks before our group once a year. In addition to sharing his expertise, he always brings numerous examples of his presentation subject.



DJ filled two long tables with plants that provide color and aesthetic interest in gardens from late summer into winter. They included varied species of hydrangeas, beautyberry, winterberry, sedums, asters, anemone, mums and hyperconia.



When it comes to hydrangeas, paniculata and oakleaf varieties are his favorites. But with new



varieties being developed all the time, there are also some wonderful smooth, mountain and climbing hydrangeas worth looking into. Example: Smooth variety Annabell's produce huge white blooms but a heavy rain will knock them down due to their weak stems. A new variety, Invincibelle, produces much stronger stems. Panicle hydrangeas which produce blooms from existing stems should be pruned to 12-15". Smooth varieties which bloom on new growth should be cut back to 3".

When purchasing mums, DJ advised looking for 'perennial' on the tag as opposed to 'hardy' which probably won't survive winter. He shared much more plant wisdom with us but space prohibits. We look forward to his next visit.

Member Show & Tell

Terry Voland displayed a spring-loaded apple picker, a gift from Dan Chambers, and Heather Randall showed us a living 'succulent wreath' that included 'hens & chicks'.



Another feature is garden pics by members sent to gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com, and displayed on a large screen. They included Barb Arquilla's home landscaping and huge tomato harvest, Norma Harned's primrose (bog) garden, Tom Arens Monarch caterpillar and datura, and Dawn Reed's unusual sun flowers and fall bouquets.

Return to Regular Meeting Hours

While the board meeting will continue to be held at 5:30pm, **the membership meeting will again begin at 7pm.**



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58th Annual Horticulture Show

Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's members demonstrated their love of gardening and dedication to our organization by both the numbers of who entered and their many exhibits. Winners included both familiar names and relative newcomers. The event went off without a hitch.

Since selling his landscaping wonder in Liberty and moving to a condo, one would have expected Rodney Toth to toddle off into the gardening sunset. No such luck for his worthy competitors. He took best in show with his 'moonshine' dahlia and won the sweepstakes by a huge margin including best of sections in annuals (celosia 'Chinatown') and potted plants (begonia 'Gryphon').



After Rodney, the sweepstakes rankings were very close. Elsa Higby took second which included a vegetable best in section (celery 'Kelvin'). Tied for third were John Schinker and Lisa Nicklash. John had best of sections in perennials/biennials ('Arunda Donax' ornamental grass) and annuals ('Candy' onion). Lisa didn't win any best of sections but had a slew of blue ribbons. Because there were so many vegetable entries, two best of sections were awarded.



Rounding out the other best of sections were Tom Liggett's gladiolas 'tricolor' (bulbs, tubers, etc) and Susan Murphy's 'Ring of Fire' sunflower (ornamentals). There were no rose nor fruit entries.

Isiah Carelly again won the Youth sweepstakes by a large margin and pocketed the \$25 Robert Voland Youth Prize. His 'Tropicana rose' won best in show, and had best of sections with his 'Millions' grape tomatoes (vegetables) and 'blue crop' blueberries (fruits).



He is mentored by Terry Voland and Josh Kaglic. Mallory Soles took second with one best of section.



Norm and Greg Cappitte again won the Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato Contest with a 2 lb. 15 oz. monster, and the Bo Korody Memorial Largest Zinnia Contest with a 5 1/2" beauty.

Many thanks to judges Dave and Mary Ann Rich, Tom Liggett, Tom Davis, and apprentice judges Heather Randall, Ron Fasano, Susan Primrose and Kadey Kimpel. We're proud that so many GOGY members who have become judges.



The lone downer was Dan Miller announcing this would be the last time he oversees show registration and tabulation of the results. Don't worry - as we write this, he's a bit wobbly but still vertical, and will probably walk us all up the hill.

Time Germinator

The Pests Just Keep Coming

Asian Jumping Worm

Amyntas ssp. which has invaded the U.S. from the mid-Atlantic to the Midwest, is a highly active anthropod with the ability to flip off the ground. In sufficient numbers, its introduction can cause major environmental harm to forests and agriculture.



The problem is that native trees have evolved to take in nutrients slowly, and invasives like the Asian jumping worm and European earth worms remove the leaf compost too quickly. Bottom line: Don't dispose of garden debris near native trees.

The Spotted Lanternfly Is Near



An acquaintance recently went to retrieve his car from the Pittsburgh Airport long term parking and found hundreds of *Lycorma delicatula* swarming about. Report sightings to our local Extension Office and the Dept. of Natural Resource after killing as many as possible.

Asian Lady Beetle

While our native ladybug beetles seem to be vanishing, *Harmonia exyridis* has become increasingly common. Slightly larger than its American cousin, it has larger white spots behind its eyes and an 'M' shaped mark as shown below.



A Bitter-Sweet Time Of Year

Fall is the time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.
Lauren DeStefano

Fall colors are so bright and intense and beautiful. It's like nature is trying to fill you up with color, to saturate you so you can stockpile it before winter turns everything muted and dreary. Siobhan Vivian

If I were a bird, I would fly about the Earth seeking successive autumns. George Eliot

Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day. Shira Tamir

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see. Vincent Van Gogh

I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house. Nathaniel Hawthorne

I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift. Dodinsky





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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.**

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413 E. Main St.
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www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

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Youngstown, Ohio 44503
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Calendar of Events



- Oct 4 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Oct 4 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov 1 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov 1 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Dec 13 Holiday Party TBA A La Carte Catering, Canfield
- Jan 3 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Jan 3 2024 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 7 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Feb 7 2024 Membership Mtg ... 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown 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.

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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