

PUBLISHED BY THE GARDENERS OF GREATER YOUNGSTOWN 92 Years of Service to the Mahoning Valley and Surrounding Communities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

As we near the last third of the growing season, there are still many

activities that can keep gardeners busy. If you are anything like me you have discovered that you have underestimated the height that some of your plants would grow; and not wanting to prune them back, you devise various methods of keeping them vertical. I've got a 10 foot sunflower held upright by two long bamboo poles spliced together. Indeterminate tomatoes also challenge us in similar fashion. The good news is that the notorious Japanese beetles have gone into "hibernation" until next June. I have revitalized my damaged basil and Cannas with pruning and fertilizing.



The GOGY Horticulture show is 8-28-21. Members should not be intimidated by the thought of entering the show. Anyone can do well as long as he/she follows the standards in the show schedule that have been emailed to everyone, and carefully select entries a day or two before the show, even if you're new to gardening.

We are continuing to work with Flying High's Urban Garden on the Northside of Youngstown. Volunteers are needed to help supervise fall planting, harvesting and weed control.

We are still in the process of selecting a new logo for the club. Samples will be presented at the Sept. meeting.

I want to thanks those of you new members who have volunteered to work on committees.

We still need someone to lead the May, 2022, Plant Sale and Greenhouse activities. John Schinker has agreed to handle procurement of supplies and plant material, but someone will need to coordinate the activities of members between March and May of next year.

See you soon,

Jom Arens

Patriot's Day, Sept. 11th

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. Mark Twain

Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism George Washington





Meeting Schedule Fellows' Riverside Gardens

BOARD MEETING

5:30pm, Wednesday, Sept. 8th All Members Welcome

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7pm, Wednesday, Sept. 1st Speaker: Sarah Woodall, Certified Arborist Subject: Tree Care *Guests Welcome*

Annual Horticulture Show Saturday, August 28th Fellows' Riverside Gardens Registration Begins at 7am Judging Begins at 10:30am *Show Setup* Friday, Aug. 27th at Noon

> For all events, go to: millcreekmetroparks.org

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55 Members

Clare Neff, 68 W. Main St., Canfield, OH, 44406; businss address, 550 W. Main St., Canfield, OH 44406; clare@led3.us. Clare is married (Bruce). Her gardening interests include vegetables and flowers, and she enjoys quilting.

Linda J. Biggs, 40022 Crestview Rd., Leetonia, OH, 44431, libiggsy@gmail.com. Linda is a bartender/server at Ricky's English Pub is Salem. She is married (Earl) and her gardening interests include all perennials. She is involved with the MetroParks's Veggie Garden program, is a 4-H advisor, a Pup Shop volunteer and a former OSU Master Gardener. Others interests include photography, ceramics and painting.

Shave Cahill, 1706 Elm St., Youngstown, OH, 44505, shavecahill@icloud.com. Her significant other is Jimmi. She is a videographer doing business as Shake A Hill Productions, and is interested in learning all she can about gardening. Other interests include woodworking, ceramics, masonry, music and dogs. Shave has been a great help providing her audio/visual expertise at our Winter Seminars, and has agreed to help Dan Miller with our club's technology needs.

Welcome Aboard!

The Germinator will no longer publish the email address and phone numbers of new members due to possible privacy issues. For an updated member list email John Fox at ourmrdickens@icloud.com.

Canfield Fair Information Booth

We will not know until mid-August if our

organization will have а display booth at this year's Canfield Fair. To be prepared for the event, Bruce Brungard is assembling a list of members to man the 4 hour shifts. Contact him at 330-793-1307,



724-766-034, or bgbhhi@live.com to reserve your slot, or see him at the Horticulture Show.

GOGY 56th Annual Horticulture Show

This issue of the Germinator will hopefully reach readers prior to the Saturday, Aug. 28th Horticulture Show. Due to Fellows' Riverside Gardens being closed last year, we had to cancel the annual show for the first time in over a half century. This year's edition will be limited to annuals and vegetables with \$25 cash prizes going to the heaviest tomato, largest zinnia and winner of the Youth Division (16 YOA or younger). We'll need Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

help setting up the venue on Friday, Aug. 27th, at noon. Day of show registration begins at 7am, with judging starting at 10:30am.

In preparation for the show, Rodney Toth gave a tutorial on how to best display entries at our August



membership meeting. After viewing his display and show schedule of entry requirements, he asked us what was right or wrong with each entry. Rodney advised us to look for appropriate color, the presence of stems including length, number and similarity of items in each entry, condition, length, ripeness, cleanliness and shape.

Flower shows are not only friendly competition, but are also meant to be both a learning experience and fun. We are asking members to not only participate, but recruit family and acquaintance gardeners to join in. You may be surprised on how well you'll do.

FlyingHigh Urban Garden Report

Some time had passed since Gardeners of Greater Youngstown members had overseen the installation of plants at the garden and we wanted to see how things were shaping up. And as is the case with gardening in general, there was good news and bad.



FlyingHigh found it necessary to hire landscaping expert Phil Bechtel to help manage the beds. When he first arrived about month prior to our visit, he found that a lack of watering and weeding had deteriorated the Continued on Pg.3



Continued from Pg.3, FlyingHigh

garden's condition. Since Phil's arrival, the beds and plants are in much better condition but there is a major problem of varmints eating fruits and vegetation. He has seen groundhogs but skunks and raccoons may also be in the mix. We don't know if there has been a lack of communication between FlyingHigh and our organization, or not enough clients to tend the garden. Hopefully, the situation will improve now that it has been brought to our attention.



Phil also advised that he is expert at installing trees and landscape structure and design, but isn't well versed in vegetable gardening. He needs our expertise including how to use good gardening techniques and dealing with the animal issues. Contact Tom Arens is you'd like to help. Volunteers will oversee clients watering, weeding and harvesting, and no physical labor is expected.

Akron Children's Hospital Family Garden

Last fall, Boy Scout Lukas Peters began his Eagle

Scout project by raising donations for a beautification project at our club's defunct Children's Gardening Project at Akron Children's Hospital. Lukas, who is deaf, raised over \$3,000 to tear out the old, rotting wood, build 17 new raised beds and fill them with good soil. Our club donated \$800.





The original plan was for various hospital divisions and groups to tend their individual beds but, like most medical facilities, ACH is still observing strict Corona Virus protocol including social distancing. The result is individual hospital employees and client families have planted and tended 15 beds with good results. All are looking forward to gathering together to garden the beds and show nature's wonders to the young clients.

Backyards for Butterflies

Everywhere one pauses a moment to look closely, there is Nature's beauty and complexity to behold. And what stirs childlike wonder more than a butterfly

fluttering among colorful plants? We came across a beautifully detailed and informative pamphlet, *Backyards for Butterflies*, published by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resource's Division of Wildlife, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and the Ohio Lepidopterists Association.



There are over 140 butterfly species native to Ohio with a couple dozen readily recognizable for those willing to take the time. Like many mammals, birds and reptiles, butterflies populations are declining due to habitat loss and chemical poisoning. Here is what can be done each season to help mitigate the loss of habitat with native plants that enhance landscapes year-round.

Spring – Postpone spring cleanup allowing grasses and flowering plants to flower providing pollen, nectar and seeds for pollinators. Also delay pruning off dead vegetation that may hold still sleeping insects. When pruning, place branches in a compost pile or scatter at the edge of wooded areas. This will give dormant insects more time to emerge and a future nesting spot for other beneficials. Attractive spring blooms include Common Anemone, Golden Alexander, Wild Columbine and Wild Geranium.

Summer – Plant native plants that are well adapted to local soils and weather conditions thus minimizing the need to water in the driest conditions. These plants can be trained to develop the most attractive height and width, but make sure not to remove buds while pruning. Monitor which plants are being devoured by desirable caterpillar larva and consider adding more. Provide a mineral source with moist soil or a water dish filled with pebbles breaking the surface. Summer blooms include Bee Balm, Dense Blazing Star, Common Milkweed and Purple Cornflower.

Autumn – Because various species overwinter in all 4 life stages, leave spent vegetation in place. Debris also provides cover and homes for bees, toads and birds. Collect milkweed and other native seeds, some of which need to stratify during the winter months before becoming viable. Fall plants include White Wood Aster, Blue Vervain, Little Blue Stem and Native Asters.

Winter – Plan an attractive landscape while minimizing time, effort, expense and maintenance. When choosing plants consider sunlight, drainage, size and compatibility. Plants with winter attracttiveness are Common Witch Hazel, Common Ninebark, Shagbark Hickory and Common Winterberry.



When to Transplant/Divide Perennials Transplanting

Success in transplanting any perennial depends on timing the move to fit the plant's growth pattern in the local USDA hardiness zone. In our Zone 5, winter's coldest temperatures may register between minus 10-20 degrees Fahrenheit, and the last expected killing spring frost is from late April thru mid-May. The first hard frost of fall can be expected in October.

Spring – Transplant herbaceous perennials including daylily divisions. Move hosta divisions in June when the ground is workable and before the plant leafs out. Plant summer bulbs such as allium after the soil has warmed above 50 F for best results. Purchased perennials should be planted throughout spring until hot weather sets in, or in the fall.

Summer - Except for daylilies which as so hardy they can be moved throughout summer, transplanting should be limited to spring and fall. Any transplanting in summer will require extra care and watering as roots grow slowly when it's hot. Wait until fall to transplant tender perennials, woody perennials or those that bloom in summer.

Fall – Most perennials should be transplanted between mid- to late August and mid-October so that they have time for roots to develop. Spring and early summer bulbs like tulips and lilies will receive necessary chilling when planted at least 6 weeks before the ground freezes. In our area, which borders on Zone 6, this means early November. Peonies should be transplanted in September. Source: GardenGuides.com

Dividing

Dig up the mother plant, lift is out of the ground and remove any loose dirt around the roots. Separate into smaller divisions by: a) Gently pulling or teasing the roots apart; b) cutting with a spade or knife; c) put 2 forks back to back and pull apart. Each division should have 3-5 vigorous shoots and a healthy supply of roots. Keep divisions shaded and moist until replanted.

Fall blooming perennials should be divided in spring because smaller leaves and shoots will not suffer as much damage as full grown foliage. Also, roots have stored energy that aids recovery, rain showers are more probable, and plants divided in spring have the entire growing season to recover before winter.

Divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall 4-6 weeks before the ground freezes so that the roots become established. Perennials with fleshy roots like peonies, Oriental poppy and Siberian iris are best divided in fall.

Source: *extension.umn.edu/dividing-perennials*

For dividing specific perennials, download the PDF from extension.umn.edu/dividing-perennials-spreadsheet

Celebrating Labor Day

No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance, and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without labor nothing prospers. Sophocles The miracle is not that we do work, but that we are happy to do it.

Mother Teresa



Labor Day: A celebration that the pressure to get in shape for summer is finally over.



Why teachers love summer Reason #18: Bra, makeup and shoes are optional.

A child comes home from his first day at school and his mother asks, "What did you learn today?" "Not enough", her son replies. "I have to go back tomorrow".

It is the glistening autumnal side of summer. I feel a cool vein in the breeze which braces my thought, and I pass with pleasure over sheltered and sunny portions of the sand where the summer's heat is undiminished, and I realize what a friend I am losing. Henry David Thoreau

September was a thirty-days long goodbye to summer; to the season that left everybody both happy and weary of the warm, humid weather and the exhausting but thrilling adventures. Lea Malot

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Dr. Seuse

If it could be like this always – always summer, the fruit page 4 always ripe. Evelyn Waugh



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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The Needle's Nest 64 Colonial Dr., #C Canfield, OH, 44406 theneedlesnest.com

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

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



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www. GG-YO.org



calendar of events



THE GOGY 2021 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Tom Arens

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



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