



September 2023



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

This is an exciting and busy time of year for most of us. There are fairs, horticulture shows, back-to-school activities, last minute vacations, etc. This is also the time of year when we take a measure of how well we've taken care of our gardens. Our pots and hanging baskets, for example, are especially vulnerable, and may look pretty woebegone by now. Some of you may have even tossed the pot/basket you bought in May and replaced it. For me it involves almost daily watering and weekly feeding. So far, so good.

About a dozen of us attended a free breakfast and talk at DJ's Nursery in Transfer, PA, on Aug.5, followed by a well-deserved spending spree. If you haven't been to DJ's, you should go because you are in for a treat. In addition to a greenhouse, his property (approx. 4-5 acres), is a magnificent botanical garden, where you can see how the small plants that you might buy, look when they are fully mature. He also has one of the largest selection of Hostas in the area.

By the way, DJ will be our speaker at the September meeting. He will be talking about what to do with our gardens as Fall approaches. DJ is an excellent speaker and educator, and he brings lots of horticultural examples.

I would like to encourage members to take photos of your gardens/plants and send them via email to: gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com. We'll show them at Sept/Oct meetings. This is an opportunity to brag a little about your gardening accomplishments or to introduce members to new plants/cultivars.

IMPORTANT NEWS: Membership meetings will begin at 6:30pm from now on, instead of 7pm. Guests are welcome. As usual the board meeting will start at 5:30pm, and all members may attend. We have 6 new members that have joined the club recently. Please make sure that they feel welcome.

I will be ordering club polo shirts. Email me if you want one. They are \$20 a piece for most sizes. Remember share your discoveries with us. Bring your tips and tools to the meeting. Gardening questions are always welcome.

See you soon,

Tom Arens



Cornelius 'Cor' Kester
1940 – 2023

Rest in Peace, Dear Friend

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September

Stacey Pavilion

Austintown Township Park

Board Meeting, 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting, 6:30pm

***Dennis James, DJ's
Greenhouse Owner, will
discuss Fall Gardening***

Guests Welcome

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GOGY Annual Horticulture Show

Saturday & Sunday, August 26th & 27th

Fellows Riverside Gardens – Setup Friday at noon

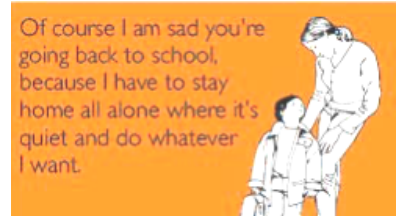
Sat. -Entry prep begins 7:30am – Judging at 10:30am

Sections: Annuals, Vegetables, Ornamentals, Fruits, Perennials,

Dahlias, Bulbs (Tubers/Corms/ etc.), Roses & Potted Plants. \$25

Awards for Heaviest Tomato, Largest Zinnia & Youth Sweepstakes

All members can help us fly our flag high by entering at least a few items they have grown, and encouraging gardener friends and relatives to participate.





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Club News

New Member

Ellen Hardgrove lives in Columbiana and is a retired teacher who worked with special ed students on gardening projects. Gardening interests include perennials, annuals and vegetables. She and her husband, Thomas, recently moved to the area and she applied for membership at our Spring Plant Sale.

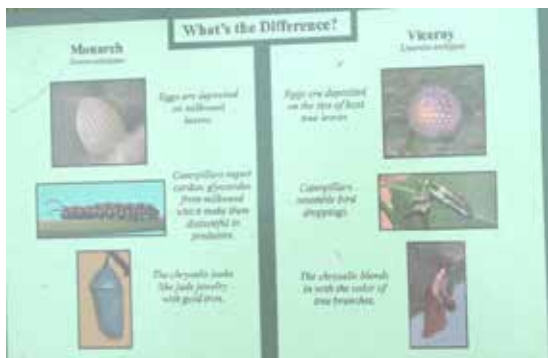
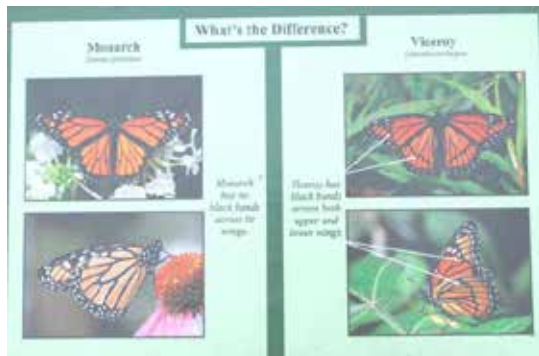
Butterflies Are Free ...

... and so was the 11th Annual Butterfly Festival being held Saturday, July 15th, at 104 Williamson Ave. on Youngstown's Southside. Member Lois Martin Uscianowski and friends treated attendees to food, music and live butterflies. The Youngstown Fire Dept. also had a truck there to the delight of the many children in attendance.

Not only was the festival entertaining but educational as well. There were photos of and other information about the numerous butterfly species including their adult, caterpillar and chrysalis forms.



A large mesh tent confined the numerous loose insects as well as containers holding butterflies in the process of emerging. Lois instructed the children on how to handle the butterflies without harming



them and, for the most part, they did very well. She was disappointed that many of the Monarchs didn't leave their cocoons but she never claimed to be a butterfly whisperer.



Among the plants that attract the insects are Joe Pye weed, mountain mint, bee balm, aster, canna, impatiens, various milk weeds and especially zinnia. Each year, butterflies are released there during a memorial service for sponsors who have passed away. Beach Creek Botanical Gardens in Alliance is a long-term sponsor of the event.

This wonderful event was well attended and we encourage our members to come next year.

New Meeting Hours

While the board meeting will continue to be held at 5:30pm, **the membership meeting will begin at 6:30pm** until further notice.

The species shown were *American Lady*, *Painted Lady*, *Cabbage White*, *Tiger Swallowtail*, *Monarch*, *Viceroy*, *Black Swallowtail*, *Spice Bush Swallowtail*, *Question Mark* and *Eastern Comma*.



Horticulture Show Preparation

While we don't have the results of the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Horticulture Show in this *Germinator* issue, potential entrants received two excellent preparation tutorials. One was a presentation at our August membership meeting conducted by Horticulture Chairman Rodney Toth and Tom Liggett. The other was written by our 1st V.P. Clare Neff and published in the *Youngstown/Warren Vindicator/Tribune's Valley Grows* section.



Rodney and Tom showed several examples of potential show exhibits asking the audience to critique their strong and weak points. They also went over the show schedule emphasizing the need to read it carefully. Attention must be given to: Correct classification; correct name ranging from scientific to cultivar to common name; number of items per entry; stem required/length; foliage and other issues.

Clare's newspaper article hyping our show was almost as comprehensive in covering the same fine points while potentially increasing the number of show exhibitors. Her article has to be the most effective promotional initiative our organization has ever attempted in promoting one of our activities. She also provided information on the Canfield Fair Flower Shows.

Here are the notable results of last years' show: Adult Division Sweepstakes winner Terry Voland, 'serendipity' bi-colored corn took Best in Show and his mixed veggie basket was best vegetable entry; Isiah Carelly, age 12, won the Youth Division Sweepstakes that included his Best in Show mixed veggie basket. Is it any surprise that he is mentored by Terry.

Norm Capitte had the Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato (2.4 lb) while Gregory Capitte won the Boe Korody Memorial Largest Zinnia competition. The Capittes have done very well in those 2 competitions the past few shows and they need some competition.

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Preserving Flowers & Vegetation Hydrangeas

With their large showy blooms and variety of colors, hydrangeas are fairly easy to preserve. There are several ways to dry them but the 'water drying' method is best for helping them hold their shape and color.

The ideal time to cut blooms for drying is at the end of their growing season (August thru October) when the larger petals are starting to change color. These larger petals should have a papery feel and the smaller ones are just beginning to open. With some varieties like Annabelle, one must rely on the mild transition from white to pale green. Cut too soon and the flowers will hold too much moisture; cut too late and the blooms will just turn brown. Any brown spots can be pruned away after drying.

Cut the stems 12-18" long at an angle, then remove all leaves from the stem. Place fresh cut flowers in a vase half filled with water. Allow the water to completely evaporate from the vase, usually 2-3 weeks. At the end, the hydrangeas should feel dry to the touch and the stems easy to snap off.

Source: thespruce.com

Preserving Foliage with Glycerin

One way to preserve foliage is to replace water in plant cells with a vegetable glycerin solution. This method usually doesn't work well on flowers. Foliage ultimately will take on a soft leathery feel and turn it to various shades of tan to dark brown.

First, avoid new, soft growth. Harvest before deciduous plants change to fall color. Stems should be no longer than 18-24". Pour an inch of glycerin in a clean container then add an equal amount of tap water mixing thoroughly. The process may take 1-6 weeks depending on the plant species.

The process is complete when the foliage turns a uniform shade of brown. Pat dry and allow to dry in a room with plenty of air circulation to avoid mold. Spray painting can add color. For a time, glycerin preserved foliage will weep solution from leaves under humid conditions with oily droplets staining wood surfaces and textiles.

Among plant foliage that takes to the process well are: Cast iron plant, Japanese aucuba, Japanese camellia, Sasanqua camellia, Fatsia, Holly, Wax leaf ligustrum, Magnolia, 'Little Gem' Magnolia, Nandina, Oak and Rosemary.

We know of evergreen foliage that maintained its color and lasted 10+ years.

Source: <http://extension.msstate.edu>



Cornelius 'Cor' Kester

It's unfortunate that most of our newer members never met Cor who, until a few years ago, was very active in our organization. He was one of the most charitable, accomplished and kind people you would hope to be associated with. Fifteen years ago, the *Germinator* published a profile on Cor with some facts not included in his recent obituary. Sadly, photos in that article are no longer available.

Cor was born in Holland the second oldest of 12 children. After completing advanced studies in philosophy and theology, he spent 4 years doing pastoral work in the poorest areas of Puerto Rico. There he met Joyce, a nurse tending to the poor and they became friends. From there he spent 4 years in the jungles of Peru doing agriculture and utility infrastructure development.

After returning to Holland, love lured him to the States where they married 47 years ago. They had 2 children and eventually bought an 86 acre farm in Pulaski, PA. Cor continued his education at Kent St. earning a Master's Degree in Sociology and became Mahoning County Director of Jobs and Family Services retiring in 2004. He and Joyce also volunteered at an AIDS clinic in Youngstown.

He played soccer until two bouts with cancer limited his ability to play at a higher level, but passed on his knowledge of the sport coaching the New Wilmington boy's and Ursuline girl's high school teams. At home, Cor raised a French breed of cattle known for their superior meat and calm disposition. He later owned a herd of two dozen alpacas whose manure was sought by many club members for their gardens. The only time we'd seen this gentle man's ire slightly raised was when someone referred to his animals as 'llamas'.

Cor's love of humanity was fostered by Fr. Fred Green who had spent 40 years tending to the needs of poor Peruvians. Joyce and Cor joined the priest in building 250 Habitat For Humanity homes and were involved in his Clinic for the Working Child.

One of his proudest accomplishments was being involved in a Jewuit farm project teaching modern agriculture techniques and alternative crops in Peru. The project was failing until Cor and others became involved. They changed to more sustainable crops including olive trees, installed a drip irrigation system, built a greenhouse and attracted more reliable outsourcers for the crops.

All who knew him will miss this kind, gentle man who served and inspired so many.

Thank You For Your Labor

Labor Day became a national holiday in the late 19th century. It corresponded with the early days of the Industrial Revolution and the organized labor movement when 12 hour work days, child labor, unsafe working conditions and poverty wages were the norm.



September 10th is Grandparents Day



"They should do what WE do to get what we want — go ask their grandmas."



The Germinator

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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
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Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-3122
info@bairdbrothers.com

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www.bdlumber.com

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330-758-8131
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330-549-2144
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www.delaquadrilandscape.com

DJ's Greenhouse
1004 East Lake Rd.
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154
724-962-1230
www.djsgreenhouse.com

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Greenstar Cooperative
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Greenford, Ohio 44422
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Boardman, Ohio 44512

Home Depot
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Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-965-4790

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

Kushner's Garden & Patio
2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
www.kushners.com

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

Petitti Garden Center
5509 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-788-0733
www.petittigardencenter.com

Stone Fruit Coffee Co.
8414 Market St.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

Dennis Toth

Tractor Supply
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Austintown, Ohio 44515
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Niles, Ohio 44406
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www.vernonscafe.com

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www.villagequiltscanfield.com

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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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www. GG-YO.org



Calendar of Events



- August 26 - 27 ... Annual Horticulture Show Fellows Riverside Gardens
- August 30 - Sept.4 Canfield Fair
- Sept 6 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Sept 6 Membership Mtg ... 6:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Oct 4 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Oct 4 Membership Mtg ... 6:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov 1 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
- Nov 1 Membership Mtg ... 6:30PM 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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