



# The Germinator



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Fellow Gardeners,*

As I write this, I am looking out at my yard, brilliant and sparkly white with an 18" snow pile. The sun is up, but the temperature is way down. I take comfort in knowing that the snow may insulate the perennials that I forgot to mulch in the fall.



I hope all of you are done perusing your seed catalogs and placed your orders, or soon will. Remember, if you are planning to start seeds indoors, give them bottom heat and moisture during the germination process, and have a grow light ready afterwards. For those of you who are like me and plant sugar snap peas, we have to wait only a few short weeks before we can plant them right in the ground. St Patty's day is the proverbial threshold of the growing season in Northeastern Ohio.

I hope to see many of you at our half-day seminar on Saturday March 5 at the Davis Center. Laura Deeter from OSU will speak about annuals; and Ann Rzepka from the Holden Arboretum will speak about native plants. The cost is \$30 and includes a continental breakfast at 8:30 am. Send your check to Terry Volandt at the PO Box on the back of the Germinator.

We are getting ready to begin preparing for our Mother's Day plant sale. We remain hopeful that we will have two greenhouses to work out of: Leonard Kirtz in Austintown, and MASCO in Boardman. If you haven't already volunteered to help out, please contact me. Activity will begin in early March.

Any member who wants to order a green polo shirt with our logo on it should contact me. Small-XL shirts are \$20.00. 2X and 3X are \$24 and \$28 respectively. Hats will also be available soon.

My message to all is: Take heart, Mother Nature is on the verge of reanimating her bounty.

*I hope to see you soon,*

**Tom Arens**

## GOGY Annual Winter Seminar

8am, Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> (half-day) Sign-in begins 7:30am  
Davis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens

**Laura Deeter** is Professor and Coordinator of Landscape Horticulture and Horticulture Science at OSU's Ag. Tech. Institute.

**Anne Rzedka-Budziak** is the Director of Arboretum Gardens at the Holden Arboretum.

*Enjoy the well-appointed continental breakfast table*

**Our organization will need members to step up and participate. A registration form has been emailed so fill it out and send the \$30 fee to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH. Deadline in March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ask Tom Arens how you can participate. Fly our club flag by wearing new club jerseys.**

## Meeting Schedule

**Fellows' Riverside Gardens  
Board Meeting**

**5:30pm, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
All Members Welcome**

**Membership Meeting**

**7pm, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Speaker: Rex Lester**

**Elliott's Garden Center  
will discuss Hydrangeas**

**Guests Welcome**

## In This Issue

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| President's Message        | 1 |
| Club News                  | 2 |
| New Member                 |   |
| Dan Miller Honored         |   |
| Sustainable Gardening      |   |
| Veggie-based Meat Products | 3 |
| Spring has Sprung          | 4 |
| Happy St. Pat's Day        | 4 |
| Sponsors                   | 5 |
| Calendar of Events         | 6 |
| Officers                   | 6 |

*I wandered lonely  
as a cloud,  
that floats on high  
o'er vales and hill.  
When all at once I  
saw a crowd,*



*a host of golden daffodils.*

Henry Wordsworth Longfellow



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.





# The Germinator

## CLUB NEWS

### New Member

**Dan Chambers**, 58 East Western Reserve Rd., Poland, OH, 44514. Dan is married (Mary Ann) and is a retired Youngstown City Schools teacher. His gardening interests include becoming a better gardener and, as we all know, gardeners are always learning.

*Welcome Aboard!*

### Spring Plant Sale

This year's plant sale will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> (the Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday before Mother's Day).

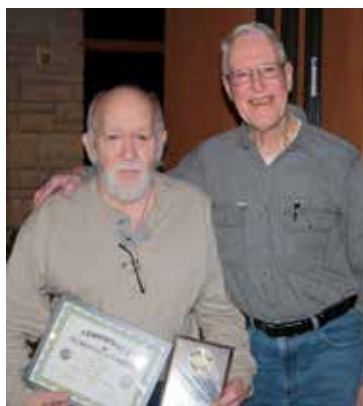
After losing access to Mahoning County's Developmental Disabilities Workshop greenhouse on Bev Rd. several years ago, our organization was hard put to find a suitable replacement. It is now our good fortune to have access to two facilities to grow annuals for the sale, both of which will be up and running in early March.

FlyingHigh Rehabilitation Services will take charge of the Bev Rd. facility and has given us access. Linda Biggs will coordinate activities there. Email her at [ljbigsy@gmail.com](mailto:ljbigsy@gmail.com) if you want to help out. Bruce Brungard will be in charge of the MCDDD Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse where Plant Sale annuals will also be grown. If you want to help there, email him at [bgbghi@live.com](mailto:bgbghi@live.com).

### Dan Miller Honored

Although he has been a valued member of our organization on many levels, Dan Miller was single-handedly responsible for bringing us (sometimes kicking and screaming) into the technology age.

Most notably, he created and maintained our club's website, oversaw the technical aspects of our most important activities and meeting presentations, and patiently baby-walked club members who were less than computer savvy. He is a past recipient of our highest honor, the Bill Carney Memorial Green Bronze Award. Here he is receiving our Certificate of Honor from Awards Committee Chairman Rodney Toth.



## Sustainable Gardening

The February meeting featured a program on the importance of Sustainable Gardening, presented by Angie Bowman, Nursery Manager at Parks Garden Center. While there is no concrete definition of what makes a garden sustainable, the aim is to benefit the environment, rather than harm it.

While even the most eco-conscious gardeners may be tempted to use pesticides and herbicides from time to time, how often and how much is an important consideration.



Sustainable gardeners try to avoid making excess waste and aim to minimize their negative impact on the local ecosystem. By choosing to live and garden sustainably, we are being socially and environmentally responsible, promoting a healthy habitat for us and the wildlife around us. From habitats for bees, birds and butterflies to our own homes, providing the right water, food, shelter and space allows each of us to thrive and provides healthy environments for future generations.

Angie noted we should plant a variety of plants to attract specific pollinators for not only food, but also shelter. More than the flowers identified for bees, butterflies and birds, the right herbs, shrubs and trees can provide food and shelter for our favorite pollinators. It's important to plant gardens in 'layers', with trees for vertical elements, mid-size shrubs for structure and perennials and annuals for color.

She also says growing a sustainable food garden for ourselves is recommended and stresses the importance of planning, from what you and your family-like to eat, to how much space is needed and planning on preserving the fruits of your labor. Angie points out that living and gardening sustainably can enhance all of our lives.

### GOGY Jerseys Available

While attending our Winter Seminar or other club activities, members will want to sport shirts (\$20) with our new logo. Order yours at the March membership meeting.







# The Germinator



## Plant-Based Meats

We would bet that older Americans, generally and especially men, have a hard time wrapping their heads around the thought of biting into an Impossible Burger or other vegetable-based meat substitute. It's difficult to imagine our late grillmaster Charlie Grounds serving them up at a club picnic.

None the less, meat substitutes made from plant materials are becoming increasingly varied, popular and closer in taste, texture, appearance and smell as the foods they emulate. 'Beyond Meat' and 'Impossible Foods' are but two of dozens of brand names offering ground "beef", burgers, meatballs, sausage, chicken nuggets and meat substitutes used in soups, stews and an expanding list of other dishes.



This trend is driven by several considerations including health, environment, availability, cost and the ethical treatment of farm animals. Let's examine these issues and why eating less animal protein is becoming increasingly important.

### Health

An article in *The Guardian* cited an Oxford University study found consumption of red meat, processed meat and poultry, either alone or together three times a week, was linked to a greater risk of nine different illnesses including heart, diverticular, and gall bladder diseases, as well as diabetes, gastritis, bowel cancer and pneumonia.

Probabilities of these ailments depend upon how much unprocessed red meat and processed meat is consumed, as well as lifestyle factors such as physical activity, body mass index and alcohol consumption. The risks of heart disease, gastrointestinal problems and diabetes rise due to saturated fatty acids which increase "bad" cholesterol.

Industrial livestock farming relies heavily on antibiotics used to accelerate weigh gain and infections due to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions. 80% of all antibiotics administered in the U.S. goes to animal farming. This contributes to the growing public health problem of antibiotic resistance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 35,000 Americans die each year due to bacteria mutations resistant to antibiotics.

### Environment

Livestock farming leaves a huge environmental impact. It contributes to land and water degradation, biodiversity loss, acid rain and deforestation. Livestock

farming contributes 18% of human produced greenhouse emissions worldwide. This is more than all emissions from cars, trucks, ship and planes put together.

All meat production, but especially that of red varieties, is highly inefficient. One kilogram of beef requires 25 kilos of grain and 3-4,000 gallons of water. Pork is a little less intensive and poultry less still, but both are highly inefficient when comparing animal protein production to crop farming. Around 30% of the world's land services livestock farming. With arable land and potable water in decline worldwide, meat production at present levels is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

### Availability and Economic Considerations

Livestock production, like climate change, negatively affects third world nations and the poor much more than many of us can imagine. The demand for grain to feed animals raises global prices that less advantaged peoples can't afford. Making matters worse, the rising standard of living in many formerly third world nations further raises demand for meat products.

Like climate change, this leads to international instability, mass migrations and potentially serious conflict. If the world's grain production used to feed animals was diverted to human consumption, the Earth could feed an additional 3.5 billion people.

### Animal Cruelty

Animal rights activists and the internet are making us increasingly aware of the terrible conditions suffered by many animals. Factory farms are expensive endeavors and, for profit's sake, operation and supply costs are kept at a minimum. Extreme confinement and crowded conditions are the general rule. And although the various species are bred and genetically engineered (some would say mutilated) for maximum meat production and being passive, they still yearn to engage in natural behaviors that are all but denied..

Sows are forcefully impregnated and kept in cages so small they can't turn to see their offspring who are quickly taken away. Chickens are debeaked, and cattle and pigs have their tails cut off without anesthesia in order to limit aggressive behavior. Egg laying poultry spend their lives in tiny 'battery cages' too small to spread their wings.



One wonders how future generations will judge the ill treatment of our fellow creatures for cheap nourishment to the detriment of our planet and our health.





# The Germinator



## Coir - It's Not Just for Orchids

Coconut coir is the fiber found between the shell and outer coat of a coconut. Also marketed as coco coir, coir fiber and coco peat, it has long been used as bedding for orchids. Commonly sold in compressed bricks, starter discs, chips and loose-bagged are also available. Gardeners use it as a growing medium, potting soil or garden bed component, or as a seed starter medium.

Coir fiber's pH level ranges between 5.5 and 6.8 making it close to the ideal vegetable growing range of 5.0 to 7.0. As a seed starter, a 50/50 mix with compost will provide a very high germination rate, and they will not need watered as often. A great soil mix is 40% soil, 30% compost, 20% coir and 10% worm castings.



Coconuts were once harvested for their meat and the fibrous portions discarded. That has changed as new uses for the fibers are discovered including those for gardening. This is good news for those who want to avoid using animal manure. Coir is also an eco-friendly alternative to peat moss.

Coir is not without its drawbacks. It contains no nutrients, and soaking the brick and breaking apart takes time and effort. Also, because coconut trees are grown near oceans, if it is not sufficiently soaked in fresh water before processing, the salt will harm plants. Therefore, research the brand and avoid making price the sole consideration when making a purchase.

## Jell-O - It Ain't Just for Dessert

Gelatin is rich in minerals and is a good medium for starting seeds. It prevents the seedlings from drying out and the rooting process can be observed. Before mixing up the gelatin, containers and utensils should be sterilized, either run through the dishwasher on sanitary cycle or boiled for 10 minutes. When mixing with water, fertilizer should be added diluted to 1/8<sup>th</sup> strength.



When the Jell-O gels, sow tiny seeds on the surface and larger seeds 1/4 to 1/2 inches deep depending on their size. Place lids on the jars or cover plastic cups with clear plastic wrap.

Keep covered containers in bright light, but not sunlight. If you prefer, place containers under a fluorescent light. Transplant seedlings into larger pots or into the garden, just as you would with seedlings sprouted in soil or other seedling mixes.

If mold starts to grow, dust with cinnamon powder or spray with nine parts water to one part lemon juice or vinegar.

## March 20<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Spring

*There is something healing in the repeated refrains of nature. The assurance that dawn follows night, and spring after winter.*

Rachel Carson

*Spring suddenly, bursting upon the world as a child bursts into a room, with a laugh and a shout and hands full of flowers.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*Springtime is the land awakening, the March winds are the morning yawn.*

Lewis Grizzard

*This is the season of exquisite redemption, a slam-bang return to joy after a season of second thoughts.*

Barbara Kingsolver

*Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of spring-time.*

Martin Luther

## THE SOUNDS OF SPRING



## Pog Mo Thoin - I'm Irish

### Irish Blessings

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

*May this St. Patrick's Day find you with green in your pocket, and a little Spring your step.*

*For each petal on a shamrock this brings a wish your way:  
Good health, good luck and happiness of today and everyday*

*There are three leaves on the shamrock I see,  
A reminder of the Holy Trinity.  
God the Father, and Jesus the Son,  
And the Holy Spirit, three in one.*

Another Year older and you look young as ever!

Alcohol is a great preservative!





# The Germinator

March 2022



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

**DeIanni 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.handymanautintown.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 Dr.  
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.villagequiltscanfield.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



March 2022



# The Germinator



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

## All The World's Alive Again

by Jennifer Gunner

The rabbit hops its gentle step  
The lark sings lyric songs  
All the world's alive again  
Spring rights the winter wrongs.



## calendar of events



- March 2 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- March 2 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- March 5 ..... Winter Seminar ..... 8:30AM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- April 6 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- April 6 .....Membership Meeting .....7:00PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM .....Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- May 4 .....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](http://www.gg-yo.org)



## THE GOGY 2021 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Tom Arens  
[mansell713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mansell713@sbcglobal.net) • 330-402-2700

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Clare Neff  
[clare\\_neff@mac.com](mailto:clare_neff@mac.com) • 330-503-6988

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

John Schinker  
[johnschinker@gmail.com](mailto:johnschinker@gmail.com) • 330-518-4384

### TREASURER

Terry Voland  
[voskater@aol.com](mailto:voskater@aol.com) • 330-881-8467

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Tom McGiffin  
[tsmcgiffin@gmail.com](mailto:tsmcgiffin@gmail.com) • (330)501-9786

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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

### GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor  
[mgygerminator@gmail.com](mailto:mgygerminator@gmail.com)

Dan Miller  
Clare Neff, Layout  
Tom Arens