



August 2024



The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Gardeners,

Have you registered for the TGOA National convention at OSU's Wooster campus? It's a great opportunity to meet gardeners from around the country and learn from wonderful, accredited gardening professionals. Talk to John Schinker, Bruce Brungard or Tom Arens for more information... or visit <https://www.gardenersofamerica.club/copy-of-2022-convention-home>.

We had to change our August meeting... moved back a week and moved up a couple hours. So, the new date is **Tuesday, August 13th at 5:30pm.**

Quick board meeting at 5, regular meeting 5:30 - 7. Our speakers for the meeting is our Hort Show Committee. I hope you're planning on entering the show! Take a look at your gardens and pick the cream of the crop! Be sure and sign up to volunteer for the day, too - email Lisa Nicklash.

One more August date - our annual picnic & Scrappers game! Rodney is taking reservations. Always a fun outing. This year is **Thursday, August 15th - 5:30 Picnic, 7:30 Game.** Come out & cheer on our Scrappers!

Clare

GOGY Annual Picnic & Game

5:30pm Picnic, 7pm Game, Thursday Aug 15th

Eastwood Field

Cheer on our home team!



59th Annual Horticultural Show

August 24th & 25th

Entries Accepted Saturday, 7am - 10:30am

Public welcome, no preregistration required

**D.D. Davis Center
Fellows Riverside Gardens**

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TGOA National Convention

The Gardeners of America will be holding its convention on September 12 thru 14th at the Ohio State Univ. campus in Wooster. Included are 8 speaking sessions, tours, a plant show and a banquet. Go to: [gardenersofamerica.club](https://www.gardenersofamerica.club).



Club News

2023 Horticulture Show Results

We thought it might be a good idea to remind readers who and what plants took honors at last year's show. Some have been 'perennial' winners while others garnered an 'annual' award.

When it comes to perennial Sweepstakes winners, no one tops Rodney Toth. His 'Moonshine' Dahlia won that section and Best in Show. His celosia 'Chinatown' and Begonia 'Gryphon' took Annual and Potted Plants Best of Sections.

Sweepstakes runner up was Elsa Higby who had the Vegetable Best of Section with her 'Kelvin' Celery. There was a tie for third place. John Schinker had Best of Sections with 'Arunda Donax' (Perennials/Biennials) and 'Candy' Onion (Annuals). with 'Arunda Donax' Ornamental Grass. Lisa Nicklash didn't win any Best of Sections but took home a fist load of blue ribbons. There were no Fruit nor Rose section entries.

Other Best of Sections winners were:

Tom Liggett's Gladiolas 'Tricolor' (Bulbs, Tubers, etc.).

Susan Murphy's Sunflower 'Ring of Fire' (Ornamentals).

Isiah Carelly won the Youth Division Sweepstakes and the Robert Voland \$25 award with his Best of Show 'Tropicana' Rose, and Best of Sections with his 'Millions' Grape Tomatoes (Vegetables) and 'Blue Crop' Blueberries (Fruits).

Norm and Greg Cappitte are two more perennial winners of the \$25 awards for Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato (2lb. 15oz.), and the Bo Korody Memorial Largest Zinnia (5½ inches).

Now that you know what you're up against, let's try to knock the 'perennials' off their thrones. But this is friendly competition and competing is its own reward.

Annual Scrappers Outing

Our Mahoning Valley Scrappers will be hosting will begin 5:30pm, game starts at 7pm. \$24 per person.



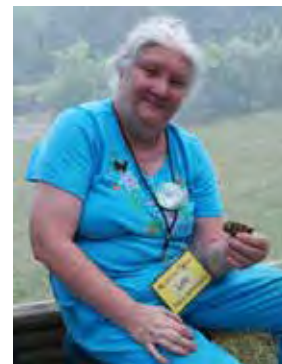
Email Rodney Toth rkdahlias@aol.com with name and number of guests. Guests Welcome

Butterflies Were Freed...

after the annual Southside Community Butterfly Garden Festival concluded. The event included a band (Jericho Project, Youngstown Five Dept. trucks, food, a Youngstown/Mahoning Library van and free pollinator-friendly button and spice bushes donated by Ohio Edison. But the highlights were the many butterflies and moths in various stages of development.

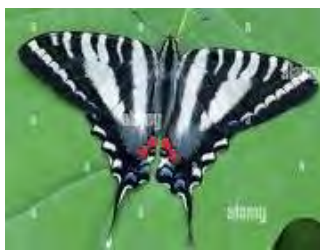
Lois Martin-Uscianowski and friends host the annual event. It is both educational and fun, not only for children but anyone interested in the natural world. There are butterflies and moths in life stages from egg to caterpillar to cocoon to adult.

There were numerous



educational posters with the pictures of the various species including life cycle, distinguishing marks, diet, areas frequented, etc.

All the insects are native to our part of the country but some are quite rare in our area. The Zebra swallowtail butterfly (*Eurytides marcellus*) is native to SE Canada and the Eastern U.S. Also exhibited was a Polyphemus moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*) and huge caterpillar.



Visitors had to be thrilled seeing a new butterfly emerge from its cocoon, begin spreading their wings to dry them, then taking flight. All of this could happen during the length of the event. Volunteers handed out swabs dipped in sweet liquid that lured them onto one's hand.

The butterfly festival's area will be expanding next year. A three city lot area just East on Williamson has been cleared and the soil amended. This fall, pollinator-friendly perennials will be



Corn, An American Staple

In our neck of the woods, the August bounty of sweet corn is looked forward to all year. Drive a mile or two in any direction and you're surrounded by acres of tall, green stalks. That most is for livestock feed or to be refined into ethanol won't deter taste buds from tingling a bit. Source: magpie@nationalgardening.org



Corn is authentically American. A member of the grass family, it was first domesticated from wild grain several thousand years ago by the Aztecs and Mayans in Mexico and Central America. The first corn was a loose-podded variety that looked like the seed head at the top of wheat stocks. Each kernel was small and covered by a hull.

Eventually, corn's popularity spread to North America and, by the time European settlers arrived, it was a chief food crop of Native Americans. Colonists quickly learned how to grow and rely on it as a staple. Much of the early fighting between natives and settlers was over cornfields.

Field corn was the primary variety, both eaten fresh or cooked into cakes, breads and puddings, dried for winter storage or ground into cornmeal and flour. Like today, field corn was also used for livestock feed. Sweet corn varieties weren't developed until the 1700s.

Over the years, cross-pollination caused genetic changes and, more recently, genetically engineered varieties have overridden some heirlooms. There are now thousands of strains of corn, with more than 200 'sweet' varieties. Field corn, however, remains the most important, year-round animal and human staple.

All varieties can be divided into four basic groups: Field corn, sweet corn, popcorn and ornamental corn. Many farmers continue to eat field corn as roasted ears. These are 'dent' or 'flint' varieties both of which can also be dried and ground into meal. Flint has a hard-shelled kernel and grows well in cooler climates. Dent corn is hard-shelled identified by a dented shape when ears mature.

All varieties basically grow the same way. Once the kernel is planted in an inch or two of soil, it germinated in 5 to 12 days depending on the variety and soil temperature. It won't germinate in temps below 55 degrees, and fastest germination is between 68 to 86 degrees. After

sprouting, it sends down a taproot and starts its first leaves which resemble blades of grass.

As it grows, a thick, fibrous stalk develops with many flat, pointed leaves. Depending on the variety, stalks can reach 15 feet. The roots grow down to 3 to 5 feet. Some roots grow above ground serving as supports for the stalks.

When the stalk reaches about two-thirds of its full height, the plant first develops tassels near the top. These are the plant's male flowers. Soon afterward, the 'silks' or stigma female flowers appear lower on the stalk. The tassel's pollen fertilizes the silks which develop into individual kernels of an ear.

Although it's possible for a plant to fertilize itself, the pollen usually travels from neighboring plants. To ensure even pollination, the plants should be planted in short rows or blocks rather than in long, narrow rows. Pollination can be hampered by weather, soil conditions and poor fertility causing some ears to not be fully filled.

Except for special multi-eared varieties, each plant generally produces one or two ears. Weather permitting, it usually takes about three weeks from silking for the first ears to be ready to harvest. Kernels develop fastest in hot, wet weather.

Timing of the harvest can give growers some control of corn's flavor and texture. Newly formed kernels are full of liquid or 'milk'. The milk stage doesn't last long because the plant will want achieve its natural goal of converting milk to starch. The milk stage is the peak harvest time for sweet corn.

If corn isn't harvested during the milk stage, the starch-forming process will cause each kernel to become more solid, losing its sweet taste. This is called the 'dough' stage. The final stage of kernel development occurs if you don't harvest the stalks or if they are dried for winter storage. Sweet corn seeds become wrinkled and transparent as the natural starches eventually lose their water content.





The Germinator



Gardening for Better or Worse

If you are a gardener, you can add Plant Manager to your resume.

Some people want a big house, designer clothes and an expensive car. Others create a garden where they can get away from those people.



Gardening requires lots of water – Most in the form of perspiration.

Gardening is only an addiction if you're trying to quit.



My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see the plant's point of view.

Be a weed. A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

The Demise and Potential Revival of the American Chestnut Tree

Inside century-old barns and farmhouses, ceiling beams and wide floor planks that are straight grained and honey red with age serve as reminders of one of the deadliest epidemics to ever reach American shores. Between 1904 and 1940, some 3.5 billion American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentate*), the giant of the Appalachian hardwood forest, succumbed to a fungal blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*).

The loss of this keystone species across much of the Eastern United States meant the collapse of a multi-billion (today's) dollar timber industry where hundreds of millions of board feet were milled annually. The species was a perfect tree. Massive, fast-growing and rot-resistant, it was milled into cabin logs, furniture, fence posts and railroad ties. It also had properties that deterred competing tree species. After being harvested, it resprouts and is ready for the mill again in 20 years. It's nuts fed both wildlife and humans, and it's bark was a natural tannic source for preserving hides. Native Americans used it for medical purposes. The American Chestnut was the anchor of an entire ecosystem.

The fungus was traced to ornamental Japanese chestnuts imported as early as 1876, and when discovered in the Bronx Zoo in 1904, it was already too late to stop it. The fungus spores were wind-driven spreading the disease some 50 miles per year.

Some mature chestnuts survive in isolated locations and are being examined to determine whether they have a natural resistance to the fungus or if the fungus never found them. The species also survives because, while the above ground structure dies, the roots survive and send up sprouts. Although there are hundreds of millions of these sprouts, few reach an inch in diameter before succumbing to the disease. Eradicating the disease in nature is impossible because the pathogen exists in other plants.

The nonprofit American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and other government and private organizations have been researching a cure for decades. Chinese chestnut trees which evolved with the fungus have natural resistance. Some of their genes have been spliced with the American varieties. The research is varied, complicated and continues. Because mature American chestnuts still exist, anyone finding one should contact TACF immediately.

Source: www.sierraclub.org





**Thank you to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Friends for their Civic Fund donations.
Members are urged to give them a visit.**

Agnew Lawn & Garden
7700 Market St
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330.758-.114
www.agnewfarm.com

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

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

Burton Floral & Garden
13020 Kinsman R.,
Burton, OH, 44021
www.burtonflorallandgarden.net

Colonial Gardens
1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.
Vienna, Ohio
330-539-5500
www.colonialgardensohio.com

Marketplace at Creekside Gardens
3680 N River Rd NE
Warren, Ohio 44484
330.856.1641
<https://www.creekside-gardens.com/>

Crouse True Value Hardware
1178 Market St.
North Lima, Ohio 44452
330-549-2144
www.truevalueutrains.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

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

Edward Jones Salem, John Wise
2380 Southeast Blvd.
Suite B
Salem, Ohio 44460
877.335.9521

Elliot's Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
330-758-8889
www.elliottsgardencenter.com

Frame Depot Gallery
1043 Youngstown Warren Rd
Niles, Ohio 44446
330.652.7865
theframedepotgallery.godaddysites.com/

Gardening-Indoor
9215 Market St.
North Lima, Ohio 44452
330-758-0272
www.gardening-indoors.com

Gilmore's Greenhouse
2774 Virginia Ave SE
Warren, Ohio 44484
330.369.4515
www.gilmoresgreenhouse.com

Handel's Homemade Ice Cream Niles
5140 Youngstown Warren Rd
Niles, Ohio 44446
330.505.0865
<https://handelsicecream.com/>

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

L & M Greenhouse
43091 Columbiana-Waterford Rd,
Columbiana, Ohio 44408
330.482.3209
www.lmgreenhouse.com

Lowe's Home Improvement
940 Niles Cortland Rd SE,
Warren, Ohio 44484
330.609.8000

L'Uva Bella Winery
6597 Center Rd
Lowellville, Ohio 44436
330.536.6450
<https://luvabella.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

Piccadilly Parlour
114 S Broad St,
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330.533.4749
<https://piccadillytearoom.com>

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

Dennis Toth

Tractor Supply
6225 Mahoning Ave.
Austintown, Ohio 44515
330-792-8235

Southside Community Garden
Lois Martin-Uscianowski
Member
330.727.8340

Village Ace Hardware
10395 Main St,
New Middletown, Ohio 44443
330.542.2802

Village Quilts
17 W. Main Street
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-0545
www.villagequiltscanfield.com

Whitehouse Fruit Farms
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-4161
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

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Suite 432
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330-742-4040
<https://youngstowncityscape.org>



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Calendar of Events



June 4 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
June 4 2024 Plant Auction/Dinner 6:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
August 6 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
August 6 2024 Membership Mtg .. 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Aug. 24 & 25 2024 Horticulture Show ...Davis Center....Fellows Riverside Gardens
Sept. 3 2024 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Sept. 3 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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