



November 2024



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Gardeners,*

and Happy November! Before the winter chill sets in, we are enjoying Autumn with its warm days, cool nights and amazing colors on the trees. I hope you have time to enjoy this beautiful Autumn season.

The November meeting will include the election of officers. The slate at this time includes President: Clare Neff, 1st Vice President: Pat Murphy, 2nd Vice President: Lisa Nicklash, Treasurer: Terry Voland, Recording Secretary: Ron Fasano and Corresponding Secretary: Michael Banks. We will call for nominations from the floor and welcome any members willing to serve for the next year. We are also looking for help in several areas including recruiting speakers, volunteering for committees and suggesting and/or writing for the Germinator. Dave Campana has been single-handedly producing this highly informative monthly newsletter and would appreciate some help. Email Dave to see how you can help.

Our Holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 11th - Entree choices are Stuffed Chicken Breast, Baked Salmon and Vegetarian Lasagna. Cost is \$24 per person. We'll have installation of officers, awards and entertainment by Davis & Penner. Hope to see you there!

REMEMBER: Due to Election Day on November 5th, our meeting has moved to TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th!

*Clare*

### **Christmas/President's Award Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**A La Carte Catering, Canfield, OH**

**Meet 'N Greet - 6pm, Dinner - 6:30pm**

**Entrees include Stuffed Chicken Breast, Baked Salmon and Vegetarian Lasagna. Entertainment by Davis & Penner  
cost is \$24 per person, BYOB**

### **Winter Seminar**

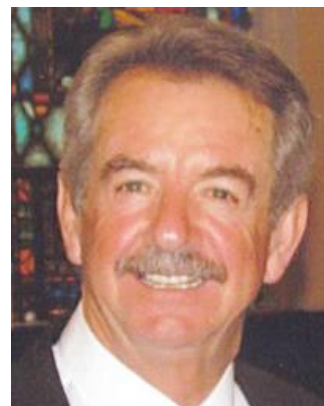
**Scheduled for Saturday February 15th, this annual event features great presentations, delicious food, Chinese auction, door prizes and more. Contact Clare Neff to see how you can help.**

### **D. J.'s Greenhouse Christmas Open House**

**[www.djsgreenhouse.com](http://www.djsgreenhouse.com)**

**Friday & Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
Full Line of Perennials, Small Trees, Shrubs,  
Yard Art, Gifts & More**

**Albert Pacella**



**1942 – 2024**

***Rest In Peace, Dear Friend***

### **Meeting Schedule**

**Stacy Pavilion,**

**Austintown Park**

**Board Meeting**

**5:30pm, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

***All Members Welcome***

**Membership Meeting**

**7pm, Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

***Election of Club Officers***

***Guests Welcome***

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**Club Dues**





## Club News

### New Member

**Denise Canacci** – Lives in the Youngstown and is a realtor with Howard-Hanna. Her gardening interests include veggies, fruits and flowers. Other pastimes include cooking and learning the Italian language.

**Jacquelyn Jackson** – She lives in Youngstown, and works in the banking industry. Her gardening interests include flowers and landscaping. She is a past recipient of the Southside Pride award (See pg. 3, 'Seed Money').

*Welcome Aboard!*



### Election of Officers

Our November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will include election of 2025 officers. Leadership is a vital element of any organization and the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown has been fortunate to have qualified people serving the club's greater interests. Let's keep it so by being willing to serve in a leadership position.

### Committee Openings

Our organization has several annual events that attract gardening enthusiasts over a wide area that are both unique and very popular. These events don't happen spontaneously but require member input. Our committee chairpersons are asking for your help.

We will be holding our annual Horticulture Show in a few short months and it is a massive undertaking that requires all hands on deck. Contact Clare Neff to see how you can help. We'll also need members to secure Chinese auction donations from local businesses and individuals. A form will be made available online and at meetings explaining to potential sponsors what donations will be used for including college scholarships.

Horticulture Show committee co-chairs Birt Underwood and Lisa Nicklash put a lot of effort into one of our organizations premier events and need help doing so. They encourage members to help keep this unique event going strong.

The *Germinator* committee also needs input from members, not only to write articles but suggesting topics for our clubs newsletter. Content has been basically a one person enterprise for far too long and this has to change if our newsletter is to remain fresh and representative of the membership's interests.

## What To Do About Them Weeds

America's free enterprise economy is increasingly aimed at consumer services. Who would have thought that a business that targets dog waste could succeed. And yet we increasingly see its ads and trucks. The same could be said for a company that removes weeds from residences and businesses.

In 2008, Mary Makessy started Wacky Weeders in Hudson, OH, and she now employs 18 seasonal workers. Mary gave a presentation at our October meeting on the most common invaders to our lawns and landscapes, and what to do about them.



When buying plants, she suggests removing the top few inches of potting soil to avoid weed seeds from germinating. Most weed seeds germinate in late winter and spring, a time gardeners should deal with them before they become established and drop seeds.

Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsute*) is an annual weed and among the first to sprout. Tiny white flowers develop into pods at the ends of stems and explode when ripe flinging out seeds. Attack them early manually or chemically to avoid



a serious infestation.

Mugwort or Wild Chrysanthemum (*Artemisia vulgaris*) is an aggressive perennial that can reach 6 ft. It spreads mainly through persistent rhizomes and, once established, is difficult to eradicate.



Horsetail (*Equisetum spp.*) was once the dominate plant on Earth along with other ferns. Instead of leaves, it has hollow stems and spreads by spores. It was used medicinally in ancient times.

Canada, Blue and Musk Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a perennial weed that invades crop lands and landscapes. It spreads through seeds and budding underground roots which can extend 15 ft. across and 6 ft. down. It is notoriously hard to eradicate.



Mary recommends having 40% vinegar, scissors, a fork weeder, a bread knife and a Japanese tori tori trowel in your weeding kit. She also prefers perennials to annuals as they require less watering and care.





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## Seed Money

Dave Murdoch has owned opera-<sup>ted</sup> J.W. Murdoch, Inc., an industrial garage door company in Youngstown, for 52 years. During that time he has come to love the area and has made many friends. It saddens him that so many people hold a negative view of the south side.



While driving about on business, Dave noticed how many residents and small businesses have taken an interest beautifying their properties with plantings. About four years ago, he began donating funds to owners who really stood out. The first recipient was fellow member Ronny 'Sly' Jones who has done wonders with a formerly blighted area on W. Indianola. We did an article about it last year. New member Jacquelyn Jackson has also been a recipient.



Signage marks selected properties.

Dave's one man philanthropic endeavor is called South Side Pride. He sees these awards as 'seed money'. It not only gives property owners some well deserved recognition, but he hopes that other entities will catch the vibe and build the movement beyond Youngstown's southwest side.

*Kudos, Dave*

## Storing Dormant Dahlia Tubers

Lots of people ask how to store dahlia tubers for winter. There are many ways and many are correct, but some might not work for you. There are only two things to remember:



Consistent cold is a must. Keep the storage area at a constant 40-45 degrees. Too warm and they will start to sprout or lose moisture. Too cold and they turn to mush.

A bit of humidity is necessary. This can be found either in the surrounding air, or the storage medium you use for storage has moisture retaining qualities. If too wet, the tubers will rot; too dry and they will shrivel and die. Trial and error will help find the perfect method/area for your situation.

If you follow these rules, you will have success.

*Thanks to Tom Arens who found this article on Facebook. It's a nice change having a member contribute to our newsletter.*

## Rock Phosphate Alternatives

Phosphorous is a key ingredient for vegetable and fruit production. It is essential for root crops such as beets, carrots and potatoes. It also helps with flower, fruit production and leaf growth. Most commercial phosphorous fertilizer is mined in China, the U.S and the western Sahara in Africa. Concern is rising that cheap phosphorous fertilizer will be coming to an end within 20 years.

Sensing the possible shortage, the U.S is no longer exporting the mineral and China has drastically limited exports. This shortage will make intensive farming more costly, increasing prices and causing food shortages. A shortage in the mid-2000s caused the price of phosphorous to rise 800%.

The prospect of expensive mined phosphorous has made alternatives more attractive. They include animal manures, tap-rooted cover crops such as peas that mine the mineral from subsoil, and even the use of human waste compost. Organic farming systems already use practices that reduce the need for mineral phosphate including managing nutrient loss: This includes manures, crop residues and green waste composts, encouraging microorganisms and fungi, and crops with high uptake efficiency.



Reduced meat in our diets not only has health benefits and reduces greenhouse emissions, but also reduces the need for mined phosphorous. This is because the efficiency with which phosphorous inputs are converted to dietary phosphorous is much higher in plant-based products than animal products. How animals are raised also affects the need for mined minerals. Animals grazed on unfertilized grasslands will perform much better than those feeding on fertilized grasslands or grain crops.

Phosphorous is second only to nitrogen as the most limiting element for plant growth and cannot be substituted in food production. While the mineral's presence in soils varies widely, a vast majority is insoluble and unavailable to plants. Crop growth takes away what is available. Wild animal waste will not make up for the loss.

Our ever increasing urbanization results in mineral depletion of the soil to feed humans and animals but most of the mineral replenishing waste is taken away by modern sewage systems and not returned to the land. Non-organic farming systems have been bred to give high yields. Without artificial fertilizers, farm yields drop drastically. We have become addicted to rock phosphorous, an unsustainable system.



## Increasing Soil Microbes

Microbes are essential to plant health. They convert organic matter into smaller molecules thus releasing nutrients to plants. They help plants fend off pathogens. And they dissolve minerals and convert them in available nutrients. Increasing the quantity of microbes results in healthier soil.

There are several techniques that have been used by gardeners for centuries. They include adding compost tea, weed tea or purchased. However, according to [GardenMyths.com](http://GardenMyths.com), they do not increase the quantity of microbes because microbes are always at capacity meaning they naturally available to expand in numbers to use up all available food. Adding more microbes simply means the new ones die for lack of food.

The only way to increase microbes is to add more food to your soil. Doing so will naturally increase microbe numbers with no extra effort by the gardener. Shoot matter originates from above ground plant parts, a major component of compost, manure and fall leaves. But these composts are not really finished. They are just beginning to break down to the molecular level, a process that will continue for another five years.

Much of this material is cellulose that requires a lot of energy to decompose resulting in slower microbe growth. This degradation also releases a lot of CO2 reducing the amount of carbon in the soil.

Living roots are much more important to soil health. Photosynthesis captures the sun's energy and turns that into a range of chemicals (photosynthates) 50% of which is excreted through roots. That is a huge amount of energy and nutrients that are perfect microbe food because the molecules are smaller. Root carbon also lasts longer. Unlike shoot matter, this is a very efficient food for growing more microbes.

These 'exudates' consist not only of sugars and other carbohydrates but include a wide range of amino acids, proteins, fatty acids and sterols. The composition of these compounds also changes as plants go through their growing stages.

Roots and exudates are easy to provide. More and bigger plants will increase microbe population. Keep soil covered with living plants, even weeds, at all times. Grow cover crops in winter. Grow perennials because they provide up to twice the number of photosynthates as annuals. Increase plant diversity to increase microbe diversity. Intercropping allows one crop to follow another maximizing root growth. Keep plants growing as long as possible with regular fertilizing and watering.

Some scientists estimate that living roots may be as much as five times as effective in building healthy soil compared to organic matter from shoots.

## Their Service Kept Us Safe & Strong

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



*Americans should always honor our veterans. We especially need the example of their character. And we need a new generation to set examples of its own, examples in service and sacrifice and courage. These veterans have shaped history and with their values, your generation will help guide our future.*

George W. Bush

*If a man hasn't discovered something he is willing to die for, he isn't fit to live.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

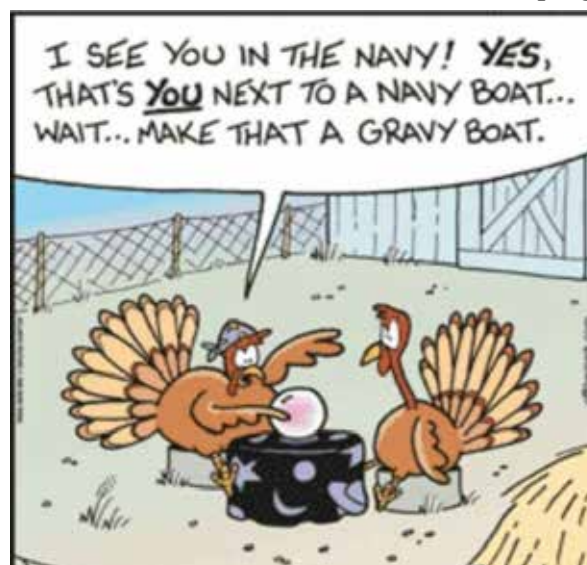
## Give Thanks For What You Have

*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*

W. T. Purkiser

*It's not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.*

Charles Spurgeon



*I suppose I will never know what pumpkin pie tastes like when I have room for it.*

Robert Brault.





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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.**

**Agnew Lawn & Garden**  
7700 Market St  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330.758-.114  
[www.agnewfarm.com](http://www.agnewfarm.com)

**Amish Market**  
6121 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330.248.7034  
[www.theamishmarket.net](http://www.theamishmarket.net)

**Baird Brothers**  
7060 Crory Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330.533.3122  
[info@bairdbrothers.com](mailto:info@bairdbrothers.com)

**Blooming Crazy**  
8277 Market St.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512  
330-758-8131  
[www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com](http://www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com)

**Bluestone Perennials**  
7211 Middle Ridge Rd.  
Madison, Ohio 44057  
[www.bluestoneperennials.com](http://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](http://www.burtonflorallandgarden.net)

**Colonial Gardens**  
1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.  
Vienna, Ohio  
330-539-5500  
[www.colonialgardensohio.com](http://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.truevaluetrains.com](http://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](http://www.delaquadrilandscape.com)

**DJ's Greenhouse**  
1004 East Lake Rd.  
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154  
724-962-1230  
[www.djsgreenhouse.com](http://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](http://www.elliottsgardencenter.com)

**Frame Depot Gallery**  
1043 Youngstown Warren Rd  
Niles, Ohio 44446  
330.652.7865  
[theframedepotgallery.godaddysites.com/](http://theframedepotgallery.godaddysites.com/)

**Gardening-Indoor**  
9215 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-758-0272  
[www.gardening-indoors.com](http://www.gardening-indoors.com)

**Gilmore's Greenhouse**  
2774 Virginia Ave SE  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330.369.4515  
[www.gilmoresgreenhouse.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.villagequiltscanfield.com)

**Whitehouse Fruit Farms**  
9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-4161  
[www.whitehousefruitfarm.com](http://www.whitehousefruitfarm.com)

**Youngstown Cityscape**  
250 E Federal St  
Suite 432  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040  
<https://youngstowncityscape.org>



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Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
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[www. GG-YO.org](http://www.GG-YO.org)



## Calendar of Events



Nov. 12, 2024 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
Nov. 12, 2024 ..... Membership Mtg ..... 7:00PM .... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
December 11 ..... Annual Holiday Party....6:00PM..... A La Cart Catering  
Jan. 7, 2025 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
Jan. 7, 2025 ..... Membership Mtg ..... 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
Feb. 4, 2025 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
Feb. 4, 2025 ..... Membership Mtg ..... 7:00PM ..... Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park  
Feb. 15, 2025 ..... Winter Seminar ..... 9:00AM ..... Davis Center, Fellows 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.

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)



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