November 2026

The Germinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Gardeners!

How quickly it seems we find ourselves in another Fall season and doing the work necessary to prepare our gardens again for Winter. … too soon!

I hope you will set aside time to join us at the November Membership meeting on THURSDAY, November 5th when we will hear Zack Felger from Mahoning County Soil and Water Conservation District discuss ways to improve the environment as well as how the agency supports our communities.

Remember that we have a Sharing Table at every membership meeting! You are encouraged to bring garden related items to share with our members: extra bulbs or seeds, gardening books or magazines, pots, etc.

The Nov. 5th membership meeting will also be your first opportunity to bring donations to support the work of the Salem Community Pantry. Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc) and diapers always seem to be in short supply, also, personal hygiene items (men. women, kids). Of course, non-perishable boxed and canned foods are needed too. Monetary donations are also accepted. We will also be collecting items at the President's Xmas Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 12th.

Speaking of the Xmas Luncheon, I hope you have marked your calendars for this event. Once again we will be returning to Ala Carte Catering in Canfield. Details for making reservations are included in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there!! We will not hold a membership meeting in December.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for the friendships our garden club has grown, and the knowledge we share out of our love for gardening! Thank you for your membership and all that each of you have done, in your own way, to continue to grow our Club!

Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Pat



"Not what we have, but what we enjoy, constitutes our abundance."

- *Epicurus*

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026
Austintown Township Park
Stacy Pavilion

Board Meeting - 5:30

General Meeting - 7:00

Program

Zack Felger
MC Soil & Water Conservation

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"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual."
- *Henry David Thoreau*

"Be present in all things and thankful for all things."
- *Maya Angelou*

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share."
- *W. Clement Stone*

Winter Seminar 2027

Registration brochures for Winter Seminar 2027 were mailed this week, watch your mailbox! Early bird registration begins November 1st. Four nationally recognized horticulturists are scheduled with information for gardeners of all levels. Call Clare Neff - 330.503.6988 - if you don't receive yours!

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Club News

Fundraising Update

Our first ever fundraiser with Proven Winners ended Friday, October 23, 2026. Here are the results:
Number of Clicks - 81
Number of orders: 6
Total Sales: $386.42
Donation Expected: $57.96
Thanks to everyone who participated! We anticipate scheduling another fundraiser in the Spring, following our Winter Seminar. Watch for details and a new link.



Salem Community Pantry

As member Tom Beck expressed to GOGY at a recent meeting, the Salem Community Pantry provides vital services to the community in Salem, Ohio and are always looking for help.

Financial contributions help the Pantry purchase food and pay the necessary bills to keep the Pantry in operation. Donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to the Salem Community Pantry and mailed to Post Office Box 222, Salem, Ohio 44460. There's a "donate" button on their web site: https://salempantry.com/ to send a quick electronic donation.

Consider organizing a food drive. We gladly accept donations of canned and boxed food along with fresh vegetables and fruit from your garden. For your delivery convenience there's a large collection box located next to the Pantry entrance on Vine Street.

Other necessities to consider dropping off at the Pantry are personal care items, paper towels, toilet paper and toiletries. The Pantry also needs plastic shopping bags and canvas shopping bags, along with clean empty egg cartons. These items can be placed in the collection box located next to the Pantry entrance on Vine Street.

If you are able, please bring all donations to our November meeting and we will make sure everything is taken to the Pantry.

Sweet Potato Vines, Anyone?



As you are cleaning up gardens and planters, if you have sweet potato vines our Greenhouse Chairmen are requesting you save some cuttings from them and bring to either the MASCO greenhouse or Leonard Kirtz greenhouse. Get in touch with Bruce at 724-766-0341 or Mike at 330-565-0592 to make arrangements for drop off!

November's Program



Our November speaker is Zack Felger. As the District Outreach & Education Specialist for the Mahoning County Soil & Water Conservation District, Zack provides resources and technical assistance related to stormwater and conservation education initiatives. Zack brings a wealth of knowledge related to environmental conservation and education. He has been with Mahoning Soil and Water since 2023.

Some of his work will focus on programs to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations while encouraging public involvement and volunteerism to enhance water and soil quality in our region.

Prior to his role at SWCD, Zack previously served as an Educator and Naturalist at Mill Creek MetroParks and as a Naturalist Intern for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at Pymatuning State Park. His academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Youngstown State University.

Decorate The Tree





It's time once again to plan for the Christmas tree decorating in the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Tom Arens is heading this effort and is asking for your help in gathering items to use as decorations -dried flowers, berries, anything garden related. Give Tom a call - 330.402.2700 - if you have decorations you can provide or can help decorate!

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The Most Unkindest Cut

Contributed by Tom Arens



Shakespeare used a double superlative to describe Brutus' involvement in the assassination of his friend Julius Caesar. Caesar understood why others conspired against him, but Brutus's knife wound was the most unkindest cut.

So, what does this have to do with gardening? We have a special relationship with our gardens-a friendship of sorts. We have a responsibility to care for our plants; and at this time of year our plants depend on us for their very survival. Casual or inexperienced gardeners may start whacking away to cleanup and create a tidy space going into winter. But there are those who know better, or at least, are willing to learn.















There are several garden-favorite perennials that you **should not** cut back now; because doing so creates conditions that increase the likelihood of serious, and possibly fatal, damage done by the freeze-thaw cycle of Winter. Also, pollinators seek out these plants for winter protection and food. These include:

1. **Coneflower**
2. **Ornamental Grasses**
3. **Stone Crop Sedum (eg Autumn Frost)**
4. **Russian Sage and Lavender**
5. **Coral Bells**
6. **Black-eyed Susan**
7. **Perennial Mums grown in the ground**

Here are perennials that you **should cut back** now to deter diseases, fungal spores, or pests being carried into Winter and emerging in the Spring.

1. **Bee Balm**
2. **Phlox**
3. **Peony**
4. **Daylily/Iris**
5. **Hosta**











My message: We are stewards of our gardens. The cuts we make should be kind ones.
***For further information consult Youtube site "Grow Simple"**

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The Germinator

2026 President's Luncheon
Come and Celebrate the Holidays
Saturday, December 12th
A La Cart Catering
429 Lisbon Street in Canfield
Good Food, Great Company

$25 per person • BYOB
Doors open at Noon

Buffet Luncheon includes:

- wedding soup
- tossed salad
- roast beef, lemon chicken
- mashed redskins
- buttered green beans
- dessert: Cherries in Snow

Please complete the reservation form below, bring with payment to the November meeting or send with payment to Terry Voland by December 3rd. Hope to see you there!

- - - -

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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.

303 Mushroom Company
2623 OH St 303
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

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

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.burtonfloralandgarden.net

Century 21 Real Estate/Canfield
Tibitha Maheney
6715 Tippicanoe Rd. #102
Canfield, OH 44506
330-501-9085

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

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

Edward Jones/Salem
John Wise
2380 Southeast Blvd. Unit B
Salem, OH 44460
330-332-1256

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

From The Heart Floral
41 Lisbon St.
Canfield, OH 44406
330-702-1792
www.fromtheheartfloralandgifts.com

Gardening-Indoor
6951 Southern Blvd.
Boardman, OH 44512
330-758-0272

Heritage Country Store
364 Lisbon St.
Canfield, Ohio 44406
330-533-5551
www.heritagecountrystore.com

Jimmy's Italian Specialties
3230 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

Kim's Confections
7 Lisbon St.
Canfield, OH 44506
234-414-7099

L&M Greenhouse
43091 Columbiana-Waterford Rd.
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-482-3209

Mijavec Feed & Supply
294 Cheriwood Rd.
Pulaski, PA 16143
724-964-8933

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

Piccadilly Parlour
114 S. Broad St.
Canfield, OH 44406
330-533-4749
www.piccadillytearoom.com

Rumpled Queen
387 S. Broadway St.
Salem, OH 44460
234—320-4014

Star Supply
875 Mahoning Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44502
330-746-2969

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

The Marketplace at Creekside
3680 N. River Rd.
Warren, OH 44484
330-856-1641

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

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

Western Reserve Nursery & Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44514
330-758-8889

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

The Wild Herb Company
157 S. Main St.
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-892-0682
www.wilderb.com



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Calendar of Events

Nov 5, 2026	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Nov 5, 2026	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
Dec 12	President's Luncheon	Noon	A La Cart Catering	Canfield, Ohio
January 5, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
January 5, 2027	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 2, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
February 2, 2027	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
March 2, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
March 2, 2027	General Meeting	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
April 6, 2027	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion	Austintown Park
April 6,, 2027	General Meeting	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: gardenersofgreateryoungstown@gmail.com

Membership Committee
P.O. Box 612
North Jackson, OH 44451
or on our website at www.gg-yo.org