



# The Germinator

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings Everyone,*

Well, our annual plant sale is behind us for another year. Our plan was to use the MASCO greenhouse from start to finish, but due to repair delays we had to find an alternate site for our activities early on. Enter Gina Symsek, the principal at Leonard Kirtz School, who allowed us to use the school's greenhouse to get plants started from "plugs". We eventually moved the plants to MASCO and conducted a 5 day sale before and after Mother's Day.

The sale was a true collaborative club effort. Twenty members helped to start, water, move, and sell plants. While it was a smaller sale than years past, it was a successful one. It will enable us to provide scholarships to worthy applicants interested in the horticulture/gardening field. I also want to acknowledge Jeff Magada of Flying High, Inc for allowing our club to use the MASCO greenhouse this year and going forward.

Our next big event is our plant auction on 6-1-22 at 6pm at the Lariccia Building in Boardman Park. By now if you are planning to attend, you should have selected plants to put up for auction. It will start with a potluck dinner. Those attending should bring something to eat that will be shared by all. We will provide water and coffee. Other beverages, except alcoholic ones are permitted.

After the meal, Rodney Toth, Horticultural Auctioneer Extraordinaire, will begin the sale. Guaranteed fun will be had by all. Good news: Our membership is growing. We voted in 5 new members in May, and likely 4 more in June. It is the duty of all members to find a way to contribute to the club, usually by joining one or more of the 15 committees established by our constitution. It is my job to assign members to committees who have not yet volunteered for one. I understand that many of us have busy lives and may need to set some limits on the degree to which we are involved in the club, but membership carries with it responsibility, responsibility for the continued vitality and growth of our club.

Important dates to remember:

1. Scrappers Picnic: August 4. See email from Rodney Toth for details
2. Horticulture Show at the Davis Center: August 20. I want to encourage all members to participate. We will discuss this more at our August membership meeting. Horticulture Show Chairman Rodney will conduct a training session on how to best prepare show entries.
3. Canfield Fair: While not a certainty, our hope is that we will be able to return to the fair this year after a several year absence. Our booth will need to be re-designed.
4. Annual Convention in September: We belong to the Gardeners of America, which is holding its national convention at its headquarters in Wooster, Ohio at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. More details to come.



*Tom Atkins*

## *Meeting Schedule*

Our regular Membership and Board of Gardeners Meetings have been cancelled. Instead, we will meet at the Lariccia Building, Boardman Park for our **PLANT AUCTION**

The fun begins at 6pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish and/or desert, dinnerware, non-alcoholic beverages and **Plants, Plants, Plants** or any gardening-related item(s). *This is a club event not to be missed. Good food, great company and plants at bargain prices.*

*Guests Welcome*

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## CLUB NEWS

### New Members

**Shane Burgaf** – Shane lives in Warren and is owner/operator of Gnome Home & Garden, P.O. Box 769, Warren, OH 44482. His gardening interests include native plants, herbs and perennials. Other activities include computers. Sponsor: Tom Arens

**Wm. Bruce Neff** – Bruce lives in Canfield and is co-owner of LED3 LLC, 550 W. Main St., Canfield, with wife and sponsor Clare Neff, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. He wishes to become a better cultivator of beautiful landscapings. He is a member of the Canfield Historical Society and the Loghurst Farm Museum. Other interests include golf and public service.

**Marilyn Delson** – A Youngstown resident, Marilyn is a book indexer. She wishes to learn as much as possible about horticulture. Other interests include hiking, biking, reading, writing and cooking. Sponsor: Tom Arens

**Norma Harned** – Norma lives in Cortland and her gardening interests include perennials, evergreens, design and ornamental trees. Sponsor: Clare Neff

**Patricia Murphy** – Patricia lives in Poland and is owner/operator of Murphy Vocational Services. She enjoys growing annual and perennial flowers. Her other interests include poetry, travel and wine.

Sponsor: Terry Voland

### Joining Chamber of Commerce

President Tom Arens was recently approached by a member of the Youngstown/Warren Chamber of Commerce who inquired about the possibility of our club becoming a member. After some discussion by the Board of Gardeners, it was decided that the \$275 per year admission fee was worth the potential contacts with the local business community. This includes potential sponsors for our Winter Seminar, participation in other organization's activities and expanding our membership rolls.

### July Membership Meeting Location

Our May board and membership meetings may be the last time we hold them at Fellows Riverside Gardens. As we've discussed in previous issues, the large meeting room at the Davis Center has become cost prohibitive and the classroom there where our April and May meetings were held is a bit confined.

While the search goes on for a location that is free or inexpensive and available the first Wednesday evening each month, we will hold our July meetings at a Boardman Park building to be announced.

## Orchids

As Dave Miller likes to say, "An orchid's first birthday is cause for celebration because most novice owners usually kill the plant by then". Even seasoned gardeners may have problems because orchid husbandry is much different from traditional gardening practices. Point is, if you're going to buy an orchid whether from an expert breeder or a big box store, research is a must.

*Orchidaceae* family members grow naturally in all but one continent (Antarctica) and from hot, humid tropics to above the Arctic Circle. In our area, they are primarily house plants. They have 3 characteristics that, in combination, differentiate them from other plants as shown in this Moth orchid image.

1. Bilateral symmetry or matching left and right sides.

2. Reproductive organs on a single column with a pollen mass and stigmatic surface.

3. Two concentric whorls.

The roots are the key to thriving plants and many growers use transparent containers for easy monitoring. Well hydrated orchid roots are green. If they are gray, soak them in warm water until green.

If you're skilled or lucky enough to have a two year old orchid, it's time to repot. If roots are congested, go to a slightly larger container as roots grow slowly. A good combination is fir bark, perlite, charcoal and sphagnum moss. This mixture, however, readily absorbs more water and orchids are often thirsty plants. Uncontained roots growing laterally need to be 'corkscrewed' into the new container, a ratio of 1 part medium to 3 parts roots.

Orchids are readily impacted by fungi, mealy bugs, snails and thrips. Salt is another serious problem often included in fertilizers and mineral-rich household water. Dave likes undiluted Listerine as a fungicide. Insecticidal soap also contains some fungicide. He also uses a spray mixture of 1 part dormant oil to 3 parts rubbing alcohol.

In addition to the popular Moth species *Phalaenopsis* which flower year round and are relatively easy to grow, there are *Dendrobium* 'cane', *Cattleya* 'corsage' and *Oncidium* 'dancing lady orchids.







# The Germinator

## GOGY 2022 Spring Plant Sale



We feel we speak for all our members and customers when we say, "It's great to be back in the MASCO greenhouse after four long years". We owe our good fortune to FlyingHigh Developmental Services, and its founder and director Jeff Magada, which took control of the greenhouse and asked our organization to take part in growing operations.

While the greenhouse was in no condition to start plants for this year's Spring Plant Sale, our members did a great job cleaning it sufficiently to host the five day event. Except for a few plants purchased wholesale, most were grown at the Leonard Kirtz School. While the



Kirtz greenhouse is first rate, it is too small to produce the quantity of plants we normally need for a successful sale. As a result, our inventory was only about a third of what we've offered in the past.

The plants grown at Kirtz turned out great, especially the hanging baskets. Bedding plants included Dazzle impatiens;



Wave petunias, Penary Giant and Pro-fusion zinnias; green, burgundy and variegated Coleus; Dusty Miller; red and pink geraniums; dark red, coral pink and Titan

Summer Bronze vinca; Whisky, Vodka and Ambass begonias; and white Alyssum. There were also tomatoes, peppers, herbs and spikes. Unsold plants will go to Youngstown City Scape, our club's decorating war memorials and may be available at our Plant Auction June 1<sup>st</sup>.

We hoped that loyal customers from past sales would get the word and show up for the sale. Tom Arens and Bruce Brungard promoted the event on TV Channel 21 and in the Vindicator but customer numbers on the first day were nothing like the madhouse we experienced



in past sales at MASCO. Still, the income generated over five days was encouraging.

Most encouraging was member participation. Mike Beaudis put many long hours at Kirtz and John Schinker, probably the person most responsible for making our past sales hugely successful, procured the inventory. Other members who helped grow the plants, cleaned MASCO, moved the plants between greenhouses and



worked the sale were: Tom Arens, Barb Arquilla, Mike Banks, Linda Biggs, Bruce Brungard, Vince Camp, Dave Campana, Dave Causer, Dan Chambers, Ronny Jones, Kadey Kimbel, Bruce Neff, Clare Neff, Dennis Penner, Greg Riddle, Sue Sofko, Rodney Toth, Kathi Volland and Terry Volland.

There are still important details to work out regarding our association with FlyingHigh, but the future of our Spring Plant Sales hasn't been this bright in years. Just like when we originally took over the MASCO greenhouse long ago, years of neglect have taken a toll. Watering pumps and controls weren't properly winterized and need replaced, as does most of the shading canopy along with other infrastructure issues.

We trust that these and other problems will be addressed before next year's growing season. The fact that Mahoning County seems serious about offering space for various governmental and non-profit agencies at the Bev Rd. facility, and that Flying-High is becoming increasingly sophisticated in accomplishing its mission, are reasons to hope for our long-term involvement there.



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## Clover – Good For Lawns & Pollinators

Although most people today prefer a lush, green lawn of monoculture turf grass, it wasn't always so. Until the 1950's, a healthy patch of clover (*Trifolium repens*) was a standard of excellence. When broadleaf herbicides became widely available, however, the plant began disappearing from lawns because these chemicals killed both weeds and clover.



There are many advantages of having an all-clover or clover mixed with turf grass lawn. They include:

1. The plant stays green all summer with little or no watering until the first frost.
2. It requires little or no mowing because it only grows to 2-8". Some may wish to mow in mid-summer to deadhead clover or neaten the lawn.
3. Clover not only attracts pollinators but also parasitoid wasps – harmless to humans – that prey on aphids, scales and whiteflies.
4. It is a nitrogen-fixing legume that doesn't need, but produces, fertilizer.
5. Clover out-competes other weeds.
6. It grows well in poor soil.
7. It feels great on bare feet.
8. It's immune to dog urine caused bare patches
9. It's inexpensive averaging \$4 per 4000 sq. ft. The seeds are so small that mixing them with fine soil may be necessary for even dispersal.

There are some disadvantages, however:

1. Clover stains clothing more easily than grass.
2. It is not durable enough for playing fields and high traffic areas.
3. It is a short-lived perennial and may require reseeding every 2-3 years to maintain a pure clover lawn. Mixed clover-grass lawns reseed themselves.
4. It attracts bees who may harm those allergic to their stings.

We all know how important bees are as farm and garden pollinators but their populations are under stress due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) that causes worker bees to spontaneously abandon the hive. Although still unknown, suspected causes of CCD include habitat loss, parasites and pesticide usage. Gardeners can address two of these issues. Given that clover is one of bees' favorite flowers, providing areas of clover on their property will address the habitat issue. And by using chemicals only as a last resort, the chances of harming honey bees and other pollinators is diminished.

Source: [dengarden.com/gardening/Clover-Lawns](http://dengarden.com/gardening/Clover-Lawns)

## Happy Father's Day

*Being a father is like shaving. No matter how good you shaved today, you have to do it again tomorrow.* Unknown  
*Dad: A son's first hero, a daughter's first love.*

Unknown  
*It is a wise father that knows his child.* Shakespeare  
*A father doesn't tell you he loves you, he shows you.*

Dimitri the Stoneheart  
*A father carries pictures where his money used to be.*

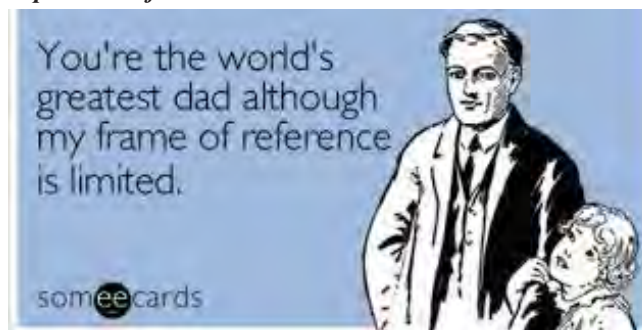
Steve Martin  
*My father gave me my dreams. Thanks to him, I could see the future.* Liza Minnelli



*My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do – be there.* Max Lucado

*A father is a man who expects his son to be as good a man as he wanted to be.* Frank A. Clark

*A father's words are like a thermostat that sets the temperature of the home.* Paul Lewis



*You gotta love dads. At my wedding, when I tripped on my wedding dress and fell flat on my face, Dad said, "Don't worry, you'll do better next time".* Melanie White







# The Germinator

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

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June 2022

# The Germinator



Gardeners of Greater Youngstown  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
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## calendar of events



- June 1 ..... Plant Auction & Potluck ...7:00PM .....Lariccia Ctr., Boardman Park
- July 6 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- July 6 ..... Membership Meeting ..... 7:00PM ..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Aug 3 ..... Board Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Aug 3 ..... Membership Meeting ..... 5:30PM ..... Fellows' Riverside Gardens
- Sept TBD .....GOA National Meeting .....Wooster, OH, details in Aug.

## 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 2022 OFFICERS

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