



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.
and The Men's Garden Clubs of America Central Great Lakes Region

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Monday, August 15

Make plans to attend each monthly meeting. It's a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy good food, and to learn more about gardening and our environment.

When: Monday, August 15, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Horticultural Show

This month's program is our annual horticultural show so polish your peppers augment your Auberjines detail your dahlias and bring them to the meeting to show off your stuff.

Jim Bell will be there at 4:00 PM to check in your entries. Judging will begin at 5:30. To be judged your entries must be in place by 5:30.

Board Meeting: August 22, at 7:00 p m at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

President's Message - Clark Bordner

I spoke last month about our tomato tree. For the last two weeks, it has been in full production. Not only do we have a distinct variation in colors and shapes; the tastes are unique for each type. I hope that these plants are still producing for the next two weeks. The tomatoes would be good entries in the horticultural show. It seems as though there is an element of luck in having entries for this show that are at their peak. Cheryl and I certainly look forward to the competition and seeing the best this area has to offer from our club members.

Sam Morlan has volunteered to take over the Youth gardening committee from Al Eddy. Al has done a superb job and Sam has assisted him on many of the projects in this very important area; most notably Arrowhead school. I look forward to working with Sam in youth gardening. We still need someone to volunteer to be the chairperson for the Strawberry festival in June of next year. Marti Williams has made this event one of the highlights of the year and I am sure that she would be willing to advise the new chairperson for the continued success of this festival. If you want to get involved in a worthwhile activity and use your organizational abilities, this position is for you! Please contact any officer if you are interested.

Cheryl and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the summer conference of our regional gardening club. Leroy Hart and Sam Morlan planned the activities for this two day series of events and did a wonderful job. There were 39 participants and one third hailed from our club. This conference was centered in Amish country in Holmes County. I cannot possibly tell you about everything we did in this short letter, however, it was all fantastic! The first day we took a bus tour to Secrest Arboretum and walked through their beautiful gardens. This facility is located on the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. This area is recovering from a devastating tornado that struck last September. Little did we know that we would have a first hand experience with Mother Nature later on that day. We next went to Lehman's Hardware in Kidron; which is the Amish equivalent to Home Depot. As we arrived; dark storm clouds were approaching from the west and we thought that we were going to experience a bad storm. It never rained there even though we heard thunder. We felt fortunate to have escaped the wrath of the storm.

Our next stop in Charm was for dinner with an Amish family at their home. This village is probably five to ten miles south of Kidron. As we approached Charm we noticed leaves scattered and trees blown down. The road that we had to travel was narrow to begin with and how the bus driver negotiated it is beyond me. The closer we got to the home where we were to eat; the more damage we saw. When we arrived at our destination, a large tree had been blown down that did damage to their shed and landed right next to their house. The Amish couple and two grandchildren proceeded with dinner as though nothing had happened. In fact we were treated to guitar playing and singing by their grandson. The family made this a truly enjoyable experience even though the community had suffered significant damage from the storm.

We later found out that either a tornado or very strong straight line winds had caused all of the damage. The storm struck about an hour before we arrived. We were all amazed to see the people band together to clear up the remnants of the storm. Upon reflection, I drew a correlation between what we saw with the Amish and the many acts of generosity and kindness exhibited by our club membership. Most notably to me, is the teamwork and hard work shown by our members at Habitat for Humanity homes. We can be very proud of our membership and what we do for our community in all of our varied activities. It is my honor to serve as your president. Best regards, Clark

HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE AND RULES

AUGUST 15, 2011 MEETING

1. Entries will be accepted from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
2. Entrants must provide their own entry containers, preferably clear, glass bottles, and have them ready to display.
3. Entry cards were passed out at the July meeting and are available the day of the show, or prior to the show by calling Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.
4. You must identify your exhibit with the variety or cultivar name to receive a top award. Please include the botanical name if at all possible. Example: Capsicum Annum, "Gypsy" pepper.
5. Judging will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. except for section winners and Best of Show, Second Best of Show and Third Best of Show. Those awards will be decided after dinner with the judges providing commentary about their decisions. This will be an educational benefit for the members. All decisions of the judges are final. Those in attendance will vote on a People's Choice winner.
6. Rosettes will be awarded to section winners and prizes shall be awarded to the three best of show winners and the People's Choice Winner.
7. All items must be removed at the close of the meeting.
8. If you have questions call the show chairman, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.
9. Specimens shall be a single flower etc., unless the rules specify a larger number.
10. Paper plates and wedging material will be provided as necessary for display.
11. The Show Chairman and Co-Chairman will subdivide the sections into classes at the time of entry. (Two or more entries may constitute a class) We reserve the right to add as many classes and/or sections as deemed necessary.

Section A-Annuals-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers; Example: three dwarf marigolds; one only of the large, carnation-type marigolds.

Section B-Perennials-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers;

Section C-Vegetables

Three specimens of tomatoes, peppers, onions, summer squash and other smaller vegetables. One specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant, winter squash and pumpkins. All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch. Cherry tomatoes shall be displayed by the cluster-one cluster with tomatoes still attached, six or more tomatoes on the cluster.

Class C-1 Any vegetable

Class C-2 Heirloom vegetable

Section D-Fruits-One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc., six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.

Section E-Herbs One specimen of larger herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc. Three specimens of small herbs such as thyme.

Section F-Herbs in containers

F-1 One plant in a container

F-2 Multiple plants in a container (can be the same herb or an assortment of herbs)

Section G-Corms, Bulbs, Tubers and Hemerocallis- One specimen.

Section H-Orchids in pots.

Section I-Flowering plants in pots.

Class I-1 Single plant in a pot

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Class I-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants)

Section J-Foliage plants in pots.

Class J-1 Single plant in pot

Class J-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants)

Section K-Hanging baskets. One type or mixture of different plants in the basket.

Section L-Fairy Gardens

Section M-Foliage- One leaf specimen of any plant.

Section O-Cactus and Succulents in pots.

Class O-1 Single cactus in a pot

Class O-2 Multiple cacti in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Class O-3 Single succulent in a pot

Class O-4 Multiple succulents in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Section P-Largest tomato by circumference, can be green.

Section Q-Longest zucchini.

Section R-Best Geranium-limited to those varieties obtained at our sale.

Section S-Trees and Shrubs-One branch not less than 12 and not more than 30”.

Section T-Arrangements:

- a) “Children’s Garden”-a design not to exceed 8 inches in height or width.
- b) “Amish Farm”-A design of any size, which expresses this theme.
- c) (Floral material used in designs does not have to be grown by the exhibitor)
Accessories that help to express the theme are permitted.

RODNEY and KAY’S 15th ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN

You are invited to visit Rodney and Kay Toth’s gardens **Sunday, September 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** They reside at 5637 W. Liberty St. (Rt. 304) Hubbard, OH 44425. (2.5 miles east of Belmont Ave., State Rt. 193).

There are several major gardens that feature **dahlias**, different and unusual varieties of tomatoes, peppers, hosta, coleus, annuals and perennials and a **forty foot long gourd arbor**. New this year will be the Grandchildren’s Garden which consists of eight triangular sections – one for each grandchild with plants such as ‘Chocolate Cherry Tomatoes’, ‘Pumpkin on a Stick’, ‘Fuzzy Wuzzy Cucumbers’, ‘Megaton Cabbage’, ‘Teddy Bear Sunflowers’, ‘Strawberry Popcorn’ and ‘Voo Doo Lily’. Also new will be the Florida Corner with ‘Scorpion Tail’, ‘Rouge Plant’, ‘Porter Weed’, ‘Variegated Salvia’ and ‘Lantana’. **The Potpourri Pole** will be back with Dutchman’s Pipe and a new vine ‘Blue Sky Vine’.

Special guests will be **singing entertainment** by Monica Toth Baker at 1:30 p.m., **karaoke** by Joe Weinel at 3:30 pm, John Schinker from the Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown with **mums** and Alice Lang with **decorative gourd art**. **Come** and have a relaxing day visiting and sharing with friends. **Note – Ample Parking** is available. There is **no admission fee**. For additional info or to arrange **Garden Club Tours** on other dates contact Rodney Toth at (330) 759-1993.

Welcome New Members

Barbara Croghan 720 Ecton Road, Akron, Ohio 44303 phone 330-836-0386

E-mail bcroghan56@gmail.com

Barbara is retired and single. Her club interests are plant auction, geranium sale, beautification awards, and youth gardening program. Her gardening interests are herbs, landscaping/lawns, perennials, and vegetables. She was recommended by Arthur Britton.

Andrew Lehman 395 West Exchange Akron, Ohio phone 330-608-1039

E-mail drswclehman@ yahoo.com

Andrew is self employed as a landscaper and gardener

He is married to Anna Cook

His club interest are plant auction, geranium sale, horticultural show, Habitat for Humanity landscaping, youth gardening program and Crown Point gardens.

He lists his hobbies as antiques, writing short stories, shooting skeet, painting and gardening.

His gardening interests are annuals, conservation/environment, farming, herbs, landscaping/lawns, perennials, speciality gardening, shrubs/trees, vegetables and water gardening/fish.

He was recommended by Mary Ann Ferguson Rich.

Member News

Elmer H. Steffen passed away on July 5. He was 92 years old. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II as a flight engineer on B24 bombers based in the Philippines. He worked in the family business, George W. Steffen Bookbinders. He served for over 30 years as a volunteer with the Richfield Fire Department. Since 1996 he and his wife have lived at Laurel Lake retirement community in Hudson. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marjorie two sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

Hints about Cheese

Cheese can be frozen by leaving it in its protective wraps or if it has been opened wrap it tightly with saran wrap. Wrap it in newspaper or freezer wrap to keep it from getting freezer burn. To thaw the cheese take it out of the freezer and put it in the refrigerator for two to three days to keep it from crumbling. Cheese may be frozen for up to six months.

If traveling long distances for more than two days with cheese keep it in a cooler or thermal bag.

Some question - Will cheese keep during hot summer days? The answer is yes, if some simple instructions are followed. Have the cheeses double wrapped if traveling for more than two days. If the car has air conditioning keep the cheese up front where it is cooler. If traveling more than three days without air conditioning it is advisable to use an ice chest. Do not put cheese in the trunk, this would be the hottest place.

This information was provided by Heini's Cheese Chalet in Sugarcreek. This was one of the places we visited during the regional summer conference.

(Editor's note - I never keep cheese around long enough to have this kind of problem. At Heini's I have a favorite, Chocolate cheese. It is cream cheese with chocolate added ,five different varieties.