



# The Garden Gabber



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

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## Monday, February 18

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, February 18, 2008  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour BYOB  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

**Program** **Planning for Your Spring Garden**  
**Speaker: Tom Dayton**

It's never too early to start planning your vegetable garden! From starting seeds indoors to plant propagation, Tom will share with you tips and techniques on the best ways to grow vegetables from his 30+ years of experience. You will also learn how to extend the season and how to utilize even the smallest of spaces by gardening by the square foot.

Ten minute talk by Charly Murphy on a youth gardening program sponsored by the Creative Connection.

Board meeting February 25 7.00 pm at the Northwest Community Center, on Shatto avenue. The community center is the other half of the library building. the door to the right is the library and the door to the left is the community center. We will be in one of the small rooms down the hallway. The West Akron Kiwanis will be in the large room. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

**Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>**

## A Message from Your President - John Lewis

I will miss the Board of Directors meeting this month, being on vacation. Additionally, due time restraints this must be written before the board meeting. Therefore, I have no decisions reached by the board to relate only issues.

We have lost our location for the geranium sale, as the Garden Forum grounds at West Market and White Pond are no longer available. Mary Ann informed me that the Garden Forum has another location in mind further west on West Market Street, but it is available for Friday only, no weekend. This is our largest fund raiser and a one day sale (although Friday is usually our best sale day) may affect our operations for the entire year. So, a rather large dilemma for the club and your board of directors. If anyone is aware of another suitable location, please let members of the board know quickly.

Marti Williams will be taking over as club secretary and relinquishing her present position as the telephone calling committee chairperson. We would really appreciate a member stepping up and taking over this important committee chair.

At our dinner meeting at the Akron Woman's City Club a "straw vote" was taken. The City Club was preferred over St. George's as permanent meeting place by a handful of votes, about 24 to 19 by my inaccurate counting of hands. We still have Guy's Party Center to check out, although they have not responded to our inquiries.

We are not too enamored with catering enterprises. Our association with them shows them to be somewhat transitory. Hence our reliance on and negotiations with established restaurants, churches, and clubs. Having said that, how about the University of Akron? One member suggested to us their "School of Culinary and Gardeners Delights" - or whatever their name is - located now in Akron Square. Previously they were closed during summer months, which eliminated them as a permanent meeting location. Now they are presumed to be open the whole year. We'll check it out.

Of importance in any meeting place, in addition to the permanence, is the availability of a projection screen and a loudspeaker system. At least, for me, a microphone is a necessity. As you may or may not know, we had a screen which was appropriated by an unknown person. It's still missing.

Attendance at the January meeting was the highest since we left Tangiers, except for the Christmas meetings, and the recent past presidents meeting. Some 50 members attended which is about half of the club. Maybe it was the decor of the City Club as several members commented on it. Usually January and February are the lowest attended months of the year. Nice going, folks.

Willard Barco, a long time member of the club and lately an honorary member passed away recently. Our newer members may not know that Willard's business - Barco and Sons of Medina - provided us with the plants for our plant sales and poinsettias for our Christmas meetings for many years. In the last few years he sold the retail portion of the business, now known as Corso's Liberty Gardens, concentrating solely on commercial sales to such as K-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot etc. We'll miss Willard.

Gotta go - the Southern Caribbean is calling. See you at the February dinner meeting - wherever it is.

## **A Message from the Editor**

I would like to comment about something that President Lewis said in his message. He said that there were 50 members present at the January dinner. Actually there were 51 people present. One was the speaker; one was a guest, Charly Murphy, our 10 minute speaker in February and a prospective member, and six were spouses of members So there were 43 members present. Did the spouses take part in the vote about the location for meetings?

Guy's Party Center was cotacted; they would charge \$19.95 and wanted a minimum of 50 people. Akron University Culinary Sevice was contacted; they are not yet ready for business and they said parking would be a problem. So that leaves us with the two possibilities.

Several important decisions were made at the board meeting last evening. First we decided that we should spend more money on the Habitat for Humanity homes that we landscape. We should get more and better plants than we have in the past in order to do a better job of landscaping.

Mr. Murphy outlined his program of providing gardening opportunities for children and youth. He will tell the club about this program at the February meeting. Al Eddy, our chairman of the youth gardening committee, will be working on this project.

The geranium sale was discussed. As John Lewis mentioned the Garden Forum, who have their plant sale in connection with our geranium sale, said they were going to the church across West Market Street. But they said that the sale would only be on Friday. We do not know whether the church does not want them there on Saturday or whether the Forum only wants a one day sale. We will try to find out.if the church does not want a sale on Saturday We must decide whether to go along with that or look for another location. The board is open to your suggestions of another location but there isn't much time. We need to tell the grower how many plants we want and what colors we want. right away.

Now to the big decision of the meeting which we held as the last item - the choice of location for our meetings. After a considerable time of discussion a vote was taken. The board unanimously voted for St. George's. I will not go into the details of the discussion that led up to this choice, but if you are interested I or any other board member who was present will gladly share with you.

## **Member News**

In his president's message John has already told you about the death of Willard Barco.

Chester Lowry's wife, Hazel, has suffered a stroke and is hospitalized.

The editor was diagnosed with colon cancer and was operated on. As you read this he will be recuperating but should be able to make the next meeting.

Keep the editor or Margaret Gentile informed about any member news that should be shared with the membership.

## ***Dayton Nursery Seminars***

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*February 2*

### **Native Plants for the Home Landscape**

*Speaker: Bob Kehres, Ohio Prairie Nursery*

Interest in natural landscaping and gardening with native plants has been increasing in recent years. Landscaping with native plants will help to preserve our natural heritage and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. Learn to create natural areas in your yard to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and birds while saving you valuable time and natural resources. Identify native plants that perform in the home landscape. Power point.

*February 9*

### **Developing, Breeding & Testing Star® Plants**

*Speaker: Tim Wood, Sales Rep-Conard Pyle/Star Roses*

Since its founding in 1897, The Conard-Pyle Co. has evolved from a retail firm specializing in roses, to a wholesale nursery that breeds, evaluates, tests and cares for each and every new plant before it reaches us! Tim will discuss the breeding program at Conard-Pyle, their trials and the steps involved in breeding new plant varieties, such as the exciting Knock Out Rose series.

*February 16*

### **Oh, Deer!**

*Speaker: Carol Zeh, Metro Parks Volunteer, Audobon Member & amateur naturalist*

As beautiful and graceful as they are, deer have become a nuisance of many local gardens. In this seminar, Carol will teach us ways to identify deer damage as well as how to plan and protect your gardens from foraging deer. Lists of deer favorites as well as deer resistant plants will be provided. Power point.

*February 23*

### **New Perennials & Hardy Bamboo for Spring!**

*Speaker: Tom Dayton, Dayton Nursery*

Out of the hundreds of new perennials that are released each year, Tom will concentrate on the newest and the best for your garden! We will also be introducing you to our newest category, Hardy Bamboo. The texture, color and height of Bamboo will add a whole new dimension to your landscape. They can also be used as an alternative to ornamental grass or as a privacy screen. The best part is that they're hardy to -20 degrees! Power point.

*March 1*

### **The Wonderful World of Herbs**

*Speaker: Jan Becker, Becker Cottage Gardens*

With so many uses from cooking to drying to decorating, herbs should have a place in everyone's garden! Jan brings her years of herb expertise along with recipes, cooking demonstrations and tastings to share. You'll be sure to enjoy her witty humor, vast knowledge and exciting ideas. Cooking demonstrations.

We have already missed the first of these seminars, but Tom should be talking about that one at the February meeting.

These seminars are on Saturdays from 11am to 1 pm at the nursery. Cost is \$8.00 per person for garden club members.

Seating is limited so call 330-825-3320 or e-mail [daytonnursery.com](mailto:daytonnursery.com)

## Lawns & God

GOD: St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, sir -- just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade

in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ...

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Submitted by Howard Palmer

## Web Site Information

I am very pleased to tell you that we now have a new Search feature on our website. It is accessible only by our National members but it will search the entire site and lead you to hard to find information. This is a very good answer for recent requests we have had for an index to the website

Please log into Members only (lily is the password) and give it a try. Enter one word or more on the Members page in the indicated place.

Please let me know how you like it. Also let me know any problems or questions you may have about this new attraction.

Frank Mitch, Web Master for the club's site and the regional and national sites as well.

Keep the editor or Margaret Gentile informed about any member news that should be shared with the membership.

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