



# The Garden Gabber



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

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**President:**

Robert Bell  
1832 Sandy Lane Road  
Ravenna, OH 44366  
☎ 330-673-3553

**1st Vice President:**

John Lewis  
3066 Rohrer Road  
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576  
☎ 330-336-9336

**2nd Vice President:**

James Bell  
48 Flowerdale Drive  
Akron, OH 44319-2315  
☎ 330-644-6867  
email: bell8676@aol.com

**Secretary:**

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Broadview Rd.  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
☎ 330-630-9625

**Treasurer:**

Leroy Hart  
633 Schocalog Rd.  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
☎ 330-836-1407  
email:gardengabber@neo.rr.com

**National Directors:**

William Moorehouse  
511 Overwood Road  
Akron, OH 44313  
☎ 330-864-0604

Frank M. Mitch  
2065 Kemery Road  
Akron, OH 44333-1937  
☎ 330-666-2327  
e-mail:fmm2065@hotmail

**Gabber Editor/Historian:**

Leroy Hart  
633 Schocalog Road  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
☎ 330-836-1407  
email:gardengabber@neo.rr.com

## Monday, February 19

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 19, 2007  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

**Where:** Vino La Bella  
440 Grant Street  
Akron, Ohio 44311

**Program:** What's New at the Zoo

You have read in the newspaper about all of the changes that have been made at the Akron Zoo. Brad Haven will be with us to tell us all about these changes in the zoo, both in the animal exhibits and the landscaping .

Board meeting February 26 7:00 PM at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive. All members are invited to attend.

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

### From the President's Computer

Did you get up early on Ground Hog Day to see if he/she saw a shadow? At least here in northeast Ohio there was no shadow. According to tradition this means an early spring. On the other hand I haven't seen any groundhogs wandering around, have you? I think they all got cold and went back into their holes. Does that mean there won't be an early spring after all? **Don't forget the seed exchange at the February Dinner**

As part of our January Board meeting, we put together a list of our committees, either existing or new ones we think are needed. Believe it or not, there are 21 committees. Isn't that awesome. Did you know that we had that much going on? Only 2 are new committees that we didn't have last year. These are, a committee for exploring and determining if and when we should be involved in the Farmer's Market in Akron and a committee to develop and implement a Youth Gardening program.

Al Eddy has agreed to chair the Youth Gardening; we need a chair for the Farmer's Market. You may have read that the Farmer's Market seems to be headed to Stan Hewitt, but we still should look into being involved. Now here is the big part where you come in. We still need a chairperson for 7 committees. I will have called some of you by the time you read this to request that you chair one of these committees. Also, I have put a signup sheet at the end of my letter so you can select the committee of interest and signup to help. I listed the committees we need a chairperson for and the committees we need members to participate in. You can call me (330-673-3553) to signup, give the form to me at our dinner on February 19th, or there will be a sign up sheet circulated at the dinner for all of you who forgot to bring the one in the Gabber. The signup is for anyone who is willing and able to meet with the committee as well as to participate at the event. We will usually have signup sheets at our dinners for participation in any one event. For example, we need a committee to plan the Strawberry Festival. Then we will need members to help on the afternoon of the event. Does that make sense?

-----**Cut here**-----

I am interested in being the Chairperson for the following committee:

Name:	Phone	Committee
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I am interested in participating on the following committee(s)

Name:	Phone	Committee
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Name:	Phone	Committee
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Need Committee Chairperson: Farmers Market, Memorial, Plant Sale, Publicity, Seed Sale, Silent Auction and Strawberry Festival.

Committees needing support: Farmers Market, Memorial, Plant Sale, Publicity, Seed Sale, Silent Auction, Strawberry Festival, Beautification, Youth Gardening, Horticulture Show, Awards, Big Trees

## Membership/Greeter's Report

The revival of the old tradition of "greeting" started with the January Dinner meeting of the MGC of Akron. From all reports I received, it was a huge success. The Greeter's for January were: Frank and Eileen Field teamed with Claire and Graham Reinke. It is significant that three of the four, Eileen, Claire and Graham were new members for 2007. Frank, of course, is well known to most of us as a long time member of the club.

As the coordinator of the "Greeters" I am posting this "open invitation" to anyone who would like to participate in greeting our members/guests as they enter the seating area of Tony's. The greeters will need new faces for March through May and July through December. All of you attending the February 19 dinner meeting of MGC of Akron will be greeted by an interesting (and jovial) group of Greeters whose names, for the moment, will remain secret!

So; come one come all to the hall! Prepare to enjoy good food, good fellowship, and a hearty WELCOME from the GREETERS!!

Report from Jim Fee, membership/greeter committee

## Congratulations Membership Committee 2006

I want to congratulate the 2006 membership committee for the very fine work they did last year. In previous issues of the Garden Gabber their names and the names of the people they sponsored have appeared. It is now time to see them all displayed in total and then I think all of us need to congratulate these club members the next time we see them for the job they did in bringing in **new members** for 2007.

Jim Bell brought in David Lockledge  
 Andy Bettick brought in Alfred Eddy  
 Grace Cochran brought in Don and Mary Anne Carlson, John Cochran and Leslie Knight  
 Dick Cotton brought in Michael Flynn and Janice Kelly  
 Frank Field brought in his spouse, Eileen Field; Graham and Claire Reinke  
 Leroy Hart brought in Donzell's Garden Center, representative Debbie Kohari  
 Don and Mary Ann Carlson brought in Janet Kucko

I want to congratulate everyone involved in the 2006 membership committee. As a reminder to all members of the MGC of Akron, you can be members of the 2007 Membership Committee by bringing in new members at any time during the year. If you need membership applications contact Jim Fee or Dick Cotton.

Submitted by Jim Fee

## Garden Symposium at the Library

The library will be hosting their first ever garden symposium this year on Saturday, April 7, 2007 at the Main Library, downtown Akron.

"A Garden Affair: Fun for All" is a new and exciting day long gardening event that provides the community an opportunity to learn from local experts - all for free! More about this program in next month's Garden Gabber.

## Welcome New Members

**Don Carlson**, 495 Palisades Drive Akron, Oh 44303 Phone 330-836-5236  
 e-mail mardonchivel77@peoplepc.com  
 Don is married to Mary Ann.  
 His hobbies are gardening, golfing, and reading.  
 His gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, lawns, and perennials.  
 He was recommended by Grace Cochran

**Mary Anne Carlson**, 495 Palisades Drive, Akron, Oh 44303, phone 330-836-5236  
 e-mail mardonchivel77@peoplepc.com  
 Mary Anne is married to Don.  
 Her hobbies are gardening, quilting, sewing, and reading.  
 Her gardening interests are annuals, flowers, and herbs.  
 She was recommended by Grace Cochran,

**John Cochran**, 1675 Slusser Road, Tallmadge ,Oh 44278, phone 330-633-2019, no e-mail  
 John is retired from the Loral Corp.  
 His hobbies are water color painting, and flower gardening.  
 He was recommended by Grace Cochran.

**Alfred T. Eddy**, 479 Crystal Lake Road, Akron, Oh phone 330-666-3158  
 e-mail aleddyl@verison.net  
 Alfred is married to Rosemary Ann.  
 His gardening interests are annuals, flowers, landscaping, perennials, and vegetables.  
 He was recommended by Andy Bettick.

**Michael Flynn**, 256 Stull Avenue, Akron, Oh 44312, phone 330-733-1696  
 e-mail jchardy256@aol.com  
 Michael is retired from B & W where he was a master fitter.  
 His gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, ;landscaping, lawns, and shrubs/trees.  
 He was recommended by Dick Cotton.

**Janice Kelly**, 2658 11th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221- 2451 phone 330-920-8530  
 e-mail janicekelly2000@yahoo.com  
 Janice is retired from the State of Ohio where she was a RN.  
 Her hobbies are reading and travel.  
 Her gardening interests are flowers, landscaping, and shrubs/trees.  
 She was recommended by Dick Cotton

**Janet F. Kucko**, 1612 Multnoma Avenue, Akron, Oh phone unlisted  
 Janet is married to R. D. Kucko  
 She was recommended by Don and Mary Anne Carlson

**David Lochledge**, 12550 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, Oh 44107 phone 330-971-8184 his work phone  
 David is an engineering aide for the city of Cuyahoga Falls  
 He is married to Laura  
 His hobbies are skiing and hiking  
 His gardening interests are herbs and landscaping.  
 He was recommended by Jim Bell.

**Claire Reinke**, 1111 Sanborn Drive, Akron, Oh 44333 phone 330-867-0238  
 e-mail cmandghr@yahoo.com  
 Claire is married to Graham Reinke.  
 Her hobbies are gardening, music, books, and pets.  
 She was recommended by Frank Field

**Graham H. Reinke**, 1111 Sanborn Drive, Akron, Oh 44333 phone 330-867-0238  
 e-mail cmandghr@yahoo.com  
 Graham is married to Claire.  
 He is retired from Bridgestone Firestone.  
 He was recommended by Frank Field

### **Old Time Gardening Lore**

Since I have finished with the book about the months I need to start another series. Someone gave me a book, published in 1987, called *Sleeping with Sunflowers*. This book is called a treasury of old time gardening lore. This book says that sleeping with a sunflower under your pillow will permit you to know the truth of any matter.

In the chapter about February the book says that the old timers and the Indians would look for certain signs in the sky to give them a clue as to what they might expect for the upcoming gardening season. Many believed that the position of the moon during the first two weeks of February indicated whether the growing season would be wet or dry.

Horns of the moon pointing down at that time were believed to mean that the moon was “emptying its water”, and that the following spring and summer would be wet. With this in mind they would select the type of seed and the location of crops in their garden. A dry February moon, one with the horns pointing up, told them to plant their gardens as early as possible and to use drought resistant seeds.

The book talked about using the earth’s magnetic field in the garden to increase its productivity. The old timers would mark out the boundaries of their gardens with poles, and then stretching bare copper wire s from pole to pole. To complete the circuit another bare copper wire was hooked to the boundary wire and this wire was then placed in the ground. The author had good results, raising crops larger than usual, using this method.

The author also tried another experiment using magnetism. A strip of copper was attached to a strip of zinc. This strip was bent into the shape of a horse shoe and placed over a plant with the ends of the copper/zinc strip pushed down in the earth on each side of the plant. The author said the plant grew like Jack’s bean stalk. After the plant had a good start the metal strip was taken away.

**Akron Men's Garden Club**  
**1148 West Market St #110**  
**Akron OH 44313-7145**