



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, April 16

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, April 16, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program All About Purple Martins

You don't want to miss this exciting and informational program about purple martins in our area of Ohio and especially in the Portage Lakes area.

Larry Hunter and his wife **Judy** will be with us to explain all about purple martins and their work with the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association 2000. Larry is the founder and President of the Association (PLPMA) and is a member of the Greater Akron Audubon Society. Larry and his group are having phenomenal growth with the return of the martins each spring (March) and he is eager to share his experiences with you. Please come and bring a guest.

Board meeting Monday, April 23 at 7: 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>

Guests Who Have Been with Us in January, February and March of 2007

As a Greeter of the Membership Committee, I want to remind all of you about our Guests for January, February and March of this year.

In January, 2007 we had the pleasure of the company of Lori Avens, Ken Baldwin (Joyce's spouse), Myrtle Jackson, Bob Kucko (Janet's spouse), and Sue Tewell.

In February, 2007 we were graced with the presence of Beth Hertle (Ivan's spouse), Bob Kucko (again!), Mary Lou Moorehouse (Bill's spouse), and Sue Tewell (again!)

In March, 2007 we had a large group of guests!! Lori Avens (again), Myrtle Jackson (again), Cheryl Luck, Colleen Bowyer (John's spouse), Carol Chlosta (Eugene Chlosta's spouse -- Gene is a NEW member), Carol Knight (Leslie's spouse), Dorothy Starcher (Walt's spouse), and Sue Tewell (AGAIN!! and she filled-in as a greeter that evening!!)

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again during the year! We enjoy the pleasure of your company.

Jim Fee, Greeters committee

About Reservations

In the past several months we have had problems with reservations for dinner. Some times we have more people than reservations and other times fewer people. If we have fewer people than reservations we have to pay for the number of reservations because the caterer has purchased and prepared food for that number. The caterer can manage one or two extra people but when there are more extra than that there is a problem. One time there were ten or twelve extra and the caterer had a real problem; some of our members didn't get much to eat that night.

So if you have not been called to make a reservation by the Sunday before the meeting you must call Marti Williams at 330-825-5315 or e-mail at mwhuumngbrd@aol.com If you cannot make the meeting after making a reservation also call Marti and cancel. She calls the caterer on Monday morning.

Member News

Former member Richard Mild passed away on March 18. He left the club several years ago because of his health. At that time he moved to Sumner on Ridgewood. We extend our condolences to his wife and family.

Just Ask Newton

MEDICAL STUDENT: Professor, why do we have to study physics? It has nothing to do with our profession

PROFESSOR:: Because it saves lives.

STUDENT: How on earth can a physics course save lives?

PROFESSOR: It prevents idiots from graduating.

Welcome Our 2007-2008 MGC of Akron Scholarship Winners

At the April meeting we will be meeting and greeting our newest recipients of the MGCA of Akron Scholarships. The two winners for this event are very diverse in background, experience, and life goals. The great common ground that they share is the great career field -- the Green Industries.

Meet **Monica Hudak**: She is a traditional student at ATI (the Agricultural Technical Institute) located in Wooster, OH. She is following a very rigorous track at ATI and as a Sophomore she has completed 42 quarter hours of course work (at the end of Winter Quarter) with a GPA (grade point average) of 3.757 (on a 4.0 scale) which is difficult to attain and maintain in the programs at ATI. She plans to graduate in Spring Quarter, 2008. She has attained the honor of being on the Dean's List for two quarters in her career, thus far. She will be talking with us about her career goals and what she will be doing for the remaining time in her course work and internship programs. She is vital and interesting, and will be a fine addition to the number of younger people going into horticulture in our country. Her double major at ATI is an interesting combination of Greenhouse Production and Management coupled with Nursery Management. Undoubtedly, she will tell you much more about her completed internship and new internship for the Spring Quarter, just beginning, that will better prepare her for working in the Green Industries.

Meet **Jacci Klein**: She is a nontraditional student at ATI (the Agricultural Technical Institute) at Wooster. This is a branch campus of the program at OSU (The Ohio State University) in Horticultural Sciences. I emphasize that she comes into the new, to her, field of Horticulture and the Green Industries from another caregiving career - Nursing. I am sure she will tell us about why she changed from one successful career path that is involved in caregiving (to humans) to this present caregiving career (to plants) (and to human children): horticulture. Jacci is also classified as a Sophomore in the ATI program. Although she currently has earned 60 credit hours, a portion of these are transfer credits earned in her schooling for the nursing program certification. Her GPA is 3.776 (on a 4.0 scale) Jacci, has won the honor of being on the Dean's List for three quarters. Her plan is to graduate in Spring Quarter of 2008. Her double major is appropriately innovative -- Landscape Contracting and Construction doubled with Power and Equipment. I am sure she will be telling about how she and her adviser put this program together just for her particular needs.

So, folks, call all your friends in the club, contact a person or two to be your guest and be at Tony's Vino La Bella for good food, meeting our two Scholarship winners, hearing a fine program on Purple Martins, and enjoying a fine Monday evening out!!

Jim Fee, for the interview team of Bob Bell, Jim Fee and Frank Mitch the Scholarship Committee, MGCA of Akron

Silent Auction

Don't forget to bring in interesting items for the Silent Auction. Whoever brings in the item(s) receiving the highest amount of money will win a surprise as well as the highest bidder for the item(s) Last month we had a much better response to the silent auction than in past months. This auction in April will be the last for a couple of months; in May the whole program is the plant sale and in June we will have the annual picnic. So April is the month to clean out all the unwanted things from your houses, garden sheds and barns

An Astounding Affirmation - Springtime

Spring comes when the earth, coaxed by lengthening days and warmer temperatures, begins to awaken from her winter slumber. She stretches open to receive the rain that gives drink to flower buds and seedlings. She takes a deep breath, and on her exhale the leaves on trees unfurl like tiny flags heralding her revival as baby animals tumble forth, trumpeting the good news to all who will listen. Rebirth and repopulation fill the void of winter with flurry and fury as what appeared to be gone forever comes into being once again. Even though it happens this way every year, we stand in awe, our insides trembling sweetly like the legs of a new foal as we too are reborn.

This is when we fall in love, again, speak without thinking, say yes to things we would normally refuse. It becomes more difficult to say no when the whole world around us appears to be an astounding affirmation of the resilience, richness, and plain, perfect beauty of life. We may find ourselves feeling several years younger and 10 pounds lighter without changing a thing. We may feel the urge to cleanse our bodies with a new pattern of eating, clearing our kitchens of cold-weather comfort foods and filling them instead with lighter fare and fresh fruits and vegetables. We may clear our closets of old clothes or cut our hair to express a new facet of who we are, and who we might become.

Springtime inspires us to believe that, along with the earth, we too might change, release the past, and give birth to new ideas, new relationships, and new perspectives. In honor of spring, we could make a list of the many possibilities we envision for the future and bury it in the earth, surrendering the fertile seeds of our imaginations to the nurturing soil. In tune with the season, we can then watch in wonder as the last of the snow dissolves into the rich brown earth, and stark winter gives way to green possibility.

Submitted by Valerie Becker, Author Unknown

Spring

Spring is not far away
I heard birds singing today
Squirrels are digging in the snow
Looking for acorns buried months ago
Patches of brown will soon turn green
When the sun sends down
Its warm golden beams
The first day of spring is the day we are waiting for
So gardeners can start their yearly chores

(Editor's note- I thought that when Bob Van Kirk died we had lost our poet laureate, but a new poet has emerged from our members. As I remember we have had at least one of his poems before. This poem should have been in February but there wasn't room. Our poet signs his work J E P. I think I know who our poet is, do you?

Upcoming Meetings

Let's have a good attendance from our club at the upcoming regional and national meetings.

The regional meeting is April 14 at the gate house of Kingwood Center in Mansfield. The meeting begins at 10 AM Lunch at the Golden Corral., There is a business meeting and a gardening program in the afternoon. The meeting should be over by 4 PM.

The regional summer conference is in Youngstown on June 2. at Fellows Riverside Gardens, part of Mill Creek Park. Some will be staying over night on Friday at Youngstown State University. To obtain a copy of the brochure contact Leroy Hart or Frank Mitch. The deadline for housing and registration is May 9.

The national convention will be July 12 to 14 in Rockford, Illinois. By this time you should have received information about the convention in the mail from the national office.

There is no cut off date for registration for the convention, but there is a cut off date for the Clock Tower Resort, June 11.