



# 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, September 19

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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, September 19, 2005  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour  
Cash bar available, **do not** BYOB  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner: \$11.00

**Where:** Peg's Catering (see map on page 3)

Don't forget, we will be voting on our future dinner meeting location at this meeting!

### Program Speaker: Bill Lanning

Those of you who have never met Bill Lanning or heard him speak, are in for a treat. Bill is a former national president who resides in Findlay, Ohio. He is a horticulture judge and an expert grower, specializing in glads and gourds, and many other plants. At our meeting he will be introducing us to the fascinating world of growing gourds. I got interested in them about ten years ago and find them quite useful as everything from bird houses to objects of fine art. I've had bushel gourds that exceeded 50 pounds when fresh and another gourd that won the blue at Canfield for longest, at 59 1/2 inches. Bill can get you started in an area of gardening that can quickly become an obsession. Please plan on attending this meeting.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Board meeting: September 26, 2005, 7:00 p.m., The Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center, W. Market and White Pond, Akron. Coffee provided, snacks welcomed. All members are invited to attend.

Thanks to Ruth Fee for the delicious cookies provided at the last board meeting!

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

## A Message from President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

The growing season is winding down and it has been an interesting summer. With weather extremely hot and sunny, the season has proved to be good for some plants and detrimental to others. Most of the gardeners I know have reported that dahlias are disappointing this year, while those growing squash, tomatoes, and melons are having a bumper crop.



The Kent Men's Club had a spectacular show on August 20, with over 400 entries and around fifty show entrants. The Stow Club brought back their show after a year's hiatus and they had some youth entries that were simply dazzling. Mansfield and Youngstown held shows on the 27th and 28th of August and both were worth visiting. At Mansfield I saw giant watermelons and a white delphinium that was five feet tall and absolutely full and perfect. If you have ever tried to grow either watermelons or delphiniums in our area, you know that it is no simple matter.

Thanks to all of you who entered the mini-show in August at our dinner meeting. It was a great success, we filled three tables with horticulture specimens and one arrangement. Top prize went to a gladiolus grown by Joyce Baldwin, second best to Gene Fitch for a miniature hosta leaf, third to Marti Williams for a hydrangea and the largest tomato was brought in by David Rich. Thanks to our panel of judges, Leroy Hart, Roger Hite and Jim Bell. We all learned a lot.

Please try to attend our September meeting. We have Bill Lanning coming, who is an entertaining speaker on just about any topic, let alone gourds, which are one of his great interests. His wife Anita will be accompanying him and she is one of our national directors. Both of them have been active in the Findlay club, the Great Lakes Region and on the national level for many years.

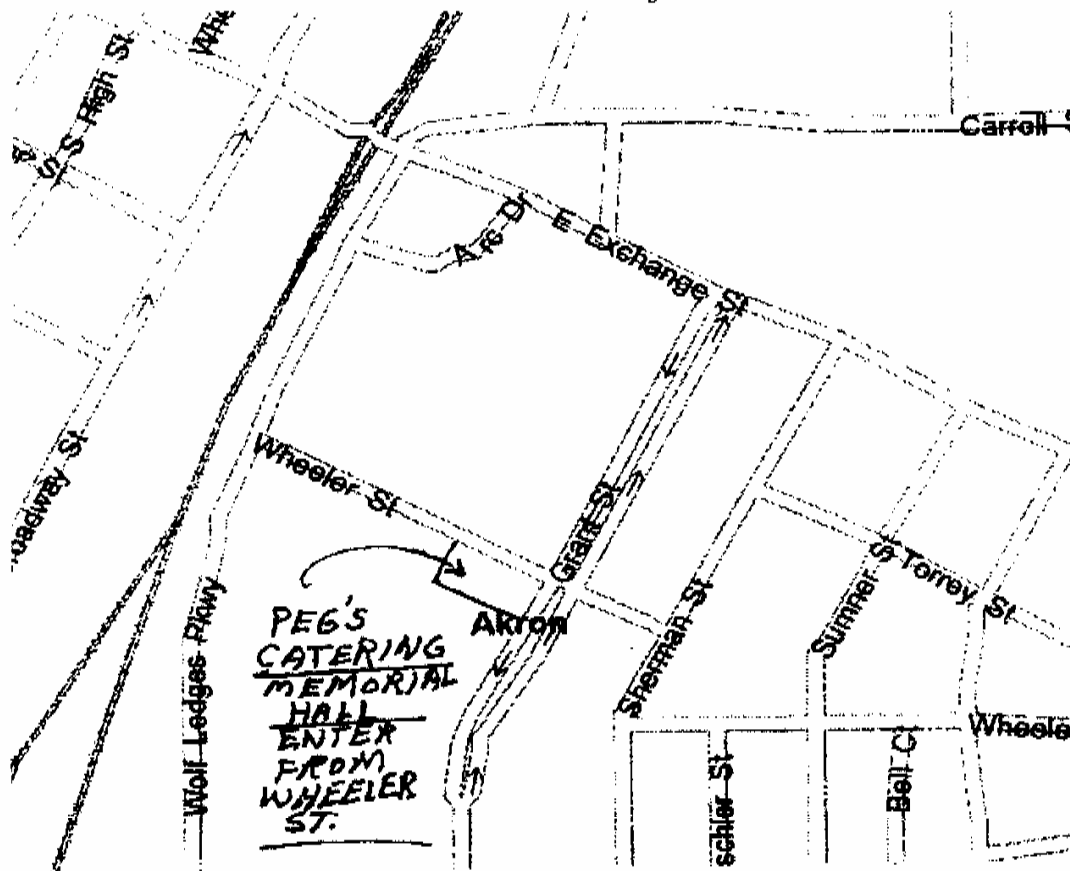
We also want you to attend the meeting to cast your vote for our new dinner location. Many of you visited the Woman's City Club in August, and now you need to see what Peg's has to offer.

Please note that the cost for Peg's is \$11.00 and a cash bar is available so we are NOT to bring our own!

The nominating committee is working hard to get officers for next year. If you are called, please say yes. We are particularly in need of a geranium sale chairman. It will be held next May at the Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center. This is our main fundraiser for scholarship and we need someone to sell tickets and keep track of the paperwork. It is not an onerous task and the board will support and work with you. I know there are a number of people in this club who have chaired fundraisers. Please consider lending us your expertise in 2006.

Your president,

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich



Peg's Catering is not in the building that is on the corner of Wheeler and Grant Street. It is in the building that is on the far side of the parking lot, Enter the parking lot from Wheeler Street. Go to the far side of the parking lot; this is closer to our building.

### National's Financial Statement

Some of you have questioned about the finances of our national and regional organizations. In other words - What are they doing with all the money that we send them each year. To answer this question Frank Mitch, our national director, obtained a copy of the national's financial statement, see page 4. Note the size of the projected shortfall for the year 2004, much larger than 2003's shortfall. This would explain the need for the dues increase to \$ 30.00 for regular members. The national gets nothing from life members.

We do not have a financial statement for the Central Great Lakes Region, but I can tell you from my own experience where most of the region's money goes. As the editor of the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, the region's newsletter, the money comes to me to cover the printing and mailing of this newsletter. Two of the yearly issues are taken to the regional meetings that are held in Mansfield and distributed to the clubs that are in attendance. Those clubs not in attendance must receive theirs through the mail. If there is a third edition it must be mailed to every club, except ours of course. There is also a small expense for regional meeting for speakers. The region gets \$1,00 from every member.

Submitted by Leroy Hart, Treasurer and Editor

**THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	---- THIS YEAR ----		PROJECTED -- YTD --	---- LAST YEAR ----	
	This Month	YTD		This Month	YTD
<b>REVENUE</b>					
DUES	\$ 8,321.96	\$ 82,386.50	\$ 85,100.00	\$ 8,659.65	85,062.00
BOOSTERS	1,475.00	2,175.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
AUDIO VISUAL	0.00	15.00	0.00	21.00	74.92
CALENDAR	328.17	12,850.24	25,100.00	834.87	14,468.50
GARDENER	0.00	<76.67>	200.00	0.00	860.00
INTEREST	10.88	341.47	300.00	12.77	229.04
MERCHANDISE	656.41	8,231.43	4,000.00	1,131.69	8,870.98
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	30.00	0.00	20.00	334.06
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>10,792.42</u>	<u>105,952.97</u>	<u>117,700.00</u>	<u>10,679.98</u>	<u>109,899.50</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
ACCOUNTING	0.00	2,850.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,850.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	104.00	1,212.00	1,200.00	104.00	1,255.00
CALENDAR	26.95	10,068.67	12,000.00	25.50	9,391.86
CONVENTION EXPENSE	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMITTEES	167.96	2,311.01	4,450.00	0.00	2,334.35
DUES & FEES	0.00	479.72	600.00	0.00	401.77
AHS DUES	6,945.53	27,296.40	28,700.00	0.00	0.00
EQUIPMENT MAINT/DEPR	431.08	4,841.77	3,800.00	442.24	5,116.73
GARDENER	0.00	19,984.24	20,800.00	68.98	38,988.66
INSURANCE	0.00	2,829.00	3,000.00	0.00	2,657.00
MERCHANDISE	58.30	2,300.79	1,400.00	0.00	2,656.49
NEWSLETTER	0.00	2,503.69	3,850.00	0.00	1,776.69
OFFICE SUPPLIES	75.12	2,548.39	2,000.00	105.06	1,407.20
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	0.00	922.50	600.00	0.00	1,912.50
POSTAGE	747.25	2,154.09	2,000.00	133.16	2,005.55
REIMBURSE OFFICERS	0.00	302.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
SALARIES	2,709.38	27,342.15	33,000.00	2,420.25	30,478.25
TAXES	207.28	2,194.27	2,500.00	185.15	2,331.64
TELEPHONE	90.87	1,005.17	1,000.00	80.92	992.29
TRAVEL	0.00	345.65	900.00	0.00	1,047.89
UTILITIES	220.19	2,628.08	2,500.00	203.71	2,783.60
WEB SITE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	30.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>11,783.91</u>	<u>116,170.53</u>	<u>128,000.00</u>	<u>3,768.97</u>	<u>110,417.47</u>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<u>&lt;991.49&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;10,217.56&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;10,300.00&gt;</u>	<u>6,911.01</u>	<u>&lt;517.97&gt;</u>
<b>ASSET REIMBURSEMENT</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<u>\$ &lt;991.49&gt;</u>	<u>\$ &lt;10,217.56</u>	<u>\$ &lt;10,300.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,911.01</u>	<u>&lt;517.97&gt;</u>

### Scholarships

Each year our club gives two \$1000.00 scholarships to deserving students at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. Several months back one of these recipients visited our club and thanked us for this scholarship. As i recall, the other recipient had a conflict that evening but sent us a nice thank you note.

As treasurer I hate to spend money but at the urging of Jim Fee, chairman of the scholarship committee, I finally sent the check to the ATI (in time for the beginning of the semester, however). Jim and I both received a thank you note from ATI.

These scholarships are the biggest one item that we, as a local club, spend money on. This money comes from the geranium sale, so if anyone asks you, what does the club do with its money, tell them it goes for scholarships.

### Geranium Sale

Speaking of geraniums - at the last board meeting it was decided to have a geranium sale again next year and geraniums will be ordered. We will be ordering fewer than last year and a different mix of colors. Each year we try to learn from the mistakes of the previous year. This year we had too many pink and white ones.

Also the biggest problem of this year's sale was that nobody was in charge. Next year we need to have somebody in charge early so that tickets can be printed and distributed much earlier than they were this year. Therefore, when next year's president calls for a volunteer to head the geranium sale committee step up and volunteer.

### New Officers

The nominating committee, composed of recent past presidents, will soon be looking for officers for next year. If you are asked to serve don't hesitate or make excuses, step up and say yes I'm willing to serve. We need first and second vice presidents.

### Dues are Due = by the Treasurer

A few of you have mailed me their dues for next year. I will be taking dues at the next meeting and at the October meeting. After the October meeting the dues must be sent to national . The cost is the same as last year, \$15 for life members and \$35 for regular ones.

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