



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXX

July 2011

Number 7

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Monday, July 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, July 18, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: All About Mushrooms

Our speaker is Charles Behnke a retired extension office educator from Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. He will be speaking on mushrooms and how to keep them growing in the home.

Board Meeting: July 25 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

This spring was the wettest in history for our area! Gardens are now in full splendor. We have a three tiered series of pots on a pole at home that contain red tumbling tom, yellow pear and black cherry heirloom tomatoes. We are looking forward to the mixture of colors when the tomatoes ripen. It is projects like this that make gardening very rewarding and a lot of fun. I encourage all of you to go “out of the box” and try something different in your gardens

The club made over three thousand dollars on our geranium sale. Being able to take plants back to Paul's greenhouse was definitely an advantage over previous years. The board is considering having the sale later in May to allow the plants to be more mature when we sell them. Cheryl and I are going to volunteer to be co chairs of the geranium sale committee. We hope that we have the same success that Jim and his crew has had and look forward to the challenge that this opportunity presents.

We had our first Habitat for Humanity home last month at 1161 McKinley Avenue in Akron. This home was prepared differently than in prior years. I went to look at the property the Monday before we were to work on the yard. The topsoil was already spread and because of all of the rain we had it was completely saturated. The forecast for that week was for rain almost every day and I did not see how we could proceed. I called Chris Godard and expressed my concerns. He said that we should monitor the situation and make a decision later in the week. That week passed without further rain and nine of us were able to till the ground, sow the grass and plant many beautiful plants. Harp's Nursery, which is on E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road in Uniontown, contributed six shrubs that we will use on Habitat homes throughout this year. If you get a chance, you should patronize them and thank them for their involvement in this worthwhile project.

The Strawberry Fest was a great success. Marti did a spectacular job in organizing this event. Tom Dayton again donated the use of his Owl Barn and was a gracious host. We had ample room for everyone to sit comfortably. All of the food was delicious and we had time for members to shop at Dayton's before the nursery closed. I thought that the 50/50 drawing was unique and the winners of the basket seemed very happy with their prize. This festival is a highlight of our year and I hope that all who attended had as much fun as we did.

Several years ago, our club established an endowment fund. The purpose of the fund was to use the interest from the monies in the fund to help subsidize worthwhile projects. For years, the fund sat dormant with no further donations and little interest being realized on the principal balance of the fund account. The endowment fund committee has been working since the beginning of the year to redefine the purpose of the endowment fund. Due to the efforts of Sam Morlan, Mary Ann Ferguson – Rich, Bob Bell and new member Suzanne Allen among others, the endowment fund has new life. I signed an agreement with the Akron Community Foundation to invest the monies of this fund in our behalf. We will shortly present to the club a new article to our by laws that pertains specifically to the endowment fund.

The silver medal award is awarded annually to one member of our national organization. Through his dedicated service to garden clubs at all levels, our national garden club organization awarded the silver medal to Frank Mitch. Frank is one of our longest tenured members and presently is a national director and is involved in numerous activities to include web master for our club. Take a moment to congratulate Frank on his selection to win this prestigious award.

A Message from the Editor - Leroy Hart

As you probably know I am the vice president of the Central Great Lakes Region of our club. As such I am , as you also probably know, responsible for the planning of this year's summer conference. This will be taking place very soon. As of right now we have 31 signed up to attend with the possibility of five more from Youngstown. This will leave us a few short of our hoped for attendance. Sam Morlan, my most valuable assistant, says that we need 40 to break even financially. We have room in the bus for 50. If we have an excess of funds they are split between the sponsoring club and the region. Because of this potential shortfall I am asking for more of our members to come to this conference. I have heard of at least one who can only be there for one day. I have also heard that some from Akron are bypassing the motel and driving down each day. Since you probably haven't saved last month's issue of the Gabber I am repeating the information about the conference and the registration form. Please, give some thought about attending this conference.

Next year the summer conference will be put on by Cheri Kessen from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I have been told the location will be Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Next year's national meeting will be in Youngstown. I am looking forward to both of these.

While I am on the subject of summer conference I want to state just how much help Sam Morlan has been. I laid out the framework for the conference, what I would like to do, and Sam, for the most part, has filled in the details. I know I couldn't have done it alone. He has led other groups for meetings in Amish Country in the past and he knew who to contact etc, Thanks a whole lot Sam. I am looking forward to your being president of our club next year.

One of the chief items in the conference is a trip to OARDC. In May I wrote an article about OARDC, its mission, history and some of the things that this organizations does. In that article I wrote about some of the satellite stations that OARDC maintains in different locations all around the state. Each of these satellites works on problems related to agriculture unique to that area of the state.

OARDC, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, is a part of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences. The mission of OARDC is to enhance the well being of the people of Ohio, the nation and the world through research on food, agriculture, family and the environment. They are committed to safe, healthy, and affordable food and agricultural products,., sustainable food and agricultural systems, strong rural and urban communities, stewardship of natural resources and the environment, keeping Ohio positioned favorably in a global economy.

As part of this mission OARDC has established the OARDC's BioHio Research Park on its campus in Wooster. This is a first-in-the-state business and technology center whose aim is to link OARDC scientists with business and industry partners interested in growing and promising field of agricultural biosciences, including such high impact areas as renewable energy and biomaterials. OARDC is looking beyond the lab and classroom to commercialize technology that can lead to startup companies and attract businesses to invest and build their workforce in Ohio.

The first tenant of BioHio is a renewable energy company called quasar energy group which builds anaerobic biodigesters OARDC also works with Ohio State's Ohio BioProducts Innovation Center They have partnered with Columbus based Natural Fiber Composites Corporation to create a new generation of composite materials from plant derived fibers. These fibers are made from jute, soy hulls, corn and wheat straw and other plant material. These fibers improve the properties of composite materials.

Central Great Lakes Region



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CGLR 2011 Summer Conference

Central Great Lakes Region 2011 Summer Conference Schedule of Events

Friday, July 29

We will stay overnight Friday, July 29th at Berlin Hotel & Suites. Cost is \$90.00 per night plus tax, \$11.25, two to a room. This cost is not in the registration fee. The phone number for room reservation is 1-800-935-5218.

11 AM Registration in the conference room at Berlin Hotel & Suites
Noon Lunch in the adjacent restaurant

Make your reservations by July 15, 2011. The hotel will attempt to accommodate late registration at the regular cost.

1 PM Bus leaves for tour of OARDC, Secret Arboretum, Amish Country, Lehman Hardware
6:00 P M Dinner at an Amish home

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Berlin Hotel & Suite, corner of State Route 39 and County Route 201, 5330 County Route 201, Millersburg, Ohio 44651

Saturday July 30

7:00 AM Continental Breakfast in the conference room

FROM THE WEST
Take U. S. Route 30 to State Route 83, go right (south). This is just outside of Wooster. Turn left (east) on State Route 39 in Millersburg, turn left (north), on County Route 201. Turn right into the hotel.

8:30 AM Speakers: Denise Ellsworth and from OARDC, in the conference room.
11AM Check out of the hotel

FROM THE NORTH

Take U. S. Route 77 to Dover, exit the freeway, go west on State Route 39, continue on 39 through Berlin, the motel is one mile west of Berlin, turn right (north) on CR 201.

Noon Lunch at Keim Lumber, Charm

2:00 P M Tour of Henri's Cheese, Sugarcreek

3:30 PM Tour of Breitenbach Winery, Sugarcreek

5:00 Tour of Werther's Carvings and Gardens, Dover

6:00 P. M. Dinner and Awards Ceremony at Werthers

FROM THE EAST

Take U. S. 76 west to U. S. 77 in Akron and follow the directions from the North.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

One form for each person.

\$100.00 Registration fee for each.

Registration for Saturday only \$50.00

Fee for Saturday tour and dinner only \$35.00

Make checks payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron.

Mail check and this form to Leroy Hart,
633 Schocalog Rd., Akron, OH 44320-1033

Check for vegetarian diet -----
Need a roommate: yes no (circle one)

When making reservations mention the Summer Conference of CGLR

Registration Deadline is July 15, 2011

Central Great Lakes Region Summer Conference
July 29- 30, 2011

We will meet at the Berlin Hotel and Suites, one mile West of Berlin in Holmes County, just off of State Route 39. We have reserved a block of 20 rooms at a reduced rate for Friday July 29. Rooms will also be available on the 28th and the 30th at the same rate. This rate will be held until July 15. After the 15th rooms can be had, if available, at the regular rate.

The registration fee included two dinners, the bus tour and the speakers. The two lunches will be choosing from the menu and on your own. There will be a special registration fee for Saturday only and another for the tour and dinner on Saturday at Werther's.

Registration will be at 11 AM Friday in the conference room of the hotel. Lunch will be at noon in the hotel's restaurant nearby. The bus for our tour will arrive at 12:45 PM and leave at 1 PM. The tour will be a narrated drive through Amish country with commentary about the Amish way of life. It includes stops at OARDC (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center) in Wooster, the Secrest Arboretum, and Lehman's Hardware in Kidron. This hardware consists of three pre- Civil War buildings and much unusual merchandise. Our tour concludes at an Amish home for a traditional Amish meal. The lady of the house is a avid gardener and uses her garden produce and flowers in her cooking. The family sometimes entertains with a song after dinner. Another after dinner feature will be a neighbor who will tell about her flower arranging business.

Following dinner there will be a short business meeting back at the hotel in the conference room. Also there will be a time for fellowship.

On Saturday we will have a continental breakfast together in the conference room at 7:00 to 8:30 AM.

Our speakers are Denise Ellsworth, Educational Director for Summit County Extension, who will speak on pest control in the garden. Our other speaker will be from OARDC. Checkout at the hotel is at 11:00 AM.

We will meet at Keim's Lumber in Charm at noon for lunch and shopping. At 2:00 PM we are to meet at Heini's Cheese for a guided tour, cheese tasting and shopping. At 3:30 PM will will meet at Breitenbach Winery for a tour, wine tasting and shopping. Saturday's agenda concludes with a private tour and dinner at Werther Carvings and Gardens in Dover, tour at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. Following dinner will be the traditional awards ceremony by Rodney Toth.

There will be no horticultural show at this conference. This was voted on at the regional meeting in April.

A note to the drinkers in the group. Holmes County is dry and also no alcohol permitted at the Amish dinner. Therefore, if you wish to have a drink at the time of fellowship on Friday evening and at dinner at Werther's bring your own.

For those who may not want to follow the suggested agenda there will be provided a list of other attractions in the area. Since there is some driving involved on Saturday maps will be provided for drivers.

If you need a room mate we will try to match you up. Room rates are for a double. There is a lower rate for three in a room and even lower for four in a room.

This area in Holmes and surrounding counties is said to be the largest Amish settlement in the country. Most attendees at the April regional meeting indicated they had been to Amish country but we hope that at this conference they will experience something different.