



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 44266
☎ 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 Director:

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

Gabber Editor/Historian:

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

Monday, July 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, July 16, 2007

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program Presented by Monica Hudak

Monica Hudak was the second recipient of our club's scholarship this spring. She is a student at ATI in Wooster with a double major in Greenhouse Production and Management and Nursery Management. She plans to graduate in the Spring of 2008.

She works at the Secret Arboretum. She spent a summer working at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo; in part designing a dwarf conifer garden and as a seasonal horticulturist with a specialty in tropical plants. She plans to do her greenhouse internship at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

She says she is an orchidist, and wishes to start and run her own orchid business in the future.

She was not able to be with us in April when we met the other scholarship recipient so we are glad that she will be with us for this meeting.

Board meeting on Monday, July 23 at 6:30 pm at the Bath- Fairlawn Branch Library on Smith Road behind Summit Mall. All members are invited.

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

A Message from Your President - Bob Bell

The year 2007 is now one half complete, but the summer has just begun. The flowers are beginning to bloom everywhere. I noticed the ditch lilies in my neck of the woods are looking bright even with the near drought this year. It is difficult to keep up with watering everything that needs it. It seems unfair that some of you have had some fairly good rain and others, (me) have received very little. I was driving home last Wednesday when the storm started and there was a line across the road right next to my lawn where the rain stopped.

It would appear that only two people read my letter. At least there were only two that told me at the Strawberry Fest that they had read it. Thank you for letting me know. Maybe the other readers did not attend that night and plan to tell me at the July meeting. By the way, the strawberries were excellent and a big thank you to Marti Williams and all of her team who assisted in making it happen. If anyone has any suggestions for next year let us know. Of course if only two people are reading this I guess I will get only two suggestions at most.

Before I forget, the next board meeting will again be at the library behind Summit Mall beginning at 6:30 PM. I expect this announcement will appear elsewhere in the Gabber but just in case seeing it twice won't hurt. We barely began discussion about the direction our club should go and how to get there. This will be our topic again this month and I promise to work harder at keeping us on track. If you have ideas let one of the board members know, or better yet, come to the board meeting on July 23rd. The success of our club depends on all of us, not just the hard working board members.

The member Garden Tours are continuing. I am not saying this because my brother Jim and I are having a tour (yes I am) but to invite you to take the opportunity to see what some of us are doing with our gardens. Thank you Andy Bettick for kicking off this program. Each of us has a lot to live up to based on what Andy has done. We are open to member suggestions for making this an annual program. I am also appealing to all of you to invite us to see your gardens.

I still need a CPA or at least someone with an accounting background to replace the work that Frank Mitch does for our annual report. Contact me please.

I will see you at dinner on July 16th.

The Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer was found in Detroit, Michigan in 2002, but may have been in this country since 1998 or 1999. This tiny pest attacks only Ash trees which make up about 10% of all trees in Ohio. When it finally was figured out that the Ash trees were being killed by the EAB, areas were quarantined so no Ash wood was moved from certain areas. Millions of Ash trees were killed in Michigan and cities were using most of their budgets just to remove the dead trees.

The only means of prevention is to remove all ash trees from a seven mile distance from an infected tree. The borer can travel in infected firewood; therefore an embargo is placed on infected areas, no hardwood may be removed from that area. An infected tree will die in five years, younger trees will die even sooner. The EAB moves only about seven miles per years

Men's Garden Club of Akron 2008 Membership Renewal Campaign

This message is an ALERT to all Life members, Regular members, and Associate members of the Men's Garden Club of Akron.

The membership committee and the club Treasurer want to have members pay their membership dues for 2008 earlier than in previous years. There has been a pattern of members holding back payment of their annual dues until the very end of the current year. This made it necessary to hold up developing the Roster and having to make too many phone calls in January, February and March trying to get payments from the late members.

The plan is to start the renewal campaign in September, 2007 for dues payment for 2008. This message is an advance warning of the new due target dates for the 2008 member renewal campaign.

In the August issue of the Garden Gabber, on the bottom of the last page, you will find a 2008 dues form that should accompany your payment check for renewal for 2008. This is for members who want to get moving on paying their dues for 2008. These members will be guaranteed inclusion in the 2008 Roster. In the September issue of the Garden Gabber the dues form will be repeated and you may pay your dues through the mails. Again, this will guarantee your inclusion in the 2008 Roster.

In the October issue of the Gabber, you will be reminded that October is the formal closing of the 2008 membership renewal campaign and that payment after this time will not have a guarantee of inclusion in the 2008 Roster.

For those club members who attend the monthly Dinner meetings, you may bring your "2008 dues form" and pay the Treasurer, by check, at the door.

Jim Fee, Chair of the Membership Committee

National Scholarships

Each year the national TGOA/MGCA awards several scholarships. Nominations are made by local clubs. Each year our scholarship committee makes several nominations for these scholarships. Usually at least one of our nominees receives a scholarship. This year our scholarship committee, composed of Jim Fee and Frank Mitch, made five nominations, all were students at ATI. For some reason Ohio State did not offer any student's names to be considered.

Of the five nominees submitted by our club, two were awarded \$1000 scholarships. One was Monica Hudak who also won a scholarship from our club. The other was Timothy Saurer from Portage County.

Club member Dick Cotton is a member of the national scholarship committee.

Silent Auction

Remember to bring in items for the silent auction. There will be a prize for the person who spends the most on one item. Also a prize to the member who donated that item. These silent auctions and the 50/50 raffle are good on-going fund raisers for the club so please support them.

Crown Point Jubilee Garden

On June 1, Andy Bettick, Al Eddy, Dick Edwards and Chuck Keach spent two hours at Crown Point raking and leveling the soil and picking up rocks to get the ground ready to plant the Jubilee Garden.

Then, on June 7, Andy Bettick, Al Eddy, Dick Edwards, Gene Fitch, John Lewis, Bob Johnson, Ira McCan and Walt Starcher worked at Crown Point weeding the two gardens in front of the house. These are the gardens that Lee Hart and I do on a continuing basis.

The same morning we also planted about 140 plants, including hydrangeas, tall grass, ginger, ferns, etc. After planting, we mulched the plant area and planted grass seed on the outside perimeter of the garden.

The Sisters at Crown Point served us a delicious pancake breakfast complete with sausage, cut-up fruit, orange juice and coffee. It was delicious, especially the whole grain pancakes!

I want to thank everyone for their great work. Jason Andrews, the landscape architect, commented what a pleasure it was working with a large group of men who who knew what they were doing.

Andy Bettick

Good Publicity

Our club has received some really good publicity recently. After the last Habitat for Humanity house was landscaped the Akron Beacon Journal ran an article about the club. Featured was a picture of Frank Mitch and Al Eddy. Also shown were several members at work. The May 31 issue of the West Side Leader had an article about the club with Janet Kucko pictured. The June 15 issue of the Beacon Journal had an article about the planting of the Jubilee garden at Crown Point with Andy Bettick, Walt Starcher and Al Eddy shown.

Garden Visitation

On June 16 several members and guests visited Andy Bettick's garden. Two other members have invited us to visit their gardens in July.

Our president, Bob Bell, has invited us to visit on Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15 from 10 am to 4 pm. The address is 1832 Sandy Lake Road, Brimfield Township.

Take I 76 East. Exit on SR43 going south (R) to the first traffic light Tallmadge Rd. East (L) on Tallmadge for 1.4 miles to Sandy Lake Rd. Turn north (L) on to Sandy Lake for 1.7 miles. Home is on right, balloons will be in front.

Our Second Vice President, Jim Bell, has invited us to visit on Saturday, July 21 from 10 am to 5 pm. The address is 48 Flowerdale Drive in Akron.

Take route 224, east or west, and exit at South Main Street. Go south on Main Street approximately 1.8 miles to West Bellisle (just before the Red Bull Tavern). Turn right on Bellisle and turn left on Flowerdale (at the bottom of the hill). Jim's house is the first driveway on the left.

If you would like to have the club visit your garden contact Bob Bell.

Beautification Awards

HELP! HELP! Have you seen any well landscaped yards or businesses? If so please call Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.

Roster Correction

From time to time mistakes are found in the new roster of club members.

Marti Williams' e-mail address is:
mwhummingbird@hotmail.com
not aol.com

Welcome New Members

Russ DeMaris 862 Stuart Avenue, Boardman, Ohio, 44512-4125 , phone 1-800-242-0510 (work number), e-mail russdemaris@yahoo.com
He is employed by the National Weather Services as a Hydro-Meteorologist , National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency
Russ is single . He lists his hobbies as golf, movies, cats, baseball, and cards. His gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, conservation , environment, farming, flowers, landscaping, lawns, perennials, and specialty gardening (bonsai).
He is the chapter meteorologist for the Youngstown Men's Garden Club.
He was recommended by Valerie Becker.

Leeza Perry 862 Stuart Avenue, Boardman, Ohio 44512-4125, fax 330-965-9485, cell 330-780-7394, auto, OnStar 330-885-7098
e-mail cherryperry@yahoo.com
Leeza is widowed. She is retired from a marketing and public relations firm in Denver, Colorado where she was a marketing consultant and corporation spokesperson. Her hobbies are historic preservation, calligraphy, book arts, antiques, gardening, boating, travel, poetry, photography, and networking. Her gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, farming, flowers, herbs, landscaping, lawns, perennials, specialty gardening (bonsai), shrubs/trees, vegetables, water gardening/fish, and wildlife.
She was recommended by Grace Cochran.

Regional Elections

At the summer regional conference some changes were made in the leadership of the region. Bill Moorehouse, a national director, resigned. Hugh Earnhart, the President of the Youngstown club was elected to fill this spot. Frank Mitch and Anita Lanning were reelected to another three year term. Frank is our club's contact with the national.

We thank Bill Moorehouse for his many years of service to our club, the region, and the national.

Awards Received

At the Central Great Lakes Regional meeting in Youngstown last month two of our members received an award from the region. This award was the Horticultural Journalism Award in recognition of the value of journalism in furthering the field of horticultural and the objectives of the region and The Gardeners of America and Men's Garden Clubs of America. This award is presented by the Central Great Lakes Region.

The first recipient of this award was Frank Mitch for his work as the web master for the local club's, the regional, and the national web sites. Frank has performed this job for many years.

The other recipient was Leroy Hart for his work as the editor of the regional newsletter, The Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, and as editor of the club's newsletter.

Summer Time, Summer Time

The hazy lazy days of Summer
Are far from lazy for the back yard gardener
So plant those veggies row by row
Hoe that corn and see that it's watered
Mow the grass and do what is needed.
Nothing rivals the taste of home grown fruits
And veggies from the back yard garden
So share your harvest with friends and
Your neighbors too
For Mother Nature has been good to you!

Submitted by our new poet laureate who signs himself EP (Do you know who he is? I think I do, the editor.)

Donzell's Ad

On the last page of the Roster there is an announcement from our member Donzell's Flower and Garden Centers. To receive this discount you must show your club membership card to the cashier. The 20% discount was for a special one time offer which may not be repeated. Thanks to Donzell's for this discount.