



# 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

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## Monday, June 20

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, June 20, 2011  
6:00 p.m. – Dinner

**Where:** Dayton Nursery  
3459 Cleveland-Massillon Road  
Norton, Ohio

**Program: Strawberry Festival**

The picnic will be starting early so that people will have time to shop after dinner, before Dayton's closes. You could also come before dinner to shop. In any case plan to check out all the plants that Dayton's has available. Tom Dayton does not charge the club for the use of his barn for our picnic. In addition to shopping you can view the lovely gardens that Tom has established on the property.

The club will provide chicken, beverages, strawberry shortcake and ice cream, just like last year. Each member should bring a covered dish to share, plates and silverware. If possible bring a few chairs.

This is one of our most popular meetings and also a good one to invite friends and prospective members.

Board Meeting: June 27 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

As I sit here today, we have had two consecutive days without rain and with an abundance of sunshine on both days. Our planting and growing season at home and at our business are now in full swing and we are finally seeing the fruits of our labor. It looks like lawns have truly been the beneficiary of all the rain as they look full and lush. Even with the unpleasant weather that we have had this spring, we can be thankful that we are not directly affected by severe earthquakes, flooding or tornadic activity. For example, I cannot imagine the people in Louisiana that have the prospect that their town and homes will be totally under water because of the record level flood stage of the Mississippi River. So when we get upset with the weather, one only has to remember what others are going through.

I wish to congratulate everyone in the club for making the geranium sale a huge success. I would estimate that at least one third of the membership took part in this sale in some capacity. Jim Bell did a great job in organizing this sale and deserves a great big thank you from all of us. He has decided that he wants to turn over the chairmanship of this committee to a worthy successor. Please see me or any other officer if you are interested in heading up what is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This sale was very profitable this year and we rely upon these profits for the operation of the club. This chairmanship is very important! We also owe a debt of gratitude to Marge at Paul's Nursery. She not only did everything possible to get the plants in a condition where they could be sold; she also took all of the plants back that we were unable to sell. The weather cooperated at least on Friday and I believe we can all be proud of this sale.

I attended my first plant auction at the dinner meeting this month. What a lot of fun! Walt did a masterful job as auctioneer! I was astounded with the beauty and variety of plants and trees at this sale. Marti Williams, our club secretary, is sending a handwritten letter to each of the greenhouses and nurseries that contributed to this sale, thanking them for their participation and contribution of such glorious flora. Here is a list of the establishments that donated plants and trees to the auction. I would encourage everyone to patronize them and say thank you. The list includes Seacrest Arboretum, Les Merrill Greenhouse, Dave's Tractor Sales, Smith Brothers Mulch, Liberty Gardens, Boyert's Greenhouse, Dayton's Nursery, Donzell's Flower and Garden Center and Nettleton Road Sales. I also wish to thank all of our members that contributed plants to the sale. I think we should consider starting dinner at 6:00 PM for that night. That way we are not rushed in trying to sell everything. I do not think that we should limit what people bring. We just need more time to sell all of it.

. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the club members that contribute seeds, plants, books and other items that we use in our silent auctions and that we use as door prizes and giveaways at our dinner meetings. All of these things are appreciated. Cheryl and I are donating a picnic basket set for the 50/50 drawing at the strawberry festival this month. This basket has dinner service for four to include plates, silverware, napkins and wine glasses. We are also including a bottle of dessert wine. All of the money collected for the 50/50 raffle will go into the general operating fund of the club.

I would encourage all of you to invite members who are active but have not actively participated in club activities, to our dinner meetings. We average about 50 members per meeting and with an active membership of about 100; one half are not receiving all of the benefits of club membership. If you have a friend in this category, please encourage them to come! See you all at the Strawberry Festival.

Treasurer's Report  
2010 Summary  
Income

Dinners	\$7292.00
50/50	428.00
Silent Auction	108.00
Dues	2680.00
Geranium Sale	10677.00
Fall Perennial Sale	198.00
May Plant Sale	1403.00
Calendars	16.50
Interest Savings Account	1.05
Interest CD.s	<u>939.60</u>
Total	\$23744.15

Expenses

Dinners	\$7910.65
Speakers	350.00
Flowers for December Dinner	171.00
Tips for Waitresses	150.00
Dues, National	1044.00
Dues, Regional	96.00
Printing	684.79
Newsletter	297.60
Mail Newsletter	227.69
Membership Roster	159.50
Committees	201.21
Membership	127.91
Youth	31.76
Service	41.54
Projects	704.19
Crown Point	0.0
Habitat	325.18
Beautification	97.50
Horticulture Show	281.51
Donations	1470.00
TGOA/MGCA Memorial	20.00
Arrowhead School	650.00
Secrest Arboretum	500.00
Faith Lutheran Church	300.00
Geranium Sale	8757.95
Geraniums	7224.20
Plants & Baskets	1357.75
Orchids	126.00
Rent, Hardesty Park	50.00
Fall Perennial Sale	166.13
Club Banner	99.49
Website Expenses	72.91
Name Change Fee	50.00
Income Tax	50.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	44.35
National Convention	458.00
Bank Fees	<u>1.56</u>
Total	\$22482.23

Does not include regional summer conference income of \$3241.00 and expenses of \$3167.12

This report does not include \$2000 for the ATI scholarships which were paid in 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 28<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> at the same rate. This rate will be held until July 15. After the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.