



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, March 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, March 16, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3205 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program; Planting Seeds

Mary Ann Ferguson- Rich will present a program on planting seeds for spring. Mary Ann is a long time member of our club and a former president . She also is the president, at least for the second time, of the Garden Forum. She has also been the president of the national garden forum.

Mary Ann starts in her green house many of the seeds she uses in her garden.

The ten minute speaker will be Marti Williams on butterfly gardening.

Board meeting will be March 23 at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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



Message from the President - Arthur Britton

Hello March, we eagerly look forward to warmer and longer days that we know are ahead. I have decided to try to jump start the season by bringing forsythia and pussy willow branches inside to both my house and my office. I work in a gray cubicle and need all of the color I can get. At my office in about 4 days the branches were drawing a lot of activity and co-workers that I don't normally see were stopping by to see what was going on. After telling them about the plants I talk to them about maybe coming to a meeting and learning more.

I put the branches in a small 2 gal. fish tank on my desk and in about 5 days the bright yellow color was bringing a smile to all that saw it. The pussy willow has gone from barely being open to full fuzziness, and now to turning yellow and some have started to fall off. At home it is taking a little bit longer for both to come to life and show some activity due to the light and the temp. It helps that the average temp at the office is 75-78 F and the lights are on about 12 hours a day. Each of us has a fan and short sleeves, but in the summer we wear sweaters. This will be a heavy trimming year for the pussy willow, as the bush is 2 stories tall and needs to be trimmed. I am hoping to root some and give away to family and friends.

Two topics discussed at the February board meeting were the start time and the 10 min. speaker. Both will stay and not be changed!! However, we will be doing some time keeping, holding the 10 min. speaker to the allotted time. If the topic and person are willing then we will ask them to come back and be a speaker for another night. The time of the social hour starting at 5:30 and dinner starting at 6:30 pm will not change at this time.

As I discussed the topics for the Gabber my wife suggested that this poem from Robert Frost might fit very nicely; thank you Ann.

A Dust of Snow: The way a crow /Shook down on me /The dust of snow /From a hemlock tree /Has given my heart / A change of mood /And saved some part /Of a day I had rued.

--Robert Frost

It was just brought to my attention that the roster is not correct as to the location of the Geranium sale on May 8th and 9th, the correct location is Faith Lutheran Church at 2726 West Market Street.

Gardening Seminars

A Garden Affair: Fun For All

Akron- Summit County Public Library
Main Library 60 S. High St., Akron
Saturday, April 4, 2009 9 am - 5 pm

9:15 - 10:15 am Amy Berens, Crown Point
Education Specialist presents "Putting Worms to
Work in Your Garden."

10:30 - 11:30 am Marilou Suszko, author of Farms &
Foods of Ohio: from Garden Gate to Dinner Plate,
will discuss her book and show how we can support
local agricultural efforts

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Cathy Morgan will get her hands
dirty and teach us how to plant a successful Herb
container garden.

Professional Chef Sarah Mentzer will follow with a
cooking demonstration showing us how to
incorporate those thriving fresh herbs into your
everyday meals.

1:15 - 2 pm lunch on your own

2 - 3 pm Kristen Hampshire award winning Ohio
author will show us how to create creative container
gardens.

3:15 - 4:15 pm Polly Kaczmarek from Keep Akron
Beautiful will educate us on how to successfully
design large flower beds.

Programs for children and teens will also be held
during the day.

All programs are free and open to the public. No
reservations or tickets are required.

For complete schedule of events log on to
www.akronlibrary.org or call Science & Technology
330.643.09075

Gardening Seminars at Donzell's

Saturday March 14 - "Spring Floral Showcase" a
demonstration of faux floral accents by floral designer
Mary Eagle.

Saturday March 21 - "Bonsai Basics" by Dale Cochoy
of the Akron Bonsai Society.

Saturday March 28 - "Vegetable Gardening" by Lee
Paulson, master gardener.

All seminars start at 11 am The programs are free but
reservations are requested by calling 330-724-0550
ext. 110.

Regional Meetings

The Central Great Lakes Region's Spring Meeting will
be held on Saturday, April 18 at the gatehouse of
Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield. Business meeting at
10 am, lunch at the Fire Mountain restaurant. The
afternoon program will be by David Goerig, County
Agent, OSU Extension for Mahoning County. He will
speak about plant pathology and treatment.

The regional summer conference will be hosted by the
Fort Wayne, Indiana club and will be held at Merry
Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College,
Wolf Lake, Indiana on Friday and Saturday, July 24
and 25.

The theme of the meeting is "Environmentally Sound
in 2009" On Friday July 24 there will be a business
meeting followed by two workshop sessions. At 6:00
pm there will be a barbecue and an interesting activity
at 7:15. Saturday morning will feature a seminar and a
field trip. After lunch they will go to Amish Acres for
the musical "Oklahoma". A Threshers Dinner at 5:00
pm at Amish Acres followed by the presentation of
awards.

An interesting program is planned for spouses who
attend. There will be rooms available at Goshen
College for \$20 a night. Registration is \$75.00.
To reserve contact John Kessen by e-mail at
lakelover60@yahoo.com

Roster Additions

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Our thanks to Vic Giannini for assembling the roster and getting it to the printers, Thanks also to Grace Cochran and Bob Bell who supplied the data for the roster. The rosters were available at the February meeting; much, much better than last year. Good job Vic, Grace and Bob and the rest of you for getting your dues paid early.

Scholarships

The profits from our geranium sale are used to fund the scholarships that our club awards. These scholarships are two \$1000.00 awards to students at The Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. This year the board has decided to limit these scholarships to students from Summit County and surrounding counties. This was decided upon because last year both winners were from other parts of Ohio and the board thought we should award these scholarships to students who are closer to our area.

The scholarship committee, Frank Mitch, Jim Fee and Arthur Britton will go to Wooster soon to interview these applicants. Each year our scholarship committee interviews students from ATI and Ohio State University for the five

scholarships which are given by our national organization. Last year all five of these were recommended by our club. Frank says they are trying to repeat this again this year. Frank and Sam Morlan have gone to the Ohio State campus in Columbus to interview students there. Frank and Bob Bell have gone to Lima to interview a student at the OSU branch there

Seed Exchange

This time of year everyone says “THINK SPRING”. Again it’s that time of year for our annual “Seed Exchange”. Bring all the seeds that you have to share with your fellow gardeners. Also bring containers for the seeds you might choose from the bulk supplies that others may bring. We will also have several hundred packets of seeds available from seed companies. Everyone is welcome to take seeds whether you bring them or not. Happy hunting!

Submitted by Andy Bettick

Home and Garden Show

For the first time this year our club participated in the Home and Garden Show at the IX Center in Brook Park. The Greater Cleveland club asked us to help them man their booth. Our club and the Youngstown club participated with them. Several members of our club manned the booth. Materials from the three clubs were distributed to interested attendees at the show. Many thanks to Frank Mitch who made the arrangements with the Cleveland club. Thanks also to Sam Morlan who obtained seed packets which were stapled to a brochure about our club and distributed. Copies of the December issue of The Garden Gabber were also distributed.

Several of our club members participated in this. They received free admission to the show; the only expense was for parking. The members that participated reported that they had a good time and are recommending that we take part in the show again next year. If you haven’t been to the show at the IX Center it is many times a better show than the Akron show.

Walt Starcher's Gardening Tips for March

1. Lime parts of the garden where you need to bring up the Ph. This should not be done at the same time as the application of manure.
2. Do not be hasty in removing mulch around your plants. Winter kill often occurs when warm days are followed by cold nights.
3. Wood ashes from fireplace or wood burning stove may be put in the garden or compost bin. Ashes contain up to 25% potash. Use at the rate of one half cup per square yard. Ashes from burned paper are considered less beneficial.
4. Aerify your lawn in the spring and fall. This depends upon what type of turf grass you have.

For April

1. Have a certified tree technician spray your shade trees with a fungicide to prevent leaf disease.
2. This is the best time to plant most trees in northern Ohio. Most root growth occurs in the spring and fall.
3. Scratch a bar of soap before going into the garden to work. Dirt under the fingernails then washes out easily.
4. Mount a mailbox on a post in the garden to store small tools.
5. As you watch your spring flowers fade, remember that it is important to leave the foliage of bulbs to ripen and die back.
6. Here are some favorite flowers to attract butterflies to the garden: bee balm, cosmos, morning glory, phlox, aster, verbena, zinnia, coneflower and thistle.
7. A mouse trap attached to the wall of a tool shed can be a glove trap. Gloves hung there will dry quickly and can be easily found.

Frost Dated and Damage

In the Akron-Canton area the normal average last spring frost date is May 3 and the first fall frost October 18. These are average dates so there is a 50% chance that there will be a later date in the spring and an earlier date in the fall.

A light frost is when the temperature falls to 29- 32 degrees F. Tender plants are killed with little destructive effect on other vegetation.

A moderate freeze is at 25 - 28 degrees F. Wide destruction on most vegetation with heavy damage to fruit blossoms and tender semi hardy plants.

A severe freeze is 24 degrees F. and colder. Heavy damage to most plants.