



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



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President:

Clark Bordner
225 Norton Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203-1931
☎ 330-745-4699
email: cbordner@neo.rr.com

1st Vice President:

Sam Morlan
170 Hollybrier Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9475
☎ 330-336-6269
email: samandlora@wadsnet.com

2nd Vice President:

David Lockledge
620 Beaverbrook Dr.
Akron, OH 44333-2820
☎ 330-865-3665
Email: lochledge@cityofcf.com

Secretary:

Marti Williams
2981 Baughman Rd.
Clinton, OH 44216-9331
☎ 330-825-5315

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, May 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, May 16, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Fish Fry and Plant Auction

Our annual fish fry and plant auction is the second largest moneymaking activity that our club has. Members are asked to bring plants and other gardening items that can be sold to fellow club members. So when you clean out your flower beds and divide your perennials bring some to the sale. The auctioneer will, as usual, be Walt Starcher.

This program is a good one to invite visitors to. We will gladly accept their donations.

Board Meeting: May 23 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

I spoke last month about the lingering effects of winter. Little did I know that the cold and rain would persist through the end of April. A lot of the lawns look very full and healthy but trees look to be way behind in production of leaves and buds. Daffodils and tulips look to be very happy. It also seems like dandelions are flourishing, much to our dismay. We must be patient! The warm weather of May is almost here and we should be able to get into our gardens soon.

I was able to attend the regional spring meeting at Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield in April. Our club was very well represented with 11 members there. The regional president is Bob Bell with Leroy Hart taking over for him next year. We heard from many of the officers of the region on a variety of topics. The special presentation was basically on everything you ever want to know about gourds. We even got to accompany the speaker as we played instruments that he made from gourds. It was a very interesting experience. I encourage you to plan to attend the summer conference that will be held in Berlin which is about one hour south of Akron. There is a very ambitious program planned and you can direct questions about this conference to either Leroy Hart or Sam Morlan.

Our club continues to grow. We now have five new members for the year. Please take some time at our dinner meetings if you see someone that you do not know to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club. Our most important asset is the wonderful people that comprise our club. Let us always remember how we felt when we first became members and how grateful we were when members took the time to speak to us and make us feel welcome.

Cheryl and I took part in the first of several clean up days at Arrowhead elementary school in Copley today. Al Eddy, Les Knight, Andy Bettick and Leroy Hart were also there from our club. The weather was perfect for this type of work as we cleaned up and weeded several flower beds. There were probably forty adults and fifteen teenagers working with us and there is much work to be done. For those of you that are unaware of the program at Arrowhead; this school has all types of gardens, a wetlands area, and several ponds that the children attending the school help to maintain. It is one of five schools in the country with this type of program. Al, who is our youth gardening committee chairman, just got word that Betty Jane elementary school in Akron; with funding assistance from Home Depot, is going to start their own program. Our club is going to help get this program off the ground. What an opportunity to involve another group of children in gardening. I believe that all of us would rather see our kids working in a garden than playing video games all day. Al also ordered the pumpkin and sunflower seeds for the nationally sponsored Big Pumpkin/Sunflower contest. He will let us know when the seeds come in.

I wish to thank Sam Morlan for putting together the open forum that we had at our last dinner meeting. I heard some very good comments about this meeting from our membership. I feel that with the wealth of knowledge that the members of our club have about gardening; it is great when we can hear them speak about their areas of expertise. Sam, Mary Ann, and Al put on excellent presentations. I am looking forward to the next meeting which is our plant auction and fish fry. I hope to see more of you come to the dinner meeting. We normally have about 45 members attend when we have close to 100 members in the club. We have a great time of fellowship, a good meal and the opportunity to learn something from experts in different aspects of gardening. Come and renew old friendships or meet new people.

Welcome New Members

Dr. Suzanne and Mitchell Allen, 2685 Sand Run Pkwy, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333 phone 330-607-6424

E-mail sallen1008@aol.com

Suzanne is the VP Development for the Akron Community Foundation Mitch is the owner and publisher of the Mimi Vanderhaven Newspaper.

They list their club interests as publicity and the Crown Point Garden.

They list their gardening interests as annuals, landscaping/lawns, perennials and wildlife.

Neal Raber , 72 River Park Blvd. Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262-1436 phone 330-688-1742-

E-mail ncraber@uakron.edu

Neil is a mathematics professor at the University of Akron. He is married to Jackie Raber.

He says he is undecided about which club activities he prefers

He lists his gardening interests as herbs, landscaping/lawns, and perennials.

He was recommended by Steve Thompson.

Youth Committee Report

What a busy month of April your youth committee has had.

We have met with several youth groups to instruct and teach them how to make paper pots to start seeds for spring planting. Note: if any club member wants to have a copy of paper pot instructions, please let me know and I will have a copy for you at our plant sale May 6,7

Our garden club will continue to meet with youth groups in the first two weeks of May. Our next scheduled group is May 4th at Holy Family School in Stow. If you know of any youth group who would like to learn how to make pots out of newspaper please let me know.

Arrowhead School's Nature Zone is in a clean up mode and our club members are ready to assist. The dates are

Saturday May 21, noon to 4 PM

Saturday June 4, 9 AM to 2 PM

They have the tools on hand and refreshments will be provided. The cleanup is needed to get ready for the Summit County Tour of Gardens on June 25th. Our club members are needed to assist in getting ready for this tour.

If any of our club members would like to assist in providing their skills of gardening this spring and summer please contact me to get involved.

Al Eddy 330-666-3158

Crown Point

A work day is scheduled for Crown Point on Saturday May 28 at 9 AM. The workers at Crown Point would like help in pulling weeds. Bring gloves and knee pads. They are trying to get rid of garlic mustard. This weed is especially hard to get rid of because it can continue to scatter seeds even after it has been pulled. Therefore, it cannot be put on the compost pile but must be bagged and destroyed. Also the flower garden needs weeding. Our club has been working at Crown Point for many years.

OARDC

As part of the program for the regional summer conference I have included a tour of OARDC (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center) in Wooster. I have driven through its campus I and receive its newsletter, but I know very little about OARDC. So I went to its web site www.oardc.ohio-state.edu I thought you might also be interested.

OARDC is part of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, 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 foods, agriculture, family and the environment. OARDC is a premier institution 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.

OARDC has several Agricultural Research Stations (ARS) in various parts of the state where research is done on agricultural issues unique to that part of the state.

The Ashtabula ARS is dedicated to improving production efficiency of grapes for juice and wine.

The Eastern ARS in Noble County was created to increase the agricultural income derived from the hills of eastern Ohio.

The Jackson ARS in southeastern Ohio focuses on efficient beef cattle and forage production.

The oldest ARS is the Muck Crops ARS in Huron County where scientists study leaf and root crops.

North Appalachian Experimental Watershed ARS in Coshocton County was established to search for better farming methods on sloping land to reduce erosion and water runoff. The Pomerene Forestry Laboratory is a part of this ARS. This lab does research on forestry production, which trees are best for the area etc.

Northwest ARS in Wood County is located in an ancient sea bed which has unique soils with unique drainage problems. This lab studies the crops that are grown in this area.

North Central ARS near Fremont in Sandusky County does research on fresh market crops and on tomatoes that are developed for the whole-pack peeled tomato market.

Western ARS near South Charleston in Clark County studies the crops grown in that area: corn, soybeans, pumpkins, alfalfa and forage grasses.

OARDC was hit last September by a tornado that did severe damage to the campus, buildings and greenhouses were destroyed; several research projects were lost. It will be interesting to see how they have rebuilt.

Next door to OARDC is ATI (Agricultural Technical Institute). While OSU through OARDC grants Bachelors, Masters and Doctors degrees ATI grants two year certificates. Our club is more familiar with ATI since we have been granting scholarships to students there for many years. Also two regional summer conferences have been held at ATI.

Part of OARDC is the Seacrest Arboretum with its extensive collection of trees and bushes. The arboretum was also severely damaged by the tornado. They have been replanting.

Part of the arboretum is the Ohio State University's Garden of Roses of Legend and Romance. This is a garden of 1,500 old fashioned roses. We will be stopping at the arboretum.

Leroy Hart, Vice President, Central Great Lakes Region

Walt's Gardening Tips For May

1. Fertilize roses in May. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on the leaves.
2. Mow cool season lawns tall (2 1/2 - 3") through the summer months for a healthier lawn.
3. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds: clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower and cleome.
4. Bugs and diseases will be out in force now. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.

Adult Japanese beetles alone feed on about 275 different plants. Some of their favorites are linden, sassafras, elm and birch. Aphids, spider mites, bagworms and many other insects can cause severe damage if left unchecked. Inspect and treat trees for harmful insects; now is the time that many destructive insects are most vulnerable to pesticides. Look for splotchy, discolored or chewed up leaves, and take action at the first sign of trouble.

For June

1. Check for bagworms and control as needed.
2. Dig up spring flowering bulbs and transplant them when beds become over crowded.
3. Remove spent blossoms from annual and perennial flowers every few days if possible. This prevents formation of seeds and allows the plant's energy to be used for growth and future flowering.
4. Remove weeds before they go to seed and you can put them on your compost pile.
5. Check moisture in hanging baskets and outdoor house plants every day all summer. If temperatures are extremely hot, plants may require watering in early morning and evening.
6. Be sure to fertilize hanging baskets, planters, and containers on a regular schedule during summer months to maintain vigorous, healthy plants.
7. Blossom-end rot appears on the bottom of a tomato as a large black or brown sunken area. It is caused by fluctuating water supply that results in a lack of calcium supplied to the plant. Deep root water every 7 to 10 days. Apply organic mulch.
8. It is best to harvest in the morning for maximum flavor. This includes vegetables and herbs. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day.
9. After your vegetables are well established, it is best to water them thoroughly once a week rather than giving them a light watering daily.
10. Plant tropical water lilies after the water temperature rises above 70%.
11. Lift tulip bulbs once the greenery has died back. Clean and dry them, and store them in a cool place until fall. If you choose to leave them in the ground, don't forget to fertilize them.