



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, October 15

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, October 15, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: The Memorial Dining Room
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Program: Keep Akron Beautiful

A representative from Keep Akron Beautiful will present a program about what they are planning for next year. This group is responsible for planting and maintaining beautiful garden spots all over the city.

At the past couple of board meetings the board has discussed the things the club should be doing in the future. Assisting with Keep Akron Beautiful in some manner has been one suggestion.

Come to the meeting, see what this group has planned for next year and we can discuss with the speaker how our club might be able to help.

October's ten minute talk will be given by Les Knight. His topic will be a follow up on the purple martins.

Don't forget to bring items for the Silent Auction.

All members are welcome to attend the board meeting on Monday October 22 at 7 pm at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive..

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

A Message from Your President - Bob Bell

My first order of business this month is to provide a safety contact. “Don’t stand on an unsafe stool on the top of a stairwell when working overhead.” Ouch!!!

Fall has arrived. The leaves are beginning to turn color and fall. The colors may not last long this year because of the weird weather this summer. Now is a good time to aerate the lawn with tines or taking plugs. Everyone says that this is also a great time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials as long as you keep them watered before the ground freezes. Most all of the nurseries are having big sales. I hope you were able to take advantage of our first plant exchange.

Marti Williams is getting good response from past presidents for the dinner in November. If you are a past club president and you don’t hear from her, call Marti or myself if you can attend.

In last month’s letter, we published a list of ideas for our club, directions we might want to go in. We received some comments from members at the dinner meeting, although not as many as I hoped for. At the last board meeting, we went through the list and eliminated duplicates and those we won’t pursue, leaving us with the following list. We need your participation. Please go through the list and rank them. Even if you pick your top two or three that would help. Cut out the ranked list and give it to a board member. Better yet, bring the list with you to the next board meeting. Note particularly the last item.

Member recruiting – more, better, improve

Maintain scholarship program

Assist Akron area organizations, Adopt-a-Spot, etc.

Free member plant and produce exchange (like seed exchange)

Develop a new member nurturing/mentoring system

Prepare and circulate a member survey periodically

Youth gardening – expand, enhance

Web site committee – enhance Akron Club’s site, Frank Mitch is looking for help (by the way, Frank deserves an extra pat on the back for his work on the web site)

Track dinner reservations – who isn’t coming, make follow up contacts, make sure things are OK, etc.

Have a question and answer session at dinners for gardening tips and help

Build or buy a Greenhouse for club – many of the more robust clubs have a greenhouse

Club members take trips as group

Enhance clubs mini horticulture show – too much dead air time

Assist children in hospital to plant small plants

Merge with other clubs

One item from the list was to hold a short business meeting during our dinners. We will begin doing that this month while you are eating dessert.

Come to the Board Meeting Monday, October 22nd at the **Fairlawn Park and Garden Center**. 7:00 PM

Gardening Advice Given

In the last issue the editor told how he had lost all of his glad bulbs over the winter and he asked for advice on over-wintering glad bulbs. Bill Lanning from the Findlay club and the grower of thousands of glads replies:

I will give you a condensed version of how I dig my glads. Usually, approximately six to eight weeks after they flower is when I start digging. Right now is a good time even if some of them are still blooming. Usually by mid to late September they are pretty well bloomed out and by digging them now you may end up with a few small corms, but most will be full size. I take a spading fork straight down along side the plants and lift them out part way. I then take hold of the stock and cut the corm off with a pair of pruners as close to the corm as I can get. I have a basket to catch the corm and cormels. At this time you have a choice of how you want to treat them. You may simply let them dry for two to four weeks and then remove the old corm. The way I do it is, as soon as I have them dug, I wash them and soak them for about 1/2 hour in one of two solutions. The one solution I use sometimes is simply a nine to one ratio of bleach to water. This is probably the fastest and easiest way. When I have lots of time, I mix up a solution of an insecticide, fungicide and one cup vinegar per five gallons of water. The vinegar is to make the water acidic so it will absorb into the corms at a better rate. The other ingredients are used according to label directions with a little more fungicide than is called for. I dry them for a month or more in a well ventilated area, then I remove the cormels and the old mother corms. I then place them in paper sacks or plastic baskets in a cold storage area that is kept above freezing. I do not close the top of the bags or I do not cover the baskets.

You may keep the cormels for new planting stock the following year or you may discard them, but I always keep mine to increase my stock.

The editor also had another problem: he has never been

able to make an amaryllis rebloom. Andy Bettick provided an answer and the editor will share it with you

The amaryllis will bloom in six to eight weeks from the time it is potted and watered.

POTTING: Place two inches of growing medium the bottom of the pot. Set the amaryllis in the pot, sprout side up. Gently pack the soil between the roots and around the bulb, leaving approximately one third of the bulb exposed. If already planted then simply water.

WATERING: Water sparingly until the sprout is well out of the bulb. Then water regularly. Rotate the pot often to make the stalk grow straight up as the plant will grow toward the light.

AFTERCARE: Once the bulb is no longer blooming, cut off the stalk close to the base. Keep the bulb in the pot and continue to water and fertilize. New foliage will grow. Stop watering and feeding in August/September. Allow the bulb to dry out in the pot. In early fall remove the bulb from the pot and clean off dead scales. Clean the pot out and replace with new soil. Repot bulb in the same container. In about eight weeks the bulb will bloom again.

If you have visited Andy Bettick's home you have been impressed with the beautiful mandevilla plant he has growing outside the garage. He bought the plant from Dayton's; it was about two feet tall. It has taken off. Andy put in a hook at the top of the garage and ran a cord for the plant to follow. It has grown to the hook and looped over and started back, about twenty feet in length. It is covered with blooms. The problem is that Andy doesn't know how to over-winter it. This plant is very popular and some of you may be facing the same problem. The editor's wife searched the internet and found this information about the mandevilla. As the night begin to cool off the plant will slow down so now is the time to give it some food to harden it up for the long winter. (cont. on page 4)

Try to use a liquid fertilizer with a high middle number e. g. 10-56-14 (lightly) since you can cause fertilizer burn. We are not trying to promote growth but to toughen the plant up. Don't go overboard with the fertilizer; let the plant stay outside as long as possible. It should be able to handle high 40's for brief periods.

After about three weeks (if you can hold out that long, weather permitting) prune the plant back. Not just tipping the plant but cutting it down to about 12 inches above the soil line.

Next begin slowing up on the water and let the plant run on the dry side. Since the plant has been given some fertilizer and a lot of its growth has been removed the requirement for water should be less.

When bringing the plant inside place it in as much light as possible. You are looking for maintenance not growth. Some quick new growth may be seen but try to maintain it. Try to maintain the plant on the dry side throughout the winter.

When spring comes move the plant outside. Expect the growth produced during the winter to be burned off.

Some people place the plant in a clear plastic bag and over winter it in a heated garage.

The author of the article said that he cannot guarantee that this method will work, it is a guideline that has worked for others.

Member News

It has been reported that a former member, Mel Burns, passed away last month in Black Mountain, North Carolina. He had left the club about 10 years ago.

Horticulture Show

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, the director of our horticulture show reports the following results: The winner of the Marsh Greenlun Big Blue Award was Jim Bell with 31 blue ribbons. Cathy Morgan, Frank Mitch, Mary Ann Rich and Roger White also had lots of blues!

Jim Bell won the Best of Show Award with his entry of multiple succulents in a pot.

Mary Bell was the second Best of Show with an orchid.

Mary Ann Rich was third Best of Show with a sunflower.

Zak Besserman was Youth Best of Show grades K-5
Amelia Britton was Youth Best of Show grades 6-8.

Best of Section winners were:

Vegetables - Chris White Moore, Roger's daughter, - red bell peppers

Ornamentals - Jim Bell - gourds

Fruits - Bob Bell - raspberries

Basket of Vegetables - Mary Ann Rich

Herbs - Cathy Morgan

Annuals - Mary Ann Rich

Perennials - Jim Bell - dahlia

Roses- Roger Hite - Knockout Red

Hosta - Arthur Britton

Woody Shrub or Tree - Jim Bell

Cactus - Jim Bell

Succulents- Jim Bell

Potted Plants - Mary Bell - orchid

Hanging Baskets - Leroy Hart - fern

Arrangements - Frank Mitch

Men's Garden Club Geranium - Jim Bell

The show was considered to have been a success in spite of the weather which may have cut down on the number of entries, Some members reported that their flowers and vegetables were already past by show time. Maybe an earlier show time next year? The library is an ideal location and they are happy to have the show.

Another Big Decision

President Bob Bell, at the last board meeting, announced that the club must make another big decision before the end of the year. He said that he had been informed that our caterer, the Medical Services Bureau, has decided to go out of the catering business. They are the owners of the building and they lease it to the caterer. When we first went to this location the caterer was called Peg’s Catering. After she went out of business the caterer became vino La Bella. When he went out of business the Medical Services Bureau decided to run the business themselves using the cooks and waitresses from the previous caterers. When they didn’t male enough money they decided to shut down the business,

We have been told that the caterer would honor their commitment with us for the rest of the year, but if we left sooner, they would not be unhappy. In other words get out as soon as possible. So the board agreed that we would start looking for a new location right away, but we won't be forced into making a rash and hurried decision.

The Women's’ City Club. Guy’s Party Center and St. George’s Church on Ridgewood Road were seen as possible locations. The board would like the membership to make suggestions as to possible locations. Someone checked on Tangiers but the board felt that their price of \$17.00 was too high. We would like to have a central location, if possible, and the location having a bar would be a plus. or at least the option of bringing your own drink. In the past every time we moved we have lost members; let’s not have that happen this time. Let’s try to make this a move that will be acceptable to the whole club.

2008 Dues Are Due!

- Regular Members - \$35.00 _____
- Life Members - \$15.00 _____
- Associate Members - \$15.00 _____
- Family Life Members - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$40.00 _____
- Family Regular Member - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$60.00 _____
- New Life Membership - at any age - One time payment of \$200.00 _____

Please complete the following form , enclose your check and mail to:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address (if OK to print in club roster) _____

Amount enclosed _____