



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 Region

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Monday, September 19

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, September 19, 2011

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Butterflies

Our speaker this month is Judy Semroc and her collaborator and co author of probably the most definitive book on butterflies in Ohio. Many pictures along with an entertaining presentation.

We are also going to try something new. It was mentioned at the last meeting that some members would like to bring samples of their favorite foods that they have either canned or made from fresh produce. This could be jams; jellies; sauerkraut; honey; salsa; heirloom tomatoes; wine; cheeses; along with an appropriate way to serve and taste these delights (crackers bread etc) The club will provide paper plates and forks. I know a lot of you make some awesome stuff.

Board Meeting: September 26 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

The roller coaster that is Ohio weather continues as I write this message on Labor Day. Temperatures in the 90s two days ago and now it feels like fall is here. I sometimes wonder if the type of weather that we have had this year is as confusing to plant life as it is to us. Even though plants are resilient, this year seems to have taken its toll as evidenced by the horticultural show. The entries were excellent, however as Cheryl and I can attest; it was very difficult to find specimens that were show quality. Perhaps that is why we did not have as many entries this year as in the past.

Some people have questioned the judging and the fact that judges in our club seem to win most of the major awards. A person trained as a judge should know the rules and how to best present flowers and plants at a show such as this. Jim Bell has offered to conduct a judging clinic for club members. I would like to see some of our members avail themselves of this opportunity. Taking a clinic such as this does not obligate the participants to judge anything. However, the knowledge gained would definitely be beneficial in producing and presenting show quality flora. I believe that if there are set standards in a competition such as the horticultural show; the judges are obliged to honor them. As long as everyone knows the rules, the competition should be fair. I believe that the judges did a very good job of explaining their choices. Of course this type of judging is subjective and everyone may not agree with the results. I consider it a challenge for us to have entries that not only are pleasing to us but are worthy of recognition by the judging establishment.

We will have elections in the next few months. I have not heard whether we have potential nominees for the position of second vice president. If elected, the second vice president would normally serve in that position for one year, move to first vice president the second year and then become president. I can tell you that I enjoyed all three positions with my present position as president definitely the most rewarding. I urge members that are interested in this as well as other capacities in our club to contact any officer with your desire to serve and the position desired.

I am really excited about the direction the club is taking as far as working with other clubs in our region. Sam Morlan is in contact with the Cleveland and Youngstown clubs to create a booth that equally represents all three clubs. In the past, the booth reflected primarily the Cleveland club, even though we did man it. I can see this booth coming to our area in the future as we seek to enlist more new members through this type of venue. I am also excited about going to the Cleveland club's dinner meeting in October with Sam and Frank Mitch. We are talking about a combined dinner meeting next year with them. I believe that both clubs would benefit from a time of fellowship with fellow gardeners. I know that we thoroughly enjoyed the regional conference this summer and the people that we met there.

In the next couple of months, the executive board will present the revised by laws to the membership for approval. A great deal of work has gone into making this a document that not only meets the needs of the state but truly represents what is best for the members of our club. Of particular interest is the inclusion of how our endowment fund operates. This fund was established in the 1990s but the parameters of the fund were not clearly outlined. I look forward to the presentation of the by laws to our membership as I am very proud of this document and all of the efforts that produced it.

Thank you for your support and best regards, Clark

Member News

Life member Ralph E. Bowman passed away on August 8, 2011. He was 92 years old. Ralph was an Army veteran of World War II. He was employed as a carpenter.

He is survived by his wife Betty Bowman.

Horticulture Show

Thank you to all who brought entries and clerked. Our show was a successful evening again! We had 18 club members entering and around a hundred entries. That is somewhat less than last year, but this has been an unusual gardening seasoning. Here are our big winners:

Best of Show: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich with a basil topiary

Second Best of Show: Jim Bell with his fairy garden

Third Best of Show: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich with a potted begonia

People's Choice Award: Jim Bell's Fairy Garden

Big Blue: 18 Blues Jim Bell

Section Award Winners:

A - Annuals: M.A. Ferguson-Rich

B - Perennials: Bob Bell

C - Vegetables: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

D - Fruit: Jim Bell

E - Herbs: M.A. Ferguson-Rich

F - Herbs in Containers: M.A. Ferguson-Rich

G - Corms, Bulbs, Tubers: (missing data)

H - Orchids in Pots: Jim Bell

I - Flowering Plants in Pots: Andrew Lehman

J - Foliage Plants in Pots: (missing data)

K - Hanging Baskets: Marti Williams

L - Fairy Gardens: Jim Bell

M - Foliage (cut specimens): Jim Bell

O - Cactus and Succulents in Pots: Jim Bell

P - Largest Tomato: Walt Starcher

Q - Longest zucchini: Jim Bell

S - Trees and Shrubs: (missing data)

If you were a Section Winner in G, J, or S, please let the show chairman know. We did not have marked cards indicating who won these sections.

Thanks to all those who entered: Bob Bell, Jim Bell, Les Knight, Andy Bettick, Walt Starcher, Frank Field, Valerie Becker, M.A. Ferguson-Rich, Marti Williams, Roger Hite, Jack Cochran, Colleen Bowyer, Leroy Hart, Andrew Lehman, Barbara M. Croghan, Chris Godard, Dave Hawkins, Claire Reinke

Regional Meeting

The Central Great Lakes Gardeners will have a meeting on October 8 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Business meeting at 10 am, lunch at the Golden Corral and program by Tom Dayton. Next year's officers will be installed. Ride pool at Lee Hart's at 8:30.

Following is a copy of the revised bylaws for Gardeners of Greater Akron. The committee has presented them to the board of directors who have agreed to have the membership vote on accepting or rejecting the revised bylaws at our meeting on September 19, 2011. Passage requires a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance.

Bob Bell

**BYLAWS
of the
GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON, OHIO, INCORPORATED**

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization is known as the Gardeners of Greater Akron. The organization was founded as Akron Men's Garden Club in September 1937, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization on May 11, 1956, in the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The club shall operate exclusively for educational, scientific and charitable purposes: to promote gardening as a desirable hobby for adults and youth, to develop those skills, to encourage the use of gardens as a means for the beautification of communities and other appropriate areas, to cooperate with other organizations and persons interested in gardening and to encourage qualified members to share their knowledge and abilities.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

All persons interested in gardening who reside within the greater Akron, Ohio area are eligible for membership upon submitting an application and paying the amount of annual dues then in effect. The following classes of membership are available with dues payable as set forth in Article IX – Annual, Life, Associate and Honorary. All members of the club shall also become members of The Gardeners of America and the Central Great Lakes Gardeners.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

The elected officers of the club shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. An Assistant Secretary and/or Assistant Treasurer may be appointed by the board of directors whenever deemed necessary. Officers shall be elected in October of each year and installed in December to serve during the succeeding year. Any vacant offices which may occur between annual elections shall be appointed by the board of directors

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors shall consist of the current elected officers, the past presidents for the previous three years and the chairmen of standing committees as set forth in Article VIII. The board of directors shall meet on the fourth Monday of each month and determine all policies and activities, and have a general management of the club. Five board members must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

General membership meetings shall be held on the third Monday of each month if possible, wherein the activities shall be devoted to appropriate programs on gardening subjects, new developments and techniques, exhibits, general discussions and necessary announcements. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

In August of each year, the President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of the immediate three past presidents or any others deemed necessary and qualified. All members are requested to indicate to such committee their desire to hold an office in the club.

Such committee shall contact and select those members who are considered to be qualified and will accept the responsibility as an elected officer. A slate of those selected shall be submitted to the general membership meeting in October of each year for election. More than one name may be offered for the office of Second Vice President since the offices of President and First Vice President are normally filled by the progressive method. If a second name is proposed an election by ballot shall be held.

ARTICLE VIII- COMMITTEES

The desired and necessary committees shall be appointed annually by the President with the concurrence of the board of directors. Standing committees shall consist of: Telephone, Advertising, Publicity, Youth, Membership, Endowment Fund, Editor of *The Garden Gabber* and such others as appointed by the President.

ARTICLE IX – DUES

The amounts of dues shall be determined by the board of directors and if raised or lowered shall be submitted to the general membership for approval by a majority affirmative vote of the members present at a regular meeting. The amount of annual dues is based on three factors: (a) the portion to be remitted to The Gardeners of America; (b) the portion to be remitted to the Central Great Lakes Gardeners; and (c) the portion to be retained by the local club. Types of membership are:

- (1) Annual Membership – Amount of dues payable annually is based on all three factors.
- (2) Life Membership – Requires payment of an amount to The Gardeners of America as determined by The Gardeners of America with factors (b) and (c) above applicable to the amount of dues payable annually.
- (3) Associate Membership – Available only to annual and life members of other affiliated clubs with factor (c) above applicable to the amount of annual dues.
- (4) Honorary Membership – Available only by action of the board of directors in recognition of services rendered to the club.

New members joining between January and June shall pay the full annual rate indicated by (1) above while those joining between July and September shall pay one-half thereof, and those joining in or after October shall pay the full annual rate which will cover the next calendar year also. In succeeding years, all dues will become payable on September 30. All dues must be paid by January 1 of each year in order to be included in the club roster for that calendar year.

ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the club and shall in general supervise and control all business, activities and affairs of the club. The President shall preside at all meetings of both the general membership and the board of directors and may call special meetings if deemed necessary. The President may sign with any other officer any instruments which the board has authorized to be executed. The President shall perform any other duties designated by the board.

Section 2 – First Vice President. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. The First Vice President shall be responsible for and provide the programs which are presented each month. The nominating committee shall consider him eligible to assume the Presidency in the following year.

Section 3 – Second Vice President. In the absence of the President and First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. The Second Vice President shall be responsible for the organization and success of projects of the club as designated by the President and board. When Vice Presidents are acting as President, they shall have all powers and be subject to restrictions of the office of President. Second Vice President shall be responsible for ten minute speaker programs and beautification awards.

Section 4 – Secretary. The principal duties of the Secretary shall be to (1) record the minutes of all meetings of the board and of the general membership, if necessary, (2) act as the Statutory Agent of the club, (3) perform correspondence and other duties normally associated with the office of Secretary, and (4) perform other services as necessary.

Section 5 – Treasurer. The principal duties of the Treasurer shall be to (1) record the receipt and identity of all funds, (2) maintain appropriate bank accounts or investments, (3) issue checks for expenses incurred in the name of the Club and (4) submit a financial statement at each meeting of the board. If funds are received for a specific purpose, separate records are to be maintained. All funds are to be deposited in banks selected by the board. Other duties include maintaining the membership records and soliciting dues from members in arrears, providing lists of members for National and the Region, and publishing an annual roster. The board of directors shall designate other officers who are authorized to sign checks in the absence of or the inability of the Treasurer to act. The Treasurer shall be bonded. Annual financial report and budget shall be prepared by the treasurer with Presidential review and presented to the board in January.

ARTICLE XI – ENDOWMENT FUND

1. A standing Endowment Fund Committee will be made up of 5 members. The chair will serve as a member of the board of directors.
 - 1.1. Elected officers will not serve on the Endowment Fund Committee.
2. Following are the Committee duties:
 - 2.1. Solicit contributions.
 - 2.2. Review the Quarterly Reports of the Akron Community Foundation (ACF).
 - 2.3. Prepare quarterly reports for our board of directors.
 - 2.4. Recommend to the board of directors, for their decision, uses for the ACF distributions.
3. The Endowment Fund Chairperson will be the contact between the GOGA and the ACF.
4. In the event of any unforeseen contingency by reason of which expenditure of the principal of the fund is necessary to accomplish a specific project that promotes the purposes of GOGA, such invasion of principle shall be permitted after the GOGA board of directors receives approval from the membership. Said approval must be a two-thirds vote in favor taken at a regular monthly meeting. A request by resolution shall be submitted to the ACF by the GOGA board of directors, and said resolution shall state the date, time and location of the meeting at which the vote was taken. The board of directors of the ACF must approve the request. Approval of the ACF's board of directors shall rest on an independent investigation by the staff of the ACF as to whether the proposed expenditure is consistent with the ACF's purposes, and shall not be unreasonably withheld.

ARTICLE XII – OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

An editor shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the board. The publication shall be known as *The Garden Gabber* and issued each month so that members will receive a copy several days before the monthly meeting. The board shall keep the editor advised as to policies, objectives and programs.

ARTICLE XIII- AMENDMENTS

The above bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters present at a regular meeting of the club, provided the proposed amendments and notice of the vote has been sent to each active member at least (10) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV – TERMINATION

Should this club cease to function or be terminated for any reason, any funds of the club that remain will be donated to another organization of like character operating as a non-profit, non-taxable corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

ARTICLE XV

The club shall cooperate with The Gardeners of America in its program to promote a full appreciation of gardening, to promote higher ideals among garden devotees, to promote protective laws and higher gardening standards, to promote in the hearts of children the love of growing and enjoying plants, to promote enduring friendships, civic activities and the interest of the public in the individual and private gardens and community plots and parks.

No part of this club’s net earnings will inure to the benefit of private individuals. The club will not attempt to influence legislation or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office.

There is a reasonable basis in law and in fact that this organization is not a private foundation and that to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned officers, the information is complete and correct.

The bylaws of the Gardeners of Greater Akron shall be reviewed by the board of directors every four years. The next scheduled review will be conducted during the calendar year of 2015. Any changes or other recommendations will be presented to the club at the September dinner meeting of that year.

These revised bylaws of the Gardeners of Greater Akron were approved by a two-thirds vote of qualified voters at a regular meeting of the club on September 19, 2011 and replace previous bylaws dated April 29, 1998.

President _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

Committee:

Authur Britton – Chairperson

Clark Bordner – President

Andy Bettick