



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.,
The Men's Garden Clubs of America, Central Great Lakes Gardeners

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Monday, March 17

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 17, 2014

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George's Fellowship Center

St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church

3204 Ridgewood Road

Copley OH

Program: Ken Cochran

Our speaker, Ken Cochran will talk about educational programs and natural beauty

Board Meeting: March 24 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://gogakron.org>

Presidents Message - Arthur Britton

OK, I don't know about you folks, but I have had my fill of winter and am really looking forward to spring and the average temp to be met not just something to wish for. March has come in like a lion and hopefully will, as the saying goes, leave like a lamb. Only time will tell. Some of the folks that I have heard on the radio and talked to in person are saying that snow mold is going to be a problem and that they are predicting a lot of flooding and water standing in low lying areas because of all of the snow. At this point and time I would agree with them and due to the wind chill that we all experienced, some of the fruit trees might not have made it, only time will tell. Yes, this has been a very tough winter. I bring these items up as a reminder to those who have gardened for a while and as something to keep in mind for those who might be new to gardening.

At the February board meeting it was decided to take some of the money that we have sitting in the savings account and donate it to some sort of program that is already established and help them out. If we are not able to donate people and time then, since we have some money, we could use it and help out that way. An example of this is maybe giving to a community garden? I and the board members are asking for names of where to donate to and to please contact me or a board member and we will review to try to get money to that organization/group.

Please also consider attending the Regional Summer Conference July 18th and 19th it is close and a lot of learning and fun will be enjoyed by those who are able to attend.

Photos are something that Al Eddy took a lot of and we only have so much room to store the photos. So we are going to bring the albums in and if your yard is in there and you would like to have it please take it. We are only able to keep a few and would like to find a good home for the rest of the photos.

Please also make sure to sign up to help for the Geranium sale, we will need someone to keep an eye on them on Friday night.

I hope that all is well with you all and that you are able to stay healthy and warm See you on 3-17-14, St. Patrick's Day.

May we all continue to enjoy gardening.

Central Great Lakes Gardeners Spring Meeting

Tom Davis, President of the CGLG reminds us that the spring meeting of the region will be Saturday, April 5 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield: social time at 9:30 am, meeting at 10:00 am. Since most of the clubs in the region hold a plant sale for the club's primary fund raiser Tom will be holding a special meeting at 11:00 am to discuss plant sales. Plant sale chairmen should attend but all are invited to share their ideas about plant sales. Lunch at the Golden Corral. Try to stay together so you will receive the senior rate and a free drink. The speaker will be Bob Rensel from the Cleveland Botanical Garden and the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland on the subject of Therapeutic Gardening.

As usual for these meetings a ride pool will form at Leroy Hart's. We must leave no later than 8:00 am.

Letter from Sam Morlan SUMMER CONFERENCE 2014:

I would like to welcome all of you that are interested in attending The Great Lakes Regional Conference this summer to be held in Akron.

Friday we will meet at The Holiday Inn for our business meeting and Horticulture show at 1:00P.M. I am planning a garden tour in the afternoon for a few hours and will finish the day with dinner at the hotel. Saturday we will be touring Stan Hywet Hall, the Tudor style mansion built by F.A. Seiberling, the founder of Goodyear and later Seiberling Tire and Rubber Co. I know many of our local members have been there but if you haven't seen the grounds in a few years it has greatly improved. I visited last summer and was very surprised at how the gardens have been expanded. The new butterfly house is a real treat as is the succulent house. Noon will find us at Papa Joe's for lunch. After lunch we will go to Seiberling Nature Realm which is one of Akron's metro Parks for a tour. If we have time on our way to dinner we may stop at The Mustill Store, a restored canal store with a very interesting history. Dinner will be at The Spaghetti Warehouse, an Italian restaurant housed in part of what once was a B.F.Goodrich building. I hope to have a speaker at this event to tell us a bit about the canal and its role in putting Akron on the map. I will have more details at the Spring meet. Any questions feel free to call or email Sam Morlan 330-336-6269 Lorasam88@gmail.com

2013 Was Great for the GOGA Endowment Fund

Our GOGA Endowment Fund with the Akron Community Foundation ended up with outstanding results last year. Here are some highlights:

- Total annual net increase from investments: 18.4 %
- 4th quarter net increase from investments: 5.8 %
- Total 2013 contributions from members: \$750.00
- Total now available for grants: \$2,167.47
- 2013 Ending balance: \$15,812.53

Many thanks to Bob Bell as chair and Grace Cochran for their dedicated service on the committee for the past 3 years and for assisting with the start of it in 2011. They have asked to retire from the committee. Roger Hite and Les Knight are taking their place on the committee. Also a lot of thanks to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich and Christine Freitag for continued service on the committee.

Frank Mitch, Committee Chair

Garlic Mustard Pull

When: April 12, rain date April 19. Where: Crown Point Ecology Center, 3220 Ira RD 44210

We will meet at 9:30 AM and have a short orientation with coffee and donuts about what we are doing: to try and help eradicate some invasive species that are taking over our woodlands. I have arranged for a scout troop to be there to help tote and carry for us and get some community hours they need. If we have enough volunteers, the scouts may fix us a campfire lunch.

You will need some basic tools (gloves, pruning saws, loppers ,pruning shears, if you have them) We will try to supply most of the tools.

Central Great Lakes Gardeners



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 E-mail lorasam88@gmail.com

Call or email me with any questions

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
 Club: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Friday Dinner Choice:
 Chicken marsala Roast beef
 Baked Scrod
 Check if Vegetarian Diet

One form for each person. Registration fee for each \$95. Make check payable to "Gardeners of Greater Akron." Put "Summer Conf." on the memo line.

Mail check and this form to: Leroy Hart
 633 Schoalag Rd., Akron, OH 44320

I need a roommate! yes no (circle one)
Reservation Deadline is July 1, 2014

2014 Summer Conference Central Great Lakes Gardeners July 18-19, 2014

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, July 18

- Lunch on your own.
- 12:00-1:00 PM Bring your plants for judging. Conference Registration at the Holiday Inn West
- 1:00-2:30 Business Meeting at Holiday Inn West
- 3:00-5:00 Garden tour
- 5:00-6:00 Cocktails in lobby of Holiday Inn West
- 6:00 Dinner: choose 1 on registration form
 Baked scrod; Chicken marsala; Roast beef

Saturday July 19

- Breakfast Holiday Day Inn West (included in room rate)
- 9:30 Leave for Stan Hywet
- 10:00-12:00 Tour Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch at Papa Joe's
- 1:30-3:00 Tour MetroParks Nature Realm
- 3:00-4:30 Visit Mustill Store on Ohio & Erie Canal
- 5:00-5:30 Cocktails at Spaghetti Warehouse
- 5:30 Closing dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse

CGLG 2014 Summer Conference

We will stay overnight at The Holiday Inn West. Cost is \$94 per night plus tax. This cost is not in the registration fee. The phone number for room reservations is 330-666-4131. Make reservations under "Great Lakes Gardeners".

Make your reservations at the Holiday Inn West by June 15, 2014. We have rooms reserved for July 18 and 19 (Friday and Saturday). Breakfast is included in room rate. All rooms have Internet access, but are non-smoking and no pets

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The Holiday Inn West
 4073 Medina Road (Route 18)
 Akron, Ohio 44333

FROM THE SOUTH

Take I-77 North to Exit #137A (Medina Road). Hotel immediately on left when exiting I-77. Go to the first red light (Springside Drive)

FROM THE NORTH

Take I-77 South to Exit #137B (Medina Road) Turn Left on Medina Road, go under I-77 to the first red light (Springside Drive)

On Medina Road the Holiday Inn West is the first business on the left. At the first red light turn left onto Springside Drive, and then into parking lot shared with the hotel and First Merit bank.

Walt's Gardening Tips

March---

1. Do not be hasty in removing mulch from around your plants. Winter kill often occurs when warm days are followed by cold windy nights.
2. Lime parts of the garden where you need to bring up the pH. This should not be done at the same time you apply manure.
3. Get plant beds and seed boxes ready. Change the soil in the boxes and check for needed repairs.
4. Nine mistakes most often made by the beginner:
 1. Rushing the season.
 2. Planting too deep.
 3. over fertilizing.
 4. Poor watering practices.
 5. Selecting varieties not appropriate for the locale.
 6. Too large of a garden.
 7. Sowing seeds too thick.
 8. Rough transplanting.
 - and 9. Lack of protection after planting.
5. Wood ashes from the fireplace or stove may be put on the garden or in the compost bin. Ashes contain up to 25% potash. Use at the rate of one half cup per square yard.
6. Flowering shrubs should be pruned immediately after flowering in the spring. Buds for next year's flowers will start to form in early summer.
7. Presoak large and thick-skinned seeds for one hour before planting to speed germination.
8. Thin out dead or weak canes of climbing roses.
9. Some favorite flowers to attract butterflies are bee balm, cosmos, morning glory, phlox, aster, verbena, zinia, coneflower, and thistle.
10. If your perennial beds are dull and dreary, take a Sunday drive and observe gardens around town for next year.
11. To make the vegetable garden easier to till and maintain, group perennial plants (asparagus, etc.) along one side of the plot, out of the way of annual plants.
12. Soak roots of bare root apple, cherry, and peach trees overnight before planting. If this differs from advice from the nursery, follow the nursery's advice.
13. Plant and display your containers and baskets in sheltered areas now. Try a combination of pansy, grape hyacinth, heather, and narcissus.
14. Now is a good time to transplant house plants to a new pot. It will give them a new start and fresh soil.

April---

1. Cut back large-flowered hybrid clematis this month for best flower production in summer.
2. Mount a mail box in garden area to store small tools.
3. It is important to leave the foliage of spring blooming bulbs to ripen and die back after blooms fade. The foliage is manufacturing food for next year's flowers.
4. A mouse trap mounted to the wall in the garden shed can hold gloves to dry and they can be easily found.
5. When transplanting : A. Remove all flowers to overcome shock B. Use a starter solution of liquid fertilizer C. Transplant on a cloudy day or use a shading device for a few days if the weather is hot and sunny.
6. Harden off plants before planting in the garden. Gradually acclimate them to conditions in the garden. Place them outdoors for a few hours a day, and then gradually increase the outdoor time until the plant is left out over night. A cold frame makes the process easier.
7. To control iris borer, clean up and destroy old foliage before new growth begins.
8. Apply complete slow-release fertilizer to established roses. Begin weekly sprays to control black spot and mildew.
9. Keep indoor seedlings and root cuttings cool. Give them plenty of light for bushy compact growth.