



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, November 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, November 19, 2012
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: Awards Night

Barbara Croghan, Second Vice President, will present the beautification awards. She has pictures of the various gardens she visited. Also on the program is the presentation of the club's service awards for the members' work for the club for the year.

We will be having a special guest for the evening. She is Virginia Williams, the winner of our sunflower and pumpkin contests. President Morlan will present her with a prize.

Board Meeting: November 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 - Sam Morlan

Another growing season has passed with its unique set of problems and rewards. We have ended the year with enough rain to help alleviate some of the potential problems caused by the drought. We will know more in the spring. I am always amazed at how each growing season comes with a unique set of circumstances, weather being the driver of all that happens in our garden. We can mitigate some of these problems with different gardening techniques: irrigation, row covers, pest management, raised beds, crop rotation ,crop choices, the list goes on. The key is educating ourselves. There are many sources of information, the internet being, I think, the most efficient way to go. Use .gov or .edu sites as a primary source for research information.

November is the month of Thanksgiving as we all know, but the history of the holiday is steeped in a variety of traditions. Many cultures in the northern hemisphere have celebrated for a very long time some type of harvest feasts. Some were to pay homage to the gods for a plentiful harvest, others as a time to rejoice in their good fortune and enjoy the fruits of their labor. The farther we get from our agrarian past we lose sight of how critically important a successful harvest was to our ancestors. It literally meant survival many times.

Our Thanksgiving Day in The United States is a tribute to the Pilgrims and Puritans that landed at Plymouth Rock. They left England to escape religious persecution but found it a hard go in the new world. The native population came to the rescue teaching the new comers how and what to grow. Pumpkins, corn, and the use of fish as a fertilizer were all new to them. It is ironic but they believed that a thanksgiving celebration should be a day of prayer and fasting. Our world is totally changed with world markets for food, producing and distributing millions of pounds of food. Yet there is hunger in many parts of the world due to war, weather and ignorance. I want to encourage you to find it in your hearts to think about donating to the many food and relief agencies. My favorite is The Red Cross. They prefer cash and do a great job with the money they receive.

I also would like to make a request for door prize donations which could be anything from books to yard art or tools that you no longer need or want. Thanks

I would like to encourage participation in our rejuvenated endowment fund. The fund is intended to take us into the future financially as a relatively safe place to invest. We also need to invest in ourselves by volunteering and trying to recruit new members.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Habitat Accident

At the last work day at Habitat one of our members was injured. Al Eddy was in the house and wanted to go into the garage. He opened the door and stepped out. He fell four feet and landed on his face. There was no light in the garage and somebody had removed the steps and didn't tell that they were gone. Andy took Al home. Several hours later Al began to have a great deal of pain. He went to the emergency room; they said he had a broken rib, fortunately it hadn't shattered and punctured some internal organ. Needless to say his face was pretty messed up also. Al wanted this message to be sent to the club: "I sincerely wish to thank all the club members for the great card. Your get well thoughts and prayers have been a big help. I am feeling a little better each day and am grateful for all your support. Here at home the morale and muscle help from my wife and son are really a boost and a positive factor in what I hope will be a speedy recovery. Again thanks to all."

Al Eddy

News from OARDC

The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center works on many interesting and useful projects linked to agriculture. One of these is the work they are doing with cooperation from industrial companies and the federal government. to develop alternatives for oil as fuel. OARDC recently received a grant from the Department of Energy to develop a new biofuel, a plant that can replace oil as a fuel. They are working with two drought tolerant plants: guayule, a woody shrub native to the southeastern U.S. and Mexico, and sweet sorghum, a crop similar to sugar cane that is grown in the U.S. South. OARDC's role in this is the engineering of the two crops at the generic level to boost the production of farnesene, a natural plant oil that can be converted into a diesel-like fuel.

The future of the U.S. ethanol industry depends on its ability to increase yields and be competitive with fossil fuels. A Cleveland company, Arisdyn Systems Inc., has developed a technology called controlled-flow cavitation, which allows ethanol plants to get more fuel from the same amount of corn. It accomplishes this by breaking open the cell structure of corn particles and releasing trapped starch molecules in the corn. More starch means more sugar and ultimately more ethanol.

AN OARDC scientist has conducted testing to prove that this cavitation system can increase ethanol yield by roughly three percent. This data is critical for convincing ethanol plants to test and adopt this new technology. This scientist is also investigating new applications for cavitation, including cellulosic ethanol made from the non-edible parts of corn and other crops, such as wheat middlings.

Gardeners of Greater Akron Endowment Fund

Below is a form you may use to make a contribution to the Akron Endowment Foundation. To make it easy just cut off the form below and send with your contribution. Check anonymous if you want your name withheld from everyone. The Akron Community Foundation has a web site <http://bit.ly/T6HEFL>. You can give on line by typing in the address as you see it to the left. Any questions call Bob (330-673-3553) or Suzanne (330-436-5610).

A GIFT TO THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON	
Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to support the mission of our Club.	
Given By: _____	
Street _____	City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: _____	Email: (optional) _____
In honor of: _____	
In memory of: _____	
Please keep anonymous. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please send acknowledgement to:	
Name: _____	
Street _____	City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Please make the check payable to: ACF/ THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON ENDOWMENT FUND	
Send to Akron Community Foundation,, 345 W. Cedar, Akron, OH 44307	

2013 RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

We begin our campaign for membership in October. We plan to finish all renewals by the December meeting. Please fill out the membership renewal form below. Please complete the demographics as they may have changed.

The information from this form will be entered into the 2013 Membership Roster.

Please complete Garden Club interests.

Bring this application with renewal payment to the dinner meetings or mail to Leroy Hart 633 Schocalog Rd. Akron, Ohio 44320-1033. Sooner is better than later.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell # _____

Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests:

(Check all interests below)

Geranium Sale: _____ Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: _____

Youth Gardening Program: _____ Crown Point Gardens: _____

Strawberry Festival: _____ Calling Committee: _____ Publicity: _____

Garden Club Website: _____ Endowment Committee: _____

Silent Auction: _____

Annual dues are \$35.00 per individual/year-\$60.00 per couple/year

Life/Associate member dues are \$15.00/year

Make check payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron.

Any questions contact: Bob Bell, Leroy Hart, or Grace Cochran

Updated: 9/25/12

You are Invited!!!
“Land of Lincoln”

In Springfield, Illinois, June 27-29, 2013

TGOA/MGCA National Convention

Sponsored by a special convention committee:

Chair: John Kessen, Vice Chair: Cheri Kessen Committee members; members from various clubs including Akron, Youngstown, Fort Wayne, Overland Park, Rockford, Stone Mountain and Spartanburg

2013 Convention will be Outstanding! - Be sure to register early!

Were you aware that one of our very prominent members is a college professor and historian specializing in Abraham Lincoln history? He will be contributing some of his knowledge to parts of this convention. We may hear “Four score and seven years ago” and much more. We will be visiting some Lincoln sites and more of them are there for your spare time or after the convention.

One day will be devoted to a bus tour to the Washington Park Botanical Garden, Lincoln’s Home (National Historic Site), various gardens, and much more.

A wide variety of gardening related seminars will be for your selection and enjoyment. A total of 14 seminars on Thursday and Saturday.

Local Gardener experts. We already have 6 tremendous presenters in separate seminars.

Topic areas include body smart gardening, children and gardening, gourds, herbs, birds and flower arrangement. These presenters are very enthusiastic and will be super interesting and educational.

Special topics by our member experts: -

William Lanning, Findlay: Gladiolus from planting to harvest -

Karen Clark, Overland Park: Transitioning officers in your club -

Billy Clark, Arlington, TX: Square Foot Gardening -

Frank Mitch, Akron: Beekeeping myths and current problems.

And of course the usual Board of Directors meeting, Members Meeting, Memorial Service, and Committee meetings are planned.

The Convention will be at the Northfield Inn and Suites, **room cost will be \$85 per night.**

Springfield is served by the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport.

A full schedule of events and other details will be issued soon.

Points of interest about the Springfield, IL area:

1. Population: 116,250 as of 2010
2. Founded April 10, 1821
3. Later named after Springfield, MA known for its development at the time.
4. Lincoln lived there from 1837 to 1861
5. Became the state capital in 1839 due to efforts of Lincoln and associates.
6. Lincoln’s New Salem log cabin State Park is nearby at Petersburg.
7. Lincoln’s Tomb is a State Historic Site.
8. Lincoln’s Home is a National Historic Site.
9. Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are extensive and excellent.
10. Old State Capital building is a State Historic Site.
11. Dana-Thomson House is a Frank Lloyd Wright design built in 1902-1903. It is a State Historic Site.
12. Local poet Vachel Lindsay wrote about “utopia” in a novel in 1920.