



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, December 21

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, December 21, 2015
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St George Orthodox Church
3204 Ridgewood Rd
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Program: Installation of Officers
Christmas Program
Joe Grace – Soft Rock
President's Surprise

Board Meeting: Not held in December

President's Message – December 2015

It is truly hard to believe that 2015 is almost ready to end. It seems like we just got started. It seems appropriate for me to reflect on what stands out for me during the past year.

I thought that we had great speakers throughout the year; some of whom Cheryl and I have met in other venues, namely Larry Hunter, Jan Becker and Rodney Toth. One of my favorite meetings was when we had the opportunity to hear members of our own club speak about topics that they love. Lowell Z, Frank F and Les K did a great job with their topics. I hope that we do this again.

We had a very busy and successful spring with a variety of activities. The plant auction was an unqualified success; we did very well with our geranium sale and were able to do a habitat home as well as work at Crown Point. The Strawberry Festival was one of the highlights of the year for the club and a lot of fun for everyone. I was most gratified and honored to present certificates to seven young gardeners at Crouse School during an assembly and also interview five candidates for college scholarships. Every one of them received scholarships: either from our club, our national organization and in some cases – both!

The summer was busy as well. Our judges officiated over a number of shows. I am pleased that the number of judges is growing. What a great way to learn and to meet gardeners from other areas. Cheryl and I visited Peter Schneider's Rose Gardens in Mantua and Rodney Toth's Garden Experience outside of Youngstown. The extremely harsh winter and rainy spring took their toll but both were a joy to visit. Our plant show was a little down in entries but not in quality!

We have had a busy fall with two more habitat homes and another excursion to Crown Point. It is amazing to see what our people can do in a short amount of time with these projects. We had a great awards ceremony with many members receiving recognition for their achievements during the past year.

I want to thank the entire membership of our club for their support throughout the year. The chairpersons of our numerous committees have done remarkable things, notably an upturn in membership and organization of our youth gardening committee that would surely make Al proud. There is a positive dynamic growing in our club that is exciting to see. It is our responsibility to ensure that our garden club is fully vested in being the best we can be.

In closing; I have truly been blessed to be your president this past year. At first, I had reservations about serving a second term but have found it to be a truly rewarding experience. I hope that you give Pat the same support that you gave me. Sincerely and with utmost best regards, Clark

For GOGA Gabber
December 2015
From Steve Thompson

Crouse Kids Give Speeches About Their Gardening

GOGA's Youth Gardening Team is proud to support the youth gardening program at Crouse Elementary School in Akron. We are in our second full year of partnering with Crouse kids, their teachers and principal. This fall, GOGA Youth Gardening Team member Marilyn Fellenstein has been working with Crouse teacher and garden program director Julia Spangler in Julia's classroom. Marilyn has assisted students as they wrote scripts of speeches about their garden experiences (past and anticipated). Those short speeches were delivered in October at Buchtel Akron High School in front of an audience gathered for a Farm to School program. The latter describes itself this way on its website: "Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools." According to Julia, the speech-giving students were thrilled to see their classroom helper, "Miss Marilyn," at the event!

Here are some of the speeches and a bit of context for each.

Each of the classrooms at Crouse has its own raised bed on the lawn area outside of the school. In the spring, they prepare the beds and plant vegetables (seeds and started plants). Neighbors are invited to weed and pick produce during the summer. In the fall, students take dead vegetation to the composters and spread compost. First grade Ciriya is looking forward to her first garden experience. "Hi, my name is Ciriya and I am in the first grade. I am telling you about when I plant a garden. I'm going to plant some potatoes and some tomatoes too! I will use garden tools like shovels and rakes. I will be sooooo happy! I will watch them grow. I can't wait to learn in the garden!"

In Spring 2015, six GOGA members bought biodegradable pots, soil, and sunflower and pumpkin seeds with GOGA funds. They met in the Crouse classrooms and helped students plant seeds in the pots for transport home and home planting. Observations were recorded in journals. Eriona Young, fourth grade, told her story and showed her pumpkin to the audience. "Have you ever planted a seed at school and took it home over the summer? I have, last year some people came to help us plant a pumpkin or a sunflower. I planted a pumpkin they gave us a pot with soil in it. Then we put our seeds in the soil. After that we took it home. It started to grow. It is so big that the leaves went to another house. See how big it is now!"

The following speech was given by one of the following, all of whom gave speeches (the specific identification was lost). Whichever student it was, his/her passion shows! Possible authors: Xavier Hall, third; Jayla Hall, fourth; Keera Greathouse, fourth; Jaliah Lee, fourth, Annalynda Zambrano, fourth; Ny'aire McCormick, fourth; Javay Burkett, fourth; Jaden Hall, sixth. "What I liked in the garden. I liked that we got to

plant vegetables and I liked when we would go out and talk about the plants. I really enjoyed when we use to go outside and eat some of the vegetables and Mrs. Spangler would tell us what kind of vegetable they were. Some of my favorite thing in the garden were the tomatoes. Some of them were nasty and some were delicious. I did not eat the tomatoes that had dirt on them. When they were nasty, we would spit them out. I liked when Mrs. Spangler would tell us about the potatoes. We would dig up the dirt and we would take potatoes and keep them. They had dirt on them. I never did get a potato so I started to get mad that I didn't have one then I started asking the people who had a lot but they said "No" so I was mad. I never did get a potato. I loved the garden but I was disappointed that I never got a potato."

We salute these young gardeners! We hope their gardening experiences now at Crouse School lead to future labor, health, and satisfaction in their own gardens.

Merry Christmas

Santa is a gardener,
Surely everyone knows,
About his poinsettias,
And his kissing mistletoes.
He is into fruits and nuts,
Into vegetables and stuff,
And talking about the same,
He just never gets enough.
He loves all garden clubbers,
For it's very clear to him,
They are intent of purpose,
This is not a passing whim.
Santa brings us this message,
Each year when he comes to call,
"Keep On Growing, Eat Healthy,
Merry Christmas One and All."

--Bob Van Kirk

2016 RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

Folks, this is important. If you joined in October or later this year you do not have to renew you are already a 2016 member. Everyone else, if you have not renewed your Membership please make it happen by the December Dinner meeting or on that night. . We plan to receive all renewals by the December meeting with the intent of the Roster being available sometime in January-February 2016.

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 (GOGA) and bring them either to the dinner meetings or mail to Bob Bell 1832 Sandy Lake Rd. Ravenna, Ohio 44266 (330-673-3553).

Sooner is better than later.

Please enter your Name (s): _____

Renewal \$ amount/cash or check: _____

To keep the Roster current, if you have any changes to your address, phone, E-mail or Garden Club interests please fill out those areas listed below, otherwise the information will remain the same for 2016.

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests:
(Check any changes or additions below)

Calling Committee: ____ Crown Point Gardens: ____ Endowment Committee: ____

Garden Club Newsletter: ____ Garden Club Face Book: ____ Geranium Sale: ____

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: ____ Horticulture Show: ____

Membership: ____ Publicity: ____ Scholarship Committee: ____

Silent Auction: ____ Strawberry Festival: ____ Youth Gardening Program: ____


If you have been unable to attend meetings and would like the Roster mailed to your home address please check this line _____.

Thank you from the membership committee.



Any questions contact: Bob Bell or Grace Cochran
Updated: 9/13/15

Grace Cochran was the puzzle winner for November! She will receive her prize at the December dinner meeting. Below is the Christmas puzzle for December.

Good luck!!!



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

O	P	R	I	N	L	I	G	Q	Q	R	G	L	U	N	H	Z	E	F	
C	H	Z	Q	E	J	A	O	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	I	R	L	Q
M	B	M	O	L	S	Z	T	V	W	U	P	O	B	N	D	T	T	V	V
N	H	N	J	O	L	L	Y	N	U	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	C	E	U
X	P	M	N	P	P	S	F	I	A	G	K	A	C	L	Y	V	H	S	Z
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G	R	E	H	N	X	R	L	B	P	Y	N	N	N	H	R	S	O	I	L
B	N	Z	C	S	T	B	H	J	O	M	D	P	I	M	O	A	B	V	M
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| BELLS | RUDOLPH | ELVES | JOY |
| CANDLES | SANTA | FROSTY | MERRY |
| CANDYCANE | SEASON | GIFT | MISTLETOE |
| CARDS | SLEIGH | GIVING | NOEL |
| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTHPOLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |

