

# 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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### President

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# Monday, October 17, 2016

Make plans to attend each monthly meeting. It's a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy good food and learn more about gardening and our environment.

### 1st Vice President

Steve Hoot  
#330-688-1875  
Email: [hootfs@att.net](mailto:hootfs@att.net)

When: Monday, October 17, 2016  
5:30 PM - Social Hour  
6:30 PM - Dinner

### 2nd Vice President

Ken Bell  
#302-593-8362  
Email: [callmeishmael196@yahoo.com](mailto:callmeishmael196@yahoo.com)

Where St George's Fellowship Hall  
St George's Antiochian Church  
3204 Ridgewood Road  
Copley, OH

### Secretary

Sue Godard  
#330-699-0509  
Email: [sstaats511@aol.com](mailto:sstaats511@aol.com)

Program: GOGA – 10 Minute Speakers

### Treasurer

Robert Bell  
#330-673-3553  
Email: [mrrnbell@hotmail.com](mailto:mrrnbell@hotmail.com)

Our monthly board meeting is the fourth Monday of the month. All members are invited to attend.

### Historian

Leroy Hart  
#330-836-1407  
Email: [gardengabber@neo.rr.com](mailto:gardengabber@neo.rr.com)

When: Monday, October 24, 2016 @ 7:00 PM  
Where: Faith Lutheran Church  
2726 W. Market Street  
Akron, OH

### National Director

Mary Ann Ferguson Rich  
#330-630-9625  
Email: [mafr43@hotmail.com](mailto:mafr43@hotmail.com)

Club web site: <http://gogakron.org>



October 7, 2016

Greetings from the weed factory. Fall is rolling along. About the only thing I have flowering at this time are asters and mums. I'm afraid that it won't be long until the color of the landscape will be nothing but red, brown and gray.

I'm hoping that everyone enjoyed Hadley Stamm's presentation on the PPG's efforts to reclaim the Lime Lakes. I moved to Barberton 33 years ago to take a job at B&W (now BWX Technologies) and I vividly recall seeing the Lime Lakes before reclamation had begun. It was a rather disturbing site. Massive amounts of white talc-like powder almost as far as the eye could see. I was living on the south side of Barberton in 1985-6 and I recall, that while on my way to work one morning, falling in behind a large dump truck that had a full load of something with a rather "earthy smell" about it (the same "earthy smell" that requires PPG to have the daily load dumped and mixed within 6 hours). It couldn't have been a couple of days later that I read in the ABJ that PPG had begun reclamation of the Lime Lakes. One of the (many) things I found interesting was how little treated waste it takes to produce a viable growing medium. The mixture appeared to be about the color of brown sugar, which would seem to not contain enough organic matter to get stuff to grow. But grow it does. And it has brought in tons of wildlife.

PPG typically has an open house every year, but I'm not sure if it has occurred yet this year or not. It might be worth checking out. Reclaimed sections of the Lime Lakes can be seen along Vanderhoof Rd. in the New Franklin/ Barberton area

*Mr Potato Head strikes out.* So I decided to try and grow potatoes – again. Last year I planted potatoes in a 4 X 8 raised planter and they did alright although, I need some help understanding the life cycle of the potato plant. I was standing there with a neighbor and fellow gardener, Sally Cole, and I comment on how sick my potato plants looked and that "I think my potato plants are dead". Sally responded by stating "the potatoes aren't dead, they're done". Good thing she told me or they'd still be in the ground. Anyway, this year I decided to try again, except I selected a purple potato variety. The plants grew, prospered, flowered and died back. There was no indication of a problem. But when I harvested the potatoes they were mis-shaped and full of pits (see photo). So what happened? The first person with an answer that I am willing to accept will win a prize of some unknown value, shape and size. Send me an e-mail or give me a call if you think you have the answer.





This month's meeting is on October 17. This will be 10 min talk night and we still have a slot for a speaker. So if you have a gardening related topic you would like to share with the members get in touch and I'll pencil you in. See you at the meeting and please bring a friend

Pat

## Gabber News Shorts - October

### Crouse School

Soil will be delivered to Crouse School on Thursday, October 13 between 8 and 9 AM. Julia Spangler will have her students out at 10:45 on Thursday to level off new soil in beds and spread cover crop seed. If anyone can help at either one of the times it would be most appreciated. Call Steve Thompson with questions at 330-245-6272.

### Habitat for Humanity

We have changed the next Habitat landscaping date to Saturday, October 29. The site will not be completed for the next two weeks necessitating the date change. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the site, 43 Brown Street in Barberton. Sue Godard will call all members who signed up to assist the week thereof. If you would like to donate some time call Chris Godard at 330-699-0509.

### Fall Regional Meeting

The fall meeting of the Central Great Lake Gardeners will be held on October 22d at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Les Knight is the current president. This meeting is always very interesting and we are excited to have our current National president, Billy Clark, in for a visit. As a matter of fact, this meeting is when the installation of officers for 2017 occurs and the entire slate of officers is going to be sworn in by former, current and incoming national presidents (six in all). We have two officers from our club to be sworn in as regional officers; Clark Bordner as president and Bob Bell as Treasurer. The grounds are wonderful and the gift shop has many bargains!! Come join us.

### Crown Point

Our annual Fall cleanup event at Crown Point is just around the corner; probably in early November. Stay tuned!



## Notes on GOGA/Crouse School Youth Gardens

September 2016 beings the third year that GOGA members have supported the efforts of teachers and administrators at Crouse School, Akron in the school/community gardens at that inner-city elementary school. Here are some notes about recent activity at Crouse and some requests for ideas and donations from GOGA members.

1. For the first time, GOGA members worked at the Crouse School gardens during the summer. Crouse students prepare the soil in the raised gardens in the spring and with GOGA members help plant GOGA-supplied seeds and starter plants in the spring. But without weeding and watering, the produce from the gardens has been less than it could be.

That changed this summer as GOGA member Sally Cole along with other GOGA members, a Crouse teacher, and some school neighbors, weeded the gardens. Watering was helped out, in part, by a donation of hose and a reel by GOGA member Arthur Britton. As you experienced, Summer 2016 was a hot one, and watering was really needed. We still have some needs with hose/reel and storage, though and more about that in a bit.

2. Also for the first time, 50+ third graders got hands-on experience once school started again in August with harvesting and enjoying the produce of plants planted in the spring. Teacher Julia Spangler took the students out in the gardens and harvested tomatoes and onions, which then were made into salsa, which the students ate with chips. The salsa experience was a huge hit with the kids, and some even said the salsa was “the best food they’d ever had!” We adults were pleased that kids saw, many for the first time, the link between planting, harvesting, and eating healthy foods.

A postscript is that Julia won \$48 dollars at our Monday, September 19 meeting through the 50/50 drawing. She used all of that cash to supplement the picked vegetables and to buy our cooking utensils and supplies. Julia, we salute you!

Interested in seeing pictures not only of the salsa activity but also of other GOGA supported events over the past years at Crouse? Go to Facebook and type in Crouse CLC School/Community Garden. See especially the “Salsa” album!

3. Here’s a request: do you have garden hose that you are willing to donate to our GOGA support efforts at Crouse—and a reel? We have some hose as noted above, but not enough to reach the gardens. So water still has to be carried in pails. We need, we think, a total of 500 feet of hose in order to reach the farthest gardens from the school building. If so, please contact Steve Thompson.

4. And a second request: right now, all the tools, shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, hose/reel need to be stored inside the school building. That means a custodian has to be found to help and that takes valuable time when students only have, say, a one hour break from the classrooms to work in the gardens (and then move all back into the building afterwards, find the custodian, etc., etc.).

The GOGA Youth Gardening Team has as one of its goals this year the securing of a shed to be placed outside the building. It would house all the items named above. Do you know of businesses that we could approach regarding the donation of a substantially constructed shed? If so, please contact Steve Thompson. Thanks!

### Bulb Sale

The tulips are here and you can pick them up at the next meeting. Those who have only ordered tulips can pay at the meeting. Those who have ordered other bulbs beside tulips can pay when the other bulbs arrive. The other bulbs are scheduled to arrive between October 14 and October 28. If they arrive on the 14<sup>th</sup>, there will not be any problem; you can pick them up and pay at the regular club meeting. If they arrive after the meeting; this could pose a problem. In that case, check with me at the meeting and we can make arrangements for delivery or pick up when they arrive.

Leroy Hart