



# 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



Published Monthly:

Volume LXXV

March 2016

Number 3

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## Monday, March 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, March 21, 2016  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

**Program:** Carol Zeh – Akron Audubon Society  
“Welcome Back Warblers”

Board Meeting Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market St., Fairlawn, Ohio  
All members are encouraged to attend board meetings

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

Greetings from the Weed Factory. Spring is a week away and winter never really arrived. During her presentation on Integrated Pest Management at last month's club meeting, Jacqueline Kowalski mentioned the term phenology. Phenology is the study of recurring biological phenomena and their relationship to weather. Basically, the daily max and min temperatures are used to calculate "Growing Degree Days" which is a measurement of accumulated heat. The idea is to use the flowering of plants to predict emergence of pest and thereby plan better pest management. Through eons of observation and a whole bunch of permutations it has been determined when plants, pests and bugs emerge based on the number of Growing Degree Days. For instance, after 40 degree days Silver Maples start to bloom, regardless of the type of winter we have had. If it takes until April to accumulate 40 Degree Days, then Silver Maples won't bloom until April. If you accumulate 40 degree days by March 15 then Silver Maples will begin to bloom on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It happens in the same order year after year. OSU has a couple of excellent web sites that can be used to identify the number of degree days you have experienced in your local based on your zip code. There is also a comprehensive list of when plants and bugs emerge based on the number of degree days. I just checked the OSU website to see what the number of degree days the Weed Factory has experienced this year. As of this writing the Growing Degree Days for Barberton stands at 54. The Web site calendar says that red Maples should first start to after 44 degree days. I'll have to look. I recommend you take a look at the web sites. They are easy to read and really pretty informative.

<http://phenology.osu.edu/>

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/default.asp>

The last of the Mohicans.



About twenty years ago I decided that I would "naturalize" my front yard with Crocuses. So I went out and bought a bag of crocus bulbs, spent the afternoon cutting slits in the sod in my



front yard and stuffing Crocus bulbs in the slits and tamping the sod back in place. I figured that come next spring there would be a ton of crocuses flowering in my yard – which there was. Problem 1 - no one ever explained that bulbs need to go thru their complete life cycle to regenerate juice to grow next year. Problem 2 - I started mowing my yard long before the crocus had finished doing their thing. So the crocus are pretty much gone, except for a couple or three diehards that managed to hang on. Another one of my big ideas that went south.

I hope that you will plan to attend our club meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Our speaker this month is Carol Zeh from Akron Audubon who will be giving a talk about Warblers (birds). I believe that you will find it entertaining and informative. Please plan to attend - bring a friend.

### **SPRING REGION MEETING & SPEAKER – APRIL 9, 2016 – KINGWOOD GARDENS**

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Central Great Lakes Gardeners spring meeting on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Kingwood Center Gardens** in Mansfield, Ohio. Kingwood Gardens is a beautiful 47 acre-estate with wonderful grounds and facilities for public and private use. The greenhouses are always a treat to visit and sometimes to buy plants or bulbs. The meeting will be held in the Exhibit Hall and will start at 10:00 a.m. with refreshments followed by a business meeting with a set agenda. Lunch will be held at The Golden Corral located nearby at your own expense. After lunch Mr. Chuck Gleaves, Director of Kingwood Gardens, will be our guest speaker.

Kingwood Gardens is located only about 70 miles from Akron. If you have not been there before, please plan to come. Car pool with someone or set your GPS and travel south on Rt. 71 to the Mansfield exit and then follow the directions on your GPS. There is no charge to enter.

Refer to your Spring 2016 Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, the newsletter for our CGLG Region, and the website for Kingwood [www.KingwoodCenter.org](http://www.KingwoodCenter.org) for more information.

*Les Knight, President and Clark Bordner 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Why do cows have hooves? Because they lactose!!!

What do you call a pig with three eyes? A piiiig.

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is heavy and the other is a little lighter.

What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.

## Gabber News Shorts

Geranium Sale – Mother's Day weekend (May 6 – 7). Preliminary sign ups next meeting. We will also discuss the potential availability of perennials at a very reasonable price in conjunction with this sale.

Crown Point – Chuck Keach is taking over the chairmanship of the Endowment Fund committee. In doing so, he is stepping down as Crown Point chairman. If you want to be involved in the leadership of our club, this committee may be for you! For more information about this committee and possibly assuming the chairmanship of Crown Point support by our garden club, please contact Chuck or our club president.

Seed Exchange – Pat spoke to the board about having a seed exchange among the membership. If you are interested in participation in such an event, please let Pat know. He may speak to this at our next meeting.

An article from your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Greetings fellow gardeners! We would like to try a new idea this year that uses our excess produce each month to help out our club in a few different ways. Our caterer is willing to purchase produce from our members to use in our monthly dinners. Ideally, we would gather excess produce a few days before our monthly meeting, sell what we can to our caterer (proceeds would offset club expenses) and donate the rest to a food bank. This will likely require the coordination of at least a few members of the club, so please contact Ken Bell if you are interested in helping with this idea.

National Convention 2017 – Preliminary planning for having the 2017 national convention in our area is ongoing with discussions between Bob Bell, Tom Davis and John Schinker from the Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown clubs respectively. Tom and John are both associate members of our club and along with Bob have been extremely active in local, regional and national club activities. John will be our national president next year. If you feel like you may have some ideas or would like to be involved in this exciting event; please contact Bob.

As you can see, there are a lot of opportunities to get involved. Pick something that interests you and go for it. Your time will not be wasted!

## GOGAkron 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

On Tuesday, March 8, Frank Mitch and Les Knight, Co-Chairs of the scholarship committee, traveled to ATI, OSU Wooster campus to interview student candidates who had applied for our two club scholarships and the five National TOGA/MGCA scholarships awarded each year.

The process requires that the applicants submit complete and signed application forms with attachments that include letters of recommendation and college grade transcripts. This year we had seven outstanding students, two females and five males to interview who are currently enrolled at ATI (Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute). They major in different subjects such as nursery and greenhouse management, turf study, landscape horticulture, floral design and plant identification.

We advised the ATI Student Aid Department that the two \$1,000 awards from our club would be paid to ATI for the benefit of the two following students:

Daniel Zellers – Hartville, Ohio – Stark County – Major – Horticulture Science

Robert Ruman – Fairlawn, Ohio – Summit County – Major – Landscape Horticulture

For the remaining five other ATI students that have applied for our National scholarships, we checked their paperwork to make sure it is complete. The applications for all seven students will be sent to the National Committee before the April 1 deadline.

*Submitted by Les Knight*