



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, April 16

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, April 16, 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: All About Clemetis

Our speaker this month is Deborah Hardwick speaking on Clematis.

Board Meeting: April 23 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

The meaning of April is sketchy, some say it comes from the Greek meaning opening or it could also be interpreted as Aphrodite's Day after the goddess of love and beauty. The Saxons named the month Eostermōnath in honor of the goddess Eostre probably a Goddess of the Druids. This is where Easter came from, a Christian blending of holidays along side of pagan festivals

We are still in need of a first vice president volunteer to take over that position. I admit it does take some time and a commitment to the club, but it very rewarding and there is always plenty of help from the Board. Please consider it.

Suzanne Allen of the Akron Community Foundation will give a presentation regarding our endowment fund. If you are interested in our endowment, this is the informational meeting to attend.

Also, I would like to announce to all the members that we will be voting for National officers at the next meeting. If you cannot attend and want to vote get in touch with me and I will send you a ballot.

Begin thinking about the plant sale In May when you are dividing or replacing some of your perennials. When you go shopping for plants ask whomever you buy plants from if they would be interested in making a donation. We could also use some decorative pots or yard art you no longer need or want.

Feedback on the trip I am planning to Peter Schneider's Rose garden on Sunday, June 10 would be deeply appreciated. We are planning a to eat at the historic Welshfield Inn and then caravan to the garden, 20 minutes away. Welshfield Inn does have a Sunday Brunch menu. We will be meeting at the Welshfield Inn at 11:00. If you are planning to attend brunch please contact me soon, I need to make reservations early.

The gardens will be open Sunday afternoon, it is not necessary to attend brunch to tour the rose garden. The address for Peter Schneider's rose garden is 6193 Vair Road in Freedom Township, zip code 44266.

You can Google the historic Westfield Inn (welshfieldinn.com) to have a look at the menu and location.

Google Peter Schneider and click on *Coming Up Roses* if you want a preview of his book. There are many interesting links on this web site.

Of course, everyone is welcome to the garden even if you opt out of brunch.

The Welshfield Inn books early especially in June so let me know if you are interested as soon as possible.

Thank you

Sam Morlan

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2012 Geranium Sale

Hello to everyone. Our 2012 Geranium sale is right around the corner! I wanted to give you some information about this sale. It is the biggest fund raiser for the club of the year. The sale is on May 11 – 12 at Faith Lutheran Church on West Market Street in Fairlawn. We will be selling over 20 varieties of geraniums as well as other annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and vegetables. I am going to pass out a sign up sheet at the April dinner meeting. You can sign up for one or more activities associated with the sale. We will need about 15-20 people on Friday morning at 8 AM at the church to help set up and to off load the plants when they arrive from the greenhouse. We will start the actual sale at 10 AM that morning and run 2 hour shifts with three to four people per shift until 8 PM that evening. Lee Hart will be the head cashier.

At this point, we will need two or three people to spend the night at the church to keep an eye on things. It is amazing but we have had sales at three o'clock in the morning in past years. We will resume the sale at 8 AM on Saturday morning with a tentative end time of 4 PM. The end time is contingent on the weather and on how the sale is going. At the end of the sale, we will need a crew of 8 - 10 people to help with the tear down of the site and to upload unsold plants for return to the greenhouse. We are hopeful that this will be our best sale ever and with your help it will be. Thank you in advance for your help and participation.

Jim and Al, co chairs for the Geranium sale

With best regards, Clark

Endowment Fund

At this month's meeting we will have a presentation regarding the Gardeners of Greater Akron Endowment Fund and our investment in the Akron Community Foundation. Suzzane Allen, Vice President, Development for the Foundation and a member of our Garden Club, will be making the presentation. This will be a great opportunity to learn about our investment.

Bob Bell

Coming Events

Regional meeting - April 28 Kingwood Center, Mansfield Business meeting 10:AM, lunch at Golden Corral. Program by Dr. Douglas Beilstein, a dentist from Mansfield. His hobby is hostas, he has a collection of 1200 named cultivars. He has been hybridizing hostas since the mid 90's. Ride pool will leave Leroy Hart's house at 8:30AM. Kingwood is charging \$5.00 a car to enter, members of Kingwood are free. If you are not a member of Kingwood say that you are going to the garden club meeting, they should let you in free..

National Convention- Buckeye Bash June 14, 15, 16, sponsored by the Youngstown Mens' Garden Club. Location - Holiday Inn Youngstown South in Boardman. The cost of the convention is \$260.00, after May 15 it is \$300.00. Cost of Motel is \$89.00 a night for single or double occupancy. More Information about the convention and registration form is available on the national club's web site.

Regional Summer meeting- July 27, 28 at Michigan Sate University, East Lansing. Regional first vice president, Cheri Kessen is in charge of this meeting.

More about the national and regional summer meetings in later editions of the Gabber.

Walter Starcher's Gardening Tips

April---

1. Cut back large-flowered hybrid clematis this month for best flower production in summer.
2. Mount 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 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.

May---

1. It always pays to purchase top grade plants when growing roses. The preparation of the planting space is even more important.
2. Avoid working the ground when it is wet. Moving from plant to plant, you can easily transmit fungus.
3. Mow cool season lawns tall (2-1/2 to 3" tall) through summer months for a healthier lawn.
4. Do not apply mulches to any plants until the hot summer months because they will not allow the soil to warm up.
5. Bugs and diseases will be out in force this month. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.
6. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds are clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, daylily, trumpet creeper, bee balm, columbine, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower, and cleome.
7. Fertilize roses this month. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on leaves.
8. As soil warms and dries out , set out peppers and eggplants. Mulch potato plants heavily.
9. You may need a net over your strawberries if you want to be the one to eat the first ones.
10. Remove cool season annuals as they fade. Plant warm season annuals and summer flowering bulbs when danger of frost is past.
11. Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing exposure to sunlight.
12. Mid to late May is the last opportunity to start pumpkins in time for Halloween.
13. Once all danger of frost is past, you can move your Easter lilies out into a sunny spot in your garden. Mulch roots over winter and remove mulch in spring.
14. Lay out boards over damp ground for slugs to hide under during the daytime. Monitor the traps each morning and destroy the slugs.

Our Club's History (continued)

D. G. Thornton was elected president in 1945. The national convention of the National Men's Garden Clubs was canceled due to restrictions on wartime travel. In August, Bill Lyons hosted the club at the Firestone Experimental Gardens. A picnic with family members was also held. Every meeting had a speaker on some aspect of gardening during the year. It was now, in 1945, that the bad effects of DDT on humans and other animals became known. The annual Christmas dinner was a "stag" affair held at The Knoll's (a T-bone steak and shrimp dinner - \$1.00).

Oscar L. Schneyer became president in 1946. During his term of office the club traveled to the experimental gardens at Wooster. The usual picnic for the families was held. The flower show was held in August with over 275 entries. Bill Lyons continued to give good advice to the members on lawns and lawn problems. He took good care of Firestone but had little time for his own lawn. The annual Christmas dinner was held again at Spindlers in the Falls.

H. E. Reeves became president of the club in 1947. We now have a new editor of the Gabber, Mr. C. W. Johnson. In March of 1947 the club left the Parrish House and moved to the Congregational Church Parrish House at East Market and Union Streets. The club made a trip to Medina with their ladies to visit the Shepard rose gardens. The fifth annual garden show was held at Maple Valley library. The club also entered a flower show sponsored by the Womens City Club. Dr. Joy Lichty was now inquiring about unusual trees about the county and was interested in species, size, and where located. This evidently was the beginning of the Big Tree program which is now in the hands of Walt Starcher. the Club met at Mozena's restaurant in Medina for their Christmas dinner. This year the club dues were raised to three dollars.

1948 saw C. W. Johnson become president of the club. The club seems to have trouble settling down. After only ten months at the First Congregational Church they moved in January to the West Congregational Church on the corner of Balch and West Market (now the site of the Red Cross). The meeting dinners were \$1.35 now. The club was off to a poor start with the treasurer reporting a negative balance of sixty seven cents in the treasury. An interesting item from the Cleveland Public Schools reported that 8500 students were enrolled in one or more garden projects in 138 schools. There were the usual picnics and Bill Lyons entertained the club at the Firestone club house. The annual club flower show was held at the First Congregational church with over 300 entries. The Christmas dinner was a stag affair held at the Congregational Church at a cost of \$2.00 with all you could eat. The club membership at the end of the year stood at 80 members.

A. P. Hardman was elected president in 1949. In January and February the club met at Semmler's Tavern in Cuyahoga Falls but in March they were again back at the First Congregational Church. Dues were still a problem with 24 members unpaid in May . Dues were now \$4.00 per year. Bill Lyons still continued to have the club meet for practical demonstrations at the Firestone gardens. M. O'Neils hosted the largest Garden Forum flower show in September. Many club members entered. The annual picnic was held in Copley with many displays of flowers and vegetables. The annual stag Christmas dinner was held again at the Congregational Church.

1950 saw C. M. Strafford elected president of the club. The usual monthly meetings featured good speakers on a wide variety of garden subjects. The club continued to have its annual flower and vegetable show which was held during the strawberry festival at the First Congregational Church. The show was a great success according to the Gabber. In July the club toured the gardens of their club members. The club still had problems settling down, moving from the Congregational Church to the All Nations Club, then to the Leidertafel Club where they had their Christmas dinner.

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