



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 LXXII

April 2013

Number 4

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Monday, April 15

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 15, 2013

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: Cleveland's Cultural Gardens

Our speaker this month is Katherine Kohl an expert on the University Circle area of Cleveland. She will be speaking about the Cultural Gardens of Cleveland which we will be touring at the summer conference.

Board Meeting: April 22 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://gogakron.org>

President's Message - Sam Morlan

April, in my opinion, is one of the most magical months of the year. I can see why in the old Roman calendar it was the first month of the year. April first was New Years Day, which was celebrated by gift giving and parties. The new calendar, which moved April to the fourth month, also moved New Years Day to January 1. There is speculation that this is why April 1st became April Fools Day, because only a fool would not know of the change and be tricked into giving gifts or having parties. April Fools Day is celebrated all over the world as a day to play practical Jokes on one another. April is also National Garden Month in The United States.

The daisy and the sweet pea are both considered the official flower of the month. The daisy got its name from the Anglo Saxon word daes eace which means "day's eye". It is a symbol of purity and innocence and in times past was used by a young woman to express love to someone she cared about. I am sure many of you at one time or another have done the ritual of "she loves me she loves me not "with a daisy. Daisies are very popular for beginning gardeners because of its ease of care and now because of its many different colors and forms thanks to the hybridizers. It has become a pest plant in the English countryside.

The sweet pea, which is not edible, symbolizes delicate pleasure and bliss. Many Victorian gardens used this plant not only for its pretty flowers but also for its fragrance.

I have two projects in mind for this coming summer. Arrowhead school has asked us if we would be interested in teaching both parents and elementary school children about the basics of gardening. The parents that have volunteered to take certain gardens at the school and maintain them with their children do not feel they have enough gardening knowledge to do a good job. It would probably only involve one day a week for a few hours. The more of us that volunteer of course the greater chance at success. We may get some new members out of it. Please consider.

The other project I would like to see happen is a joint effort between GoGA, The Master Gardeners of Summit County, and some of the other garden clubs for a giant garlic mustard pull at Crown Point. There would be, if all goes well, coffee and donuts in the morning and a possible lunch in the afternoon. Our local clubs and The Master Gardeners do not do anything that I know as partners. When we were in Grand Rapids, a few years ago, it seemed as if the garden clubs and the extension office worked together. If any of you belong to other clubs see if they might be interested. Thanks

When you are out this spring doing your gardening, remember the plant sale. You can either divide something you think someone else would want or buy an extra plant at the garden center that is either unusual or desirable. If you have a good relationship with your garden center, you may want to ask for a charitable donation. I know it is hard to beg but you may be surprised at the results.

Remember door prize donations and possible gifts for the silent auction.

It looks as if spring is just around the corner so get ready.

GoGAkron 2013 Scholarship Awards

In March after interviewing students at ATI in Wooster applying for the GoGAkron 2013 Scholarship Awards, we advised the ATI Student Aid Department that the two \$1,000 scholarship awards from our club would be paid to ATI for benefit of these two students:

Marie Arnold -- Smithville, Ohio -- Wayne County -- Major: Floral Design and Marketing

Tamara Warren -- Wooster, Ohio -- Wayne County -- Major: Floral Design and Marketing

Marie was also one of our scholarship winners last year. She will graduate from ATI in 2014 and she plans to continue at Ohio State for a degree in Education so she can teach floral design at college level.

Tamara is a non-traditional student just starting at ATI for a mid-life career change. She worked as a teacher in special education for 20 years. With very few courses at ATI to date she provided an excellent course record from her BS Education degree. Both students are very appreciative of the awards.

They have been invited to attend our April 15 club dinner meeting.

We also received applications from 5 other ATI students who have applied for our National TGOA/MGCA 2013 scholarships. We checked their paperwork to be sure it was complete and sent applications from all 7 students to the National Committee before the April 1 deadline.

Some background In the 1980's our club started giving college scholarships to graduating seniors from any high school in Summit County. In the late 1990's, this was changed to students already attending a college or university. One important requirement was that the student's home address must be in Summit County or adjacent counties. This made it easier to interview the few students who applied and helped to assure that the students would actually attend college. However, it is usually very limited to very few applications. This year three students indicated they were applying, but only two actually showed up for the interview. This means there was no decision on our part with only two applications. Also there were no applications from Summit County residents and that has been the case in other years. This year both winners are from Wayne County.

Recommendation As Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee we agree that widening the territory for selecting the winning students should be considered again by the GOGA Board. A few years ago it was considered by the Board and not changed. In order to attract more applicants, we recommend that the hometown requirement be changed to include the State of Ohio. Alternatives might be to limit hometowns to Northern Ohio (North of I-70) or possibly North East Ohio.

GOGAkron Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

Leslie Knight and Frank Mitch

I have a 55 gal, fairly new steel barrel that I would like to give to someone in our club. The top has not been cut out of it. It would make a good rain barrel for someone. It is free for the taking. Call or e-mail me: 330-633-2616 or >lhandcknight@att.net
---Les Knight

Youth Gardening Committee

On a crisp cold early Saturday morning, March 23, six members of our garden club arrived at Copley High School to participate in the Summit County Farm Bureau program and breakfast. We were there to teach young children to plant seeds in soil in handmade newspaper pots, and to represent and promote membership in our garden club. In addition, we passed out sunflower and pumpkin seeds furnished by National for our 2013 youth gardening contest. Our display and work tables as you entered the main door attracted many visitors. Our thanks to Al for setting them up and taking them down.

Many children came forth with their parents often times to observe, learn, and to plant. Al Eddy, committee chairman, obtained a large variety of packaged seeds from Hirts Gardens and we used them for the children. The kids are so curious and excited to make the pots, plant a seed or two, and then take the pots home with them to watch them grow.

Virginia Williams, now ten years old, was present with her mother, Heather. Virginia was our club's winner last year with the largest sunflower with a flower head that measured 18 inches in diameter. She also was a winner in the pumpkin contest. Many of you met her last fall at one of our club meetings and saw her photos and personal journal.

We continue to promote "Youth Gardening" both individually and as a club. We invite you to join us this year in the fun and education. More needs to be done, but we have started by going to places where the kids are in such locations as schools, libraries, and garden centers. Everyone knows the children are our future and we as adults have a responsibility to teach them.

Those participating in this project were Stephen Thompson, Darrell Dube, Sam Morlan and wife Lora, Al Eddy and Les Knight.

Central Great Lakes Gardeners

Spring Meeting April 27, 2013

Lima Gardeners Clubhouse

Lima, Ohio

Directions to Clubhouse:

Address to put in your GPS or use it with Google Maps, etc.: Use 991 North Shore Drive, Lima, OH. This is the Encore Theatre. You can see the club house on the hill to the west of the Encore Theatre parking lot.

If that is not recognized by your GPS, then use 610 S Collett (American Red Cross building).

Meeting Schedule:

Gather & social time: 10:00 AM

Business meeting: 10:30 AM

Afternoon speaker topic:

Fungi by Curtis Young,

Van Wert County Extension Agent

Ride pool leaves from Leroy Hart's home at 7:30 a.m.

Walter's Gardening Tips for 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 they 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.

For 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 Hallowe'en.
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.

Member News

Honorary member Charles Barrington passed away on March 18. Charlie came to our club after the Stow club folded. In World War II Charlie served in the RAF (he was an Englishman). After the war he went to work for Goodyear Aerospace and in 1959 the company transferred him to Akron. He retired after 41 years of service. Charlie was a long time horticultural show judge. He will be missed by all his friends in the club.