



# The Garden Gabber



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## Monday, April 20

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 20, 2009  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

**Where:** St. George Fellowship Center  
3205 Ridgewood Road  
Copley, Ohio

**Program:** All About Herbs

Our speaker for this month will be Janet Ecker who will tell us all about growing herbs and using them in cooking. She is a Master Gardener who grows many varieties of herbs and used them in her cooking.

Greeters will be Grace Cochran and Marti Williams

Board meeting will be April 27 at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. All members are invited to attend board meetings. Last month there were 15 in attendance; the more the merrier. It's your club and if you want some input in what the club does and how it spends the club's money, come to board meetings. Since there will be no board meeting in May (Memorial Day) this will be an even more important board meeting.

Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

## Message from the President Arthur Britton

Hello to April! I know that we are all eager to spend more time outside and start to clean up from the winter, but don't be too eager because more than once we have seen more snow and then regretted our eagerness to start. The time to do some serious clean up will soon be at hand.

There are several items that I would like to share. The first is that I was able, along with Frank Mitch and Jim Fee, to go to Wooster to interview for the scholarships both for our club and national. This was an experience that showed to me that we do have some young people who are interested in gardening and horticulture, and at the same time they are taking classes, working and are very energetic about what their future holds for them. I am glad that I was able to attend.

Another item to talk about is that the geranium sale will be held at Faith Lutheran Church (2726 West Market Street) on Friday May 8th and Saturday the 9th. This year we are going to sell geraniums along with other plants such as vegetable and bedding plants. This will require additional people and hopefully greater profits. Our goal this year is to have no leftover plants that we need to take to someone's home. So please consider spending some time selling plants. An item that came up at the board meeting (that was attended by 15 people) was what to do with the money raised from the sale? Should the first \$2,000 go straight to the scholarships? If so, then what should be done with the money after that? Advertising, savings, and more for habitat, or maybe even reducing the amount of dues, or something else that we have not talked about. For right now we are going to focus on selling the plants and then hopefully have the challenge of what to do with the money!

The garden club is going to be in charge of redesigning and caring for the courtyard at Faith Lutheran Church, in part as recognition of the church's donation of board meeting space. I am looking for those who could help give fresh ideas to the area that is about 40 x 50 with a 3 foot overhang and the only water it receives is from God. Talk about a challenge. I welcome any ideas and if you would like to be part of this team please let me know.

To close on a topic that I started my message on, which was how eager myself and others are to spend time outside and get started out in the yard. My family got together in southern Indiana at the end of March and had an early Easter and celebrated my nephew's 7th birthday. The forsythia was in full bloom and the daffodils are also showing off. Seeing all of this I am very eager and hopeful for a great spring and a wonderful growing season that is sure to come. I look forward to growing both outside in the soil and in the club as we all work together to grow and nurture our club.

### **Beautification Award – 2009**

In talking to the members of the board, it was suggested to me that I outline my ideas for the 2009 Beautification awards in the Gabber. So here goes. I would like to see as many nominations for this award as possible. To this end, I am requesting that each member submit at least one nomination for the beautification award. This nomination may be for a residence or for a business. I will have nomination forms for everyone at the April meeting. I want to start this now so that we do not miss the beauty of some gardens and landscaping that occurs in the spring. If I have an address, Cheryl and I will go to the location and take photographs and have them processed on our computer. You can submit your own photographs with the nomination. We will gather up all of the nominations and we will probably have a difficult but enjoyable task in selecting the major award winners this fall. I am also recommending that we award a certificate to all parties nominated but who do not win a major award. I feel that the beautification award is an excellent opportunity to win new members to our club. After all, that is how we became interested in our club and its great membership. I will be reminding everyone at the meetings and perhaps by email about submission of nominations. I do not want to be a pest, but feel strongly that this is a worthwhile effort. Best Regards, Clark

### **2009 Scholarships**

MGC Akron club scholarships for ATI horticulture students in Wooster:

Our scholarships continue to be given only to students from Summit and surrounding counties per decisions by our past and current boards. This year there were only two students who met that requirement. We offered two \$1,000 scholarships again this year and these two students will receive them. Both are excellent students with top grades (GPA's of 4.00 and 3.97) and both have transferred credits from other colleges. Both have an interest in our club and may eventually become members:

Amy Ryan lives in Medina and will be out of town in April for her Spring intern project.

Valerie Little lives in Wooster and plans to attend our April dinner meeting.

The Gardeners of America/Mens' Garden Clubs of America:

Our National organization offers five \$1,000 scholarships each year. Including the above two excellent ATI students, we interviewed a total of eight horticulture students from Ohio and submitted them all to the National selection committee. Four of these are at ATI and outside of our county area. One student is from the Lima branch of The Ohio State University. Another student is from the Columbus main campus of OSU. Heather Pariso is from Dover Ohio and attends ATI. She has expressed an interest in visiting our club and possible membership.

Thanks to Arthur Britton, Jim Fee, and Sam Morlan for assisting with three interview trips in February and March. We had a busy time traveling to Columbus, Lima and Wooster for these interviews. After that there was a lot of paperwork to prepare the applications to National before the deadline of April 1. Our Akron club is the official sponsor of these submissions.

Reported by Frank Mitch

## Geranium Sale

This year our geranium sale will be held on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. the weekend before Mothers Day. The place will be Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio. across from Fairlawn Town Centre.

The truck with the geraniums is scheduled to arrive on Friday at 8:30 am. We will need ten to twelve people to unload. About 10:30 am the delivery from Blooming Acres will arrive and we will need workers to unload and display these flowers. Since we are having more kinds of plants for sale we will need more workers than usual as sales people. It is recommended that at least six people be available for each shift. On Friday the shifts will be from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and from 3:00 to 8:00 pm. On Saturday the shifts are 9:00 am to noon, noon to 3:00 pm, and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. A sign up sheet will be passed out at the April meeting.

The geranium committee is requesting that you bring card tables to use for displaying and selling the flowers. If anyone has what is called a dining fly (a piece of canvas that can be set up over the plants in case of rain) could you bring it.

What are we getting from Blooming Acres? Flats of flowers such as petunias, impatiens, marigolds, and begonias and some vegetables. There will also be hanging baskets from Blooming Acres. Orchids also will be available for sale and perhaps some other house plants.

The following geranium colors have been ordered (in the past we have not always received the colors or the quantity of specific colors ordered):  
White, Patriot Red, Peach, Melody Pink, Cherry Rose, Patriot Violet, and Red with a variegated leaf

There will be no advance sale tickets this year so it is suggested that you either pick up the geraniums yourself for your customers or advise them to come to the sale early so they can get the colors they want.

The cost of a flat of 18 geraniums will be \$22.00, \$10.00 for a flat of other flowers and vegetables or \$1.50 for a single pac from a flat, the baskets will be \$17.00. We need to pay the grower of the geraniums \$7208.00 on the Monday after the sale in order to receive the discount, and we will need to pay Blooming Acres nearly \$2000 in advance. Blooming Acres will take back full flats after the sale.

This sale is the main fundraiser for the club and we need the full support of club members.

## Work Day

Our club is developing a good relationship with Faith Lutheran Church. They let us have our board meetings and this flower sale with no charge to the club. However, they are asking us to be responsible for the maintenance of a garden at the church. Our President, Arthur Britton, who is a member of the church, has shown the members of the board this garden and discussed with them what might be done to improve this garden. There will be a work day at the church on the Saturday following the geranium sale, May 16 at 8:00 a.m. A few willing and able workers are needed for this project. Since the club no longer takes care of a garden at Hospice this garden at the church will be a good substitute.

## Gift Certificates

We still have two \$20.00 gift certificates from Donzell's Flower and Garden Center. These certificates will be awarded to the next two people who recruit three new members to our garden club.

Grace Cochran was presented a gift certificate at the March dinner. Congratulations to Grace.

Submitted by Bob Bell, of the membership committee.

(Editor's note - Donzell's is a member of the club, a former advertiser in the Gabber, and they give a discount to club members. We should try to support Donzell's as much as possible.)

## Roster Corrections

Correct Grace Cochran's e-mail address. The correct one is [gcgarden7723@att.net](mailto:gcgarden7723@att.net)

## Conventions

In April, May and July are three important conventions. On April 18 there is the Central Great Lakes Region's spring meeting. It will be held in the gatehouse of Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a business meeting followed by lunch at the Fire Mountain restaurant. The afternoon program will be about plant pathology and treatment by David Goerig, the county extension agent for Mahoning County. There are fifteen club members planning to go to this meeting but more are welcome. There will be a ride pool forming at Leroy Hart's house at 8:30 a.m. Also Frank Mitch has room for a couple more; he is picking up members in Wadsworth.

The regional summer conference will be held July 24 and 25 at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, Indiana. This conference is being hosted by the Fort Wayne, Indiana club.

The theme of the conference is "Environmentally Sound in 2009". There will be a business meeting, seminars on gardening topics, a field trip, a performance of Oklahoma and a banquet. The registration fee is \$75.00. There will be overnight accommodations at Goshen College at \$20.00 a night or at a motel. The Fort Wayne club would appreciate your reservation as soon as possible. Contact John Kessen by e-mail at [lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com).

The national convention will be May 28, 29 and 30 at Santa Rosa, California (located in the Sonoma Valley, north of San Francisco). Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Frank Mitch and Leroy Hart are going. See any of them for details and costs.

## Walt's Gardening Tips for April

1. Have a certified tree technician spray your shade trees with a fungicide to prevent leaf disease.
2. This is the best time to plant most trees in northern Ohio. Most root growth occurs in the spring and fall.
3. As you watch your spring flowers fade remember that it is important to leave the foliage of bulbs to ripen and die back.
4. Here are some favorite flowers to attract butterflies to the garden: bee balm, cosmos, morning glory, phlox, aster, verbena, zinnia, cornflower and thistle.
5. Scratch a bar of soap before going into the garden to work. Dirt under the fingernails then washes out easily.

## For May

1. Fertilize roses in May. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on the leaves.
2. Mow cool season lawns tall (2 1/2 - 3") through the summer months for a healthier lawn.
3. Bugs and diseases will be out in force now. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.
4. Adult Japanese beetles feed on about 275 different plants. Some of their favorites are linden, sassafras, elm and birch. Aphids, spider mites, bagworms and many other insects can cause severe damage if left unchecked. Inspect and treat trees for harmful insects; now is the time many destructive insects are most vulnerable to pesticides. Look for splotchy discolored or chewed up leaves, and take action at the first sign.
5. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds are clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower and cleome.