



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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Monday, April 18

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 18, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Many Topics

This month we are going to try something new. The program will be an open forum type with a few speakers from our membership. Sam Morlan, Al Eddy, Mary Ann Ferguson- Rich and all of the committee heads will explain their projects and pass around sign up sheets for volunteers. We will also have a Q&A session, so bring your Q's and hopefully we can give some good answers.

Board Meeting: April 25 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 - Clark Bordner

Will winter never end. I guess the beauty of a late season snow like this is that the roads are not really affected too much. The snow covering the branches of the trees was truly breathtaking; especially at night in the country with the only illumination coming from the headlights of my truck. I definitely am ready to trade this winter weather in for the warm spring sun and blooming flowers.

As president, I have some unique opportunities. One of those occurred this past month as I went with Frank Mitch to ATI to interview scholarship candidates. The leadership at ATI is very appreciative of our support of their scholarship program. We were cordially greeted by the director of financial aid. Two professors, as well as the president of ATI stopped by the interview room to also extend a warm welcome to us. We interviewed five candidates, three of which qualified for our club scholarship. The two students that we chose are great students with 4.0 grade averages, are involved in community service and are very well spoken. We submitted all five applicants to national to compete for the five national scholarships. The students that we recommended have fared very well in the past and have received a large proportion of these scholarships. We are inviting the two winners to join us at a dinner meeting in the near future and I am sure you will be impressed with their poise and personalities.

We are advancing into the social networking age. As well as our web page; Frank Mitch has created a Facebook page for our club. It is truly amazing how many people use Facebook for almost all of their communications. It is estimated that 500,000,000 people have Facebook accounts worldwide and that number is growing. We have a new member who heard about us because of our web site. As time goes on, I believe that we will see more people become interested in us because we have these sites. We are also publicizing our Geranium sale on both the web site and Facebook and the cost is very minimal (Facebook is free!!!).

We have a lot to look forward to in the next month or so. Our biggest fund raiser, our Geranium sale is the first weekend of May. We are in contact with Habitat for Humanity and will tentatively assist with the landscaping of two homes this spring. We have a commitment to take care of flower beds at Crown Point and are involved with youth gardening at Arrowhead school in Copley. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, I encourage you to contact the committee heads as listed in the membership roster.

Speaking of the membership roster, I need your help. You will receive your copy of the roster for 2011 at the April dinner meeting. This roster not only has the contact information for all of the active club members, but also has a listing of the events and dinner speakers for the year as well as a listing of all of committees with their chairmen and other pertinent information relating to our club. I have a problem with getting such an important booklet to you with a third of the year gone. The hold up in the past has been the collection of membership fees in a timely manner. For a member to have their name and other information listed in the roster, they must be paid up for that year. This year we waited for some members to pay until January or February of this year to pay their dues. I am going to start early by asking that membership fees be paid by the end of November. We can then publish the roster at the December dinner meeting.

I am looking forward to a wonderful spring season. After the winter that we have had, we definitely deserve it!

Welcome New Member

Jan Barber - Hemphill, 2008 Highbridge Road, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223, phone 330-622-7453

E-mail: jbarberhemphill@marykay.com

Jan is self employed and single

She is interested in the club's geranium sale, horticulture show, beautification awards, and Crown Point garden.

Her garden interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, conservation/environment, herb, landscaping/lawns, perennials, specialty gardening, shrubs/trees, vegetables, water gardening/fish, wildlife.

Her hobbies are gardening, reading, and working out.

Geranium Sale

Our annual Geranium Sale, the club's largest fund raiser, will be held at Faith Lutheran Church 2726 W. Market St. Fairlawn Friday May 6 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Saturday May 7 from 9:00AM to 4:00 PM.

I have passed around a sign up sheet at the last meeting but if I missed you or you were not at the meeting and would still like to help just come. We can always use help Friday morning to unload the truck, between 8:00 and 8:30 AM. But if you can come anytime, just show up, if only for an hour or two.

We have many different colors this year, as compared to last:

Orange	This is new it is orange
Rose Mega Splash	New, it is white with a red center
Velvet Red	Like the old red
Rose Splash	Similar to the Rose Splash
Charmount	Similar to the Salmon
White	White
Lavender	New, this is a lilac color

We will also have hanging baskets, perennial bedding plants, and a few orchids.

Tell your family and friends to come and purchase their plants, hopefully we will sell them all at the sale and not have to bring them to the plant auction to sell. See you at the sale.

Jim Bell, Geranium Sale Chairman

“Celebrating Spring” Weekend at Donzell’s April 16th and 17th

April 16th 10:30 to 5:00 Northeast Ohio daffodil show. Meet Daffodil Society members and see many unique and unusual varieties of daffodils. Judging at 11:30. Free and open to the public.

April 16th 11:00 Container Workshop, “Pansy Pandemonium”: plant a pot of pansies. Cost \$12.99 and \$9.99 for seniors and children twelve and under. The price includes pot, soil, plants and instruction. Pre-registration and payment are necessary since space is limited.

April 16th and 17th 11:00 to 4:00 Operation Orphan Wildlife Rescue, Fran Kitchen will have a bunch of rescued backyard babies and animal rescue information for you,

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. Cut back large flowered hybrid clematis this month for best flower production in summer.
4. Mount a mail box on a post in the garden to store small tools.
5. It is important to leave the foliage of spring blooming bulbs to ripen and die back after bloom fades. The foliage is manufacturing food for next year's flowers.
6. A mouse trap mounted to the wall in the garden shed can hold gloves to dry and they can be easily found.
7. When transplanting remove all flowers to overcome shock, use starter solution of liquid fertilizer, transplant on a cloudy day or use a shading device for a few days if the weather is hot and sunny.
8. 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.
9. To control iris borer, clean up and destroy old foliage before new growth begins.
10. Apply complete slow- release fertilizer to established roses. Begin weekly sprays to control black spot and mildew.
11. Keep indoor seedlings and root cuttings cool. Give them plenty of light for bushy compact growth.

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. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds: clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower and cleome.
4. 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.
5. Adult Japanese beetles alone 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 that many destructive insects are most vulnerable to pesticides. Look for splotchy, discolored or chewed up leaves, and take action at the first sign of trouble.

Arrowhead School

Our club has become involved in the Nature Zone at Arrowhead Primary School in Copley. Now that planting time is soon to begin our gardening skills and experience can be helpful to the children as they work in the gardens. School families will be working on the following dates to clean up the Nature Zone in preparation for the Summit County Tour of Gardens on June 25th:

Saturday April 30th 12 noon to 4 pm

Saturday May 7th 9 am to 1 pm

Saturday May 12th 12 noon to 4 pm

Saturday June 4th 9 am to 2pm

If you would like to help on any of these days contact Jessica Huth at 330-697-9451.

If you are going to go on any of these days also contact me; I will be there to assist you in getting started.

This year the Nature Zone committee is planning to add blueberry and raspberry bushes to the grounds.

These bushes will allow teachers and parent volunteers to teach lessons on pollination, bees, health benefits of berries and how jams and jellies are made.

The labor to plant these bushes will be provided by the girls of Girl Scout Troops 535 and 869 as part of their work for the Silver Award. All of these girls are past students of Arrowhead School. It is estimated that the cost of the materials for this project will be about \$886.18. I believe this is an excellent project for our club to support.

If you would like any more information on the Nature Zone project contact me at 330-666-3158

Al Eddy, Chairman, Youth Committee

(Editor's note: I have been to Arrowhead School to see the Nature Zone and it is truly unique.. Al says that Arrowhead is one of only five schools in the entire country that have such a project as part of the school program. If you haven't visited it you should make arrangements with Al and go.

Arrowhead is not the only project with children and youth that Al is involved in. He has consulted with other schools about the possibility of doing some type of gardening project in the school.

He also has gone to several meetings with groups of children where he teaches them how to make pots for starting seeds out of newspaper.

In my opinion he is one of our most active and involved members. Thank you Al for all your good work.)

New Life

Its Spring again with new life awakening,
Tulips and Daffodils from sleeping beds rise.
I am seeing before me, unfolding,
A sampling of God's beautiful paradise.

There's a scent of freshness in the air,
The showers of rain softly falling,
Cleaning up after long winter storms,
As Robin and Blue Jay come calling.

Where is my raincoat, umbrella and gloves?
I'll take a long walk down the lane,
A few weeks ago, it was covered with snow,
Now, I too, can come alive again!

This poem was submitted by member Samuel Williams . It was written by his friend Virginia Davis Wiseman of Goodyear, Arizona.