



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, August 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, August 20, 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: Horticulture Show

This month's program is our annual horticultural show. So look in you garden and flower beds; pick our some specimens and bring them to the show.

Jim Bell will be there at 4:00 and all the entries should be there by 5:30. The judges, as usual, will be from the Youngstown club. There will be show schedules and entry tags available if you didn't pick them up last month. Jim will also have some bottles available for flowers and paper plates for vegetables.

Board Meeting: August 27 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

August is one of only two months named for Roman emperors: July for Julius Caesar and August for Augustus Caesar, the grand nephew of Julius. Augustus conquered Egypt from Marc Anthony and Cleopatra and brought that country into the Roman Empire. He also liked to rearrange the calendar and named the sixth month after himself.

We had 12 people from GOGA join us at the Great Lakes Regional Meet in East Lansing Michigan this year. It was a very informative meet. The majority of the meet was held at Michigan State University, the first land grant college in The United States. Their Horticultural department is probably one of the largest and most respected anywhere. We were given a tour by Dr. Norm Lowndes, associate professor and curator of the 4-H Children's Garden. He spoke to us about children's' gardening. This man has put together the most imaginative and creative way to present gardening to children that I have ever seen. You can go online To MSU 4-H Children's Garden for a virtual tour. These meetings are well worth going on, not only to learn something about gardening, but also to make new friends from across the region and learn what other clubs and members are doing. We also garnered a few awards for our local members.

Leroy Hart: The Green Bronze Award was given to Leroy for his outstanding service to the Region as chairperson for our Summer meet in 2011 and for being president this year and former JAB editor. Good Job!

Jim Bell: Jim received The William Moorehouse Award for his outstanding service to gardening. Jim has been Geranium chair; judging coordinator for the region, active with the Herb Society as well as the succulent and cactus people, not to mention his interest in ponds and he has opened his garden to us many times. He also is crucial to the Horticultural Show. Many thanks!

Sam Morlan: I received The Horticultural Achievement Award apparently because I have been able to put together a timely speaker list.

Certificates of Honor:

Martha Williams: Marti won this for her many years as club secretary (5) and her past service as Strawberry Festival chair. Thanks!

Clark Bordener: Clark has many projects under his belt; Geranium Sale; past president; bylaws committee. Well done!

Chris Godard: Chris has done a great job with Habitat for Humanity. Keep it up!

Sue Godard: Sue received this for her new, and I hope, ongoing role as Strawberry Festival chair. Nice job!

Its time to start nurturing your favorite picks for the Horticultural Show. Review the rules and remember some of the judging tips we got last month. Good luck.

Water your valuable trees and shrubs so they go into winter in good shape. Drought damage can be carried over for many years. There are many ways to deep water these trees and shrubs. Water bags can be purchased at many local garden centers. On the other hand, you can take a five-gallon bucket, drill a few very small holes near the bottom, and let the water slowly seep out.

RODNEY and KAY'S 16th ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN

You are invited to visit Rodney and Kay Toth's gardens **Sunday, September 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** They reside at 5637 W. Liberty St. (Rt. 304) Hubbard, OH 44425. (2.5 miles east of Belmont Ave., State Rt. 193).

There are several major gardens that feature **dahlias**, different and unusual varieties of tomatoes (in **The Giant Tomato Forest**), peppers, hosta, coleus, annuals, perennials, **The Great Gourd Tunnel** (a forty foot long gourd arbor), the **Grandchildren's Garden** which consists of eight triangular sections – one for each grandchild with plants such as Aunt Molly's Ground Cherry, Asian Beans, Voo Doo Lily, Megaton Cabbage, Amy Canary Cantaloupe (and much more), the Florida Corner, a **Super Sky High Sunflower Garden** and **The Potpourri Pole** with Dutchman's Pipe and 'Blue Sky Vine'.

Special guests will be **singing entertainment** by Monica Toth Baker at 1:30 p.m., **karaoke** by Joe Weinel at 3:30 pm, John Schinker from the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown with **mums** and Alice Lang with **decorative gourd art**. **Come** and have a relaxing day visiting and sharing with friends. **Note – Ample Parking** is available. There is **no admission fee**. For additional info or to arrange **Garden Club Tours** on other dates contact Rodney Toth at (330) 759-1993.

Regional Summer Conference

The summer conference of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners was held in East Lansing, Michigan, mostly on the campus of Michigan State University. This school was the original land grant university in the country. Congress, in the 19th century, passed a law establishing land grant colleges in the 19th century. The purpose of this law was to establish colleges that were not expensive Eastern schools. Each of the land grant schools was given land in the West which they could sell to raise money to start the schools. MSU is very strong in all types of agriculture. Its campus is huge, perhaps several square miles. There are barns, fields of corn, all kinds of agricultural enterprises. One of these was an experimental organic farm. They had a large composting system in which they closely watched the temperature of the huge compost piles and turned them with large machinery. Another interesting thing they did was rotate the crops on a plot of land and every few years they would give that plot a rest; then they put the chickens of it to provide fertilizer.

We spent one day having seminars from two professors of the Horticultural Department. One of them took us on a tour of the Horticulture Gardens. This garden is on the newer part of the main campus. This garden has several interesting features. There is a circular area where you could stand and speak and hear your voice echo. Another place where you could stand on a spot marked with the month of the year, raise your arm and its shadow would tell the time on the sundial numbers marked on the ground. Mixed in the annual garden were flowers that various companies had sent plants and seeds to be tested. They had, a hundred of the most beautiful hanging baskets. They said that it took a student worker almost all day to water them. They said they used fertilizer at double strength.

Part of the garden was the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. Here were several small areas of especial interest to the thousands of children that visit this garden each year. They had a Peter Rabbit garden, an alphabetical garden, a Harry Potter garden etc. They had a building with a green roof, grasses and flowers. At the entrance to the garden was a huge peacock made of wire and covered with begonias. There also was about a ten foot long dragon made of saplings and branches. It was tall enough that children could run through it.

Adopt-A-Site

Keep Akron Beautiful has a program called Adopt-A-Site. This program is a beautification project that involves volunteer who plant and maintain public lands in Akron on an ongoing basis. KAB assists by advising groups on site choice and landscape plans, first year site preparation, wholesale purchase of plant materials and free hydrant connections for watering. KAB provides bags for cleanups and trash removal at season's end and gives instructions for proper planting and maintenance techniques during the spring clinic. There are over 74 Adopt-A-Sites in all ten wards of the city. Anyone who is interested in starting an Adopt-A-Site should call KAB in February or March.

(Editor's note - I mention this project because this might be a possible project for the club or for a group of members in a neighborhood. Several years ago the club did explore the possibility of doing such a project at an intersection on West Market Street. The idea died because there was no way to provide water at the proposed site.)

Graffiti Wipeout Services

Keep Akron Beautiful operates the Graffiti Wipeout System, a graffiti removal service for public property within the city of Akron. KAB has purchased a graffiti wipeout system called Accustrip which uses a blast of sodium bicarbonate to power wash all types of graffiti from all surfaces.

In 2010 KAB expanded the graffiti removal service to private property. The cost is \$50. Requests for removal service can be made by calling 3-1-1 or 330-375-2311. Residents who spot graffiti within Akron are encouraged to report it immediately by calling 3-1-1, the customer service hot line for the City of Akron.

To learn more about the high cost of graffiti to communities, what motivates graffiti vandals and how you can prevent graffiti from happening log on to www.graffitihurts.org.

Plant a Row

With harvest season upon us some gardeners may find themselves with bumper crops. If you find yourself in this situation with a surplus of fruits and vegetables try giving to someone in need through Plant a Row for the Hungry. The following sites are accepting donations:

Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, 350 Opportunity Parkway, Akron. Call 330-535-6900 to schedule a drop off appointment between 8 am and 3 pm weekdays.

Canton Road Garden Center, 1881 Canton Road, Springfield Township. Drop off times 8 am to 7 pm weekdays, 8 am to 6 pm Saturdays and 9 am to 5 pm Sundays.

Crown Point Ecology Center, 3220 Ira Road, Bath Township. Drop off times 8am to 4 pm weekdays and 8am to noon Saturdays.

Famam Manor Museum, 4223 Brecksville Road, Richfield. Drop off times 10 am to 7 pm weekdays.

Stow Administrative Offices, 3760 Darrow Road. Drop off anytime.

Stow Community Garden, 5070 Stow Road. Drop off time 7 am to 9 pm daily.

Walt's Garden Tips

August---

1. Roses should not be fed beyond the middle of this month. If the rose flowers are left to mature into rose hips the overall health of the plant will be improved.
- 2 Add several inches of mulch to Asiatic lilies. This will keep the roots cool, protect them from heat, and deter weed growth.
3. Many herbs self-sow if flowers are not removed. Dill seeds sprout and come up as volunteers the following spring.
4. Continue to keep soil around your shasta daisies and ferns moist but not wet. Ferns may become dormant if they get too dry.
5. Evergreens can be planted and transplanted to insure good rooting before winter arrives. Water both the plant and the planting site several times before moving.

September---

1. Bring house plants indoors before the heat is turned on. Check for insects and take the necessary steps if you find any.
2. A few trees and shrubs that attract and provide fruit for birds are holly, autumn olive (*Eleagnus*), ligustrum, barberry, Oregon Holly -grape (*Mahonia*), firethorn (*Pyracantha*), dogwoods, wild black cherry, red cedar, and wax myrtle.
3. Insecticides should be stored with labels intact and out of reach of children and pets. Never store near food. Never reuse an empty insecticide container. Follow community codes for disposing of chemical containers.
4. Power rake and over seed a thin lawn now. Weeds will not be a problem in the fall.
5. This is an excellent month to seed or sod a new lawn. Don't take shortcuts when preparing the soil, You will not have another chance.
6. During the fall, be sure your vegetables are adequately watered. Many crops such as corn, peppers, squash and tomatoes won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water.
7. June varieties of tomatoes should be at peak of production, though ripening slows as the temperature falls. Prune plants to discourage late fruit set.
8. Lawns - Sow seed over bare or thin spots, making passes from different directions. A light dressing of soil improves germination and straw prevents erosion.
9. Prepare a battle plan for an early frost now. (It could happen.) Have old blankets and sheets handy to protect productive plants from light frost.
10. Move plants back indoors when temperature drops into the low 60's. Wash off and clean summered plants to reduce insects coming into the house.

Regional Meeting

The final meeting of the year for the Central Great Lakes Gardeners will be Saturday October 6 at Kingwood Center, Mansfield. Business meeting 10 am, lunch at Golden Corral and program by Denise Ellsworth. She has had the program for our club more than once and she was the program at last year's summer conference. Then she was with the county extension service. Now she has a new job. She is in the Ecology Department at OARDC as a specialist in pollinators. Ride pool at Leroy Hart's house at 9 am. This is his final meeting as the president of the region.