



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 19

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 19, 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: Horticultural Show

This month's program is the annual horticultural show. So look through your garden and flower beds for entries to the show. Remember an entry does not have to be perfect in order to be an entry in the show, or to be beautiful.

Entries should be brought between 4:00 and 5:30 so they can be placed in the proper place in the show and be judged. As usual the judges will be from the Youngstown Men's Garden Club. Will there be cash prizes this year? Bring your entries and find out.

The rules for the show (the Bible for the show) are on pages four and five. Mary Ann Ferguson Rich has provided this set of rules; thank you Mary Ann.

Board Meeting: August 26 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

Welcome to August called 'Woud Monath' by the Anglo Saxons which means the month of weeds. It is surely true this year with all the rain and limited opportunities to get into the garden.

I would like to talk a little this month about pollinators and some of the problems they seem to be sharing. The main pollinator in our environment is hands down the honeybee which in and of itself is responsible for a third of all we eat. Other pollinators include butterflies; beetles; birds; native bees; flies and bats. I would like to concentrate mainly on honeybees and the Monarch butterfly, which seem to be sharing some of the same problems, not to exclude other species, because I believe the problem is universal.

Modern farming practices have been one of the main culprits in changing our eco system along with global climate change. Twenty-five million acres have been put into cultivation since 2007 due mainly to increased demand for ethanol, which has driven the price of corn for many years. More farms mean more pesticides along with more herbicides and a decrease in bio diversity in the landscape. Farms are cleared of any weeds or insects due to spraying and GMO crops. Leaving limited forage for butterflies to feed on or lay eggs on and the source of herbicides and pesticides that are ingested by our bee population.

Weather also plays a key role in this scenario. I have read where the monarchs summered over their breeding season much farther north last year than normal due to an early and warm spring. When it was time to migrate to Mexico in late summer and early fall their route was devastated by drought which made it even more difficult or impossible to make it to their winter home. Last year's census of monarchs in Mexico was the lowest ever by about fifty percent. Some are attributing last summer's early season to hive loss this year due to bee starvation. When bees are at their peak numbers and making provisions for the hive many of the flowers they use were already past prime bloom.

Invasive species have also played its part in this decline. We have invasive plants that are taking over our native species and invasive insects that have no natural predators. We pay dearly for this subtle change which in many cases may not be able to be reversed easily or at great cost if we ever get the will to try to do it.

I believe one thing we must keep in mind when thinking about this subject is to remember that all of nature has evolved together. In order to sustain our environment and ourselves we must first become aware of the problems and take action to remedy the decline, or at least slow it down. We, as a species, have carved a niche for ourselves to the detriment of many other forms of life that, we must realize, are also critical to our survival. All living things are in this mix together and when we lose a species or even a sub species, no matter how insignificant, it is a sign of change. Nature has her way of cycling over long periods of time to cause adaptations to climate and thus species elimination, but this process seems to have been put out of kilter lately by human activity.

There are things we can do as gardeners to help alleviate this problem. First, become informed about pesticides; herbicides and invasive species. There is a lot of information out there to read or use your computer. There will be a talk by Doug Tallamy at The Akron Public Library on September 17 at 7 PM. Professor Tallamy wrote a best seller "**Bringing Nature Home**", an excellent explanation on the impact of invasives. I would like to thank Christine Freitag who loaned me the fascinating and informative book to read.

I also want to remind you of the Horticultural Show this month so keep an eye on your favorite plants for prize winners. Good luck.

Member Receives National Award

At the recently concluded national convention in Springfield, Illinois one of our members was honored with an award from the national organization. Frank Mitch, of Akron Ohio, received the Certificate of Appreciation Award at The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Club of America's National Convention in Springfield, IL on June 29, 2013. This award is to honor individuals in recognition of participation in club activities, donations of gifts or services that are extended to TGOA/MGCA.

Frank has been an integral part of the TGOA/MGCA, where he is the Bylaws Chairman and the Book Review Chairman and a National Director from the Central Great Lakes Gardeners. He maintains the TGOA/MGCA website and social media page. He also maintains the web sites for the region and our club.

Frank also performs another function that is very important to our club. He is the person through whom e mails from the club are sent to members who have e mail. The editor sends the Garden Gabber to him and he sends it on. Other members of the club do this when they have information for the whole club. If you don't have a functioning e mail account you will still receive the newsletter but you will probably miss this other information.

Share Your Perennials

Planning to divide your perennials this year? How about bringing them in to the Garden Club to share with your fellow gardeners.

We will have a 'share table' available during the next few meetings.

Please identify the plants with their needs. Should be fun getting new plants for FREE.

Submitted by Grace Cochran so does this mean that Grace will be in charge of this great idea?

Grace also wants to remind members to bring contributions of garden related items for door prizes and for the silent auction which is being led by Cheryl Bordner.

Welcome New Members

Carole Reid, 2748 Smith Road, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333 phone 330-864-8523 e mail robncar@spcglobal.net Carole does not say whether she is employed or retired but lists her position and title as Domestic Goddess. She is married to Robin Reid. She lists the geranium sale as her favorite club activity and her gardening interests as annuals/perennials, birds/butterflies, conservation/environment, herbs, roses, shrubs/trees, and vegetables. She lists no hobbies. She was recommended by Clare and Graham Reinke.

John Argabright 1240 South Avenue, Apt. 6, Barberton, Ohio 44203 phone 330-256-9561 e mail brandonargabright@yahoo.com. John has recently returned as a Private First Class from the U. S. Army. He is unmarried. He lists his club opportunities as Crown Point Gardens and Habitat for Humanity Landscaping. His garden interests are annuals/perennials, conservation/environment, herbs, landscaping/lawns, roses, shrubs/trees, and vegetables. He lists his hobbies as fishing, wood work, landscaping and sports. John was recommended by his grandfather Roger Hite.

HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE AND RULES

AUGUST 19, 2013 MEETING

Entries will be accepted from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Entrants must provide their own entry containers, preferably clear, glass bottles, and have them ready to display.

Entry cards were passed out at the July meeting and are available the day of the show, or prior to the show by calling Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.

You must identify your exhibit with the variety or cultivar name to receive a top award. Please include the botanical name if at all possible. Example: *Capsicum Annum*, "Gypsy" pepper.

Judging will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. except for section winners and Best of Show, Second Best of Show and Third Best of Show. Those awards will be decided after dinner with the judges providing commentary about their decisions. This will be an educational benefit for the members. All decisions of the judges are final. Those in attendance will vote on a People's Choice winner.

Rosettes will be awarded to section winners and prizes shall be awarded to the three best of show winners and the People's Choice Winner.

All items must be removed at the close of the meeting.

If you have questions call the show chairman, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.

Specimens shall be a single flower etc., unless the rules specify a larger number.

Paper plates and wedging material will be provided as necessary for display.

The Show Chairman and Co-Chairman will subdivide the sections into classes at the time of entry.

(Two or more entries may constitute a class) We reserve the right to add as many classes and/or sections as deemed necessary.

Section A-Annuals-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers; Example: three dwarf marigolds; one only of the large, carnation-type marigolds.

Section B-Perennials-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers;

Section C-Vegetables

Three specimens of tomatoes, peppers, onions, summer squash and other smaller vegetables. One specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant, winter squash and pumpkins. All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch. Cherry tomatoes shall be displayed by the cluster-one cluster with tomatoes still attached, six or more tomatoes on the cluster.

Class C-1 Any vegetable

Class C-2 Any heirloom vegetable

Section D-Fruits-One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc., six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.

Section E-Herbs One stem of larger herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc. Three stems of small herbs such as thyme.

Section F-Herbs in containers

F-1 One plant in a container

F-2 Multiple plants in a container (can be the same herb or an assortment of herbs)

Section G-Corms, Bulbs, Tubers and Hemerocallis- One specimen.

continued on page 5

Section H-Orchids in pots.

Section I-Flowering plants in pots.

Class I-1 Single plant in a pot

Class I-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants)

Section J-Foliage plants in pots.

Class J-1 Single plant in pot

Class J-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants) Section K-Hanging baskets. One type or mixture of different plants in the basket.

Section L-Miniature Gardens- (with accessories in containers of any size)

Section K-Hanging baskets. One type or mixture of different plants in the basket.

Section L-Miniature Gardens- (with accessories in containers of any size)

Section M-Foliage- One leaf specimen of any plant.

Section O-Cactus and Succulents in pots.

Class O-1 Single cactus in a pot

Class O-2 Multiple cacti in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Class O-3 Single succulent in a pot

Class O-4 Multiple succulents in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Section P-Largest tomato by circumference, can be green.

Section Q-Longest zucchini.

Section R-Best Geranium-limited to those varieties obtained at our sale.

Section S-Trees and Shrubs-One branch not less than 12 and not more than 30”.

Section T-Arrangements:

“Summer in Miniature”-a design not to exceed 8 inches in height or width.

“Take Me Out to the Ballpark”-A design of any size, which expresses this theme. (Floral material used in designs does not have to be grown by the exhibitor)

Accessories that help to express the theme are permitted.

Geranium Sale

The bill for the geranium sale from Racine Products & Plants finally arrived and was promptly paid.

We ordered 308 flats of geraniums, returned 120.5, sold 187.5, cost per flat \$16.20 total cost \$3037.50.

We ordered 50 flats of various bedding plants, returned 11, sold 39, cost per flat \$5.00, total cost \$195.00.

We ordered 54 hanging baskets, returned 7, sold 47, cost \$10.00 per basket total cost \$470.00.

Delivery \$80.00

Total received for the geranium sale	\$5359.50
Total cost	3782.50
Profit	1577.00

This compared to last year’s sale where we received \$7958.00, cost \$5639.70 for a profit of \$2318.30. This year’s result was not too bad considering the two days of the sale were rainy and cold.

In contrast the May Plant sale this year netted \$2026.00 for the club with no expenses. This compares to last year’s May sale of \$885.00.