



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



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Monday, August 16

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 16, 2010

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center

Program: Horticultural Show

Because of the outstanding participation of club members at last year's horticultural show, there were far more entries than there had been at previous shows held at the library, the board decided to again have this year's show at the August meeting. The show's director, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich says that if every club member would submit at least one or more entries we would have a successful show. There is no limit on the number of entries a member may submit. Invite friends who are not members to also attend and submit entries. The show schedule is on page 4.

The judges will again be from the Youngstown club. There will again be prizes for the top three winners and also the people's choice winner.

The roundabout on Ridgewood Road is completed so you can use your usual route to the meeting.

Board Meeting: August 23, 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

Arthur Britton

Hello! August has arrived! I hope that all of your gardens are surviving after the heat from July.

To let everyone know up front—the board has voted that the pledge and the prayer are going to remain as part of the Dinner meeting. They decided to let the President make the decision as to the prayer, and I plan on continuing. One thing that most agree on is to have a maximum time limit of two minutes. If someone else would like to say a blessing or a prayer, please let me know. If you want to do it yourself I will be happy to accommodate you. Some would like to do a poem or a simple saying. I look forward to hearing from you.

The 2010 National Convention was held June 10-12th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Many of our members not only attended but played vital roles in making sure that the programs went well and we had the information needed. Some of the activities of the conference included the local extension office coming and sharing what she (Rebecca Finneral) and her team were able to do to convert a vacant lot next to the local jail into a great garden. It uses plants that will grow in their zone and has influenced homes in the area to spruce up their yards as well. Other speakers did talks that ranged in topics from propagation to taking that perfect photo of plants or scenery. We were also able to have some free time to take in the local culture and visit. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet other gardeners from not only Ohio, but other states. Some drove 12-14 hours to attend the conference and said that they really had a great time.

One of my favorite experiences from the convention was when we were invited to the home and private garden of Dale G. Deppe, Owner of Spring Meadows Nursery. We visited his testing grounds (aka: his back yard) and had a great dinner. All 110 of us ate in his front yard. There are other experiences that many enjoyed, but time and space do not allow for all of them here. I would recommend that if you are able to attend a national or local conference, you should do it; you will benefit in many ways.

As a reminder: this month we are going to have a Horticultural Show instead of a speaker. We are going to see what everyone has been growing in their gardens. This is a great way to show off what you have grown and maybe win a ribbon or two. Make sure that you have all of the information about what type of plant it is—the more information the better. Be sure to arrive before 5:30 pm if possible with your plant so that it can be placed in the correct category. Thank you to MaryAnn Ferguson-Rich and Jim Bell for setting this up.

May we always continue to enjoy gardening!

Habitat Project

To all gardeners, be on notice. The Habitat Committee is moving forward possibly this month and needs your help. We have an ambitious early Fall season upon us. There may be as many as 3 to 6 lots to landscape. Not only do I need elbow grease in moving soil and raking; but we'll need donated trees, shrubs, and perennials to landscape the yards. If you or some outfit you know can donate, please let us know asap.

Currently, as early as the next couple of weeks, I may be calling **you** for your gracious help. Do not forget to bring bow rakes, shovels, gloves, and wheel barrows. Oh yes, donuts will be provided to the first 50 helpers in attendance. In advance, thanks for your support. For details, call either Chris Godard at 330-414-5144 or Andy Bettick at 330-666-8793.

Submitted by Christopher Godard, Habitat committee chairman

New Fundraiser

At the Central Great Lakes Region's summer conference last week we visited the North Coast Perennial nursery. This is a wholesale grower that specializes in perennial plants, hostas, ferns, grasses etc. It is located in Lake County near Madison. We were allowed to make purchases at their wholesale cost and many members did so. Jim Bell has made an arrangement with this nursery that our club can purchase plants at wholesale prices. Jim will have catalogues and price lists available at the August meeting. If we show enough interest he will go up and purchase the plants that club members order.

In order to make this a fundraiser for the club Jim will be adding a twenty percent charge to the cost of the plant you order. This is a very reasonable charge when you consider that the average nursery will charge between 200 and 300 percent over their wholesale cost. This 20 percent will also cover Jim's travel costs to the nursery.

(Editor's note - I could not resist buying something even though my wife told me not to buy anything, I got a two gallon size hardy hibiscus loaded with buds for \$9.00. It has bloomed with 8 and 9 inch blooms already. Just an example of what you can get.)

Member News

Former member L. Frederick Gillespie passed away July 11. We knew him as Fred. Fred was the owner of a nursery and landscaping business in Norton. Many of us purchased our plants there. Fred is survived by his wife and two sons and two daughters. Our condolences to his family.

Vic Giannini is home after being hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic for an aneurysm in the brain. The operation was successful and he is on the way to recovery. We wish him continued improvement and look forward to seeing him at monthly meetings.

In last month's Gabber we welcomed new member Carl Meador but we did not have complete information on him. since then we have his membership application. His address is 4171 Deerwood Drive, Akron, Oh 44333,. phone 330-666-5047. e-mail meadorce@acl.com Carl is an attorney and is married to Lucinda. He lists as his gardening interests shrubs/trees and vegetables.

HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE AND RULES

AUGUST 2010 MEETING

1. Entries will be accepted from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
2. Entrants must provide their own entry containers, preferably clear, glass bottles, and have them ready to display.
3. Entry cards were passed out at the July meeting and are available the day of the show, or prior to the show by calling the chairman at 330-630-9625.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Rosettes will be awarded to section winners and prizes shall be awarded to the three best of show winners.
7. All items must be removed at the close of the meeting.
8. If you have questions call the show chairman, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625.
9. Specimens shall be a single flower etc., unless the rules specify a larger number.
10. Paper plates and wedging material will be provided as necessary for display.
11. The Show Chairman and Co-Chairman (Jim Bell) will subdivide the sections into classes at the time of entry. They 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;

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.

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 specimen of larger herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc. Three specimens of small herbs such as thyme.

Section F-Herbs in containers- one herb or multiple types of herbs in a container.

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

Section H-Orchids in pots.

Section I-Flowering plants in pots. One type or mixture of different plants in the pot.

Section J-Foliage plants in pots. One type or mixture of different plants in the pot.

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

Section L-Fairy Gardens

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

Section O-Cactus and Succulents in pots.

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:

- a) “Summer in Miniature”-a design not to exceed 8 inches in height or width.
- b) “Midsummer Night’s Dream”-A design of any size (Floral material used in designs does not have to be grown by the exhibitor)

Walt's Gardening Tips for 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.

For 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 overseed 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.

Former Member Honored

Former member Earl Carlton was recent honored by the Ohio Bluebird Society for his long dedication of over 50 years and enthusiasm for bluebirds. In his work of visiting farmers for the U. S. Agriculture Department as District Soil Conservationist for Summit County he noticed the lack of bluebirds so he supplied nest boxes and instructions on caring for bluebirds to farmers. In his retirement at his tree farm in Carroll County he continues this caring for bluebirds. Each year he makes about 50 nesting boxes and places them in the area around the tree farm which he calls the Carlton Bluebird Trail and then riding in an ATV inspects these boxes on a regular basis. He sprays these boxes with Rotenone or sulfur powder to control the mites which can kill baby birds. Mr. Carlton is 93 years old and in good health.