



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.
and The Men's Garden Clubs of America Central Great Lakes Region

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Monday, December 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, December 19, 2011

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Centre

3205 Ridgewood Road

Copley, Ohio

Program: Christmas Dinner and Program

The program for our Christmas meeting will be the Keyed Up Acappella Quartet. This is a barbershop quartet group.

There will be a cyclamen gift for the ladies.

The only business aspect of the evening will be the installation of next year's officers by national director Frank Mitch.

Board Meeting: no board meeting in December

Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

President's Message - Clark Bordner

The strange weather for our area continues. Who would have believed that into December we would have no appreciable snow or cold weather. I prefer snow this time of year but it seems like we are stuck with rain for a while longer. I am one that truly appreciates a white Christmas so I hope we will have one this year.

It is hard to believe that this is my last president's letter. I have enjoyed all aspects of the presidency of this club. I now look forward to Sam Morlan's leadership in the upcoming year. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the position and I am truly excited about what the next year will bring for our club. I ask that all of you give Sam the same level of support that you gave me. We also now have a second vice president. Barbara Croghan was nominated by Arthur Britton at our last board meeting. As outlined in the bylaws, we took an emergency vote of the board members present. She was elected unanimously. I am glad that we have a full slate of officers for next year.

The officials at our national organization are putting together a cook book and are soliciting recipes from club members. Once the cook book is compiled; they will be sold to members clubs for a very nominal fee. We can then sell them with a mark up and all of the profits would go into our general operating fund. If you could please bring in your favorite recipe(s) and leave them at the sign up table at the December dinner meeting, we will send them to national. Sending a recipe to national does not guarantee that it will be included in the cook book. Based on the great food that we had at the strawberry festival; I would think that there are plenty of great recipes that we can submit. I would hope that we would be well represented in this cook book.

I am truly looking forward to the holiday dinner meeting. We have a barbershop style quartet that will perform and I love that type of music. Andy Bettick has made arrangements for our Christmas gifts and I hope that everyone is pleased with them. We will not be having a fifty/fifty drawing nor will we have a silent auction or door prizes for this event. I look forward to a great time of fellowship as we celebrate this holiday season.

I ask that everyone keep Bob and Emily Bell in your thoughts and prayers. Bob has been extremely active not only with several projects in our club but as regional president as well. He has been having problems swallowing and the testing that he has gone through has been inconclusive. Emily has had numerous health issues that she has had to deal with as well. I hope that these problems may be alleviated for them so they can enjoy the holiday season.

As I sign off on this my final letter to you, I can only again thank all of you for your support in making this an exciting and enjoyable year for Cheryl and me and for our club. May this holiday season be filled with joy and happiness for you and your families. With best regards, Clark

Time for a Chuckle

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. *Doug Larson*

"The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." *Robert Frost*

"My garden is an honest place. Every tree and every vine are incapable of concealment and tell after two or three months exactly what sort of Treatment they have had." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron back, with a hinge in it. *Charles Dudley Warner*

A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of. *T. H. Everett*

Welcome New Members

Carol Buchanan, 499 St. Vincent Drive, Akron (Bath), Ohio 44333 phone 330-864-3439

E mail moicarol@hotmail.com

Carol is a retired French teacher from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. She is single.

Her club interests are Habitat for Humanity landscaping and publicity.

She lists her gardening interests as annuals/perennials, birds/butterflies, roses, and wildlife.

Flora Wake, 903 Bellaire Drive, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333 phone 330-666-4673 no e-mail

Flora is married to Bill Wake

She is a retired social worker formerly with the Medina County Board MR/DD

Her club activities are beautification awards and Habitat for Humanity landscaping.

Her gardening interests are annuals and perennials

Susan Handa, 887 Hunters Ridge, Akron, Ohio 44333 phone 330-612-3942

E-mail nasus44313

Susan is married to Pawan Houda and she is self employed.

Her club interests are Habitat for Humanity landscaping.

She lists her gardening interests as birds/butterflies, conservation/environment and vegetables.

Her hobbies are reading and travel.

She was recommended by Flora Wake.

A Lot Less Gas

A recent article in the bulletin from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center featured an article about a project that OARDC is working on in cooperation with scientists in Australia. This project is working on decreasing the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. One of these gasses is methane.

The third biggest overall source of methane in the United States and the biggest source that comes from human related activities is the methane that is emitted from livestock - cattle, sheep and more. These animals depend upon microbes in their digestive system to help them digest their food. The methane is a by-product of this digestive process.

Scientists have discovered that the Tammar wallaby in Australia emits very little methane, about 80 % less methane gas per unit of digestive energy intake than a cow does. The scientists have discovered that the much lower gas output in the wallaby is caused by a specific bacterium in its digestive system. The scientists at OARDC hope to use this information to improve the nutrient retention in livestock and thereby lessening the amount of methane the animal produces.

Another article in the same bulletin talks about wine production in Ohio. Wine and grape research at OARDC is helping to boost wine production in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture reports that the number of wineries in the state has nearly doubled since 1997, from 75 to 148. Grape growing and wine making together provide more than 4,000 full time jobs and a 580 million dollar boon to Ohio's economy.

OARDC does research on growing different varieties of grapes and making different types of wine.

Indian Winter Forecast

(Editor's note - Someone shared this with me. I thought it was amusing and I want to share it with you. This story is appropriate for this time of year.)

It was already late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was a chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold" the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes" the man at the National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find,

Two weeks later the chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely", the man replied, "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen."

"How can you be so sure?" the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

!!Always remember this whenever you get advice from a government official!!!!

Plant Catalog Terminology

"A favorite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.

"Grows more beautiful each year" means it looks like road kill for the foreseeable future.

"Zone 5 with protection" is a variation of the phrase "Russian roulette."

"May require support" means your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.

"Moisture loving" plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

(One Application per Person)

We begin our campaign for membership renewal this month. We plan to finish all renewals by the December meeting. Please fill out the attached membership application renewal. We have found many of our records outdated and need to get them current. Many of you have new or changed interests and we would like to include them in our roster next year. Bring it to dinner with you or mail with your check to Leroy. Thank you, the membership committee.

The Gardeners of Greater Akron promotes gardening as a hobby for adults and children; encourages the use of gardens to beautify communities; cooperates with various groups interested in gardening; and encourages qualified members to share their knowledge and skills.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Home Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Employed by/Retired from: _____ Position or Title: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Signature of Prospective Member: _____ Date: _____

Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests: (Check all interests below)

Geranium Sale: _____ Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: _____

Youth Gardening Program: _____ Crown Point Gardens: _____ Strawberry Festival: _____

Calling Committee: _____ Publicity: _____ Garden Club Website: _____

Annual dues are \$35, life members pay \$15. For new members dues are prorated as follows:

Join January 1st - June 30th: \$35 for one person, \$ 60 for two people (same address)

Join July 1st - September 30th: \$17.50 for one person, \$30 for two people (same address)

Join October 1st- December 31st: \$ 35 for one person for the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Please send completed application with dues. Check payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron to:

Leroy Hart, 633 Schocalog Road, Akron, OH 44320-1033 or bring to monthly meeting.

Gardening Interests: (Check all that apply below)

Annuals/Perennials: _____ Birds/Butterflies: _____ Conservation/Environment: _____ Farming: _____

Forestry: _____ Herbs: _____ Landscaping/Lawns: _____ Shrubs/Trees: _____ Vegetables: _____

Water Gardening/Fish: _____ Wildlife: _____ Other: _____

Hobbies: _____

Meetings are generally held: Third Monday of each month at:

St. George Fellowship Center. 3204 Ridgewood Road. Akron, Ohio.

5:30 Social Hour. 6:30 Buffet Dinner followed by the Program.

The Gardeners of Greater Akron are affiliated with The Gardeners of America,/The Men's Garden Club of America and the Central Great Lakes Regional Gardeners. Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org> Updated: 10/03/2011