



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.,
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President:

Arthur Britton
1989 High Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
☎ 330-836-2588
Email: garlic65@hotmail.com

1st Vice President:

Clark Bordner
225 Norton Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203-1931
☎ 330-388-6382
Email: cbordner@neo.rr.com

2nd Vice President:

Pat Pickard
1247 Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203
☎ 330-848-0687
Email: ppicard@ohio.net

Secretary:

Sue Godard
2613 Cardington Green
Uniontown, OH 44685-7526
☎ 330-699-0509
Email: ssaats511@aol.com

Treasurer:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Rd.
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

National Director:

Frank M. Mitch
2065 Kemery Road
Akron, OH 44333-1937
☎ 330-666-2327
Email: fgmm2065@hotmail.com

Gabber Editor/Historian:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

Monday, December 15

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 15, 2014
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: Christmas Celebration

The program will be the Madrigal Singers from Firestone High School. As usual there will be a plant for the ladies, members and spouses.

This month the club will be starting a new program, having greeters at the door to welcome members and guests for the evening. This month the greeters are Jenny Ross and Cheryl Bordner.

No board meeting in December.

Club web site: <http://gogakron.org>

President's Message - Arthur Britton

Hello, to one and all. Yes we are now in the month of December and hopefully your flower beds and vegetable gardens have been addressed to take on the winter. Some of the things that I have done in the past is to take the leaves that my neighbors have put in bags and instead of having the city come and pick them up I take them and put them on my vegetable garden and some of my flower beds and yes put them in the compost pile. Any bags that I have left I try to put next to my garage so that the bags that they are in will hopefully hold the leaves till spring. The works most of the time, some of the bags fall apart and oh gee I have to rake up leaves in the spring. To me not a big deal and, yes worth it.

Please make sure that you have your membership dues in A.S.A.P. so that you will not be left out of the 2015 Roster. I would like to Thank Pat for all of the hard work that he did for the Beautification Awards. Just a reminder, that you have till the end of the year to send in your money to the endowment fund. (For tax purposes and since you have your check book out).

I would like to thank everyone that received an award or certificate for not only being a member of this club, but being active in it. We handed out over 30 certificates and for a club of about 73 members that says a lot for our club.

I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to this club. I have been President for a total of 3 years. I have learned a great deal about plants, trees, watering, how to set up a garden and or a flower bed. While I have learned a great deal I know that I have a great deal still to learn. I look forward to doing so, with the help of this club and hope that club is around for a long time to come. I hope that everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and Merry Christmas.

May we always enjoy Gardening

Member News - Earl Carlton

Earl was a wonderful gardener and he passed away at 2:30 today. He was president of our club in 1970 and responsible for me joining the club. He served as director of the soil and conservation department of Summit County from which position he retired to a second career. Many years before this he started the Carlton Tree Farm, with 3 sons, which kept him pretty busy. Also, he was an avid "Blue Birder" and maintained several Bluebird trails around his home in Carrollton, Ohio and was recognized nationally for his contribution. We had a farm near Earl's and for several years had hayrides and picnics for the garden club members.

Howard Palmer

Potato Fest at Crouse Elementary School

The following was written by Julia Spangler, third grade teacher at Crouse Elementary School, Akron. Julia, a fellow member of GOGA, is coordinator of the Teaching Gardens program at Crouse. It illustrates kids' curiosity about the natural world and the opportunities the teaching gardens offer for capitalizing on that curiosity. Read more and see pictures about the gardens by typing Crouse CLC School/Community Garden in the search bar of Facebook. And for more information about GOGA's partnership with Crouse and/or to volunteer at Crouse, please speak to anyone on the GOGA Youth Education Team (Sharon Aaron, Ken Bell, Eileen Field, Les Knight, Sam Moran, Lora Avens, Carole Reid, Claire and Graham Reinke, Marilyn Fellenstein, and Steve Thompson).

“It was SPONTANEOUS learning in the garden yesterday, October 17, for third graders and some of our multiple handicapped students! As a reward for excellent behavior all week, some of our third graders and our friends from Mrs. Jackow's class went outside for some extra recess. The question quickly became, ‘May we go to the garden?’ Of course we can go to the garden!!! Students quickly discovered a partially uncovered potato in the potato bed, and the "Potato Fest" (as dubbed by the students) was on! There wasn't even squiggle room left around the bed as hands began digging for potatoes. Up to the elbows for some of them went the soil as they dug up their garden treasures. Squeals of delight resounded as well as squeals of uncertainty as worms were also uncovered! Laughter, jumping up and down, squeals, and ear-to-ear grins surrounded the potato patch. One of our MH friends wasn't finding any room to dig, so another student handed him a couple of her potatoes. He quickly laid them in the corner of the bed, covered them with soil, uncovered them, and shouted, ‘I find, I find!!’ When we lined up to go in, nearly everyone had their hands full of potatoes, peppers, cherry tomatoes, and a variety of herbs. They discussed all possible ways to fix their garden treasures for supper that night. Pride abounded to match their treasures as they paraded their treasures to the office first and then to Mrs. Taylor's room (they had planted the potatoes with her as second graders). Once back in the room hands and potatoes were quickly washed. Then to my amazement (and great teacher delight) one child called out, ‘Hey, we need to write a personal narrative about our potatoes!’ Everyone agreed and the brainstorming was on! We ran out of time before we ran out of ideas. Their ideas were waiting for them on the board for Monday's writer's workshop. All in all, a VERY GOOD learning day indeed!!!”

Steve Thompson

Membership renewal

The Membership Committee would like to have all of our members renew their membership by the year end. That means 2014 year not 2015. Paste this notice on your door so you won't forget. So far about one half of the members have renewed. Print or tear off the Renewal form from the GABBER and either mail your renewal to Lee Hart, see roster for address, or bring with you to the December dinner. We would like to publish the 2015 roster early in 2015. See you on December 15.

Bob Bell and Grace Cochran Membership Co chairs.

Habitat for Humanity

On a partially sunny and rainy Saturday morning, on October 18, 2014, the five of us and four Akron University students met up in Twinsburg, Ohio at a well-prepared but rain-soaked yard- front and back. The students showed up promptly after Sue and I arrived. I surveyed the front and back of home to help determine our next move. Once our GOGA gang arrived, we decided to go forth. Bob Bell spread the seed, while the rest of us spread straw. After which fertilizer was spread on top while knowing it would drift downward into the soil. The rains certainly would come and do their magic from there.

Once we finished an hour and a half later, Bob brought out the piece de la resistance; donuts, coffee and cider. The result of our Habitat help was it built up a definite appetite. Thanks to all, especially the students of Akron University's fraternity(Lambda Chi Alpha). Our prayers had been answered on all fronts, the rain trickled down to a few drops, producing sunshine. Thus another grand Habitat plot was accomplished by GOGA and friends.Thanks go out to Graham Reinke, Clark Bordner, Bob Bell, Gene Fitch , Brandon Korn and the three students of Lambda Chi Alpha.

With care,
Chris Godard, Habitat Coordinator

GOGA Endowment Fund Report

The 3rd quarter report from Akron Community Foundation for the GOGA Endowment Fund was favorable as usual, with \$197.92 reported for additional spendable income allocation. This was the case even though income from investment activity was down by 2.6 percent (\$432.27). Such good results are possible due to ACF policy of allocating spendable income based on the average of the last 12 quarters (3 years). It appears investment activity will be much more positive for the 4th quarter.

In November an email message was sent to GOGA members reminding that it is near that time of year when members may wish to contribute to the club Endowment Fund. It may be appropriate as a memorial or to acknowledge birthdays or anniversaries. **Club member deaths in 2014 were Jack Brillhart, Walter Perkins, and Harold White. All were long time members starting in the 1980's.**

The contribution form is available on our website: <http://gogakron.org>.

Or contribute online with a credit card. Go to the Akron Community Foundation website to complete the form: <http://bit.ly/T6HEFT>

Reported by the GOGA Endowment Fund Committee:

Frank Mitch, chair
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
Leslie Knight
Richard Cotton
Charles Keach

2015 RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

The campaign for membership renewal starts in October. We plan to receive all renewals by the December meeting with the intent of the Roster being available sometime in January-February 2015.

Annual dues are \$35.00 per individual/year
 \$60.00 per couple/year
 Life/Associate member dues are \$15.00/year

Make check payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron and bring them either to the dinner meetings or mail to Leroy Hart 633 Schocalog Rd. Akron, Ohio 44320 (330-836-1407) or Bob Bell 1832 Sandy Lake Rd. Ravenna, Ohio 44266 (330-673-3553).
 Sooner is better than later.

Please enter your Name (s): _____

Renewal \$ amount/cash or check: _____

To keep the Roster current, if you have any changes to your address, phone, E-mail or Garden Club interests please fill out those areas listed below, otherwise the information will remain the same for 2015.

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests:

(Check all interests below)

Calling Committee: ____ Crown Point Gardens: ____ Endowment Committee: ____

Garden Club Website: ____ Garden Club Face Book: ____ Geranium Sale: ____

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: ____ Horticulture Show: ____

Membership: ____ Publicity: ____ Scholarship Committee: ____

Silent Auction: ____ Strawberry Festival: ____ Youth Gardening Program: ____

If you have been unable to attend meetings and would like the Roster mailed to your home address please check the box below.

Please send Roster to my home address: _____

Thank you from the membership committee.