



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 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, December 20, 2010
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3205 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Christmas Dinner and Program

The program for our Christmas meeting will be the ETC youth singers. This group is composed of young people from all over Summit County.

There will be poinsettias for the ladies.

The only business aspect of the meeting will be the installation of the officers.

The December meeting is one of our most popular meetings of the year.

There is no Board Meeting in December.

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

President's Message

Arthur Britton

As the president of Gardeners of Greater Akron, I have learned a lot over the past two years. This club has a lot to offer and its members are willing to help others. I am proud of the programs that we are involved in and the people who have stepped up to not only participate in them, but also to lead.

I would like to take a moment to review some of the changes that have occurred over the last two years. One is the name change from Akron Men's Garden Club to Gardeners of Greater Akron. There was a lot to the process and we managed to get through it pretty well, in my opinion. One of the other issues was whether or not to have the pledge and prayer at the dinner meetings. The decision of the board was for the president to decide. To me, these issues could have torn other clubs apart, but we have dealt with these issues and we have become stronger because of it. Personally, that says a lot for the board and the members.

We all have trials and tribulations that we go through. From my point of view, working in my own garden and helping others is a way that I am able to work through my tough times. As I talk to others it appears that I am not alone. Something about working with your hands and being outside seems to help us get through both the good and bad times. I look around and see that those who are still able to garden—they are people who are keeping me active as a gardener. I also look to those who may not be able to get out and garden—they are a source of knowledge. This club has over 550 years of gardening experience to offer anyone who will simply ask a question. I thank those who have answered mine and who are willing to share with others.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank some people—those those who have helped with the many projects and commitments that the club has been involved in. Without your help we could not do Habitat for Humanity, Arrowhead, Crown Point and others. Also I would like to thank those who attended the board meetings for coming and for adding input on how the club should move forward. I also would like to thank my daughter, Amelia, for proof reading my President's Message each month. I thank you all for working with me and allowing me to be the President of this club.

As I hand off the torch to Clark, I wish him the best (and the rest of the board, too!). Yes, I still plan on being an active member.

Thank you.

May we always enjoy gardening.

Arrowhead Primary School

The Club has recently become involved with the youth gardening program at Arrowhead Primary School in Copley. This article by Al Eddy, chairman of our club's youth gardening gives details about this program:

Report on Arrowhead Primary School Nature Zone, Copley, Ohio.

This Nature Zone of a Primary School, is a marvel of having young children actively involved in creating all types of garden displays.

It all began in the fall of 1996 with the construction of a large green house permanently attached to the rear of the main school building. An outdoor classroom and tool shed has been added.

The very spacious grounds include the Beltz Memorial Garden in memory of Michael Beltz. A Peace garden was constructed in 2003, a Library patio in 2004, and a Compass Rose in 2005 The Nature Zone also includes a pond and wetland.

Throughout the years, raised vegetable garden beds for each class were constructed. Also other gardens include, a Japanese Garden, an Arrowhead blue and gold garden, a Peace garden with all white flowers, a Flag garden where Red, White, and Blue flowers are grown. A Pizza garden with rocks on the outside edge representing the crust and red circle patio stones as pepperoni, the planting of herbs used to make pizza sauce. A Butterfly garden is also there for the enjoyment of all.

In 2008 the P.T.A. purchased bird cameras so that each classroom is able to view two bird feeding stations and the inside of 2 bird houses.

At the wetland area the Girl Scout Troop 270 put in an addition to the boardwalk, allowing access completely around the wetland. This was done in 2009.

For 2010 a chicken coop and yard has been added with the help of Boy Scouts of Troop 382 as an Eagle Scout project. It houses 1 rooster and 8 hens, all of different breeds. The resulting eggs will be cooked for lunch.

Arrowhead Nature Zone is a young children's Botanical Garden which they helped to create. Our club has given time and funds to this program. This month the Club donated \$200.00 to the Arrowhead School P.T.,A. to start a Junior Master Gardeners Program for Children.

The amazing thing is that no tax payer dollars are involved in this wonderful program. Teachers, Students and Volunteers are completely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Nature Zone. The Gardeners of Greater Akron membership along with their financial contribution are proud to support this fantastic program.

Much of the success of Nature Zone for the past six years should go to the Brad and Paula Mularcik Family. Paula, with her leadership, has contributed much in continuing this program of giving young children the opportunity to get involved in gardening and learning about their natural environment.

These Children who are being so unselfishly taught and encouraged by their mentors are the future of gardening as we know it today.

Beautification Awards

Commercial/Industrial: Akron Zoo. This is truly a gem in the Akron area. The property is landscaped from one end to the other in a truly remarkable manner.

Non- Member: Tom and Donna Cardone, 116 S. Rose Blvd., Akron. This is a very beautiful garden with a wide range of plantings including specimen trees, bramble fruit, and vegetables along with a koi pond. The owners have invited us to visit their garden any time we can.

Member: Mike and Marti Williams, 2981 Baughman Rd., Clinton. Another garden that is widely varied with specimen trees, pond, vegetable garden, and many, many perennials along with many annuals and I especially liked the garden art.

Honorable Mention: Aretha McReynolds, 608 Euclid Ave., Akron. This garden has all the features of the other gardens except for size and plant rarity. It is truly a work of love and dedication to gardening shared by all of us.

Congratulations everyone!

Submitted by Sam Morlan, Beautification Chairman

Walt's Gardening Tips for January

1. Design a plan incorporating any changes for the next year. Most vegetables benefit from a different site each year.
2. Inspect trees, shrubs, and evergreens for scale insects. Applying a dormant oil spray now will eliminate these and other overwintering pests. Do this when the temperature is over 45 degrees.
3. It is easy to read a rain gauge if you put a few drops of food coloring in the tube. Even if the colored water dries up, there is enough residue to help read the next rainfall.
4. Prune deciduous shade and fruit trees during this period. Check with local garden centers for proper pruning methods and for those varieties of trees which should not be pruned during winter months, such as maples.
5. Bring branches of flowering trees such as peach, cherry, apricot, and plum indoors to bloom in a vase in a cool sunny room.
6. Please feed the birds and other small creatures that may not be able to find food.
7. If the ground is still workable, it is a good time to turn your soil. This will expose insect eggs to the cold and the birds. It will also help break up clods.
8. If the soil isn't frozen, water outdoor container plants to prevent them from drying out during winter months.
9. Pick up a good book and learn more about this great hobby: Gardening.
10. Clean, sharpen, and replace your pruning tools.

December's tips were in the November newsletter. No room to repeat them here.

Walt says that these tips were taken from our national club calendar and all may not apply to our area.

Welcome New Member

Pat Pickard 1247 Robinson Ave, Barberton, OH 44203 phone 330-848-0687

E-mail: ppickard@ohio.net. Pat is employed by Babcock & Wilcox as a welding engineer. He is single. He lists his gardening interests as birds/butterflies, landscaping/lawns, and perennials.

Member News

Margie Terry has a new e-mail address margit16@gmail.com

Lowell Zurbuch's name was omitted from the list of Habitat for Humanity workers in last month's newsletter.

2011 Membership Dues

Quite a few members have not renewed. Dues should be payed by the end of the year so that the membership roster can be published on time. The national dues will be paid at the end of the year so that regular members can receive their membership cards on time. You can pay at the December meeting or by mail. Life members do not receive a yearly membership card. If you have lost your life member card you can contact the national for a replacement.

2011 Dues Are Due

Regular Members - \$35.00	_____
Life Members - \$15.00	_____
Associate Members - \$15.00	_____
Family Life Members - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$40.00	_____
Family Regular Member - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$60.00	_____
New Life Membership - at any age - One time payment of \$200.00	_____

Please complete the following form , enclose your check and bring it to a meeting or mail it to:

Leroy Hart

633 Schocalog Road

Akron. OH 44320- 1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address (if OK to print in club roster) _____