



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, December 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, December 16, 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: The Copley High School Chamber Singers

As usual there will be a gift for each of the ladies in attendance. This year it will something different, a small tree: a Norfolk Island Pine.

There is no Board meeting in December.

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

President's Message - Sam Morlan

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year every one, where does the time go? As we age, things go by so fast that you sometimes forget to slow down and enjoy what is around you. Christmas is a good time to gather your family around and tell that special someone how much you care for them. Gift giving is one way to express your gratitude, but just as nice is to visit or lunch with someone special; it gives you a chance to be reacquainted.

Christmas is most special to little children. It is so magical for them, Santa presents treats and visiting with family. Something that is often over looked is the spiritual significance. God became man on that day to redeem us.

We had great Christmases when I was growing up. Dad would take the older kids out to pick out a tree, price was a major concern so we had to look quite awhile to find one that would work. Dad set it up and put on the lights, the rest was up to us. We strung popcorn and made garlands out of construction paper glued together in chains. We also strung crepe paper from the corners of the living room and dining room and hung big fold out bells in the middle of the rooms. Christmas eve we would gather after supper, make popcorn, and drink ginger ale, a real treat for us. Later dad would turn out most of the lights and put a gooseneck desk lamp on me; I had memorized T'was The Night Before Christmas and recited to it my brothers and sisters. We set out milk and cookies for Santa and off to bed, but for sure not to sleep as we would keep a vigil for the sounds of Santa. Christmas morning we would open our presents first and then off to Mass. In those days, we had to fast so by the time we got home we were famished. We usually had cereal and sometimes Dad would stop and get doughnuts. On Christmas afternoon, we went to my Grandparents house and met with all of our Aunts and Uncles as well as our cousins. Grandma baked a large ham and everyone else brought the sides. My cousin played the accordion and my Uncle played the banjo so there was music and singing all afternoon. There was a lot of joking and story telling by the older adults, all great fun.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be your president for the last two years. Clubs like ours are having difficulty attracting and keeping new members. Try and reach out to new members and members that you don't know very well to make them feel a part of the group.

As you all know by now we lost two stalwart members recently Al Eddy and Jim Fee both served the club well and we will miss them.

It is also a good time of the year to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. The weather has been brutal for the homeless who are forced to live outside. The Salvation Army has a group of men that go out every evening to check on the homeless, they provide clothing, blankets and food to those in need. I am sure they could use donations to help with their efforts. The Food Bank and Haven of Rest are worthy as are many others.

Don't forget the silent auction or door prizes and pay your dues next month.

Thanks Sam

Beautification Awards – 2013

Cheryl and I visited many beautiful gardens this year. Pictures were taken and all the gardens were judged according to plant selection and grooming of the garden (s). We selected three of our own members to receive the Beautification Awards for our club for 2013. The recipients of this award were Andy Bettick, Gene Chlosta and Grace Cochran.

A common theme for the award winners was the diversity and beauty of their gardens. The most striking aspect of the gardens was that none of these were gardens in the traditional sense. The entire properties were lovingly cared for and transformed into showplaces of horticulture. The many varieties of plants, shrubs and trees in these yards were grouped into sections that along with statuary and other accoutrements were extremely pleasing to the eye. It was a true pleasure to visit all of the nominated properties and it was evident that a great deal of work and effort went into their care.

Be sure to make your nominations early to Pat Pickard, our soon to be second vice president. Gardens mature at different times and there are peak times to visit them. Let him know when those peak times are! Please give him a lot of nominations so that he has a wide variety of gardens to visit. This is where the true joy of judging these gardens comes into play. It is even better if the gardeners are present to explain their vision and intent in how the gardens were designed and nurtured.

It has been a blessing for Cheryl and me to be involved in this aspect of the garden club. We truly appreciate the hard work and loving care that goes into the development and care for all of the gardens that we visited. Even though we could only pick three winners, it is our belief that all of the gardens we were honored to view are winners!

Submitted by Clark Bordner

Welcome New Member

Charlene Fitzgerald, 1636 25th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223 phone 330-922-0645

E mail cdugirlfitz@aol.com

Charlene is unmarried and is either employed by or retired from Bell & Howell. She lists her club interests as geranium sale, Habitat for Humanity landscaping, and the Strawberry Festival. Her gardening interests are annuals/perennials,herbs,roses,and vegetables.Her hobbies are travel, reading and cooking

James Fee passed away on November12. Jim was a long time member of the club who had moved to Tennessee after his wife died in 2010. He was a professor of speech and communications at the University of Akron.

The Gardener's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard
 The branches were bare and the ground frozen hard;
 The roses were dormant and mulched all around
 To protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground.
 The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds
 While visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads.
 The new planted shrubs had been soaked by the hose
 To settle their roots for the long winter's doze;
 And out on the lawn, the new fallen snow
 Protected the roots of the grasses below.
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear
 But a truck full of gifts of gardening gear.
 Saint Nick was the driver—the jolly old elf—
 And he winked as he said, “I’m a gardener myself.”
 I’ve brought wilt-pruf, rootone, and gibberellin, too—
 Father can try them and see what they do.
 To eliminate weeding I’ve brought 2-4-D,
 And to battle the bug’s, everything but DDT.
 To seed your new lawn, I’ve a patented sower;
 In case it should grow, here’s a new power mower.
 For seed planting days, I’ve a trowel and a dibble.
 And a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble.
 For the feminine gardener, some gadgets she loves;
 Plant stakes, a sprinkler, and waterproof gloves;
 A chemical agent for her compost pit,
 And for pH detecting, a soil testing kit.
 With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path;
 For the kids to enjoy, bird feeder and bath.
 And last but not least, some well-rotted manure!
 Agreen Christmas year round, these gifts will insure.
 Then jolly St. Nick, having emptied his load,
 Started his truck and took to the road.
 And I heard him exclaim through the motor’s loud hum;
 “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!”

This was taken from the Fall 1996 issue of the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, the newsletter of the Central Great Lakes Region.

2014 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 2014.

Please be aware this year there will be no ‘reminder calls for membership renewal as this slows down the completion of the 2014 Roster.

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.

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: _____

To keep the Roster current, if you have any changes to your address or phone, please fill out those areas.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

Thank you from the membership committee.

Any questions contact: Bob Bell, Grace Cochran, or Leroy Hart.

Updated: 9/27/13

Chet Lowry’s wife Hazel passed away on November 23. Chet and Hazel had been married for 68 years. She had been very ill for several years and had been at Rockynol.