



# 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, February 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, February 16, 2015

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:** **Speaker – Jan Becker**

*“Pollinators – How to Attract Them to Your Garden”*

Board Meeting: Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p. m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio.

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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

President's Message  
February 2015

It certainly looks like we have a few more weeks of winter left. I am starting to really anticipate spring and am looking forward to seeing green again. I am looking forward to mowing the grass with our new cordless electric mower and preparing our gardens.

I hope all of you had a great time at our last dinner meeting. The tone was set with four new members and the distinct possibility of several more in the near future. What a great way to start out 2015! I encourage everyone to talk to potential new members and invite them to a meeting. The more our membership grows; the more that we can do for our community.

I truly enjoyed our speaker, Larry Hunter. He is an icon in the Portage Lakes and I am proud to call him a friend. Even though the meeting lasted until after 8:00, people stayed to visit with one another and have a time of fellowship. The camaraderie that our members show is one of the things that defines our club and something that we should seek to expand upon. I encourage everyone to make it a point to seek out visitors and new members and welcome them to our club. A friendly face and a warm greeting go a long way to making a great first and lasting impression.

I hope that you have had a chance to consider some of your fellow club members for nomination for regional awards. We have a lot of deserving candidates that are worthy.

Included in this edition of the Gabber are several stories from students at Crouse Elementary School about the gardens at their school. Congratulations to Steve Thompson and his committee for establishing and nurturing our relationship with these young people. In a time when kids are more interested in video games than physical activity, it is great to see them participating in a program where they can plant a garden and see the "fruits" of their labors. We should make every attempt to support the youth gardening team during the upcoming year.

I spoke with both of our Vice Presidents about their respective duties and I am counting on our club members to help them out. Steve needs recommendations about beautiful yards and gardens early on for the beautification awards. If you see a potential candidate for a beautification award, please do not hesitate to tell him. As second Vice President, it was very rewarding and a great deal of fun to go and see the various types of flora that caught the eyes of our membership. If you know of a speaker that has a subject of interest, please let Pat know. I am sure that both of these gentlemen would appreciate your input.

Bob and Jim Bell have asked me to remind all of our club members that Donzell's Garden Center offers a 10% discount to members of the Gardeners of Greater Akron. You only have to show your membership card at the information desk to take advantage of this generous offer.

This month's speaker is Jan Becker. As a master gardener, she has vast experience in all facets of gardening. She will talk to us about how to attract pollinators to our gardens. I hope to see all of you there.

With the utmost best regards to all of my gardening friends, Clark

## Crouse Kids Write about Garden Experiences

In 2014, our garden club started a partnership with Crouse Elementary School (Community Learning Center), an Akron inner city school. We help with the school's teaching garden program, both in the raised beds outside the building and with garden-related lessons in the classrooms. GOGA members on the Youth Gardening Team assist teachers and kids with planting, maintaining, and harvesting but also assist with curricular projects during the school day. One of the latter was a writing assignment that occurred last fall. Third grade students wrote about their fall experiences in the grade-level gardens. Students attached their finished paragraphs, illustrations, and pictures of themselves on construction paper and all were then displayed in the hallway. First, second, and third prize ribbons donated by GOGA were awarded to the top paragraphs. Four of those paragraphs are reproduced below (parents gave written permission for the paragraphs and students' names to be published).

By way of explanation of what you read below, the teaching gardens are variously referred to as "the garden" and the "community garden." Mrs. Spangler is a third grade teacher and director of the teaching gardens program. Ms. Marilyn is GOGA member Marilyn Fellenstein who heads the teaching activities within the Youth Gardening Team and Mr. Steve is Steve Thompson, also a GOGA member/volunteer. Enjoy seeing what Geion, Alanna, Tion, and Jayla have learned from their garden experiences!

In the Garden  
By: Geion Smith

It was October and we were in the garden. We had to take pictures. Me and Ny'Aire and Ms. Marilyn went out to the garden and it was sprinkling and when we came back in it was pouring. Then we came back in the school so we told Mrs. Spangler and she said we can't go back out. We were sad. So a couple weeks later Mr. Steve took us out five at a time. Then we were happy. When we went back to the garden, we picked flowers. We were starting to write about the garden! So for about three weeks straight we wrote about the garden. Well, that's my story. See you next time. Bye!

Tasting Tour  
By: Alanna Kuczynski

It was fall in the afternoon at the Crouse garden. My class is the third grade which is Mrs. Spangler's class. First we went to the garden and some started to dig potatoes and some started to taste the vegetables. My favorite was the yellow tomatoes that look like pears. I decided to taste the vegetables. I thought it was cool to go out to the garden and try the vegetables for the first time. I felt inspired to go to the garden and learn about the vegetables.

Crouse Garden  
By: Tion Green

It was one Friday afternoon, me and my classmates went outside to the Crouse Community School/Community garden in Akron, Ohio. My favorite is the banana pepper. It was sour and it goes well with some meatball subs. What do I think about banana peppers? I think I like having them be in my own world, my taste buds were satisfied. I feel like there are fireworks going on inside my stomach!

In the Garden!  
By: Jayla Hill

It was in the afternoon and it was time for Fun Friday! My class and me went outside, then we ended up in the garden. First, we were picking flowers and vegetables. Then we were picking potatoes. We were having fun. When I was in the garden with Brennen a bee kept chasing him because he had deodorant on. I thought it was fun because I got to spend time with my friends and pick flowers, vegetables, and potatoes. I felt happy because I got to pick vegetables and flowers with my friends!

Submitted by Steven Thompson

## Fertilizing your Garden

Last year I heard several members and neighbors complain about the weather ruining their gardens. I was among them. My garden was a failure too. As I began to look at my many gardening books and catalogs, I began to realize that I have never tested my soil in any of my gardens.

Except for aluminum sulfate around my blueberries, my panacea for my soil has been 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 fertilizer. I suppose that has been a little bit better than nothing but it leaves out the tilth (quality) of the soil and ignores the trace minerals necessary for good plant growth.

Looking through catalogs, especially Stark Bros., I see that they recommend 22-24-12 for trees and shrubs, 10-52-17 for strawberries, 12-12-12 for blueberries and fertilizer specially formulated for raspberries. Of course these different mixtures come in small expensive packages. The only mention of trace elements is zinc sulfate for pecans (All you pecan growers take heed).

I visited a local garden store last week and it had a very slim selection of fertilizers. I might add in small bags. My gardening books say that the best time to have one's soil tested is in autumn. Well I missed that and so I am pledging to take at least one sample from each of my four gardens and test them. I see in the catalogs self testing kits and I know that the Soil and Water Conservation people and the extension service will recommend labs that will do a much better job.

My plan of action in addition to soil testing is to get a heap of manure (Andy recommends alpaca) and mix it into the soil with plenty of compost. That's my plan

But remember what the poet Robert Burns said, "*The best laid plans of mice and men often goes astray*"

Submitted by Walter Starcher

## **SURPRISE!!!!**

Look at the last page. Complete the puzzle. Put your name on the paper and bring it in to the meeting or send it to my address. We will have a drawing in March for a special prize. I hope you have fun with this. Clark



Find the **gardening** words as listed at the bottom of this page in the spring gardening word search grid. The words could be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonal. Circle each letter separately and many letters may be used in more than one of the gardening words as they intersect. **When the Gardening Word Search puzzle is complete, read the left over letters starting at the top left and reading down to the bottom right to learn an interesting gardening tip.**

## Gardening Tools Word Search

D O N O T P R T A H N U S U N  
 R E Y A R P S K N A T E E G V  
 E S P O L E P R U N E R R L W  
 G R R W K E L E N D S I N O A  
 T A H A E S S E P T R M L V S  
 I E R T N G R P V R O R A E G  
 W H E E L B A R R O W U W S N  
 N S E R E V E T R W H E N R I  
 G G R I E E H B I E N S M S N  
 S N D N U R S I N L G T O R U  
 H I E G D L E A F B L O W E R  
 O N R C M A G N T W I E E P P  
 N U T A E R D R E D A E R P S  
 M R O N K N E E S T O O L O N  
 T P H E S O H N E D R A G L S

BROOM

GARDEN HOSE

GLOVES

HAND TROWEL

HEDGE SHEARS

KNEE STOOL

LAWNMOWER

LEAF BLOWER

LOPPERS

POLE PRUNER

PRUNING SAW

PRUNING SHEARS

RAKE

SHOVEL

SPREADER

SUNHAT

TANK SPRAYER

TILLER

WATERING CAN

WHEELBARROW