



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



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Monday, February 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 February 20, 2012

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: Native Shrubs

Our speaker this month is Jeanne Poremski a very knowledgeable Master Gardener. She is speaking on native shrubs

Board Meeting, February 27, 7:00 p m at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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

President's Message - Sam Morlan

January and February are the last two months entered into the Roman Calendar. It seems they did not consider the first part of what we consider our new year as the beginning but rather March when everything began to come back to life. Makes sense, especially to gardeners who begin to feel a longing for the smell of the soil and the sun on your back at this time of year.

There is hope for some in the many garden seminars in our area. It is a chance to learn new things and listen to new people that have a special niche in the gardening world. All of the garden centers and The Master Gardeners of both Summit County and Cuyahoga County have excellent programs. The program at Beaver Creek is also great. If you hear a presentation that impresses you contact Dave Lockledge or myself as a possible speaker for the club in the future.

It is also a good time to plan your garden, pick out some new plants you would like to try or seeds you may want to start and share. The internet is a great place to find plants and planting ideas as well as catalogues and magazines.

The roster should be out at the next meeting with the list of all the committees and their chairs. If you are interested in helping on any of these committees, please contact the chair. I am going to introduce all of them who are at the next meeting so you know who they are.

Al Eddy and Jack Cochran have two projects coming up in March and need some help from members who are interested in youth gardening. It is a great opportunity to get your feet wet and find out how rewarding working with kids is. Hope you can participate.

Akron Public library (paper pot demonstrations for about 40 children)

April 21- 2 PM -3:00 or so.

Welcome New Member

Charles McCoy 2461 Sourek Road, Akron, Ohio 44333-2928 phone 330-864-2680

E-mail cnmmccoy@aol.com

Charles is single and he is either employed by or retired from Lockheed Martin, he didn't say which. He is interested in the youth gardening program of the club. His gardening interests are annuals and perennials. His hobby is woodworking.

He was recommended by Graham and Claire Reinke.

Coming Events

Make plans to attend the national convention in Youngstown, June 13 - 16 and the regional summer conference in Mansfield on April 28.

Donzell's Winter Garden Seminars

February 11 - "Growing Orchids in Your Home" - Seminar presented by the Akron Orchid Society about growing orchids.

February 18 - "Enjoy the Birds in Your Backyard" - Joyce Pelz, Akron Audubon Society. She will tell how to make your backyard an inviting natural habitat for bird watching. There will be a Power Point presentation on identifying birds and their songs.

February 25 - "Let Houseplants Make You Happy" - Beth Minger, Donzell's greenhouse staff. She will give information on how to keep your plants healthy, which will make you happy, too.

March 3 & 4 - "Greater Akron Orchid Society Show" No seminar this Saturday. There will be exotic orchid displays, orchid vendors and experts on hand to answer your questions.

March 3 - "Wine and Orchids" - Wine Tasting event 1 to 4 PM. An opportunity to sample local wineries "Best Sellers" now being sold at Donzell's.

March 10 - "Creating a Fairy Garden" - Duane Rollins, Greenhouse Designer. He will show you how to create a miniature garden that will please the garden fairies by using miniature conifers, plants and garden accessories.

March 17 - "Bonsai Basics & Beyond" - Dale Cochoy, Bonsai Society. He will bring his more than 30 years experience to demonstrate bonsai and give growing and care information.

March 24 - "Home Grown Herbs" - Barb Oare, Quail Hollow Herb Society. He will speak on the cultivation and harvesting of many popular herbs grown in this area. She will share some of her recipes and brings a few samples to taste.

March 31 - "Backyard Vegetable Gardening" - Lee Paulson, Master Gardener. He will cover vegetable gardening basics.

These seminars start at 11:00 AM and are free. To register phone the registration line at 330-724-0550 ext. 110.

The Master Gardeners of Summit County Present the 2012 Saturday Gardening Series

March 3 Speakers: Ken Cochran, The Ohio State University, Sustainable Gardening; Jeanne Poremski, Master Gardener, Native Shrubs - Just Beautiful; Jan Becker, Becker's Herb Farm, Heirlooms and Herbs: getting great flavor from your garden; Doug Parkinson, Proven Winners Plants, Proven Winners Exciting Plants for 2012.

March 10 Speakers: Denise Ellsworth, The Ohio State University, The Power of Pollinators: what they do, why they're threatened, and how we can help; Glenn Gillespie, Chef, Edgar's restaurant, Cooking With Things From Your Garden; Rudy Moyer, Master Gardener, Popular Garden Tools, their use and care; Marcia Wolff, Designer, Glass Sculptures, accents created by using everyday materials.

Dayton Nurseries Seminar Series 2012

February 11 - Rock Gardening - Speaker: Chuck Gleaves, Director of Kingwood Center. He will present a history of rock gardening and an explanation of why he finds it so gratifying. He will speak primarily of plants and techniques that work in this climate and under these (reasonably modified) growing conditions.

February 18 - Gardening Trends - Speaker: Cynthia Druckenbrod, Director of Horticulture at Cleveland Botanical Garden. She will discuss some of the newest cultivars of select perennials and annuals. She also will discuss general garden trends in the industry.

February 25 - Hummingbirds - Speaker: Carol Zeh, Metro Parks Volunteer, Audubon Member and amateur naturalist. She will talk about the hundreds of hummingbird species, only one of which lives in Ohio. She will speak about ways to attract and keep hummingbirds in your yard, the migration habits of the birds, how often to change their nectar and much, much more.

March 3 - Introduction to Aquaponics - Speaker: Paul Myers, Aquaponics. He will speak about growing food combining agriculture and hydroponics. Aquaponics is a mini-ecosystem that is changing the way local food is being grown around the world. He will talk about how aquaponics works and how you can do it in your backyard-year round. He will demonstrate a hands-on Barrel-Ponics system.

March 10 - Understanding Garden Maintenance - Speaker: Michele Riley, All About You Landscape Design. She will speak about the garden maintenance practices you should be performing to keep your garden healthy and thriving, the most important practices not to be missed and why and those that can be postponed on account of a busy schedule, weed suppression, proper watering practices, common disease and pest issues that can be avoided with proper maintenance. They will also discuss the most common garden maintenance practice questions received in 2011 and how to get your own Homeowner's Landscape Survival Guide. They will make understanding your garden as easy as 1-2-3.

March 17 - Sneak Peek - What's New for 2012? Speaker: Maggie Bell & Tom Dayton, Dayton Nursery. They will give a sneak peek at the newest introductions in trees, shrubs, evergreens, perennials, vines and annuals. The slide show will include pictures, plant information and care tips.

March 24 - Cooking with Herbs - Speaker: Amanda Saunders, Kids in the Kitchen. She will talk about recipes using herbs and will demonstrate several easy-to-replicate foods, while explaining about herbs and seasonings. You can have fun testing your nose and taste buds for accurate scents. You can take home recipes and facts to make you kitchen a little more lively.

The cost for these seminars is \$5.00 each for Dayton Nurseries Garden Club members and \$10.00 for non-members. The seminars are held at the nursery, 3459 Cleveland-Massillon Road, Norton from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Seating is limited. Sign up at the store or by phone at 330-825-3320.

More About the Master Gardeners Series

Location; Messiah Lutheran Church, 4700 S. Main Street, Akron. Registration 8:30 AM & breakfast.

The cost is \$60 for the series. For more information and a registration form see the website <http://smitmastgardens.org> or phone 234-525-7034 (a local call) or E-mail Saturdagardenseries@gmail.com

Graf Growers 2012 Gardening Seminars

February 11- Back to Basics - Creating a Successful Backyard Vegetable Garden

Speaker: Pam Bennett, Education Director of the OSU Clark County Extension Service

Pam will cover the basics of vegetable gardening including soil preparation, plant selection, pest management, harvesting practices and more. Whether you are an experienced vegetable gardener or a novice you can learn the latest techniques for successful vegetable gardening.

February 18 - Using Hydrangeas & Other Flowering Shrubs in the Landscape

Speaker: Joanna Thomas, Owner of Gardenscape Nursery in Oberlin, Ohio, certified Arborist & instructor at Cleveland State University.

Johanna will help take the mystery out of growing beautiful hydrangeas in your landscape. She will discuss the various types of hydrangeas and new varieties as well as pruning and caring for hydrangeas. She will also discuss other flowering shrubs and their attributes as well as their requirements.

February 25 - Easy Perennials & Shrubs for Challenging Areas

Speaker: Dr. Laura Deeter, Associate Professor, OSU at ATI Wooster

Every landscape has a few areas that are difficult, too wet, too dry, very hot, or very shady. Laura will introduce us to various plants and plant combinations that will easily grow and thrive in our challenging landscape locations.

Seminars are held at Graf Growers, 1015 White Pond Drive, Akron 44320

Hours are 10:00 to 11:30 with coffee at 9:30.

The cost is \$12.00 for each seminar, prepaid. You may sign up for these seminars at the nursery, by phone at 330-836-2727 or by mailing cash or a check to the above address stating which seminar you are attending and the number of people attending. Include your phone number so they can reach you on the day of the seminar in case of bad weather.

Enrollment is limited to 50 at each seminar.

(Editor's Note) Some may question why devote so much space each year to these seminars? In my opinion we need to know about these things. None of us are so experienced in gardening that we can't learn something new and also there are new plants and gardening techniques coming out all the time. These speakers are experts in their field and very good speakers. Also we should support our local nurseries, especially Donzell's, a member of our club.

Some Words of Wisdom

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

When everything comes your way, you're in the wrong lane.

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