



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, February 21

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 21, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: The Akron Zoo

Speaker on the 21st is Brad Haben who is the head Horticulturist at the Akron Zoo. He will talk about the zoo and what goes on there.

I would also like to put in a small reminder to all club members to prepare some questions for the meeting in April or let me know if they have any preference for a particular presentation. Thanks, Sam Morlan

Board Meeting: February 28, at 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

Clark Bordner

2011 is here! January has started out in fine form. I thought our speaker; Noelle Akin from Pettiti's Garden Center did an outstanding job with her presentation on the benefits of house plants. It would be enough for me to enjoy the beauty of these plants. To have the additional health benefits that these plants provide is really a bonus. I suggest that if everyone had such plants in their homes, we would be a much healthier society.

Cheryl and I went to the Greater Cleveland Home and Garden show on the first day. This show is primarily geared to home improvement. The garden section was nice but only occupied a small percentage of the total floor space. I had one lady complain that there were not many opportunities to buy plants at this show. There was one booth that sold orchids and that was about it. I was speaking to Bob Pindell who is from the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland club and organizes the booth that is shared by Cleveland, Akron and Youngstown garden clubs to include ours. We spoke about the inequity in the home improvement versus gardening aspects of this show as well as several other shows of this type in our area. We tossed around the idea of a flower and garden show that would involve area garden clubs, nurseries and landscapers. There is a lot of detailed planning for such a project. I am going to solicit other garden clubs, such as the herb society and the orchid society as well as nurseries and landscapers to see if there is any interest in such a project. I will let you know in the future the feasibility of an Akron Flower and Garden show that we sponsor.

As I mentioned in my previous letter; there are many opportunities to serve our club and the community at large. In April, we are going to have an open forum. Part of the time will be devoted to committee heads explaining the scope of their committees and the personnel requirements. As I also mentioned in my last letter, we are in contact with Stan Hywet about re establishing our relationship with them. We would have to take charge of a section of the grounds and maintain this area throughout the active months of the year. Sam Morlan is getting more information on what these requirements might be. The point is that we have enough to do that everyone that wants to be involved in projects such as Arrowhead school, Crown Point, Habitat for Humanity et al should have ample opportunity. The committee heads are going to be proactive in soliciting your help. If you are not already active in some activity and are not restricted by health issues, I urge you to join with us in serving our community.

One of the issues that the board passed was the inclusion in the Gabber of our annual financial report. You should see this in the near future.

A final thought. If you have fruit trees, you should consider pruning them.

Please review the following Quasi-Endowment Fund agreement. This agreement will replace any understanding of the existing Endowment Fund. For many years our members have contributed over \$10,000 to the Endowment Fund. It seems that the money was to be raised to fund the club, possibly in place of dues. Last year a committee was appointed to review the value of the fund and make a recommendation for its future. The committee was unable to find any documentation regarding the use of the fund. The committee has proposed this agreement to be included in the clubs bylaws. Accordingly it must be voted upon by the membership in conjunction with any changes to our bylaws. We are requesting that you review the agreement and if you have any questions or comments refer them to a member of the committee listed below. One important term to note is that the term Endowment Fund is being replaced by Quasi-Endowment Fund. The difference is that the new name allows the Board of Directors to spend interest and part of the principle according to the agreement. Previously only interest could be spent.

Committee members include: Bob Bell - Chair, Grace Cochran, MaryAnn Ferguson-Rich, Marti Williams, and Sam Morlan.

QUASI ENDOWMENT FUND AGREEMENT OF THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

PURPOSE: To have a program for saving and investing sums of money which are to be spent over many years to achieve the mission and objectives of the Gardeners of Greater Akron. Provide a means for members to contribute financially to the club. The fund is not meant to replace any current fund raising events.

DEFINITION: Quasi Endowment Funds are those funds that the Board of Directors have decided to retain and invest. The funds will be donated to the Gardeners of Greater Akron specifically for the Quasi Endowment Fund. The Board has the right at any time to expend the principal of such funds based on the following rules.

RULES OF PROCEDURE: The funds will include the initial deposit of \$10,719.00.

An Endowment Fund Committee of three or five members shall be appointed annually by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Endowment Fund Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for investing the funds. They will also be responsible for soliciting funds from members and outside sources. The Committee will work with the club Treasure to make regular financial reports to the BOD. The funds accounting will be kept separate from the club's other accounts.

Withdrawals of principal should be limited to not more than 20 percent of the original amount, or of the fund balance at date of withdrawal, whichever is greater in any one year.

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ENDOWMENT FUND AGREEMENT (continued)

If the Board of Directors wish to expend more than 20 percent as set forth in the above paragraph, they may do so with a signed vote of approval obtained from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board of Directors serving at the time of the request to expend additional funds.

Current club objectives are listed on the attached Exhibit A, and said list may be amended at any time by a simple majority of the Board of Directors present at the Board Meeting in which the amendment is proposed.

The Board of Directors may terminate the Quasi Endowment Fund by a signed vote of approval obtained from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board of Directors currently serving at the time of termination and the funds shall be placed in the club's general fund.

(Officers could sign and perhaps it should be notarized or witnessed by non-board members)

Exhibit A

Suggested uses of Fund:

Supplement payment for special speakers
 Support Scholarship Funding (over and above Geranium Sale)
 Partial funding for special trips, e.g. Supplement cost of trip to Longwood Gardens
 Fund use of greenhouse (club's greenhouse or use of another organization's)
 Special seminars (e.g. Public seminar on a Saturday open to the public)
 Special Projects (e.g. Crown Point, Youth Programs like Arrowhead)
 Keep dues down

Exhibit B

Suggestions for soliciting funds:

Once a year make a mailing to members asking for donations to the Quasi Endowment Fund.
 Research methods for raising funds and solicit funds from outside sources.

Member News

Christopher Calhoun, the husband of Amy Calhoun, daughter of Marti Williams, passed away on January 27. Chris suffered from cystic fibrosis his entire life and at the time of his death he was awaiting a lung transplant. We offer our most sincere condolences to Amy, Marti and Mike.

Former member Burlen Southers passed away on February 6. He is survived by his wife Zada. His daughter who was also a club member died several years ago. Our condolences to his wife and the other members of the family.

Catharine Hart became the latest member of the injured when she slipped on ice and broke her wrist.

Annual Seed Exchange

For those of you who start some of your plants under grow lights we will have an annual seed exchange at the next dinner meeting. Bring any seeds that you may have to share with your fellow gardeners. Everyone can participate in the program whether or not you bring seeds or are a member of the garden club. Remember, planting seeds is the most inexpensive way to start flowers and vegetables.

Donzell's Garden Seminars

These seminars are on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and are free. Call 330-724-0550 ext. 110 for reservations.

Feb. 12 - "Growing Orchids in Your Home" Speaker: from the Akron Orchid Society. Tips and techniques for beginners and the more advanced orchid enthusiasts. Learn from those who have grown orchids for many years.

Feb.19 - "The Birds in our Backyard" Speaker: Joyce Pelz, Akron Audubon Society. Learn how to attract birds you want in your backyard by choosing the food they like and the way they like to eat. Make your backyard an inviting natural habitat for birds.

Feb.26 - "Growing Your Food from Seeds" Speaker: Dan Dubnicka, Donzell's Grower. The interest in growing our own food has gardeners of all ages reconnecting with the land and getting us back to our "roots". Growing plants from seeds is economical and rewards us with a healthy, homegrown bounty.

March 5 & 6 - Greater Akron Orchid Society Show at Donzell's. No Saturday seminar. There will be exotic orchid displays, orchid vendors, and experts on hand to answer your questions. Free and open to the public.

March 12 - "Practical Bonsai" Speaker: Dale Cochoy, Akron Bonsai Society. Practiced for centuries in China and Japan, bonsai is the reproduction of natural tree forms in miniature. He will bring his more than 30 years of experience with demonstrations, and valuable growing and care information.

March 19 - "Landscaping: Choosing the Plants" Speaker: Julie Harr, Donzell's Landscape Designer. Considering color, texture, shape and growing habits of plants is integral to a good design. She shares her artistic approach to combining and selecting plants for the landscape.

March 26 - "Creating a Fairy Garden" Speaker: Duane Rollins, Greenhouse Designer. Add a bit of whimsy to your garden with a nook just for fairies. Using miniature conifers, plants and garden accessories we'll show you how to please the fairies in your garden.

April 2 - "Home Grown Vegetables" Speaker: Lee Paulson, Master Gardener. Vegetable gardening is hotter than ever. Back by popular demand, Lee covers gardening basics for those who want to enjoy their own delicious fresh picked vegetables.

Donzell's is a member of our club and we as members should support them and their activities such as these seminars.

A joke - One of the editor's favorite cartoons shows a man pushing a wheelbarrow loaded and overloaded with all kinds of gardening tools and accessories. The target of this man and all his equipment--one single little flower. A clear case of overkill. Another - a man and woman are on the roof of their home as flood waters reach almost to the roof. The woman says to the man: "This won't be too good for our cactus collection".

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