



The Garden Gabber



Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc. Men's Garden Clubs of America Central Great Lakes Region

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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, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Basic Garden Design Principles

Our speaker will be Cara Smith. She will talk about the use of shrubbery, historical items, vegetables, flowers and herbs in garden design. This will be a power point presentation; thanks to Frank Mitch for the use of his equipment

The 10 minute talk will be by Frank Mitch on the subject of Beekeeping.

Greeters for this meeting will be Carol Kern and Lillian Harris.

Bring items for the Silent Auction which is now being handled by Cheryl Bordner. Thanks to Grace Cochran for her handling of this auction in the past.

Board meeting will be February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

A Message from Your President - Arthur Britton

Hello one and all, yes the days are getting longer and the catalogs continue to come in. I am sure that we are all planning and ordering for the spring, summer and fall of 2009 and beyond. One of the many nice things that our club has to offer is that we are willing to share knowledge about a plant, weed or vegetable that you might have a question about. So if in doubt feel free to ask.

There are a couple of things that I would like to bring to your attention that were discussed at the board meeting. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be at the IX center this year. We are looking forward to meeting people that enjoy gardening and might be interested in joining our club. We have applications and seeds to hand out and we all thank those that will be at the booth. From those of you who take pictures of their gardens, please send them to Frank Mitch so that the MGC web page displays the many wonderful gardens of our members. Please send in the photos.

Another item that we are going to try is a raffle (possibly a Fairy garden) while we are selling geraniums at the plant sale. This year the sale will be at Faith Lutheran Church located at 2726 W Market St., Fairlawn. (330) 836-8811 <http://www.faithlutheranchurch.org>. The church is located next to St. Hillary's and across from the Marc's store. The date of the sale is Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th so please tell your family and friends.

Faith Lutheran Church is where the Board meetings are held, and the Board has decided that instead of paying the church something for the use of the building, the club is willing to maintain the court yard. The area will benefit from people with years of knowledge and new ideas. This idea was approved by the board and is greatly appreciated by the Pastor.

A topic that will be discussed at the Feb. dinner meeting is to start the social hour at 5:30 p.m., but have it go for 30 minutes, and then dinner at 6 pm, therefore ending the evening a little sooner. Please give this some thought and we will talk about it at the meeting, and yes, there are other factors to consider, so please let me know at the meeting, or you can call or e-mail me if you prefer.

I hope that everyone has had, and will have a good Valentine's Day and President's Day. See you at the meeting and happy gardening.

Ohio Winter Poem

It's winter in Ohio.
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At twenty-five below.

Oh, how I love Ohio
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Ohio
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!

Orchid Show

The Greater Akron Orchid Society is holding their annual Orchid Show at Donzell's Nursery at 937 Waterloo Rd. Come see the different orchid species in their finest. There will be vendors who can help you select an orchid for you and explain how to grow it. The show is open to the public so if you already have a great orchid in bloom bring it anytime Friday and enter it in the Show.

The Show is Saturday March 7, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday March 8, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Maybe this year you could have an orchid and get Best of Show at our Horticultural Show.

Reported by Jim Bell

Cleveland Home and Garden Show

This year the Cleveland, Youngstown and Akron club members will be cooperating in a booth at the 66th Cleveland Home and Garden Show. It is indoors at the Cleveland IX-Center and runs from February 7 to 15.

Theme of the show this year is: "The Romance of France." 17 French themed gardens will occupy 150,000 square feet of indoor space. The entry feature garden is Claude Monet's personal garden and it alone will be on 16,000 square feet of space. Amazing show for sure! (Note: One acre = 43,560 square feet.)

See more here:

<http://www.homeandflower.com/ME2/Sites/Default.asp?SiteID=6817839757EF4441818726B97A2175A5>

Come to Cleveland and enjoy the show.

Reported by: Frank Mitch

Possible New Communication Tool

Are you interested in more frequent communications for you all; and maybe between all club members? A few of you have been members of the TGOA/MGCAComm discussion group with Yahoo. How about something similar for the Akron club?

Here is a proposal to set up a discussion group for a trial in a Google Group. Such Groups are similar to Yahoo Groups but easier to set up. Main purpose would be for club business and program discussions, not for solving gardening problems.

Here are some details - Name of Group: Men's Garden Club of Akron

Group Email Address: MGCakron@google.com

Group Web Address: <http://groups.google.com/group/MGCakron>

Access Level: - Restricted - People must be invited to join the group.

Only group members can post messages, read the archives, view the members list, create pages and upload files. Group and its archives do not appear in public Google search results or the Directory.

If interested I am willing to set it up and get it started.

I have quite a bit of experience in setting up 5 other Yahoo Groups and am a member of Google Group.

We can try it and see if we like it. Anyone not wanting to be in it can opt out.

If we like it we can later extend it to include all club members with an email address.

Your comments please.

Submitted by Frank Mitch

Feeding Birds

Last month's issue of the Garden Gabber had an article taken from a booklet on Attracting Birds in Ohio by the Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The topic was how to create a suitable habitat to attract birds.

The next topic in the booklet is on feeding birds. Habitat is the first necessity for attracting birds. Once a suitable habitat is present other practices and devices are successful in increasing bird populations. Feeding, particularly winter feeding, is valuable in attracting and holding birds. Feeding keeps birds alive and healthy during severe weather, putting them in better condition for the breeding season.

Once winter feeding is started, it should be continued until late spring. Many birds have specialized food habits and unless these are met, they won't be present at a feeding station. For example dried or fresh fruit is necessary to attract summer birds like mockingbirds, thrushes, waxwings and other fruit eating birds. Suet is taken by nuthatches, woodpeckers and other birds that feed on insects and insect grubs during the winter.

Nutmeats are choice food for cardinals, catbirds, chickadees, crossbills, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches titmice, woodpeckers, jays and juncos. Dry seeds such as corn, grasses and weeds are eaten by bobwhites, cardinals, doves, goldfinches, grackles, jays, juncos, pheasants, redpolls, siskins, sparrows of all kinds, thrashers and tohees. Berries and fruits are important foods to bluebirds, catbirds, flickers, mockingbirds, robins, thrashers and thrushes.

Some birds are omnivorous; they will eat almost anything. Birds will eat many of the same foods humans eat. Apples are widely used by fruit eaters. American cheese is favored by chickadees, mockingbirds and brown thrashers. Corn is widely used and an excellent source of energy during severe cold weather. Cornbread is also favored.

Dried currants and raisins are important to all the fruit eaters, especially bluebirds, robins, catbirds and mockingbirds. Doughnuts are well liked and peanuts and peanut butter are also widely used and are an excellent source of energy.

Mixed bird seed containing many seeds and grains is important to the vast number of seed eaters present over winter. Pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, oatmeal and suet are also popular foods.

A game bird feeding station maintained in dense protective cover such as a briar patch benefits game bird populations when the feeding is continued throughout the winter. Ear corn is excellent fare, either placed on the ground or stuck on stakes to keep it above the snow.

An easy way to feed is to place the food on the ground. This will attract all ground feeding birds (Editor's note - and also every squirrel in the neighborhood). When ground feeding is done scatter the feeding sites so timid birds are able to feed. Platform feeders bring birds up to eye level. a glass top or cover protects the food from rain and snow. Hopper feeders offer the advantage of holding several days' supply of food. Metal guards keep cats and squirrels away from bird nests and feeding stations. Swinging feeders are desirable for discouraging house sparrows and blue jays, both of which dominate the feeding stations if permitted. Window sill feeders are a popular form of platform feeders. A trolley feeder, fastened to a wire and gradually moved from an area where birds are used to feeding to the window sill is often useful. Bird feeders are seldom successful unless the neighborhood is planted so that birds naturally visit the area. If plantings attract the birds, nesting boxes and birdbaths, as well as feeding can persuade them to stay.

A birdbath is useful in attracting birds in all seasons but is particularly successful in summer when natural sources of water may be lacking in residential neighborhoods. The bath will be irresistible if the surface can be kept dappled by a tiny inflow of water or by drops falling occasionally on the surface.

Gardening Seminars

At Donzell's on: Saturdays 11 a.m.

Feb. 7 - Have No Fear of Orchids by Barb Ford of the Akron Orchid Society

Feb. 14 -It Starts with a Tiny Seed, a program on starting plants by Dan Dubnicka, Donzell's grower

Feb. 21 - Backyard Bird Watching by Joyce Pelz, of the Akron Audubon Society

Feb. 28 - Houseplants: More Than Decor by Beth Minger of the Donzell's greenhouse staff

March 14 - Spring Floral Showcase, a demonstration of faux floral accents by floral designer Mary Eagle

March 21 - Bonsai Basics by Dale Cochoy of the Akron Bonsai Society

March 28 - Vegetable Gardening by Lee Paulson, Master Gardener

These seminars are free; reservation are requested at 330-724-0550 ext. 110

At the Main Library, 60 South High Street
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 4 - Starting Your Own Vegetable Seed Indoors by Tim Knorr, Farm Manager at Crown Point and Verna VanderKooi, Crown Point volunteer, how to get your seedlings sprouting successfully.

Feb. 11 - Making the Most of Your Grocery Store by Chef Sarah Mentzer. Tips and tricks to save money and time when planning your weekly meals

Feb. 18 - Getting Your Garden and Landscape Ready for Spring by Tom Dayton, techniques to make spring planting easy and successful.

Feb. 25 - Growing Your Own Food: How to Get Started Planning and Planting Your Kitchen Garden by Heather and Eric Walters , owners of Peninsula's Basket of Life Farm. The four P's of gardening - Planning, Preparing, Planting, & Picking.

Programs are free, no sign up required. Room 2 on the High Street level. Parking is free after 6 p.m.

At Youngstown Men's Garden Club Thursday

Feb. 19, registration 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.

9:15 a.m. - Garden Diseases Research by Sally Miller, OARDC Plant Pathologist

10:30 a.m. - Collage with Plant Material by Gayll Wetherell-Sack, lecturer

11:45 a.m. - lunch

1:00 p.m. - Emerald Ash Borer, The Green Menace by Amy Stone, Ohio State University Extension

2:15 p.m. - Containers and Container Gardening by Barrie Kridler, Kridler Gardens

Cost is \$ 20.00 Registration deadline Feb. 13 Send check payable to The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Ohio to John Kolar 1037 North Ave, Girard, Ohio 44420

Meeting at Fellows Riverside Gardens, Mill Creek Park, Youngstown

By the Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve at the R. G. Drage Career Center, 6805 Richville Dr. SW Massillion

Topics will be Earth Friendly Pest Management by Denise Ellsworth; Phenology: Nature's Calendar by Denise Ellsworth; Shady Characters, gardening in the shade by Laura Deeter; Garden Harvest Cooking by Jennifer Wolfe Webb; Why Good Plants Go Bad by Jim Chatfield; Earth's Floral Blessings, about floral arranging by David Peterson; Rain Gardens & Green Roofs by Steve Foltz

Workshop on Artistically Cultivated Plants, about the art of trimming plants by Paul Carmichael.

The keynote address by Steve Foltz, director of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo titled Outstanding Ornamental Plants for the Landscape.

Cost for the Symposium is \$45.00 (deadline Feb. 14) and \$6.00 for the workshop. Late fee \$5.00

Mail registration & payment to The Botanical Garden Association Inc. c/o Symposium Registrar 4894 Robertsville Rd. East Canton, Oh 44730

The editor has a copy of this brochure and the one from the Youngstown club.

Members who have not renewed their membership please note - this will be the last issue of the Gabber you will receive. Send your dues to the treasurer.