



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, January 15

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, January 15, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Vino La Bella
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Program 2006 TGOA/MGCA National Photography
Competition Award Show

The complete 2006 National Photography Competition Award Show with music is a program not to be missed. It is always the highlight of each National Convention. The awards, and this show, were presented at the Spartanburg convention last April. Come and see 30 minutes of super horticulture and gardening photos, and see if you agree with the winners. As usual Rodney Toth has a lot of entries and some winners.

After presenting this show we are encouraging Akron club members to enter some of their photos in the 2007 competition. The deadline this year is March 14, 2007. We will have some copies of the rules and application forms at this meeting. Additional copies are available at this National website page: www.tgoa-mgca.org/PhotoCompet.htm Photos can be on 35 mm slides or in digital files on CDR or floppy disks. Up to 20 photos may be entered by each member.

All members are invited to the board meeting on January 22 at 7:00 P.M. at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive.

Club web site: [ht://www.acorn.net/mgcakron](http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron)

Letter from the President - Robert Bell

Happy New Year 2007. I am sure many of you are having the same thoughts that I have; the New Year arrived way too fast. Isn't this just January 2006?

Because this is my first letter as President and because I am a relatively new member of the Akron Men's Garden Club, I am taking my wife Emily's advice and introducing myself. I grew up and went to school in Manchester, now New Franklin. I married a local Akron girl then took her to Indiana for 35 years. We have two daughters, Heather and family live in Akron (ask me how she got here), and Leanne and family live in New Jersey. I never much cared for gardening until one day while weeding a long row of vegetables at the old homestead I realized how relaxing it was and how enjoyable it was to see the results of my efforts. True story. I have been hooked on gardening ever since. Emily and I moved back to Ohio in 2003. I joined the Akron club because my brother Jim asked me if wanted to.

I am really pleased that I joined. I found a great group of people who care about one another and care about gardening. I have made many new friends. During the three years I have belonged to the club we have had many excellent programs. I learn something new every meeting. I have had the privilege of working with other members in a number of great projects.

My goal as President is to continue the work we are doing and to add the activities the club members voted for last year. More new members joined our club this past year than we have had for many years. This is exciting. We already have a number of good programs lined up. We have a need for some committee chairs. Of immediate need are Silent Auction Chair, May Plant Sale Chair, 10 Minute Speaker Chair, Strawberry Fest Chair and some others that I can't remember at the moment. My expectation is that some of you reading this will come to me at the January meeting and ask, "What can I do" or "I will take on" this job. I will be talking to some of you.

Speaking of the January meeting. We announced in the December Gabber that dinners would be \$12. That is incorrect. The new contract requires us to charge \$13 for our dinners. The program for this meeting is photography. We will show some of the prize winning pictures from past National contests. We will tell you how to enter the National Photo Contest for 2007.

At the February meeting the Club will have a seed exchange. Plan now. Those providing seeds will have first chance to receive seeds. This will be in place of the 10 minute topic.

I plan to be at the dinner on January 15, 2007. Hope to see you too.

(Editor's note - Because of the great job that Bob did as first vice-president last year, providing such great programs and establishing the short ten minute gardening discussions, I am sure that he will be equally successful this year as president. We all, as members, must do all that we can to help him be successful. We need to attend as many meetings as possible, work on as many club projects as we can, bring in new members and support him with words of praise and encouragement. I'm sure that he will be open to any and all suggestions that we as members make to improve the club. We need ideas about how the club can be more active in the community and how to get more members involved in club projects.)

Special Awards

In addition to all of the awards that Jim Fee made at the November meeting, and were written up in the December issue of the Gabber, two other special awards were made on that night. These were the President's awards. two of which can be awarded each year by the outgoing president. These Awards are meant to award special service given to the club by the recipients. These awards were given to Andy Bettick and Dick Cotton.

Andy joined the club in 1990. He served as first vice-president in 1994 and president in 1995. He received the Certificate of Appreciation from the club in 1996, 1999 and 2002 and the Certificate of Honor in 2003, 2004, and 2005. He was the first chairman of the Habitat for Humanity project, and has been from the beginning, the chairman of the Crown Point project. He has worked on almost every committee or project since joining the club. He has received the club's beautification award twice for his garden and he has won the Marsh Greenlun Big Blue Award three times for having the most blue ribbons in the horticulture show.

Dick joined the club in 1987, sponsored jointly by Murray Bartlett and Charlie White. He has served as the club's liaison to the national level of the Men's Garden Club of America. He has been very active in the scholarship program of the club. He was an evaluator/reader for the National Scholarship Committee which awards five \$1000 scholarships yearly. He is the co-chair of our club's membership committee and the co-chair of the club's members' awards committee. His most visible job in the club is to be in charge of the 50/50 raffle each meeting.

Dick is still employed at that store which has been called O'Neils, May Company, Kaufman's and now Macy's so he can not participate in day time activities of the club.

Harris Seed

In an e-mail Harris Seed announced a discount program for MGCA/TGOA members . Until June 30 you will receive 10% off any order from the Harris Seed catalog or from their web site. If you do not receive a seed catalog from them go to their web site and ask for one. The address is www.harrisseed.com You can also phone at 800-514-4441. If you sign up to receive their e-mail you will receive a monthly newsletter containing money saving offers and gardening advice.

There is a special code for this members' offer, Garden Club Promo Code 7PRW 07

Graf Growers Winter Seminar Series

Graf Growers is presenting the following seminars: January 20 - Perennials for Spring, Summer & Fall. January 27 - Shrubs & Trees for the Home Landscape, February 3 - Super Survivors - Reliable Plants for the Akron Area, February 10 - Container Gardening, February 17 - DEsign Tips for a Beautiful Landscape, February 24 - Ask the Expert, All Your Plant & Landscape Questions.

Cost is \$12; \$18 for January 20. Time is 10 to 11:30 AM Sign up in person at Graf Growers or mail in a registration (get a form from their website - www.grafgrowers.com)

Global Climate Change

(From the September/October issue of the OARDC Report, the newsletter of the Ohio State University Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster)

Evidence supporting global climate change often comes in striking forms from gigantic ozone layer holes to remote melting glaciers. But signs that the planet is getting warmer can be found in places a lot closer to home: your lawn and garden.

OARDC supports a statewide monitoring system that predicts when tree and shrub pests will first appear at any given location based on the blooming of ornamental plants.

This “biological calendar” helps nursery growers and gardeners make fewer and more effective pesticide applications. But it also collects key information about plant and insect activity that reveals the occurrence of warmer winters and a significant extension of the growing season.

They are not concerned about from one year to the next; but about long term changes. They have concluded that winters are getting warmer.

Bagworms are a good example to illustrate these changes. These pests of shade trees and woody ornamentals never were a problem north of I-70. But today they are found in northern Ohio as the temperature has gone up during the winter months.

The growing season is starting earlier and ending later. A good indicator of that is the black vine weevil, which attacks many species of trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers and is one of the most damaging and tough to control nursery pests in Ohio. The adult weevils are emerging three weeks earlier than they did in 1970. The reason is that black vine weevil emergence closely corresponds with the blooming of black locust trees. And black locust trees are blooming earlier too.

Stay in Shape

(Editor’s note - the Gabber used to include a poem by Bob Van Kirk, a member of the Cuyahoga Falls club and an associate member of our club, in almost every issue. Bob passed away last year. But Grace Cochran has collected some of the old issues of the Cuyahoga Falls newsletter, The Seedpod. She thought that we might like to reprint some of Bob’s old poems. This one is from the January 1993 issue of The Seedpod.)

New years start in wintertime,
This simple fact we know,
Then it’s spring, summer, fall,
This is our seasons flow.

Some planters now hibernate,
and dream of things to be,
Others look thru catalogues,
Wishful for what they see.

What ever, please keep in mind,
To stay in shape, don’t shirk,
So you’ll enjoy garden chores,
When it’s time for yard work.

About Pesticides

Pesticides include herbicides (for weed control), insecticides (for insect control), fungicides (fungus control), rodenticides (rodent control), and a wide range of other substances used to kill or control other undesired organisms.

Homeowners apply an estimated 66 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides per year to their homes, lawns, and gardens. This does not include applications made by pest control or lawn care professionals.

Homeowners are using 50% more herbicides than they did 20 years ago.

About January

January, the first and coldest month of the year received its name from the Latin “Januarius” (derived from *janua*, meaning door). The word came from the name of the Roman deity, Janus, to whom the Romans’ first month was sacred. It looked both to the past and to the future, and was consecrated by offerings of new products such as wine, salt, meal, and frankincense.

On New Year’s Day, the Romans exchanged gifts of small coins; on one side of them was Janus, the two-faced god, and on the other a ship, for he was considered the protector of ships and trade.

The beginnings of each day, month, and year were sacred to Janus. Preceding any important undertaking, he was invoked before any other deity. The Romans believed that at dawn Janus opened the gates of heaven to let out the morning, and that he closed them at dusk. Therefore, he was worshiped as the god of all doors, gates, and entrances, and under his protection too were “the beginnings of all human enterprises.”

Janus, as the porter or doorkeeper, was shown with a staff in one hand denoting his power, while a key in the other symbolized his right to open and close all things. On early coins Janus was depicted with two bearded faces, looking in opposite directions; for there was a belief that he knew both past and future happenings.

The Saxons termed the first month of the year “Wulf-monath,” or “Wolf monat, or month,” because at this season starving wolves often invaded their villages and attacked human beings. Another Saxon name for January was “Aefer-Yula” or “After-Christmas”. On some early calendars and church service books the month of January was shown as a woodsman, carrying an ax, gathering fagots, and blowing on his hands

Three presidents were born in January: Millard Fillmore, William McKinley, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Other notables were Paul Revere, George Washington Carver, Lord Byron, Carl Sandburg, Ethan Allen, Jack London, Sir Francis Drake, Lloyd George, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Daniel Webster, Edgar Allan Poe, Benjamin Franklin, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Sir Isaac Newton, Alexander Hamilton, Francis Bacon, Frederick the Great, Franz Schubert, Albert Schweitzer, and Benedict Arnold.

Various notable events have occurred in January: in 1265 the first English Parliament met; in 1649 Charles I was beheaded; in 1778 France recognized the independence of the American colonies; in 1784 the peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States was ratified; in 1789 our first national election resulted in the choice of George Washington as President; in 1803 the Louisiana Purchase took place; in 1815 the battle of New Orleans was fought; in 1848 gold was discovered in California; in 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was issued; in 1883 the Civil Service Act was passed. In 1902 the first football game in the Rose Bowl was played; in 1903 the treaty with Panama was signed; in 1912 Captain Robert Scott reached the South Pole; in 1913 parcel post was established; in 1915 New York and San Francisco were united by telephone; in 1927 the first telephone message traveled across the Atlantic Ocean; in 1946 the United Nations opened its first assembly; in 1948 Mohandas Gandhi was assassinated; in 1954 the U.S. launched its first atomic submarine; in 1957 our first satellite, Explorer I was in orbit; and in 1959 Fidel Castro took over in Cuba.

Important holidays in January are January 1, New Year’s Day, the evening of January 5th is Twelfth Night, January 6 is Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, and January 20 every 4th year, is Inauguration Day. This date was established by the 20th amendment.

The January birthstone is the Garnet. The January flower is the Carnation, the alternate is the Snowdrop.