



# The Garden Gabber



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXV

March 2006

Number 3

**President:**

Leroy Hart  
633 Schocalog Rd.  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
☎ 330-836-1407  
email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

**1st Vice President:**

Robert Bell  
1832 Sandy Lane Road  
Ravenna, OH 44366  
☎ 330-673-3553

**2nd Vice President:**

David Rich  
1166 Broadview Rd.  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
☎ 330-630-9625

**Secretary:**

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Broadview Rd.  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
☎ 330-630-9625

**Treasurer:**

John Lewis  
3066 Rohrer Road  
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576  
☎ 330-336-9336

**National Directors:**

William Moorehouse  
511 Overwood Road  
Akron, OH 44313  
☎ 330-864-0604

Frank M. Mitch  
2065 Kemery Road  
Akron, OH 44333-1937  
☎ 330-666-2327  
e-mail: fmm2065@hotmail

**Gabber Editor/Historian:**

Leroy Hart  
633 Schocalog Road  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
☎ 330-836-1407  
email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

## Monday, March 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, March 20, 2006  
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

**Where:** Peg's Catering  
440 Grant Street  
Akron, Ohio 44311

**Program**      **Plant Selection**

Our newest club member, Carleton Kirsch, will present a program dealing with how you can select the best possible specimen when you are buying plants at the nursery. Carleton speaks with an insider's knowledge since he works at Constantine's nursery. Constantine's is well known by our Bath and West Side members.

Board meeting is March 27 at 7:00 P.M. at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive. All members are welcome to attend and share their thoughts and ideas with the board. We all have a common goal, to make our club better.

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

## A Message from President Leroy Hart

It is only March so there still isn't much to do about gardening. Some of you have started seeds indoors to get a head start on the planting season. As usual, I am behind in this also, I haven't even looked through the seed catalogs to see what I would like to try. I have some seeds left over from previous years. I'll have to try and see if they will still sprout. So far it has been an easy winter. I haven't had to use the snow blower even once. And we haven't had too much really cold weather either; I hope we don't have to pay for that in July.

Enough of you have requested that I continue with the article about our trip to Newfoundland. You may wonder why we wanted to go to Newfoundland. Back in the 1970s we were on a trip to the Maritime Provinces of Canada; we were in the harbor of Sydney, Nova Scotia and the ferry to Newfoundland was in port. My daughter, who was interested in archaeology, wanted to go to Newfoundland to see the digging at the Viking settlement. After studying the guidebook I told her that it was 125 miles of gravel road to get there from the port and I wasn't driving 250 miles on gravel. Today the road is paved.

This archeological site is one of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Newfoundland. It is called L'Anse Aux Meadows. In the Icelandic Sagas, the stories about the Vikings before 1000, there was mention of Vinland. A Norwegian explorer and his wife, an archeologist, decided to try to find Vinland. As part of their search they talked with a fisherman who lived in the northernmost part of Newfoundland. He told the explorer about several mounds of earth in an area that had no hills. To an archeologist stories about unusual mounds is an invitation to dig. In their digging they found evidence of an iron smelter. Upon further digging they found evidence of dwellings. The archeologists have decided that this was the remains of a Viking settlement founded by Leif Eiriksson about 900 to 1000 A.D. (This means that America was discovered about 500 years before Columbus; but the Vikings left no record of these voyages or this settlement.) However, they concluded that this was not Vinland because the Sagas said that there were wild grapes growing at Vinland and there are no wild grapes at this site. The archeologists have concluded that this was a way station between Greenland and North America. It is speculated that Vinland was further south in Newfoundland or even on the North American continent. It is felt that the purpose of this settlement was to serve as a resupply base for their voyages and a repair station for their ships. The people at this site made nails which were used to repair the boats. They used bog iron and charcoal which were found at the site to make bloom iron which was then made into nails. Evidence of the smelter was found along with nails made at the site and nails that had been made in Norway.

At the site there is one large dwelling, which had walls of earth four feet thick and was divided into three rooms, several smaller dwellings and a smelter where they make nails today. They think that these reproductions are what the originals looked like; in Iceland archeologists have found an original Viking dwelling from that period buried under ash from a volcano.

The actual archeological sites at L'Anse Aux Meadows have been covered over with earth to protect them in case anyone wants to do further research. It has been speculated that the reason the Vikings came to this area of the world was in search of hardwood lumber. An aside about Greenland as told to us by our tour guide. He said that Greenland had been named by its discoverer, who I believe was Eric the Red. He called it Greenland in order to get settlers to come. He felt that if he told the truth about the place nobody would come there to live.

From this site we traveled to the second World Heritage Site in Newfoundland, Gros Morne National Park. In this park is located a geological feature that is found in only one other place on earth. I will tell about this park in the next installment of this travelogue, also I need to say more about the flora and fauna of Newfoundland.

## About March

Our third month, March, got its name from that of the Roman month, "Martius," honoring Mars, the god of war. Since wars and conquests were such important factors in Roman life, it was only natural for these people to dedicate a month to the deity of war. Martius had the distinction of being the first month of the Roman year until the adoption of the Julian Calendar in 46 B.C. Beginning the year in March seemed logical, because March comes after the dead part of the year, at a time when symptoms of growth take place.

Four American presidents were born in March: Andrew Jackson, James Madison, Grover Cleveland, and John Tyler. Other notables born in March were Sam Houston, Vincent Van Gogh, Leland Stanford, Knute Rockne, Alexander Graham Bell, Michaelangelo, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Joseph Haydn, Robert Frost, General Phil Sheridan, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and William Jennings Bryan. Also Luther Burbank, Arturo Toscanini, Johann Sebastian Bach, David Livingston, and Albert Einstein.

March does not have as many widely observed holidays as some other months; however, it does have March 17 which is celebrated by Irish Americans, and most other Americans as well, as Saint Patrick's Day. This date commemorates the death of St. Patrick rather than his birth. Since Easter is a movable feast, it may fall between March 21 and April 25.

Interesting events have taken place in March: Patrick Henry delivered his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech in 1780; the world's first daily newspaper, *the Courant*, was established in London in 1702; in 1780 the first American bank was chartered; the Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1781; the first U.S. Congress met in New York in 1789; also in 1789 Congress established the U.S. Post Office; in 1794 an act was passed to found the Navy; in 1802 the United States Military Academy at West Point was started; in 1819 the first bicycle was seen in New York; in 1842 ether was used for the first time; in 1852 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published; also that year the first cartoon of Uncle Sam appeared; in 1862 the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac occurred.

Other interesting events occurred in March: in 1865 Jefferson Davis was captured; in 1867 the United States Bureau of Education was set up; in 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone; in 1884 our country set up standard time; the Camp Fire Girls organization was founded in 1912; also in 1912 Puerto Rico became a territory of the U.S. also in 1912 Jeanette Rankin of Montana was elected as the first woman member of the United States House of Representatives; in 1931 Congress adopted "The Star Spangled Banner" as our national anthem; in 1925 the first trans-Atlantic broadcast was made; and in 1938 Adolph Hitler invaded Austria. (Editor's note - there must be more important occurrences in March but the book I am using was published in 1966)

Each month has at least one birthstone and flower. The March birthstone is the Bloodstone. The Bloodstone is a closely compacted opaque variety of quartz with a background color of dark green, mottled with irregular spots and streaks of red. This semiprecious gem has also been found in other colors such as yellow, grey, and black. At times the stone contains bands of varying hues or markings that forms natural pictures. The ancients called the bloodstone "jasper"; it was one of the stones in the breastplate of the High Priest. The alternate March birthstone is Aquamarine also called beryl. It is a silicate of aluminum and the light metal beryllium and has the same chemical composition as an emerald.

The birth month flower for March is either the jonquil or daffodil. They are closely related to the narcissus. In fact "Narcissus" is the botanical name for this entire family.

## Member News

Our Associate and Honorary member Robert Van Kirk spent quite a few weeks in the hospital after some serious surgery. He is making good progress now and expects to be leaving the hospital soon. He would welcome cards or letters to be sent to this new address. Cards will be forwarded to him if still in the hospital.

550 Evans Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310  
He will have an unlisted phone number

A previous member Dana D. Kreider Sr. passed away on February 22, 2006 at age 98. He is remembered by our members for having purchased many of our geraniums each year. His obituary pointed out that he beautified his community for over 70 years with his landscaping talents and the planting of crocuses in his front yard to signify the arrival of spring. As the obituary says "Feel free to plant a tree or crocuses in his memory."

Harold H. Bollinger passed away on February 28, 2006 at age 98. He was a Life Member and in recent years an Honorary Member of our club. He provided a lot of assistance to the club for many years including service as the club secretary for 12 years. He retired from Ohio Edison in 1972 after 45 years of service. His home in recent years was at Rockynol.

Reported by Frank Mitch

## Gardening Programs at the Library

The staff of the library is very excited to be hosting two expert gardening authors at the Akron-Summit County Public Library in April.

Nationally known **Ken Druse** and Ohio's own **Debra Knapke** will be giving presentations in April to celebrate National Gardening Month.

Debra Knapke will be presenting **Perennial and Annual Favorites (plants that do well in Ohio)** on **Saturday, April 1 at 1pm.**

Her slide lecture will last approximately 45 minutes with a Question & Answer session following. We will have her books available for purchase and she will be on hand to do signings after the program.

Ken Druse will present a slide lecture **Gardening – passion for a lifetime** on **Saturday, April 22 at 1 pm** in the Main Library Auditorium.

His program will also be approximately 45 minutes – 1 hour in length with a small Question & Answer session following. A small selection of his books will also be available for purchase and signing.

The programs are free, open to the public and seating is on a first come, first serve basis. Free parking is available on Saturdays in the City deck on the corner of High Street & Market Street. This deck includes a covered walkway that attaches to the library on level 2.

Flyers that give more information are available at all libraries.

## Geranium Sale

Chet Lowry will again have tickets and flyers about the geranium sale available at the next meeting. Please take some flyers to post at your church, place of employment etc.

There will be a sign up sheet passed around for workers to sign up for this sale. Quite a few workers are needed to unload the trucks on Friday May 12 starting about 8:00 A.M. According to the tickets the sale itself starts at 11:00 A.M. We should have at least four or five workers for each shift. The tickets say that the sale ends on Friday at 8:00 P.M. That makes nine hours; this time period will be broken into three shifts. On Saturday the sale begins at 10:00 A.M. and ends at 5:00 P.M. We will have two shifts.

Last year we hired security for Friday night. The board has suggested that instead of hiring security this year we have teams of members to split up the night and stand guard, thereby saving the cost of security. Volunteers for security detail will also be on the sign up sheet.

## National Ballots

We have all received a ballot from national for us to vote for next year's officers. However, that is not the most important item on the ballot. There will be a chance to vote to repeal the national dues increase that was passed last year. The motion is to go back to the old dues schedule which was \$15.00 for regular members. As it worked out this year that was all you paid because our club picked up the difference between the old amount and this year's amount. However, the club cannot afford to do that another year.

Since life members do not pay national dues we have no financial interest, but life members should vote for the decrease in dues anyway. If any member still wishes to keep membership in the American Horticultural Society the national is negotiating with the AHS on giving us a reduced cost of membership. More detail about this later.

5

If you don't want to mail back your ballot individually you can save the postage by bringing your ballot to the next meeting. They will be mailed back together. (President's note - I promise I won't change your vote if you have voted the wrong way, But, like I said at the February meeting, you should vote for the reduction in dues.)



5157 Akron-Cleveland Road  
330.650.4969

### Suncrest Gardens

*The Area's Best Kept Secret!*

*An exciting collection of trees, shrubs, seasonal flowers,  
home accents, gifts and necessities*

Located on State Road just north of Cuyahoga Falls



## Graf Growers

*"For All Seasons"*

- Greenhouse
- Garden Center
- Farm Market
- Vegetable Farm

*Offering guidance, inspiration  
and supplies to complete the  
garden of your dreams.*

**SPRING**  
**All Your Gardening Needs!**  
Perennials, Annuals, Soils & Mulches,  
Shrubs, Roses, Pottery & more!

**SUMMER**  
Farm Fresh Fruits & Vegetables  
**Graf Grown Bicolor Sweet Corn**

**FALL**  
**Garden Mums, Bulbs, Pumpkins and Fall**  
Decorating & Gardening needs.

**WINTER**  
**Graf Grown Poinsettias, Christmas**  
Trees, Wreaths, Firewood.  
**Winter Seminar Series in Jan. & Feb.**

---

1015 White Pond Dr. Akron 330.836.2727  
[www.grafgrowers.com](http://www.grafgrowers.com)