



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, April 18

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, April 18, 2005
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Bradley's at the Copley Community Center

Program: Charles Applegate

We are welcoming one of the giants in the field of horticulture, Charles Applegate of Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Charles is the senior gardener at the estate and plans and executes the color schemes and plant selection for all of the many gardens at Kingwood each year.

He is a hybridizer of daylilies, and is knowledgeable about everything from hostas to daffodils. He will be speaking on perennials and bulbs and if the weather cooperates will be bringing blooming specimens. Don't even think about missing this meeting!

April Board Meeting: Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center April 25, 2005
7:00 p.m.

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

President's Message --- by Mary Ann Ferguson - Rich

What weather this weekend! It was in the 70's and then by the time I started writing this we were having a blizzard! My poor daffodils were about ready to bloom. They're tough though, the stems may droop a little but they'll bounce back and bloom. We have to be the same way if we want to garden in Ohio.



Are you getting ready for the season? My husband has already pruned the grapes and applied the dormant oil. I started those vines about twenty years ago and we have a beautiful, 40 foot row of Concordes. Some years we lose a big part of the crop to disease, but we always get enough to make jelly in the Fall. There is nothing so satisfying as harvesting clumps of sweet and tangy Concordes. My husband keeps wanting me to make grape pie, but it's too much work processing the fruit. He usually ends up doing the jelly as well. I'm like that old folk tale, I want to sit in the sun and just gather memories of summer, while David is practical and wants to can and freeze the harvest!

Don't forget to sign up to work at the geranium sale in May! When I leave the meeting in April, I will need to have the list complete because my niece is getting married that weekend and I will not be at the sale on Friday. We are attempting to run the sale without a true chairman and it is not easy! We are also in search of a candidate to take over as President next year. Please don't let your club decline because of lack of leadership.

Start planning now for the May plant auction. We need your donations and we need you to come and purchase.

At the recent board meeting, it was decided to try and revive the strawberry festival, converting it into a potluck supper and barbecue at one of the Metro Parks, probably Sand Run. David Hawkins, our past president, has agreed to look into this. We would be doing this for the June meeting. We will discuss this in April, and if you'd like to help with planning this event, let me know. The board feels that the club would benefit for having at least one outdoor event per year, perhaps you'd like more. We have considered doing a field trip to a public garden as well. What do you think? Could we get 40 some people to fill a bus? Where would you like to go?

Remember, this is your club and we value your input. We don't always have to do the same things every month. Change can be frightening, but it is also exciting and even liberating.

Speaking of change, we are continuing to explore new meeting locations. I have recently been offered the use of an auditorium for free at a local senior facility. We will explore this option as well as the others. We have received permission from Bradley's to try out several of the proposed locations for our monthly meetings. Keep reading your Gabber closely, because some time during late summer and fall, we may be meeting at other locations. Let's all stay flexible and we can all participate in the selection process.

Spring is coming at last and we can finally get out into our yards!

Your president,

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping in 2005

Thanks to all who showed your work date preferences on the sheets at the March dinner. It appears Saturdays May 14 and 21 are likely dates for landscaping two new homes on Blanche St. off of Manchester Rd. in Akron. We may schedule a mid week work day for one of the homes. We will call you to confirm final dates. Other members not yet on the list are encouraged to participate. Please call if you wish to help.

Some really good news is that we have received another matching grant of \$500 from the TGOA/MGCA Gardening from the Heart program. This is in addition to the previous \$1,000 grant two years ago, used for landscaping 8 homes. We very much appreciate this generous support from our National organization.

Reported by Frank Mitch Phone 330-666-2327

Member News

Marjorie J. Kistler died on March 7, 2005. "Marjie" grew orchids and was a member of the Greater Akron Orchid Club. Her father George Karadin no doubt had some influence regarding the orchid hobby. This newer member of our club will be very much missed by our membership and of course by Mr. and Mrs. Karadin.

Our longtime Associate and Life Member George F. Hoover died on March 13, 2005. George was a member of TGOA/MGCA since 1978. He was very active in the Youngstown club, in the Region, and on National Committees for many years. He was an accredited Horticulture show judge and often served as a judge for the shows of our club as well as for other clubs in the Region. We will certainly miss George in the future when the group from Youngstown attends one of our meetings or shows.

reported by Frank Mitch

S-Team Report: Searching Is on the Move!

I am pleased to report that searching for new members for the MGC of Akron is bearing fruit. Andy Bettick brought in his first (for the new season) in the person of Richard Edwards and I am sure that Andy is working on number two even as I write. Dick Cotton introduced his first in the person of Lynn Parker at the dinner meeting in March. He reports that his second new member should be coming in very soon. Some of us met the young man from Medina that Walt Starcher brought to a meeting late last year. Walt had to tell me that work circumstances have stalled that young man's entry for the moment. Any one in the club who knows of other prospects over in the Medina area really ought to contact Walt and let him know. Everyone is eligible to be a working crew member of the S-Team. All you have to do is declare your interest and start your search for new members. You can contact any of the current crew members to give them the names of prospects that you know might be interested. (That may be a first step in developing interest in coming in as an S-Team member.)

Here is the line-up of the two crews that currently make up the S-team

Free Lance Armada

Valerie Becker	Andy Bettick
Richard Cotton	David Hawkins
Roger Hite	Cathy Morgan
David Rich	Walter Starcher
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	

Sa Flotilla

Karen Ketterman - Crew Chief	
Arthur Britton	Janice Filipski
Gene Fitch	John Lamer

reported by James Fee (aka Jim) 330-864-0442 email: jfee@neo.rr.com

Report on Habitat for Humanity Homes

As you may recall our national organization through its Gardening from the Heart program awarded our club \$1000.00 for our project of landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes. The national organization requested a report from us on how this money was spent. The present chairman of our Habitat committee, Frank Mitch, wrote this report and submitted it to the national . His report must have impressed those in charge of the Gardening from the Heart program because as Frank has mentioned in the preceding article, they have awarded us more money this year. This report included pictures of our members busily at work, and also leaning on the shovel. (Guess who was caught leaning on the shovel, yours truly, the editor).

Frank reports that in 2003 Andy Bettick was the chair of the Habitat committee.

On May 3, 2003 the club landscaped two homes on Frank Street in Barberton. We spread top soil, seeded the grass, and covered with straw. Donated and purchased plants and flowers were planted. A used donated lawnmower was given to one homeowner. Approximately 30 people, including Akron University students, worked on this project

On September 13, 2003 a home on Marion Place in Akron was landscaped. After the lawn was established , a tree , shrubs, and perennials were planted. Approximately 10 members worked on this project.

On October 8 and 11, 2003 a home at 10368 North Howard Street in Akron was done. Fourteen members worked installing the lawn and planting shrubs, bulbs, and perennials

On May 5, 2004 a group returned to this property to repair damage to the lawn caused by vehicles driving over it

In 2004 the Habitat committee was co-chaired by Andy Bettick and Frank Mitch.

On May 1, 2004 a home on Victory Street in Akron was landscaped. Fifteen members did the usual work of establishing the lawn and planting trees, shrubs and flowers.

On October 16 and November 1, 2004 a home on West South Street in Akron was done. Again top soil was spread and grass sown and covered with straw. A decorative pear tree, holly and other shrubs, tulip, daffodil, and lily bulbs were planted.

On November 13, 2004 the last home for the year was done. It was on Cole Avenue in Akron. 21 members worked on this home and the preceding one. The usual lawn work was done. This time the tree was a flowering plum.

Frank concluded this report by reprinting his article entitled "Gardening from the Heart" printed in the May/June 2004 issue of the "Gardener" magazine. He also reprinted articles about Habitat written by Andy Bettick and himself and published in various issues of The Garden Gabber in 2003 and 2004.

On the following page is a list of all the people who worked on Habitat homes the past two years.

Habitat Homes Workers

Members (and one spouse)

Bob Bell	Jim Bell
Andy Bettick	Jackie Bettick
Tom Bouton	Arthur Britton
Jim Cavanaugh	David Densmore
Janice Filipski	Gene Fitch
Leroy Hart	David Hawkins
Roger Hite	Vera Hollis
Bob Johnson	Chuck Keach
John Lamer	John Lewis
Chet Lowry	Frank Mitch
Mary Ann Rich	Cathy Morgan
David Shapiro	Janet Schlosser
Nancy Stambaugh	Walter Starcher
Rosemary Tomala	Christen Varley
Clinton Walker	James Weckbacher
Charles White Jr,	Rick Whitfield
Marti Williams	Lowell Zurbuch

Others;

Bath Alpha Garden Club
 Constantine's Nursery
 Crown Point Ecology Center
 Pam's Perennials
 Holly Miller, Executive director, Habitat for Humanity
 Larry Reed, Construction Supervisor, Habitat for Humanity

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Habitat project for the past two years. We look forward to having as good, or better, participation this year.

Geranium Sale

The geranium sale will be May 6 and 7 at the Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center, corner of West Market and White Pond. Sign up for work at the April meeting. Tickets will available. Since we are not going to MayFaire this year we may have a plant sale at the same time. The ladies of the Garden Forum are also not going to MayFaire and they will be having a sale along with ours.

Scholarship Winners

Jim Fee reports that the two recipients of our club's scholarships have been invited to our April meeting. They are Heather Fahrni of Wooster and Melissa Kennedy of Barberton. They are students at the AGR in Wooster.

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