



The Garden Gabber



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXV

July 2006

Number 7

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, July 17

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, July 17, 2006
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program Mini Horticulture Show

Any single leaf specimen (hosta, geranium, etc.)
Any annual-1 stem
Any perennial-1 stem
Any fruit-1 to 5 depending on size, or a cluster if berries, etc.
Any herb-1 to three stems depending on size
Any arrangement
Any vegetable-1 specimen (lettuce or chard in water)
Any flowering tree or shrub-(branch not to exceed 30")

All cut specimens should be shown in a clear, glass bottle.

Prizes for the three best exhibits.

Lee Hart to lecture on how to win (or what not to do!)

Any judges in attendance may be called into service.

This has been a very popular event the last three years! Come and try to win a prize.

Board meeting July 24 7:00 P.M. at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market and White Pond . All members are welcome.

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

A Message from Your President - Leroy Hart

This month I would like to share with you some of the things that came up at the June board meeting. The first occurred when we reviewed John Lewis' treasurer's report. He reported income from the May dinner of \$847.00 and a dinner expense of \$935.00, a difference of \$88.00. This means that eight people made reservations and did not show up. The caterer charges us for either the number of reservations made or the actual number of dinners served. What to do about this problem? The caterer has said he could handle a few extras so in the future we will make fewer reservations than have actually been made. Also if you can not make the meeting you should call Marti Williams and cancel your reservation, probably no later than Monday afternoon. What about the eight no-shows in May? In some organizations no -shows are expected to pay the cost of the dinner to the treasurer. Are the no-shows willing to pay for the May dinner?

John Lewis also gave us a report about the geranium sale. Deposits were \$11,970.75 and expenses were \$8768.88 (\$8738.88 to the grower and \$30,00 for a bad check we received). The profit to the club was \$3201.87. There may be a few more dollars still outstanding and the bad check may be covered so this may not be the final report.

The dues for next year were discussed. In 2006 when the national dues went up our club absorbed the increase so that the members' dues stayed the same. For 2007 the national dues are coming back down and the board decided to keep the members' dues the same, \$35.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for life members and \$60.00 for a family. The dues for the region remain the same, \$1.00 for every member.

The sending of the Garden Gabber by e-mail last month was a success. Therefore, the Gabber will be sent to all members who have e-mail instead of by regular mail. However, if you would prefer to receive regular mail let Charlie White or Frank Mitch know. If you have e-mail and we do not have your e-mail address let Frank know. The more copies we can send by e-mail the better. The printer has been charging us more per copy since we have cut back on the total number of copies. We may have to explore other printers.

The board discussed the future of the club and the things we feel are right about the club and the things we feel are wrong. We feel that the fellowship that we have at the dinner meetings is good, but we feel that this is all that the club does. Some of you are perhaps happy with the club being just a once a month dinner group; but others may want more from the club. At the present time the club's projects are the scholarships we give to students at ATI, the small garden at Crown Point and the landscaping of Habitat for Humanity homes. We had one of these in the spring, but Frank Mitch, our chairman of the Habitat committee, says that at the present time there are no more homes under construction. At the July meeting our First Vice President Bob Bell will lead a discussion about the state of the club and your suggestions of possible projects in the community that the club might undertake.

The board also felt that at the meetings we need to have more information about gardening than just the speaker. It was decided that at the meetings we would have a short discussion about some gardening topic by a member of the club. Andy Bettick volunteered to be first. He will talk about hostas..

Add to roster: Kenneth McDonald 1895 Saddle Brook Circle, Wooster 44691-1402, 330-262-4445

Member News

1. Members with email addresses will be receiving this Gabber by email. Advantages for you are sooner delivery and you can print it or not as you prefer. For the club it means a great saving in mailing and printing costs, since we had to go to first class mailing. If your email address is not in the 2006 Roster please advise Frank Mitch so you can start receiving the Gabber by email: fmm2065@hotmail.com

2. Our very dedicated member Clint Walker is now at home recovering from very serious surgery and loss of his lower right leg. He is now getting around in a wheel chair and looking forward to an artificial leg replacement in the near future. Clint will enjoy hearing from you with a card or phone call: 330-535-5638.

3. Our long time member Dr. Jimmy Snoga passed away on June 3, 2006. The December Gabber reported that he was honored by the Society of Distinguished Physicians of the Akron General Development Foundation as the 47th Distinguished Physician. This award recognizes members of Akron General's Medical Staff for outstanding service to Akron General Medical Center and to the community. After 20 years of service in the Air Corps Colonel Snoga retired in 1976. He has been a professor at NEOUCOM since 1977 and at Akron General since 1987. He was a Medical Pathologist with certification in many types of Pathology. His obituary was a full column and a half long including many other accomplishments and associations. He was a member of our club since 1994 and enjoyed gardening and building projects He received many Beautification Awards from "Keep Akron Beautiful."

Reported by Frank Mitch

Strawberry Festival Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Marti Williams for finding the source of local strawberries for our Festival in June. She also made the shortcake, got the whipped cream, the dishes, the spoons and came early to help prepare the berries. Bob Bell picked up the berries, the drink, the charcoal, lit the grills and also helped clean strawberries. Thank you to Jim Bell, Sam and Lora Morlan and guest David Hawkins for helping set up and prepare the strawberries. Last, thank you to everyone who came bringing their favorite dishes and helped eat the strawberries and made the evening a good time.

Old Time Gardening Lore

(Editor's note - Someone gave me a book called *Sleeping With a Sunflower*. It is a treasury of old time gardening lore. The title of the book comes from an old proverb - Sleeping with a sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) under your pillow will permit you to know the truth of any matter.)

For the month of July, among other things, the book talked about berry delights. July is a month of berries. Black raspberries are diminishing, but red ones are taking their place, and blackberries soon follow. When its time for blackberries to ripen you better keep an eye on them because wild animals, even snakes and tarantulas, will beat you to them. While elderberry wine can be made from the flowers in the spring the berries usually ripen in July and then wine can be made. Gooseberries also ripen in July and their prickly, sour fruit, suitably tamed with sugar and spices, makes one of the most delectable pies known.

About July

July, our seventh month, was in fifth place in the early Roman calendar. At first it was named *Quintilis* (fifth) and had thirty-six days. Romulus reduced it to thirty-one, and Numa Pompilius to thirty. Later Julius Caesar restored one day, giving it thirty-one.

During Caesar's consulate Mark Antony had tried to make him Emperor, but without success. So Antony complimented him by naming the fifth month for him, as Caesar's birthday fell on the fourteenth. Thus the month became July in 44 B.C., the very year he was stabbed by Brutus.

One authority tells us that until the beginning of the nineteenth century "July" was pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, keeping to its origin from "Julius".

Since it was so sultry in Italy at this season, many Romans became ill; therefore a superstition arose that July heat and resulting sickness were connected with the rising and setting of Canicula (the Little Dog Star). The period from July 3 to August 11 was known as the "dog days", a term still in use.

Our Anglo-Saxon forebears had more than one name for July, including "Mead-monath; for then the meadows were in full bloom and cattle enjoyed good pasturage. Another name was "Hey-monath" as they gathered in the hay at this period.

Two of our presidents were born in July. Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4th and John Quincy Adams on the eleventh. Many famous people were born in July: Nathaniel Hawthorne, Stephen Foster, P. T. Barnum. Cecil Rhodes, Count von Zeppelin, Josiah Wedgwood, Henry D. Thoreau, Rembrandt, Sir Joshua Reynolds, John Paul Jones, William M. Thackeray, Ernest Hemmingway, Simon Bolivar, George Bernard Shaw, Mussolini, Henry Ford, Kirsten Flagstad, Dr. Charles H.

4

Mayo, Isaac Watts, Amelia Earhart, John Jacob Astor, Dag Hammarskjold, Ginger Rogers, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Louis Armstrong, Garibaldi, Nelson Rockefeller, and John Calvin.

In July 1604 the King James version of the Bible was authorized, in 1619 our first elected legislature was chosen at Jamestown, in 1775 Congress established the U.S. postal service, in 1777 Lafayette was given a commission in the Continental Army, in 1788 Congress created the Marine Corps, in 1790 the District of Columbia was set up, also in 1790 the first patent was issued, in 1802 the U.S. Military Academy at West Point was opened, On July 4 1826 both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died, in 1848 the corner stone for the Washington Monument was laid, in 1861 the Battle of Bull Run took place, in 1863 Vicksburg surrendered and the Battle of Gettysburg was fought, in 1865 General William Booth founded the Salvation Army, in 1866 the first successful Atlantic cable was laid, in 1898 Hawaii was annexed to the United States, in 1903 Henry Ford sold his first automobile, in 1914 the First World War began, in 1920 the Panama Canal officially opened, in 1937 Amelia Earhart disappeared, and in 1943 the first nuclear explosion took place.

July is an important month in American history, on July Fourth the Declaration of Independence was issued, proclaiming our break with the mother country.

In England July 15 is observed as St. Swithin's Day. According to an old belief, if it rains on this date, there will be forty more rainy days.

The July birthstone is the Ruby. Its name comes from the Latin, *ruber* through its later form, *rubinus*, which denotes "red". This gem is usually found in six-sided crystals. The ruby contains iron oxide which gives it the red color. During past centuries, varied powers have been attributed to the ruby; it was considered to be an antidote to poison, it was believed that it could protect one from the plague, banish sorrow, divert evil thoughts and repress the bad effects of too much luxury. A ruby was said to change color if evil came near the wearer.

July flowers are the Larkspur and the Water Lily.

(Editor's note - As the historian of the region and the editor of the region's newsletter, I receive copies of most of the newsletters from other clubs. From time to time I will repeat an article from these other newsletters if I think it would be of interest to our members)

An Aspirin a Day

It was reported in *The Avant Gardener* magazine that what we are advised to do for our own protection against stroke and heart attack can also be a good thing to do for our plants. That advice is to take aspirin. Aspirin is the acetyl ester of salicylic acid. Many plants make salicylic acid to trigger natural defenses against bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Lewis and Clark made painkillers from the bark of the willow tree (*Salix spp.*) because it contained high levels of salicylic acid.

Master Gardener Martha MacBurnie of the Demonstration Organic Vegetable Garden at the University of Rhode Island reports that a dilute solution of aspirin in water (1:10,000 or about 1.5 aspirins to two gallons of water) can produce remarkable results. She reports improved vigor and yield with the aspirin water compared with the other treatments evaluated. Tomatoes and basil, especially looked bigger and healthier. Pole beans and eggplants produced significantly more with the aspirin water. All plants were grown in compost-enriched and drip-irrigated raised beds. Beds of the same variety were sprayed (plants and soil) every three weeks with either aspirin water or one of three commercial bio-stimulant products. The aspirin water plants produced about twice as many tomatoes as the second best (a commercial bio-stimulant). She also saw no aphids, whitefly or early blight on the aspirin water plants.

(from the May 2005 issue of The Back Acre News, the newsletter of The Men & Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Ohio)

Attracting Birds in Ohio

From the Division of Wildlife,
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Habitat is the total environment in which living things exist - the home, the natural abode. To have more birds we must see that they have a suitable habitat. This means providing food, water, cover in which to nest, rear young and escape enemies and severe weather and any special things that species may need. Good habitat is essential for attracting birds. Feeders and bird houses merely enhance good habitat and are no substitute for it.

Plant the yard with shrubs and trees attractive to birds. Your plantings should duplicate the edge of the woods effect. This type of planting provides good habitat for canopy, understory and ground species of birds. Try to provide for the year round needs of birds. Dense evergreens are good escape cover from predators and cover from severe weather. Trees are also sources of food during certain periods of the year. The best escape cover, which is also used extensively for nesting by some birds is a tangle of briars - multiflora rose, greenbriar, blackberry, and other brambles.

Many native Ohio shrubs are useful for attracting birds. Flowering dogwoods and all the shrubby dogwoods are valuable food sources. The fruiting viburnums are desirable as food sources. Vines such as wild grapes, bittersweet, greenbrier and woodbine provide food and cover. Blueberry and cotoneaster are good hedge plants that also provide food. Honeysuckle is good for summer berries that attract the fruit eaters. Mulberry trees attract birds during their long fruiting season.

Even flowers may contribute to the variety of birds present. Hummingbirds are attracted to bee balm, cardinal flower, columbine, four-o'clock, gladiolus, hibiscus, honeysuckle, butterfly weed, nasturtium, trumpet vine, and zinnia. In addition the seeds of garden flowers attract many birds.

Akron Men's Garden Club
25 Harcourt Drive
Akron OH 44313-6506