



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, August 15

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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, August 15, 2005

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

(3.00 fee for serving alcohol at your table, bring your own)

Where:

Akron Women's City Club
732 West Exchange Street

Program:

Mini-Show

Any single leaf specimen (hosta, geranium, etc.)

Any annual-1 stem

Any perennial-1 stem

Any fruit-1 to 5 depending on size

Any herb-1 to three stems depending on size

Any arrangement

Special category: Largest Tomato

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.

Board meeting: August 22, 2005 7:00 p.m., The Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center, W. Market and White Pond, Akron.

Coffee provided, snacks welcomed. All members are invited to attend.

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

A Message from President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Greetings from Canada! I didn't get my president's message done before I left on a rock hunting expedition in Bancroft, Ontario and am writing this at the Internet Cafe in beautiful, downtown Bancroft (not exactly the center of civilization but it sure is cooler here).



While my husband, David and members of his lapidary club were looking for sodalite and apatite and other exotic minerals, I noticed a wild rose blooming along the side of the road. It was a deep pink, single with five symmetrical petals and grew on lush foliage that bore no signs of insect damage or black rot. I was excited to find seeds for it the very next day at a gift shop, and now know it is Rosa nutkana, also known as the Nootka rose. It grows along woodland borders and open areas and does well in partial shade, though it prefers full sun. It's fragrant and blooms from May through July. I will be starting the seeds this fall and hopefully will have small plants by the spring. If they all germinate, I may have some to share with club members.

Please plan on attending **this month's meeting at the Akron Woman's City Club on the 15th**. We want you to try the food and then try Peg's Catering in September. Remember, we will be voting for our new meeting location at the close of the September meeting and plan on moving to the new location as of October!

We are in need of a first-vice president for next year. I have a possibility for president, but he doesn't want the job if he has to do the programs as well. Please submit your name or the name of a likely candidate to the board as soon as possible.

We will begin collecting dues for next year, at every monthly meeting. Our deadline has moved up to November 1, for payment. Prices will not go up for club members in 2006. The club is picking up the difference between our current dues and the national increase. Please see the treasurer as soon as possible to take care of next year's dues. We want to avoid any interruption in your delivery of the magazine and/or your new membership card. Don't forget, you can get discounts and free admission at dozens of major botanical gardens across the country.

Our horticulture show will be held at the Main Branch of the Akron Summit County Public Library on September 10-11 this year. It will be held in the main entrance auditorium area and we are excited about trying something new. Plan on bringing in your entries on Saturday morning. Schedules will be passed out at the August dinner meeting. Let's get more of you participating this year. Parking at the library is free on Saturday and Sunday.

I hope I haven't forgotten anything, but I have to get back to my vacation! See you in August.

(Editor's note - this kind of goes along with the subject of this month's meeting.)

From a cartoon in an old issue of the Gabber. A girl is holding a potted plant and says to a second girl, "Abbey gave me this great plant, it doesn't need a lot of sun or water, yet it always looks good. I forgot what it's called." The second girl replies, "Artificial."

(The editor again - so be warned, don't bring an artificial. I'm the expert judge on artificial. just ask the boys from Youngstown.

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping

Who said you can't plant grass in the middle of summer? We did it on the two Habitat houses on Blanche Street in West Akron with surprising results so far. The grass seed was planted on July 23 and after only five days there is a good showing of green coming through the straw mulch. Perhaps the selection of a "Five Way Rye" grass seed mix is one reason for quick success. Kentucky Blue grass or other varieties may have taken longer or been more difficult. Watering for about one hour every day certainly was important. Two rainy days did much of the watering for us. Habitat workers in the houses assisted some with watering. Extra insurance was provided by using a high phosphorus Starter Fertilizer to provide good root growth. In any case after two long months of delay on this Habitat location much of the landscaping is completed. Installation of some shrubs and a tree are being delayed until more favorable fall weather.

Another challenging feature of these two Habitat properties was the very narrow lot for each home. After driveways for each there is less than a two feet width of soil on each side of each home. One good suggestion from a member was to plant a ground cover and not grass on these very sloping areas. We started with some myrtle plants for part of this and will continue with that soon in order to give the plants a good start before winter.

And the most important success elements of all were the very good turnout of willing workers from our MGC of Akron. Some preliminary preparation paved the way. On one day in mid July John Lewis and Andy Bettick helped me spread some mulch on the flower bed areas. On that day we also planted two flats of geraniums in front of each house. These were from the remaining plants from our early May sale. These poor plants languished for two long, hot, and dry months in those very small three inch pots. Really surprising how much they perked up and started new blooms almost immediately after getting into the ground. With watering of course. Then a few days before the grass planting day, John Bell and his able tiller assisted with a thorough tilling of all of the already spread top soil. Much of that was badly compacted from building work in the area.

Then on the big grass seeding day, 13 MGC Akron willing workers turned out at 9:00 AM and most of the work was complete well before noon. Bob Bell's donuts, coffee and ice cold drinks were very welcome. Thanks to all who raked, spread fertilizer, seeded and spread straw mulch on this one cool day of the week. Good scheduling or good luck?

Here are the names of those who deserve a big THANK YOU!

Bob Bell (and his refreshments)	Jim Bell (and his tiller)
Andy Bettick	Dick Edwards
Gene Fitch	Roger Hite
Bob Johnson	Chuck Keach
John Lewis	Frank Mitch
Ira McCans	Mary Ann Rich
Wendell Ruppenner	Clint Walker

Reported by: Frank Mitch, Habitat Landscaping Committee Chair

Member News

Elmer Hoffman had a serious stroke several weeks ago. He is out of the hospital now and on the road to recovery. We wish a speedy recovery for Elmer as he makes progress in his rehab efforts. Get well soon Elmer!

Reported by Frank Mitch

God and Satan's Battle for Humanity

(This article was taken from a back issue of The Back Acre News, the newsletter of the Men and Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Ohio. They said it was from the Internet with an anonymous author.)

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the Earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's and Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?"

And Man said, "Yeah," and Woman said, "And another one with sprinkles." And they gained ten pounds. and the stockholders were very happy. And Satan smiled.

And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat. And sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14. So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented thousand-island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. Hilltop Steak House thrived! And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God created a light, fluffy white cake, named it "Angel Food Cake" and said, "It is good." Satan then created chocolate cake and named it, "Devil's Food."

God then brought running shoes so that his children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained 10 pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato. naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. and Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And Man gained 10 pounds.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and it's 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied. "yeah And super size 'em!" And Satan said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. Then Satan created HMOs.

AND THE BATTLE GOES ON

The Secret of Long Marriage - At a party celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, the husband was asked to share the secret to such a long relationship. "That's easy," he replied, "First and foremost, you have to love your partner. And if you have an argument, the wife should always have the last word. If the husband has the last word, that's just the start of another argument." (Editor's note - This was meant as a joke, but is it?)

Dues Are Due - by the Treasurer

One of the advantages that we have because of our membership in the national organization is that we are also members of the American Horticultural Society. This membership provides us with their magazine, which we have been receiving already. Also this membership provides us with free admission to gardens all around the country and reduced admission to garden shows etc. However, in order to receive the full benefits of membership in the AHS we must have our dues into national by November 1st.

Therefore, I will begin collecting dues at the August meeting, also at the September and October meetings. I will send the dues to the national after the October meeting. Of course, I will accept your dues after the October meeting but it will mean that you will not receive your AHS membership card by the first of the year and you will not receive the January/February issue of the magazine.

Another advantage of getting the dues paid early is that we can get the 2006 membership roster to you much earlier than you received the 2005 roster. If your dues are not paid promptly your name will not be included in the roster.

As most of you already know the national voted, by 18 votes, to increase the dues for regular members by \$10. Of course, they cannot collect any more from life members. The board, at the June meeting, voted to pay this added \$10 for all our regular members. Therefore, the dues for 2006 remain the same as last year.

\$15.00 for life members, this stays in our local club.

\$35.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for the club.

\$15.00 for associate members, this stays with our club.

\$40.00 for a family membership if one member is a life member, and the other is not.

\$60.00 for a family membership if both members are regular members.

Family membership is for two persons with the same address.

2005 is the final year for life membership at \$200.00.

It's golf season and here are some sayings about golf.

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course. Billy Graham

If a lot of people gripped a knife and fork the way they do a golf club, they'd starve to death. Sam Snead

If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt. Dean Martin




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