



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, March 21

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 21, 2005
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Bradley's at the Copley Community Center

Program Robert N. Cowie, Jr. of Suncrest Gardens

They come in types known as mop heads, lace caps, panicle, oakleaf and climbing. What are they? Answer: Hydrangeas

Come and learn about the varieties, care and landscape use, and siting of this wonderful plant. There is a cemetery in Cincinnati with a climbing hydrangea that has grown up the side of a stone building for over a century. It is a mammoth and spectacular plant. Of course, you don't need one quite that old, or that large, and Rob Cowie will be able to help you select the perfect plant for your garden. He is the Director of Operations at Suncrest Gardens and has an A.S.A. in Horticulture from Ohio State. Rob has been in the industry for 25 years and specializes in woody plants. This is an evening you don't want to miss.

April preview: Charles Applegate from Kingwood Center will be our April 18, speaker, talking about bulbs and perennials. He will be bringing some of the many unique varieties of daffodils that he grows, providing the weather is cooperative.

Board meeting: March 28, 2005, 7:00 p.m. The Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center, W. Market and White Pond, Akron.

Coffee or tea provided, snacks welcomed. All members are invited to attend. (Thanks to Charley White for bringing cookies to the last board meeting!)

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

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

I am writing this one day before I go to spend a week in Arizona and New Mexico. They have had rain for the past three weeks and the forecast for my time there is sun and 80 degrees. I don't usually leave town at this time of year, but my husband attends a rock and gem show every year and I decided not to miss out on all the fun this time. While only moderately interested in rocks, I am truly hoping that the several weeks of an unusual amount of rain out West, will mean that the wildflowers are blooming. I look forward to seeing fields of brilliant, orange Mexican poppies. If you want to try and duplicate that spectacular natural effect, try some California poppies, *Escholzia californica*, in your own garden this year. The seed is inexpensive and can be purchased from a variety of sources on the web and in catalogs. Planted in May, the seeds are pressed lightly into prepared earth and that's it. You just wait for a wave of orange flowers to appear in midsummer. This is an annual variety of poppy and very easy to grow in Ohio, though it is not native to the area. Promise to try at least one new thing in your garden this year!



I would like to thank the many people who worked at the Home and Flower Show this year. When I sent around the sign-up list I got a good response fairly quickly. That's the kind of response that we need, and when the geranium sale list goes around at the March and April meetings, I hope you will sign up to help just as willingly. Many hands do indeed make light work.

Plans are moving ahead for next year's meeting location. Places suggested have been the Akron Woman's City Club, Todaro's, Peg's Catering at Akron University and Guy's Party Center. Some people have expressed interest in going to a non-dinner meeting, however it appears that the majority want to continue with dinner meetings. We will be getting specifics on these locations and will present the search committee results as they are obtained. Feel free to express your opinions on the matter, and if you would like to serve on the search committee, let me know.

I will be interviewing scholarship candidates this month, along with Jim Fee and Frank Mitch. Don't forget, when we ask you to bid at the silent auction, buy tickets for the 50/50, lug geraniums around, or check coats at the Knight Center, we have a goal in mind, and it is a very worthy one. Ohio college tuition is significantly higher than other states, and our local economy still lags behind other parts of the country. This means that our students are having a difficult time earning money for college, while trying to make top grades. Our scholarships help to take away some of that pressure, for two lucky students each year. We are investing in the future of horticulture, and in our young people. I hope that all of you will be generous with either your volunteer time, your money or both. Let's keep this fine scholarship program going strong.

Habitat for Humanity Homes

The national, which donated \$2000 toward our project of decorating homes for Habitat for Humanity, has asked for an accounting of the program. Frank Mitch has prepared a good report on this project. This report will be available at the March meeting. There will be more about it in a later issue of the Gabber.

Geranium Sale

Bill Moorehouse reports that the geraniums for this year's sale have been ordered and will be delivered on Friday, May 6, to the Garden Forum center at the corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive. Mark your calendars for Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7. This year the sale will not continue on Sunday as it did last year.

The ladies of the Garden Forum will be piggybacking on our sale and having a sale of plants from their gardens. In exchange of this arrangement they will not charge us for the use of their facility for our sale.

Geraniums have been ordered in the following colors:

White

Red (Sassy and Kim)

Salmon (Expectation or Peach)

Pink (Melody, Rosy Pink, White Flower)

Pink (Veronica, Fuchsia Pink)

Purple (Aurora - almost a dark red)

Red with a variegated leaf

Sparkler Red

Tickets should be available at the March meeting. So start getting ready to contact your customers.

Spring Regional Meeting

The Spring Regional Meeting of the Central Great Lakes Region of TGOA/MGCA will be held on Saturday April 9 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. The meeting will be held in the gate house at Kingwood, beginning at 10AM. The morning session will be led by Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich and will be something about judging, possibly including practice judging.

After lunch at a local buffet we will return to Kingwood for a business meeting. The program will follow. The speaker will be Charles Applegate, the head of gardening at Kingwood. His topic will be "Painting the Picture - Flower Bed Design". This is a program about designing beds and borders for the home gardener using annuals and/or perennials. Combinations of plants, colors, textures, heights, and plant shapes will be discussed through the use of slides.

If you have never been to a regional meeting you are missing something worthwhile and you should give it a try. Not only will you have the opportunity to hear a worthwhile program on some aspect of gardening but you will be able to meet some fine people from the other clubs in the region. Also you can view the beautiful gardens and the conservatory at Kingwood. The summer conference will be in Findlay in July. More about this in the next issue of Johnny Appleseed.

Home and Flower Show

The club, as usual, was in charge of the coat check at the Home and Flower Show held on February 25, 26, and 27 at the Knight Center. Because of the cold weather causing most people to check their heavy coats the club made \$575.90.

The following member worked on this project, listed in the order they worked starting on Friday morning:

1. Mary Ann Ferguson - Rich
2. Bob Johnson
3. Dick Cotton
4. Charles White
5. John Lewis
6. Leroy Hart
7. Arthur Britton
8. Cathy Morgan and her husband Jason
9. Lillian Ferguson, former member
10. Joyce Baldwin
11. Bob Bell
12. Jim Bell and his wife Mary
13. Chuck Keach
14. Roger Hite
15. Marti Williams and her daughter Amy
16. Frank Mitch and his wife Amy
17. Karen Ketterman
18. Debbie Falcone, nonmember, Karen's friend
19. Gene Fitch
20. Ann Ruppner
21. Cathy Scherer
22. Mitzi Goss

Mary Ann was in charge of this program and, even though her name only appears once on the list, she was there many times. The club thanks Mary Ann and all of the above workers for this successful program.

Executive Reprieve

In the last issue of the Garden Gabber there was an announcement stating that that would be the last issue of the Gabber a person would receive if he or she had not paid their dues for 2005.

At the last board meeting this policy was reviewed and the board decided to grant an executive reprieve. Because of the fairly large number of member who had not renewed their membership the board hoped that if given more time more would eventually renew. Perhaps some had been out of town (snowbirds) and had forgotten to renew before they fled to Florida and perhaps others had just forgotten and needed to be reminded. The board hopes that some of these late comers would get their dues to either membership chairman, Jim Fee or treasurer Leroy Hart. So for this reason you latecomers have received this issue.

Dinner Attendance

The National General Election

The general election for the 2006 officers of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America is being held. Ballots have been sent; they will be available at the March meeting. You should pick up a ballot at this meeting, make your choices and return the ballot to me the same evening. These ballots must be returned by April 1 to national headquarters. Since there is only one candidate for each office, plus a space for write-ins, I do not feel that this election is too important.

However there is another item on this ballot that is very important. There is a note from Bill Carney, the present National President. Bill is a member of the Youngstown club and an associate member of our club. Bill writes that the national is experiencing financial difficulties and there is a need for the national dues to be raised by \$10.00 a year. On the ballot you have an opportunity to express your thoughts about this raise in the dues. There is a box for "in favor of the increase" and a box for "opposed to the increase".

As you are aware life members do not pay national dues and since about half of our members are life members you might not think that this issue affects the life members. However, life members are allowed to vote on this issue so I would suggest that life members take into consideration how this dues increase will affect the regular members of our club who now pay \$35.00 annual dues. Of this \$20.00 goes to the national, \$1.00 goes to the region, and \$14.00 goes to our club. You also might talk to some of the regular members at the meeting before you vote. If I may be permitted to offer my feelings on this subject. I have talked with some members of the club about a dues increase (we on the board have seen that this increase is coming for some time. In fact the board instructed our two national directors to take the suggestion that the national make the subscriptions to the national magazine voluntary thereby making no need for a dues increase.) Most of the members of our board are opposed to this increase. Also in talking to some of our members about this I have been told that if the dues are increased they will no longer be members of the club.

Since I am a life member this really doesn't affect me but I would hate to see even one member quit the club because of this. You may wonder how I will vote - I will vote "not in favor".

If you will not be at the meeting and would like to vote contact me for a ballot. Return it by March 24 so I can mail it back on time.

Leroy Hart, Treasurer

At the February meeting the club took a somewhat large financial beating because of members who had reserved for dinner and did not show up. There were 55 reservations and 47 members attended and paid; there was one free dinner for the speaker. As I recall that evening there were one or two who showed up to eat who had not made reservations. So there were at least eight for whom the club had to pay.

The board discussed this problem and they decided that the best solution would be to ask those who made a reservation and did not show to send \$13.00 to the treasurer.

The board also discussed the possibility of making a list of reservations and sending a bill to those who do not show. This is done in another organization to which I belong. But the board is reluctant to have to do this; this would put a big burden on the chairman of the calling committee. It would be no extra burden for me since I already have each member sign in before dinner. The board really hopes that asking the no-shows to voluntarily pay for the meal will solve the problem.

Leroy Hart, Treasurer

National Convention

The TGOA/MGCA national convention will be held on June 2, 3, and 4 at the Juniper Beach Resort in Florida. The host club is the Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Club. The Jupiter Beach Resort has been recently renovated and is located on the Atlantic Ocean; it offers ocean views and lush tropical landscaping. From the welcome reception of Thursday evening to the final dinner on Saturday evening there will be fun-filled, interesting, and informative programs and activities.

There will be tours of local gardens, a presentation on sea turtles, a mini trade show featuring gardening and tropical items and lectures by well known experts on gardening topics.

If you are planning to attend this convention you need to make hotel reservations right away by contacting the hotel directly. A few registration forms will be available at the March meeting. This form gives all the necessary information about the hotel and the person in the host club to contact for more information.

A joke - When a family returned from church Father criticized the sermon, Mother said the choir sang off key, the daughter found fault with the organist's playing but the discussion was stopped when Junior said, "It was a good show for a nickel, Don't you think, Dad,"



At the Home & Fwoer Show:
Roger Hite, Chuck Keach, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Frank & Amy Mitch

Used Lawn Mowers Wanted

Please don't throw away your used lawn mower when you buy that new one this year. These used mowers will be useful for the owners of the new Habitat Homes which we are landscaping. Even if the drives no longer work, any push mower will be fine for the small city lawns. We have a friend who likes to tune up these old mowers and make them useful again. This person already has donated two reconditioned mowers for the two homes we landscaped last fall.

Please call Frank Mitch, Habitat for Humanity Committee Chair 330-666-2327



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