

THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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

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President

Pat Pickard
#330-8480687
Email: ppickard@ohio.net

1st Vice President

Steve Hoot
#330-688-1875
Email: hootfs@att.net

2nd Vice President

Ken Bell
#302-593-8362
Email: callmeishmael196@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sue Godard
#330-699-0509
Email: sstaats511@aol.com

Treasurer

Robert Bell
#330-673-3553
Email: mrrnbell@hotmail.com

Historian

Leroy Hart
#330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

National Director

Mary Ann Ferguson Rich
#330-630-9625
Email: mafr43@hotmail.com

Make plans to attend each monthly meeting. It's a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy good food and learn more about gardening and our environment.

When: Monday, August 15, 2016
5:30 PM - Social Hour
6:30 PM - Dinner

Where: St George's Fellowship Hall
St George's Antiochian Church
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, OH

Program: Horticulture Show
Show Chairperson – Mary Ann Ferguson Rich
Judges - Men's Garden Club of Youngstown

Our monthly board meeting is the fourth Monday of the month. All members are invited to attend.

When: Monday, August 22, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Faith Lutheran Church
2726 W. Market Street
Akron, OH

Club web site: <http://gogakron.org>

August 5, 2016

Greetings from the weed factory. The Weed Factory is *stressed*. *I'm stressed*. Without any appreciable precipitation for the last month everything in my yard is getting pretty crunchy. As I stated in last month's memo, I am not much for watering. I water plants started this year and a few pepper plants. I grow a lot of native plants. Native are advertised to have adapted to the fluctuations in local climate with respect to temperature and moisture. They are being put to the test this summer. Some are getting to look a little weak in the knees. I tune into to the local weather radar and watch the blobs of rain go all around me. I feel for the farming folks that are trying to make a living growing crops. To me the lack of rain is an inconvenience. To farmers it's his/her livelihood. So tonight I want everyone to go out and do a rain dance.

They're baack!

So last month I posted a picture of common milkweed with some bumble bees on the blossom. Well the milkweed blossoms are gone and so are the bumble bees. Now it's the orange and black beetles turn. You may have never noticed, but milkweed tends to get a large population of black and orange winged beetles this time of year that hang around until frost. After a while the plant will have a large multi generation of beetles hanging out. Last year, as I was standing by the milkweeds with my neighbor admiring the colorful crowd of beetles, I commented that I wonder what the beetles were called. I said I would look it up on line but didn't have a clue know where to start with a guess of a name. My neighbor said "how about milkweed bug". So I entered "milkweed bug" and *bingo!* I got it right on the first try. It turns out that the milkweed bug is called "a milkweed bug". Apparently they feed on the seed pod, and like the Monarch butterfly, the toxins in the milkweed make the bugs unpalatable to the birds who then avoid them. That would explain the large multigenerational crowd feeding on the milkweed.

This month is the GOGA horticultural show. The horticultural show is where the club members get a chance to show their gardening prowess. The show is excellently judged, great competition, and very entertaining. So go borrow your neighbor's prize petunia and enter the show.

We are looking to have a ten minute talk/photo night at the October meeting. So if you have a topic of interest or some photos of your garden you would to share with the membership send me an e-mail or call me on the phone or contact me at a monthly meeting.

One presentation at the 10 minute talk session will be by Andy Bettick. Andy has agreed to give a 10 minute talk on the collection and preservation of seed. We would like to start a seed exchange among the membership so we are trying to get the word out on how you go about collecting and preserving seeds. So if you have a specific question pertaining to seed collection please jot it down and get it to me. I will forward the questions to Andy so he can prepare ahead of time to answer specifics.

Remember! The Horticultural Show is this month. Please plan to attend. And bring a friend.

Pat



Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
And a pair of Milkweed Bugs

Gabber News Shorts - August

Crouse School

Sally Cole has been busy this summer helping to keep the gardens at Crouse School going until the kids get back to school in a few weeks. She sent an email with a request for garden hoses for watering the gardens at Crouse School. In the email, she requested 300 feet of hose. If anyone has some hose available that they would like to donate, please contact Sally.

Horticulture Show

This month is the Horticulture Show for our club. Please bring your entries as early as possible so that they can be staged. Also, if you have entry tags, fill them out prior to arriving at the show. This will also expedite matters. Pay attention to the show schedule! You do not want to have your entries not able to get the award that they deserve or even be disqualified because the rules were not followed. Good luck to everyone!!

Lake Anna Mum Festival

In September, Barberton will hold its annual Mum Festival. There are beautiful arrangements of mums to include an archway. There are many varieties of mums for sale to include newly introduced and unique mums. You can take a relaxing walk around the lake and if you want; join the dozens of people playing Pokeman Go. There is entertainment to include a ski show and a variety of musical acts as well as many vendors selling crafts and carnival type treats. The admission is FREE so come and join the fun.

2017 National Convention

The Gardeners of Greater Akron, Gardeners of Greater Cleveland and the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown are collaborating to put on the National Convention for the Gardeners of America next summer. Bob Bell from Akron, Tom Davis from Cleveland and John Schinker from Youngstown have headed up this effort. The three of them will be having a short meeting after our show to discuss the plans for this convention and to talk about committees that it will take to make this convention a success. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event, plan to spend a few moments after the show to learn how you can be a part.

2017 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT!!

The 2017 TGOA/MGCA convention will be held in Cleveland, OH!
Please see the early information below:

OFFICIAL PROGRAM DATES:

Tuesday, 07/18/2017 - Saturday, 07/22/2017

LOCATION:

Cleveland Airport Marriott
4277 West 150th St.
Cleveland, OH 44135
Phone: (216) 252-5333

Web Address: www.clevelandairportmarriott.com

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WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW;

1. PUT THE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR.
2. CHECK OUT THE CLEVELAND AREA MARRIOTT WEB SITE. IT IS ONE OF ONLY 10 FAMILY OWNED MARRIOTTS IN THE USA.
3. THERE IS A LOT TO SEE IN CLEVELAND! COME EARLY, OR STAY OVER. WE MAY RUN TOURS ON THURSDAY AND SATURDAY TO SEE ALL THE GARDEN RELATED SITES.
4. ARE YOU FROM THE AREA? THINK ABOUT A "STAYCATION" AT THE MARRIOTT. RATES WILL BE \$94/NIGHT (OR \$35 BELOW 'BEST CORPORATE RATES') WITH COMPLEMENTARY WIFI AND PARKING, SO IT IS VERY AFFORDABLE.
5. SEND YOUR QUESTIONS OR IDEAS TO
 - John Schinker, MGCY johnschinker@gmail.com
 - Bob Bell, GoGA mrrnbell@hotmail.com
 - Tom Davis, GoGC tsd123@roadrunner.com

Editor's Tips for Flower Show Exhibitors

Judges at flower shows use a universal point system to determine prize winners. Familiarity with it will improve your score.

Exhibit

Is not poisonous to the touch	1
Lacks thorns and spines	1
Does not cause sneezing	1
Does not produce stains and blisters	1
Appears to be alive	1
Is not a gladiolus	5
Is not a violet	5
Is not a rose	5

Bonus Points

Subtlety of cash transfer	5
Firm palm contact	5
Currency folded neatly	5
Naturalness during transfer	5
Dollar amount	50

RODNEY and KAY'S 20th ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN

You are invited to visit Rodney and Kay Toth's gardens **Sunday, September 4, 2016, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Note! This is the last one.** They reside at 5637 W. Liberty St. (Rt. 304) Hubbard, OH 44425. (2.5 miles east of Belmont Ave., State Rt. 193).

There are several major gardens that feature many **special dahlias**, different and unusual varieties of tomatoes such as 'Wapsipinicon' (in The **Giant Tomato Forest**), peppers such as 'Hungarian Paprika', hosta, coleus such as 'The Flume', annuals, perennials, The **Great Gourd Tunnel** (a forty foot long gourd arbor) and its **new sibling** with 'Gremlin Gourds', The **Grandchildren's Garden** with plants such as Cobra Beans, Voo Doo Lily, Megaton Cabbage, 'Ya Ya Carrots (and much more), a **Super Castor Bean Garden**, The **Marigold Garden**, the '**Cushaw Squash**' Garden and The **Potpourri Pole** with Climbing Hyacinth Beans.

Special guests will be **singing entertainment** by Monica Toth Baker at 2:00 p.m., John Schinker from the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown with **mums** and Alice Lang with **decorative gourd art**. **Come** and have a relaxing day visiting and sharing with friends. **Note – Ample Parking** is available. There is **no admission fee**. For additional info or to arrange **Garden Club Tours** on other dates contact Rodney Toth at (330) 759-1993.