



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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Monday, October 19

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, October 19, 2015
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St George Orthodox Church
3204 Ridgewood Rd
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Program: GOGA 10 minute speakers

Board Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p. m.
Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio.
All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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

President's Message – September/October 2015

Here is the first bi monthly Gabber in the history of our club. I hope that I can capture the activities over the past two months with some degree of accuracy since a lot has happened over that time frame.

I was very pleased with the entries in the Horticulture show last meeting. Even though we did not have the number of entrants as in past years; everyone did a nice job in selection and presentation. Hopefully, everyone had a good time and are looking forward to next year's show. I applaud our judging friends from Youngstown for doing another magnificent job.

Speaking of judging; this is an extremely busy time for our judges. We judged at shows in Youngstown, Cleveland, Mansfield, Crestline and most recently the state Gourd show at the Delaware County fairgrounds. Jim Bell is going to start another series of judging classes on October 24th. He does a great job of teaching prospective judges what to look for in judging flora and to be objective at the same time. If you are interested in attending these sessions, please let him know.

I have to tip my hat to Chris Godard and his habitat team for the work that they did on two homes in the last month. The first home was in Barberton and when I saw the task that our people had in front of them, I truly wondered how they could finish. Sue Dayton from the "original" Dayton's Flower and Garden Center provided a variety of plants, shrubs and even a six foot high tree. Our team incorporated these items into their landscaping and when Cheryl and I went back in the afternoon we were in awe of what had been accomplished. The other home was off of Tallmadge Ave in Akron and this time the team had to work in a steady rain. Again, they created a beautiful landscape that I am sure that the owner of the home will surely appreciate.

When I heard that our speaker for October had to cancel, initially I was at a loss about finding a replacement. It turns out that I needed to look no farther than to our own club members. Our program consists of four club members who will speak on their areas of expertise in the gardening arena. I really look forward to that meeting. I may have to keep my own remarks to a minimum to enable them to have ample time to speak.

We are coming up on elections and as far as I know, we do not have a candidate for 2d vice president. We really need to have someone step up and assume this position. As an officer in our club, you get the backing of the entire membership. I can attest that I have enjoyed my time as an officer immensely.

With utmost best regards, Clark

Minutes Membership Committee
September 17, 2015

Members present: Grace Cochran, Jack Cochran, Les Knight, Lowell Zurbuch, Steve Hoot, Chris and Sue Goddard. Absent (and missed) Graham and Claire Reinke, Pam Collins and Marilyn Fellenstein.

Reviewed July Minutes, approved.

Reports:

1. Publicity – Les reported. He suggested that each member of the Membership Committee make an effort to recruit new members. Most agreed that all club members should be encouraged to recruit. Les visited Hydroponics Company on Britton Rd. Owner plans to attend October meeting. He could be a future speaker. Les handed out copies of a trifold that Cleveland Club has printed. We like ours better. He also handed out the flyer Cleveland uses to solicit program ideas from members. It was suggested that the flyer be given to our program planner. Les also reported on his contact with the KSU radio station. They do not provide public announcements.
2. Facebook – Sue reported that she now knows how to post pictures on Facebook. She will try posting to our Club's site. Start with Habitat pictures.
3. Greeters – Steve reported he has people lined up through end of year. Will have them published in the GABBER.
4. Visitor Calling – Chris has called Members who have not attended several meetings in a row. He has received a good verbal response. We will see what results we get. He will call new visitors inviting them to return and possible membership. What are their interests, etc.
5. Mentors – Grace reported in Pam's absence. Pat Picard will be the Mentor to Amy Ryan. Sue and Chris Godard to Allyson Fenner. Note to Pam, we will be forwarding new member application to you as we receive them from now on.
6. Telephone Calling - Open discussion. Lowell reported that his caller didn't ask if he was attending or not. This was someone filling in for Claire. Bob Bell said he will talk with Sam regarding asking the callers to announce speakers and special events such as membership renewal and plant sale.
7. Youth Programs – This item was a result of discussion about our only youth member. This item should be responsibility of Youth Gardening Committee. Discuss at next Board Meeting.
8. Grace reported on membership numbers. She will report these at each of our Committee Meetings.

The next meeting will be after New Year. We will notify committee members when we need to meet.

We adjourned for dessert.

Bob Bell

GOGA and Crouse School: Year 2 Partnership

School year 2015-16 is underway and so is GOGA's partnership with Crouse Elementary School. Last year GOGA initiated a partnership with this urban Akron school to assist teachers and kids in its teaching gardens and in-class curricular activities pertaining to plant life and good nutrition. And what a year it was! Led by GOGA's Youth Gardening Team, our members worked side by side with Crouse kids. Acting as guides and mentors to the kids, we helped prepare beds for planting, sowed a cover crop, donated wheelbarrows, soil, and pumpkin and sunflower seeds, repaired and built new bed frames, donated and constructed two composters, planted vegetables, assisted kids as they wrote about garden experiences, gave awards for student achievement and participation, and much, much more. The kids loved our assistance in the gardens and classrooms, the teachers and administration were grateful, and we, the adults from GOGA, were thrilled to work with young gardeners. Their expressions of awe and discovery about plants—and harvesting the products—were priceless. For pictures of kids and kids and us, go to Facebook and type in Crouse CLC School/Community Garden.

Plans for our 2015-16 partnership have been made, and we solicit the help of all GOGA members. The job areas have been determined and members of the GOGA Youth Gardening Team have stepped up to lead them. Those areas together with a brief description of the help needed and the leader's name and email follow. Many of the activities happen during the school day, but there are preparation steps that can be done at your convenience. Please read these job descriptions. And if you can, email the leader to ask questions and/or offer your assistance. No long-term commitments are required!

1. **STUDENT RECOGNITION** Students really respond well to positive recognition of their school efforts—efforts with writing, work in the gardens, etc. This translates into token rewards (ribbons, pencils, etc.), certificates, coupons, etc. Accomplishment/participation certificates were made and given last spring, and kids loved them. LEADERS: CLAIRE AND GRAHAM REINKE cmandgar@yahoo.com
2. **NUTRITION** The Crouse teaching gardens were initially supported by the American Heart Association as a way to educate about healthy eating and snacks—thus making an inroad to childhood obesity and diabetes. The community kitchen at Crouse can be a great setting for GOGA to assist parents and school folk in offering workshops on healthy meals and snacks. This will build on kids' experiences in the gardens and in their in-class curricular lessons. Will you help leader Ally as we work with Crouse teachers to turn this workshop idea into reality? LEADER: ALLY FENNER allysonfenner@sbcglobal.net
3. **PUTTING THE BEDS TO BED** (Fall). Help Crouse kids pull out dead vegetation, take to the composters. As we work with kids, we talk about composting and its benefits. LEADER: NICK CALABRO nckcalabro@yahoo.com
4. **COVER CROP** (Fall). Prepare seeds for Crouse kids to broadcast on the gardens and help them actually do the sowing, after lightly tilling the soil in the beds. Last year both regular and special ed kids enjoyed this activity. LEADER: SAM MORLAN lorasam88@gmail.com
5. **EDUCATION I** (Fall months). Assist Julia's class and other classes write sentences/paragraphs/stories about their experiences in the gardens. Writing skills are a big part of the state-mandated third grade competency test, and these writing experiences not only tie into the curriculum, but they give kids a "real life" experience to write about. LEADER: MARILYN FELLENSTEIN mcfellen@gmail.com

6. **EDUCATION II** (Spring months).). Assist Julia's class and other classes write sentences/paragraphs/stories about their experiences in the gardens. Writing skills are a big part of the state-mandated third grade competency test, and these writing experiences not only tie into the curriculum, but they give kids a "real life" experience to write about.
LEADER: ALLY FENNER allysonfenner@sbcglobal.net

7. **PLANTING** (Spring). Bed preparation and planting with kids (some seeds but mostly plant starts). Usually takes about three visits out to the gardens to get this done.
LEADER: KEN BELL callmeishmael196@yahoo.com

8. **WEED CONTROL AND SOIL MANAGEMENT** (any time in the year). Talk to Crouse kids about these subjects, in coordination with topics in third grade curriculum.
LEADER: SAM MORLAN lorasam88@gmail.com

9. **CARPENTRY** (probably early spring). Additional beds, fencing to help the custodians understand the boundaries of the garden, repair of existing beds. Work to be done with Crouse kids, according to their abilities. LEADER: LES KNIGHT lhandcknight@att.net

10. **DONATIONS** (throughout the year). Follow up with Home Depot contact—and others—to ask for donations. Possibilities: mulch for between the beds so custodians don't have to mow between the gardens and to keep down weeds, fencing, a shed dedicated to just garden tools, etc. ***Do you know other persons/business we might approach for donations? Can you go with us?*** LEADERS: LES KNIGHT AND STEVE THOMPSON lhandcknight@att.net st@uakron.edu

11. **GRANT WRITING** (throughout the year). Write grant proposals for projects that (a) are consistent with actual Crouse teaching garden needs, (b) are consistent with funding sources purposes. We've already submitted a proposal to Jamba Juice with a submission deadline of October 2. Do you have experience in writing proposals or would you like to struggle with Steve in learning to do so?! ***Do you know other funding agencies that offer grants for efforts like ours?*** We're dedicated to trying to add to the Crouse gardens efforts by appealing to grant-giving agencies. LEADER: STEVE THOMPSON st@uakron.edu

12. **SUMMER MAINTENANCE** (summer months 2016). With teacher Julia and the Crouse administration, come up with a strategy for helping community/neighborhood adults and kids weed and harvest the gardens. Do you have days—or nights—free during the summer? Even for an hour or two?! We want to capitalize on the Crouse beds and offer Crouse neighborhood folks vegetables, etc. planted there during early spring and which need harvesting—and eaten—during the summer. LEADER: SALLY COLE sac040755@gmail.com

Johnny Appleseed Maze

Find your way through the maze to help these seeds reach the apples.

