



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, January 20

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, January 20, 2014

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George's Fellowship Center

St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church

3204 Ridgewood Road

Copley OH

Program: A Tree for Every Garden

Our speaker this month is Tom Dayton. Tom is the owner of Dayton Nurseries in Norton. He is one of our favorite speakers. He will tell us about what trees will be best for our yards and gardens. Perhaps he will tell about shrubs as well.

Board Meeting: January 27 at 7:00 p m at 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 - Arthur Britton

Happy New Year to all. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable start to this New Year of 2014. I am honored to be President of this wonderful club. There are many challenges ahead of us. I am sure that we will be able to take on the challenges successfully.

One of the first challenges is to increase the numbers of members of the club. There are many ways that this can be done. I would like to ask for your help to do this. There are many in this club with years of experience in marketing. What if we were to use that same thinking to try to market our club to the youth and to new people? These may be people that we meet for the first time or those who have been overlooked in the past. Everyone that you know is a possible new member.

One of the questions that has been brought to my attention is, what type of club do we want to be? Our club, like so many others, has a few people that volunteer. These are usually the same people, whether it is at Habitat for Humanity, in the Youth program, or at Crown Pointe. Do we want to be a club of volunteers, or do we want to be a club that attends meetings, listens to speakers, and donates money to schools for gardening programs?

A lot can be said for both sides. This club has a long history of helping out in the community and many want to continue, but the members are getting to the point that they are not able to help like they used to and there are not as many to help. New members and new volunteers would help this situation. On the other hand, some have mentioned that they would prefer to simply attend the monthly meetings and listen to the speakers.

The reason that I bring this topic up is to try to get a better idea of the direction this club is heading. One thing that most agree with is that we all enjoy gardening and want to continue to learn more about it. Please let me know what your thoughts are. After all, this is your club and your opinion is important. We (the board members) welcome your ideas and invite you to attend the board meetings.

I look forward to the many activities that we have planned this year from the plant sale to habitat, to the many speakers that we will be learning from.

Arthur

(Editor's note) I am looking forward with great pleasure to Arthur's year as president. We all should support him in all that he asks us to do. Also as I look back upon the last year I remember what a great job that Sam did as president. We are all aware that Sam's health is not good which makes his accomplishments even more outstanding. Sam is the first vice president of the region which means that he is responsible for the regional summer conference. He has already done most of the planning and making arrangements for this meet but if Sam needs help with this meeting we should jump in and help.

Also I am looking forward to the good jobs that our two vice presidents, Clark and Pat, will do.

**Award Winners for 2013
The Gardeners of Greater Akron**

**Award of Appreciation
(Three or more club activities)**

Claire Reinke
Eileen Field
Marylyn Fellenstein
Richard Hertle
Pam Collins
Christine Freitag
Lora Avens
Gene Fitch
Janice Kelly
Gene Chlosta
Carol Buchanan
David Rich
Roger Hite
Frank Field
Dick Cotton
Walt Starcher
Jim Marshall

**Certificate of Honor
(Eight or more club activities and/or chairman/officers)**

Les Knight
Sue Godard
Grace Cochran
Andy Bettick
Barb Croghan
Sam Morlan
Chuck Keach
Cheryl Bordner
Bob Bell
Frank Mitch
Jim Bell
Lee Hart
Clark Bordner
Arthur Britton
Chris Godard
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
Jack Chocran

**The Spade Award
(To a member or members who bring in two new members)**

The Reinkes, Claire and Graham

Membership Committee

The membership committee, Grace Cochran and Bob Bell, reports that the roster has been completed and sent to the printer. They are hoping that it will be ready for distribution at the next meeting. If you find an error in the roster contact either Grace or Bob.

The treasurer reports that he has paid the club's dues to the national and the region. The national dues are \$15.00 for each regular members and \$9.00 for each spouse. It does not matter whether the spouse is married to a life member or a regular member. We paid for 28 regular members and 10 spouses, for a total of \$510.00 to the national. Life members do not pay yearly dues to the national. For the region we pay \$1.00 for each member. We have 18 life members, 22 regular members, eight honorary members and 20 family members for a total of 68. This number will probably increase as those who missed paying their dues in December pay in January.

If you have any changes in your status, address, phone number etc., please keep the club informed. If you have a change in e-mail contact Frank Mitch and if you have a change in anything contact the editor, Leroy Hart, and he will put the change in the newsletter so that all the members will be aware of the change.

Most of the members receive the newsletter by e-mail but some still have the postal service. If you have moved and not informed us the postal service will forward your first class mail, but only for a period of time. If this forwarding period expires your mail will be returned to sender. This has happened recently.

Amaryllis Care

In late fall and early winter amaryllis bulbs are found in many stores. Some are in bloom while others are in boxes waiting to bloom. When one of these is purchased, it usually blooms very nicely but the next year there are plenty of leaves and no flowers.

When the blossoms fade, cut the stalk off very close to the bulb, taking care not to injure the leaves. There won't always be leaves at this time, but many do produce leaves and flowers at the same time. Keep the plant in good light, water and fertilize at half strength until it is warm enough to plant outside. You may remove from the pot or plant pot and all with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bulb out of the soil. When planting outside remove any new small bulbs and plant them separately in the ground. Grow them in some sun, keep watered and fertilized until late September. Dig the bulbs and put them in pots. If possible, keep the small bulbs growing all year until they are large enough to flower.

Dig the potted bulbs and put them where it doesn't freeze and let dry. When the foliage dies, cut it close to the top of the bulb and keep dry until you are ready to start new growth or when you start to see growth starting on its own. Water the dry bulb once and not again until growth starts. Do it sparingly until the leaves start growing and keep the bulb moist. You will have nice flowers.

(Editors note) A couple of years ago I had several amaryllis plants blooming at the same time and I didn't know why. All I had done was keep the plants watered from the bottom. I didn't fertilize or trim the leaves plant them outside or do anything else that is recommend here. These were not new bulbs. Now they have nice leaves but no sign of blooms. I guess I got lucky once.



Men's Garden Club of America

WINTER
1995

Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster

CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

An ode for all of us —

**Be an active member
The kind that would be missed.
Don't be just contented
That your name is on the list.
Do attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd.
Don't just stay at home
And crab both long and loud.
Do take time an active part
To help the club along.
And take time out to visit
A member who is sick.
Don't leave the work to just a few
The gripe about the clique.
There is quite a program scheduled
That means success if done
And it can be accomplished
With help from everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly
to help with hand and heart.
Be and active member,
And take an active part.
Think this over, member
Are we right or are we wrong?
Be an active member,
And NEVER JUST BELONG!**