



The Garden Gabber

Newsletter of
the Gardeners of Greater Akron
Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.,
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Monday, January 18

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 18, 2016
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Randy Carmel
“*Propagation of Native Plants*”

Board Meeting Monday January 25th at 7:00 PM
Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market St., Fairlawn, Ohio
All members are encouraged to attend board meetings

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

01-06-16

Greetings from the Weed Factory. I hope everyone had safe and enjoyable holiday season. As of this writing it has been a rather mild winter in comparison to the last couple, with above average temperatures, sufficient precipitation, but no snow. That's an easy winter on me but I'm not sure it is for the plants that rely on the snow pack for protection from the wind and cold. I will note that after several years of "growing", my Christmas Roses (hellebores) were in full bloom on – believe it or not - Christmas! I took pictures to document the occasion. A small but welcomed victory. I suspect the mild weather helped out quite a bit since the plants in past years have developed buds but never bloomed. And I will add that while looking out my window on January 1 of 2016 I noticed that my lawn needed mowed. Go figure. Winter just officially started so I guess the mild conditions can, and probably will, vanish in a flash.



We have several speakers lined-up for 2016 starting in January with Randy Carmel who will be discussing the propagation of native plants. Additional topics for 2016 will be organic lawn care and Warblers (small, colorful neotropical birds that migrate thru Ohio and eat tons of insects along the way). I would like to see if we can get some folks together and have another group of 10 Minute Talks at one of the meetings. I think the talks at the October meeting were most

informative and well received and I would like to thank Lowell, Frank and Les for sharing their knowledge with the club. I would like to believe that other members would be willing show there expertise on a topic and commit to giving a 10 Minute Talk. A computer and projector will be available should you have picture to compliment your talk. Assistance will be provided.

And speaking of pictures, I would like to collect copies of pictures that members have taken of their garden and have a Member Garden Picture Night at one of our meetings. The idea is to gather up all the pictures, load them on the computer and just flip through them at one of our meetings. There will be no presentations per se, although the owner of the pictures (garden) will be identified. This effort is independent of the Beautification Awards. One thing I learned while doing the Beautification Award is that it is difficult to catch someone's garden when that individual feels the garden is at its peak. But we all take pictures of our gardens when we are pleased with what we see and satisfied that our efforts have come to fruition. So if you are willing to provide copies of some of your photos, copy them onto a CD or a flash drive and bring them to one of our upcoming meetings. If you are not comfortable copying and transferring photos from your computer or smart phone let me know and assistance will be provided.

See you at the meeting.

Pat

the Winter Season

"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them."

- Vincent A. Simeone

"Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow."

- Robert Frost, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*

WeekendGardener.Net

January Gardening Tips And To Do List

Use this list to help you figure out what gardening tasks you want to accomplish this month.

Planning

Seed catalogs will be arriving. Make your selections, and order seeds early, don't wait until late in the winter to order seed because many varieties sell out early. For a step-by-step tutorial on [How To Get The Most Out Of Mail Order Seed and Plant Catalogs](#), go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/catalog/how-to-order-120612.htm

Shop for evergreen shrubs such as azalea, camellia and early rhododendrons

Order tubers of Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

Draw a map of your garden and make copies of it. Garden beds and raised beds stay in the same place year after year, but the crops rotate each year. To plan this year's garden, take a clean copy of the map and fill it in. Use the back of the plan to record notes. Keep each year's plan in a three-ring binder for easy cross-checking of varieties, rotations, etc. Also to note what did well and what did not.

Planting

Cool-season annuals are still available. Iceland poppy, pansy, snapdragon, viola, stock, candytuft, calendula, cineraria, primrose. For a step-by-step tutorial on [How To Buy Quality Bedding Plants and Annual Color](#), go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/buy-quality-beddingplants.htm

Plant bare-root vegetables such as artichokes, asparagus, horseradish, and rhubarb

Plant bare-root fruits including apples, apricots, blueberries, cane berries, grapes, pears, plums, and strawberries

Plant bare-root ornamentals such as roses, shade trees and vines. For a step-by-step tutorial on [How To Plant Bare-root Trees and Shrubs](#), go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/plant-bareroot.htm

Maintenance

Put down slow release fertilizer on the soil around the base of indoor plants that flower or fruit in the winter. Work into the top 1/2 inch (1.25 cm) of soil

Top-dress asparagus and rhubarb beds with well-composted manure for maximum production later in the spring

Care for gift plants. Keep tender plants like amaryllis and kalanchoe indoors in a well-lighted area; water regularly. Move hardier plants like azaleas, cinerarias, cyclamen and cymbidiums outdoors to a protected spot after finish flowering. Fertilize after bloom.

Move living Christmas trees back outside. Put them in partial shade at first to harden them off, then move them into full sun in a week or two, rinse off foliage & water

This is a good time to move dormant shrubs and trees

Start pruning dormant fruit trees, grapes and shrubs. Take out dead, diseased, crossing and closely parallel branches, then prune to shape. For a step-by-step tutorial on [How To Prune Apple Trees](#), go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/prune-apple-trees.htm

Prune roses and most other deciduous shrubs. For a step-by-step tutorial on [How To Prune Roses](http://www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/prune-roses.htm), go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/prune-roses.htm

Wait to prune spring-flowering shrubs until after they have flowered, don't do it now.

Do not prune citrus trees! They are evergreen, and rely on an abundance of permanent branches to develop new fruit and shade the trunk from sun scald.

Apply dormant spray to deciduous plants to control harmful overwintering insects. Spray peach trees with lime sulfur or fixed copper to control peach leaf curl. To watch a 2-minute video about [How To Control Peach Leaf Curl](http://www.weekendgardener.net/video-tips/videtippeachleaf.htm), go to: www.weekendgardener.net/video-tips/videtippeachleaf.htm

Cover frost-tender outdoor plants. Do not let covering touch leaves, remove in the morning

Avoid walking on grass or ground covers while they are frozen. The frozen leaves are brittle and easily damaged. Ajuga is especially sensitive to being walked on during the winter, and large portions can die back, leaving bare spots for the spring.

If a few, consecutive, warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer as soon as cold weather returns to prevent freezing by exposure.

Check perennials to see if any have been pushed out of the ground by alternate freezing and thawing weather. If so, push them back into the soil; otherwise the exposed roots will dry out and die. Replace mulch if it has blown away.

Sterilize your tools, pots, and anything you use around your plants. Use one part household bleach to nine parts water. Soak for about 15 minutes, rise, and let dry.

Now is a good time to take advantage of off-season specials on garden tillers or attachments.

This is a good time to clean salty clay pots, soak them in vinegar to help remove salt deposits. Soaking in a dilute solution of bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) will kill micro-organisms. Never combine any household chemicals for cleaning purposes, so complete the cleaning in **two** steps. For heavily crusted pots, scrub with a steel wool pad after soaking for 12 hours.

If you have some time this winter, paint the handles of garden tools red or orange. This will preserve the wood and make the tools easier to locate next summer when you lay them down in the garden or on the lawn.

Your wheelbarrow can support its own load if you add two small wheels to the rear legs. Anchor a bar to each leg with a "U" screw and bolts. Attach the wheels to the ends of the bar with a bolt and washer on both the outside and inside of the wheel. Modifying a wheelbarrow like this cuts down on the strain of lifting heavy loads by letting you push the wheelbarrow.

Look at your landscape. Do you need evergreens to protect your privacy, reduce street noise, block the glare of street lights? Order plants in January and February for spring planting.

Try coating your snow shovel with a "no-stick" cooking spray; the snow slides right off. Recoat as needed.

Use calcium chloride instead of sodium chloride on your walks. It does less damage to plants. Or, better yet, use sand, which doesn't hurt your plants a bit.

Weed and Pest Control

Control slugs, snails by removing their hiding places; clean up leaf litter. For a definitive list with over 15 ways [How To Organically Control Snails and Slugs](http://www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/snails-slugs.htm) go to our website: www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/snails-slugs.htm