



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, January 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, , January 21, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Akron Woman's City Club
732 West Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio

Program: Heirloom Vegetables

Lee Paulson, a master gardener and former member of the club will present a program on heirloom vegetables. Since we have been receiving all the catalogues from the seed companies, this is a good time to start planning for this year's garden.

The ten minute talk will be given by Al Eddy on My Favorite Tool.

The cost of the dinner is \$15.00. The Woman's City Club does not have a bar, but you can bring your own bottle. There will be a \$3.00 per table charge for opening bottles.

Board meeting Monday, January 28 at 7.00 pm at the Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, next door to St. Hilary's. You should park behind the church and come in the back door of the church.

Club web site: [ht.://www.acorn.net/mgcakron](http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron)

A Message from Your President - John Lewis

Happy New Year gardeners of the area. I propose a toast for the new year: Here is to just the right amount of rainfall, just when it is needed, with generous sunny days of moderate temperature.

As I sit in my reclining chair, awash in seed catalogs, casually checking out the offerings in the catalogs, a sudden thought makes me almost leap out of my recliner - almost. I remember reading that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded recently, and what is more peaceful than what I am doing and presumedly what all you other club members are doing. I'm wondering that if properly presented or promoted if that prize would end up in our laps. I believe there is a monetary value associated with the prize. Just think of it, enough money for Lee Hart to get the greenhouse for the club that he is dreaming of and placing it on Bob Bell's property, assuming that Bob with his arm in a sling can overpower the rest of us that want it on our property. Isn't dreaming of the new year wonderful?

In the meantime we have important work to do, first things first. Early this new year we must decide upon a permanent location for our monthly dinner meetings and another location for our Board of Directors meetings. Thanks to Art Britton we have the Faith Lutheran Church for a few months for our board meetings. All members are welcome to attend the meetings as you know.

For the dinner meetings so far we have St. George's location. Wasn't our Christmas meeting and dinner great? And the Copley High School Chamber Singing Group superb, many thanks to them and their director Basil Kochan.

This month we are at the Akron Woman's City Club location and possibly another location the following month - maybe Guy's Party Center. Frankly. I think the St. George's location will be hard to beat, but I'm biased, living in Medina County.

From our list of about thirty items of possible interest to energize the club that Bob Bell came up with, the board has picked three or four to devote a lot of attention to this year. We'll be discussing these at future dinner and board meetings and hope to get most of the club members somewhat involved.

Finally, (thank God you say) back to gardening and closure. Last spring at a board meeting Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich passed out a number of onion plants she had ordered from a grower. I planted some of each, four different kinds, and when they matured they were all large and tasty and mild. Actually, one variety wasn't all that mild, but it sure was big and tasty, wow! The largest one, I believe called "Candy", was the size of grapefruit and very mild, very good. I don't mean to impose on Mary Ann but if you're interested, check with her and possibly she can order a number of plants for those who are interested.

Happy catalog perusing folks.

City of Akron
Bureau of Recreation



PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW



The largest indoor flower show in the world!
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (1827)

MARCH 3-6, 2008 (Monday to Thursday)

Join our Active Adults as we travel by coach from
Akron to Philadelphia and the surrounding area.

Day 1 Arrive and check into hotel. Dine in an Irish Pub with the famous "Mummers" for entertainment.

Day 2 Full American breakfast before a guided tour of Philadelphia, lunch included in the Old City, the rest of the day spent at the Flower Show. Dinner on your own.

Day 3 Full American breakfast before a guided tour of Brandywine Valley including the River Museum which houses the Andrew Wyeth collection, on to Winterthur (duPont estate) with tram and house tour. Dinner overlooking the scenic Brandywine Valley. Option 2. Return on your own to the Flower Show.

Day 4 Full American breakfast before touring QVC network, depart by 12noon, arriving home by 8:00 pm.

Price per person: \$584.00, double occupancy.
Secure your seat with a \$250.00 deposit. Space is limited.

**DEADLINE
JAN. 17TH**

For more information please call 220 S. Balak St.
Tricia 330 375-2852 or Sally 330 375-2839 Akron, Oh 44302

Visit www.ci.akron.oh.us/rec.html for the Active Adult Department
monthly newsletter, RECREATION MATTERS.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to contact Billy Smith, Assistant to the Mayor for
Community Relations, 188 S. High St., Room 503, Akron Ohio 44309, (voice) 330 375 2189, (TDD) 330 375-2345,
at least seven (7) days in advance.



Donald L. Plus 0687

Welcome New Members

Clark Bordner - 225 Norton, Barberton, Ohio

44203 Phone 330-745-4699

E-mail cbordner@neo.rr.com

Clark is married to Cheryl, who also has joined the club

He is employed by Blind & Sons as a courier

He lists his hobbies as sports. His gardening interests are flowers and shrubs and trees.

They were recommended by Jim Bell

National Website.

I am very pleased to tell you that we now have a new Search feature on our website. It is accessible only by our National members but it will search the entire site and lead you to hard to find information. This is a very good answer for recent requests we have had for an index to the website

Please log into Members only (lily is the password) and give it a try. Enter one word or more on the Members page in the indicated place.

Please let me know how you like it. Also let me know of any problems or questions you may have about this new attraction.

Happy New Year!

Frank Mitch

Member News

Life member Henry Sechrist died in December, 2007 at age 100. Some of our members will remember Henry in times past when he was a very active member in Akron, His last membership with us was in 1997 when he was living in Ashville, NC. Past rosters show Henry's address as already in Ashville in 1987. His obituary shows him as living also in Chagrin Falls at one time. Henry will be missed as a father, grandfather, great grandfather and uncle to many in his family.

Reported by Frank Mitch

MGC of Akron 2007 Member Awards

At the December meeting, Jim Fee, chairman of the awards committee presented the following awards to members for their service to the club for 2007:

Certificate of Achievement:

Arthur Britton, Grace Cochran, Richard Edwards, Roger Hite, Charles Keach, Leslie Knight, Chet Lowry, Ira McCans, Bill Moorehouse, Sam Morlan, and Walt Starcher

Certificate of Honor:

James Bell, Andrew Bettick, John Cochran, Al Eddy, Leroy Hart, John Lewis, Frank Mitch, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, and Marti Williams

Bronze Medallion:

Robert Bell

More About the Trip

There were some questions about the trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show [page 3]. We checked with the people sponsoring the tour. The bus company will be Lakefront Lines. There will be a tour director on board. The hotel is about 15 minutes from downtown. If you choose to return to the Flower Show on the third day, you are on your own for lunch and dinner and will probably need to get back to the hotel on your own.

The board has talked about making a trip to the Philadelphia Flower show, but to do it on our own would require a lot of planning and we don't know how much it would cost; but now the city has made this trip available to us. They would really like to have garden club members attend. They have extended the deadline to sign up to January 22nd, the day after our meeting. But don't wait to the last minute to sign up: there are 50 places available which will go first come, first served.

Payment of the deposit should be made to the City of Akron Recreation Department, and sent to the Balch St. address on the flyer.

Learn to be a Successful Gardener & Improve Your Landscape at Graf Growers Annual Winter Gardening Seminar Series

Graf Growers is pleased to present its annual Winter Gardening Seminar Series beginning Saturday January 19th, 2008. Cost is \$12 per seminar, except for January 26th & February 23rd, which are \$18 each. Seminars feature green industry professionals & will be held at Graf Growers on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. (Coffee will be served at 9:30) Enrollment will be limited to 50 per class. You may sign up in person, email graf_growers@grafgrowers.com or mail your registration. A printer ready registration form is available at www.grafgrowers.com.

Following is a list of dates, subjects, speakers and a short description of each seminar:

January 19th - Native Plants for Northeast Ohio

Speaker: David Emmitt

David is Manager of Plant Sciences & Landscape Technology at Tri-C. Native perennial plants are useful in perennial gardens, wetland or pond borders, informal naturalistic landscapes or locations with growing limitations such as poor drainage, low fertility, or dry soil. David's program will focus on a group of perennial plants &/or cultivars of them that are native to North America, are hardy in our zone and are good performers.

January 26th – Perennials for Problem Areas

Speaker: Bobbie Schwartz

As proprietress of Bobbie's Green Thumb Landscape Design Company, Bobbie has earned recognition for her creativity & in-depth handling of the landscape design process. In this presentation she proposes using site appropriate plants for problem areas. She will discuss how to amend the soil or what to do when amending isn't possible. Specific plants & combinations will be discussed.

February 2nd – Landscape Design Trends & Ideas

Speakers: Tom Kriska & Lisa Graf

Tom & Lisa, Graf's Landscape & Design, will take you on a visual tour of area landscapes as they discuss design principals & materials used. You'll learn to create pleasing combinations to update your landscape with emphasis on low maintenance & lifestyle trends. Whether you are considering a large project of creating a backyard oasis or a smaller renovation of your existing landscape, you're sure to get new ideas that will work for you.

February 9th – Creating Fantastic Container Gardens with Unique & Traditional Plants

Speaker: Jim Nau

Jim comes to us from West Chicago, Illinois where he manages 7 acres of beautiful trial gardens for Ball Horticultural Co. which is an international breeder, producer & wholesale distributor of ornamental plants with operations in 22 countries. An author of two books, Jim shares his vast knowledge with gardeners across the country. You'll enjoy his slides as he discusses a wide range of plants from unusual to traditional & successful combinations for fantastic container gardens.

February 16th – Gardening & Landscape Success 101

Speaker: Pam Bennett

Pam is the Education director of the OSU Clarke County Extension Service. She will help you be successful with your landscape by focusing on the basics as well as provide guidance to avoid surprises & headaches by making the right choices in the beginning. She will discuss proper soil preparation, planting techniques, & cultural practices that are environmentally friendly & successful. Come prepared with your gardening & landscape questions.

February 23rd – Designing with Perennials

Speaker: Debra Knapke

Debra is a horticulture speaker & co-author of three gardening books: Perennials for Ohio, Annuals for Ohio, & Gardening Month by Month in Ohio. Known as "The Garden Sage", Debra will explain the tools (line, form, texture, & color) and rules (unity, repetition, scale, dominance, balance & simplicity) of design. In addition, she will illustrate how to use perennials individually or in combinations in the garden. Debra will also sign copies of her books for you to purchase.