



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 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, January 19, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3205 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: New Perennials

Our speaker for this month will be Laura Kaufman. Laura works at Graf Growers where she is in charge of perennial production and sales.

Board meeting will be January 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

A Message from Your President - Arthur Britton

I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

I am honored to be given this chance to be president of this long lasting club of gardeners. I have many topics that I would like to talk about with regard to the direction of the club, so please stay tuned.

On the business side, we need everyone to have their dues paid by the Jan. dinner meeting in order to be in the directory.

Also, we have a lot of people who have taken photos over the years, and starting today I would like to ask for your help. Please send these (via E-Mail) to Frank Mitch so that those who visit our web page will be able to read and see what the club is about, and all that it has to offer.

Thank you to those who will be at the IX Center in February. We are glad to have the opportunity to be there and to hand out some info on our club and talk gardening.

I have been told that I am one of the youngest presidents that the club has had. I am not a Master Gardner (although I want to be), and as I am not in the category of being retired, I still must go to work. I am however willing to try different techniques to keep this valuable and informative club going. Yes there are some ideas that may work better than others, so I ask for your new ideas as to give me a different perspective.

(Editor's note - I told Arthur that if his president's message didn't fill the whole page I would use some jokes to fill up the space. He said to go ahead and that he might even have some jokes for next time. Most of us know about the church bulletins on Sunday mornings. The following are some bloopers that were in church bulletins.)

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind . They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Don;t let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The sermon this morning "Jesus Walks on the Water"; the sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

(Editor's note - This is the time of year that we begin to plan our landscaping and gardening for the year. We need to think about not only the plants that we will use but we need to give some thought about the creatures we want to invite to share our landscape with us. Many of us consider the attracting and feeding of birds to be an important part of our landscaping plans. I have had a booklet in my possession for some time called "Attracting Birds in Ohio". This booklet was produced by the Division of Wildlife, part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. One chapter of this booklet is entitled "Habitat".)

Habitat is the total environment in which living things exist. To have more birds we must see that they have a suitable habitat. This means providing food, water, cover in which to nest, rear young and escape enemies and severe weather and any special things the species may need. Since space is usually at a premium in the usual city or suburban lot there must be careful planning of plantings etc. in order to provide good habitat for birds. Wildlife biologists know that maximum wildlife populations occur where two or more types of cover meet. This is known as edge effect. The home owner should try to duplicate this edge effect by using trees, shrubs and ground level plantings. This type of landscaping provides habitat for canopy, understory and ground species of birds. Evergreens are necessary to provide cover from severe winter weather. Evergreens are also good escape cover. Some winter birds feed on the seeds hidden in the cones of evergreens.

Trees are valuable to birds as sources of food for certain periods during the year. Juneberry fruits in June, and provides food throughout the early summer. Those providing summer food include wild black cherry, choke cherry, wild red cherry, mulberry, black gum and hackberry. The hackberry tree is also a good food source well into winter. Fall food sources include hawthorn, crabapple sassafras, mountain ash, flowering dogwood and beechnuts - and the oaks for their acorns. American holly is a winter food source, as are birch trees for their buds, and tulip trees and box elders for their seeds which are retained into winter. A wide variety of trees is necessary to appeal to a wide variety of birds.

The best escape cover, which is also used for nesting by some species is a tangle of briars - multiflora rose, green briar, blackberry and other brambles. These briars also provide food at one time or another.

Many native Ohio shrubs are useful for attracting birds. Flowering dogwood and all the shrubby dogwoods. are valuable as food sources. Most locations are good for winterberry, elderberry and spicebush. All the fruiting viburnums - maple leaf, arrowwood, highbush cranberry, blackhaw and nannyberry - are highly desirable for their fall fruits. Vines such as wild grapes, bittersweet, greenbrier and woodbine provide food and cover.

Blueberry and cotoneaster are good hedge plants that also provide food. Honeysuckle is good for summer berries that attract the fruit eaters. Hazelnut provides nuts without taking up much space. Mulberry trees attract birds during their long fruiting season.

Even flowers may contribute to the variety of birds present. Humming birds are attracted to bee balm, cardinal flower, columbine, four o'clock, gladiolus, hibiscus, honeysuckle, butterfly weed, nasturtium, trumpet vine and zinnia.

Garden flower seeds attract many birds. Mourning doves, cardinals, towhees, brown thrashers and song sparrows are attracted to the seeds of bachelors button. bell flower, columbine, cosmos, marigolds and phlox.

(Another editor's note - if I had more of these attractive to bird plants in my yard my wife wouldn't have to spend so much on bird seed throughout the year, but she does attract a lot of birds all year long.)

The Awards for 2008 given to Members of Men's Garden Club of Akron

Certificates of Honor

Robert Bell
 Andy Bettick
 Arthur Britton
 Grace Cochran
 John Cochran
 Al Eddy
 Leroy Hart
 Roger Hite
 John Lewis
 Frank Mitch
 Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
 Marti Williams

Certificates of Appreciation

Clark Bordner
 Dick Cotton
 Darrell Dube
 Richard Edwards
 Charles Keach
 Leslie Knight
 Chet Lowry
 David Martine
 Ira McCans
 Sam Morlin
 Wendell Ruppner
 Lori Ryder
 Oz Simons
 Walt Starcher
 Lowell Zurbuch

The Bronze Medallion Plaque -- to be awarded at the January dinner.

James Bell

Reported by Jim Fee, Members Awards Committee

A Message from the Treasurer

At the last board meeting I was asked to include in the January Garden Gabber a financial statement for the year 2008. First let me list the income received by the club.

The largest piece of income received was when the club's two CDs were turned in. One was for \$17,527.18 and the other was for \$1132.66 for a total of \$18,659.84. This money is almost evenly divided between the club's checking account and the endowment fund. This endowment fund was established so that members could make tax deductible donations to the club. The way this money is to be used is at the discretion of the board. As far as I am aware none of this fund has been used to date.

The club received \$500.00 from the national's Gardening from the Heart fund to be applied to our landscaping projects for Habitat for Humanity. This is the second time the club has received this grant. Thanks to Frank Mitch for doing the paperwork necessary to obtain this grant.

\$7796.00 was received for dinner meetings; \$687.30 for 50/50; \$28.00 for silent auction; \$136.50 for calendars; \$11,233.25 from the geranium sale; \$1452.50 from the spring plant sale; \$398.25 from the fall plant sale; \$1625.00 for dues (some of these were paid for 2008.)

Treasurer's Message (continued)

Our biggest expenditure for the year was \$20,000.00 for a new CD. I took the proceeds from the two old ones and added enough from the checking account to make a nice round number.

The next largest expenditure was \$2,000.00 to the Ohio State University Foundation for two scholarships for students at ATI in Wooster.

Dinner expenses were \$7967.00 (this is more than the amount taken in for the dinners; we have free meals for speakers, judges for the horticulture show etc.); \$320.00 for speakers and programs; \$218.63 for the June picnic; \$250.00 to TGOA/MCGA for dues; \$116.00 to Central Great Lakes Region for dues; \$316.32 to print the newsletter and \$143.25 to mail it; \$159.50 to print the membership roster; \$80.00 to TGOA/MCGA for memorials; \$8646.83 for geranium sale expenses; \$395.88 for Habitat expenses; \$215.73 for the horticulture show; \$250.00 donated to the Fort Wayne club to help with expenses of the national convention; \$147.50 for calendars; \$96.50 for member service awards; \$96.00 for beautification awards; \$ 100.00 to the Garden Forum for board meeting rent; \$180.00 for poinsettias at December meeting; \$23.90 for Crown Point; \$59.17 for committee expenses.

About Dues

At the last board meeting it was decided, in order to get the membership roster into the hands of the membership in a more timely fashion, that for a name to be included in the roster the membership must be paid by the date of the January board meeting, January 26. Those who pay later will be listed in the Gabber as additions to the roster.

2009 Dues Are Due

Regular Members - \$35.00	
Life Members - \$15.00	
Associate Members - \$15.00	
Family Life Members - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$40.00	
Family Regular Member - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$60.00	
New Life Membership - at any age - One time payment of \$200.00	

Please complete the following form , enclose your check and bring it to a meeting or mail it to:

Leroy Hart

633 Schocalog Road

Akron. OH 44320- 1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address (if OK to print in club roster) _____