



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXXI

July 2012

Number 7

President:

Sam Morlan
170 Hollybrier Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9475
☎ 330-336-6269
Email: samandlora@wadsnet.com

1st Vice President:

David Lockledge
620 Beaverbrook Dr.
Akron, OH 44333-2820
☎ 330-865-3665
Email: lochledge@cityofcf.com

2nd Vice President:

Barbara Croghan
720 Ecton Road
Akron, OH 44303
☎ 330-836-0386
Email: bcroghan56@gmail.com

Secretary:

Marti Williams
2981 Baughman Rd.
Clinton, OH 44216-9331
☎ 330-825-5315

Treasurer:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Rd.
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

National Director:

Frank M. Mitch
2065 Kemery Road
Akron, OH 44333-1937
☎ 330-666-2327
Email: fmm2065@hotmail.com

Gabber Editor/Historian:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407

Monday, July 16

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, July 16, 2012
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: Open Forum

I am planning on having an open forum type meeting in July and I need all of you to help if you can. I had a speaker lined up to help but he will not be able to make it. I am going to ask members to bring samples as if it was the horticultural show and have a presentation on how and why judges make their decisions. If time allows I hope to open it up to a general Q&A session. There was some complaining last year by a few that it seems as if judges always win. The reason for this is simple, the judges know how to present and also enter a lot of specimens. Maybe we can inspire more participation. Thanks. Let me know if you are interested.

Sam Morlen

Board Meeting: July 23 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://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

President's Message - Sam Morlen

Welcome to July, traditionally the hottest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. This month is also full of great traditions, the Fourth of July being the most significant, also hot dogs, baseball, and trips to the pool or lake for a refreshing swim. Many families take their vacations during July and August to visit friends and other family members.

July was named in honor of Julius Caesar who created the fifth month when he devised a new calendar around 46 BC. The Roman Senate renamed the month Julius after his assassination

The biggest problem gardeners are having so far this year is the lack of rain and extreme heat which also adds to the problem of plants drying out since they tend to give up moisture more readily when it is hot with low humidity. Curling is the first sign of moisture loss in all plants including trees. What the plant is doing is trying to prevent evaporation on its surface in an effort to maintain a minimum amount of moisture. Here is when the gardener has to make some decisions about how much to water and what to water. I do not recommend watering turf since it will go dormant and come back if the drought does not last too long and uses a lot of water. My first choice of plants to water are small shrubs and newly planted trees (3years or less) . Some of my older trees are shallow rooted (some birches and dogwoods) and they are showing signs of stress; these I will water some. The trick is to decide what you want to save and how much you want to spend on either water or replacing desirable plantings. Good luck

The July meeting is going to be a lesson on how to present a specimen for judging. I have invited the judges from our club to explain what judges look for when they judge. In order to do this properly I am asking anyone interested to bring a sample they would like to be judged so we can have a live judging. Do not be intimidated, this is meant to be a learning experience. The remainder of the meeting will be open to Q&A on any garden subject you wish to address and I am sure with the many knowledgeable people in our club we will be able to answer most of your questions.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

Lora's Lemonade Iced Tea

Makes 8 cups
cook 5 min
steep 10 min.

3cups water
2 family sized tea bags
1 cup loosely packed fresh mint
1/2 cup sugar
4 cups cold water 1 (6oz.) can frozen lemonade concentrate thawed
garnish citrus slices

Bring water to boil, add tea bags and mint. Take off heat and steep for 10 min.
Remove tea bags, add sugar stir and until sugar is dissolved.
Pour tea into a 3qt. Container, add 4 cups of cold water and lemonade concentrate. Stir.
A cup of dark rum or bourbon makes a delicious cocktail.

Garden Tour

On Saturday July 21, 2012 I'm going to have another Garden Tour at my house from 9 AM to 5 PM There will be light refreshments for those that must have them. Hope to see many of you then. My address is 48 Flowerdale Dr. Akron. That is in the Portage Lakes Area. Flowerdale Dr. runs off W. Bellisle, off S. Main St., 4 blocks North of Portage Lakes

Jim Bell

Judging School

I will have a new judging class on Saturday, July 14, 2012 at my home. Time for that class is 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If interested please contact me: Phone: 330-644-6867 Email: bell8676@aol.com

Home address: 48 Flowerdale Drive, Akron, OH

Four members have already asked to be in the class.

Jim Bell, Central Great Lakes Gardeners Judges Chair

Member News

Former Member John Martindale passed away recently. He was 94 years old. He was president of the club in 1994 and had been very active in the club for many years. He had not joined the club the past two years because of his age and health. If we had realized how old he was we would have made him an honorary member. The club will make the usual donation to the national club in his memory. Also, at the last board meeting it was voted to send an additional memorial gift to the club's endowment fund.

He is survived by his wife Evie. They had been married 48 years. She had also been a long time member of the club.

Regional Conference

There is still time to sign up for the Central Great Lakes Gardeners summer conference, on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. The conference will be held at Michigan State University. The schedule begins on Friday with lunch at the hotel, followed by the business meeting. Next will be a tour of the MSU organic farm and a tour and dinner at the winery of Michigan Brewery. Following dinner is an optional shopping tour at the Tanger Outlet Mall. Saturday begins with MSU garden tours, a seminar at MSU, and a box lunch at MSU. In the afternoon more tours of the MSU gardens. The conference concludes with dinner at Clara's Lansing Station. We will be dining in the club car.

The cost of the conference is \$100. There is no application blank. Just send a check made out to Cheri Kessen at 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN, 46784.

It is already too late for the reduced rate at the motel (\$85 per night) but maybe if you tell them you are part of the CGLG group they might give you a deal. The motel is Fairfield Marriott East Lansing 2335 Woodlake Drive, Okemos, Michigan.(517) 347-1000. I know of 19 going from our club. Jim and Bob Bell and I are going together and have room for more. Call me if you are interested.

Leroy Hart

HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE AND RULES

August 15, 2012 Meeting

1. Entries will be accepted from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
2. Entrants must provide their own entry containers, preferably clear, glass bottles, and have them ready to display.
3. Entry cards were passed out at the July meeting and are available the day of the show, or prior to the show by calling Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.
4. You must identify your exhibit with the variety or cultivar name to receive a top award. Please include the botanical name if at all possible. Example: Capsicum Annum, "Gypsy" pepper.
5. Judging will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. except for section winners and Best of Show, Second Best of Show and Third Best of Show. Those awards will be decided after dinner with the judges providing commentary about their decisions. This will be an educational benefit for the members. All decisions of the judges are final. Those in attendance will vote on a People's Choice winner.
6. Rosettes will be awarded to section winners and prizes shall be awarded to the three best of show winners and the People's Choice Winner.
7. All items must be removed at the close of the meeting.
8. If you have questions call the show chairman, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625 or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.
9. Specimens shall be a single flower etc., unless the rules specify a larger number.
10. Paper plates and wedging material will be provided as necessary for display.
11. The Show Chairman and Co-Chairman will subdivide the sections into classes at the time of entry. (Two or more entries may constitute a class) We reserve the right to add as many classes and/or sections as deemed necessary.

Section A-Annuals-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers; Example: three dwarf marigolds; one only of the large, carnation-type marigolds.

Section B-Perennials-Three specimens of small flowers, one of larger flowers;

Section C-Vegetables

Three specimens of tomatoes, peppers, onions, summer squash and other smaller vegetables. One specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant, winter squash and pumpkins. All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least ½ inch. Cherry tomatoes shall be displayed by the cluster-one cluster with tomatoes still attached, six or more tomatoes on the cluster.

Class C-1 Any vegetable

Class C-2 Any heirloom vegetable

Section D-Fruits-One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc., six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.

Section E-Herbs One stem of larger herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc. Three stems of small herbs such as thyme.

Section F-Herbs in containers

F-1 One plant in a container

F-2 Multiple plants in a container (can be the same herb or an assortment of herbs)

Section G-Corms, Bulbs, Tubers and Hemerocallis- One specimen.

Section H-Orchids in pots.

Section I-Flowering plants in pots.

Class I-1 Single plant in a pot

Class I-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants)

Section J-Foliage plants in pots.

Class J-1 Single plant in pot

Class J-2 Multiple plants in pot (one type or mixture of plants)

Section K-Hanging baskets. One type or mixture of different plants in the basket.

Section L-Fairy Gardens/Garden Scenes/Any kind of miniature garden

Section M-Hostas and Ornamental Leaves- One leaf specimen of any plant.

Section O-Cactus and Succulents in pots.

Class O-1 Single cactus in a pot

Class O-2 Multiple cacti in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Class O-3 Single succulent in a pot

Class O-4 Multiple succulents in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Section P-Largest tomato by circumference, can be green.

Section Q-Longest zucchini.

Section R-Best Geranium-limited to those varieties obtained at our sale.

Section S-Trees and Shrubs-One branch not less than 12 and not more than 30”.

Section T-Arrangements:

- a) “It’s A Small World”-a design not to exceed 8 inches in height or width.
- b) “Gone Fishing”-A design of any size, which expresses this theme.

(Floral material used in designs does not have to be grown by the exhibitor;
Accessories that help to express the theme are permitted.)

Cards will be available at the July meeting.

Hot Weather Tips from Walt

1. Water early in the morning. It is best to provide a slow deep watering. Water the soil, not the leaves, to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation and discourage disease. Two inches of water each week is a good rule to follow.
2. Fertilize hanging baskets, planters, and containers on a regular schedule during summer months to maintain vigorous and healthier plants.
3. Avoid blossom end rot on tomatoes, caused by fluctuating water supply. Deep root water every 7 to 10 days. Apply organic mulch
4. Work compost or animal manure into the soil. Organic matter holds water like a sponge and soil doesn’t dry out so fast.
5. Roses should not be fed after the middle of August. If the roses are left to mature into rose hips the overall health of the plant will be improved.