



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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Monday, July 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, July 21, 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: Healthy Garden

Our speaker will be Denise Ellsworth. Denise is now associated with Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. She was formerly an educator with the County Extension Service. She is also one of our best and favorite speakers.

Board Meeting: July 28 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

I would like to start off by saying thank you to all that helped out and made the Strawberry Festival a big success. Plans are already being made to reserve the same location.

For those of you who wanted warmer weather, it has arrived. To me, it is pretty much on schedule with the first day of summer. What a coincidence! I know that my rain barrels have been busy filling up and that my vegetables are growing very well now that we have some heat, water, and longer days of sunlight.

I hope that many of you will be attending the conference this month. To me it is amazing that some people have lived here for a long time and are still surprised as to what they discover in their own back yard. We have many people coming and from many states. I look forward to meeting them and sharing ideas.

Have you sent Pat the address of a house that you think should be considered for the beautification award? If not, please contact Pat Pickard at 330-848-0687. He is looking for both residential and business locations.

Our club has, like many other clubs, a need to continue to grow. There are many ways that the board has come up with and we are always looking for new ideas. Please let me know if you have an idea. For example, I would like to bring up the geranium sale. In the last few years, we have added plants besides just geraniums. I believe we should continue this.

A few notes on summer garden maintenance: while the heat will dry out your garden, please try not to water your garden in the middle of the day. The best time for watering is early morning. While we have all waited for the warmer weather to enjoy our gardens and outdoor activities, don't let your garden fall behind! The weeds do not take a summer vacation. A little weeding each week will go a long way.

My tomatoes and lettuce have grown by leaps and bounds. I am eagerly looking forward to harvesting them. I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July. May we all continue to have a joy of gardening!

-Arthur

June 24, 2014

The Gardeners of Greater Akron have a new committee.

Plant A Row For The Hungry Committee

Short form: Plant A Row

Nick Name: PAR

On June 23, 2014 the GOGA Board approved the formation of a new committee for the club, effective immediately.

Purpose of the committee: Encourage club members to plant an extra row of vegetables when they are planting their home vegetable garden each year. Then the harvested PAR vegetables and other surplus vegetables are to be donated to various organizations which provide food to needy poor folks:

1. Akron Canton Food Bank
2. Other similar organizations in the area
3. Local churches with a food program for needy folks
4. Any local government with a food program for needy folks

Most of these organizations will also accept and appreciate other food such as canned vegetables.

Cash contributions are also needed and welcomed.

Plant a Row drop-off sites have been printed in the Beacon Journal twice in 2014, to be continued this year:

1. Crown Point Ecology Center, 3220 Ira Road, Bath Township, 8 to 4 weekdays, and 8 to noon Saturday.
2. Stow Administration Offices, 3760 Darrow Road, drop off anytime.
3. Stow Community Garden, 5070 Stow Road, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.
4. Canton Road Garden Center, 1881 Canton Road, Springfield Township, various times, see Beacon list
5. Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, 350 Opportunity Parkway, Akron, call 330-535-6900 to schedule drop-offs. Drop-offs to be between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. week-days.

Plans are for the club to receive a list from members who have supplied food from their PAR, other surplus vegetables or cash contributions. A committee member will receive and record your list.

Next November at Club Awards time one or more PAR awards will be given to members who have provided the most food, unusual contributions, or for other reasons.

The name and email or other address of the list saving committee member will soon be announced.

Another future possible function of this committee is to support and encourage a possible community garden if there is a location for such. Another committee member or members willing to manage that garden will be needed.

The Plant a Row program is encouraged by the Garden Writers Association. Beacon Journal writer Mary Beth Breckenridge had Plant a Row articles in the Saturday's section on May 24 and June 21, 2014.

Plant a Row for the Hungry became a national program in 1995 and has since spread through the United States and Canada. The Beacon Journal and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank have been teaming up on a local Plant a Row program since 2000. Last year the program brought in 6,625 pounds of home grown produce, enough for 5,512 meals.

Let's get started right now. It is not too late this year to Plant A Row and harvest vegetables for the hungry.

Membership Committee Announcement

If we don't grow we will disappear. With that in mind the Gardeners of Greater Akron are working on methods to help our membership grow. The Membership Committee has developed two flyers, one a full page and one a half page. I am attaching one of these flyers to this document. We would like to have them hanging on bulletin boards at as many of the Garden Stores as we can. If you have a favorite place you go for your plants and shrubs ask them if the store will hang one of the flyers. Possibly give them several of the small flyers to be picked up by other customers.

Our Board of Directors has authorized a \$10 gift certificate for everyone who sponsors a new member. That is one gift certificate for each member you recruit. All of us have an interest in recruiting new members, not only the Membership Committee.

Membership applications are available on the <http://GOGAkron.org> web site.

Show Schedule for Great Lakes Summer Conf.

Bring your specimens for judging between 12:00 and 1:00 PM Judging will be between 2:00 and 2:30 by Apprentice Judges and our Regional Judges. No more than **3 plants per person**.

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.

Plants to be removed after dinner.

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 one half inch. Cherry tomatoes shall be displayed by the cluster-one cluster with tomatoes still attached, six or more tomatoes on the cluster.

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

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

Section H-Orchids in pots.

Section I-Flowering plants in pots.

Section I-Cactus and Succulents in pots.

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

GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GARDENING
DO YOU WANT TO MEET WITH OTHER
GARDENERS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WITH FELLOW
GARDENERS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://gogakron.org>

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: gardeners of greater akron

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR CLUB

For more information about our club, log onto our website or call
membership co-chair, Bob (330)673-3553 or email
mrrnbell@hotmail.com.

Applications for membership are available on the website.