



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.
and The Men's Garden Clubs of America, Central Great Lakes Region

Published Monthly: Volume LXIX

July 2010

Number 7

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Monday, July 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, July 19, 2010
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Denise Ellsworth

Ms. Ellsworth is one of the educators for the newly formed Western Reserve Region of the extension office network in Ohio. Besides her extensive knowledge of horticulture she is also an entomologist. She loves bugs and likes to talk about them.

Board Meeting: July 26 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>

Presidents Message

Arthur Britton

I hope that everyone is having a Great time in their gardens. The sun and warm temperatures have arrived. This year I have a small vegetable garden and seem to grow weeds just about as well as vegetables. I am trying to come up with something productive to do with the weeds. In the past I have had some Dandelion wine but I can't think of anything else to be done with the other weeds besides compost. If you have some information please send it to me, and I will both use it and pass it on.

As life goes some days have big challenges and other days there are smaller challenges. The club has addressed the challenge of what to call itself, and for the most part I think that it has gone pretty well. Now we have our next challenge. Should the pledge and a prayer be said at the dinner meeting? I have been told that the prayers are too long (I will shorten them), also that due to age and physical ability that some are not able to stand. (Please, feel free to stay seated).

With regard to prayer, some feel that prayer should not be at the meetings at all. There are many ways to address this from a short prayer, a poem, a moment of silence or nothing at all.

Next we have the pledge. I have not been in the military or reserves or put my life on the line to defend this country, but I do greatly appreciate those who are serving now and those who have served and those who have given their lives. I say the pledge of allegiance to honor and thank those people. I will take the 25 seconds to say the pledge. If you choose not to then you have that right.

Over the years the pledge and prayer have come and gone during the dinner meetings. The club has changed over the years and many are looking for a clear decision on these two topics. The board will be addressing these and other topics at the next board meeting and need to find out how the members view this and other topics. This is your club, you have a say in how it is run and what happens during the meetings. Please let us know.

In order to keep this club going, it is very important that we hear from the members and have members that participate in the club beyond showing up to hear a speaker and have dinner. Crown Point, Habitat, Youth gardening and other programs need our time and effort. Please help.

The strawberry festival was a great success from what I have heard. Not having to bring something to cook on a grill was a big hit. Many really enjoyed the chicken provided by the club. We had a turnout of about 70 people. After eating, being able to shop at a garden center was a big hit. I would like to thank those who made it possible, and for all of the time and effort it took to put it on, and to our host Tom Dayton.

Member News

George Karadin, passed away on June 13 at the age of 92. George was a longtime and very active member of the club who was a regular attendee until the last few months of his life. George was retired from Ohio Bell and was a past president of the local chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America. He was an original founding member of the Stan Hywet Orchid Society (now the Greater Akron Orchid Society). His extensive orchid collection has been donated to the Orchid Society to be sold by them.

George is survived by his wife of 70 years, Marjorie, two sons and one surviving daughter. His other daughter Marjorie Kistler, also a member of the club passed away several years ago. We extend our sympathies to Marjorie and the family. George will be missed by his family and his many friends in our club.

James Marshall has a new address: 12521 Gwen Whisler Drive NW, Uniontown, OH 44685 phone 330-587-4102

Vic Giannini- It has been reported that Vic is or has been in the hospital. No details were given.

If you know of members who are ill, hospitalized etc. contact Grace Cochran who is serving as what is called the Sunshine person. She will send an appropriate card to the individual. Changes of address should be reported to the editor. Changes in email addresses should be reported to Frank Mitch who handles the club's email account and is the web master of our website.

Congratulations

(Editor's note - I believe that club members should receive recognition and congratulations from the club and in the Gabber for outstanding contributions they have made to the community. If you know of a member who should be recognized this way please inform me.)

Some time ago the Akron Beacon Journal had an article headlined "Akron couple to be honored as volunteers." Robert and Christine Freitag were honored with an Award of Excellence by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. Since their retirement they have made a career out of volunteering. They are active in the Friends of Metro Parks, Christine is the president. He is treasurer of the Citizens for Metro Parks, the park district's political action committee. They are also involved with the Cascade Locks Park Association and Scenic Ohio. Both volunteer in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, working to keep invasive plants out of key areas of the park.

Among the many organizations in the community that she has been involved with are the Akron Planning Commission, as president of the old Cuyahoga Valley Association and the League of Women Voters, a trustee of the Akron Art Museum, president of Planned Parenthood, member of the Women's City Club, the United Way and the Junior League. She is a member of the Akron Garden Club and a former president of the Garden Club of America.

They have received a more recent honor. In the remodeled NatureRealm there is a plaque honoring what is called Earth Heros. Bob and Christine Freitag are the first ones to be so honored. The plaque states what they have done to support the Metro Parks and protect the environment. Then there is a list of all the nature and environmental organizations to which they belong.

Walt's Gardening Tips for July

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 to discourage disease.
2. Work compost or animal manure into the soil. Organic matter holds water like a sponge and soil doesn't dry out as fast.
3. Home canning is one way gardeners are saving money and preserving the rich flavor of the healthy home harvest. Dehydrating and freezing vegetables and fruits are other methods that work well.
4. Mulching is beneficial because it retains moisture in the soil. Mulches can be cooling or warming. Cooling mulches (straw, paper, grass clippings, or leaves) allow rain to soak in and cool the soil. Warming mulches (Black or clear plastic, black paper, or compost) allow the soil to retain heat.
5. Avoid low light levels on plants when pulling shades to keep out summer sun.
6. Drought and hot dry winds can cause pepper and tomato blossoms to drop off. Try misting plants twice a day to cool them and help the blossoms set fruit.
7. Keep an eye on house plants that are summering outdoors. Water and fertilize frequently.
8. Fertilize roses on a regular basis for strong plants and improved flowering. pinch faded rose blossoms.

For August

1. Roses should not be fed beyond the middle of this month. If the rose flowers are left to mature into rose hips the overall health of the plant will be improved.
- 2 Add several inches of mulch to Asiatic lilies. This will keep the roots cool, protect them from heat, and deter weed growth.
3. Many herbs self-sow if flowers are not removed. Dill seeds sprout and come up as volunteers the following spring.
4. Continue to keep soil around your shasta daisies and ferns moist but not wet. Ferns may become dormant if they get too dry.
5. Evergreens can be planted and transplanted to insure good rooting before winter arrives. Water both the plant and the planting site several times before moving.

Board Meeting

The summer conference of the region was discussed. In addition to the information that has been released previously, there will be a mini horticultural show on Friday before the business meeting at Quail Hollow. You are invited to bring not more than three plants to be exhibited.

Sam Morlan is looking for more nominations for the beautification awards. Contact him with your nominations.

There may be a problem getting to the meeting in July. The intersection of Ridgewood Road and Jacoby Road is blocked; they are making a round-a-bout. If you get off the expressway at Miller and Ridgewood Roads and Ridgewood is blocked you can either get back on the expressway and go north to Cleveland Massillion Road, turn left, go south on Cleveland Massillion to Ridgewood, turn left and go to the church. The other way is to turn right on Ridgewood, go up the hill to Schocalog Road, the stop sign, turn right, go to the end, turn right on Copley Road, go to Copley Circle, turn right on Cleveland Massillion Road, and turn right on Ridgewood.

Welcome New Members

Donald L. Sheeler 341 Lake of the Woods Blvd. Akron, Oh 44334, POBox 5353 phone 330-825-5177 email ktycolonel@yahoo.com Donald retired from the city of Barberton as the assistant fire chief. He is widowed. He lists his desired club activities as geranium sale and beautification awards.

He has an unusual honorary title. He is a Colonel in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He is a Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Carl E. Meador 4171 Deerwood Drive, Akron, OH 44333-1133 phone 330-867-3501. No other information was available on Carl at press time.

Garden Tour

You are invited to tour Jim Bell's garden on Saturday July 17 from 9 am to 5 pm. His address is 48 Flowerdale Drive, Akron. Exit Route 277 at Main Street, go south 1.6 miles, turn right on on West Bellisle Drive, left on Flowerdale, first house on the left. (Editor's note - You can also see Mary's collection of 670 orchids, some of which will be in bloom. Also ask Jim to show you the fairy garden he has made which won the best of show award at the Herb Society show last Saturday. Jim says that refreshments of herb cookies and herb tea will be served.)

Regional Meeting

There is still time to sign up for the summer meeting of the Central Great Lakes Region to be held on Friday and Saturday July 30 and 31 at the Quail Hollow Resort in Concord Township, Lake County, Ohio. This meeting was written up in last month's Gabber with a registration form etc. If you no longer have last month's Gabber call Bob Bell for help at 330-673-3553.

Several of our members are already signed up for this meeting but more would be appreciated. Bob is the second vice president of the region and the one who has to set up this meeting. Let's show our support of him and his efforts by attending.

National Newsletter

An email has been received from Sheryl Bacon, the Administrative Assistant of the national TGOA/MGCA. She says we can receive the national newsletter via the national website or by email. If you sign up for either of these you will not receive a copy in the mail. She says that the newsletter by email will be in color and will be available two to three weeks before the mail copy. Contact her by email at tgoasecy@questoffice.net.

Thanks Received

In last month's Gabber there was an article about the club's involvement with Copley's Arrowhead Primary School. Al Eddy and Sam Morlan are our members who are most involved in this project. We have received a nice letter from the principal of Arrowhead Primary thanking us for our donation of five flats of geraniums and \$300.00

Some months ago our speaker was a representative of Lake View Cemetery. We paid her the usual amount we pay a speaker and she gave it to the Lake View Cemetery Foundation. We received a letter from this foundation thanking us for the gift.