



The Garden Gabber



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXVII

July 2008

Number 7

President:

John Lewis
3066 Roarer Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576
☎ 330-336-9336
email: jlewis3066@hotmail.com

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.

1st Vice President:

Arthur Britton
65 Mayfield Ave.
Akron, OH 44313-6827
☎ 330-865-5501
email: akronbrittons@msn.com

When: Monday, July 21, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

2nd Vice President:

John Cochran
1675 Slusser Drive
Tallmadge, OH 44278-3046
☎ 330-633-20197

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Secretary:

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

Program: All About Dahlias

Lee Paulson, one of our favorite speakers will again join us. This time he will tell us about dahlias with slides. Lee is a master gardener and a former member of our club.

Treasurer:

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

Andy Bettick will have the ten minute program on seed saving. If you remember last fall's seed exchange you will remember how many seeds Andy brought in.

National Director:

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

Gabber Editor/Historian:

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

Board meeting July 28 at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. Park behind the church and come in the back door of the church. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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

A Message from Your President - John Lewis

Wasn't that the best Strawberry Festival ever? That was the best strawberry shortcake I've had in years, maybe ever. Grace Cochran was seen with a big smile carrying her helping back to her table. It was so big she could have hidden behind it. How she could have eaten all of it is beyond me - but she did. I hope there are no changes for next year, unless we opt for weekly festivals in June. We have to commend Marti Williams and Sam Morlan for getting the strawberries and other accessories and preparing them, Sam for baking the shortcake and Marti's husband for preparing and tending the grills. Also Mr. Anonymous for donating the ice cream and Jim Bell for dishing it out.

Who is Mr. Anonymous, you ask? Well, he is the person whose name escaped everyone in last month's Gabber, who stayed with Chet Lowry and Sam Morlan the Friday night of the Geranium Sale. He brought along three movies that they watched that night, but being a relatively new member, shy and bashful, he probably never told them his name. His name is **Clark Bordner**. He and his wife have attended every monthly meeting since last October and he has helped at each session for the Habitat for Humanity homes. After the last Habitat session, a hot and humid day, he invited each of us to join him at his Biggins Big Dip ice cream establishment. At a big discount, I might add. Three of us participated and the discount was 100%. Free. I had a huge black cherry cone, my favorite, and I highly recommend it to you. If you're in the mood for ice cream, why not give a fellow member your business and be pleasantly rewarded with really good ice cream.

We had a most interesting board meeting this month (June). talk about upheaval. I will give you only a brief overview of the results and leave the details, many to be determined, to those more knowledgeable with the subjects.

We cannot have the Horticultural Show at the Akron Public Library. Other locations being problematic, it was decided to eliminate the mini show and have the big show at the regular dinner meeting in August. This will require a lot of planning and cooperation by members and will be tough to pull off. Especially as we are always expected to leave the dinner premises by 9 p.m.

If dinner speakers can be reassigned to different months we plan to have another plant sale in September. This coincides with fall planting time and dividing time for plants, so there should be an abundance of material for the sale. This will be a busy time this fall for the club.

A lot of time was devoted to scholarships and the geranium sale as they are closely tied. Nothing definitive was determined and this will be an on-going subject at future meetings. We are in need of a new chairperson for this geranium sale. Failure to get a chairperson will result in elimination of the event. If you are willing, let the board know and check with Chet Lowry for details of the job.

Charlie of Urban Connection Ministries attended the meeting. As you recall his group of about 50 young people is in need of tools to work their garden. If you can contribute, please bring the tools to the July dinner meeting, they will be greatly appreciated. Al Eddy will see that he gets the tools.

A number of our members were unaware that our caterer for the dinner meetings requires us to vacate the premises by 9 p.m. We have been somewhat lax in this respect and will attempt to comply with their requirement in the future.

See you at the July meeting.

A Note from the Treasurer - Leroy Hart

I would like to add a few more words to what John Lewis has said about the geranium sale. We do thank Chet Lowry for his leadership of the geranium sale for the past two years at least, maybe more. But he feels that with the illness of his wife he cannot do this job another year. As John has mentioned that without a chairman for this sale we cannot do it next year. Speaking of doing the geranium sale next year, the board discussed that at some length at the June board meeting. It was said that the purpose of the geranium sale was to provide funds for the scholarships we award each year. The geranium sale brings in a little over \$2000 and the scholarships have been \$2000. The board thought that if we didn't give the scholarships we didn't have to do the sale. The board didn't reach any conclusions about scholarships. We are aware that there are some in the club who are really in favor of scholarships and that there are others that are equally opposed to scholarships. We feel that the majority of club members are on the fence and don't care too strongly either way. We don't have to order geraniums for next year for several months so there is plenty of time to decide. The board would like your opinions on the subject of scholarships and the geranium sale. In brief we cannot do the scholarships without the geranium sale; unless you can come up with some other fund raiser that would bring in \$2000 or \$1000 for one scholarship. On the other hand it is possible to have a geranium sale and use the money for some other purpose. We have a lot to decide in the next few months so make your opinions known to a board member or better yet come to a board meeting yourself and express your opinion.

Speaking again of scholarships. I was not aware of the history of our scholarships until Frank Mitch filled me in. Frank has been on the scholarship committee from the beginning. He said that years ago the club had so much money in the treasury and carrying it over from year to year that they were afraid that the Internal Revenue Service would question our being a non-profit organization. There is some question regarding how a non-profit spends its money. Some felt that all the money raised during the year should be spent that year or carry over to the next year just a small amount. Others feel that as long as we spent some of the income each year the IRS will leave us alone. Nowadays it isn't too much of a problem, we don't have that much in the bank. But, back then they did have too much in the bank and they started the scholarships as a way to spend money.

Speaking of scholarships were you aware that the national gives five scholarships to students who have been recommended by a local club. If I remember correctly Frank Mitch said that this year all five winners had been recommended by our club's scholarship committee, Two of the five were the same two from ATI that won our scholarships and the three were from Ohio State. Our scholarship committee goes to Columbus each year to interview OSU students as well as the yearly trips to ATI. The scholarship committee is made up of, if I remember correctly, Chairman, Jim Fee and members Frank Mitch, Dick Cotton, and the president for that year. I mentioned the national scholarship. This fund was either started or greatly enlarged by a bequest from one of our club's most active members who left a sizable contribution to the national for scholarships in his will. He was George Mines. George was also probably the biggest recruiter this club has ever had. A good many of our long time members were invited to join the club by George. In addition to all that he was one of the big winners each year in the horticultural show. When George Mines died we lost a really top notch member.

I think I can give you a final report on this year's geranium sale. I think all the money has come in. I will compare this year's results with last year's.

	2007	2008	Difference
Total sales	\$10,788.80	\$11,224.25	\$435.45
Expenses	8,166.24	8,646.83.	480.59
Profit	2,622.56	2,577.42	45.14 more in 2007

Field Trip

At the last board meeting Al Eddy shared a trip that he makes yearly and he thought the members might be interested in going also. He goes to the field trip sponsored by the Nursery Growers of Lake County. Each year this affair is held at a different nursery in Lake County. This year it is being held at Herman Losely & Son, Inc. in Perry, Ohio. The date is Tuesday, August 12 starting at 9 a.m..

The day will include a tour of Losey's nursery, over 1000 acres of specimen grade field production, container operations, and propagation facilities, also a trade show with over 150 exhibitors in a County Fair atmosphere, and a barbecue lunch.

Al says that this show is primarily for professionals in the horticultural and nursery business but all are welcome and he says that there are many plants and gardening tools that you will not find in our local sales outlets.

On the Monday night preceding the field day there will be dinner and casino night. at the Perry Community Center.

There are a lot of other attractions in Lake County that you could visit including several wineries, marinas on the lake, the Holden Arboretum, the Fairport Lighthouse, and many nurseries, some of which have been in business for 150 years. If you are interested in attending this field day contact Al Eddy for further details, a registration form, and a map. Al said that a ride pool could be formed. The editor also has information about this day and a registration form.

Open House Invitation

Jim Bell invites members and friends to an open house and garden tour on Saturday, July 19, all day at 48 Flowerdale Drive in Akron.

Walt's Gardening Tips for July

Work compost or animal manure into the soil. Organic matter holds water like a sponge and soil doesn't dry out so fast.

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.

Home canning is one way gardeners are saving money and preserving the rich garden flavor of the healthy home harvest.

Be sure to fertilize hanging baskets, planters, and containers on a regular schedule during the summer months to maintain vigorous and healthier plants.

Avoid blossom end rot in tomatoes, caused by fluctuating water supply. Deep water every 7 to 10 days. Apply organic mulch.

If July is hot and dry, make sure your plants and trees get the water they need, especially newly planted trees and shrubs. Two inches of water each week is a good rule to follow. To test place a coffee can or similar container near your target and see how long it takes the sprinkler to fill it with two inches. The next time set your timer. For trees a slow deep watering is best because it helps establish a deeper root system

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 soil to retain heat.

For August

Roses should not be fed after the middle of this month. If rose flowers are left to mature into rose hips the overall health of the plant will be improved.

Remove weeds before they go to seed. Put them on your compost pile.

Haydite

This article was written by Joseph Alessi Jr., editor of the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster.

There is a need for providing good drainage in the garden. Haydite is a material that has been found useful in providing good drainage when worked into the soil. Haydite is made by expanding and vitrifying shale in a rotary kiln in excess of 2000 degrees. The resulting material is sterile, environmentally inert, non-toxic, highly absorbent, with a neutral pH. It is stable, will not compress or degrade and does not need to be reapplied every year.

Haydite can come in three sizes: large, medium and small. The coarser size is usually used in landscaping. This material has a microporous structure that assists in the passage of air and water to root systems and significantly reduces the compaction of the soil. It helps to maintain optimum moisture levels that produce vigorous healthy plants. This material can absorb excess water during rain and watering and then slowly release this excess water as the soil dries, acting in effect like a time release watering system.

Haydite is made by the Hydraulic Press Brick Company, PO Box 31330, Cleveland, Ohio, 44131. Phone 1-888-593-0395.

Central Great Lakes Region Summer Conference

There is still time to send in your registration for the regional summer conference. If you have never attended a regional conference you are missing a fun and informative time and a chance to meet some of your fellow gardeners from the region. The editor is going and would welcome you to ride with him.

The summer conference will be on Saturday, July 26 at the Agricultural Technical Institute at 1328 Dover Road, Wooster. Registration and a continental breakfast will be at 9 AM at Skou Hall, Room 30. The featured speaker will be Dr. Ken Cochran, Director of Secrest Arboretum. Dr. Cochran will speak about the history and the future of the arboretum. After lunch he will conduct a tour of the arboretum which is located at 1680 Madison Avenue in Wooster. After this tour we will go to Quail Crest Farm at 2810 Armstrong Road, Wooster for a tour of the farm. There will be time to shop at the garden center. At 5:45 there will be the banquet back at ATI in Skou Hall. Regional awards will be presented at the banquet.

Registration Form

Deadline July 17, 2008

Number of participants -----X \$39.00 = -----

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ City, State, and Zip _____

Make checks payable to Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown and mail to John Kolar, 1037 North Avenue, Girard, OH 44420. For questions contact John Schinker 330-799-6046 or 330-518-4384