

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



Published Monthly

Volume LXXVI

June 2016

Number 6

President

Pat Pickard
#330-848-0687
Email: ppickard@ohio.net

1st Vice President

Steve Hoot
#330-688-1875
Email: hootfs@att.net

2nd Vice President

Ken Bell
1472 N. Medina Line Rd
#302-593-8362
Email: callmeishmael196@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sue Godard
#330-699-0509
Email: sstaats511@aol.com

Treasurer

Robert Bell
#330-673-3553
Email: mrrnbell@hotmail.com

Historian

Leroy Hart
#330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

National Director

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
#330-630-9625
Email: mafr43@hotmail.com

Monday, June 20, 2016

Make plans to attend each monthly meeting. It's a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy good food and learn more about gardening and our environment.

When: Monday, June 20, 2016

5:30 PM - Social Hour

6:30 PM - Dinner

Where: Coventry Oaks Pavilion

40 Axline Rd

Akron, Oh 44319

Program: Program - Strawberry Festival

Hostess - Sue Godard

Our monthly board meeting is the fourth Monday of the month. All members are invited to attend.

When: Monday, June 27, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Where: Faith Lutheran Church

2726 W. Market Street

Akron, OH

Club web site: <http://gogakron.org>

June 10, 2016

Greetings from the Weed factory. I haven't much to report on this month. I've busy with work – both the day job and yard. I think I mentioned it in a previous gabber that I thought last year was the year of the chipmunk. I know now that that was not true. I think with the mild winter we had that this year is the year of the chipmunk. I've got them everywhere. I had a couple of indoor-started flats of plants set out side on the patio to harden-off destroyed by chipmunks rooting for seed. I don't have a cat or a dog to chase them off and the neighbor's cat doesn't seem to show much interest except snoozing. What to do.

I recently purchase a couple of native plant flower kits thru the Summit Count Soil and Water Conservation. The kits are 5 inch plugs of 50 native plants (5 plants of 10 varieties) wrapped in heavy mesh netting, packed into a cardboard box and delivered to your door. The plants are well watered and alive upon arrival. I bought these kits for several years now and have never received a damaged shipment. There are several kits available including a Bird & Butterfly Kit, Rain Garden Kit and a Shade Kit. A bit pricey at around \$125.00 a kit (\$2.50 a plant) but well worth it if you are looking to plant a larger area or plants you won't find at a local big box store. SCSW generally takes orders in February and delivery is in late May or early June.

A well reported natural phenomenon currently occurring in a woods near year you is the emergence of Brood V of the 17 year cicada. If you live in an area where they have come out (Bath Township) I feel sorry for you. The noise is enough to make your fillings rattle. If you don't live in a cicada area I suggest you take a short drive and experience the noise of nature. It's something else. It will last for a couple of weeks more

This month the club meeting is the Strawberry Festival being held at Summit County Metro Parks Coventry Oaks Pavilion off south Main Street in the Portage Lakes area. Sue Godard and crew put a lot of effort in pulling off this soirée. So please come out and enjoy the fruits of their labor. And bring a friend.

Pat

Gabber News Shorts (and not so short)

Habitat

On Saturday May 21st, the GOGA and I went to 635 Hollibaugh to landscape on an iffy day; cool with eventual rain (of course we're used to it by now). So we met, Bob Bell, Sally Cole, Chuck Keach. Gene Chlosta, Amie D'Anenzo, Lowell Zurbuch, Cheryl and Clark Bordner and I. Most of the guys worked to spread two large mounds of topsoil from both front and backyards. While Chuck and Sally cleared out the front strip along the curb; Cheryl and I planted shrubs, annuals and mulched in front of the house. Finally the rains came and the planting, raking and the shoveling stopped. We all stopped!! We couldn't move any longer. Our shoes were stuck to three to four inches of muck, excuse me, topsoil. Gravity prevailed.

It was decided that some of our club would get together on a better day mid-week and finish the job. On Wednesday, May 25, some GOGA folks to include Amie who recruited Bryan Williams from the Cleveland Browns who was twice her size to help our team by seeding, fertilizing and strawing the property. Now the lawn with faith will nurture itself in time for the June 9th new family Habitat dedication.

Dutifully Submitted by Chris Godard, Chairman Habitat

CGLG Summer Conference

On June 25th, our regional organization, The Central Great Lakes Gardeners, will hold their summer conference. This meeting will be held at Kingwood Garden Center in Mansfield and will last from 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Our own Les Knight will officiate as President and the head groundskeeper for the Center, Mr. Bill Collins will give a tour of the grounds. If you are interested in attending, please contact Les Knight, Lee Hart or Bob Bell. They can fill you in on the particulars.

Submitted by the Editor

Gabber News Shorts cont'd

Fall Fundraiser

In the last issue of the Garden Gabber, the Board was considering a fall fundraiser; a sale of bulbs to members. I suggest that we limit this sale to five types of bulbs; tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths and anemone. I believe that we can offer these bulbs for prices ranging from \$ 0.50 to \$ 1.00 each and still make a profit for the club.

I would like to talk to you at the next meeting. Tell me what you think about this project. If there is enough interest in doing this, we could have the bulbs available at club meetings in plenty of time for them to be planted.

Submitted by Lee Hart

Crouse School

Most of the raised gardens at Crouse School have been planted by the students – with help from their teachers and GOGA volunteers. We – kids and adults – have had wonderful experiences together as we got the beds ready for planting and then planted them. The kid's enthusiasm and eagerness has been a huge plus for us "mentors".

The planted gardens need tending over the summer. So.....Sally Cole, fellow GOGA and youth gardening team member, has volunteered to coordinate the tending of the gardens. She cannot do this by herself so I am going to volunteer to take two or three beds as a continuing project this summer. If you would like to join me in the late afternoon or early evening, please let me know. We can arrange to meet.

If you can give some time, please contact Sally either at our meeting or by phone or email. Sally's work schedule is variable, so you may have to leave a message.

Submitted by Steve Thompson, Youth Gardening Chairman

Gabber News Shorts cont'd

Strawberry Festival

It is June and time for delicious strawberry shortcake again. This year again, our June meeting will be held at Coventry Oaks Pavilion. For those who did not come last year; take Main Street south to 40 Axline Rd (about one half mile south of Waterloo Rd. Follow the signs! If lost, call Sue Godard at 330-592-7190.

The club will provide chicken, drinks and dessert this year. Bring your table service and a well filled side dish to share! Any questions call Sue Godard. Those helping will start at 4:00 PM. See you there!!

Garden Tour

Last weekend, Gene and Carol Chlosta opened up the gardens at their home for GOGA member to enjoy. Cheryl and I were able to go on Sunday afternoon. Gene gave us a guided tour of their well thought out and beautifully manicured gardens. Many of the plants that they feature were purchased at our Geranium Sales and plant auctions. He was truly a gracious host.

One of the unique aspects of Gene's gardens is the relationship that he has nurtured with native wildlife. He has bird houses with nesting wrens in them. Although not yet in bloom, he has planted a section with bee balm that will surely attract butterflies and hummingbirds later in the season. He also showed us an area in the midst of his gardens where a fawn sleeps several times a week. While many gardeners are doing everything in their power to keep deer away, Gene actually invites this fawn to stay. Despite the presence of a mortal enemy of flora, his gardens are flourishing. Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here.

Cheryl and I left with a true feeling of peace and tranquility. It is certainly apparent the love and care that Gene and Carol put into their gardens. We felt truly blessed to have been invited on this tour. I hope that other club members will share the beauty of their gardens with their fellow gardeners.

Submitted by the Editor

Old Time Fertilizer Recipes

Here are two old time recipes for fertilizers that you may find useful:

Homemade fertilizer

1 tablespoon household ammonia (neutralizer)

1 tablespoon saltpeter (potassium nitrate)

1 teaspoon Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate)

1 teaspoon baking powder (phosphorus)

Stir into 1 gallon of water. This formula may be used for everything

Fertilizer for Tomatoes

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon Epsom salts

Mix into soil for each tomato plant