



# The Garden Gabber



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

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## Monday, June 18

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, June 18, 2007

The dinner starts at 6:30 pm. The grills will start at 5:30 so to cook your meat you should be there by 6:00.

**Where:**

Goodyear Metro Park Memorial Pavilion  
2077 Newton Street  
Akron, Ohio

**What**

Strawberry Fest and Pot Luck Dinner

Bring your family ,bring your friends, bring meat to grill, and bring a covered dish to share, salad or vegetable dish, no dessert. The dessert is the strawberry shortcake. Bring your own table service and a tablecloth if you want to to be fancy. The club will provide the charcoal for the grill and the drink.

Board meeting is Monday June 25 at 6:30 PM. For this month and July the location is the Bath Fairlawn Library on Smith Road, behind Summit Mall. Note the change in the time. We start at 6:30 because the library kicks us out at 8:15pm Members are invited to attend board meetings.

**Club web site:** <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

## A Message from Your President - Bob Bell

June is upon us. I have a request. If you read the Gabber and/or if you read my letter, come up to me the next time you see me and tell me you read it. If you like it tell me; if you have any criticism, tell Lee. Speaking of Lee Hart. Eleven Akron club members traveled to Youngstown Saturday to attend the Central Great Lakes Region Garden Club Summer Conference. This is the first one that I have been able to attend and it was a really great experience. Mary Ann Ferguson Rich is the current President of the Region. We heard 4 very good speakers. I think that 3 or 4 of us won a door prize. But the best news is that two of OUR members were presented awards for Journalism in Horticulture. Congratulations to Lee Hart and to Frank Mitch. Lee for the Gabber, maybe more?, and Frank on a local, regional and national level for his work and support of the internet sites.

It is finally raining although I am not sure it will be enough to get the lawn caught up. There are a lot of things to do in the yard and garden in June. Finish planting summer annuals. If you are into mulching it is time to get it down. Go through your garden and pull or cultivate out all the little weeds before they are big weeds. That is what I need to be doing right now but it is raining and I need to get this to Lee. Most of you who fertilize your lawn have probably done it once. If you didn't and we get a nice rain it is a good time to fertilize. What you didn't do in May you get to do in June.

I hope that you enjoyed the plant sale as much as I did. A great big **THANK YOU** to Walt Starcher. He did an outstanding job as our auctioneer. Thank you also to the gang that helped Walt for collecting the money and distributing the plants. And, thank **all of you** for bringing the plants, your open wallets and finally a great enthusiasm for the event. By the way we made over \$1000, the largest amount in many years.

Thank you also goes to Chet Lowry and the huge group that helped Chet with the geranium sale. During the years I have been here, four, we have always had geraniums left over and nearly given away the last few flats. Not this year. Unfortunately we sold out of many colors early, and the last ones were sold before the dinner in May. Well done all.

While I am thanking people, Thank you to the folks that are greeting us at the door as we come in. I think everyone is enjoying a warm greeting to our dinner.

On the subject of dinner. The caterer up until this month, Tony, has left to work at the Cleveland Clinic. The organization who owns the Hall have decided that they will take over the business and hire their own cook and servers. The good news is the cook has been cooking for us for the past year and most if not all of the servers are the same. We expect to have the same continuing good service.

Start to think about our Club Horticulture show in September. Tell all your friends. Tell all your neighbors. It is the weekend of September 8th and 9th. It is never too early to begin preparing your specimens for the show.

See you all at the Strawberry Fest June 18th.

## Our Guests for the May Plant Auction

It is my pleasure to report on our tremendous guest list in attendance at the May meeting.

I am using the sign-in cards as my guide. If I have missed any guest from the meeting please let me know at

330.864.0442, or

James Fee

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or [jfee@neo.rr.com](mailto:jfee@neo.rr.com)

Lora Avens (again), Ken Baldwin (again), Mary Bell (Jim Bell's spouse), Ann Britton (Art's spouse), Amelia Britton (Art's daughter), Carol Chlosta (Gene's spouse), Rosemary Eddy (Al's spouse), Ruth Fee, (Jim's spouse), Jamie Gellner, Sue Godard (Chris's spouse), Marge Karadin, (George's spouse), Edith Knowles, Cindy Michael, Amy Mitch (Frank's spouse), Charlie Ryder (Lori's spouse), Dorothy Starcher (Walt's spouse) and a special group that breaks bread with us on occasion: The Youngstown contingent that Bill Carney brought with him: Paul Ricker, John Schinker, Rodney Toth, Larry Whetson.

A special guest was Mike D'Agruma, a reporter for the West Side Leader. Did you see his article about the club in the May 31 edition of the West Side Leader?

**Jim Fee, Co-chair, membership committee, MGC of Akron**

## Habitat for Humanity 2007

A big thank you to our dedicated HFH crew for their hard work on Saturday May 5 at 1385 Curtis in Firestone Park. Many of you appeared in the terrific Beacon Journal article the next day. Thanks to reporter Mary Beth Breckenridge and photographer Ken Love for their interest in our project. Members working on Saturday enjoyed refreshments supplied as usual by president Bob Bell:

Bob Bell	Andy Bettick
Arthur Britton	Dick Edwards
Leroy Hart	Roger Hite
Chuck Keach	John Lewis
Chet Lowry	Ira McCans
Frank Mitch	Al Eddy

Also Dick Edwards and Jim Bell, with his trustee tiller, contributed greatly with several hours of preparation work on one afternoon during the preceding week. Thanks much to all. We plan to do one or two additional new homes during September or October.

Reported by Frank Mitch

## **Geranium Sale**

Thanks to Chet Lowry for being in charge of the geranium sale and thanks to all the club members who worked at unloading the truck and assisting in the sale. This year we were more successful than in other years. At 4:00 PM on Saturday there were only four flats left; these went to my house. Mary Ann had previously taken 15 to my house. Of these remaining 19 flats Walt Starcher took 10, five were sold at the Crown Point sale, I bought one, and the last three were sold at our plant sale in May. The only problem with the sale was as usual we ordered the wrong colors. We had way too much red; the white and pink went almost immediately. Next year we will try to get a more balanced mix of colors.

As treasurer I am glad to report on the financial aspects of the sale. As of right now we have received \$10758.80. (Walt Starcher and maybe others still have money to turn in, so this is probably not the final figure.) The expenses were \$8118.00 to Cedar Lanes Farms for the geraniums, \$30.00 for freight and \$18.24 to Chet Lowry to print the sale flyers, total expenses \$8166.24. So far the profit is \$2592.56. Who were the big salespersons? Walt Starcher was first, he took 41 flats to his home to sell. Andy Bettick was second; he turned in a check for \$620.00 which is 31 flats.

Leroy Hart, Treasurer

## **Plant Auction**

The plant auction at the May meeting was far and above the results of any other plant auction I can remember. The money received was about three times what we made last year. As far as I can remember the best sale we previously had netted about \$700 so this year's sale was truly spectacular. So how much did we make? The answer is \$1102.00.

The club's board wants to give a great big thank you to the auctioneer, Walt Starcher. Many thanks also to all of his helpers. The plants went usually for a good price and in some cases the bidding was spirited, but the sale was still over by 9 PM. The biggest spender gave me a check for \$197.00 (I won't reveal who it was, his or her spouse maybe doesn't know.)

Also many thanks to all who brought in plants to sell. The quantity was greater than usual and the quality was also better than usual. Also many thanks to all who made purchases. All in all it was the best plant auction ever.

Leroy Hart, Treasurer

## **Silent Auction**

Congratulations to Frank Mitch and Claire Reinke for the highest donor and purchaser at March's silent auction. The price for this item was \$20.00. The total at the April auction was \$59.00

There will be no silent auction at the strawberry fest in June but the silent auction will resume in July. Be prepared to bring in interesting items for the auction. Let's surpass \$20.00 for one item

Submitted by Grace Cochran, Head of the Silent Auction Committee

## Garden Visitation

Several of our members have invited the club to visit their home gardens this summer.

First is Andy Bettick who has invited us to visit his garden on June 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. Andy has received our club's Beautification Award twice.

To get to Andy's house in Bath Township go to Cleveland-Massillon Road. Take I 77 north to Ghent Road. Go left on Ghent Road which runs into Cleveland-Massillon Road. Go north (right) on Cleveland- Massillon until you get to Bath Road. (Fire Station on the left and Bath School on the right.) Turn left on Bath Road. About one mile turn left on Meadow Park Drive (there is a sign Meadow Park on this corner, Meadow Park is the name of the subdivision) Take the first right, Cardinal Road. Take the first left, Tanager Road, Andy's house is the first driveway on the left on Tanager (1107 Tanager).

Our President Bob Bell has invited us to his home in Brimfield Township, Portage County on July 14 and 15 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The address is 1832 Sandy Lake Road.

Our Second Vice President, Jim Bell has also invited the club on July 21 from 10 am to 4 pm The address is 48 Flowerdale Drive.

More details about the Bells in the next issue of the Gabber. If you would like to have the club visit your garden let either of the Bells or the editor know.

## Roster Corrections

Page 11 Eugene Chlosta's phone 330-864-0850.

If you find other errors let the president or the editor know.

## National Convention

Have you considered coming to the 2007 National Convention of TGOA-MGCA during July 12, 13 and 14, 2007 in Rockford, Illinois? Here's a top ten list for attending this convention.

10. View outstanding photos during the national photography awards presentation.
9. Connect with long-term gardening friends and make new ones.
8. Travel along the scenic Rock River between Rockford and Dixon, Illinois, and see the Black Hawk statue and where John Deere made his historic plow in Grand Detour, Illinois.
7. Participate in garden and history tours in Dixon, Illinois (<http://www.dixonil.com/>)
6. Great breakout sessions on various topics including a session by Rosarians Jean and Mary Ewaldz.
5. Lunch on the Calvin Park Boulevard and introduction to a unique style of community project.
4. See Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden with the most diverse collection of woody trees and shrubs in the United States. (<http://www.klehm.org>)
3. Tour La Paloma Gardens, a barrier free environment, showcasing a formal vegetable garden, Swan Pond, Italian Garden, a long stair case, and enormous hanging baskets. (<http://www.lapalomagardens.com/>)
2. Visit the top Japanese garden in the country – Anderson Japanese Gardens. (<http://www.andersongardens.org/>)
1. Hear Roy Klehm speak at the banquet. He is part of a multigenerational horticulture family, owner of Song Sparrow and Beaver Creek Nursery, and noted peony hybridizer whose Pink Hawaiian Coral peony received the American Peony Society gold medal award for outstanding performance. ([http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl\\_plants\\_perennials/article/0,1785,HGTV\\_3610\\_1870818,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_plants_perennials/article/0,1785,HGTV_3610_1870818,00.html))

In addition, you have access to great accommodations at the Clock Tower. You can travel to Rockford via O'Hare Airport in Chicago and transfer to a convenient bus to Rockford or fly direct to the Rockford-Chicago International Airport. If you are traveling by car, Rockford is at the crossroads of interstate highways 90 and 39. Registration for the convention is \$185 dollars.

Hope to see you at the convention!

Sylvia Emerson Member of the steering committee for the 2007 National Convention President of Rockford Area Gardeners, which is just one of the clubs making up the Illinois/Wisconsin region hosting the convention.