



# 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 Gardeners

Published Monthly: Volume LXXI

June 2012

Number 6

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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, 2012  
5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Goodyear Metro Park  
Memorial Pavilion  
2077 Newton Street  
Akron, Ohio

**Program:** Picnic and Strawberry Festival

Sue Godard has planned and arranged for the club's annual picnic and strawberry festival. She says you should bring a well filled casserole (salad, side dish etc.) and your place setting. The club will provide chicken, coffee, punch, and, of course, Sam's delicious shortcake, Clark's wonderful ice cream, and strawberries.

Any questions call Sue Godard at 330-699-0509.

Board Meeting: June 25 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://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

## **President's Message - Sam Morlen**

Welcome to another glorious month full of beauty and pleasant weather. We have had, I think, one of the most pleasant springs that I can remember. If we get adequate rain, it should be a great year for our gardens and the Horticulture Show.

June is likely named after the goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter, whose Greek counterpart was Hera, wife of Zeus and the patron of women and marriage. It is thought to bring good luck and harmony to a marriage and household if you were married in June. Ovid claims it may have been named after the juniors in the lower house of the Roman Senate.

I want to thank Clark Bodner; Al Eddy, and Jim Bell and all of the volunteers that made the geranium sale a success. Thanks everyone.

I am also going to be in touch with Habitat for Humanity to set up a program to mentor new homeowners on how to care for their property after we have left. It may be one-on-one or as a group, I don't know for sure yet, but let me or Chris Godard know if you are interested.

I also want to thank Walt Starcher and all of his helpers for doing the plant auction. It also was a success. So far this year we are doing very well.

We have also passed out many seed packets for the sunflower and pumpkin contest so maybe we will have some entries this year to compete at the National level.

I am putting together a speakers list now. If you have any suggestions or topics let me know. I would also like to thank Dave Lockledge for his service to the club and wish him the best of luck at his new home.

Any one who has a little time on your hands please consider the first Vice President's opening.

I understand that Charles Keach and club volunteers had a successful day at Crown Point. Thanks everyone.

One last tip for any plant that you want to bloom a lot use a tablespoon of triple phosphate mixed in the soil. I use it on my dahlias.

See you all at the Strawberry Fest. Sam

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Because of Habitat construction work delays our landscaping plans need to be changed. Instead of June 8 and 9 the date is Tuesday, June 12, from 9:00 AM to 4 PM. The work will be done by Habitat workers and volunteers and volunteers from GOGA. Lunch will be provided by Habitat. You are asked to bring your landscaping tools and stay as long as you wish, all day if possible. The address is on Ardella Street which is off of McKinley, which is off of Arlington Road.

Any questions call Chris at 330-699-0509 or e mail at [cmgodard@hotmail.com](mailto:cmgodard@hotmail.com)

Submitted by Chris Godard, Habitat Committee, Chairman

## **Geranium Sale**

Because I finally received a bill from Racin Products and Plants and I believe all the money has been deposited I can give you a final report on the geranium sale. We collected \$7861.00 and the cost of the flowers was \$5639.70 which gives us a profit of \$2221.30. This compares with last year's sales of \$6624.60 and cost of \$3778.09 with a profit of \$2846.51. This amount of profit accomplished our purpose for having the geranium sale: to pay for the scholarships to ATI. The \$2000.00 had already been paid to the OSU Foundation. We also had \$200.00 to cover the donation that the board made to Copley's Arrowhead Primary School's summer gardening program.

This year Clark and the board almost perfectly estimated the market. There were only four flats of geraniums and four and one half flats of the vegetables, herbs, and annuals returned. Last year many more were returned. We had 300 flats of geraniums, 72 of the smaller flats and 39 hanging baskets, all of which were sold. This year the youth of Faith Lutheran Church had a hot dog sale at noon on Saturday. This provided us with lunch and also attracted potential customers. Thanks to Faith Lutheran for allowing us to hold our sale on their front lawn and the use of their tables to display the plants. It is a perfect location with much traffic going by.

Many thanks to Clark Bordner for being the chair of the geranium project and to Jim Bell and Al Eddy, his capable assistants. Thanks also to Clark for making the racks to display the hanging baskets. The committee also thanks Les Knight for the advertising he arranged and thanks to Arthur Britton for being the overnight guard of the plants. And especially the committee wants to thank all the club members who participated in the sale.

Jim Bell reports that a green vest jacket was left at the geranium sale. To claim this vest call Jim at 330-644-6867.

While we're on the subject of plant sales the plant sale at the May meeting was a big success, as usual. We made \$885.00; this compares to last year when we made \$977.00.

Submitted by Leroy Hart, Treasurer

## **Crown Point Cleanup**

On Saturday, June 2 from 8:30 to 11.00 AM a crew from GOGA worked on flower beds at Crown Point. Sister Maryellen had two yards of really fine quality mulch waiting which the group spread after they had cleaned the beds.

A wonderful and rewarding time was had by all (especially with the fine array of refreshments that was provided).

Many thanks to the following club members for their help without which we could not have completed the bed renovation: Andy Bettick, Barb Croghan, Grace Cochran, Al Eddy, Gene Fitch, and Janice Kelly. I would like to personally thank you all again for your hard work and continued support of this gardening project.

Submitted by Charles Keach, Chairman of the Crown Point Committee

## Walt's Gardening Tips for June

1. Check for bagworms and control as needed.
2. Dig up spring flowering bulbs and transplant them when beds become over crowded.
3. Remove spent blossoms from annual and perennial flowers every few days if possible. This prevents formation of seeds and allows the plant's energy to be used for growth and future flowering.
4. Remove weeds before they go to seed and you can put them on your compost pile.
5. Check moisture in hanging baskets and outdoor house plants every day all summer. If temperatures are extremely hot, plants may require watering in early morning and evening.
6. Be sure to fertilize hanging baskets, planters, and containers on a regular schedule during summer months to maintain vigorous, healthy plants.
7. Blossom-end rot appears on the bottom of a tomato as a large black or brown sunken area. It is caused by fluctuating water supply that results in a lack of calcium supplied to the plant. Deep root water every 7 to 10 days. Apply organic mulch.
8. It is best to harvest in the morning for maximum flavor. This includes vegetables and herbs. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day.
9. After your vegetables are well established, it is best to water them thoroughly once a week rather than giving them a light watering daily.
10. Plant tropical water lilies after the water temperature rises above 70°.
11. Lift tulip bulbs once the greenery has died back. Clean and dry them, and store them in a cool place until fall. If you choose to leave them in the ground, don't forget to fertilize them.
- 12.

### 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.

### Emerald Ash Borer

In the April 2012 issue of the newsletter from OARDC there is an article about the scientists at OARDC doing research to develop ash trees, or genes in ash trees, that resist the emerald ash borer. They have made discoveries that help elucidate the resistance mechanisms at work in trees that are not susceptible to the borer. They have identified genes that could confer that resistance. They have also made progress in overcoming barriers to hybridizing Asian and North American ash tree species. These scientists have studied so-called lingering ash trees. These are trees that have survived when all the others around them died. Read the full story at [go.osu.edu/G65](http://go.osu.edu/G65)

## A Conversation between God and Saint Francis

Thought you gardeners would enjoy this conversation between God and St. Francis. It's pretty funny because it's so true.

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites! They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week..

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!?! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves..

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about...

GOD: Never mind. I think I just heard the story from St. Francis.