



The Garden Gabber



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

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President:

John Lewis
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Monday, June 16

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, June 16, 2008

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

2nd Vice President:

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

Where:

Goodyear Metro Park Memorial Pavilion
2077 Newton St., Akron OH

Secretary:

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

Program: Strawberry Festival 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 be fancy. The club will provide the charcoal for the grill and the drink.

Treasurer:

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

National Director:

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

Board meeting Monday, June 23, 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street. Park behind the church and come in the back door of the church. .

Gabber Editor/Historian:

Leroy Hart
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A Message from Your President - John Lewis

I'm getting antsy. I've been impatiently waiting all spring for an end to those tasteless juiceless California strawberries. Now, here at last, are those delicious home grown strawberries with which Marti is going to smother her delicious biscuits and add a dollop of whipped cream. Better yet, Clark Bordner is providing his ice cream as the creme de la creme. I'm salivating. I'm referring, of course, to our Strawberry Festival and Picnic this month. Don't miss this one. Bring your grilling meats and a home made creation to share with those unfortunates (like me) that have no cooking expertise.

Upon reading the Beacon Journal Memorial Day edition about the B-17 ball turret gunner that lost his life on his 23rd mission I was reminded of our own Charley White. Charley piloted a B-17 over Germany in WW II. A few months before the end of hostilities he was shot down by a German jet fighter. He managed to safely crash land the plane where he and his crew were captured and held in a POW camp. A few days before the war ended they were liberated by men of Gen. Patton's 3rd Army. So please no disparaging remarks about old blood and guts in Charley's presence. Charley still loves the B-17 bomber.

Charley, without much fanfare, has faithfully helped provide us with the Garden Gabber. He has been doing this for twenty years or so. In the past Charley would pick up the Gabbers from the printer, add the address labels, sort them all into the different zip codes and take them to the post office. At the time there were over 200 Gabbers to be mailed and it seems that the post office changed the rules for mailing every month. His dealings with the post office under such circumstances should ensure him sainthood. Also Charley had to get after the treasurer (John Lewis at the time) and remind him to get down to the post office and replenish the funds in the club's mailing permit account. This was a very significant job Charley performed every month. In addition it was Charley's job to keep the membership list up to date, making additions and deletions and making corrections. In the old days he did this with a typewriter, making address labels on a typewriter is a big job. Fortunately, he does it today on a computer. Fortunately for Charley, the process is much simpler today. Today he still picks up the Gabber at the printers and puts on the address labels, which means he has to keep the mailing list up to date. After putting on the labels he takes the Gabbers to the editor who stamps them and takes them to the post office. (Editor's note - Since Frank Mitch sends the Gabber out over the internet we have to mail only 35. So now we use first class postage and don't have to worry about the various post office mailing rules. Also since the club is mailing the Gabbers first class we don't need a mailing permit, the cost of which goes up each year)..

Charley is in Rockynol Retirement Center now. Before going to Rockynol he gave me several tomato cages which I use. So for much of the year I'm reminded of him on a daily basis. I like Charley; he is a hell of a man.

One final word. The geranium sale was pretty much of a flop. The facilities were great except for being hidden and it seems no one was able to find the place. We had over 100 flats left Saturday evening which ended up in Lee Hart's back yard. Probably about 30 flats were taken at the plant auction and with some hard work (selling) by some of our dedicated members they are now all sold. Lee and Jim Fee will probably let us know who the folks were that sold most of them. I will mention one in particular, Walt Starcher. In addition to his outstanding job as auctioneer at the plant auction he sold left over flats of geraniums all week like hot cakes. Thanks, Walt, the club owes you.

See you all at the Strawberry Festival. Be careful not to be trampled by me heading for the strawberry shortcake.

A Message from the Treasurer - Leroy Hart

The club's two biggest fund raisers are over and there is good news and bad news.

The bad news first. The geranium sale wasn't quite the flop that John Lewis called it but it wasn't an outstanding success either. In fact, this year's sale didn't come close to last year's. At the close of business on Saturday last year I had 19 flats in my back yard. Of these only three were left by the time of the plant sale and they went immediately at the sale. Of the 19 Walt Starcher took 10. This year Chet Lowry took 25 leftovers to his house and I had more than 100 in the yard. Again Walt Starcher came to our rescue picking up at least two loads; and he also took a load after the plant sale. But even after the plant auction there were still quite a few left in the yard. Cindy Michael took most of these for sale at her work and Walt picked up the last of them. We sold some of these leftovers for \$20.00 a flat, but most of those that were in my yard we ended up selling for cost, \$16.00 a flat. Cindy didn't think that was enough so she charged \$18.00 a flat. Many thanks to Chet Lowry for his work as chairman of the geranium sale. He was there all day Friday and Saturday and got a nice sunburn as a result. Sam Morlan and somebody whose name Chet can't remember stayed all night Friday so Chet could get some sleep.

Last year the geranium sale made a profit of \$ 2582.56. This year the profit is \$1325.32. and there is still some money to be received and banked later. Still the result of the geranium sale this year was way short of last year's. What was the reason? There were very few advance ticket sales. I know of only one member who sold tickets, Andy Bettick, and some of his customers were very displeased when they came to pick up their geraniums when they discovered that the colors they wanted were already gone. This is an ongoing problem; we seem to always order too much of some colors and not enough of others. Another reason, as John pointed out, was the location. We were behind the church and not visible from the street. The street was also a problem. Because of the construction on West Market, right at White Pond Drive, the traffic was backed up and I'll bet some were avoiding West Market. The board needs to make some big decisions regarding a future geranium sale. The first decision to be made is - do we have another geranium sale or do we try to cut down on expenditures. The profit from the geranium sale has traditionally gone to fund the scholarships we give. This year we are already committed to two \$1000.00 scholarships payable in August.

Enough of the bad news, time for the good news. The plant auction at the May meeting was an outstanding success. We thought that last year's plant auction was a success when we took in \$1102.00. We thought that the previous high was about \$700.00. This year we did even better; we took in \$1387.50, and there is still some money outstanding. Many thanks to Walt Starcher and his crew of helpers. Walt kept the action moving right along but he had spirited bidding on almost every item up for sale. There were very few items that did not sell. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Jim Fee wants to have a record of the best sales persons so he can take that into consideration in the awarding of service awards later in the year. As far as I can tell Jim Bell, Bob Bell, Leroy Hart, Roger Hite, John Lewis, and Sam Morlan sold 10 plus; Andy Bettick, Chet Lowry, Bill Moorehouse and Oz Simons had 20 plus; Cindy Michael had 30 plus; Walt Starcher was the top salesman with 40 plus. I may not have a record of all who sold 10 or more and I may not have the numbers right. If I have made an error let me know so we have an accurate record.

Many thanks to all who worked on and participated in these fund raisers.

Habitat Landscaping in 2008

May was a very busy month. Three new Habitat homes were landscaped and the front lawn of a previous home was repaired. Thanks to all members who helped on these homes:

577 McKinley Avenue
 1374 Curtis Street
 (repaired grass over sunken utility lines)
 268 Lods Street 450 Fuller Street

Thanks to all who helped on these projects, whether one or all:

Bob Bell	Jim Bell	Andy Bettick
Clark Bordner	Arthur Britton	Darrell Dube
Al Eddy	Jack Cochran	Richard Edwards
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich		Gene Fitch
Lee Hart	Roger Hite	John Lewis
Chuck Keach	Leslie Knight	Chester Lowry
Dave Martine	Ira McCan	Frank Mitch
Wendell Rupaner	Lowell Zurbuch	

Additional thanks to members who brought their own special plants for the landscaping. Les Knight and Richard Edwards brought flowering perennials to the Fuller Street home. Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich brought some heirloom tomato plants and stakes to that home. We thought the tomato variety "Mortgage Lifter" was especially appropriate.

This year we have had more than usual participation by members of partner families who need to earn "sweat equity" hours in order to have a Habitat Home. Kim and Warren Meredith helped with the McKinley Avenue home. Deborah and Bob Tzolankis worked with us at the Lods Street home. Young 3rd grader Lance Thompson assisted at his Fuller Street home. He had a lot of interest in the landscaping and promised additional help after school when we scheduled completion on a Monday afternoon.

We planned to landscape four homes this year. So far three have been completed. The fourth one will probably be done in October. Larry Reid indicated that it ay be the one under construction one Cole Ave.

Reported by Frank Mitch

New Member

Bobbie Doria 1735 Brookwood, Akron, OH, 44313, phone:330-864-6835, email: bdoria@neo.rr.com

Bobbie is single and self employed. Her gardening interests are annuals, flowers, and perennials. She was recommended by Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich.

Roster Corrections

You need to make the following changes in your membership roster:

Sam Morlan's phone number is 330-336-6269

Jeff Andrew's phone number is 330-666-1889

Gene Fitch's email is now efitch@neo.rr.com

If you find any more mistakes in the roster please contact Leroy Hart at 330-836-1407

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 Dr. Akron, OH.

Gardening Seminar

Dayton Nurseries is sponsoring a seminar: "Environmentally Friendly Pest Management" with Denise Ellsworth of the Summit County Extension on June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Nursery 3459 Cleveland-Massillon Rd. in Norton. This talk will focus on organic controls in the garden.

Walt's Gardening Tips for July

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

Water early in the morning, slow and deep. Water the soil not the leaves. If July is hot and dry make sure your plants get about two inches of water each week. Put a coffee can near your target and see how long it takes the sprinkler to fill it with two inches. Next time set your timer

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

Regional Spring Meeting

The new version of The Johnny Applesed Broadcaster, the newsletter of the Central Great Lakes Region is only being mailed to club presidents and newsletter editors. These two are asked to share with the rest of the club members any pertinent information found in the JAB. The purpose of the JAB is to keep members of the various clubs in the region informed about what is going on in the region

At the spring meeting in April, held in the gate house of Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield, there were 29 members from seven clubs in Indiana and Ohio present. One of our national directors, Hugh Earnhart, of the Youngstown club, had to resign that office because he has become the National Third Vice President. He is being replaced by John Kessen of the Fort Wayne, Indiana club. A committee was appointed to study a new regional award to be named after Bill Moorehouse who was a national director for many years.

Central Great Lakes Region Summer Conference

The Summer Conference will be held on Saturday, July 26th at the Agricultural Technical Institute of The Ohio State University, 1328 Dover Road, Wooster, Ohio. Registration and a continental breakfast will be from 8:00 am to 9:00 at Skou Hall, Room 30. Featured speaker will be Dr. Ken Cochran, Director of Secrest Arboretum. Dr. Cochran will explore the history and the future direction of the arboretum. After a lunch break he will conduct a personal tour of Secrest Arboretum at 1680 Madison Avenue in Wooster. After the tour we will proceed to Quail Crest Farm, 2810 Armstrong Road, Wooster where we will be given a tour of the farm and have time to shop at the garden center, . At 5:45 pm our banquet will take place back at the ATI in Skou Hall where awards will be presented.

Those wishing to stay overnight, usually on Friday should contact Jamie Harty, Assistant Housing Coordinator at 330-287-7504. The housing cost varies depending on the number of bedrooms and occupants. A typical two bedroom with two occupants is \$35.00 per person plus a \$5.00 per person charge for linens. When making reservations be sure to mention the Central Great Lakes Region Conference.

Registration Form

Deadline July 18, 2008

Number of participants _____ X \$39.00 = _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City and State _____

Phone _____

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.

Akron Men's Garden Club
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