

THE GARDEN

GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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The Men's Garden Clubs of America, Central Great Lakes Gardeners



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Monday, May 16, 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, May 16, 2016
5:30 PM - Social Hour
6:30 PM - Dinner

Where: St George's Fellowship Hall
St George's Antiochian Church
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, OH

Program: Fish Fry and Plant Auction
Auctioneer Extraordinaire – Walt Starcher

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

When: Monday, May 23, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Faith Lutheran Church
2726 W. Market Street
Akron, OH

Greeters: Clark and Cheryl Bordner

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

May 6, 2016

Greetings from the Weed factory. Everything is turning green - and none too soon. As I take an inventory of the winter's toll I find that most of my stuff made it thru winter okay. I lost a few things but most of the winter kill was actually Pat kill from pulling up returning perennials as they started to green up thinking they were weeds. I guess a couple of disappointments are the owl house I put up hoping to attract an owl which has only managed to attract a squirrel (whose name I think is Al) and ten bottle brush buckeye trees that I started as seed late last fall. I planted a seed in a 1 gallon pot containing soil mix and then buried the pot in a raised planter up to the rim, thinking the seeds would experience the cold and wet and sprout this spring. Nary a shoot. So what did I do wrong? If you know send me an e-mail.

The Geranium sale started today with fantastic weather which I am hoping will produce fantastic sales. I hope everyone has the opportunity to stop by (buy) even if only to say hello. I would like to thank Clark Bordner, Jim Bell, and all the other folks that work so hard to have a successful sale. I believe that introduction perennials at the sale will prove to be very successful.

Some other topics of interest:

- I would like to thank Amie D'Arienzo for stepping forward and volunteering to head up the Crown Point Committee being vacated by Chuck Keach. Good luck Amie! And Thank You Chuck!
- Thru the efforts of Ken Bell, we are looking to expand the seed exchange to maybe March, May and July (for cool season crops) and maybe a reminder in the fall to collect seeds. Perhaps as part of a ten minute talk night we can get Andy Bettick give a talk on the proper method for collecting and preserving seed so that it is viable in the spring
- We are considering on having a fall fund raiser by selling bulbs to the membership. Lee Hart is looking into price and availability
- There looks to be a habitat project on May 14th. If interested in volunteering contact Chris Goddard.

I hope that you will plan to attend our club meeting on the 16th. Our speaker this month is our Fabulous Plant Auction and Fish Fry Please plan to attend – and bring a friend.



The Barberton Pruning Company has arrived



This is my owl house that now is Al's house

Pat

Upcoming Events

May 14 – Habitat for Humanity – see Chris Godard for details

June 20 – Strawberry Festival at Coventry Oaks pavilion – see Sue Godard to if you wish to help

June 25 – CGLG summer regional conference at Kingwood Center, Mansfield – see Les Knight or Clark Bordner for details

An Open Letter of Appreciation

Our club, the Gardeners of Greater Akron (GOGA) is an active partner with the teachers, administrators and students of Crouse Elementary School (Akron, Ohio) in the Crouse Community/School Teaching Gardens (located near the school's back parking lot). Working as mentors to the students, GOGA helps maintain the raised beds, prepare the soil, plant seeds and seedlings, put the "beds to bed" in the fall and more. Inside the classrooms, GOGA members of the Youth Gardening team assist teachers in delivering lessons designed to integrate students' garden experiences with curricular subjects.

This "letter is the GOGA Youth Gardening Team's way of recognizing all the partners who help Crouse's young gardeners learn the wonders and benefits of preparing, planting and harvesting vegetables and enjoying the delights of bright and fragrant flowers. Just as it takes a "village" to raise a child, so too does it take partners, as individuals and groups to build and sustain a youth gardening program. The following paragraphs list the ways GOGA and local and national agencies and businesses partner with Crouse School.

GOGA: The club donates financially through its yearly budget. Individuals, in addition to their and sweat in the gardens and classrooms, donate out-of-pocket money, seed and plants, student recognition awards, tools and wheelbarrows, bed framing materials, soil and compost

An Open Letter of Appreciation (cont'd)

Agencies and Businesses: The American Heart Association (start up raised beds and materials). Garden nurseries and big box stores(soil, compost, composters and seeds/seedlings). Non profit organizations include Hattie Larlham, a non-profit that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities (mulch). Creative partnerships such as Plan4Health which help build sustainable, cross section coalitions (tall garden beds for disabled students). The Master Gardeners provide grants for training programs for individuals interested in the science and art of gardening. Grants are also provided by historical building and grounds organizations such as Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. Community leaders such as Akron's LeBron James and the Bike Kitchen of Akron provide such items as cardboard from delivered bikes to be used between garden beds to cover grass and to provide footpaths. And others!!

Sometimes partners give anonymously. To those folks, as well as those named above, GOGA sends a shout out to all of its fellow partners. On behalf of all of the Crouse kids who are learning about gardening; THANK YOU!! For questions and/or comments, contact GOGA member and Youth Gardening committee chairman, Steve Thompson, who facilitates the work of the GOGA Youth Gardening Team.

Geranium Sale – 2016

What a sale! With ideal weather for the majority of the sale and the beauty of the plants, this sale ranks as one of the best in recent history. We got off to a great start with the setup crew offloading and arranging the plants in record time. The two suppliers must have been in contact with one another because as we were unloading the last flat of geraniums from Paul's, the truck from North Coast Perennials arrived. The sale to club members of both geraniums and perennials went extremely well and was finished well before the sale to the public commenced. Friday sales were brisk and at the end of the day, over 60% of the plants were sold. Chuck Keach and I kept each other company throughout the night as we guarded our plants. The next day, we prepared for the prospect of early afternoon thunderstorms. The sale went so well that with threatening weather, we started our tear down at 3:00 PM. At that time, we had less than 8 flats of geraniums, three hanging baskets and one perennial! We loaded the plants in Pat's truck and proceeded to Paul's where we got full credit for our returns. I am very pleased with all aspects of the sale.

We had 31 volunteers from the club during the course of our sale!! Each and every one of them contributed a great deal to the success that we had. Before I acknowledge certain club members for their contributions, I would like to publically thank Paul's Nursery for continuing our partnership and providing spectacular plants this year. I would also like to thank Melanie, general manager at North Coast Perennials and her staff for their efforts in helping to make our sale a success. The pricing for the perennials was hard to beat. I would also like to thank the pastor and staff at Faith Lutheran Church for providing a beautiful venue for the sale. Finally, I would like to thank each and every volunteer who made things go so smoothly. I feel that some club members earned special mention so here they are:

Jim Bell – My right hand man. Coordinated the sale of perennials and made sure that the club member orders were filled. Instrumental in the planning stages of the sale

Barbara Croghan – Several sales shifts and tear down

Bob Bell and Leroy Hart – Cashiers

Cheryl Bordner – Initial coordination meeting at North Coast, set up, water and donuts, sales

Chuck Keach – Set up, sales and overnight guard

Jon Kiss (Clark and Cheryl's son) – set up and tear down – heavy lifting

Ken Bell – Instituted tear down as you go which saved much time at the end of the sale

Les Knight - Publicity

Pat Pickard – Sales, tear down, transport of plants to Paul's Nursery

Rick Hertle – Set up and tear down, sales

We estimate that the club made over \$1,600.00 at this sale. As we think about next year, we plan to have catalogs from North Coast available for planning early next year. We may also reintroduce certain annuals if we have requests for them. Please let us know if you have suggestions.

Clark – Geranium Sale Chairman