



# **THE GARDEN GABBER**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON**

**Affiliated with the Gardeners of America Inc., The Men's Garden Club of  
America and the Central Great Lake Gardeners**

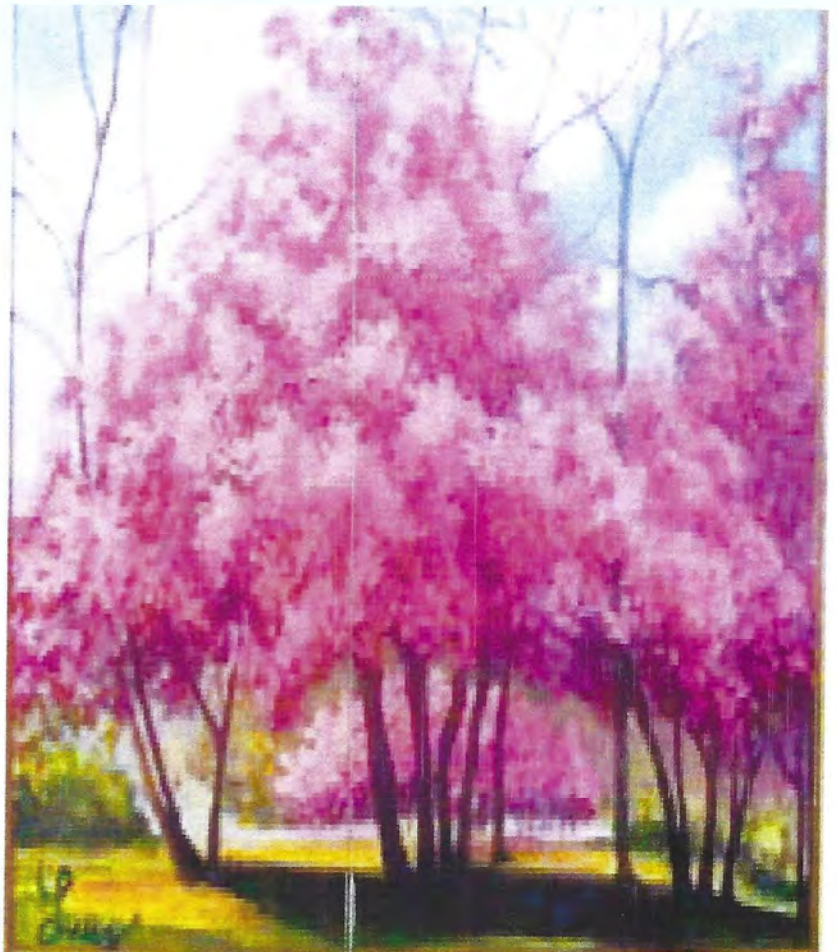
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## May Meetings

### Monthly Club Meeting

Our monthly meetings are on the third Monday of each month. Make plans to attend. It's a great time to socialize, enjoy good food and learn about gardening, our environment and our community involvement.

When: Monday, May 15

5:30 PM – Social Hour

6:30 PM – Dinner

Where: St Georges Fellowship Hall

St Georges Antiochian Church  
3204 Ridgewood Road  
Copley, Ohio 44321

Program: Plant Auction  
Auctioneer – Walt Starcher

### Monthly Board Meeting

Our monthly board meeting is the fourth Monday of the month. All members are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to learn about the operations of our club and to become a more active participant in club activities.

## Monthly Board Meeting (cont'd)

When: Monday, May 22 @ 7:00 PM

Where: Faith Lutheran Church  
2726 West Market St  
Akron, Ohio 44313

### Greeter for May Club Meeting

Allyson Fenner

Greeters should arrive at 5:30 PM to assume their position at the front door. We still have several greeter positions open for this year. Please see Steve Hoot if interested.

### Web Site

All members are encouraged to visit our club website –

<http://gogakron.org>

## President's Message

My May flowers look a little unhappy today. I think they have had too much rain and cold temperatures in the last 48 hours. We should all wish the local garden centers the best as their business must suffer with this weather.

May 12 and 13 is our annual Geranium sale at the Faith Lutheran Church on West Market Street so don't forget to sign up and come work with other members. Also, the May Dinner Meeting is our Fish Fry and Plant Auction. Everyone that can, needs to bring their extra plants to be auctioned and some extra money to purchase something you don't have in your garden. Also, guests are always welcome at our plant auction. I wish someone would explain to the club why we gardeners have a fish fry in May!

A new contest will be announced at the May Meeting. Everyone will be able to win and more details will be made available at the meeting. Again, we should all congratulate Clark on the effort he has put into the Gabber.

I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting and bring a guest with you if you can.

- Steve

## Club News

### Geranium Sale



*Geranium Sale – 2016*

It is hard to believe but our geranium sale is less than one week away. The sale is in conjunction with Mother's Day weekend and runs from Friday May 12 to Saturday May 13 at Faith Lutheran Church on West Market Street in Akron. This sale is the primary means for us to fund two \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students attending ATI in Wooster. I know that the college and the recipients are very thankful for our continued support as we saw as we met the recipients at our last meeting

The geranium sale historically has had a great deal of support from club members. I truly appreciate all of the club members that signed up!

For those of you who are purchasing plants from the sale. We all know that the appeal to the public is to see plants with color. We also know that these plants will all be beautiful given time. If you could select flats that might not have color and

## Club News (cont'd)

### Geranium Sale (cont'd)

leave those that do for the public, we might be better off in the long run.

If you have any preferences for annuals, please let me know before Wednesday, May 10. That is the date that Jim Bell and I will be selecting the annuals and hanging baskets to include in the sale. So far, begonias, impatiens and petunias have been requested.

I hope that the weather cooperates next week end and that our sale is an overwhelming success.

- Clark

### Plant Auction and Fish Fry

As Steve noted in his President's message, the annual Plant Auction takes place during our May meeting. This is a chance to share some of the successes that you have had in your gardens as well as to pick up some beautiful additions for your gardens. Walt does a masterful job in MCing this event and it is a lot of fun. Plan to attend, bring your plants and a friend as well and lots of money!

-Editor

## Club News (cont'd)



### Club Photographer

The club is looking for a club photographer to record our many activities with pictures. If you are interested in this position, please see any of the officers.

- Editor

### Condolences

During the month of March, the GOGA lost two of its members. In their honor, we sent a memorial to TGOA/MGCA for Rev. G. Duane Culler and Charles A. White Jr.

- Bob Bell

### Planting Dates for Crouse Gardens

We've confirmed with Julia that the following work as planting dates for the Crouse kid's schedule.

5/12/17 – 12 – 2 PM

5/25/17 – 12 – 2 PM

I will bring plants and seeds on each date and we'll plant as many beds as we can.

## Club News (cont'd)

### Planting Dates for Crouse Gardens (cont'd)

You are welcome to bring any seeds or plants that you think the kids will find interesting. We won't know how many kids will be able to make it out each day, so it's good to have a solid number of volunteers. If you can make either date, please reply so we can tell if either date might need more volunteers. Items that are helpful to bring would include a shovel, hoe and/or watering can.

I hope plenty of you can make it. Julia works hard to give these kids an opportunity to get their hands dirty and it's very satisfying to help with that.

- Ken Bell

### Habitat for Humanity

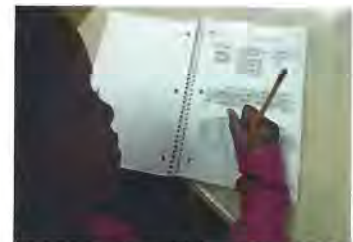
Habitat change! As many of you presumed in our last meeting, May 20<sup>th</sup> was to be our next habitat. According to our contact, the property will not be ready for prime time until early June. I am thinking that first weekend or next. Same procedures are in order. Keep your ears to the cell phones. I will call you up that week before Saturday. I am hoping for less events come early June.

## Club News (cont'd)

### Habitat for Humanity (cont'd)

The address will be at 333 N. Firestone Blvd in Akron. Good ole Firestone Park area. Bring your tools and gloves. We will probably need some donated plant materials. For any of you who can or cannot make it, some donated plants from your yards would be much appreciated.

### Crouse School Youth Gardening



*Student making entry in gardening journal*

Julia Spangler, teacher at Crouse Elementary School and director of the Crouse School/Community raised gardens explains the attached pictures: *The children were creating a comparison chart between the experiment given in the Veggie U curriculum about mung beans and sprouting and corn kernels that they had asked "What if" on their own. After they made the comparison chart, they used their data to write a multi paragraph essay to report their findings.*

## Crouse School Youth Gardening (cont'd)

In the words of their website, "Veggie U is dedicated to increasing children's awareness of healthy food options and teaching them how real food reaches their plate. We believe children who are exposed to growing their own food are more likely to include vegetables in their diet. Our national non-profit organization supplies Classroom Gardens and a standard based, five week science program to elementary and special needs students".



*An example of a garden journal*

## GOGA supports the Crouse School program in several ways:

In May, GOGA volunteers assist the students in planting vegetable seeds and plant starts in the Crouse raised bed gardens. For most of the kids, planting will be a first time experience. And for many, "how real food reaches their plate" is a first time

## Crouse School Youth Gardening (cont'd)

### GOGA supports the Crouse School program in several ways: (cont'd)

discovery. As GOGA members assist with the planting, we talk with the kids, asking about the connection between the seeds they are putting in the ground and the veggies they eat at home (the most likely answer to the question "Where do the carrots you eat at home come from?" is "from the store"). The seeds, the plant starts, the soil, the soil amendments, as well as the upkeep of the garden boxes are all provided by GOGA.

During the summer, GOGA members with the help of some neighborhood folks, tend to the gardens, weeding and watering. This is the *community* part of the Crouse School/*Community* garden program. It's our hope that children in the Crouse neighborhood with their families will help themselves to the produce in the gardens and thus see the connection between planting/maintaining healthy foods

In the fall when school is back in session, teacher Julia and other teachers bring students to the gardens to

## Crouse School Youth Gardening (cont'd)

### GOGA supports the Crouse School program in several ways: (cont'd)

harvest tomatoes, etc. Here again are possibilities for students to connect what they have learned in the classroom via the Veggie U curriculum with rewarding first hand experiences. Once the growing season is over, GOGA members help students clean up the beds; carting dead and dying vegetation to the GOGA purchased composters.

The spiral garden notebooks seen in the pictures were donated by GOGA members and are inscribed as gifts to Crouse junior gardeners from their adult friends in the Gardeners of Greater Akron club. Here again is the best kind of learning: observing/discussing/writing about plant growth in the classroom with actual soil preparation and planting in the Crouse gardens.

If you are an advocate for gardening and for kids, we invite you to volunteer with the GOGA Youth Gardening Team. Be active with us in promoting kid's gardening. For more information, talk to Steve Thompson or any member of the Team