



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America Inc.,
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Monday, May 21

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, May 21, 2012
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George's Fellowship Center
St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley OH

Program: Fish Fry and Plant Auction

The annual fish fry and plant auction is the second largest money making activity that our club has. For this auction members are asked to bring plants and other gardening items that can be sold to fellow club members. So when you clean out your flower beds and divide your perennials bring some to the auction. Also, bring your wallets; you will want to buy some of the plants that others have brought in.

The auctioneer again will be Walt Starcher.

This is a good meeting to bring guests (with their check books).

Because Memorial Day will be on May 28 the May board meeting was held on May 14.

Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

President's Message - Sam Morlan

Welcome to the glorious month of May. In my opinion, May is probably the most uplifting and inspiring month of all. We have almost perfect weather temperature wise and few insects and every thing is in full bloom (except it came a little early this year) along with many celebrations during the month :May Day, Mothers Day, Cinco de Mayo and many more. The dancing around a Maypole was in pagan times a celebration of Spring until The Church made it a tribute to The Virgin Mary and also dedicated the month to her.

It was named originally in Greece to honor the goddess Maia the goddess of spring and fertility. Ovid a Roman poet claims it was named for “majories” the elders of their society and June For “juniors” the youth.

We have two major events to attend to this month as a garden club. One, of course, is the geranium sale (May11&12). This is our major fund raiser so try to talk as many of your friends and relatives into buying their plants from us. If you know of a business that plants up their property let them also know about us. The money raised is for our Scholarship Fund which I think is one of our major donations.

We also have the plant sale coming up at our next meeting. Now is the best time to divide perennials. If your planting has been in the ground for 3-4 years or has lagged behind in flower production or become overgrown or developed a hole in the middle of the clump it is time to divide. Another indicator is that if you have a planting that has had a great bloom season in the last year or so it has probably peaked and would benefit from dividing.

On a personal note I have many day lilies and iris to divide this year. If you want I will wait until the day lilies bloom and let you pick your colors later and at \$5.00 a clump we will donate the money to the club as part of the plant sale.

We still need someone to come forward and take the First Vice Presidents job. This year would be easy, it will give you a chance at learning some of the ropes.

The rose garden tour is coming sooner than we think. Let me know if you want to make reservations at The Welshfield Inn at 11:AM June 10. Call if you need details .

Directions to Welshfield Inn : 271 to 422 go East to 14001 Main Market St. Burton Ohio 44021

Directions to Peter Schneiders I-76 E to Rt 44 North exit 38 B go N@2mi to Rt 88 turn Right go to King Rd turn R again to Vair Rd. turn Left

6139 Vair Rd. Ravenna Ohio 44266- 8418

Hope for good weather. There may be some nurseries open in the area I will Check it out

Geranium Sale

I thought that the membership might be interested in a preliminary report on the geranium sale. We lucked out with the weather so we had perhaps the all time best sale. Even though the nursery will take back the unsold items we still don't want to have to take back too many. This year we judged the market almost perfectly. We started with 300 flats of geraniums, a few less than last year and we only had three left. We had five of the smaller vegetable flats left. The hanging baskets were selling so well that we went back for more and all the baskets were all sold.

As of today we have taken in \$7107 and about \$700 is outstanding. Walt Starcher is again this year our best salesman. He took 44 flats to peddle to his customers and sold them all.

Jim Marshall was second best salesman with \$456. Jim Bell was next with \$450 and Clark Bordner sold \$227. Congratulation to these great salesmen. We had plenty of help from the membership. We had the trucks unloaded in record time and the empty carts back on the truck in about an hour. We borrowed tables from the church so the geraniums didn't have to be on the ground. As usual Arthur Britton stayed overnight Friday to stand guard. We didn't want him to be alone all night so I stayed until 2 AM and then Jim Bell relieved me and stayed until 8 AM. Many thanks to all the members who participated.

Submitted by Leroy Hart, Treasurer

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat is building three homes this spring and our club will be doing the landscaping. We will work on Friday, June 8, and Saturday, June 9, starting at 9 AM. We don't have an exact address but the house is on Ardella, off of McKinley, off of Arlington Road.

As usual Habitat will supply the topsoil and the straw and we will supply the labor and some plants. Come to one or both of these days and bring your shovels and rakes.

Chris Godard, Habitat, Chairman

Welcome New Members

Deb Dockery, 74 E. Youtz Ave. Akron, OH 44301, phone: 330-724-9400

E mail: DOCKERY.DEB@GMAIL.COM

Deb is a stenographer at Akron General Medical Center. She is single.

Her club service interests are Geranium Sale and Strawberry Festival. She lists her gardening interests as birds/butterflies, herbs, vegetables, and water gardening/fish.. Her hobbies are writing, films and travel. She says she was recommended to the club through the BeaconJournal.

Frank D. and Mary K. Danckaert, 262 Winston Road, Akron, OH 44313 phone 330-836-2637

E mail f444@aol.com

Frank is retired as a supervisor at CSB. Their club service interests are geranium sale and beautification awards, Their gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, conservation/environment, farming, forestry, herbs, landscaping/lawns, perennials, speciality gardening, shrubs/trees and wildlife. Their hobby is gardening.

Walt's Gardening Tips for May

1. It always pays to purchase top grade plants when growing roses. The preparation of the planting space is even more important.
2. Avoid working the ground when it is wet. Moving from plant to plant, you can easily transmit fungus.
3. Mow cool season lawns tall (2-1/2 to 3" tall) through summer months for a healthier lawn.
4. Do not apply mulches to any plants until the hot summer months because they will not allow the soil to warm up.
5. Bugs and diseases will be out in force this month. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.
6. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds are clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, daylily, trumpet creeper, beebalm, columbine, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower, and cleome.
7. Fertilize roses this month. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on leaves.
8. As soil warms and dries out , set out peppers and eggplants. Mulch potato plants heavily.
9. You may need a net over your strawberries if you want to be the one to eat the first ones.
10. Remove cool season annuals as they fade. Plant warm season annuals and summer flowering bulbs when danger of frost is past.
11. Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing exposure to sunlight.
12. Mid to late May is the last opportunity to start pumpkins in time for Hallowe'en.
13. Once all danger of frost is past, you can move your Easter lilies out into a sunny spot in your garden. Mulch roots over winter and remove mulch in spring.
14. Lay out boards over damp ground for slugs to hide under during the daytime. Monitor the traps each morning and destroy the slugs.

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.

Coming Events

The Buckeye Bash, the national convention in June, sponsored by the Youngstown Men's Garden Club has been cancelled. They said that they only had one half of the registration that they considered the minimum necessary in order to hold a successful convention. They have returned to us the money that we contributed to them for the convention. Any individual who made hotel reservations be sure to cancel them.

Now that there is no national convention to go to we can concentrate on the regional summer conference. The summer conference this year is being planned by Cheri Kessen, the First Vice President of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners. The date is July 27 and 28 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Make hotel reservation at the Fairfield Inn Marriott, East Lansing, 2335 Woodlake Drive, Okemos. Phone 517-347-1000. The special room rate for July 26 - 28, Thursday to Saturday is \$85 per night. To get this rate reservation must be made by June 28. Each person attending the summer conference should call the hotel and make their own reservation and identify yourself as a part of the CGLG group.

The registration cost of the conference is \$100. Make checks out to Cheri Kessen 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784.

The tentative schedule for the conference is on Friday July 27 lunch at the hotel, business meeting at 2:30 PM, 3 - 4 PM tour MSU organic farm, 5 - 7 PM tour and dinner at winery & Michigan Brewery, and 7 - 9 PM (optional) shopping at Tanger Outlet Mall.

Saturday, July 28, breakfast at the hotel, 9 - 10:30 AM MSU garden tour 1, 11- 12 AM seminar 1 at MSU, 12 - 1:00 PM box lunch at MSU, 1 - 2 PM seminar 2 at MSU, 2 - 3:30 PM MSU garden tour 2, 5 -7 PM dinner at Clara's Lansing Station, we will be dining in the club car.

Youth Contest

Our club is participating in the national club's nation wide Big Pumpkin and Giant Sun Flower contest for youths.

The basic rules for the contest are:

The Gardeners of Greater Akron will provide seeds for the contest, six each of pumpkin and six each of sunflower. The only seeds for this contest must come from a member of our club. The youth involved in the contest must follow the following rules:

1. The youth will need an adult to advise them on how to grow a pumpkin and/or sunflower.
2. A minimum of three pictures is required:
 - One picture of preparation/planting of the ground and seedling.
 - One picture of some stage of the growing season.
 - One picture of the finished product.

These pictures need to be given to a garden club member who will advise the time to harvest and where to enter the finished product for judging.

Submitted by Leslie Knight