



The Garden Gabber



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXIX

May 2010

Number 5

President:

Arthur Britton
2035 Williamston Court
Akron, OH 44313-8036
☎ 330-836-2588
email: garlic65@hotmail.com

Monday, May 17

1st Vice President:

Clark Bordner
225 Norton Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203-1931
☎ 330-745-4699
email: cbordner@neo.rr.com

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.

2nd Vice President:

Sam Morlan
170 Hollybrier Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9475
☎ 330-336-6269
email: samandlora@wadsnet.com

When: Monday, May 17, 2010

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Centre
3205 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Fish Fry and Plant Auction

Secretary:

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

Our annual fish fry and plant auction is the second largest money making program that our club has. Member are asked to bring plants etc. that can be sold to fellow club members. So when you clean up your flower beds and divide your perennials bring some to the sale. This program is a good one to invite visitors. We will accept their money as well as club members'.

Treasurer:

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

For those who don't like fish or are allergic to fish there will be another entree, probably chicken.

National Director:

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

Gabber Editor/Historian:

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

Board Meeting: May 24 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

Arthur Britton

I hope that everyone is having a great spring. Most of the month of April was dry, but the last week of April and the first few days of May seem to be trying to make up the difference. Did you get caught up in the warm weather and plant something outside, only to have to cover the plants to prevent frost damage? Until after May 1st most folks in this area will only plant things like beans that enjoy the cold weather .

Speaking of May, how many geraniums will you purchase? (A must have for most of us!) I hope that along with purchasing plants that you also are able to donate some time to the selling of the plants. I would like to thank those who organized the sale and to Faith Lutheran Church for allowing us to use the front of the church for the sale. This year we are not able to sell all day on Saturday due to a wedding at the church at 4 p.m. We will stop selling at 2:30 p.m. and make sure that the area is cleaned up and looking great.

The board meets at the church to discuss and review what activities the club needs to address. In exchange for this, we take care of the courtyard and hopefully add color and interest year round. On Saturday May 15th from 9-12 a.m. we are going to meet at the church to discuss the future of the courtyard is and to give it a new look, create a plan for what might be needed, and decide what will be removed. These are some of the decisions that will be made at this time. Please come and give ideas and let us know if you can contribute plants and or labor.

After 5 years of being in charge of the Habitat projects Frank Mitch has informed the club that he is going to hand off this project. We are now in need of someone to take on this project. If you think that this is something you might like to be in charge of or if you'd be willing to share the responsibility of this project, please let me know. I would like to thank Frank and those who have done this in the past. I hope that this is something that we are going to continue in the future. Giving back to the community is important to me personally and I hope you think so, too.

Some other news about the club: Clark has already made new name tags for the club with our new name on them. Great Job! If you don't have a name tag or need to make a change, let us know.

This is the month of our plant sale for the club. We ask that when you are in your garden dividing plants that you set aside some to bring to the May 17th meeting. If possible, please label them. Also, please bring extra bags or boxes to share. We will use these to take the plants home. A very important note is that it is also our fish fry. I bring this to everyone's attention in order to alert those who are allergic to fish. We will have another dish as well, but we just wanted to alert anyone for whom this might be a problem.

May we continue to enjoy gardening!

Walter'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, day lily, trumpet creeper, bee balm, 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 bag worms 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

National Convention - June 10 to 12 at Grand Rapids, Michigan. This convention is being sponsored by the Central Great Lakes Region and several of our club members are part of the committee planning this convention. After May 15 the registration charge will go up so hurry and get your registration in. Information and registration form are in the latest issue of the national newsletter and on the national web site.

Central Great Lakes Region 2010 Summer Conference - Friday, July 30 and Saturday, July 31 at Quail Hollow Resort in Lake County. This conference will include a business meeting, seminars, a tour of the Holden Arboretum, lunch and wine tasting at a vineyard, and a tour of a perennial nursery. This is a wholesale nursery but you will be able to purchase plants. For those who are baseball fans there will be a trip on Friday evening to a game of the Cleveland Indians class A farm team in Eastlake.

Bus Trip to Cleveland - Sam Morlan has planned a bus trip to Cleveland. The main attraction is Lake View Cemetery. The speaker at the April meeting spoke about this cemetery. After May 3 Sam will be taking reservations from people from other garden clubs, the master gardeners etc. so he asks you to get your reservation in right away. A description of this trip and the registration form is on page 5.

Youth Gardening

Members are requested to save their empty pots, flats and trays after planting this spring. Bring them to a meeting where they will be collected by Al Eddy, chairman of the Youth Committee. He will take them to the various schools which will be having a gardening program where he is involved.

Al also reports that he has a new e-mail address: eddyalfred82@yahoo.com

An Ode to Spring

The dark gloom days of winter are past.
 Spring had Sprung, it's here at last.
 Daffodils are blooming in people's yards.
 The giants are awakening too
 Either budding leaves or blooming trees.
 The future looks bright and cheerie
 Down every road are joys untold.

J.E.P.

Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember, we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead; it wasn't raining when Noah started building the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown, copied from somebody's newsletter

A Bit of Humor

MacGregor was a true Scotsman, which meant he was real tight with a penny. He was a house painter so to stretch his money he diluted the paint and since he usually used latex paint that meant he added water to the paint. He got the contract to paint the local church and as usual he was using diluted paint. As he was painting a strong storm came up with heavy rain, high wind, thunder and lightening. He was knocked off the ladder and the paint was washed off the church. As he lay on the ground recovering his senses he heard a voice from above: "**Repaint. Repaint and Thin No More.**"

Newspaper Gardening

Newspapers have become very earth and plant friendly. Today the ink used in most if not all newspaper is soy based and will not harm the plants in your garden.

Gardeners are learning that newspaper is a great addition to the soil, to the compost pile, or it can be used to keep weeds at bay. Shredded newspaper can be used to mulch around plants to help control weeds and retain moisture.

Remember weeds need sunlight to grow, so if you can block the sunlight you can greatly reduce the number of weeds in a garden. There is a added bonus, the newspaper decomposes to enrich the soil.

If you are planning a new garden you can spread newspaper on top of the soil to keep your garden free of weeds. In this application it's best to water the garden, then lay down 8 or 9 pages thick of newspaper, wet it down and then cover with mulch.

Using the glossy full color printed advertisements and magazines that come in the newspaper is not recommended, use only the newsprint.

(From the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, Spring 2010 edition.)

Lake View Cemetery Tour

When: Saturday May 22 at 8:00 a m

Where: We will meet in the parking lot behind the Golden corral in Montrose. It is the parking lot for Home Depot. It is south, across the street behind Golden Corral.

We will be traveling by motor coach (restrooms on board) from Montrose to Lake View via Cleveland with a tour guide onboard for almost all of the trip.

Our plans are to visit Rockefeller Gardens with a brief stop and opportunity to look around. We will then get a drive-by tour of the many cultural gardens in the University Circle area along with some other highlights of the area.

Then on to Lake View itself with an overview of the site and no doubt some interesting stories and facts about the cemetery and the surrounding area.

On to lunch in Little Italy with a little time to roam and possibly shop.

After that if we are still awake we go back to Lake View for a tour of Wade Chapel (decorated by Tiffany) and to Garfield's tomb and home again about 4:00

Cost: tour \$27.00
 lunch: 16.00 - all gratuities and fees are included
 total: \$43.00

Club members and guests should register for the trip by May 3. After May 3 the trip will be open to members of other garden clubs, Master Gardeners etc. Sam wants to insure that we have a full bus.

The sandwich choices are: Meatball sub, Italian sub, chicken sandwich, veal sandwich and vegetarian sandwich.

Registration: Name: _____ x__
 phone number _____
 email _____
 cell _____

Choice of sandwich _____

Make checks payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron.

Mail to: Sam Morlan
 170 Hollybrier Dr.
 Wadsworth OH 44281
 Phone: 330-336-6269 cell 330-606-0111