



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, May 19

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 19, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Hall
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Plant Auction

Walt Starcher will be our auctioneer this year assisted by several of his helpers recruited from club members. So be willing to help if asked and bring plenty of plants for the auction and lots of cash for the plants you are going to buy. We take checks but not credit cards. Last year we had our best plant sale; let's do even better this year.

Walt suggests that you label the plants you're bringing as to name, color, growing conditions, sun or shade etc.

The plant auction is the big deal for this meeting but we will also have a fish fry that precedes the sale.

There will be no board meeting for May. The normal date for the board meeting would be May 26 which is Memorial Day. Therefore the board decided that we would skip the board meeting for May.

Club web site: [ht.://www.acorn.net/mgcakron](http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron)

A Message from Your President - John Lewis

May is finally here and with it the hope, if not the assurance, of no more frosty temperatures. What a relief to no longer have to carry plants in and out, one direction to harden them off, the other to prevent freezing off. This month we also have two of the most important events of the year, also the most enjoyable and best attended meeting of the year. They are the geranium sale and the fish fry and plant sale.

It appears from glancing at the sign-up sheet that there will be an abundance of workers for the geranium sale. I'm always pleasantly surprised at how members pitch in and make this a fun event. Mostly forgotten are the details of the planning for this event and I will not elaborate on them except to say that a debt of gratitude is owed to Bill Moorehouse and Chet Lowry.

The fish fry and plant sale, a really fun event. Forget that this is an opportunity to contribute financially to the club by donating plants and purchasing others. Bring friends with you and have a very enjoyable evening. I believe Walt Starcher will be our auctioneer and he alone is worth the price of admission.

We have two Habitat for Humanity homes scheduled for this month. Anyone capable of moving a couple of shovels full of dirt is invited to join us. We're a group of old geezers laboring and looking forward to break time when we can enjoy some delicious donuts that Bob Bell has a knack for picking out and presenting. Well, we're not all ancient as Art Britton and his daughter can attest to, but some of us could not be labeled as track stars. My apology to other younger members who actually do most of the work. For those of you who are unfamiliar, Andy Bettick initiated this program and chaired it for some years and now Frank Mitch carries on.

If you're not already exhausted by the above events and your own gardening, keep in mind that Andy and Lee will probably need some help at Crown Point. Also Bob Bell needs lots of help at the end of the month at the former sanitarium. I'm sure that he will remind you at the plant auction.

In all the above mentioned events and projects the fellowship is outstanding, as it is with all our meetings and events. All I can say is that if you're physically capable and not involved, get involved, especially as a member of one of our many and various committees.

Finally, to end the month, if you're interested in visiting a member's garden, Gene Chlosta, a recipient of a beautification award last year, has invited us to his home at 445 Inverness Rd. from 12 - 3 p.m. on Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1.

Have a great month.

Help Needed

Akron General Edwin Shaw Rehab needs help cleaning up the historic cemetery on Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring your garden tools and come out to help in this community project.

Call Bob Bell [330-673-3559] for more information

Member Awards Sub-Committee Needs Your Aid

Hello all! The first big event of the 2008 yearly activities is at hand. In May we have that major event -- the Geranium Sale (May 9-10) -- and to keep records of who is entitled to Certificates of Achievement or Honors, I will need to have the names of people who did any work in that event. Chet Lowry has a general record of who signs up to do work and he knows generally who does or does not make an appearance. Often a few people sell large blocks of Geraniums to selected buyers and I never get any count of those super sales people. So Chet or the person who sells an exceptional number of flats of geraniums needs to let me know who you are.

Now, the same problem exists in other events generated by the Men's Garden Club of Akron. So, here are the titles of the events (coupled with the contact person in that event)

All the information about your work on any of these projects needs to be sent to me.

May 19 Plant Auction and Fish Fry (contact person - Leroy Hart)

Such tasks as (1) bringing in plant materials, (2) helping in the set-up of the place, (3) auctioneering, (4) "runners" who get the products out and the money in, (5) who helps in the final clean-up of the place before the the lock-up. I will need to know the names of the people who do these tasks.

June 16 Strawberry Festival & Picnic (contact person needed at this time)

Such tasks as (1) purchasing essential ingredients of the strawberry feast part, (2) cleaning and preparing the berries, (3) distributing the desserts, (4) general clean-up after all the fun If you do any of these jobs you will have to report this to Jim Fee unless we get a chairperson soon.

August 9 Horticulture Show (contact person, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich)

(1) whoever enters any products needs to be recognized (2) whoever wins the most blue ribbons wins the spot on the "Big Blue Award" plaque, (3) who helps as (a) registrars (b) the "bank" (c) the clerks and (d) the runners. Who helps in the tear down that ends the show. You all need to let Mary Ann know what you did.

You can contact me via e-mail fee_james@yahoo.com (or) by Phone (330)864-0442

or by snail mail James Fee

527 Winslow Ave

Akron, OH 44313

You will find the chairpersons listed in the Membership Roster which has just been posted.

There will be another message covering all of the other committees in the Garden Gabber, June issue. You may be amazed at the number of things that are ongoing in the Men's Garden Club of Akron.

Reported by Jim Fee

Habitat Houses

We now have some Habitat landscaping projects needing our help this spring. New members as well as our regulars are encouraged to participate. Please send me an Emil indicating when you would like to help. I will have a sign up sheet at the dinner meeting next Monday also.

Saturday, May 17, 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

577 Mckinley Avenue. Off of Brown Street. West of I-77.

This is a very small lot but topsoil, grass and shrubs needed.

Saturday, May 24 9:00 to 11:00 AM

268 East Lods Street. Off of N. Howard Street. The home is at the end of the Street, East of the Y bridge. Yes. This will be an easy one to do. The rear of the property has grass already growing. Only the front to do, topsoil, grass and shrubs. If you can't make Saturdays we will need a few helpers to do some prep work on these tentative days:

Wednesday May 14, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

McKinley Avenue. At location above.

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

I will be running my tiller and need to pick up rocks, etc.

Thursday May 15, 1:00 to 2:00 PM

1374 Curtiss Street. This home we landscaped in Spring 2007. Gas line and sewer lines have settled and leave depressions. We need to fill in with topsoil and plant some grass.

Wednesday, May 21, 1:00 to 2:30 PM

268 Lods Street. At location above.

I will be running my tiller and need to pick up rocks, etc.

For each job bring a bucket or small wheel barrow and a rake.

Thanks for your help.

Frank Mitch

Purple Martins

The Purple Martins are back at Portage Lakes. The first pairs arrived on April 2nd and more have been coming every day. Larry Hunter, Founder and President of the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, states that his organization needs volunteers to help with the houses (gourds) and to feed the Martins. They do not feed on seeds at bird feeders. the feeding requires scrambling dozens of eggs, cutting them into small bits and flinging them into the air to the hungry Martins. This year they are expanding their program to 300 gourds for Martins and 30 for Tree Swallows. The gourds were all up by April 1 awaiting the Martins return. Please call Larry Hunter 330-644-1540 if you would like to volunteer or learn more about his program. On June 24, 2008, the Purple Martin Association will host the Greater Akron Audubon Society anual meeting at Portage Lakes. Plans include feeding the Purple Martins at 6;00 p.m. at State Mill Road.

Submitted by Les Knight

Scholarship Winners

This year the two winners of our scholarships were Doug Steven Schuster and Corinne Micnelle DePue. Both attended the April meeting and gave us a short presentation of their studies at ATI and what their plans are for after they graduate.

Corinne major is Greenhouse Production and Management. she carries a 3.84 average and has been on the dean's list three times. She plans to graduate after the winter quarter 2009 and will return to her hometown to work in a greenhouse.

Doug is majoring in Nursery Management. He has a 3.79 grade point average and has been on the dean's list three times. He will graduate in 2009. His family owns and operates the Donald A. Schuster's Greenhouse. After graduation Doug plans to work in a different greenhouse to gain experience and more learning before he someday will take over the family business.

Submitted by Jim Fee, Scholarship Committee Chair

Member News

Within the past two months our club has lost three former members.

Tom Montgomery passed away on March 14. He is survived by his wife Louise, sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Tom was a naval officer who served in World War II and the Korean War. He was retired from Babcock and Wilcox Company.

Louise Montgomery passed away on April 8. She is survived by daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was retired from the city of Akron, having worked in the planning division. She and Tom had been married for 11 years.

Anthony Shedlosky passed away on April 12. He is survived by two daughters, a son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His wife of 58 years, Elizabeth, preceded him in death. He was an officer in the navy in World War II. He retired from Ohio Edison.

Garden Tour

Dr. Gene Chlosta, 445 Inverness Road, Akron (take Ridgewood Road and turn south on Inverness, go one and one-half blocks, his house is on the left) has invited the club to tour his garden on Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1 from 12 to 3 p.m. His garden is very beautiful in three seasons. Last year he won a beautification award.

Roster Correction

Jim Marshall's e-mail address is wrong. The correct one is jimrosey@aol.com To make corrections to the roster call Frank Mitch for e-mail, Bob Bell for phone, and Charlie White for mailing address corrections and changes.

Walt's Gardening Tips for May

1. Fertilize roses in May. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on the leaves.
2. Mow cool season lawns tall (2 1/2 - 3") through the summer months for a healthier lawn.
3. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds: clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower, and cleome.
4. Bugs and diseases will be out in force now. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.
5. Aphids, spider mites, bag worms and many other insects can cause severe damage if left unchecked. Inspect and treat trees for harmful insects: look for splotchy, discolored or chewed up leaves.

For June

1. The best time to water the lawn is early morning. This allows much of the water to soak in and the remainder to evaporate throughout the day. If your lawn has a disease problem do not water in the evening no matter how convenient it may seem; excess moisture does not evaporate, providing the perfect environment for fungal growth.
2. Do not apply mulch to any plants until the hot summer months because mulch would not allow the soil to heat up.
3. Weeds are plants out of place; remove them before they go to seed and you can put them on your compost pile.
4. Remove spent blossoms from annual and perennial flowers every few days if possible. This prevents formation of seeds and allowing the plants to be used for growth and future flowering.