



The Garden Gabber



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

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Monday, May 18

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 18, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Fish Fry and Plant Auction

The fish fry and plant auction is the second largest money making program that our club has. Members are asked to bring in plants etc., that can be sold to fellow club members. So when you clean up your flower beds and subdivide your perennials bring some of them in for the sale. The auctioneer will be Walter Starcher..

For those who don't like fish there will be something else for you to eat, probably chicken. This is one of our most popular programs. It is also a good program to bring your spouse or some other guest; especially one who will buy lots of plants.

Because of Memorial Day there will be no board meeting in May.

Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

Message from the President Arthur Britton

I would like to start out by saying THANK YOU to Al Eddy for doing a fine job on the radio as a guest speaker on the radio show on 1590 with Tom Dayton and to Marti Williams for working behind the scene. I also would like to say THANK YOU to Les for making sure that the club in mentioned in about every paper that is in the area.

The Geranium- Plant sale is: Friday May 8th, starting at 11 am, all day and then what ever might be left (positive thinking) will be sold on Sat May 9th from 9 am till 5 pm or until all are sold. The location of this year's sale is **Faith Lutheran Church at 2726 W. Market Street in Fairlawn, Ohio**. I was informed that the youth of the church will be doing a car wash to raise money for their mission trips, which means you could get your car washed while either shopping for plants or after you are done purchasing plants.

The following Saturday, May 16th is the day when the church has a Spring Clean up and I am asking for the club to please help clean up the court yard as they have agreed to do so in exchange for the use of a room at the church for the board meetings. We start at 8 am and are usually done about noon. The concept is the same as a habitat project (bring gloves, shovel, rake and ready to garden attitude). Yes we will have donuts.

The last weekend in April was wonderful to give us a taste of things to come for this gardening season. With all of the technology that is about there is nothing more enjoyable to me than spending time outside listening to the birds, watching the squirrels run about, and planning what I want to do this season. To me the only real challenge is where to start?? Hopefully you have planned out what you would like to plant and where and maybe have ordered some plants and they are about to arrive. Also I'm sure that you have sharpened your tools to make sure that if something needs to be cut that it will be a cut and not a tear that could cause problems.

I am very happy to see young green growth on a variety of plants, the tree peonies in my yard appear to have about 15 blooms, along with the cherry tree that is also full of blooms. The climbing roses are showing that they are ready to really get started and that they are ready to both climb and then show off their wonderful color and aroma. I hope that you are also enjoying the spring as much as I am.

Garden Quiz by Walter Starcher

1. Explain determinate and indeterminate in reference to tomatoes.
2. Are lima beans bush or pole?
3. How is corn pollinated?
4. What is rotenone? Is it still available?
5. Has DDT been banned throughout the world?
6. Explain what is necessary to add to the soil to raise blueberries in Summit and Medina counties?
7. Why is it unwise to put fresh manure in the garden?
8. When is the best time to prune fruit trees and grapes?
9. Is it true that alpaca manure contains no weed seeds?
10. Will sand improve the tilth of clay soil?
11. Which vegetables should not be planted until the last killing frost in spring?
12. Name five fruits in the rose family.

(Editor's note - I don't know the answers so don't ask me. Either ask Walt himself or wait until the answers are published in next month's Gabber.)

Roster Corrections

Telephone for Robert E. Johnson is 330-858-9559 Jeff Andrew's phone number is 330-666-1889
 Since the last three names were added to the roster in the March issue of the Gabber there have been no additions which means that we have not had any renewals or new members since March. We need to get busy and recruit some new members.

If you know of any corrections that need to be made to the roster contact Grace Cochran or Bob Bell.

Grace Cochran reported that she had received a note from Janet Kucko that she has moved out of state. Her new address is 227 Country Villa Drive Lexington, N. C . 27295

Crown Point

After several years Andy Bettick and Leroy Hart are retiring from the care of the garden at Crown Point. Volunteers are needed to continue the care of the garden. If you are interested, contact Andy for details.

Habitat For Humanity Landscaping Spring Plans

May is a very busy month. Only weekend we could plan for a Spring 2009 Habitat for Humanity landscaping project is: Saturday, May 23, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Location: 1363 Moore Street, Firestone Park Area. Near previous homes on Curtis Street and Cole Avenue. Bring a rake and shovel as usual. Wheel barrows welcome. Any perennials would be welcome too. All are welcome in addition to our dedicated regulars. It is Memorial Day week end, but opinion at the last Board meeting was that not many folks have plans to travel. We will be doing some prep work during the days before the event. Please let me know if you will be available.

Frank Mitch
Email: frmm2065@hotmail.com

In Memory

William E. (Bill) Bacon passed away on April 19, 2009. Bill was a long time member of the club and president in 1983. For the last few years, because of his age and health, he was unable to attend meetings and he has been listed as an honorary member of the club.

Bill was a former Lieutenant J. G. in the Navy and was an insurance man working for the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company.

As is the club's custom when a member passes away a memorial gift has been sent to the national TOGA/MICA. in his name.

Bill will be missed by his family and his many friends in the club.

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 to 3") through the summer months for a healthier lawn.

3. Bugs and diseases will be out in full force now. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden center for advice.

4. Adult Japanese beetles feed on about 275 different plants. Some of their favorites are linden, sassafras, elm and birch. Aphids, spider mites, bag worms and many other insects can cause severe damage if left unchecked. Inspect and treat trees for harmful insects; now is the time many destructive insects are most vulnerable to pesticides. Look for splotchy, discolored or chewed up leaves and take action at the first sign.

5. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds are clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower and cleave.

For June

1. The best time to water the lawn is early morning. This allows much of the water to soak and the remainder to evaporate through 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 will 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 allows the plant's energy to be used for growth and future flowering.

Our Club's History

(Editor's note - Beginning in the January 1994 issue of the Garden Gabber and continuing almost every following issue until October 1995 Don Birdsell, the previous editor of the Gabber, published the history of our club. This history was written by Paul J. Crowley, the previous historian of the club, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the club in 1987.

Since I am the club historian, as well as the editor, I felt that it would be good to repeat this history because of the many members of the club who have joined since this history was published. Also it can refresh the memories of the older members.)

The Men's Garden Club of Akron was organized April 27, 1937 when a group of men interested in gardening met at the Times Press building with E. V. Newton, president of the National Men's Garden Clubs of America, and Mr. Frankel of the Cleveland club to explore the possibility of forming a club in Akron. Ray Cheetham called the meeting and at that meeting was elected president of the new club. The annual dues of \$1.50 were set and membership and program committees were formed. No records tell of the number of persons who attended the first meeting but the minutes of the October meeting showed fifteen men in attendance. In November of 1937 the Akron club joined the National Men's Garden Clubs of America. The initiation dues were fifteen dollars plus twelve cents per member.

In 1938 H. H. Ferrall was elected president with Dr. Joy Lichty as vice president. The club met in the Parish House located on the corner of Oakdale and Crosby streets. The minutes of the meeting recorded the first flower show at that location on September 11, 1938. Fifteen members contributed 135 entries. Ray Cheetham won the sweepstakes prize with 26 points. The prize was a blue spruce tree. The first dinner the club held was at the Canteen on State Road and Grant Street in December 1938.

In January 1940, Joy Lichty became president and the monthly paper was first published. The club now had 22 members. C. M. Carson became the first editor of the paper. The name, Garden Gabber, was chosen as the title of the publication. The second flower show was held again in August at the Marvin Parish house. It was a great success. A picnic for the families was held at Craftsman Park in August. The membership in December was now 47 men.

Albert Clifford was elected president in 1941 and the club now had 48 members. The annual flower show was held again at the Marvin Parish house and there were 215 entries. Ray Cheetham entered the Cleveland Flower Show and won second place with his floral entry. The year ended with a family picnic at Craftsman Park and a Christmas dinner for club members.

Ted Saxman became president in 1942. That year the National reported 56 men's clubs with 5,000 members. The club met at the First Congregational Church in March for a ham dinner at \$.52 per plate. Victory (War) Gardens were the central theme. Dr. Barton invited the club to a May walk in his woods near Copley. It was well attended and gave the club members a "taste of nature". Christmas was celebrated with a dinner at the Congregational Church in Tallmadge at \$.75 per person. Due to the work pressures of war work no flower show was held in 1942, however, the club continued to have good speakers during the year.

Dr. H. W. Barton was chosen as president of the club in 1943. The club now had an official rosarian when Dale F. Powers accepted the position. Bill Lyons of Firestone talked to the club on foliages and grasses. There was a picnic and corn roast at the airport shelter with the women joining in on this occasion.

S. B. Moul was elected president in 1944. The club was still meeting at the Marvin Parish house and continued meeting there until 1947. The Fifth Annual Garden Show was held at the Maple Valley Library in August. The Akron club participated in this event. The first discussion on DDT appeared in the Gabber that year. The October meeting was held as a picnic and featured displays of flowers and vegetables. The annual Christmas dinner was held at Spindlers in Cuyahoga Falls.

D. G. Thornton was elected president in 1945. The national convention of the National Men's Garden Clubs was canceled due to restrictions on wartime travel. In August, Bill Lyons hosted the club at the Firestone Experimental Gardens. A picnic with family members was also held. Every meeting had a speaker on some aspect of gardening during the year. It was now, in 1945, that the bad effects of DDT on humans and other animals became known. The annual Christmas dinner was a "stag" affair held at The Knoll's (a T-bone steak and shrimp dinner - \$1.00).