



THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON



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

Published Monthly: Volume

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Monday, November 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, November 21, 2011

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Centre

3205 Ridgewood Road

Copley, Ohio

Program: Beautification and Membership Awards

David Lockledge, Second Vice President, will present the Beautification Awards.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich will present the Membership Service Awards.

Board Meeting: November 28 at 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 - Clark Bordner

The time has just fallen back an hour so winter cannot be far away. This week promises to be very nice, which officials claim is Indian summer. Hopefully, everyone has been able to put their gardens to bed. I truly hope that next spring will be more typical; without the protracted rainy and cold weather that hampered our growing season this year.

Frank Mitch and I had the opportunity to attend a board and dinner meeting with the Cleveland club on October 10. Everyone was very cordial. The possibilities of combined meetings and sharing a booth at the Home and Garden show 2012 at the IX Center were discussed. We were invited back for their November meeting and we will further pursue these topics. We will not be doing the IX Center show unless the fee of \$750 either is drastically reduced or goes away completely. Peter Schneider was their guest speaker, an expert on roses who lives in Freedom Township; in Portage County. He was extremely interesting and I have asked Sam Morlan to try to schedule him to speak to our club sometime in the future. He grows over 1200 varieties of roses on his property and has an open house every June.

I felt that our dinner meeting in October was equally informative. I have heard Denise Ellsworth speak several times during the last two years and have always been captivated by her presentations. I had never heard of phenology and find that the cyclical blooming of plants based on temperature is both fascinating and useful. On a more serious note, I have noted that some of our newer members come to one or two dinner meetings and then do not return. One of our main discussions at our board meeting in October was to ensure that all members and guests feel welcome at our dinner meetings. The dinner meetings are certainly a great opportunity to talk to our friends and people that we have known for years. I ask everyone to step a little out of their comfort zone to greet and involve newer members in your conversations. I still encourage anyone; especially new members, to join different committees and to get more involved. We still need a second vice president for next year.

We had a great turn out at our second and last Habitat for Humanity project for 2011. This project was in the Firestone Park area of Akron. The weather on that Saturday was beautiful and even though it had rained a great deal the week before; the front yard had great drainage and we were able to do our landscaping and planting of the lawn with little difficulty. The back yard was more of a challenge with standing water in areas. Hand tilling solved that problem and we were able to complete the project. There was a photographer from Habitat for Humanity that took numerous photographs of our members at work. We may find that we get some favorable newspaper coverage from this event.

Several of us gathered at Crown Point to spruce up the flower beds that we take care of. Again, the weather was perfect for this type of activity. The people at Crown Point are very appreciative of our efforts on their behalf. For those who would like to know more about the humanitarian and ecological pursuits achieved at Crown Point, I suggest that you contact either Chuck Keach or Andy Bettick.

We are truly involved in many activities that benefit our community. I would personally like to thank the committee chairs and all of our members who participate in such activities. Again, thank you for your continued help and support. Best regards, Clark

(Editor's note) this was sent me from national and I thought it was something the membership might be interested in seeing. Some of us have questioned what do we as a club and as individual members get from national for our dues, This might provide you with an answer.)

BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO TGOA/MGCA

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER.

- A 12-page newsletter full of national, club and region news.
- Articles of horticultural interest.
- Horticultural Publication reviews.
- Partnership offers.
- Member biographies.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION.

- Hosted each year by various clubs/regions around the country.
- Educational seminars and tours.
- Opportunity to meet fellow gardeners from across the country and share

ideas and make new friendships.

WEBSITE.

- An up-to-date website with club/region/national and horticultural information.

JUDGING SCHOOL.

- Horticultural instruction and accreditation.

YOUTH GARDENING PROGRAM.

- National pumpkin and sunflower contest.
- Youth gardening information on the website.

GARDENING FROM THE HEART.

- A program that places emphasis on helping disadvantaged gardeners in the community.

LENDING LIBRARY.

- Available to all members.
- Full of gardening related topics/biographies.

ANNUAL AWARDS.

- Club, region and national prestigious awards.

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST.

CALENDAR PROGRAM.

- Photographs from the photography contest are used in the production of an annual calendar.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for horticultural students.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER CONTEST.

- Open to affiliated clubs and regions.

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☒ ELIGIBLE FOR 501(c)3 inclusion under TGOA/MGCA group exemption umbrella.

○ Enables a club to operate as a non-profit organization and to solicit tax-deductible donations from corporations and individuals; however, because of the federal Pension Protection Act of 2006, each club is still required to submit its own form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N.

☒ DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY.

- Single membership for \$40 for two years or a “couple” membership for \$40 for one year.
- Subscription to their American Gardener magazine.
- Seed sharing program.
- An 800 number for horticulture questions.
- Admission to River Farm, home of AHS.
- Admission to many botanical gardens and arboreta in the U.S. and beyond our borders at no charge or a reduced entry fee, and in some gardens, a discount in their garden shops.

☒ Offers of unique plants; tours and seminars throughout the year.

☒ Discount programs from retailers that change periodically.

☒ Opportunity to serve others in leadership capacities at three levels; local, regional or national.

☒ Club officer and club organizing materials and assistance are available from National headquarters.

If anyone has any questions, please contact:

TGOA/MGCA Headquarters

P.O. Box 241, Johnston, IA 50131-1902

(515) 278-0295

tgoasecy@qwestoffice.net

Community Pride Trailer

Keep Akron Beautiful has a new community program called the Community Pride Trailer. By means of this program Keep Akron Beautiful can share their experience in urban beautification with citizens who want to cleanup vacant property in their neighborhood. Once the vacant lot has been cleaned up and made green it is up to the citizen group that used the trailer to determine how the property will be used.

This trailer is 25 feet long and is filled with landscape equipment and cleanup supplies for the volunteers to use when transforming vacant lots into green islands. There is no charge for the use of the trailer. Keep Akron Beautiful will deliver and pick up the trailer. A minimum of five households or a group of five volunteers who are committed to the project is necessary. The trailer is booked on a first come, first served basis from April to October. It is available for use only within the city of Akron.

In its first season the trailer was used on ten cleanup events in which 91 sites were cleaned. Habitat for Humanity was one of the sites that used the trailer in its first season.

This seems to be a very worth while project and Keep Akron Beautiful is a very worth while organization. Both Keep Akron Beautiful and this trailer program are projects that our club should consider supporting. Many of us are interested in doing things to help our community and this is a great way to do so. Of course, we want to continue supporting Habitat for Humanity, Crown Point and our school projects.

RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

(One Application per Person)

We begin our campaign for membership renewal this month. We plan to finish all renewals by the December meeting. Please fill out the attached membership application renewal. We have found many of our records outdated and need to get them current. Many of you have new or changed interests and we would like to include them in our roster next year. Bring it to dinner with you or mail with your check to Leroy. Thank you, the membership committee.

The Gardeners of Greater Akron promotes gardening as a hobby for adults and children; encourages the use of gardens to beautify communities; cooperates with various groups interested in gardening; and encourages qualified members to share their knowledge and skills.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Home Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Employed by/Retired from: _____ Position or Title: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Signature of Prospective Member: _____ Date: _____

Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests: (Check all interests below)

Geranium Sale: _____ Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: _____

Youth Gardening Program: _____ Crown Point Gardens: _____ Strawberry Festival: _____

Calling Committee: _____ Publicity: _____ Garden Club Website: _____

Annual dues are \$35, life members pay \$15. For new members dues are prorated as follows:

Join January 1st - June 30th: \$35 for one person, \$ 60 for two people (same address)

Join July 1st - September 30th: \$17.50 for one person, \$30 for two people (same address)

Join October 1st- December 31st: \$ 35 for one person for the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Please send completed application with dues. Check payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron to:

Leroy Hart, 633 Schocalog Road, Akron, OH 44320-1033 or bring to monthly meeting.

Gardening Interests: (Check all that apply below)

Annuals/Perennials: _____ Birds/Butterflies: _____ Conservation/Environment: _____ Farming: _____

Forestry: _____ Herbs: _____ Landscaping/Lawns: _____ Shrubs/Trees: _____ Vegetables: _____

Water Gardening/Fish: _____ Wildlife: _____ Other: _____

Hobbies: _____

Meetings are generally held: Third Monday of each month at:

St. George Fellowship Center. 3204 Ridgewood Road. Akron, Ohio.

5:30 Social Hour. 6:30 Buffet Dinner followed by the Program.

The Gardeners of Greater Akron are affiliated with The Gardeners of America,/The Men's Garden Club of America and the Central Great Lakes Regional Gardeners. Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org> Updated: 10/03/2011