



# THE GARDEN GABBER

NEWSLETTER OF  
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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## Monday, November 17

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 17, 2014

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:** Awards Presentations

Pat Pickard, Second Vice President and Chairman of the Beautification Committee, will present the Beautification awards to the winners. The winners were non-members Nancy and Tom Krampe living at Woodbrook Trail Condominiums in Cuyahoga Falls and non-members Jean Green and Pat DeFrest living at Mariner Point Condominiums in Coventry Township. Unfortunately, none of these winner can attend this meeting, but we may be able to welcome them at a later meeting. The club member winner this year is Barbara Croghan, 720 Ecton Road, Akron.

Pat will have slides of the award winning gardens.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich will present the service awards to club members. These awards are in recognition of service to the club during the year. Most of the members will receive an award this year

Board meeting November 24 at 7:00 PM at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. All club members are invited to attend board meetings.

**Club web site:** <http://gogakron.org>

## **President's Message - Arthur Britton**

Hello to one and all. I hope that everyone is doing well and getting ready for the colder temperatures that are headed our way. I enjoy the month of November because it offers many changes in the garden and in our yards. Yes I realize that leaves fall and need to be raked, but those leaves can be composted and used for our gardens and compost piles. Compost is so important to the gardener that many refer to it as gold for the garden. I do enjoy the beautiful colors that the changing leaves provide and then cooler temperatures. I like cooler temperatures; I'm not a real fan of COLD temperatures though.

I hope that everyone had a good Halloween? If you handed out candy did you have more than last year? I enjoy carving a pumpkin almost as much as I enjoy saving the seeds and putting them in the oven to dry and having them to snack on. Do any of you grow pumpkins? I did last year and did not realize how much space they took. At one point the vine went into my neighbor's yard, they were ok with that because they then got three pumpkins and the children enjoyed seeing them grow and then carving them and eating the seeds.

For our club we will have the Beautification awards that will be handed out at our dinner meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. I would like to thank Pat for all of the time and effort that he has put in to doing this. I look forward to seeing the pictures and who has won each of the categories. I enjoy seeing what others have done with their gardens and usually it gives me ideas as to what I can do in my yard.

I would like to thank Les Knight for coming up with an idea, presenting it to the club officers and then doing what is needed to complete the task of ordering shirts. He has said that the shirts are to be at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, so, if you have ordered one be sure to attend the meeting and pick up your shirt. This is one of many ways that the club is able to let others know about our club and there are many other ways to spread the word of our club. One that I am hoping is that if you have a Facebook account to please go to our Facebook account and share photos and comments of what you have seen or what you are doing. This is something that costs nothing, but has great potential as far as letting others know that our club is active and participates in many activities. So if you would please visit our Facebook and add a comment, it would be beneficial in many ways. Thank you

May we always continue to enjoy gardening

## **GOGA Plant a Row for the Hungry**

This program was set up this year to encourage members to plant an extra row of vegetables and donate harvested crops to the Akron Canton Food Bank or to similar organizations and churches in the area. It is designed to encourage donations of surplus garden vegetables and fruits to organizations that provide food to people who need food.

Under the rules an award is to be presented each year to the GOGA member who has contributed the most pounds of vegetables and fruits. The award for this year will be given at the November meeting. The cut-off date for reports of donations to local drop-off sites is November 1, 2014.

To date, the club has received four reports from members Andy Bettick, Sally Cole, Frank Mitch, and Les Knight.

It is hoped that this important project will catch on even more next year, 2015, with more participants that will help with feeding those in need.

Les Knight

## **Kids Write About Gardens at Crouse Elementary**

As part of GOGA's partnership with Crouse Elementary School in Akron, GOGA members are assisting teachers there with writing assignments in the lower grades. In third grade teacher Julia Spangler's classroom, students are writing short structured paragraphs about their observations in the teaching gardens. Following prompts, the students write sentences about planting seeds and plants, watching their growth, harvesting, and their thoughts and feelings about their participation. Paragraphs are edited for punctuation, capitalization, and spelling and then mounted on construction paper with the student's picture and posted in the hallway for all to see. Recognition of students' efforts will come in the way of certificates of merit.

GOGA members have helped the teachers with picture taking of individual students in the gardens, helping students capture their observations and feelings in words, forming sentences that convey their thoughts, editing, and offering lots of compliments and support.

Heading up this part of the GOGA/Crouse collaborative is member Marilyn Fellenstein. Others who have expressed an interest in classroom assistance and/or have donated in-class time to the writing exercise are Jim Bell, Sam Morlan, Lora Avens, Sally Cole, Susan Godard, Barbara Croghan and Steve Thompson. GOGA members who are interested in helping with future classroom assistance are encouraged to contact Marilyn. Volunteer opportunities are varied in type as well as days and times during the week.

Steve Thompson

### **Two Dates for Helping Third Graders at Crouse Put Their Teaching Gardens "To Bed" for the Fall.**

Those dates are Friday November 7 and Friday November 14. We'll help the kids in the gardens from 1:30 to about 2:20 both Fridays. The plan is to pull out the spent vines, etc. and take to the compost pile on Nov. 7 and then sow rye grass seed on the tilled soil on Nov. 14. We're in the role of guiders and helpers on these tasks, with the kids doing the "labor." Julia Spangler says "We'll have students who have exhibited appropriate behavior for the week participating along with our multiple handicapped students." Just a little motivation for these kids!

Mostly the task on Nov. 7 for the kids will be pulling out vines, etc. but if you can bring along a rake, a hoe, spade, or hand tool, those may come in handy. Best to write your name on these.

Crouse is at 1000 Diagonal Road in Akron. We park in the back lot from which you can see the teaching gardens. There's no need to sign in at the front office--just watch for others in that back lot.

There's no need to RSVP, but if it looks like the weather is inclement and you want to make sure we'll be working, call me on my cell: 330.245.6272.

Questions? Just let me know.

Steve Thompson

## Membership

As we all know the club's membership depends on publicity and sharing with others about GOGA. Lisa Graf graciously offered to write a paragraph about The Gardeners of Greater Akron in her Graf Growers on line Blog. Below is the article.

### Are You a Gardener?

I have always thought of gardening as sort of a solo sport, sharing only with those that visit your garden. I enjoy the tranquility of spending quiet time in my garden, however, I also like the camaraderie of being able to share gardening experiences with other fellow gardeners. For many years I have tried to grow Chinese Lanterns after seeing them displayed at our cousins home in Switzerland. I talked to many people about growing them and everyone said they were easy to grow, but I could not grow them. I tried seeds and plants as well as clumps of them that fellow gardeners brought to me. I had mostly given up. I even purchased silk ones that looked remarkably real. In late June, I discovered a clump of them growing where I had so often planted them before. This fall I harvested them and am so excited to display them in my home. Only a fellow gardener could understand how elated I was to finally grow them in my garden!

In a recent study, many people who actively participate in gardening of some form said they did not consider themselves gardeners. Their image of a gardener was a grandmotherly woman with a floppy hat and flowered gardening gloves tending to her plants. While this might be the image one has of a gardener, I can assure you that gardeners come in all shapes, ages, genders, etc. I decided to look up the definition of a gardener and this is what I found.

**Gardener – a person who tends and cultivates a garden as a pastime or for a living. A person who likes or is skilled at working in a garden.**

While you may or may not see yourself as a gardener, if you enjoy gardening or growing things and want to learn more and share your experiences, I would encourage you to find a gardening club you would enjoy being part of. Every garden club is a little bit different. Some are more social while others are more community or education oriented. The Gardeners of Greater Akron a local group of men and women actively engaged in gardening and education are looking to expand their membership. You can learn more by visiting their website at [gogakron.org](http://gogakron.org) or email [mrrnbell@hotmail.com](mailto:mrrnbell@hotmail.com). Applications for membership are on their website. If you would like suggestions or more information about other groups in the area I would be happy to help.

### Club Shirts

Twenty-two club members purchased 30 shirts which allowed us to keep the cost as low as we did. The shirts will be distributed at the November meeting. Since they have already been paid for, there will be no further charge. Please wear your shirt with pride at our various gardening functions. Thank you for participating in this project.

Les Knight

### Club News

Walter W. Perkins passed away on October, 19. He was 94 years old and had been an honorary member of the club for several years. He was in the Navy during World War II. He was a ceramist and retired as the Director of Research and Development at U. S. Stoneware in Norton. He served for 55 years in many adult leadership roles in the Boy Scouts. His wife Elizabeth preceded him in death.

## **2015 RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON**

The campaign for membership renewal starts in October. We plan to receive all renewals by the December meeting with the intent of the Roster being available sometime in January-February 2015.

Annual dues are \$35.00 per individual/year  
 \$60.00 per couple/year  
 Life/Associate member dues are \$15.00/year

Make check payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron and bring them either to the dinner meetings or mail to Leroy Hart 633 Schocalog Rd. Akron, Ohio 44320 (330-836-1407) or Bob Bell 1832 Sandy Lake Rd. Ravenna, Ohio 44266 (330-673-3553).  
 Sooner is better than later.

**Please enter your Name (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Renewal \$ amount/cash or check:** \_\_\_\_\_

To keep the Roster current, if you have any changes to your address, phone, E-mail or Garden Club interests please fill out those areas listed below, otherwise the information will remain the same for 2015.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Garden Club and Community Service Opportunity Interests:**

(Check all interests below)

Calling Committee: \_\_\_\_ Crown Point Gardens: \_\_\_\_ Endowment Committee: \_\_\_\_

Garden Club Website: \_\_\_\_ Garden Club Face Book: \_\_\_\_ Geranium Sale: \_\_\_\_

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping: \_\_\_\_ Horticulture Show: \_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_ Publicity: \_\_\_\_ Scholarship Committee: \_\_\_\_

Silent Auction: \_\_\_\_ Strawberry Festival: \_\_\_\_ Youth Gardening Program: \_\_\_\_

If you have been unable to attend meetings and would like the Roster mailed to your home address please check the box below.

Please send Roster to my home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you from the membership committee.

**Gardeners of Greater Akron  
633 Schocalog Road  
Akron OH 44320-1033**