



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 LXIX

November 2010

Number 11

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Monday, November 15

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 15, 2010

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Centre

3205 Ridgewood Road

Copley, Ohio

Program: Awards Program

Sam Morlan, Second Vice President will present the Beautification Awards. The recipients have been invited to attend the meeting. Sam will have pictures of the winning landscapes.

The second part of the awards program is the presentation of the service awards to members. Mary Ann Ferguson - Rich is the awards chair person and will make these awards.

Board Meeting: November 22, 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

Arthur Britton

Once again, November has arrived. Many of us will enjoy the new season of gardening. Some of us will take drives and enjoy the fall colors in nature-- there are a lot of parks and landscapes in our local area. While we are traveling around, let's be sure to take notice of how others have designed their flower beds and landscaped their yards. To me, this is a great way to take advantage of seeing what is happening this time of year and to get ideas for my own yard. Just because the temperatures have changed does not mean that we have to stop gardening.

What are some of the things that we should do at this time of the year to get ready for the snow and cold temperatures that go with it? If you haven't done it by now, be sure to bring in the plants that will not survive the cold temperatures. When dealing with the leaves, you have a few options. A lot of people catch them with the grass clippings in the lawnmower to shred them and then put them in the compost. I have also heard that some people just shred the leaves with the mower but don't catch them--they just leave them on the grass. Another idea is once you have read the newspaper, spread it out in the garden or flower bed and then cover it with the shredded leaves to act as a weed barrier. This is something that I am in the process of trying myself. These are just some of the things that we do to get ready for the winter. You can also wrap roses with canvas and then fill it with leaves. Don't forget that now is also a good time to plant garlic. I enjoy this time of the year and am glad that I live in a part of the country that gives me the opportunity to experience more than one season.

The club officers and the chairmen of the committees are asking for your help! We are currently discussing the geranium sale. We plan on keeping it Mother's Day weekend, but we are trying to come up with some ideas for a 2nd location. Last year, there was a wedding at the church and we had to stop selling early. If there is a wedding or a funeral, we still want to be able to sell. Do you know of a location where we could do this? If you happen to have an idea, please contact Jim Bell and he will be happy to look into the possible site.

The club officers are always looking for information from the members about what they'd like to see the club do. Do you have an idea for something we've never done before? We have tried a couple of new and different things this year, but we'd be open to more. This is your club: you pay dues, volunteer, and attend dinner meetings. The club should reflect what its members want and if you do not let us know then we will not be able to try to meet your requests.

We are hoping to have a greater number of members on each of the committees that we have. If you are not able to do physical activities, then what about calling people to invite new and current members to the dinner meetings? We have many ways for you to participate and we hope that if you have not in the past, that you will in the future.

May we always enjoy gardening!

Habitat Report

Well, we've finally come to the end of what we all can relish as a job well done on Habitat this year. I am so proud to have taken up the gauntlet after some reluctance on following a tradition of so many years under the leadership of Frank Mitch. After Grace Cochran had asked me to serve, I felt after all these years of being a member, it was time to chair Habitat for Humanity-GOGA-style. With all of your cooperation, we completed three somewhat difficult sites. What really surprised me most was the genuine enthusiasm of commitment from the very beginning. We had eighteen members and non-members who showed up ready for every challenge that was asked of them; or they just knew what to do. It turned out that after three habitats, I found out we really did know what we were doing. Nobody got even a scratch. Oh sure I put my foot in what appeared to be some instant quicksand next to a newly planted hosta. That of course happened after I poured a bucket of water and some mulch on top. That was my intro to Habitating.

I would like to give a special recognition to the folks that either donated or discounted greatly to our cause:

Jim Bell Jim Weckbacher Marti Williams Charlie White Lowes of Green

Many thanks must also go out to Larry Reed of Habitat for helping to procure the necessary supplies for the sites.

Most of all each and every member needs to thank the many hands that made all this possible. We all did so with the belief that we could make a better environment for each new homeowner. A start to a new beginning. Here is a list of our fellow Habitaters:

Bob Bell (doughnut man)	Al Eddy Jr.	Mary Ann Rich
Jim Bell	Rick Edwards	David Rich
Andy Bettick	Gene Fitch	Walter Starcher
Amanda Britton	Leroy Hart	Patty Stoner
Arthur Britton	Janice Kelly	Margie Tarry
Jack Cochran	Les Knight	Jim Weckbacher
Chuck Keach	Dave Lockledge	Marti Williams
Al Eddy	Graham Reinke	Mike Wytrzyaszczewski

Thank you all,
Chris Godard

About December's Meeting

At the last board meeting there was a discussion about what to do at the December Christmas dinner meeting. The biggest question under discussion was do we have door prizes or not and do we have the traditional plant for the ladies. The board didn't decide about the door prizes but they did decide to have a plant for each of the ladies present.

Then the question became what kind of plant. Last year we had Christmas cactus instead of the usual poinsettias. The board couldn't decide and finally Andy Bettick volunteered to be in charge of picking and obtaining a plant. So far Andy sees three plants as possibilities: poinsettias, Christmas cactus and something new, cyclamen. Andy would appreciate any suggestions about what plant to choose. See him at the next meeting. We shouldn't go over \$5.00 per plant so don't suggest something exotic and expensive.

Walt's Garden Tips for November

1. Deep root water trees and shrubs to insure adequate water supply before the ground freezes.
2. Summer annuals wintering inside may need some pruning this month. Root the clippings in vermiculite or sand for great Christmas gifts.
3. Mulch perennials and roses this month, utilizing straw, hay, leaves of compost. Wait until the ground is frozen.
4. November is the month for relaxing, enjoying a good garden book, or visiting your local garden center for fun and enjoyment.
5. As new seed catalogs arrive, select and order new varieties early. They are usually in short supply. Delayed ordering may leave you without desired seeds.
6. Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean slower growth for indoor plants. Avoid overwatering at this time. Water according to the plant's needs.
7. Cut down faded asparagus foliage. Mulch beds with chopped leaves to protect crowns over winter.
8. Protect your roses during the cold winter months. Place bark mulch around the base so that the first part of the stem (nearest the ground) is completely covered.
9. Mulch strawberries with straw after several nights with temperatures near 20.F. Apply straw loosely but thick enough to hide plants from view.
10. Mount at least 10 inches of soil or compost around the base of tender roses after the ground freezes.

For December

1. As a part of your holiday giving, consider sharing your gardening enjoyment by including tools, gloves, garden books and magazines.
2. Icy walks are dangerous, but salt can harm adjacent plants. Try clean, sharp sand, ground nut shells, kitty litter, or scoria as an alternative. (Walter doesn't know what scoria is)
3. After purchasing your Christmas tree, trim 2" off the trunk before placing it in warm water with preservative. Check water level daily.
4. Protect your tools' wooden handles. Sand smooth and treat with boiled linseed oil. This will increase the lifespan and make tools more comfortable to handle.
5. Fill a deep bucket with sand and add oil. After use stick your tools in the sand and they will be clean and oiled.
6. Water trees and shrubs if this month is dry to prevent winter kill, especially on south-facing slopes.
7. Christmas poinsettias like a warm, bright window during the days and cool nights. Keep uniformly watered at all times.
8. Birds appreciate your keeping the feeders full, but they will be even more grateful for suet.
9. Living (balled) Christmas trees should be in the house for no more than one week. Then they should be acclimated to the outdoors and planted in a desired location.
10. Keep your hedges trimmed with a rounded top so that the snow won't collect and break the branches. You never know when you will get a heavy wet snowfall.

Welcome New Member

Sharon Aaron 1989 Akron Peninsula Road Akron, Ohio 44313 phone 330-922-4923
e-mail sda1989@att.net

Sharon lists her profession as a Social Worker. She is unmarried. For club activities she says she is interested in the geranium sale and Habitat for Humanity landscaping. Her gardening interests are annuals, birds and butterflies, and perennials. Her hobbies are writing poems and writing songs She says she was recommended by Mimi's calendar. We'll have to ask her what that means.

2011 Membership Dues

November continues the Gardeners of Greater Akron club's membership renewal drive. We would like all of our members to have their dues for 2011 paid by the end of the year. Sooner is better than later. Dues remain the same at \$35 for an individual, \$60 for family (living at same address) and \$15 for life members. The best way to pay is at the November dinner. Or, you may mail your check to Leroy Hart, 633 Schocalog Road, Akron, OH 44320-1033. Make checks payable to Gardeners of Greater Akron. By getting all members paid up by the end of December we can get our roster out in January including all the new members. Let's make it happen.

Membership Committee: Bob Bell and Grace Cochran

2011 Dues Are Due

Regular Members - \$35.00	_____
Life Members - \$15.00	_____
Associate Members - \$15.00	_____
Family Life Members - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$40.00	_____
Family Regular Member - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$60.00	_____
New Life Membership - at any age - One time payment of \$200.00	_____

Please complete the following form , enclose your check and bring it to a meeting or mail it to:

Leroy Hart

633 Schocalog Road

Akron. OH 44320- 1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address (if OK to print in club roster) _____