



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 LXX

October 2011

Number 10

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Monday, October 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, October 17, 2011
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Phenology

Denise Ellsworth will present a program on phenology. Phenology is the science of what effect climate, temperature, sunlight, and other factors have on plant development and the signs to look for in predicting what to do in your garden.

Board Meeting: October 24 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

We are now into fall and it does not look like the wet weather will ever cease! This year has been very good for a lot of plants and trees although it did not start out that way. If you think about it, the plants in our geranium sale were very underdeveloped from previous years at the same time. It also seems to me that leaves are behind in changing colors and falling from trees for this time of year. With all of the precipitation we have had, perhaps we will have a mild winter with not much snow. Too much to wish for maybe, but I can't help myself.

I again want to thank all of the club members that were involved in the revision of the by-laws and the establishment of the endowment fund with the Akron Community Foundation. The almost unanimous affirmation of this document by our club members was very gratifying to me. This is a testament to the thoroughness that everyone took to ensure that we have a document and a process in place that will serve this club well for years to come.

I am going to write now about a sequence of events and how synchronicity plays a part in our lives. This spring, Cheryl spoke to her aerobics teacher, Rose Donatell, about the invasion of midges that we have at our business during the summer. She recommended that we speak to Larry Hunter about a natural pest control by introducing birds to nest on our property. Most of you probably remember Larry as he spoke to the club several years ago about purple martins. I talked to him and he recommended that we install two or three bird houses to attract tree swallows. These tree swallows live to eat small insects and are a great aid in controlling small insects like midges that are a total aggravation to our customers. Part of the irony of this story is that for those who were at the last dinner meeting, you may remember our speaker Judy Semroc, speaking about an incident that happened to her. She had found a rare damselfly and was in the process of photographing it when a tree swallow snatched it up in front of her eyes. The story gets even better! It turns out that Cheryl's teacher and friend Rose and the other speaker at our last dinner meeting, Larry Rosche, have been good friends for over forty years.

The first step in installing the bird houses is to put the base poles in place. In preparation for digging the holes, we called the Summit County Environmental Department to find out where the sewer lines are on our property. We did not want to puncture a line while digging the holes. When Cheryl spoke to a lady at that department, she was told that we could not get anyone out for a few days. Cheryl then explained what we were doing, the lady was thrilled. Not only is she going to look into doing something similar at her home; she got someone to mark where the lines were on our property the next morning. Another piece of good news that is derived from this sequence of events is that Larry is very interested in joining our club. Among other things, he grows a mean dahlia.

I hope that you enjoy this story. The way that all of these events intertwine is amazing to me. Perhaps some of you can remember similar situations.

It is remarkable how this year has flown by. It is true that the older you get, the faster time goes. Working with all of you in the various aspects of this club has been very inspirational and a lot of fun.

Thank you for your support and best regards, Clark

Habitat for Humanity

Once again, before the weather turns adverse, I'm planning on having one more event. The next one will happen on Sat., October 22, from 9AM til Noon. Mr. Reed from Habitat has suggested we work at 698 Corice Avenue in Akron. From the 76/77 central interchange, go south on 77, get off at the Lover's Lane exit, go east on Lover's Lane to Hammel St., turn left on Hammel. The second cross street is Corice Ave., turn left onto Corice.

Always remember to bring gloves, a hard rake, shovel and annuals that seem fitting to the project. Coffee, water and Bob's famous donuts will be provided. Please dress according to weather conditions. If we find it too wet all week leading up to the event, we can cancel at the last minute. I will call you or you may call me the night before the event. At any rate, I'll be calling you to ask for your help that week. It would be great to have a super turnout. The Beacon Journal may be out to see what we all do well for our community. In the mean, thank you in advance for providing your time towards one of our greatest events of the year.

With care, Chris Godard

Rubber from Weeds

(Editor's note - Every two months I receive a newsletter from OARDC, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Sometimes I find an article that really interests me and I want to share it with you.)

Ford Motor Company and OARDC are testing rubber made from dandelions. Ford Motor Co. Is joining forces with OARDC to find new uses for an alternative source of rubber being developed by OARDC scientists. Ford is interested in replacing synthetic rubber in cup holders, floor mats, interior trim and other plastic parts with natural, domestically grown rubber from *Taraxacum kok-saghyz*, or TKS, a plant native to the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and commonly called Russian dandelion.

OARDC crop scientists and engineers have been working during the past few years on developing a commercially viable crop from TKS seeds and an effective way to extract rubber from the plant's fleshy roots, which can contain 15 percent or more of the sticky substance. The better performing plants are now grown in greenhouses, high tunnels (plastic covered structures) and a two-acre field on the Wooster campus. Plans for larger plantations and a pilot-scale processing facility are underway.

Ford is always looking for new sustainable materials to use in their vehicles that have a smaller carbon footprint to produce and can be grown locally said a Ford research engineer. They regard synthetic rubber as a non sustainable resource, so they want to minimize its use in vehicles when possible. Dandelions have the potential to serve as a great natural alternative to synthetic rubber.

Member News

Harold White has moved to Rockynol. His new address is 1148 West Market St., # 304. Akron, OH 44313-7146. His phone number is the same: 330-836-8814

Walt's Gardening Tips for October

(Editor's note: My apologies to Walt. For the past few issues I have not been able to include his gardening tips because of too many other articles. But this month there is plenty of room.)

1. In the fall deciduous trees turn carbohydrates in their leaves into sugars and move them into twigs, buds and down into their roots for storage. Leaf cells then break down, starting with the chloroplasts that contain the green pigment chlorophyll. This process reveals the yellows, reds, and oranges that were present all along in the leaves, but were hidden under green. The trees will use the stored sugar to feed spring growth.
2. Clean up-- Remove dead plant material from garden and flower beds to prevent over-wintering of disease and insects. put the healthy refuse in the compost bin.
3. Empty out hoses and sprayers and other equipment. Don't store aerosol or liquid chemicals where they might freeze.
4. Spade or till the garden before the first freeze and again before winter arrives. This will bring the pests to the surface where the harsh winter will kill them.
5. Do sharpen your garden tools before putting them away for the season. A light coating of oil of WD-40 will keep rust away.
6. After frost, remove all vegetable garden debris to reduce insects and disease next year. Till vegetable gardens and add organic matter.
7. Plant garlic and shallots now for harvest next July. Plant in a sunny spot in well-drained soil, placing the tips 2" beneath the soil level.
- 8 Before freezing temperatures, disconnect hoses from faucets and drain. then store indoors before a hard frost.
9. Hot peppers store well dry. Pull the plants and hang up, or pick the peppers and string them on a thread. Store in a cool dry location.

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, and leaves for 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. Mound at least 10 inches of soil or compost around the base of tender roses after the ground freezes.

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