



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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

Published Monthly: Volume LXXI

October 2012

Number 10

President:

Sam Morlan
170 Hollybrier Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9475
☎ 330-336-6269
Email: samandlora@wadsnet.com

1st Vice President:

David Lockledge
620 Beaverbrook Dr.
Akron, OH 44333-2820
☎ 330-865-3665
Email: lochledge@cityofcf.com

2nd Vice President:

Barbara Croghan
720 Ecton Road
Akron, OH 44303
☎ 330-836-0386
Email: bcroghan56@gmail.com

Secretary:

Marti Williams
2981 Baughman Rd.
Clinton, OH 44216-9331
☎ 330-825-5315

Treasurer:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Rd.
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

National Director:

Frank M. Mitch
2065 Kemery Road
Akron, OH 44333-1937
☎ 330-666-2327
Email: fmm2065@hotmail.com

Gabber Editor/Historian:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033
☎ 330-836-1407
Email: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

Monday, October 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, October 15, 2012

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: All About Pollinators

Our speakers are Judy Semroc and Larry Rosch. Judy is a conservation specialist with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. She will be speaking about pollinators accompanied by great photographs.

Board Meeting: October 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 - Sam Morlan

October was the eighth month in the old Roman calendar. It is considered the harvest month by many cultures in The Northern Hemisphere. The most notable holiday is Halloween, which means holy eve. The church in its attempt to convert the Irish created a holy day, All Saints Day, to coincide with a harvest festival the Irish practiced on the last day of October called Samhain. The festival consisted of people going door to door and throwing animal bones on the many bonfires that were lit during the festival. Lost souls were said to roam the night looking for a new body to inhabit. To trick these spirits people would disguise themselves as something else and carve scary faces onto gourds and turnips to ward off the evil spirits. The church created All Saints Day in order to have a similar holy day. Halloween has become second in holiday decoration sales next to Christmas in The United States.

Our club is having a serious problem concerning officers or lack of interest in filling the empty positions. President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary are all positions that will be open next year. I realize there are many long time members who are still active that filled these positions over the years. What we need are some relatively new members to step up and bring in some new ideas and ways of doing things . I know there are people out there that would do a great job. The nominating committee will be contacting some of you soon. Another possibility is to take nominations from the floor. If you are interested in a position or know someone that may be interested give them a little nudge and with their permission nominate them. The lack of officers is one of the first signs of a club in decline; let's not let it happen.

We have a pumpkin and sunflower contestant this year for the first time ever. We passed out quite a few seed packets but so far only one contestant has fulfilled all the requirements. It is a start. I hope you all get to meet her at the awards dinner in November. She is an impressive little girl.

Getting kids to take up gardening is a hard job. I think the main problem is that as a society we have become disconnected from the source of our food. It has become very easy to feed ourselves with anything we want any time of the year relatively cheaply, especially in The United States. I came to gardening mainly through my grandparents. My grandfather was a sharecropper from southwestern Ohio on a hardscrabble farm that took a lot of work and ingenuity to gather enough to make it through the winter. I can remember going to my great aunts and uncles farms in the summer to family reunions and seeing hay being made and cows being milked, chasing ducks (we got yelled at for that) and all of the meats and fruits and vegetables that were canned and stored for the winter. Grandpa raised a large garden and raised a few chickens on a place they rented in Barberton mainly to help ease their budget during the depression. I remember when they lived in a smaller place; he always planted some tomatoes and peppers and in his waning years we would plant and pick for him and grandma. Grandma loved flowers and as a small child I would help her as much as I could. I was probably in the way most of the time. Kids don't have that perspective any more, they enjoy planting and working in the soil but if their parents aren't interested they soon loose any interest. So if you have a child or grandchild or any child that seems interested in what you are doing let them help even if they slow you down a little because later on they could be a great help and asset to your patience.

Gardeners of Greater Akron Endowment Fund Report

September 19, 2012

Per the club's bylaws the Endowment committee is required to prepare a quarterly report for our board of directors after reviewing the quarterly reports from the Akron Community Foundation. This report covers the first and second quarters of 2012.

From the spread sheet that the Akron Community Foundation releases each quarter are some items of interest that compare these two quarters.

1. Total Increase in the fund for 2 quarters is 6.2 % with 5.5 % from investment activity and 1.2 % from contributions.
2. Very significant investment returns in the 1st quarter were 9.2 % but there was a loss of 3.4 % in the second quarter.
3. In the 2nd quarter the contributions were \$125.00. The committee is preparing a year end letter requesting contributions to be mailed to all members in October.
4. The administration fees were twice as much in the second quarter. This is to be questioned with ACF.
5. Spendable Income Allocation was \$157.48 and \$155.46 in the two quarters. Including amounts from last year the total now available for grants is \$415.67.
6. Our initial investment in the fund was \$10,800.24.
7. The committee recommends to the board that "Until such time as the club does not have adequate funds for current or planned projects, it is recommended that the ACF distributions should be retained in our ACF account. Such retention will help the growth of our ACF fund with additional earnings."

Submitted by the GOGA Endowment Committee:

Robert Bell, chair

Grace Cochran

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Christine Freitag

Frank Mitch

Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday 9/29 we did two habitat houses, one on Berwyn St and the other on east York St. A beautiful day finishing up around 2:00 PM. Those members there: Chris, Les, Bob, Al, Lowell, Gene, Roger, David, Chuck, and a woman whose name I don't remember.

Submitted by Les Knight

Walt's Gardening Tips

October

1. Clean up and 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.
2. Empty out hoses and sprayers and other equipment. Don't store aerosol or liquid chemicals where they might freeze.
3. 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.
4. Do sharpen your garden tools before putting them away for the season. A light coating of oil of WD-40 will keep rust away.
5. After frost remove all vegetable garden debris to reduce insects and disease next year. Till vegetable gardens and add organic matter.
6. 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.
7. Before freezing temperatures arrive, disconnect hoses from faucets and drain. Then store indoors before a hard frost.
8. 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.

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.

Correction

In last month's article on the horticulture show it was stated that Frank Field had won a blue ribbon. Frank said that it was his wife, Eileen, who had won the blue. She also was not listed as a participant in the show.

2013 RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP-GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

We begin our campaign for membership in October. We plan to finish all renewals by the December meeting. Please fill out the membership renewal form below. Please complete the demographics as they may have changed.

The information from this form will be entered into the 2013 Membership Roster.

Please complete Garden Club interests.

Bring this application with renewal payment to the dinner meetings or mail to Leroy Hart 633 Schocalog Rd. Akron, Ohio 44320-1033. Sooner is better than later.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell # _____

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: _____ Endowment Committee: _____

Silent Auction: _____

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.

Any questions contact: Bob Bell, Leroy Hart, or Grace Cochran

Updated: 9/25/12