



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

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Monday, October 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, October 21, 2013

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: Danae Wolfe is our speaker this month.

Danae is the Summit County Extension Educator. She is also an interpretive Park Ranger for the National Park She has degrees in environmental sciences and is currently working on her PHD

Board Meeting: October 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://gogakron.org>

President's Message – Sam Morlan

Welcome everyone to the fall season with its unique sights and smells as well as tastes. Every season has its own particular charm. Spring with its smell of new warmth, sunshine and the feeling of wonder at the new growth that is happening all around us. Summer has us out and about not only in the garden but also taking vacations, taking time out to stop and smell the roses. Winter is my least favorite season because of its dreary nature in this part of the country and the cold is not very pleasant anymore. Still a nice snow with a good book, a warm place to curl up and no place to go is nice sometimes. Fall is a season of sensory explosions. You have the smell and sounds of falling leaves along with the faint odors of wood fires for the first time in awhile. It is a season for pumpkin pies, apples and fresh cider. Who can resist the bluster of Halloween with all the decorations and the sounds of kids having fun. Enjoy

I would like to talk a little about a lecture I and other members of our club attended at the Akron Public Library. It was a talk given by Douglas Tallamy an entomologist and expert on invasive species from The University of Delaware. The main theme of his book and the force behind his research is that man as a species has lost contact with the other species around us that we depend upon so heavily. I know many of us do not realize how connected we are to the environment around us. The prime example is the plight of the honeybees. Bees are responsible for 33% of food production in the United State and probably through out the world. The conventional wisdom is that the bees are being adversely affected by our over use of insecticides and herbicides. I admit there are other factors involved in the bee's demise but my point is that as a society we have not taken any steps to address this problem. Some European countries have taken steps to limit the use of chemicals by individuals but also have placed limits on agriculture.

Another big problem has been garden design. We have been led to believe that a huge expanse of turf along with a few good looking non native trees and shrubs is the norm for beauty . Most of this type of design is intended to impress others. Evan as gardeners we have become unwitting pawns to mass marketing. We tend to plant a landscape with an eye to what an onlooker might think; which is OK but we need to be more aware of what is beneficial to the other species around us. You can't have butterflies without caterpillars. You cant have a diverse bird population without bugs. Birds, bugs, bees all need habitat to survive and we sometimes deprive them of that. Monarchs need milkweeds to survive, birds need an ample supply of bugs to be healthy and prosper. We can help in a big way by planting more species that are native in our landscape. We as a species have had the largest impact on our eco system in the last 200 years. As gardeners we can help cure some of the ills by killing fewer bugs, planting more native trees and shrubs

We are hosting the Regional Summer Meet next summer if anyone wants to help let me know.

Welcome New Member

Robin Reid, 2748 Smith Road, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333 phone 330-864-8523 e mail robncar@sbcglobal.net Robin is a retired electrical engineer from Firestone. He is married to Carol Reid. He is interested in the club's geranium sale. His gardening interests are annuals/perennials, birds/ butterflies, conversation/ environment. His hobbies are barbershop harmony singing

Recognition of a Member

Roger Hite has been a member of our club since 1990.

He has been very helpful in many ways and has participated in many club activities.

Roger also has contributed much to other community organizations, especially the Summit County Metro Parks.

We found recently a brand new bench on the West side of the Chippewa Hiking trail in the Silver Creek Park.

No doubt this was contributed by Roger in his usual generous and helpful manner. Here is what we read on the sign on top of the bench:

Roger Moore Hite

I would know nothing of the beauty of nature,

had I not walked my first trail with you.

Thank you for introducing me to the wonders of

fishing, gardening, and the rest of this

beautiful world that we live in.

Because of you, I will always be a better person.

We believe Roger has completed almost all of the Summit County Metro Parks Fall Hiking Sprees in the past 49 years. This year is the 50th year for those Hiking Sprees, a year for celebration.

Frank Mitch

Endowment Fund

Normally this would be a short article reporting on the second quarter results of our investment in the Akron Community Foundation. In fact it would have been in last month's GABBER but due to the Editor's surgery we had a short newsletter. So what I am going to tell you is the Garden Club has had a good year so far with our investment.

You will receive a letter in the mail this month from the Endowment Committee. It will contain a report on the details of our investment. Please look for the letter.

Bob Bell – Chairman Endowment Fund

Poem

"A man who has a garden fair,
whether small or big,
with flowers blooming here and there,
Must bend his back and dig."

"With mystical glory,
They rise from the sod,
Who loveth not flowers,
Knoweth not God."

Author Unknown - submitted by Les Knight

Horticulture Show

Thanks to all who participated in the horticulture show-it was beautiful and educational to see the array of well-grown flowers, vegetables, potted plants, etc.

Andy Bettick was back this year, as the big blue winner with 13 blues! (I have found the large plaque at last and will update the names for the past three years)

Jim Bell was runner up with 10 blues, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich had nine, Roger Hite came in with 7 blues, and Frank Field had 4. Les Knight got three blues, along with Bob Bell. Frank Mitch had one, as did Chuck Evans, our visitor from the Cleveland club (thanks for entering Cleveland, come again next year!)

People's Choice went to Jim Bell for his orchid.

Best of Show went to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich for her clematis.

2nd Best of Show went to Jim Bell for his orchid.

3rd Best of Show went to Bob Bell for his potted fern.

Jim Bell had the most section awards with five, Andy Bettick had two, Roger Hite had two, Bob Bell had two, and Les Knight had two.

Only one person got a blue ribbon with no name on the card. We are improving.

It's getting really competitive for those top awards.

Many thanks to Cheryl Bordner and Sue Godard who acted as clerk.

Thanks also to our Youngstown Judges who do a great job every year.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Walt's Tips for October

1. 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.
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, 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

2014 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 2014.

Please be aware this year there will be no ‘reminder’ calls for membership renewal as this slows down the completion of the 2014 Roster.

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.

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: _____

To keep the Roster current, if you have any changes to your address or phone, please fill out those areas.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

Thank you from the membership committee.

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

Updated: 9/27/13