



The Garden Gabber



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

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President

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

1st Vice President:

Robert Bell
1832 Sandy Lane Road
Ravenna, OH 44366
☎ 330-673-3553

2nd Vice President:

David Rich
1166 Broadview Rd.
Tallmadge, OH 44278
☎ 330-630-9625

Secretary:

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
1166 Broadview Rd.
Tallmadge, OH 44278
☎ 330-630-9625

Treasurer:

John Lewis
3066 Rohrer Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576
☎ 330-336-9336

National Directors:

William Moorehouse
511 Overwood Road
Akron, OH 44313
☎ 330-864-0604

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

Gabber Editor/Historian:

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

Monday, September 18

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, September 18, 2006
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Vino La Bella
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Program All About Dahlias

Rodney Toth, from The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, will speak about growing dahlias. Rodney is well known in this part of the state for his dahlias. He often wins blue ribbons and sectional awards at horticultural shows in the area. Rodney is well known to some of us in the club since he has judged our horticultural show for several years. He also is active in the Central Great Lakes Region. He has been the president of the region and is presently the first Vice President elect, which means he is responsible for planning next year's summer regional conference. He has already made the preliminary plans for this conference. It will be at Youngstown State University.

If Rodney doesn't mention it in his talk, ask him why he puts little umbrellas over his dahlias.

The short presentation this month will be by Lowell Zurburch, a member of the Stow club and an associate member of our club. He is in charge of the beautification program of the Stow club; he will speak about this program

Club web site: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcakron>

A Message from Your President by Leroy Hart

There are several items that I would like to discuss with you this month. First are the results of the survey of members' interests that was conducted by Bob Bell at the last meeting. It was decided that it would take too long to try to tabulate the votes at the meeting so Bob took all the papers home and tabulated the results. He said that four things were very prominent. They were:

1. Visit member's gardens. We have already had three volunteers who would be willing to open their gardens for visits by other members. They are Andy Bettick who has won two club beautification awards for his garden. Also Bob Bell and Jim Bell. Unfortunately it is too late in the year for this to be done this year; these gardeners are already putting their gardens to bed for the winter. But keep this in mind for next spring and summer.
- 2.. Have a short presentation by a club member each month on a gardening subject. We have been doing this and it is good to know that it is a popular addition to the club meetings. You should be ready to present such a presentation if asked and volunteers would be appreciated by Bob Bell, who is the person responsible for programs.
3. Have a plant and/or seed exchange during a club meeting. The details of such an exchange would have to be worked out. One possibility would be for a member to list in the Garden Gabber seeds or plants he or she would like to obtain and also those which he or she would have available for others.
4. Have a bus trip to some significant garden spot. To the best of my memory this has been done only twice in the past by our club. The first was a trip to the southern part of the state to visit two tree farms. The other was arranged by Francis Weng and I believe the destination was the Holden Arboretum. (I didn't go on that one.)

Bob Bell will be discussing these results at the meeting this month. I find it interesting that there were no projects or subjects chosen that involved any work or community involvement by the club. To be sure these topics were selected by some but they were not the prominent ones. In my opinion this is one of the weaknesses of our club. Outside of the landscaping of the Habitat for Humanity homes and the maintenance of a little garden at Crown Point we are not involved in the community. As I read the newsletters from the other clubs in the region I am struck by the fact of how much the stronger clubs in the region do in the community . More about this community activity in the next issue of the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster.

At the last board meeting the subject of programs for next year was brought up. It was decided that if the club had a digital projector we could have more and better programs available. This projector works through a lap top computer and is used for power point programs. If you have ever seen a power point presentation you know how superior it is to a slide presentation. The price of this projector is between \$700 and \$1,000. It would be possible to rent one but the rental is almost \$100. The board wondered if any member had such a projector or knew where we could borrow one for meetings. Something to think about; the club could afford it it we thought it was a good idea.

I will not be at the September meeting. Cathy and I will be on a river cruise in Europe. This cruise goes from Amsterdam to Vienna. This will be our second river cruise this year. In May we did a cruise on the Columbia River starting in Portland, Oregon. If you enjoyed my travelogue about Newfoundland in earlier newsletters this spring I might be able to give you one about these cruises.

Habitat for Humanity Fall Schedule

Members, please save these dates as work days for our second and third new Habitat homes to receive your special landscaping skills this year:

1. Saturday, September 30, 2006, 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Location on North Hill, Akron: 890 Springdale off of Uhler Ave.
2. Saturday, October 14, 2006, 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Location in South Akron: 302 South Street. Next to the house at 298 South Street we worked on in 2004. It is right next to the west expressway, a few blocks west of South Main Street.

In addition to those Saturdays we will need some help during the preceding days to accompany either Jim Bell's or my trusty tillers in some soil preparation work. Sign up sheets will be at the September 18 dinner or call Frank Mitch at 330-666-2327. Email works too at fmm2065@hotmail.com.

Frank Mitch, Chairman, Habitat Committee

Horticulture Show

The club's Horticultural Show was held August 12 and 13 at the downtown public library. There were 125 entries in the show. The Sweepstakes winner, for the most blue ribbons, was Jim Bell with 24 first place ribbons. His name will be engraved on the Marsh Greenlun Big Blue Award. Second place was Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich with 14 blue ribbons. There was a tie for third place between Cathy Morgan and Frank Mitch with 10 blues each.

Best of Show-Jim Bell for his Fairy Garden. This was a collection of miniature plants arranged in a circular container about one and one half feet in diameter. This miniature garden also won the best of show award at The Quail Hollow Herbal Society show and it was a section winner at the Youngstown Men's Garden Club show

Section Awards

Annuals - Rodney Toth from Youngstown
 Vegetables - Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
 Ornamental Vegetables - Rodney Toth
 Fruit - Jim Bell
 Herbs - Jim Bell
 Perennials - Rodney Toth
 Hostas and leaves - Jim Bell
 Cacti - Jim Bell
 Woody shrubs or trees - Larry Whetson from Youngstown
 Succulents - Jim Bell
 Arrangements - Jim Bell for Fairy Garden
 Heaviest Tomato Award - Frank Mitch
 Special Geranium Award - Frank Mitch

The men from Youngstown were judges at our show. Some of our members judged at Youngstown and at the Herb Society show.

Welcome New Members

Eileen O. Field - 675 Ardella Drive, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44223, phone 330-929-7756.

Eileen is retired and she did not indicate from which company or profession. She is married to our member Frank L. Field. She listed her hobbies as reading, hiking and bridge. Her gardening interests are annuals, birds and butterflies, flowers and perennials.

She was recommended by Frank Field.

Leslie H. Knight (Les) - 77 Stadium Drive, Tallmadge, Ohio, 44278 phone 330-633-2616

E-mail leslie,knight@worldnet.att.net

Les is retired from Firestone where he was in the tax and accounting department. He is married to Carol L. Knight. He lists his gardening interests as annuals, birds and butterflies, conservation, flowers, landscaping, lawns, perennials, specialty gardening, shrubs and trees, vegetables, and wildlife. He was recommended by Grace Cochran.

Donzell's Garden Center - 937 East Waterloo Road, Akron, Ohio 44306, phone 330-724-0505, E-mail info@donzells.com

The form was signed by D. Kohan

Donzell's was recommended by Leroy Hart

This membership came about as a result of the letter I sent to our advertisers explaining that we were no longer having ads in the Garden Gabber. I suggested that if they wanted to continue involvement in the club they should join either as individuals or as a business. Donzell's was the only one who joined. At the August meeting membership chairman, Jim Fee, had members' discount coupons that were sent to him along with the application form by Donzell's. He has some of these left and he will probably bring them to the September meeting.

These are the first new members that we have had in months. We need to get many more.

Award Received

At the August meeting our treasurer, John Lewis, received the Master Gardener Award. This award is given by the Central Great Lakes Region. It was presented at the summer regional conference in Wooster but John was not present. This award of honor is given to an individual who has performed significant service to gardening in his or her respective community. It's also for significant service to the individual's local club.

Other members of the Akron Mens' Garden Club who have received the Master Gardener Award are: George Mines in 1972, Carl Graefe in 1973, Dr. J. C. Lichty in 1976, James A. Riffer in 1980, Leroy Hart in 2002, and Roger Hite in 2004.

Regional Meeting

The Central Great Lakes Region fall meeting will be held on October 14 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. The meeting is held in the gatehouse of Kingwood Center. At 10:00 A.M. there will be a training session on newsletters and the Redbook. Lunch will be at the Golden Corral.(the buffet where we usually had lunch was closed at the April meeting)

In the afternoon there will be a short business meeting and the installation of officers. The program will be on some of the beautiful gardens visited this summer by Nancy Kronberg of the Findlay club. Anita Lanning, the regional president, says that this schedule is not final. Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich will be installed as next year's president. Our club usually has three or four members attend the regional meetings, but it would be better if we had better participation.

Gardening Help Available

Walter Starcher reports that he has the Ortho Problem Solver book which was purchased by the club some years ago. This is a very large book and Walt does not bring it to the club meetings, but he will be glad to look in the book to answer your questions about plant problems if you would contact him at 330-725-7193.

About September

Our ninth month, September, was the seventh in the Roman calendar. In spite of attempts by the Senate, the Romans did not change the names of the last four months of the year. The word September stems from the Latin *septem*, meaning seven. After the Romans added the months of January and February, the name September, seventh, was no longer correct for what had become the ninth month, but the name stuck and the name September is still used today.

During this period, the Romans celebrated some important games, the Ludi Magni (beginning on September 4) honoring the king of the gods Jupiter and Juno and Minerva. When Julius Caesar reformed the calendar, he gave September an additional day, making it 31, but later this day was removed putting September back to 30 days.

In the time of Charlemagne, this month was called "Harvest Month". The Anglo-Saxons named it "Gerst-monath" or "Barley month", during which they harvested the barley and made their brew. They also used the name "Holy Month" for September because at that time they observed an ancient religious festival. In Switzerland this month is still called "Harvest Month".

September has always been associated with the gathering of crops and agricultural fairs, with the display of grains, fruits, vegetables, live stock, and many things of interest to farmers and their families.

In September the moon is high above the horizon, and furnishes light for workers to continue their labors late in the fields. This moon has often been called and sung about as the "harvest moon". The autumn equinox occurs during this time of year.

William Howard Taft was the only president to be born in September, born in 1857. Other important

persons born in September were Eugene Field, Cardinal Richelieu, Grandma Moses, O. Henry, Michael Faraday, Henry Hudson, General Pershing, Alexander the Great, William McGuffey, George Gershwin, Samuel Adams, Frances Willard, Lord Nelson. Upton Sinclair, Greta Garbo, Lafayette, Richard the Lion-hearted, Samuel Johnson, Walter Pidgeon, and Jane Addams.

During past centuries many distinctive happenings have occurred in September: in 1666 the Great fire started in London, in 1774 the first Continental Congress was in session, in 1776 Nathan Hale was captured, in 1781 the pueblo of Los Angeles was founded, in 1784 the United States had its first daily newspaper, in 1787 the U.S. Constitution was signed. in 1789 the U.S. Supreme Court was founded, the U.S. Treasury was founded and Alexander Hamilton became the first Secretary of the Treasury. in 1793 the cornerstone of the National Capitol was laid, in 1797 President George Washington made his famous Farewell Address, in 1797 the Constitution, Old Ironsides, was launched, in 1846 Elias Howe invented the sewing machine, in 1851 the first edition of the New York Times appeared, in 1864 Atlanta, Georgia was captured by Union forces, in 1882 the first Labor Day was celebrated in America, in 1898 radium was discovered, in 1901 President William McKinley was shot in Buffalo, in 1916 the first armored tank was used on a battlefield, and in 1927 Babe Ruth hit his sixtieth home run.

The September birthstone is the Sapphire. The sapphire is a variety of corundum which is the hardest mineral except the diamond. In ancient times the sapphire was called "hyacinthus". There is disagreement about the origin of the word "sapphire". Some say the word comes from the Latin and Greek meaning "blue"; other say it comes from a Sanskrit word meaning "beloved of Saturn".

The September flower is the aster meaning "star". There are about 250 species of asters.

The alternate September flower is the Morning Glory.

Akron Men's Garden Club
1148 West Market St #110
Akron OH 44313-7145