



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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Monday, September 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, September 15, 2014

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 Roses

Our speaker will be Peter Schneider, the author of the book Right Rose Right Place. Mr. Schneider spoke to us two years ago and brought many roses, all different kinds. Hopefully, he will also bring roses again this year. More about the program on page three by Clark.

Board Meeting: September 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://gogakron.org>

President's Message - Arthur Britton

Hello to one and all. Welcome to September and all that it has to offer. We have had what I would call an almost summer. I thought we might have hotter days, but we did not, except for the last few days in August. I went from having a lot of green tomatoes to having an abundance of my yellow and red tomatoes and peppers. I will use this as a segway to bring up that if you have extra produce and then donate it to the local food bank please let us know so that we will be able to add that information to the plant a row program.

Ok, so who likes to plan ahead and who has there 2015 calendars? When you do get your calendar please make sure to reserve Monday June 15th, that is when our Strawberry Festival will be and it will be held at Coventry Oaks (same location as this year). More details will be coming, I just wanted to let you folks know so you will be sure to mark your calendar and be there in attendance.

I was not able to attend the Horticulture show that was held last month, I heard a lot of good thing and that I missed some really wonderful plants. Also at that meeting the club was able to hear all about what the Crouse Elementary 3rd grad program is all about. We have received a very nice e-mail from them and they greatly appreciate the donations that they have received and are very happy to be working with us. Julia Spangler is the teacher there and very happy to be working with us. I also would like to say thank you to the Youth Program committee for all of the hard work that they have done.

Les Knight is going to get more information as to the shirts that the club might have for sale. I am sure that they would make great birthday and Christmas gifts. More information will be coming soon.

This club has a lot to offer and you learn a great deal by being an officer in the club. Now is the time that if you have an interest in being an officer in the club please let us know and we will be happy to answer any question that you might have.

The speaker on September 15th is going to be Peter Schneider, he is going to talk about roses. He always has wonderful roses to show and is a person that if he does not have the answer to your rose question then we will find the answer, so we all know.

May we all continue to love Gardening.

From the First Vice President

As I write, it is September 1. Where has the time gone? Cheryl and I have had an exciting summer and much of our joy has been through the gardens and plants that the Lord has provided for us.

I have been asked to comment about our speaker for the September meeting. His name is Peter Schneider and he has been growing roses at his home in northern Portage county for years. He will bring several varieties of roses with him and is very informative and entertaining as a speaker. Peter has an open house in the summer for those who love roses. I highly recommend that you attend this dinner meeting to hear this captivating speaker.

I believe that Arthur is going to address this topic in his President's message. I think that it is important enough for me to comment as well. We will have nominations and elections of officers in the next few months and we need candidates for 2nd Vice President. Our club has a natural progression where the 2nd Vice President serves for a year; becomes the 1st Vice President for a year and then becomes President. All of this may seem daunting but you have a great club with many helping hands. We definitely have positive energy coursing through the veins of our club and YOU can have a definite impact. Please consider this position and let Sam Morlan, Arthur or myself know your intentions. We have had difficulties filling this position the past few years and we would like to avoid that this year.

Yesterday, Cheryl, Jim Bell, and I traveled to Hubbard, a suburb of Youngstown, to visit the gardens of Rodney Toth. Absolutely incredible!! 20 foot high sunflowers, a celosia garden, gourds of amazing shapes and sizes, four to five foot high marigold plants, several angel trumpet "trees" in full bloom to mention a few. Of course his crowning achievement is his rows of umbrella covered dahlias which are truly a marvel. Cheryl took several pictures on her phone which I am sure that she will share at our next meeting.

I hope that everyone had a pleasant Labor Day holiday and I hope to see all of you in two weeks.

With best regards, Clark

Words of Wisdom

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.

The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

Don't let aging get you down, it's too hard to get back up.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be "Recalled" by their maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Welcome New Members

Julia Spangler, 855 Cree Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44305 phone 330-256-2861
e-mail jspangle@akron.k12.oh.us

Julia is married to Mark Spangler. She is a teacher in the Akron Public School System.

She gives her gardening club service interests as Crown Point Gardens, Habit for Humanity Landscaping, and the Youth Gardening Program. Her gardening interests are Annuals/Perennials, Birds/Butterflies, Conservation/Environment, Herbs, Fruits/vegetables and Water Gardening/Fish. Her hobbies are family, sewing, crocheting, knitting, and reading.

She was recommended by Steve Thompson and Graham Reinke.

Tom Davis 35 Fox Glen, Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022 phone 440-498-0472

E-mail thomassdavis@bd.com or tsd123@roadrunner.com

Tom is married to Jane and is retired from General Electric. Tom is the president of Gardeners of Greater Cleveland and will be an associate member of our club.

He lists his gardening interests as Annuals/Perennials, Birds/Butterflies, Conservation/Environment, Shrubs/Trees and Native plants and Shade Gardening. His hobbies are birding, reading and travel.

He was recommended by Bob Bell and Frank Mitch.

Member News

Judge Harold F. White, a long time member, passed away on August fifth. Judge White was for 41 years the judge of the Northern District of Ohio Federal Bankruptcy Court. When he retired he was the senior bankruptcy judge in the entire nation. Before becoming a judge he was a prosecutor for the City of Akron and Summit County.

Judge White was born in Hartford, Connecticut and attended high school in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He came to Ohio to attend Ohio University and the University of Akron School of Law, graduating in 1952. He served in the Combat Engineers in World War II.

Judge White joined our club in 1984 and was very active in attending meetings while his health permitted. He will be missed by all his friends in the club.

Regional Meeting

The fall meeting of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners will be held on Saturday, October 11, at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. The business meeting will be at 10 AM, then there will be a round table discussion about Membership Recruitment and Retention. Lunch will be at the Golden Corral. There will be a speaker at the afternoon session.

Horticulture Show Report

Thank you to all who attended, participated, judged and worked on our show! It was not an ideal growing season, particularly for tomatoes and peppers. We had around 70 entries, which is less than usual, but people brought some excellent horticulture.

Clark and Cheryl Bordner were the Best of Show winners for their wonderful petunia basket. (And this was not a good petunia year either!) They also received third best of show for their dahlia, People's Choice Award for their dahlia, two section awards and four blue ribbons. Outstanding!

Second Best of Show went to Les Knight for his Hosta. Les also received a section award and two blue ribbons.

Jim Bell received three section awards and five blue ribbons.

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David Hawkins received two section awards and several blue ribbons.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich received 6 blue ribbons, which was enough to take the Big Blue for 2014. (Since Andy didn't enter!)

Frank Mitch won a blue for his canna.

Barb Croghan won three blues.

Walt Starcher won a section award for his beefsteak tomato and two blues.

Claire Reinke won a blue for her hibiscus and Steve Hoot won a blue for his dahlia.

We had twenty entrants including one from Cleveland.

If I've missed anyone's blue ribbons, I apologize. A few of the cards were not filled out on the bottom, and that is the record that I go by.

Thanks for clerking assistance from the Bordners, and a big thanks to my co-chair, Jim Bell, who assisted everyone with getting their entries correctly made out!

Thanks to our judges from Youngstown and the Canton area for sharing their expertise.

See you at next year's show.

-Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

GOGA and Crouse Elementary School are Partners

GOGA's partnership with Crouse Elementary School (Akron Public Schools) and its Teaching Gardens program is off the ground! Members of GOGA's Youth Gardening Team are leading six job areas and assisting with a seventh. Other members of GOGA have indicated an interest in the job areas and will be asked to assist Crouse kids in a variety of activities both in the side yard grade level gardens as well as with integrated lessons inside the school building (these lessons help kids combine their hands-on experiences in the gardens with curricular subjects in math, science, language arts, social studies, art and music).

The GOGA/Crouse job areas are plant materials (securing seeds, plants, soil enrichments) led by Youth Team member Sharon Aaron, planting (assisting kids with soil preparation and actual planting) led by Youth Team member Ken Bell, equipment and construction (securing needed tools and building structures such as plant frames and supports) led by Youth Team Leader Les Knight, teaching (assisting Crouse teachers in the classrooms with special presentations as well as helping kids see connections between, for example, families of vegetables and nutrients as studied in science class) led by Youth Team member Marilyn Fellenstein, weeding/bed maintenance/harvesting led by Youth Team member Steve Thompson, and contests (giving kids due recognition for their efforts in the garden and class-related tasks) led by Youth Team members Claire and Graham Reinke. In a seventh job area, cooking and healthy eating, GOGA members will assist a Crouse neighbor who gives presentations to kids and parents regarding choices and decisions in meal and snack planning.

GOGA members who have volunteered an interest in helping out in these job areas are Lora Avens, Jim Bell, Sally Cole, Barbara Croghan, Eileen Field, Chris Godard, Sue Godard, Sam Morlan, and Lowell Zurbuch.

Can you spare some time to volunteer in one or more of the job areas? If you can help promote youth gardening in this inner-city school, please speak to one of the Youth Team members and others mentioned above, or contact Julia Spangler, third grade teacher at Crouse and Garden Coordinator (AND a new GOGA member!) or Steve Thompson, Youth Team coordinator (330.666.5065; st@uakron.edu). We're pleased to be on our way with this exciting and valued partnership!