



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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Monday, September 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, September 17, 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: About Roses

Our speaker this month is Peter Schneider author of *Right Rose Right Place*. He will be bringing books to sell and autograph.

Board Meeting: September 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 - Sam Morlan

Welcome to late summer; we have finally gotten some rain to help us go into fall. As we all know it has been a harsh summer for gardeners and I hope no one has lost anything valuable in their landscape, time will tell.

September was named by the Romans to signify the seventh month. The Anglo-Saxons called it Garstmonath, which means barley month since this is when they harvested their barley to make barley brew, their favorite drink. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII devised a new calendar that was more accurate than the Julian calendar devised by Julius Caesar. In 1752 Britain decided to adopt the Gregorian calendar but to rectify the differences in the two calendars they had to drop eleven days. They chose to make September 3 September 14 to the consternation of many.

I want to address a problem that the national and regions are having, getting members to attend conventions. This topic came up informally at the regional meet in East Lansing this past summer. Many speculated on why and how to improve turnout at conferences. I think we have to ask the people who do not attend for their reasons for not going. On the next page is a short survey to see what you think. Please fill this out and bring it to the next meeting or email me.

Remember to bring your favorite garden treat to the next meeting for a tasting.

Charles Keach and I are planning a workday at Crown Point on October 13 weather permitting. We plan to redo the garden behind the farmhouse which means removing old plantings and bringing in some new material. We are going to get some help from a local Boy Scout troop to help with some of the heavy lifting. Coffee, doughnuts and cider will be served. Contact Charles if you are interested. Thanks

I want to thank everyone that brought an exhibit to the horticultural show. I wish to thank Mary Ann and David Rich and Jim Bell for their hard work setting the event up.

FELLOW HABITAT HELPERS

Habitat for Humanity will need our assistance at the spur of the moment. I am requesting you to be on alert for my call in the next few weeks. We've been asked to landscape two homes in the North Hill area of Akron. Thank you for all that you do!

We are starting a seasonal continuing education program for those people just beginning home ownership. The first program will be on Wednesday, September 26. Three GOGA members will speak on fall cleanup and seasonal activities.

With care,
Chris Godard

The following is a short survey to see what you think. Please fill this out and bring it to the next meeting or email me.

1. TOO EXPENSIVE, TRAVEL COSTS OR REGISTRATION:

2. MORE MEAL FLEXIBILITY

3. MORE TOURS EVEN IF IT MEANS ADDED COST:

4. MORE FREE TIME:

5. MORE EVENTS FOR NON GARDENING SPOUSES:

6. SHORTER BUSINESS MEETINGS:

7. ANYTHING ELSE I MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF:

(Editor's note this survey primarily deals with the national convention and the regional summer conference. The other two regional meetings: April and October, have only the cost of lunch and whatever you might buy at the greenhouse after the meeting. Kingwood is charging \$5.00 a car to enter but it's free for members of Kingwood. If you tell them you are with the garden club group they should let you in free. We pay them enough for the room. October 6 is my last meeting as regional president. Hope to see you there.

HORTICULTURE SHOW REPORT

Despite a less-than-ideal season we had a great show! Thanks to our clerks, David Rich and Bob Bell, who are now student judges in training.

We had 18 entrants: David Rich, Jim Bell, Andy Bettick, Bob Bell, Joyce Baldwin, Roger Hite, Sam Morlan, Les Knight, Chris Godard, Claire Reinke, Walt Starcher, Judy Salaman, Lora Avans, Val Becker, Marti Williams, Leroy Hart Frank Field, and Steve Hoot

There were 107 entries.

The Marsh Greenlun Big Blue Award went to David Rich with 14 blues.

10 blues- Jim Bell

8 blues-Bob Bell and Andy Bettick

5 blues-Marti Williams and Joyce Baldwin

People's Choice Award Winner for his Gone Fishin' Arrangement in Section T was Roger Hite

Best of Show- Joyce Baldwin for her container herbs

2nd Best of Show- Bob Bell for raspberries

3rd Best of Show- David Rich for watermelon

Section Award Winners: Joyce Baldwin; Jim Bell; Bob Bell; Andy Bettick; Marti Williams; Sam Morlan; David Rich; Roger Hite

Other's receiving at least one blue ribbon: Les Knight; Chris Godard; Claire Reinke; Walt Starcher; Judy Salaman, Val Becker, Frank Field

PLEASE NOTE: We had 7 blue ribbons and several reds with NO INFORMATION WRITTEN ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CARD. Anyone who made an entry in the show and is not listed in the above list make yourself known to MaryAnn or Jim. Also anyone who received a blue or red ribbon not mentioned above. Especially the person who entered the castor bean should come forward, it won a sectional award.

Thanks to all who entered and helped.

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
Jim Bell

Rodney Toth's Garden

Bob and Jim Bell and Lee Hart attended Rodney Toth's open garden last Sunday. A very impressive and beautiful garden. Especially noteworthy were the heritage tomatoes and the dahlias. He does this every year; if you haven't visited his garden you should do so. Rodney is a member of the Youngstown club and a judge who has judged our show for the past several years.

Walt's Gardening Tips

September---

1. Bring house plants indoors before the heat is turned on. Check for insects and take the necessary steps if you find any.
2. Insecticides should be stored with labels intact and out of reach of children and pets. Never store near food. Never reuse an empty insecticide container. Follow community codes for disposing of chemical containers.
3. Power rake and over seed a thin lawn now. Weeds will not be a problem in the fall.
4. This is an excellent month to seed or sod a new lawn. Don't take shortcuts when preparing the soil, you will not have another chance.
5. During the fall, be sure your vegetables are adequately watered. Many crops such as corn, peppers, squash and tomatoes won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water.
6. June varieties of tomatoes should be at peak of production, though ripening slows as the temperature falls. Prune plants to discourage late fruit set.
7. Lawns - Sow seed over bare or thin spots, making passes from different directions. A light dressing of soil improves germination and straw prevents erosion.
8. Prepare a battle plan for an early frost now. (It could happen.) Have old blankets and sheets handy to protect productive plants from light frost.
9. Move plants back indoors when temperature drops into the low 60's. Wash off and clean summered plants to reduce insects coming into the house.

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 or 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.

A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of. T. H. Everett

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them. Robert Frost

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. Doug Larson