



The Garden Gabber



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

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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, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Center
3204 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Fall Plant Sale

The spring plant sale was so successful that the board decided to try a fall plant sale. Jim Bell will be our auctioneer. So while you are digging up and separating your perennials bring some in for the sale. Even if you aren't going to separate them, dig up a couple for the sale. House plants are also good. Bring anything you think another club member might want and be willing to buy.

There will be no ten minute talk this month.

Board meeting September 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn. Park behind the church and enter by the back door. All members are invited to attend board meetings.

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

A Message from Your Vice President - Arthur Britton

Hello to one and all! This is turning into being a bit of a dry end of summer, at least in my back yard, and I have decided to try to experiment with rain barrels. The theory sounds good (to save water from the down spouts for future use in the garden, flower beds or containers). I have three 55 gallon barrels and have received a lot of advice and plenty to read about and will update any one who is interested.

Good News: I have been able to secure a location for selling plants next year on Mother's Day weekend 2009. The plant sale will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 W. Market Street in Fairlawn, which is where the board meets and where I am a member. I said plant sale because there is some talk about whether we should possibly sell something besides geraniums. It is very labor intensive for those few who do show up and help out to unload 5,500 plants and then to sell them for 2 days. (Many hands make light work). Yes, we do raise about \$2,500 but some say we could do other fund raisers. I say **Great**, let the board hear those ideas; after all many of you have years of experience with successful ways to raise money for non profit groups.

Don't forget to keep in mind that the September meeting is going to be a Fall plant sale. As we all know it is a great time to divide or to share plants that you might have purchased in May, and you would now like to share them with others. Please make sure that EACH PLANT is labeled so that we will be able to give as much info as possible to the person buying the plant, bulb or seed.

In October we are going to try something **NEW**. I am going to host an open forum and it will be your chance to ask questions of the board and get on the spot answers. So far the only thing mentioned is that people like the 10 minute talks. You are able to call me or send me an E-mail @: **HYPERLINK**

"mailto:garlic65@hotmail.com" garlic65@hotmail.com to make sure that your question or concern is addressed. No names will be given, so send that anonymous question. Some questions so far are:

How many members are in the club?

Are people happy with dinner and speaker and not much else?

There are many topics and I will do my best to try this and to inform the rest of the members about your concerns.

Regional Meeting

The next meeting of the Central Great Lakes Region will be held on Saturday, October 11 at the gate house of Kingwood Gardens in Mansfield. The meeting begins at 10 am with a business meeting. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon there will be a program by Dr. Laura Deeter, a professor at ATI (Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute) in Wooster. She will be speaking about perennials. A couple of member's spouses have heard her give a program and they report that she is an excellent speaker.

Bob Bell has volunteered to be the Vice President of the region. This means that he will be in charge of planning the programs for the April and October regional meetings as well as the summer regional conference. He is thinking about holding the summer conference at the Holden Arboretum. Bob will need support from the club in planning and carrying out this summer conference.

These regional summer meetings used to be two day affairs with an overnight, usually at a college dorm. But, in recent years, we have gone to a one day meeting. Which would you prefer to have?

Welcome New Member

Donna M. Hazelwood, 4012 Stonebridge Blvd., Copley, Ohio, 44321-2845, phone 330-670-8063

She is married to Loren Hazelwood. Donna is a retired teacher from the Akron Public Schools. She lists her hobbies as sewing, painting and gardening. Her gardening interests are annuals, environment, flowers, herbs, landscaping, and perennials. She was recommended by Grace Cochran.

Member News

Bill Moorehouse reports that he has a recurrence of bladder cancer and is now undergoing chemotherapy. Bill thought that this problem had been cured when his bladder was removed but unfortunately, the cancer has recurred.

It has been reported that Jay Halverson has been hospitalized with an unknown illness. Jay is a long time member who has not been able to attend meetings because he lives in Hartville and cannot drive at night because of poor eyesight. He is also over 90 years old. However, Jay stays involved with the club by being a member of the callers. He calls the long distance numbers because as a retiree from Ohio Bell he has free long distance service.

Charlie White has reported that Maurine Carr died Tuesday, August 19, 2008, She was the widow of Ed Carr, a long time member of the club.

The national president of our club, Chuck P. Burt of Austin, Texas was killed in a motorcycle accident recently. Mr. Burt had presided at the national convention of the club in June at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Then it was said that he traveled to Niagara Falls and another destination and then on to Alaska, all on the motorcycle. He was within 15 miles of his home when the accident occurred.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill, Jay, the family of Mrs. Carr, and the family of Mr. Burt.

The editor thinks the members of the club should be kept informed about illnesses etc. of club members. Therefore, if you know of such news please inform the editor. Also Margaret Gentile has assumed the role of what some clubs call the sunshine chairman. She should also be informed of deaths, illnesses etc. so she can send cards. Her number is 330-384-8875.

Rain Barrels

Jim Bell has or can get 60 gallon plastic barrels for anyone wishing to make rain barrels. Call him at 330-633-5867. Jim did not say if there was a charge for these barrels. If you would like to see a functioning rain barrel system or get advice on building such a system see Jim Bell or Roger Hite. Collecting rain water saves your well and the water bill.

Invasive Plants

The Nature Conservancy has published a brochure entitled *Fighting Invasive Plants in Ohio* which describes 10 of the most invasive non-native plant species in Ohio with information about their appearance, habitat, possible controls, and native species which can be used as alternatives in garden or wildlife plantings.

An invasive plant is a species which is not native to Ohio, having been introduced from other states or countries. A native plant is one that could be found in the state before the time of substantial European settlement, about 1750. These invasive plants have been introduced for several reasons: erosion control; horticulture, forage crops, medicinal use, wildlife foods as well as by accident. Most of these introduced species never stray far from where they are introduced (gardens, urban areas, agricultural fields) but some are often able to spread widely and quickly and are able to displace native species in woodlands, prairies and other native areas. These plants are often popular aesthetically pleasing species that are used for landscaping or wildlife habitat without realizing the problems they can cause.

The ten plants that are listed are Autumn-olive, a fast growing shrub or small tree reaching up to 20 feet tall; Bush Honeysuckle, an upright shrub that can reach 6 - 15 feet; Buckthorn, tall shrubs or small trees growing up to 20 feet; Common Reed Grass, a grass that can reach up to 15 feet; Garlic Mustard a biennial herb that flowers and sets fruit in the second year; Japanese Honeysuckle, a woody semi-evergreen that climbs and drapes over native vegetation; Japanese Knotweed, a shrub-like herb that grows up to 10 feet; Multiflora Rose, a dense spreading shrub; Purple Loosestrife, a popular garden flower that has a dense bushy growth and reaches 3 - 7 feet and can produce as much as a million seeds per plant; and Reed Canary Grass, a large coarse grass that reaches 2 - 5 feet.

The brochure suggests several things you can do to help: Be careful not to gather and transport unidentified seeds, which may spread invasive plants; Avoid disturbance to natural areas, including clearing of native plants and dumping of yard waste; Plant native or non-invasive plants in your yard and garden; Read the label; Be careful when planting seed mixes. Non-native invasive species may be in the mix, Remove invasive plants from your property; Spread the word about the threats of invasive plants in Ohio and the benefits provided by native plant communities; Familiarize yourself with the invasive plants in your area; Volunteer with your local land managing agency (parks, nature preserves, etc.); Encourage nurseries to avoid invasive non-native plants and stock alternative native or non-invasive plant species; Start early! Early detection and control makes eradication efforts much easier.

The brochure lists several ways to control and eliminate these invasive species; pulling them by hand; digging them up; using a herbicide on the foliage of the plant; cut off the shrub and treat the stump with a herbicide; in certain forests a controlled burn can control invasive species such as garlic mustard; some species such as purple loosestrife can be controlled by using biological means such as beetles and weevils; grasses can be controlled by mowing.

The Nature Conservancy is an organization with a mission to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The motto of the organization is Protecting nature, Preserving life.

One method that the Nature Conservancy uses to carry out this mission is to purchase land that is being threatened by various kinds of development. These areas are then kept by the Conservancy as a preserve or sometimes kept until another buyer of the land can be found such as a park which will preserve the land. In these instances the Conservancy acts as a bridge preserving the land that is being immediately threatened until a permanent owner can be found.

Walt's Gardening Tips for September

Bring your houseplants indoors before the heat is turned on. Check for insects and take the necessary steps if you find them. I once brought an active mouse nest into my house in a house plant pot.

Power rake and over seed a thin lawn now. Weeds will not be a problem in the fall.

It's hard to see a favorite tree taken down, but when it becomes a hazard to people and property, then a charming asset could become a dangerous liability. Nesting holes, dead limbs, trunk decay, a poor root system are all signs of a potentially dangerous tree.

A few shrubs and trees that attract and provide berries for birds are holly, eleagnus, cherry laurel, ligustrum (privet) barberry, mahonia (Oregon holly-grape), pyracantha (fire-thorn). dogwood, wild black cherry, Japanese yew, red cedar, and wax myrtle (bittersweet).

Insecticides should be stored with labels intact where children and pets cannot reach them, Never store near food. Never reuse an empty insecticide container, Follow community codes for disposing of chemical containers.

For October

In the fall, deciduous trees turn carbohydrates in their leaves into sugars and move them into twigs, buds and down into the roots for storage. Leaf cells then break down, starting with the chloroplasts that contain the green pigment chlorophyll. The process reveals the yellows, reds and oranges that were present all along in their leaves, but were hidden under green. The trees will need the stored sugar to feed spring growth. While you enjoy the beauty of autumn's colors, plant some bulbs to enjoy next spring.

Clean up, remove dead plant material from your garden and flower beds to prevent over wintering disease and insects. Put the healthy refuse into the compost bin.

Empty out hoses, sprayers and other equipment. Don't store aerosol or liquid chemicals in a place where they might freeze.

Plan on paper next year's garden while ideas are fresh in your mind.

From the JAB

The Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, the newsletter of the Central Great Lakes Region, is being sent in a different form now. It goes only to the president and editor of each club and they are supposed to share material from the JAB with their club members.

In a recent issue Joseph Allesi Jr., the editor of the JAB, had an article about commitment. A chicken and a pig were discussing a breakfast of eggs and bacon. The chicken said that she makes a commitment to such a breakfast. The pig responded that his commitment to that breakfast was much greater, it was a total commitment.

Our clubs don't require a total commitment from their members but if a club is to be successful and grow its members must make a commitment to the club. Each member of the club was brought into the club because of another member who was committed enough to make an effort to bring a new member into the club. Any project that the club undertakes requires commitment by many members and teamwork for the project to succeed. This commitment and teamwork, when viewed by outsiders, can inspire them to also want to become part of the group.

(Editor's note) Our Akron club doesn't require total commitment from its members but it has happened. Years ago we were planting flowers at Stan Hywet and I looked up and saw a man bend down and lean his head on the ground, turns out he had had a heart attack and was dead when the paramedics arrived.