



THE GARDEN GABBER



NEWSLETTER OF
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON

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

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Monday, September 20

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 20, 2010
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: St. George Fellowship Centre
3205 Ridgewood Road
Copley, Ohio

Program: Heirloom Tomatoes and Succulents

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich will present a talk on heirloom tomatoes. She will bring samples for us to taste. The second portion of the program will be a presentation by Jim Bell on the subject of succulents.

Second vice president Sam Morlan will present the nominees for this year's beautification awards. The members will then choose the winners.

Board Meeting: September 27 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>

Presidents Message

Arthur Britton

August has left us with both the memories and the water bills of a hot dry month, it appears that September is starting with only a few hot days and then cooler days?, yes it is that time of the year when we start to change our view of what we are able to do in the garden. With the cooler weather coming we should start the process of finding the string, burlap and get ready to use the tomato steaks for holding the burlap around some of the bushes that we want to protect from the winter winds. Other tasks that we need to get ready for such as finding the snow shovel? And sand or something else that will help us in the winter to provide traction both in the driveway and the side walk. For years it has been my practice to devote Labor Day weekend to getting ready for the new season ahead. If we prepare for the growing season then I view it as this is the time to get ready for a new season. So while we say fare well to summer we should say hello to fall. (By the way where did I put my fall and winter coats?).

As we get ready for the fall, I would like to ask that if you are able to keep others in mind as you divide your, hostas, daylilies and any other plants that you are working with. The club is planning on doing several habitat homes and while we did get a great deal buying them, we could always use a few more. If you are able to donate let us know, or better yet when you come to help please bring them with you. (Chris & Sue Goddard are in charge of Habitat: 330-699-0509, cmgodard@hotmail.com).

Many of us were pleasantly surprised by not only the number of visitors that we had at the August meeting but that two of the new members that not only joined the club that night but also brought in something to be judged. These are people who are not afraid to try and we gladly welcome them to the club. Once again we gave our judges (who we invited from Youngstown) the daunting task of trying to decide which of each category was best and what was to receive Best of show?

I would like to thank those who helped put the regional meeting together. There were 35 who attended and 12 from our club; it has received very good reviews. I also would like to invite anyone who is able to attend the "Central Great Lakes Region meeting" that is held at Kingwood center in Mansfield, Ohio on October 2nd starting at 10am and usually goes till about 4 pm. There are a number of people who plan on carpooling. There is a \$5.00 per car fee. I hope that if you have not been to a meeting that you will give some thought to attending.

I just moved and the house was vacant for 1 ½ years and the people that lived here for 2 years prior to that thought, that the best way to deal with plants and flowers was to mow them over. I thank many of you for your ideas and thoughts on what to plant. This is one of the many reasons that I enjoy this club so much. Thank you.

May we always continue to enjoy gardening.

Welcome New Members

Kathy Pendleton, 4159 Westbourne Blvd. Copley, Ohio 44321 phone 330-668-4754
e-mail kathypendleton@yahoo.com

Kathy lists herself as an at home mom married to Alvano Mendoza. She says she is interested in the club's scholarship committee and youth gardening program. she lists her gardening interests as conservation/ environment, herbs, perennials, shrubs/trees and vegetables. She says her hobbies are orchids and raising two young children. She was recommended by Sam Morlan.

Joan Houska, 2648 Abington Road, Fairlawn, Ohio, 44333 phone 330-836-7631
e-mail jmhouska@sbcglobal.net

Joan is single and is self employed in marketing. She is interested in the club's plant auction, Habitat and Crown Point projects. Her gardening interests are annuals, birds/butterflies, flowers, landscaping, perennials and wildlife. Her hobbies are gardening and golf. She discovered the club through our web site.

New Plant Source

Al Eddy has made arrangements with John Deere Landscapes, 3072 W. Streetsboro Road (Rt. 303) Richfield, Ohio for members to make purchases at wholesale prices. You just have to show your membership card. The phone is 1-330-659-3669.

Al has a brochure listing many types of spring flowering bulbs available at good prices. He suggests getting together with club members and friends and buying in bulk; 50 count boxes of hyacinths or daffodils and 100 count boxes of tulips. They also have crocus, allium, muscare and scilla.

They also have the component parts for micro watering systems which use 1/2 inch tubing.

If you are interested or want more information contact Al at 330-666-3158.

Another Supplier

In last month's newsletter there was an article about a nursery in Lake County that offers us wholesale prices. Jim Bell and his wife took several orders from club members to the nursery. He says that the club made about \$35.00 (a 20 percent charge was added to the cost) -Jim says that they were very happy to do business with us and he will have catalogues available at club meetings and he will be willing to go up to the nursery next spring with your orders.

Club Members in the News

There was an articles(with pictures) in last Saturday's Beacon Journal about two of our club members, Chet Lowry and Walt Starcher. Chet is a resident of Rockynol and is active in landscaping projects there. Chet was in charge of a tree trail project on the grounds at Rockynol. He recruited Walt Starcher to survey all the trees at Rockynol and together they chose 31 trees to be part of the tree trail. Each of these trees is identified with a very attractive bronze plaque. 29 different trees are identified. Chet is volunteering to haul visitors around this tree trail in the golf cart he and his wife donated to Rockynol. You can contact Chet at 330-864-4328

Habitat for Humanity

All Habitat helpers needed this Saturday, September 11th, from 9AM to Noon. Bring your gloves, shovels, hard rakes, wheel barrows and attitudes. Some of you still need to get back to me for confirmation. Here is the address and location. For those GPSers and non-GPSers, the address is 3925 Moreland Dr., Stow. Just take Rt. 8 North to Graham Rd.. Turn right and go 2.1 miles to Moreland Dr. Turn left, go just .2 blocks. See second Habitat house on right side of road. Donuts and coffee on Bob. Please thank him. See you there.

Chris Godard, Chairman, Habitat Committee

A Special Thanks

On Saturday morning, July 10th, a stalwart crew of six undertook a mid-summer garden cleanup and mulching of plant beds in the front, side and rear of the main building at Crown Point Ecology Center on Ira Road in Bath. We started at 9 am and finished around 1:30 pm.

A special thanks to all who participated and a very special thank you to Gene Fitch who moved four yards of mulch by himself and to Janice Kelly for her hard work (which I think she may have not anticipated or she might have stayed home) and to Sam Morlan, Grace Cochran and Chris Godard for their persistent and stellar contributions.

The Anemone Japonica, which the literature suggests is "slow growing", has started spreading again on the east side of the garden. Sam Morlan had a great time killing weeds with his organic vinegar mixture (120 grain/or 12 % acetic acid plus cloves etc.); but the anemone wilted a little when he sprayed it and just kept growing. I guess we'll need several applications, three or four days apart to do this "monster" plant in (Thank you Andy).

The Crown Point Crew - Thanks for your help: Grace Cochran, Gene Fitch, Chris Godard, Janice Kelly, Sam Morlan.

Reported by Chuck Keach, Chairman of the Crown Point Crew

Member News

Club member Robert E. Johnson passed away on Saturday August 7 in Greenville, South Carolina. Bob was a Navy veteran, a lieutenant serving in the Pacific. After the war he worked for B. F. Goodrich for nearly 40 years. He was twice widowed and is survived by three children and three step-children.

Bob had been living at St. Edward's but because of deteriorating health he had to move to Greenville to be near his son. There was a memorial service for Bob last Saturday at Faith Lutheran attended by several club members. Bob will be missed by his family and friends in the club.

We have received word that former member Tom Young passed away. Tom had been living in Michigan near his son for several years,

Regional Meeting

Central Great Lakes Region will have a meeting on Saturday October 2 at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Business meeting at 10 am, lunch at Golden Corral and a program in the afternoon.

Walt's Gardening Tips for 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. A few trees and shrubs that attract and provide fruit for birds are holly, autumn olive (Eleagnus), ligustrum, barberry, Oregon Holly -grape (Mahonia), firethorn (Pyracantha), dogwoods, wild black cherry, red cedar, and wax myrtle.
3. 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.
4. Power rake and overseed a thin lawn now. Weeds will not be a problem in the fall.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. June varieties of tomatoes should be at peak of production, though ripening slows as the temperature falls. Prune plants to discourage late fruit set.
8. Lawns - Sow seed over bare or thin spots, making passes from different directions. A light dressing of soil improves germination and straw prevents erosion.
9. 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.
10. 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.

For October

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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.