



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 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, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: The Memorial Dining Room
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Program Weeds, the Superior Plant

Jeanne Poremski, a member of the Summit County Master Gardeners of OSU Extension, will bring a large selection of live and dried weeds. If you have a problem weed, put it in a plastic bag, bring it in and we will play "stump the expert" if you can, but you probably can't.

She also is a master winemaker and she will tell us how to make Buckhorn wine or perhaps something like Creeping Charley salsa. The possibilities of things that can be made from weeds are unlimited. Come to the meeting, bring your unknown weeds, be enlightened about this universal problem of gardeners.

Bring a bottle of your dandelion wine for the silent auction.

The 10 minute talk this month will be by Howard Palmer on the subject of "How I Plan My Garden."

Board meeting September 24, 2007, 7 pm at the Garden Forum building, corner of West Market Street and White Pond Drive. All members are invited.

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

A Message from Your President — Bob Bell

This month's letter is very important to read and consider. The Akron Men's Garden Club's Board of Director's has been working this summer to identify priorities or issues or directions we think the Club should be doing or going . Do you want the club to grow and prosper or to fade out as many of the garden clubs have done. What is the Club doing right? What is the Club doing wrong? What should the Club be doing? If you remember, we did some of that work last fall during our dinner meetings. Many good ideas came from that such as the ten minute presentation and the seed exchange. All of us like having the dinner meeting, and for many members that may be enough. There is nothing wrong with the dinner meeting being the only event you are interested in. Many of us enjoy participating in other club sponsored activities, and that is also a good thing. Organizations that grow tend to have activities that get members involved. If you remember a letter earlier this year, our club has many activities that members are involved in. Should we take another step forward?

If you look at our Mission Statement in your Roster you will see the first statement says, "The club operates exclusively for educational, scientific, and charitable purposes." With that in mind each Board member at the last meeting listed three issues. The list follows. Some items needed some explanation and I will try to give a little and at the same time try to keep my bias out. Some items are listed more than once because more than one person had the item as one of his/her issues.

Member recruiting – more, better, improve

Maintain scholarship program

Fundraising – more, better, different

Assist Akron area organizations and reduce scholarships

Get members involved in planting and maintenance projects - Hospice, Crown Point, etc.

Free member plant exchange (like seed exchange)

New method to collect member badges

Have special badges for visitors to recognize them

Develop a new member nurturing/mentoring system

Prepare and circulate a member survey periodically

Recruit and train greeters (I added train)

Youth gardening – expand, enhance

Children and community gardens

Keep doing Habitat

Work on Adopt A Spot programs

Continue scholarships

Habitat – community – youth projects

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President's Message continued:

Habitat

Scholarships

Web site committee – enhance Akron Club's site, Frank Mitch is looking for help (by the way, Frank deserves an extra pat on the back for his work on the web site)

Track dinner reservations – who isn't coming, make follow up contacts, make sure things are OK, etc.

Keep dinner program as it is – use speaker, 10 minute presentation (even caterer)

Reduce scholarship to one or none

Inform members of expenses, endowment fund

Hold short Business Meeting at dinners

Have a question and answer session at dinners for gardening tips and help

Build or buy a Greenhouse for club – many of the more robust clubs have a greenhouse

Club members take trips as group

Short business meeting at dinners

Free plant exchange for members - also produce

Enhance club's mini horticulture show – too much dead air time

Be part of programs like Let's Grow Akron and Keep Akron Beautiful

Provide speakers at libraries

Assist children in hospital to plant small plants

Speak at nursing homes

Are you still with me? We need to hear from you. Which of the above gets your interest? Do you want to be involved in any of these items? Do some or all really turn you on or off? We want to know, in fact we need to know. Either one, talk to a Board Member or two, come to the Board Meeting Monday, September 24th at the **Fairlawn Park and Garden Center**. Or call me at 330-673-3553

Gardening Advice Needed

When I got ready to plant my gladioli bulbs (corms, whatever they are called) this spring I got a rude surprise. They were all completely dried out. I had two boxes of them, one box was from my garden and the other was from the garden that Andy Bettick and I maintain at Crown Point. Fortunately at the April regional meeting Bill Lanning was passing out bulbs (He used to plant thousands of glads each year, but his back has been giving so much trouble that he can no longer do so much gardening. His fellow club members from the Findlay club helped him dig them up last fall,). All of us at that meeting took home a bag full of bulbs.

What I had done to over winter the glads was store them in perlite. I had done this in previous years with no problems. But this year they were completely dried out. Before putting them in the perlite I dried them on the porch for several days. (Perhaps too long?) I don't want to make the same mistake this year so would some one tell me how to over winter glad bulbs safely.

Leroy Hart, Editor

Member News

In the July issue of the Garden Gabber Russ DeMaris and Leeza Perry were listed as new members. If you added their names to your copy of the membership roster please remove their names. They both have withdrawn from the club and their membership dues have been refunded.

I can't recall that this has ever happened before. If you would like to know more details I suggest you talk to Jim Fee, Membership Chair.

Leroy Hart, Treasurer

Garden Visitation

This year the club started a new program - various members opened their gardens to visitation by club members and their families.

The first was Andy Bettick who entertained visitors in June at his two-time Beautification Award garden. Next was President Bob Bell, also in June. Unfortunately I could not make either of these so I can not report on them.

Next was Jim Bell who also was hosting a group of master gardeners interested in ponds at the same time which meant that he had a good number of visitors. Jim has three ponds on his property as well as many flower beds and a large vegetable garden. He also had many flowers in containers which he brings inside in the winter. Jim's wife specializes in orchids and she had several in bloom. (Now we know who is responsible for the beautiful orchid that won best of show in the mini horticultural show at last month's meeting.)

Last Saturday, September 2, was Roger Hite's and Marti Williams' turn. Roger and his wife, Jeanie, maintain many flower beds on their property. A couple highlights of Roger's garden: He lost a large tree and instead of cutting it down completely to the ground he commissioned a tree sculptor to make an angel out of the remaining eight foot

stump. (Jeannie collects angels and there are small statues of angels throughout the garden.)

Marti and her husband Mike also have a large and beautiful garden. Mike says that all the work in the garden is done by Marti, he says that all he does is mow the grass. Marti has several flower beds scattered around the lawn. She also has a fairly large sized pond with fish. I think the highlights of her garden are the hibiscus plants in pots, including one pot which has three different kinds of hibiscus with the trunks braided around, it can bloom in three colors at the same time.

Unfortunately I did not receive word about these last two in time to make the August issue of the Gabber so the only announcement that you received was at the last meeting. Hopefully we can continue these garden visitations next year with more members opening their gardens (and this year's repeating) and more members visiting.

Leroy Hart, Editor

Plant Exchange

Have plants you need to divide? Did you plant too many vegetables and fruit?

Bring them to the Plant Exchange being held at the September meeting. Trade your plant for another. If you don't have plants to share, bring your checkbook. Proceeds will go to the club.

Gardening tip from Andy Bettick
September 15th through the first week in October is the ideal time to divide and replant.

Silent Auction

The highest donor was Bob Bell bringing in the jars of delicious homemade Blackberry Jelly. A total of \$22.00. Our highest bids for items was only \$5.00 which doesn't count.

Congratulations Bob.

Grace Cochran, Silent Auction Chair.

The Fern and the Bamboo

"You will rise high!"

"How high should I rise?" I asked.

"How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return.

"As high as it can?" I questioned.

"Yes." He said, "Give me glory by rising as high as you can."

I left the forest and brought back this story. I hope these words can help you see that God will never give up on you.

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you Happiness. Bad days give you Experiences. Both are essential to life. Keep going ..

Happiness keeps you Sweet,
Trials keep you Strong,
Sorrows keep you Human,
Failures keep you Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You Going!

— An inspirational message from Howard Palmer

2008 Dues Are Due!

- Regular Members - \$35.00 _____
- Life Members - \$15.00 _____
- Associate Members - \$15.00 _____
- Family Life Members - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$40.00 _____
- Family Regular Member - Spouse is not a Life Member - \$60.00 _____
- New Life Membership - at any age - One time payment of \$200.00 _____

Please complete the following form , enclose your check and mail to:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address (if OK to print in club roster) _____

Amount enclosed _____