



The Garden Gabber



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

Published Monthly: Volume LXV

December 2006

Number 12

President:

Leroy Hart
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Monday, December 18

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.

1st Vice President:

Robert Bell
1832 Sandy Lane Road
Ravenna, OH 44366
☎ 330-673-3553

When: Monday, December 18, 2006
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

2nd Vice President:

David Rich
1166 Broadview Rd.
Tallmadge, OH 44278
☎ 330-630-9625

Where: Vino La Bella
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Secretary:

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
1166 Broadview Rd.
Tallmadge, OH 44278
☎ 330-630-9625

Program Madrigal Singers

Treasurer:

John Lewis
3066 Rohrer Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576
☎ 330-336-9336

The Madrigal Singers from Firestone High School will be the featured program at our annual Christmas meeting. These young people will be dressed in costumes from the Middle Ages. The original madrigals were singers and actors who would travel from castle to castle putting on shows and musical programs. These young madrigals continue this tradition by traveling from meeting to meeting putting on their program.

National Directors:

William Moorehouse
511 Overwood Road
Akron, OH 44313
☎ 330-864-0604

Also on the program for this meeting is the installation of the officers for the year 2007. As usual the former national club president Bill Carney from Youngstown will be the installing officer.

Frank M. Mitch
2065 Kemery Road
Akron, OH 44333-1937
☎ 330-666-2327

All members and their spouses should plan to attend this meeting. The caterer says that he can seat 125 people for dinner in the room; let's fill up the room!

e-mail:fmm2065@hotmail

Gabber Editor/Historian:

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There is no board meeting in December.

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

2 **A Message from Your President - Leroy Hart**

In this my last presidential message I would like to briefly look back upon the past year. After a bad start for the year in which quite a few members did not renew their membership we had what I believe to be a very successful year. We lost 33 members at the start of the year; since then we have gained 11 new members. During the year four members passed: associate member Robert Van Kirk, Harold Bollinger, Dr. Jimmy Snoga, Edward Carr.

We have settled in at Peg's Catering and with the new caterer we think the meals are even better. We had the usual activities this year, all of which were successful. At the plant sale in May there were many, many plants for sale. The picnic in June had many in attendance including several guests. The mini-horticulture show in July had more entries than the main show. The library likes us to have our show there but we need to have better participation next year. The geranium sale was successful with a profit of over \$3200.00 which was more than last year's profit.

The little garden that we maintain at Crown Point continues to get rave notices. This year the garden was so successful that it became too crowded and had to be torn out and replanted. Habitat for Humanity continues to be successful with three homes landscaped (we could do more but we can only landscape them as they are built)

The Member Service Awards, Beautification Awards and the Big Tree Awards were given as usual. We received some bad news concerning the Big Trees; after many years of measuring trees and presenting awards Walt Starcher announced that he had performed this task for the last time. We offer our most sincere thanks to Walt for his many years of doing this job.

Frank Mitch announced that he is giving up the job as Sunshine Chairman. Thanks to Frank for his many years of keeping us informed of illnesses and deaths of members. A volunteer is needed to replace him.

At the November board meeting the new contract for the caterer was reviewed. The only change will be a \$1.00 increase in the cost of the meal. Jim Fee volunteered to set up a greeters committee beginning in January, so if he asks you to be a greeter just say yes.

Our commitment to Crown Point was discussed. Last month I mentioned that they wanted to landscape another area of the grounds. The landscape architect came up with a plan that was estimated to cost about \$12,000.00. This has been modified to about \$4,000.00. Andy Bettick and one of the Crown Point workers have already done a lot of work in this area: trimming trees, removing shrubs etc. The board agreed that the club should be involved in this project. It was suggested that we contribute \$1,000.00. however, this was tabled until the January board meeting. We wanted to have input from the members before committing such a large sum. Also we still want to continue the scholarships at ATI; last year we gave two \$1,000.00 scholarships.

Start saving your seeds for the seed exchange to be held in February. We may do plants also.

I want to thank all of the members for their support of me throughout my year as leader of the club. Special thanks to the board members who have been especially supportive.

Member Awards

Honorable Mentio (3 or 4 tasks or projects) 12 members

Valerie Becker	(3)	Roger Hite	(3)
Arthur Britton	(4)	Bob Johnson	(3)
Duane Culler	(3)	George Karadin	(3)
Dick Edwards	(4)	Walter Perkins	(3)
Vic Giannini	(3)	Walt Starcher	(4)

Certificates of Appreciation (5-7 tasks/projects/committees/chairs) 6 members

Grace Cochran	(7)	Geranium Sale; Memb. Comm(1,2,3) recruited four new members; Calling Comm(1,2,3)
Margaret Centile	(5)	Illness/Memorial Comm(1,2); Calling Comm(1,2,3)
John Lewis	(7)	Crown Point(1,2); Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping(1,2); Plant Auction(1); Club's Treasurer
Bill Moorehouse	(5)	Geranium Sale(1,2); Hort Show Judge; National Director; Calendar Sales
Cathy Morgan	(5)	Beautification Awards; Geranium Sale; Club Hort Show; Hort Show Judge; Co-Chair Club Hort Show
Sam Morlin	(5)	Crown Point; Geranium Sale; Strawberry Feast (1,2,3)

Honors Certificates (8 or more tasks/projects/committees/Chair) (6 members)

James Bell	(9)	Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping; Club Hort Show; Hort Show Judge; Plant Auction(1,2); Name Tags
Robert Bell	(8)	Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping(1,2); Plant Auction; Strawberry Feast Co-chair Strawberry Feast; Plant Auct Co-ordinator; Club's First Vice President
Leroy Hart	(11)	Crown Point(1,2); Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping(1,2); Club Hort Show; Hort Show Judge, Scholarship Committee; Historian; Garden Gabber editor Central Great Lakes Region newsletter editor Garden Gabber Editor; Club President
Frank Mitch	(19)	Crown Point; Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping(1,2,3,4); Club Hort Show; National Scholarship; Illness/Memorial Comm; National Director; Web Master Local/Regional/National(1,2,3); Central Great Lakes Regional(1,2) Habitat Landscaping-Chair; Scholarship Committee- Cochair; Illness/Memorial Committee-Chair
Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	(12)	Beautification Awards Committee; Geranium Sale; Habitat Landscaping(1,2); Club Hort Show; Hort Show Judge; CGLR 1st Vice President; National Director (alternate) Club Hort Show - Chair; CGLR Conf-Chair; Hort Show Judges Coordinator; Club Secretary (1/2 year)
Marti Williams	(9)	Geranium Sale(1,2); Strawberry Feast; Plant Auction; 50/50 Raffle Assisted with Membership Awards; Strawberry Feast-Chair; Phone Committee-Chair; Club Secretary (1/2 Year)

Submitted by James Fee, Chairman, Awards Committee

About December

The name of our last month of the year, December, means "tenth", from the Latin *decem*. Like the three preceding months, it has been misnamed ever since the Romans added two months to their year. One emperor, Commodus, suggested that since his mistress had been painted as an Amazon, the name of December should be changed to "Amazonius" in her honor; but his request was not granted. Several times the Roman Senate attempted to change the name, but the old one remained on the calendar. In the Julian calendar December had thirty days; later one more was added. During this month, beginning December 17, the Romans celebrated one of their most important festivals, the Saturnalia, which was noted for its excesses. This feast was to honor the god of seed-sowing, Saturn, who was said to have reigned during the "Golden Age".

Early Saxons named it the "Winter-monath" or "Midwinter" as it was halfway between autumn and spring. Their great feast, dedicated to Thor, ancient god of thunder, was observed at the time of the winter solstice, about December 21. This celebration was called "Giul", from the word denoting "ale", later corrupted to "Yule". After the Saxons had accepted Christianity, they named December the "Heiligh=monath" (holy month), because of the birthday of Christ.

Three presidents were born in December: Martin Van Buren, Andrew Johnson, and Woodrow Wilson. Other prominent people were Mary Queen of Scots, Thomas Carlyle, Eli Whitney, John Milton, Jane Austin, John Greenleaf Whittier, Charles Wesley, Sir Isaac Newton, Louis Pasteur, James Thurber, Charles Goodyear, William Gladstone, Rudyard Kipling, Lord Cornwallis, Andre Kostelanetz, Willa Cather, Clara Barton, James Doolittle, Rudolph Friml, Kit Carson, Margaret Mead, Walt Disney, and General James Oglethorpe.

Among the historical December events are: in 1065 Westminster Abbey was dedicated; in 1776 General Washington crossed the Delaware River; in 1782 the Mason-Dixon Line was established; in 1784 American Methodism started in Baltimore; in 1791 the Bill of Rights was adopted; in 1799 George Washington died; in 1803 the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory; from France; in 1823 the Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed; in 1843 Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* was published; in 1851 the first American Y.M.C.A. was begun in Boston; in 1859 John Brown was hanged; in 1869 the Knights of Labor, the first important labor union, was founded; in 1903 the Wright brothers flew at Kittyhawk, North Carolina; in 1907 the first Christmas seals went on sale; in 1933 Prohibition was ended; in 1937 Edward III abdicated; in 1941 the United States declared war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor; in 1946 World War II ended.

Christmas is the most popular and most widely observed holiday in December. The day after Christmas is celebrated in Great Britain, Australia, parts of Canada, and Poland as Boxing Day when gifts are given to servants and to others who have served people throughout the year such as postmen etc. In some places it was customary for ministers to open the Mite Boxes and distribute the contents, food, clothing or money, to needy parishioners. Sometime in December the Jews celebrate Hanukah, or Feast of Lights, to recall the freeing of the temple in Jerusalem from Syrian invaders.

The December birthstone is the Turquoise. This opaque, greenish-blue stone is a mineral which has been used as a gem and for ornamental purposes for many centuries. As early as 3400 B.C. the Egyptians were obtaining turquoise from the Sinai Peninsula.

The word "turquoise" is French for "Turkish".

This stone was regarded as a talisman of love; it was certain to preserve the fidelity of friends, prevent bodily harm, and bring good luck and prosperity to its owner.

The alternate birthstone is the Zircon. The December flower is the Narcissus and the alternate is the Holly.

2007 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:

John Lewis
 3066 Rohrer Road
 Wadsworth, OH 44281-9576

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

Amount enclosed _____

Christmas Dinner

For our Christmas dinner we have a choice of entrees, prime rib or salmon The cost for either entree is \$15.00. Send this form with your check payable to Men’s Garden Club of Akron to John Lewis at the above address. The date of the meeting is December 18. Your form should be returned by December 11. This is the only notice of this dinner you will receive; it will not be printed in the December Gabber. The details about the program will be in the December Gabber. You may combine dinner payment with dues payment.

Please reserve _____ dinners as follows:

Prime Rib _____

Salmon _____

Enter a number for each choice:

Total amount enclosed _____

Member’s name _____

Akron Men's Garden Club
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