



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, April 28

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, April 28, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Landscape Design Trends & Ideas.

Our speakers will be Lisa Graf and Tom Kriska from Graf Growers.

The ten minute talk will be given by Roger Hite on the subject of turf grass.

Notice the Change of the Meeting Date

Board meeting May 5 at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, next to St. Hilary's. Park behind the church and come in the back door of the church.

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

A Message from Your President - John Lewis

March, March madness. The madness extends far beyond the basketball courts. the environment here in Northeast Ohio is caught up in the maddening. Deep snows, floodwaters due to melting snow and rain waters, extremely high winds. I believe March came in like a lion and is leaving as a mountain lion. Whatever happened to planting potatoes on St. Patrick's day, and maybe even peas? First of all, I couldn't see my garden plot for the snow. Then it rained and the snow finally melted. Then came the high winds (along with more rain) which I had hoped would dry out the ground, but no, the winds just brought lots more rain and downed tree limbs. I ventured out to the garden one cloudy but otherwise not raining day and I sunk in the mud up to my ankles - and I live on top of a hill! I propose that that we change St. Patrick's day to May 17th, just the date, not the May weather. Then, Dick Cotton, I'll have no excuse for not planting potatoes on time.

March was not all bad however. The board of directors of the club (the irresistible force) met the challenge of the immovable object (the third Mondays of the month meeting day) and conquered it. See Lee Hart's notice on the new meeting date for April only.

At the April meeting be prepared to sign up for the geranium sale. We always have a great turnout for this event and I hope this one is no exception. Some of you night owls might check with Chet Lowry on providing him some assistance Friday night as he guards the unsold plants. Maybe he will suggest coleman lanterns and a few decks of playing cards, maybe even some No-doze. I doubt that he will need any Doberman, Rottweiler, or German Shepherd watch dogs.

Would you believe that today I received from Park Seed Co. two complimentary plants from my seed order, two Johnson Blue geraniums. Evidently those folks in South Carolina don't read our weather reports, or completely ignore our hardiness zone planting times. I sure hope those two plants like a lot of mud, cold mud. At least I have most of my seeds started and growing under fluorescent lights. If you recall, at the last meeting, it was recommended that one use fluorescent grow lights for starting plants. Initially, years ago, I used those expensive grow lights, but eventually gave them up for regular cool white fluorescent lights. I've had good success with them, but maybe I would have had better plants with the grow lights, I don't know. Anyway I'm not changing lights, the grow lights are too expensive for any small difference in plants; full spectrum - phooey.

When you receive the 2008 roster you may want to give your best regards to Bob Bell, Grace Cochran and Vic Giannini. There are others involved of course, but these three are primarily responsible for this work.

I don't know when the Gabber will reach you, but I hope that we had, or will have, good representation at the Akron Public Library 's "A Gardeners' Gathering" on April 5th.

I must congratulate our ten minute speaker last month, Marti Williams, on her excellent presentation of Brumancia (trumpet flower). She sure did a selling job on me, and I suspect, on most of you. I have researched all my seed catalogues (I have gobs of them) and those plants in each catalog are about \$10 each. Seeds are cheaper, about \$2.50 or so, but I don't know how or when to start them, although, I don't suppose it makes a whole lot of difference, how or when. If you order plants from Park Seed plan on them arriving in a snow storm. (continued on page three)

President's message continues

One final thing, the caterer wants to serve the salads at the dinner meeting before the pledge of allegiance and invocation. They are slowed too much if waiting until after and we do have a time limit on our meetings. I'm not much on etiquette, is it proper to eat the salad immediately or should one wait for the pledge and invocation? After all, I don't want to further any poor image I may already have. Perhaps one of the lady gardeners could set me straight.

Enough of my rambling, even though I'm sure I've forgotten something of importance. See you at the meeting on the fourth Monday of April. Good luck with your seeds and plants.

Scholarships

In March John Lewis and Frank Mitch interviewed four students at ATI in Wooster for the 2008 Scholarships. Two students were selected and then approved at our March 24 Board meeting:

Corrine DePue, Leipsic, Ohio
Douglas Schuster, Elyria, Ohio

These students have been invited to attend our April dinner meeting. If available they may attend.

We received this note from the ATI financial aid office:

"That is wonderful news, we certainly appreciate the continued support of the Men's Garden Club of Akron. The scholarships make a world of difference in assisting students with the cost of education. I will get letters out to all this week and please extend our thanks and appreciation to the entire club.

Barbara Lamoreaux. ATI Financial Aid"

Regarding 2008 Scholarships from our National organization we have submitted a total of six applications this year. This includes the above two plus two others from ATI and two from the Ohio State campus in Columbus. The final results from these will be coming from the TGOA/MGCA Scholarship committee in late May.

Reported by: Frank Mitch, Scholarship Co-Chair

Meeting Date Change

By this point in your reading of this newsletter you have been reminded three times of the change of date for the April meeting. but you may wonder why we have had to change the date. It is because the third Monday of the month (April 21) is part of Holy Week in the Orthodox Church. And our host, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, does not permit other groups to use the building during holy week. This also goes for the Copley Fairlawn Kiwanis which will be going on a field trip instead of the regular meeting on April 23.

Why does the Orthodox holy week come at such a different time as the Catholic (and Protestant) holy week. It is because the Orthodox church uses the Julian calendar while we use the Gregorian calendar. Last year both were on the same dates but this year these dates are as far apart as they can be. This year our Easter was as early as it could be.

Julius Caesar invited a Greek astronomer to come to Rome to straighten out the mess their calendar was in. This new calendar was called the Julian calendar. By the 16th century the Julian calendar was 10 days off from the date of the vernal equinox. To correct this error Pope Gregory XIII assembled a group of learned men and they proposed a new calendar which was adopted in 1582. This calendar is called the Gregorian calendar.

Welcome New Member

Darrell Dube - 382 White Tail Ridge Drive,
Fairlawn, Ohio, 44333. phone 330-670-0421 e-mail
ddube@neo.rr.com

Darrell is retired from DuPont where he was the manager for quality and technology for Tribon Composites. He is married to Eileen. He lists his hobbies, besides gardening, as woodworking and photography. His gardening interests are landscaping, lawns, perennials, and shrubs and trees. Nobody signed the recommended line on his application.

Geranium Sale

I received a copy of an e-mail from Bill Moorehouse to the owner of Cedar Lanes Farms confirming our order of geraniums. We have ordered 550 flats (9900 plants). The grower will send two per cent extra plants to cover any missing or damaged plants. The plants will be in 3 1/2 inch pots with 18 plants per flat. The plants should be five to seven inches tall with a minimum of seven to ten nodes per plant and about fifty per cent in bloom. The plants are to be from Olgive culture virus indexed cuttings (CVI) or equal.

The price has increased from \$.82 to \$.90 per plant.

Varieties are a little different from last year. There will be 35 flats of white, variety to be chosen by the grower, 180 flats of red, variety Patriot, 20 flats of Peach, to replace last year's variety Salmon with the variegated leaf, 40 flats of Pink Melody, 50 flats of Cherry rose, which replaces last year's Pink Veronica, 175 flats of Patriot Violet, which replaces last year's purple red Aurora, and 50 flats of a red with a variegated leaf

Delivery is to be made on Friday, May 9, 2008 at Fairlawn United Church of Christ, on the north side of West Market Street, just west of the intersection of White Pond Drive and West Market. The time of delivery should be 8:30 am.

More About the Geranium Sale from the Treasurer

At a cost of \$.90 per plant or \$16.20 if my calculations are correct we will owe Cedar Lanes Farm \$8,910.00. If we pay on delivery or send a check on the Monday after the sale we will get a 2% discount (\$178.20) In addition there is a delivery charge of \$30.00 per truck (2). With the discount we owe \$8731.80 and adding the fee for the two trucks the total bill should be \$8791.80.

We do not have this much money in the bank so in order to receive the discount I need to have the money you have collected from your customers by the time of the sale or at the April meeting date.

In order to make our usual profit from the geranium sale the board had to increase the price of a flat from \$20.00 to \$22.00. This is still a good price for this large a plant as compared to what other places are charging.

Chet Lowry is our geranium sale chairman again this year. If he has prepared tickets for the sale they will be available at the April meeting. Even if we do not have tickets you know who your customers are. Contact them and tell them of the time and place of the sale. They should be able to find the sale since it is just across the street from last year's location.

Chet will have a sign up sheet for helpers. Many are needed at 8:30 am to unload the trucks and get the sale set up. Three, four or five are needed for each shift to be salespeople. As President Lewis said in his letter some people are needed to spent the night Friday to guard the plants. This church is the place where the Boy scouts had their Christmas trees stolen one night. The thief wasn't too bright since the police found the trees for sale in his yard a couple of days later, Some extra help will probably be needed when the sale shuts down on Saturday afternoon. (I hope not, but every year we have leftovers.) Maybe the church would allow us to sell them on Sunday since there are two congregations using the building.

Be prepared to volunteer and call your customers.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

CREW SUPERVISOR

Looking for a supervisor for the seasonal FLOWERSCAPE crew.

Must have driver's license/clean driving record; some supervisory experience and experience with small garden equipment. Involves cleaning up beds, cutting back perennials in Mid-April; planting, maintaining plants of 45 urban flowerscape beds through October. 30-35 hours per week. \$11.25 per hour.

CREW PEOPLE

Need to have dependable transportation to KEEP AKRON BEAUTIFUL office by 8:30 am weekdays. Some experience with small garden equipment. Cleaning up beds, cutting back perennials in Mid-April; planting and maintaining plants of 45 urban flowerscape beds through October. 30-35 hours per week. \$8.50 per hour.

These positions are PART TIME and SEASONAL.

Mid-April through October.(need to be committed for the season - not leave in the middle!)

Must be agile, able to bend, & lift. (i.e. 50 lb bags of fertilizer)

Meet at 850 E MARKET ST - 8:30 am - Monday thru Friday.

Work until between 3:00 and 4:00 pm.

Job is weather-dependent.

(If large storm, there's no work that day) if a storm comes while working, wait it out for a while, etc.)

Contact KEEP AKRON BEAUTIFUL 330-375-2116

E-MAIL: keepakronbeautiful@ci.akron.oh.us

Walt's Gardening Tips for April

1. Have a certified tree technician spray your shade trees with a fungicide to prevent leaf disease.
2. This is the best time to plant most trees in northern Ohio. Most root growth occurs in the spring and fall.
3. Scratch a bar of soap before going into the garden to work. Dirt underneath the fingernails then washes off easily.
4. Mount a mailbox on a post in the garden to store small items.
5. As you watch your spring flowers fade, remember that it is important to leave the foliage of bulbs to ripen and die back.
6. Here are some flowers to attract butterflies in the garden: bee balm, cosmos, morning glory, phlox, aster, verbena, zinnia, cornflower and thistle.
7. A mouse trap attached to the wall of a tool shed can be a glove trap; gloves hung there will dry quickly and be easily found.

For May

1. Fertilize roses in May. Watch for signs of mildew and black spot on the leaves.
2. Mow cool season lawns tall (2 1/2 -3') through the summer months for a healthier lawn.
3. Plants and trees that attract hummingbirds: clematis, delphinium, pinks, sweet william, day lily, trumpet vine, bee balm, columbine, mimosa, lobelia, salvia, snapdragon, red cardinal flower and cleome.
4. Bugs and diseases will be out in force now. Check plants thoroughly each week to avoid surprise epidemics. Take samples of problems to your local garden centre for advice/

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