



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, December 21

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, December 21, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party. The entertainment will be by a choral group, the Magestic Singers. Instead of the usual poinsettias for the ladies, the board decided to do something different this year: Christmas cactus. The caterer has been asked to have the same dinner as we had last year for Christmas.

There is no board meeting in December.

Club web site: <http://mgcakron.org> & <http://ohiogardeners.org>

Presidents Message: Arthur Britton

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving and are in good health. There are some changes to what is going to happen at the January meeting. We are going to have a Business meeting. We are going to give both sides of the name change a chance to voice their opinion on the topic (there will be a time limit per person) and a question and answer time. The Board decided to bring it to the members and vote in February.

There are a lot of other topics that I would like to let everyone know about. In February there are 2 Garden shows one at the IX center and the other in Euclid. If you would like to help out at either one please contact Frank Mitch and let him know.

We need everyone to get their membership dues in so that you will be able to vote and to be in the roster. We also need someone to replace James Fee as Chair of the member awards subcommittee.

In an effort to keep people informed we are going to have the minutes of the Board meetings either in the Gabber or at the dinner meetings (we are not sure yet) and we are going to have the treasure's report (a few at each table). The board also has decided to only have one plant auction in 2010 in the spring in May. We had such a successful sale of geraniums and other plants last year that we are going to basically sell the same number as last year and we will be looking for people to help sell and unload.

As you know there was a run off for the position of President of the Garden club. Marti Williams and I both care about the club and I hope that she will continue to be an active member of the club and I look forward to working with her in the future.

On a personal note I would like to say Thank you for those you voted for me and I will continue to try to do my best to lead the club. I was completely speechless and shocked to have received the award of "Outstanding Service". Thank you.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holidays and Merry Christmas. I realize that some of you are reading this in the south and enjoying warmer weather, while you are not here for the snow, cold weather and all that goes with this time of the year you are still warmly thought of. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Arthur Britton

Winter Garden Show Time Again

If you enjoyed your participation in the Cleveland Home and Garden Show last year, you can have twice as much fun this year. In 2010 there will be two big shows in Cleveland. We have been invited again to work both shows with the Cleveland and Youngstown Clubs similar to last year. Signup sheets are coming soon and will be forwarded to all our members with email and details will be in the January Gabber. If no email and you wish to participate please communicate with Frank Mitch. As last year, admission to the shows will be free if you are working in a display booth.

The “Cleveland Home and Garden Show” has moved to the Great Lakes Expo Center in Euclid. Good news is that parking is free at this location. Show dates are: January 22-31, 2010.

A newly organized show at the IX-Center is the “Great Big Home and Garden Expo.” There is a parking charge as last year. Show dates are: February 6-14, 2010.

Check your calendars for these dates and I will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

Contact for shows signup:

Frank Mitch

Email: fnm2065@hotmail.com

Phone: 330-666-2327

Habitat for Humanity Project

Our most surprising Habitat landscaping project to date was at 211 24th Street in Barberton this November. We planted a tree and some shrubs on November 3rd but found it much too wet to do more. On November 11th we managed to do the grass for about 2/3 of the large property. Still sinking in the mud up to our ankles postponed the remainder until November 14th. We hope the remaining warm days of the month enabled the 5 way rye grass to germinate and green up before winter.

Many trips to Barberton were necessary to check out the conditions and finally pronounce it a success.

Thanks to all the faithful club helpers who made it happen again this year. Here are those who came to help on one or more times. Most days we survived with no donuts:

Bob Bell	Jim Bell
Dick Edwards – former club member	
Roger Hite	Chuck Keach

Submitted by Frank Mitch, Habitat chair

November's Garden Quiz Answers

1. Biennial
2. All of them
3. An earlier start on plants in the spring, and prolonged plant life in late fall.
4. They cut out the bottoms and cover tender plants in early spring to avoid frost damage.
5. One inch
6. Conserve moisture, prevent soil-borne diseases from reaching the leaves which come when water splashes up from bare soil, insulates soil keeping it warmer in cold times and cooler in hot weather, and chopped leaves add organic matter to the soil.
7. When you do not want to increase the nitrogen.
8. Let it dry, cut off the old foliage, and plant it in a partly sunny spot.
9. (a) don't fertilize; (b) don't use pesticides on or near wildflowers; (c) don't try to grow open field and sun lovers in the shade, or woodland plants in the sun; (d) plant only plants native to your area; (e) don't tug or pull plants from the wild; (f) don't delay transporting or transplanting; (g) don't let the field flowers bully you -- black-eyed Susan daisies, and loosestrife, for example will dominate the garden.
10. I get at least 4.

(Editor's note - We thank Walt Starcher most heartily for these quizzes. Walt says that he would be happy to continue these quizzes but he wonders whether the membership appreciates them. If we appreciate Walt's doing these quizzes and want him to continue, we all should express our thanks to Walt at the next meeting and urge him to continue.)

A Note from Jim Fee

The presentation of the 2009 MGC of Akron Awards on November 16, was my final act as the co-Chair of the Member Awards subcommittee for the club. I have had many fulfilling years in the co-Chair of the Member Awards event and all of the planning that goes into the preparation of those awards.

It is time to pass the job onto someone, hopefully, younger than myself. There comes a time in every job, task, or project connected with the continuity of the MGC of Akron; when it is time for the Chair to step away from the active role. It is my time to do just that.

The person who takes this Chair can count on my aid and assistance. I have a system in place that has worked for me for some time now. But, it certainly is not the only system and it may not even be the best. I have a collection of materials that I will be most pleased to give to the incoming new Chairperson.

If you are interested, contact Sam Morlan phone (330) 336-6269 (or) e-mail samandlora@wadsnet.com Sam is the coordinator for getting club members into various positions which are open in the working committees which are at the heart of our Club.

I wish to thank all of the committee chairs, project directors, and task coordinators who have helped me over the years. Believe me, when I say, without their help the task of Members Awards would be very tough indeed. So, take a bit of advice from the "old guy" who is stepping down - work with those folks who can give you the names of the active club members who make MGC of Akron function!!!

Cheers,
 Jim Fee, MGC of Akron, Past President (1993), Life Member (1990), past co-chair of the Member Awards Committee

Master Gardeners' Symposium

The Master Gardeners of Summit County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with the Ohio State University Extension, Summit County, announce their annual Design & Beyond 2010 symposium on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Zwisler Hall - St. Sebastian's Church, 348 Elmdale Ave, Akron, OH 44320-1204 from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm. Cost for the day, including continental breakfast, lunch and materials is \$40 for all participants, and is open to the public.

Keynote speaker is Mike McGrath the Host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio show, 'You Bet Your Garden'. He is the Garden Editor for **WTOP News Radio** in Washington, D.C., and the Contributing Editor and columnist for **Greenprints** magazine. McGrath was the former editor-in-chief of **ORGANIC GARDENING** magazine from 1991 to 1997. He has authored several books including 'Mike McGrath's Book of Compost,' Kitchen Garden A to Z,' and 'You Bet Your Tomatoes!' McGrath will have his books for sale and signing. Mike McGrath will be presenting "**Seven Secrets of Successful Organic Gardeners**" and "**Everything You Know About Compost is Wrong**".

Mary Paolano Hoerner, of Bay Village, Ohio is a landscape historian who lectures widely on Ohio's historic landscapes. Hoerner is currently writing a book on Ohio landscapes, and is contributing to the survey of the work of Walter Manning being conducted by the Library of American Historic Landscapes. She is on numerous boards and foundations working with historic landscape preservation. She will present "**Introduction to Ohio Landscapes and their Design**"

Registration must be postmarked on or before December 29, 2009

Late registration will be accepted until January 8, 2010 at the fee of \$50.

Registrations are transferable. No refunds after December 29, 2009

To receive a registration form: E-mail: Sherry Beam at: summitmgsnbeam@yahoo.com, or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Sherry Beam, 2633 Hudson-Aurora Rd., Hudson, Ohio 44236
If you have any questions, please contact, Sherry Beam, facilitator – 330-342-0969, summitmgsnbeam@yahoo.com

Service Opportunity

I am asking my fellow gardeners for some help with a project I am involved with at Arrowhead School in Copley. I also hope we can get involved as a club. What I need are out of date seeds for a craft project. It doesn't matter how old because we will not be planting them. If you can spare some old seeds bring them to the next meeting or call and I can pick them up. Thank you
Sam Morlan
330-336-6269

Welcome New Members

Two of the winners of the Beautification Awards last month joined the club. They were Vinod and Surekha Patel, 52 Lightning Lane, Kent, Ohio 44240 phone 330-861-0158. He is the assistant manager of the Day's Inn located on Route 43 in Kent. They are interested in working at the Habitat projects and their gardening interests are landscaping/lawns and perennials. They say that they also are known as Vinny and Suzie. They were recommended by Jim Bell.

Member News

Andy Bettick is resting at home after successful knee replacement on December 2. He will be ready for golf next spring.
Lee Hart has had cataracts removed from both eyes. Andy says that maybe now he can see the golf ball.