



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, January 16

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, January 16, 2006
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Where: Peg's Catering
440 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44311

Program: Low Maintenance, High Reward Gardening

Lisa Graf from Graf Growers on White Pond Drive will be our speaker this month. She will be helping us look ahead to a new gardening season.

About the calling committee - Marti Williams has taken over the chair of the calling committee. If you have not been called by your caller by the Saturday before the meeting call her at 330-825-5315 to make a reservation. If you cannot reach her call Bob Bell. We need two more callers; to volunteer call Marti.

Board meeting: January 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m. The Fairlawn Park Garden and Civic Center, West Market and White Pond Drive, Akron. Coffee or tea provided, snacks welcomed. All members are invited to attend.

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

A Note from Your President - Leroy Hart

In this my first message to you as your new club president I want to look back upon the past year, spend some time in the present, and look forward to the future. We have completed a successful year in the life of our club. A very good share of this success rests with Mary Ann who not only was our president last year but also filled the role of first Vice President. This meant that she not only had to preside at club and board meetings but also had to provide the programs for our meetings. This job she performed in an excellent manner; not only did she provide for last year's programs she also has lined up two programs for this year. Thank you Mary Ann for all of your dedication and work last year and we look forward to your contributions to the club this year.

For the present let me say a few words about myself. I have been in the club since either 1982 or 1983; I was sponsored by Chris Godard. Most of you know me but perhaps you don't know much about me. I was born in 1928 in Warren, Ohio and attended public schools there. I attended Baldwin- Wallace College and The State College of Washington. I graduated from Baldwin- Wallace in 1952 with a B.S. in chemistry. I graduated on a Sunday and enlisted in the Army the next day (the draft board was waiting). After infantry basic training I went to the Counter Intelligence Corps with basic agents school and German language school in Baltimore. After these schools I was in Germany for a year and a half.

After the Army I worked for Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan as an analytical chemist for nine years. I met my wife, Catharine, there; she also worked for Dow. In 1964 my life took a big turn. I along with my wife and two children, enrolled in the Methodist Theological School in Ohio in Delaware, Ohio. I earned two degrees, the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry. I served several churches in northeast Ohio and am now retired. So maybe if I sometimes sound like I am preaching to you, you will understand where I am coming from.

Probably you do not keep old copies of the Garden Gabber but as the editor I do. As I look back at last year's issues I note that we as a club had some ups and downs during the year. The biggest down came because we had to change our location for meetings. As the year progressed our problems with Bradley's Catering increased. Finally we had to find a new location and Peg's Catering won in a very close vote. Not all of us are happy with Peg's but we are committed for the year. If you have suggestions about a possible better place to meet please let me know. I am always open to hear your suggestions, gripes, etc. We are all concerned with making our club better. Another big downer was the loss of membership. Several members have died and not been replaced with new members. There are probably other reasons for members not renewing their memberships. I would like to know why; maybe we can make some corrections. Speaking of membership loss quite a few have not renewed for 2006. I hope this is because you just forgot and will renew after this little reminder. If for some other reason, please let me know why.

On the up side let me mention some of the positive things that happened during the year. We had a successful coat check operation at the Home and Flower show. All of the geraniums were eventually sold. The plant sale at the May meeting was a big money maker. The June meeting/picnic at the Goodyear Heights Metro Park was a big success and we probably will do it again this year. Frank Mitch and his Habitat for Humanity crew landscaped three houses last year; there will be more this year. The club gave two \$1000 scholarships to students from the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. The Horticultural Show was held in the new downtown library and was a success. This year we hope to have more entries from club members.

Let's make 2006 as, or more, successful than last year. With help from all club members we can do it.

Beautification Awards

At the November meeting the beautification awards committee presented their awards. This committee last year was a family affair with David Rich, Mary Ann Ferguson- Rich, and Cathy Morgan. The residential award went to our member Robert Bell for his home on Sandy Lake Road. The award for businesses went to Ken Coffman and his business Excel Landscaping in Tallmadge for the landscaping at his business. . The institutional, awards went to the Inventors Hall of Fame and to the Leaf and Blossom Garden Club of Cuyahoga Falls; these two groups cooperated in planting and maintaining the planters outside of the Hall of Fame. The other institutional award went to St. Paul's Episcopal Church on West Market Street for the gardens surrounding the church.



The representative from St. Paul's Church, Bob Bell, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, accepting for the Inventors Hall of Fame and Ken Coffman

Special Award

Also at the November meeting a special award was given to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich by Jim Fee, chairman of the Awards committee. This was the President's Award given for special achievement during her year as president of the club.



Many thanks to the beautification committee for their work. They had lovely pictures of the winning gardens. Also many thanks to Jim Fee and the others members of the awards committee for their work throughout the year. They also are the scholarship committee. Thanks to Frank Mitch for the photographs in this issue.

Learn to Be a Successful Gardener at Graf Growers 11th Annual Winter Seminar Series

Graf Growers is pleased to present its 11th annual Winter Seminar Series beginning Saturday January 14, 2006. Cost is \$12 per seminar, prepaid except for January 28, which is \$15, prepaid. Seminars will be held at Graf Growers on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. (Coffee will be served at 9:30) Enrollment will be limited to 50 per class. You may sign up in person or mail your registration.

Following is a list of dates, subjects, speakers and a short description of each seminar:

1. January 14 - Creative Herb Gardening - Speaker: Cathy Manus Gray, Owner of Herban Gardens and publisher of the quarterly newsletter "Tales from the Herban Garden"

Herbs are truly versatile and useful plants. Learn about unique Herb combinations for your garden that will have you thinking outside the herbal box. You'll also take home culinary, decorative, fragrant and creative ideas for using and enjoying your herbs throughout the seasons as well as tips on successful gardening with herbs during the upcoming growing season.

2. January 21 - Trees and Shrubs for the Landscape - Speaker: Pamela Bennett, Horticulture Educator, Director

Pam's responsibilities as the Clark County horticulture agent include planning short courses, giving speeches, and organizing the master gardener program for the county. Trees and shrubs are the backbone of a garden, providing the height, heft, and permanence that are invaluable in any planting. Pam will discuss her favorite woody landscape plants for Ohio gardens.

3. January 28 - Perennial and Annual Favorites - Speaker: Debra Knapke, Horticultural speaker and co-author of three gardening books: Perennials for Ohio, Annuals for Ohio & Gardening month by month in Ohio Known as "The Garden Sage", Debra is a popular speaker at gardening events throughout Ohio. She also writes for gardening magazines and is a frequent guest on radio gardening shows. Her program includes slides and will focus on Annual and Perennial favorites for our Ohio gardens.

4. February 4 - Too Wet, Too Dry, Too Shady, Oh My! - Speaker: Charles Behnke, OSU Extension Educator, Horticulture, Lorain County

Imagine how upsetting it is to buy flowers, trees or shrubs, carefully plant and fertilize them only to have them die because of poor soil or not enough sun. This is why careful planning is important to the success of any garden. Charles will present a program to help us choose the right plant for the right soil and light conditions.

5. February 11 - Container Gardening - Speakers: Lisa Graf & Scott Burdeshaw

Container Gardening is a great way to add color & fragrance to outdoor living areas. In this seminar we will talk about how to grow exceptional container gardens including soil preparation, watering and growing hints as well as plant selection and interesting combinations. Scott and Lisa will share their combined experiences, along with slides to bring you many ideas that combine interesting colors, textures & forms to create stunning container gardens.

6. February 18 - Designing the Home Landscape - Speaker: Bill Collins, Education Coordinator, Kingwood Center

A good landscape design creates a beautiful setting for a home and can add additional space for entertaining and other activities when planned correctly. The slide program will emphasize the principles of design and plant selection.

Member News

Margaret Gentile's mother, Violet Gentile, passed away on December 4, 2005. We extend our sympathy to Margaret and her family. We very much appreciate Margaret's continued participation in sending out get well cards to ill members. Thanks, Margaret, even though you can't attend many meetings due to your employment hours.

Cathryn "Trink" Bacon, wife of our Life Member William Bacon, died December 20, 2005. Bill has been a member since 1980, currently is an Honorary Member and resides at Rockynol. Trink in earlier times was involved in many organizations as we read in her obituary. Bill also was a very active member in many organizations and especially our garden club. He was club President in 1983. We miss having Bill at our meetings and in our activities.

Another long time member and club Past President, Andy Bettick, has been more or less house bound now for several weeks after a foot injury. We were glad to see Andy at the Christmas dinner but in recent days he has spent some time in the hospital with a blood clot problem. We wish Andy a recovery very soon and will be glad to see him back in action.

Reported by Frank Mitch



John Lewis, Bob Bell, Leroy Hart, Mary Ann Ferguson Rich, Bill Carney

At the November meeting Bill Carney, past national president, installed the new officers.

Picture top right - Bill Carney pins the president's pin onto Leroy Hart



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