



The Garden Gabber



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Monday, May 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, May 21, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program **Annual Plant Sale**

Walter Starcher will be the auctioneer for this year's plant sale. In past years this has been one of the most enjoyable meetings of the year. Also this sale is a good source of income for the club. When you divide your perennials bring some of them to the sale. If you have a house plant that you are tired of, bring it to the sale and find it a new home.

This is a good meeting to bring your spouse and a friend. Above all bring enough money; unfortunately, the club is not equipped to take credit cards.

The board meeting is Monday, May 28 at 7 PM at the Garden Forum building on the corner of East Market Street and White Pond Drive. All members are invited to attend board meetings. Your opinions and suggestions about the club are welcomed.

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

A Message from Your President

Cinco de Mayo, at least I think that is how it is spelled. A bunch of Garden Club members spent this cinco of May landscaping a new Habitat home. If you weren't there we missed you, and if you were there, good job. We even made the paper. Mary Beth Breckenridge of the Akron Beacon Journal and her photographer came to take pictures of us and to do an article on the work we were doing. It is in the Local section of the Sunday May 6th, paper. Thanks Mary Beth. By the way, it was most unfortunate that none of our woman were there. They would have been much more photogenic and they would never lean on their shovels. Look at the picture, you would think this was the WPA. I think that this was the first time since I have been doing the Habitat homes that none of the ladies showed up. I bet you were busy mowing your own lawns.

I hope that all of you have been saving for the May plant auction. Look around the house for items to bring. House plants, outdoor plants, garden tools are some of the things we can auction off. I reminded you last month that you would need to bring lots of money this month. I have been getting some input on the plants we will be auctioning and there promise to be some surprises.

There are a couple of really great opportunities for a few of our members. At our March dinner someone made a really great suggestion that our Board agreed with and would like to make happen. This is the 70th anniversary of our Club. The suggestion was to have a Past Presidents' Night. What we discussed was doing it as part of our awards night in November. Think about this. 70 years, all of the past presidents (the living ones) awards night and election of new officers. We need someone to organize it. Call me at home 330-753-3553 or see me at the dinner to take on this assignment. I think this can be one of the dinners we will remember for a long time if we do it right.

OK. I expect that most of you have paid your income taxes by now, or at least filed for an extension. I mean it is May. You may ask why I bring up such a topic. What does taxes have to do with our Garden Club. Maybe a lot. Frank Mitch has for years taken care of filing the proper forms for our club. In order to not pay sales tax on any money we earn we must remain a tax exempt organization. Frank has kept us legal. He wants to give another a chance at this important job. I am looking for a knowledgeable accounting type person (a CPA would be nice) to take over for Frank. It isn't a year long job but it does take a few hours to pull the information together. Frank will train. If you can't wait until the next meeting call me. This is important.

Bob Bell, President

Garden Tours

At several past meetings several members have suggested that it would be interesting and helpful if members could visit the gardens of some of our more experienced and successful members. The board has agreed to start this program.

Andy Bettick volunteered to be first. Andy has won two beautification awards for his garden so you are in for a treat when you visit.

The date is June 16 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Andy lives at 1107 Tanager Road in Bath. Other members will invite us to their gardens in following months.

Member News

Clinton Walker Sr. passed away recently. His memorial service was held last week. Some of the club members were in attendance. Clint was a long time member of the club and was very active. He was a past officer in the club and regular in attendance and also attended board meetings. Because of diabetes Clint had to have an amputation of a leg. After that he was able to attend only one meeting. He will be missed by his family and his many friends in the club.

Welcome New Member

Susan L. Tewell, 14139 Tope Road N.E., Hartville, OH 44632, phone 330-877-6990
e-mail susanltewell@aol.com

Sue is retired from Graybar where she was in sales. She lists her gardening interests as annuals, perennials, and vegetables.

She was recommended by Jack Cochran.

Membership Roster Alert

The 2007 Membership Roster and Calendar of Events was available at the April Dinner meeting and 40 members received their copies that evening. When you attend the May Dinner meeting, for the fish fry and plant auction, look for the Roster Sheet and your name. If your name is on that sheet, I have a copy of the Roster with me and you can get it from me. We want to get Rosters into your hands at this meeting if we can. Remember, the cost of mailing is going up and it costs the MGC of Akron to get them into your hands. So, come to the meeting! Have some excellent food!! Enjoy bidding on and buying some excellent plants for your garden!!! Get your Roster from me!!!! But, most of all, enjoy the fellowship of many of the members of MGC of Akron who will be there with you!

Jim Fee, co-chair, membership committee, MGC of Akron

Roster Corrections

Page 2: TGOA/MGCA National Convention will be 12-14 of July, not 2-14.

July meeting will be on the 16th and board meeting on the 23rd.

CGLR Fall Meeting will be on October 13, not on the 9th.

Horticulture show will be on September 8, not in August

Page 3: Officers - John Lewis is First Vice President and Leroy Hart is Treasurer.

Page 6 TGOA/MGCA National Convention will be 12-14 of July, not 2-14.

Horticulture show will be on September 8, not in August

Page 7: the name of Crown Point is Crown Point Farm and Learning Center.

Page 9: Should be Happy 70th Birthday..1937-2007 Not 75th..1932-2007

Page 11: William J. Carney is an Associate Member, should be indicated by #.

Geranium Sale

This copy of the newsletter should reach you before May 11 so this is a reminder that the geranium sale is May 11 and 12. As has been mentioned several times before this is the main fund raiser for our club. People are needed at 8:30 AM on Friday to unload the trucks and set up for the sale. Sale hours are Friday May 11 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Saturday May 12 from 10 AM to 5:00 PM. Five or six people need to be on hand all the time for sales.

Treasurer Leroy Hart asks that you bring the money from your advance sales on Friday or Saturday. In order to get the discount from the grower we need to pay the bill on the Monday after the sale and there is very little money in the treasury.

We have ordered 9900 plants, 550 flats of 18. The grower is supposed to send extras to cover plants that are missing in the flats and any damaged ones. Our cost is \$.82 per plant. The total due is \$8118.00 plus about \$60.00 for the shipping. Our profit if we sell them all is a little over \$2800.00.

Naturalist Program

Joyce Baldwin has completed the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program, a community based natural resource education and volunteer program sponsored by the Ohio State University Extension.

Volunteers receive certification and 40 hours of instruction and 40 hours of volunteer service on an approved community service project or program benefiting natural resource education or environmental stewardship.

Volunteers maintain certification on an annual basis by completing 8 additional hours of advanced training as well as continuing to complete annual service hours. Ask Joyce for more details.

The Robin

At the last meeting the President, Bob Bell, posed a question to the membership, to which family does the robin belong? He said that he knew the answer but did anyone else.

At the last board meeting John Lewis had the answer along with much information about the robin. His answer follows.

The robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a large thrush with a gray back and a brick red chest.

The thrush is a Passerine bird of the family *Thurdidae* of various species, especially the wood thrush, robin, and hermit thrush. These birds are celebrated as a songbird.

The robin is a Passerine, a bird that belongs to the order *Passeriformes*, the perching birds, having three toes in front and one toe behind, and including the suborder *Oscines* or true song birds. Birds of this order include the sparrow, the robin and the Warbler.

The robin is also an Oscine, a suborder of Passerine birds with highly developed vocal organs. These birds were used for auguries.

Augur, a functionary in ancient Roman society whose duty it was to divine signs concerning future events from the flight or other actions of birds, from certain appearances in quadrupeds, from lightening, or other unusual occurrences.

As a bonus John also included some information on the martin. The martin is any of the species of swallows. It is the largest of the swallows. The martin is well known for its attraction to multitiered nesting boxes. The purple martin is the only swallow in which the male is of a uniform iridescent black color.

Thanks John for your research. The editor appreciates contributions from the membership. The editor is not much of an author so he depends on others for material for the newsletter.

A Seed Story

The CEO of a large company was planning on retiring in one year. He was trying to decide whom he would choose from among the executives of the company to be his successor. The company had a tradition of promoting from within the company so looking outside the company was not an option. There were several younger executives who would be a good CEO. The outgoing CEO devised a unique plan to choose his successor. He called all the eligible executives to a meeting where he announced his coming retirement. He said that his successor would be chosen from the group assembled at this meeting. He gave each of these men a seed and told them to take the seed home and return in one year with their results with the seed.

One young man named Jim, took his seed home and told his wife about the CEO's plan. He found a pot and some potting soil and planted the seed and waited for some results.

Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by, still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil. He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed. Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is

Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But, I gave you all boiled seeds. They were dead. It was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

Remember...

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness

If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment

If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective

If you plant hard work, you will reap success

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap a harvest

So, be careful what you plant now. It will determine what you will reap later.

This story was submitted by Howard Palmer and the editor thanks him for it. The editor feels that this story is better than some of the sermons he has heard (and preached).

Jubilee Garden Project

Crown Point Farm and Learning Center has plans for another garden. The naming of the garden, Jubilee Garden, commemorates the 800th year of the founding of the Dominican Order. The garden will focus on native plants. By focusing on native plants the garden will promote improved awareness of conservation issues while at the same time stimulating the senses.

Our club has donated \$1000.00 to this project. Crown Point is having a plant sale on Saturday May 19 and Sunday, May 20. Our club will be taking leftover geraniums (if any) to this sale and some of our members will be helping at the sale. This sale features many varieties of heirloom vegetables and flowers, all grown at Crown Point.

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