



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, December 17

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 17, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Social Hour
6:30 p.m. – Dinner

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

Program: Copley High School Chamber
Singing Group

Our annual Christmas meeting will be held at this new location this year. The menu for the dinner and directions can be found on page 5. Also on the program for the evening will be the remainder of the awards presentations that were not completed last month. The officers for 2008 will also be installed.

There is no board meeting in December.

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

A Message from Your President - Bob Bell

WOW It's December already. It seems that I just finished November's letter and Lee called to tell me the GABBER goes out tomorrow. Not only the month seemed to finish fast but the year has gone by in such a hurry too. Don't you think we should be able to slow things down a bit? When we were kids the time didn't go this fast. Wonder why it does now.

It was a wonderful feeling to participate in our dinner in November with so many of the Akron Men's Garden Club Past Presidents. I am glad that I was able to meet some of the people who haven't been able to come on a regular basis but made it for this occasion. Marti Williams took the reins to make this a big event.

As you know, I am finishing my year as President of the Club. When I took on the job I hadn't realized all of the activities the club was involved in. I had a great time. I was able to get to know so many of you through the activities and our meetings. Because of the enthusiasm of the Board of Directors we started many new things. I think we had five members host a visit to their homes to show their gardens. It seems that I was the only one to not have refreshments. I plan to make up for that next year. A special thanks to those who took us on a tour of their gardens. This will hopefully be an annual event with more gardeners next year. We began some programs to involve youth in gardening. Al Eddy was disappointed that it wasn't more. Hey Al, it was more. More than last year and more than the year before. It is what I call a good beginning. What else did we start this year? The seed exchange. The member plant exchange. The ten minute presentation. The member discussion of garden problems.

We also continued some outstanding activities. Landscaping Habitat Homes, Frank Mitch. Landscaping at Crown Point, Andy Bettick. The geranium sale, Chet Lowry. our biggest money maker. The annual plant auction, one of the biggest in a few years, thanks Walt and Club members for contributions. Horticulture show, Mary Ann and Cathy. How about getting the GABBER published each month by award winning Lee Hart. By the way, Lee's wife Catharine does much of the work, possibly most of it I don't know. Plus she is one of nicest people to talk to. The problem with listing things and names is the probability of leaving some out. Like James Fee and Activity awards and Jim Bell for Beautification awards and Grace Cochran for member recruiting and handling the Silent Auction. And now you ask, what about the Telephone committee and the people helping sell geraniums and the Greeters and John Lewis for our programs. See, I probably left your name off and you won't ever speak to me again. Darn.

Like I said, it has been a wonderful and full year. If you weren't as active as you wanted to be now is the time to step up. I am looking forward to working with the new officers next year and ask that you consider joining us. THANK YOU ALL for your support this year.

(Editor's note - We all want to thank Bob for being such a wonderful President this year. Indeed it has been a good year for the club and much of the responsibility for the success lies with the excellent leadership of Bob. He can even control the sometimes unruly crowd at board meetings and I know from experience this can be difficult at times.)

Past Presidents' Recognition

At the November meeting we were pleased to have several of the club's past presidents and their spouses as our guests for dinner. Those in attendance were:

Garland Parsons and his wife He was president in 1973
 Russell Heaton and Theresa, 1985
 Bill Moorehouse and Mary Lou, 1987
 Fred Gillespie and his wife, 1989
 Jim Fee and Ruth, 1993
 John Martindale and Evelyn, 1994
 Andy Bettick and Jackie, 1995
 Frank Mitch (Amy had another commitment), 1998
 Roger Hite and Jeanie, 1999
 Walt Starcher and his wife, 2001
 David Hawkins and Kayann, 2004
 Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich and David, 2005

The club was glad to be able to express its thanks in this manner to these men and one lady for their service to the club. This recognition dinner might be a good thing to establish as a tradition, say every five years to have another.

(Editor's note - The editor and immediate past president and his wife regretted having to miss this dinner but they were visiting with their family in California for Thanksgiving. We regret not having the names of all the wives.)

Beautification Awards

At the November meeting Jim Bell announced the winners of this year's Beautification Awards. they were:

for Residential:

Dayal Kiringoda
 755 Frank Blvd.
 Akron

Eric Jones
 743 Frank Blvd.
 Akron

Eugene Chlosta, new member this year
 445 Inverness Road
 Akron

for Commercial

Welch's Dairy
 3254 S. Cleveland Massillon Road
 Norton

Ice Cream Park
 1115 Portage Lakes Drive
 Akron

Big Dip
 197 Portage Lakes Drive
 Akron

AHS Membership

We, as TGOA/MGCA (The Gardeners of America/Mens' Garden Clubs of America) members are no longer automatically members of the AHS (American Horticultural Society). However, they are offering us an opportunity to join the AHS at a reduced charge if we respond quickly. If you express your desire to join AHS to the national office of TGOA/MGCA by December 31 you can join the AHS for three years for \$45.

To do this contact Mr. Bob Young at the national office before December 31. He must send the names to the AHS by December 31. Do not send money to Mr. Young. The AHS will bill you directly. After December 31 the AHS membership will be two years for \$35.

You can reach Mr. Young by phone at 515-278-0295 or Fax at 515-278-6245 or Email at tgoasecy@dwx.com

Address Changes

In your green membership rosters make the following address changes:

Ivan Hertle
90 N. Portage Path Apt. 7B11
Akron, 44303

Gene Fitch
3873 Woodbury Oval
Stow , OH 44224
Phone 330-688-1940

New Locations

The board is open to suggestions as to a new location for our meetings. We will try St. George this month, maybe The Woman's' City Club next month. Guy's Party Center has been suggested. If you can think of any other possibilities let the board know, Cost of the meal is a factor. We also have to find a new location for board meetings. At no charge would be a plus.

You Know You're a Gardener When,,,

Every day's a good weather day to work in the garden.

You count the new blooms every morning and evening.

Letting the blooms live and die in the garden is more meaningful than cutting an arrangement for your dining room table.

You've been in the garden since 6:30 am, it's now 10 am and your spouse is still waiting for you to come in for breakfast.

You catch yourself dusting your husband's under shorts with Miracle Grow.

You pull weeds from flower beds that don't belong to you.

You have more pictures of plants than people in your photo album.

Your morning coffee doesn't taste as good if you don't get to walk around the garden while you're drinking it.

You know the botanical name of every plant in your yard but can't remember the names of all your grandchildren.

(Editor's note - Somebody gave this to me. I can't remember who or when, but I appreciate help with writing the Gabber.)

A Little Humor Just Ask Newton

Medical Student: Professor, why do we have to study physics? It has nothing to do with our profession.

Professor: Because it saves lives.

Student: How on earth can a physics course save lives?

Professor: It prevents idiots from graduating.

The December Meeting

The December meeting will be held at St. George Fellowship Centre which is located at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 3204 Ridgewood Road, Copley. The church is located on the south side of Ridgewood, one mile from the Ridgewood Road, Miller Road exit from the I 77 freeway. Coming on the freeway from the east or the south turn left at the light at the end of the exit ramp. Coming from the north turn right at the light at the end of the ramp. The church is about a mile and a half from Cleveland Massillon Road if you are coming that way. The entrance to the church is on the driveway side, not the back.

The dinner will be a buffet featuring a carved inside round of beef along with chicken cordon bleu, roasted redskin potatoes, caribbean blend style vegetables, tossed garden salad, and chocolate layer cake. The board decided that this should be BYOB style party. There will be no charge for opening wine bottles as there has been at places we have met in the past. Soft drinks will also be available at no cost. (If we are lucky there will be beer and boxed wine available at no cost also. the Copley Fairlawn Kiwanis meets here and often beer and wine are available at no cost. but if you want a drink at dinner, be on the safe side and bring your own.)

The caterer would like to know how many to expect so the callers will be calling. If you have not received a call by December 12 call Marti Williams at 330-825-5315.

(Editor's note - Some have complained about the distance of this location but from the West Side it is closer than our previous meeting place. The caterer lives in Tallmedge and he says he can make it in 17 minutes, but I'll bet he is driving faster than I do. In January we will try another location.)

2008 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:

Leroy Hart
633 Schocalog Road
Akron, OH 44320-1033

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

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

Amount enclosed _____