

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56

Number 6

The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay

Organized 1954

June 21, 2011

→ Garden Tour in June See Time and Itinerary Below ←



Greetings,

I am sure everyone is as busy as John and I are. At last summer is here and it seems to be flying by. It seems that we wait with such longing for the warmth that when it is upon us we do not want to waste a minute. So here we are with schedules so full that sometimes we are too tired to enjoy the most important parts. I hope that everyone is able to find a minute to sit back and take in the beauty around us. When I read garden design articles it always speaks to this by suggesting spots with a bench or swing for just enjoying the garden. As we get older we find ourselves needing to rest a little more frequently. I thought that retiring would offer more down time but that really is not true.

Next week is the Club's garden tour. I hope to see everyone there. It always gives me ideas of things to do next year. It's also a time to share and get to know each other a little better. A special thanks to Darlene and Lester Brown for taking the time to set it up. I know that Darlene spent a lot of time making calls. I hope that everyone will be willing to share their garden at sometime. I know that everyone is hesitant but after doing it last year I can say it's not too bad. No one ever feels their garden is good enough but it is not a contest but just a time to share. We each have different ideas and expectations for our garden. That diversity is what makes the tour interesting. So join us on June 26 and consider offering to do it next year.

After having our soil tested we have been working very hard on improving our vegetable garden. So far it seems to be doing well. We were lucky to only have small sized hail. We have had it three times which means we have also had a good share of rain. I decided to try mulching the tomato plants with straw. I left four plants without mulch so I can see the difference it makes. I am also caging some of each of the plants. I have never been sure what works best so now I will know.

Enjoy the sunshine. Hope to see everyone at the garden tour!

Take Care

Cathy

Garden Tour – Begins at 3:00 PM, Sunday, June 26 at the Brown's. Ends at 5:00 PM at the Royal Buffet Restaurant.
Directions given are from the previous location to the next, from first to last.

If you can't join us for the tour, please join us for fellowship at the restaurant.

Darlene and Lester Brown: 10534 Twp 128. (859-2477) West on Rt 12 (W. Main Cross St) to Twp 128; turn left on 128.

Anita and Bill Lanning: 9374 SR 12 West. (423-1010) Return east on Rt 12; almost across from the new Liberty-Benton school.

Myra and Tom Sustae: 2613 Springmill Road. (424-0178) East on Rt 12; north on CR 140 to Twp 94 (W. Melrose Ave); Right on Twp 94; Left on Westmoor Drive (just before I-75); Right on Springmill Road. **Note:** Bigelow is blocked for repair at I-75.

Perennial Plant Peddler Open House - tell your friends!

The Perennial Plant Peddler will be having an Open House Saturday, June 25 from 9 am - 6 pm and Sunday June 26 from 1 – 5 pm. Activities include tours of the extensive gardens, drawings for free plants, and an art workshop, “Drawing in the Garden.” Michelle Brickner will lead a free workshop on using soft pastels to create drawings from the vibrant life in the garden. Classes are limited to 16 participants per workshop, first come, first served, and all supplies will be provided. Classes are Saturday at 10 am and Sunday at 2 pm.

Children will enjoy a garden scavenger hunt, face painting, and a gardening craft activity.

All activities are free and open to the public.

The Perennial Plant Peddler is located at 8755 Township Road 251, 5 miles east of Findlay at the northeast corner of County Road 7 and Twp Rd 251. For more information call 419-387-7230 or visit the website www.pplantpeddler.com

Meet the Member: Myra Sustae joined the Club in 2010 both to continue her education as a gardener and for the social interaction, after hearing of us from friends. She enjoys the interesting presentations on gardening, and has become active in the Club, having chaired the raffle committee during the Club’s recent plant sale fundraiser.



She is originally from Chattanooga . . . Ohio (Mercer County). Married to Tom, she has two children, Eric and Ashley, and four grandchildren for whom she loves to babysit. She also keeps busy by teaching in the Nursing Skills Laboratory at Owens Community College two days a week, and through her hobbies of painting, crafts, and reading. Myra enjoys travel, which does require a benign neglect of the gardens, as we all know, and as she again realized when she returned home after Findlay’s latest hailstorm.

One of Myra’s personal mottos is, “Bloom where you’re planted”, which she follows literally in her vegetable and flower gardens. Because Myra particularly enjoys perennials she looks forward to plant exchanges such as the Club’s late fall program. As we enjoy her gardens on Sunday’s tour, look at the perennials she has that you might want a start of, and think of what you have that you could offer in exchange.

In the Beginning was the word – and, according to original Club member Dick Robinette, that’s about all the organizing that happened at the beginning of our Club. As Dick remembers it, a group of men routinely patronized the Klotz Seed Store on the northwest corner of Front and Main. The proprietor, Forest Klotz, decided that a men’s garden club would be a good idea. Aided by Kermit Herr, a member of a garden club in Bluffton, Forest rounded up a bunch of his regular customers to form a Findlay club. At the time, it took twenty-five members to formally charter a club under the MGCA rules. As Dick remembers it, Carlton Fruth joined as the youngest, and twenty-fifth, member. Thus the club was born.

Early meetings were held above the Seed Shop store. Later meetings were held at various members’ houses, and, for a time, in the ham radio club shack on West Sandusky Street. Programs were rather informal: occasional guest speakers talking on garden topics such as grafting, a seed exchange, and so forth.

Only a few projects were undertaken in the early years. Roses were planted at the hospital in the late 1950’s. One project that Dick remembers well is the placement of a plaque commemorating Johnny Appleseed in the Mount Blanchard Park in concert with the Mount Blanchard Garden Club. The stone monument was brought from Warner Gill’s farm. Chester A. (Chet) Smith, local monument dealer (and former Findlay mayor) cut the flat on the stone. The plaque still exists, although as the pictures below indicate, time and scarcity of maintenance resources have taken a toll.



The monument is located along the first base line of the baseball diamond, about ten yards past first base.



JOHNNY APPLESEED
 (JOHN CHAPMAN)
 (OWNED PROPERTY & PLANTED APPLE
 TREES IN THIS COMMUNITY.)
 DEDICATED - SEPTEMBER - 1966
 BY BLANCHARD GARDEN CLUB &
 MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF FINDLAY

Then, there were the flower shows, the first at a school, later ones at the mall, after it was fully enclosed. Originally, single flowers were displayed in pop bottle 'vases'. Eventually, a set of display vases were purchased, clear glass, with wide bases. Tissue paper had to be stuck in the necks of the vases to keep the flowers upright. Dick does not remember (if he ever knew) what became of these vases. Can anyone else help him out?

Dick also recalled most of the original members. If any of you can fill in the blanks without recourse to the archives, they will be published for the record in a future BAN. In addition to Kermit, Forest, Carlton, and himself, Dick recalls

Carl Zeiglar
 Homer Beck
 Alvin Heldman
 Wilbur Heldman
 Carl Sasse
 Carl Minter
 Richard Frances
 Irvin Semler

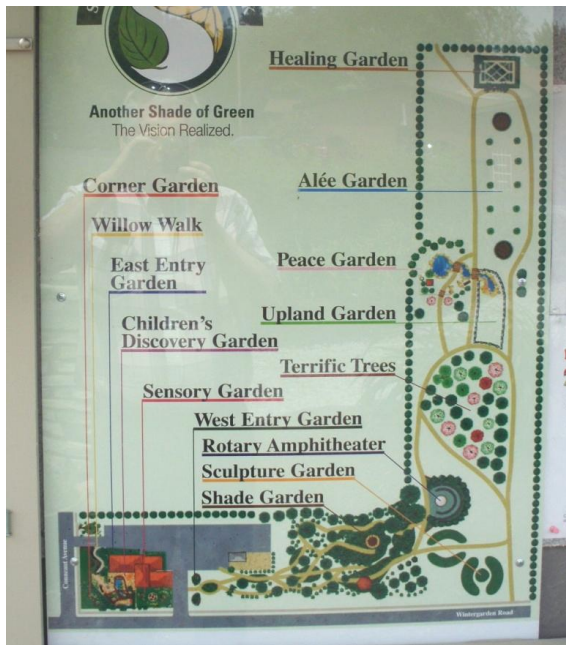
Bob Leonard
 Rev. Phillips
 Jack McBride
 Ted DeLong
 Proctor McRill
 Fred Craig
 Ralph Bookwalter
 Jack Kelbley

Leo Brown
 Harry Swihart
 Al Brann
 Bob Kelley
 ?? Evans
 Bob ?

Dick also remembers the contest for a club logo. The winner was a man, bent over, with a hoe in his hand. The pun played on the name of this publication – the Back Acre (backache-r) News. No copy of the original logo has been found to date, despite a diligent search by our club historians, *John and Pauline Andrews*.

As more memories of the Club's beginning surface, we will continue the saga. When, and why, for example, did we adopt our present name?

Where's Waldo? Who cares? The question is, where is this delightful park the editor and his wife toured recently? Hint: it is within twenty-five miles of the Findlay Courthouse. It contains beautiful raised beds, unique wall-hanging features, a children's garden (including a potting shed, below, with pot-man and his pot-dog), an amphitheater, and a mile of graveled walking paths.



The garden layout



Wave petunias growing on the wall







Since this garden includes a display garden by the American Hemerocallis Society (above, left), it will be even more beautiful when they bloom. Where in the world is it?

Club Officers, 2011

President	Cathy Grossman	Directors, 3 years	Sharon DeCooman
1 st Vice President	John Platt		Larry Schock
2 nd Vice President	Anita Lanning	Directors, 2 years	Marilynn Beltz
Secretary	Julie Kroske		John Grossman
Treasurer	Bill Jones	Directors, 1 year	Darlene Brown
			Lester Brown
Past President	Randy Greeno		
BAN Editor	John Platt	National Director	Anita Lanning



National Web Site: www.tgoa-mgca.org Regional Web Site: www.acorn.net.cglr
 Check out the bargains offered to every **TGOA/MGCA** member:
 Go to the **Members Only** page of the national web site. Password is ***lily***
 No internet access? Use your local public library!

