



December 2011 Meeting Notice November 2011 Meeting Notes

Mission Statement: The Cincinnati Flower Growers Association is an organization of growers, retailers, suppliers and educators dedicated to the promotion of flowers and the well being of those around us.

Where: H. J. Benken Florist & Greenhouses
6000 Plainfield Road
Cincinnati, OH 45213

When: Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Poinsettia Trials and Tours at 4:30 PM
Meeting at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM

RSVP: Please RSVP to Kathy at 513-891-1040 or kbenken@fuse.net by Monday

History of H.J. Benken

H.J. Benken Florist & Greenhouses is located on the corner of Plainfield and Woodford Roads in Silverton. In early 1939, Harry & Johanna Benken traded in their farm tools, becoming florists in the small sleepy community.

At the time, the one greenhouse was used to grow all of the flowers needed for the small floral shop. As times changed, flowering plants became the crop that began to set H.J. Benken apart. Adding to the first structure, the business grew and presently consists of over 25 greenhouses, still on the original property.

As times changed, so did the mix of plants grown. The floral shop also expanded during this time, becoming one of Cincinnati's largest. Acquiring surrounding property, the business became a beautiful destination to visit throughout the year.

Today, the 3rd generation takes great pride in the opportunity of continuing the dream of Harry & Johanna Benken. They put great importance on offering Cincinnati the finest selection of plants and floral arrangements, outstanding service, innovative ideas, and a friendly and knowledgeable staff on a year-round basis.

The newest venture for H.J. Benken has been the rental of the grounds and facilities for weddings, parties and charity events. We recently hosted the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Community Awards program, the Master Gardeners Christmas Party, and a Christmas Party for Cincinnati's newest Catholic High School, De Paul Christo Rey, to name just a few.

Mike and Kathy Benken and four of their five children, Tim Clark, John Clark, Lindsay Farfing and Katie Guy, look forward to sharing some cheer with the growers as we head into the Holiday Season.

November 2011 Meeting Notes:

Welcome and Minutes

The meeting was hosted by Berns. President Elmer Grosser called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He thanked everyone at Berns' for hosting. Mike introduced the staff and told everyone the story of how the new store was purchased.

We welcomed guest Mark Foertmeyer, the Vice President of OFA.

The minutes were approved as sent, with a motion made by Teresa Bard and seconded by Mitchell Schott.

Treasurer's Report

Scott McCabe gave the treasurer's report. Payment was made for the September dinner, October dinner, the golf outing. Deposits were made for split-the-pot and the golf outing. No bills were presented.

Committees:

OFA:

Fall meetings were held. The board is discussing changing the OFA name. A PR firm has been hired to see if name is relevant. Everyone will have a say either via phone or e-mail on the name. Results will come out in the fall.

Farm Bureau:

Meetings will be held every other month now.

Cincinnati Zoo:

The zoo is looking for donations for the spring.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Thanks to the golf outing making money, a scholarship may be made available again.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jesse Hensen. The motion was seconded by Jim Krismer. The meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting, a discussion was held about the state of the horticulture business.

Next Meeting:

Will be held on Wednesday, December 7th.

2011 Meeting Schedule:

January	H. J. Benken's
February	Waldo and Associates
March	Bard's
April	Krueger-Maddux
June	McCabe's
July	Eason
August	Cincinnati Zoo
September	Krohn Conservatory (need confirmation)
October	Ft. Thomas Florist
November	Berns Greenhouse and Garden Center
December	H. J. Benken Florist and Greenhouse w/poinsettia trials

2012 Meeting Schedule:

January

February

March

April Krueger-Maddux

June

July

August

September

October

November

December