

## 2003 ALBANY CONVENTION

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Thank goodness for air conditioning. The trip through Ohio by way of the NY thruway to Albany, NY was very hot but the Holiday Inn was cool and most of the convention took place in the hotel. Fresh fruit: cantaloupe, honeydew melons, pineapple, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, grapes and strawberries were refreshingly cool and delicious. Our meals were very generous portions including tasty desserts.

Now for the "meat" of the convention. — Awards were given out after breakfast followed by the First Member Meeting. At this time Officer Reports were given followed by Committee Reports. Copies of the Treasurer's Report, E & I Distribution, Projected Cash Flow (formerly identified as budget) Membership Report, 2003 Calendar Sales reports (given out at registration time) were discussed in detail. Copies of all of these reports should be available through your representatives to the convention or by contacting TGOA Headquarters. A very enthusiastic invitation to the 2004 TGOA Convention in Des Moines was extended by Chair **Jerri Scott**. The best news being that the rooms will be \$75 for a double and emphasis will be on "Bring the Family". Many family activities are in the planning stages including Water works Park, Living History Farm Museum and Adventure Land.

After lunch awards were presented. (All awards will be listed on the TGOA website) Afternoon seminars started off with **Backyard Composting**. It always amazes me how no matter how many times I hear talks on composting, there is still something to be learned. **Growing a Great Lawn** by David Chinery followed. Mr. Chinery has many publications in numerous books and magazines. He has received grants for research on turfgrass and plans to use his findings to guide lawn owners to better and healthier lawns requiring less fertilizer, etc. I look forward to his success. **Creative Container Gardening** with Mr. Kenneth Carnes emphasized how to choose the right container, various color schemes, selected plants for all seasons and various places to employ them

After a little time to freshen up, dinner was served followed by the Photography Awards. The slides were beautiful as you will see when you purchase your 2004 calendars and see future issues of the Gardener Magazine. The oh's and ah's are evidence of a great presentation. The only sad news came from **Susan Matz** when she announced that she and her dad, **Howard Matz**, were giving up chairman ship of this award committee. They will be hard to follow.

Saturday was Convention Tour Day. The attendees loaded down with cameras, box lunches and a beverage, boarded three buses and headed out for three different destinations. This was "fun time"!

The three tours included the **Cornell Cooperative Extension**. The grounds contained a large planting of memorial trees of all varieties surrounded by a huge memorial garden. The garden is divided into 24 separate sections with various themes like: "all white flowers," "hosta collection," a circular knot garden, an oriental meditation garden, etc. It was truly a site worth your time.

Another stop was the **Shaker Heritage Society**: Our tour guide gave us a short history lesson on the Shakers and their lifestyle. You could then tour numerous and unique houses built in the 1800's, visit the herb garden and other areas. My favorite was the "barn", unique in style and design. Broom making and natural dying were being demonstrated. Their simple lifestyle was in sharp contrast to how most of us live today.

Our last stop was **Tawasentha Park**. Here we saw a 9,000 square foot English Garden. There were perennials, bulbs and annuals. There is a 2½ acre naturalized meadow. The swimming pool looked very inviting as the temperature climbed. The return to the hotel was welcomed as we freshened up and prepared for continued great fellowship around the dinner table

Sunday began with a Memorial Service to the **Gardeners Gone to Rest in 2002**. Our Second Member Meeting proved to be equally informative. Seminars followed lunch. You could choose between, "New Clubs", "Web Sites – Demonstration and Education" and "Gardening from the Heart – Exhibit" at the Center for the Disabled.

The convention ended with the President's Reception and Awards Banquet. The ride home on Route 88 was refreshingly beautiful. There is no place like home!

## AWARDS

"Awards" was definitely the name of the game as **Frank Mitch** accepted the **1st Place Award for a Regional Newsletter, The Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster, editor, Paula Singleton**.



The **1st Place, Class B, Club Bulletin Award** went to the **Manure Spreader, editor, Gerry Herman of the Stow Community Garden Club**.

The **Stow Community Garden Club** also received their **35 year Service Award**.

**Rodney Toth of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, submitted several slides. The 2004 calendar shares one of his slides during the month of July.**