

Audio Visual Development

From: "Edward Hall" <EHARGYLE@msn.com>
To: "Marcia Peterson" <tgoasecy@dwx.com>
Cc: "Honey Barnekoff" <barnekoff@sbcglobal.net>;
"Louis Jones" <louiscjones@yahoo.com>

Sent:
Subject:

Saturday, June 14, 2003 2:48 PM
Audio-Visual Committee Report

In discussing The Audio-visual Committee with previous members and chairmen, I realized that little funding for this committee would be available. As a result I decided to steer the Committee in the direction of using a local resource available in most states - the local public library.

Find the local Public Library in your phone book, go there and check out the resources available. Most public libraries have a meeting room and a collection of color videos available for groups. Meet with the collection development librarian and work out a memorial video program.

Memorial video program. Discuss with your executive committee and redirect the memorial books program towards a memorials gardening video program. If accepted talk with the Library Director the establishment of a gardening color video memorial purchase program. Notify the club treasurer and the collection development librarian when a member dies and authorize the purchase of a memorial video to be added to the library collection. Try to select videos appropriate to future programs and for group viewing.

Local Arrangements for club meetings. Arrange for a library meeting room and hold occasional meetings there using the previously purchased color memorial videos as programs. Most public libraries close at 9:00 in the evening so plan your program and refreshments to end before 9:00 p.m. Be sure to arrange for the library video projector and color television. Invite local nursery managers to help with the program and perhaps pay for refreshments (if the library allows them).

Borrowing from National and Region. A limited number of color videos are available from National and Regions but arrangements should be made well in advance.

Edward J. Hall, Chairperson, Audio Visual Committee

06/16/2003

TGOA/MGCA COMMITTEE REPORTS
Submitted for the 2003 Albany Convention

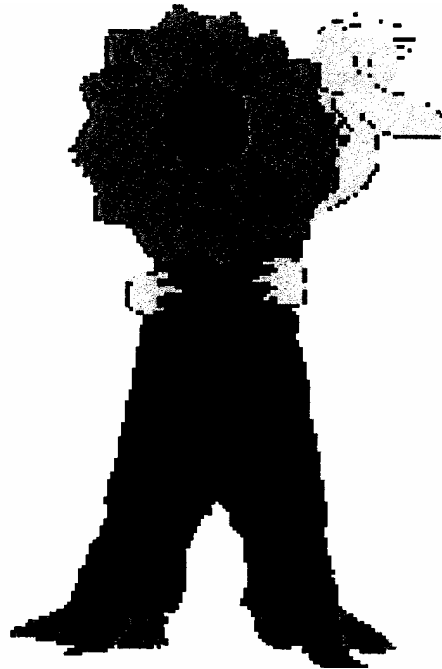
NATIONAL AWARDS

Chairperson Donna M. Shore

First, I would like to share that applications sent in for a National Awards this year were most deserving. Second, it has to be stated that applications were way down. Hopefully this is an off year where people had good intentions to submit an application but did not follow through.

The National Awards committee urges all clubs to go to our National Website and their National Awards Manual and check the variety of National awards available for individuals and their club. Next, take action and submit an application to recognize and individual or group for their outstanding work.

Donna Shore
National Awards Chairperson



BOOK REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT
For Past Year 2002

TO: TGOA/MGCA, P. O. Box 241, 5560 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa,
50231-0241

FROM: Bernard R. Freeland, Chairman Book Review Committee

With nine members including the chairman, composing the Book Review Committee, I am happy to report of the total reviews submitted in 2002, fourteen were published in THE GARDENER In addition to the books reviewed supplied by the Headquarters Library, two additional, recommended books were reviewed. "Growing With Care", written by a friend of Past President William Lanning, and "Growing Great Vegetables In the Heartland" written by Andrea Ray Chandler, a TGOA member from Olathe, Kansas. It has been reviewed by Ellen Franz and published in the January-February 2003 issue of The Gardener.

Members attending the National Convention, Tucson, Arizona, 2002, were Olin Miller and Bernard Freeland

Our Committee members are doing a good job and are looking forward to furnishing more great reviews in 2003.

Calendar Committee Report 2003

First, I would like to thank my committee for helping me produce a beautiful 2003 calendar. Elgin Smith, Chuck Brasher, Michael Stone and Mylan Ross are always helpful in their opinions for the selections.

The 2004 Calendar was my first attempt to completely set-up the whole thing. It was quite a challenge but very enlightening when I got into all the web-site to find out all of the holidays and special events for the year. Because of lower sales for 2003 and loss of members for our clubs, we only ordered 8,000 for 2004. These calendars can be a very useful tool in acquainting people (prospective members) with our great organization. Use them for give-aways for speakers, guests at your meetings, try selling them at garden centers and they make great Christmas gifts to your fiends.

We have made a couple of small changes in the calendar for 2004 but overall it is still a great tool for promoting TGOA/MGCA. I found the enclosed copy that Chuck Brasher used while he was Chairman of this committee and thought it was time to re-issue it. It will give you an idea of the importance of the calendar over the years. Enjoy your new calendar and please, let me know if you have any ideas for us to consider for the up-coming year.

Judy Schuck, Calendar Chairman
Member – TGOA/Overland Park
7227 Springfield
Prairie Village, KS 66208
913-362-2021 or 913-362-8480

May 13, 2003

CONVENTION SITE & PLANNING REPORT 2003

Members: All Convention Chairpersons
Al Miller
Bob Ireland
Jerri Scott

The national convention for 2004 will be held in Johnston, Ia June 23-26 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, near the airport. Chairman Jerri Scott has a firm handle on the planning of this convention and a good team of chairman to help her.

As of this date, we have no invitation for 2005 or beyond. We would appreciate such an invitation and will be happy to work with that chairman and committee to plan for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Honey Barnekoff

Director's Meeting Site & Planning Committee Report

Louis Jones, President

2006 Louis Jones

November 7-8, 2003, Jackson, Mississippi

Clarion Hotel

400 Greymont Avenue

Jackson MS 39202

East of the Coliseum and State Fairgrounds off 155 (North of 1-20) at High Street Exit

Room Rate: \$80.00 per night – November 5-8, 2003 – Single or Double

Phones: 601 969 2141 Sales and Marketing or 1 800 CLARION

Airline: - Director's Discount to be announced

2006 Honey Barnekoff

November 1-3, 2004 – Double Tree Hotel – Overland Park, Kansas

2006 Bill Carney

Tentatively Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

2006 Dale Davies

Tentatively Van Wert, Ohio

Endowment and Investment Fund

Report to the Board of Directors, June 2003, Albany Convention

The E&I fund is an endowment fund meaning that the principal is not spent but invested and only the income spent. This fund is regulated by the by-laws, standing rules of the organization that apply, and guidelines of investment.

The funds, 53% came from life memberships, and the balance from memorials, gifts to fund scholarships and gardening advancement. With some from profit on the sale of the equity funds last May.

This year it is estimated to earn \$38,500, dollars and be disbursed to TGOA treasurer - \$20,000 to cover life member dues, \$ 5,300 for scholarships, and finally \$13,200 from memorials & gifts and gardening advancement for general expenses of the organization. This E&I income is 30% of the TGOA income for the year.

The E&I committee meeting today spent considerable time discussing the problems in the present market where interest rates on corporate bonds and Government Agency bonds are at record low levels. The discussion included whether to lengthen maturities to slightly increase returns with risk to the future or to stay shorter at lower rates to be ready to reinvest when rates return to a higher level. It is a fine balancing between current income and the possibility of being caught with longer bonds when interest rates do go back up. The timing of that occurrence is anyone's guess and those who pretend to know, don't. Making the situation more difficult corporate bonds and Government Agency bonds are being called early and refinanced at constantly lower rates.

Investments of the \$675,000 in the fund, as prudently required of a fiduciary responsibility, are in Government Agency bonds, investment grade corporate bonds, cd's, & T bonds depending on the media with the best rates at the given time. It is fortunate that the equity funds held in the portfolio were sold in May of 2002 and the proceeds invested in bonds that now help to make up some of the lost revenue from lower rates.

In closing I would like to ask each of you when you return Home tell the membership about the E&I fund and that their Gifts, memorials, or estates given to TGOA marked for the E&I Fund are gifts that keep on giving every year earning income for your organization.

James a. Tracy, Treasurer, E&I Fund

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

To: Louis Jones, President
From: Charlie Marley Chair

Goals were to see if grants were available for a National survey. EPA was contacted, the final thought is the local clubs would have a better chance obtaining grants from corporate offices in their area, there is no doubt that this can be done.

Second to get the local clubs involved in environmental projects, consider Earth Day for example, again here there could be funds made available from local companies, for example utility companies give out trees to plant, as does US Forest Service and US Fish & Wildlife has info on correct plants for an area. There is no end to info on environmental concerns, groups and this is the problem. A decision has to be made in which area to go, this can be different for clubs or regions. An attempt was made to put info in newsletter and possibly web site, for example a plan to use rain water run off, also environmental sites for members to review. This was not accomplished, due to lack of interest, but I believe the concept is still valid, from my experience. The new committee should meet at the convention, and discuss how they will work together.

Recommendation - The chair should be in a region where there are many clubs, where there can be some meetings as well as e-mail, this was submitted to Honey Barnekoff.

Second a limited number of goals should be established, and do we want environmental info on web site. Request projects being done in local clubs, may be a questionnaire on concerns relating to gardening. Bob Smoker provided an excellent example on how he has promoted composting for over 10 years, being on programs, helping their community and giving exposure to club. Another example is the Spartanburg club which planted trees along major roads; this is an environmental project as well as beautification.

Consideration should be given to getting local teenagers involved, there is also a site, Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement, www.easi.org - there is an org. in every state. Another source would be college campuses, see www.nwf.org. Even though we didn't accomplish any specific goals, hopefully the next committee can learn from our mistakes. I appreciate the interest Honey showed in this committee, I am available for back up papers and any other way I could help.

Sincerely,

Charlie Marley Committee Chair 4/28/03



Gardening From The Heart

Horticulture Therapy for Citizens with Special Needs

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL GARDENING FROM THE HEART COMMITTEE APRIL, 2003

Dan Blackledge, Chair
Vice President William Carney, Advisor

ACTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Rosemary Borowitz, Green Bay, WI
Bob Dore, Tucson, AZ
William F. McCool, Jackson, MS
William Hays, Jackson, MS
Ron Heggen, Des Moines, IA
David Young, Stow, OH

Your Gardening From The Heart Committee continues to function in its efforts to perform its duties as set forth in the description of committee functions. We have looked at several requests for funds, evaluated them and made recommendations to the Executive Board as to their approval/disapproval. We solicit requests from any and all of our GFTH programs of TGOA/MGCA affiliated clubs situated throughout these United States. Some help is usually available for your program. Let us hear from you. Write or email your National Office for request forms or help in starting a new GFTH program.

**A volunteer program sponsored by
THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
5560 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, Iowa 50131**

Membership Committee Report - June 2003

The Membership Committee met at Des Moines, Iowa at Four Point Hotel on November 2, 2002. It was stressed the Membership Committee highly recommends that each club have 3 members or more on their Membership Committee. A Membership Handbook was given each National Director at the Directors' meeting. One copy of the Membership Handbook should be retained by the president and one copy retained by the membership chairman. Other copies of the Membership Handbook may be obtained by request to TGOA/MGCA headquarters.

A1 Miller made a proposal for 3 year dues at \$55.00 and 6 year dues at \$100.00 and was submitted to Honey Barnekoff and she will submit it to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Members of our committee will continue taking turns writing helpful membership articles and tried successful ideas for publication in our newsletter.

All National Board members were asked to submit a list of the address and telephone number of each membership chairman in all the clubs in their region. There was a very poor response. This was for the purpose of submitting tried and proved ideals and to give encouragement to successfully retain at least 90% of club membership. Just to stay even it requires 10% increase in membership each year because of dropouts, illness, and death.

Consult your National Award Manual for membership awards such as SPARK PLUG, SPADE CLUB, and the TROWEL CLUB AWARD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Frampton, Chairman
James Mack, Co-Chairman



Merchandise & Marketing Committee Report
Cathy Morgan, Chair

I have not had any meetings or organized anything, but perhaps National needs to update what it sells in the retail shop to appeal to some of the younger members (i.e. T-shirts, kid's clothes, sweatshirts etc.) Maybe National could have a T-shirt design contest to interest the kids. Or maybe a poster design contest.

I have resigned from all of my offices at all of the levels because of family concerns.

Cathy Morgan
Chair Person and
Men's Garden Club of Akron

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

June 2001

For some reason, there are club editors that have the idea that the Newsletter Committee established criteria, of their own choosing, relative to the format for club newsletters. This is far from the truth.

This committee has researched articles, publications and books in our local libraries at to what constitutes a good newsletter. These epistles were written by university professors, who teach classes on newsletter composition. They are the supposedly experts.

From a few letters and comments overheard, it is apparent a number of editors completely ignore the information published in the Newsletter Manual: "How to Spread the Word". This manual was published as "An Aid to Publishing Effective Newsletters".

For Editors information:

It is a proven fact that individuals comprehend and retain information easier published in narrow columns than in a business letter format. This is why magazines and newspapers publish their articles in narrow columns.

Club Members desire that the most important information be published at the beginning of the newsletter. Regardless of what editors desire, some members just don't take the time to read the entire newsletter. Maybe your club members do, but just to make sure they get the important information, why not publish the, time, date, location and subject of the next meeting on the first page. Then, the President's Message. Let everyone know what the president has to say to members.

A Brief Calendar of Upcoming Events lets members know what is taking place and when it is happening. Then they can arrange their time to attend these events. A small space in the newsletter about such events might increase attendance to them.

Some clip art, photos, charts, etc., can add interest. A joke, cartoon, puzzle, etc., add amusement. Of course, these take space. Allow for that in your budget for doing this once in awhile.

If articles are extracted from another publication, credit should be given to the author and publication from which it is taken. Failure to do this for a copyrighted article could cause some trouble. Most publications don't mind a **small** group making such extractions.

A Personal Column of birthdays, sickness, awards, recognitions etc., creates interest.

A brief summary of past club meetings would enlighten those members who could not attend those meetings. Some information on Region Meetings and Events might encourage more members to attend these events.

Horticultural Articles Timely to the Season could be of great service to less informed members.

The Newsletter Committee realizes that a "Club Newsletter Budget" might not allow for all these items in each issue, but editors should use them as the budget allows.

Now for the Annual Newsletter Contest. It doesn't cost a club a great amount of money to enter the contest. The editor has to allow for some five (5) additional copies of three (3) different issues throughout the year (a total of 15 extra issues). Then the club must cover the postage cost of mailing these 15, or so, issues to the National Newsletter Committee Chairman. The postage cost should not break the club. In fact, some club member might be willing to pick up that cost (it should not be over \$5.00, maybe a little more according to how many pages each issue contains. The post office will figure the cost according to the weight of the package). Pick those issues that most closely match the helps in the "Newsletter Manual". This will help your scoring in the contest.

Every Club Newsletter Editor should be recognized at the National Convention each year. If you enter the contest, you will be recognized. If your Newsletter doesn't win a plaque, you will receive a Certificate (Journalism Award) recognizing you and your club.

This year we received only a total of 14 entries - one Region, three (3) Class A, five (5) Class B, and five (5) Class C entries. Your chances of winning a plaque would have been great.

I received a letter from a lady editor admonishing the committee for having, in the Manual, a requirement stating that a Newsletter "should contain two columns." That was not the committee's intention. We chose BAD wording. We have changed that to read "two or more columns."

I owe that lady a personal apology for not replying to her. I do have a few-more things to do beside being the National Newsletter Chairman. I also have been "under the weather" some this year. In early December, I fractured my right pelvic arch in two places (if you don't know it, that Smarts), had arthroscopic surgery on my left shoulder (March 26th), and had pneumonia after that. I am just getting over that. Try that for a record.

I'm asking editors to put our committee to work in 2004. If you don't like us, this is your chance to get back at us. Send us your entries.

Remember, most of us only are working on income tax returns at that time, so we have plenty of time (Who said that).

This committee needs at least two new members. We would like one from somewhere west of the State of Colorado. A second would be nice from the Southeast part of our country. We would take one, or two, from other parts of the country, If you would like to work from January through March (sometimes to mid-May). It does take time to evaluate a newsletter, because you have to look at, and read, the three issues a club submit, because you will be looking in each of the issues for the criteria the committee has established.

If you have had editorial experience (especially), see me at the convention, or have a person you know write to me.

Clyde W. Wooten
National Newsletter Chair

4814 Constitution Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80915-1009

TGOA/MGCA National Photography Committee

To: TGOA/MGCA Executive Board and TGOA/MGCA Directors

From: Suzann. H. Matz, Photography Committee Chairperson

Date: May 5, 2003

Subject: National Photography Committee Report

This is the last report that I, Suzann H. Matz TGOA/MGCA Photography Chairperson, will be giving to the Executive Board and Board of Directors. It has been a lot of work the last four years to complete the Photography Presentation for the National Conventions however; the members of the Photography Committee as well as the photography participants have made it very worthwhile.

During this year of 2003, the Photography Committee and Competition has lost two very dear people. First, we lost a very dear friend and member of our Photography Committee. Ruth Blackledge passed away in March 2003 and her friendship and support to me as the Photography Chairman will be greatly missed as well as the encouragement and assistance that she provided to the entire Competition. Secondly, the Photography Competition lost a great participant and friend. Tom Kemp was one of the regular participants in the competition up until the last year when his health did not allow him to continue. His beautiful and breathtaking photographs and wonderful attitude will be greatly missed by myself as well as the entire TGOA/MGCA membership. The 2003 National Photography Presentation has been dedicated in their memory.

The following is a list of activities that have been completed since the 2002 National Convention in Tucson, Arizona:

- The existing membership of the Photography Committee membership for 2003 are as follows: Suzann Matz, Chairperson; Chuck Carlson, Bert Konzal, Don Lee, Linda McHam and Howard Matz and Linda McHam Committee members.
- The 2003 Photography Manual was sent out to all 2002 Photography Competition entrants with an entrance deadline of February 24, 2003.
- A total of 430 slides were received for judging from 28 participants.
- A postcard was sent to all participants verifying their slide entries had been received for the competition.
- Completion of slide judging in May of 2003.
- All ribbon-winning categories determined and verified.
- Development of the awards and participation certificates.
- 2003 TGOA/MGCA Photography Award Presentation, Award Plaques, Participation Certificates and Sweepstakes Recognition in Albany, New York.

As current and exiting Chairperson of the Photography Committee, I would like to discuss a few items about the Photography Competition.

Each year the slide entries have continued to decline. For 2002, digital photography was included as a new category to hopefully bring in additional participants and entries; however, the total number of slides was the least of the last four years of competitions. It should be strongly considered that photographs be allowed to be entered into the competition. This is due to the fact that the cost of printing slides is getting somewhat cost and time prohibitive as well as not a viable product for people to view their memories on a consistent basis.

The selections that are included in the calendar each year do not seem to have a wide variety of participants. I personally have heard from various individuals in the organization that they have chosen to not participate in the photography competition, as it is extremely unlikely that their photographs would appear in the calendar. I know that there are color separation issues that are required due to the size of the picture that is needed; nevertheless, I believe that different individuals should be used in the calendar rather than the same photographers.

Some serious consideration and discussion should be held, I believe, regarding the production of the video of the yearly Photography Competition Presentation. I believe that something should be kept from year to year for historical purposes; however, I question whether the videos are really the best way of doing so, especially with the large cost involved and also since the VHS format will soon be obsolete.

I would like to express my appreciation to Bill Lanning, TGOA/MGCA Past President for asking me to be Chairperson of the Photography Committee and to Steve Smith, Ron Heggen, Paul Bessey and Louis Jones, TGOA/MGCA Past Presidents for allowing me to continue as Chairperson for the last five years. I have really enjoyed working with everyone and looking at all of the great photography that has been entered. I hope that the next Chairperson will understand the wealth of knowledge and dedication that each of the photographers brings to this competition year after year. I do not think anyone realizes how much time, work and dedication is entailed in completing the Photography Presentation and all of the associated Awards prior to the National Convention other than the previous Photography Committee Chairmen, Joe and Ann Godsey and Donna Shore, consequently, I would like to thank you as the previous Chairmen of this Committee for all of your hard work and efforts.

I hope you have enjoyed the Photography Presentations the past five years and may you have many years of good gardening and fantastic photographic memories!

Remember 'The garden must be prepared in the soul first or else it will not flourish'.

Suzann Matz

TGOA/MGCA National Photography Committee Chairperson

Planning Committee Report

We need to work on:

1. Membership Retention
2. Club Retention
3. New members
4. Clubs Building New Clubs – CBAC
5. Contacting Master Gardeners in CBAC
6. Generating more revenue
 - a. Membership Dues
 - b. Life membership fee
 - c. Calendar sales
 - d. Web site sales – new
 - e. Home Office merchandise sales
 - f. Grants, Foundations, Life Insurance
 - g. Gifts from clubs and members

Louis C. Jones - President
Paul M. Bessey - Past President
Stephen H. Bush - Treasurer
Honey Barnekoff - First Vice President
William J. Carney - Second Vice President
Dale Davies - Third Vice President
Marcia M. Peterson - Executive Secretary

THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL REGION COUNCIL
Gerry Herman, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Pamela Bockey, Joseph Herman, David Moody, Ken Bichl

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE: This committee shall determine and inform the President of each Region the number of Corporation Directors to be elected or withdrawn each year from his/her Region and assist the regions in their administrative functions whenever possible.

MEETINGS: I am not aware of a meeting of the committee at the 2002 national Board Meeting since I was not a member at the time. No meeting is scheduled for the National Convention in Albany in July. Attempts to communicate by mail and email have been mostly non-productive.

GOALS ESTABLISHED: No changes in goals

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED: Committee members were assigned specific areas to be responsible for. A questionnaire was prepared. It was to be sent to clubs for the purpose of gathering information on the interests and degree of communication between clubs and region and national. To date I have received only one response back and that was from the Mid-America Region.

AREAS OF CONCERN: A comment was made that the regions expect the council to find a way to close the gap in miles from club to club to benefit the region. Often clubs do not send members (not just officers) to region meetings. Happenings at the region level including minutes and financial reports are not being shared with the local clubs. Apathy or disinterest among members beyond local club is a big concern. When joining a local club, information on region and national affiliation is not emphasized. Can not see how council could possibly help close gap. Only by starting up more clubs. This would mean a major publicity program at the region level to stir interest.

RECOMMENDATION: It would seem that, at least at present, to table this council is in order. It can be viewed as a duplication of directors' duties. Directors should be in touch with their clubs and should bring any concerns to the Directors Meetings or in some cases to the Executive Committee for discussion and solutions.

May 7, 2003

Scholarship Committee Report

The Scholarship Committee is up and running!
The committee consists of the following people:

Tom Wilten, Dallas, Chairman
Richard Cotton, Akron, Vice-chairman
Ray Ratliff, Jackson, MS
Alana Holste, Kansas City, MO
Herb Sutton, Houston, TX
Joe Herman, Cohoes, New York

Following the submission deadline this year of April 15th, the applications were copied and then mailed to the committeemen for their evaluation. Applications were received this year from the following:

Ohio: 10

MO-KAN: 6

Dallas, TX: 2

Green Bay, WI: 1

Cohoes, NY: 1

No applications were received from Austin, Jackson, or Tucson.

At the time of this report, May 4th, a complete evaluative report from the committeemen has not been received as the deadline for their scoring has been set at May 15th.

Very convenient for the committeemen this year has been the use of the computer, as confirmation of their packets and the sending of their scores has been facilitated by this invention.

The committee is seeking scholarship-minded gardeners from the NW, SW, and SE part of the country to participate in this committee. Of course we encourage all people within this organization to participate in this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilten, chairman, scholarships

SHOWS AND JUDGING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2003 BY MARVIN YAROTSKY, COMMITTEE CHAIR

Below is a summary of some of the points which were brought up during the past three or four years.

Our goals in 2003:

1. To continue with our agenda from 1999 through 2003, to get more of the Judges and Judges School Committee members involved in the operation of the committee.
2. To get publicity about the training programs before the membership through The Gardener.
3. To review our handbook point scoring procedures for many of the foliage and bloom entries.
4. To have subcommittees chaired by National Committee members to handle the normal National business

To date since 1999:

1. A Committee motion to the Board of Directors was made and passed to permit the training of judges in National Council Schools.
2. An article was published in the newsletter regarding judging and the need for Judges, however the article submitted was edited without the author's review, and did not convey the message of the author and committee.
3. A second article was written by an immediate chapter past president stating the direction their chapter is going to train their judges.
4. Discussions were had on the methods of keeping track of Judges performances and Judges training.
5. Discussions were held with "the Gardener's" personnel to determine the possibility of having a section on flower shows, and judging.
6. Before the 2001 meeting the list of 100 questions as a final exam were submitted to the committee members. During the discussions it was agreed that the exam would be open book.

The goal again for 2003 is to employ, consolidate, expand, and continue the above directions and to review point-scoring procedures for judging exhibits. Currently our Judges Handbook has different specific point scores for most foliage. The Committee after discussion should determine whether any changes are necessary or desirable.



TGOA Web Site Committee Report – May 2003



Web Site major progress items since January 1, 2002:

- Members Only section with a password added to the Web Site – January 02
- New pages add to Members Only in 2002:
 - TGOA/MGCA Newsletter (Newsletters plus separate news items)
 - Club Newsletters (Typical examples)
 - Directory (National and Regional Officers, Directors, Club Officers)
 - Awards Manual
 - Red Book
 - Blue Book
 - TGOA/MGCA Library Books
 - Member Bargains (Various vendor discounts for members)
- All TGOA/MGCA Newsletters were posted in 2002. In 2003 Newsletter inserts from Gardener magazine posted.
- Past President James McKay member survey posted in November. By February 560 members responded, 42 percent through the web site. Survey Results posted on the web site on 4/30/03.
- In December links to discounts at Kinsman, Gardeners Supply and Thompson and Morgan were posted.
- Alternate URL's were added (GardenersOfAmerica.com & org)
- Posted updated library book list in January 2003.
- Members Discussion Group started in February 2003. Four experts to answer questions.
- Posted updated Gardening from the Heart manual in March 2003.
- Posted election instructions for the TGOA 2004 election.
- Garden Shop updated with Shopping Cart and Credit Card use added in March 2003. Open to members and the public.
- Directory for 2003 National and Regional Officers, Directors and Club Officers posted in April. Also List of National Committees.
- Chat Room for committees (Instant Messaging) instruction page added, April 2003.

Thanks a whole lot to Honey Barnekoff and Marcia Peterson for great assistance. Also to Paul Bessey, Louis Jones, and Steve Bush for comments and suggestions. Also much thanks to all committee members:

Teresa Edgar Pat Denning Bill Lanning Olin Miller Mike Kieliszek
Terri Williams Tom Cartwright (Also to Miles Raymond for support)

Reported by: Frank Mitch, Committee Chair and Webmaster

Date 4/14/03

YOUTH GARDENING

Submitted by: Don Otterness
Youth Chairman

Committee Meeting: Tucson, Arizona.

Five members attended and our president Louis Jones. It was noted that there is a wide variety of growing projects that fit their areas. The State and the climate govern what works best. The ingenuity of the club members has had far reaching results.

First, the Big Pumpkin and Big Sunflower programs are still going strong. However, less clubs send reports. If the sizes that are grown in your area are smaller than last years winners don't stop sending in your reports. A report form and results may be just the program that might receive an award for the value of the project. Note: Special growing data is available from the youth chairman on growing pumpkins.

A new program suggested by Louis Jones. Save seeds that are not planted. Send them to Don Otterness to distribute to Clubs that have a Youth Garden Project that need lots of seeds.

Have you sponsored a child by helping them learn to garden? If every one sponsored a child each year what a program that would be. Information is available on this too.

Elementary schools have seed growing projects. Not always do they have an expert to help them. The School Connection program with lots of teaching material is available. Try this in your club.

Children's Gardens are springing up all over the United States. Is there one in your area? A public Children's Garden will give more children a chance to work in a garden. Fifty per cent do not have a garden available. A Children's Garden could help them have this experience. Talk to me about this.

Our Garden Clubs have many great projects for youth. We are second to none:

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

One year ago the Board of Directors directed this committee to select a broad spectrum of items, both controversial and non-controversial which were related to the executive operation of the National Organization and send a representative number of them out to the membership for their study and response. From the thirty items the committee selected twelve to make up into a survey. We sent this survey to the members through all our forms of communications. I would have liked to see more response - but 560 members and members at-large took the time to complete the survey and send it in. I think this survey served a useful purpose. It provides us with ideas for improvement, and a basis for making the organization meet the needs of its members in a more meaningful manner. I know there are too many answers with a "No Opinion". Those are the answers we need to work on. I hope the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will take advantage of the results of this survey.

Respectfully Submitted

James McKay
Chair, Internal Affairs Committee

Survey Results attached – see next page.

TGOA/MGCA Member Survey Results

Conducted in January and February 2003

Members responded: 560

Source of response:

TGOA/MGCA Web Site: 42 %

Email direct: 35%

Members at large: 23%

1. (a) What is your opinion of the Gardener Magazine?

(1) Very Good: 60% (3) Below Par: 8%

(2) Average: 30% (4) No Opinion: 2%

(b) If negative how can it be improved?

(1) Material more pertinent to all Regions: 65%

(2) No Idea: 35%

2. (a) What is your opinion of the National Newsletter?

(1) Excellent: 5% (4) No National coverage: 40%

(2) Good: 5% (5) No Opinion: 8%

(3) Not Very Good: 40% (6) Don't read it: 2%

(b) If negative give some ideas to improve.

(1) Need coverage from all Regions: 30%

(2) Need more Project & personal pictures: 20%

(3) No idea how to improve it: 50%

3. What is your opinion of National Leadership?

(1) Don't know the officers or directors: 38%

(2) They don't communicate: 20%

(3) No positive remarks: 10%

(4) No opinion: 30%

4. How would you go about increasing club membership?

(1) Directors take more action in their regions: 52%

(2) Increase and improve communication: 38%

(3) Ask friends: 10 %

5. If you don't think National is giving you your money's worth, what do you think should be done to increase its value to you?

(1) OK: 30%

(2) Would like to know what the committees are doing: 32%

(3) No opinion: 38%

6. Do you like the National Calendar?

(1) Yes: 50%

(2) No: 20%

(3) Haven't seen it: 30%

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7. Do you buy a National Calendar?

- (1) Yes: 50%
- (2) No: 20%
- (3) Haven't seen it: 30%

8. Do you show people besides members the Calendar?

- (1) Yes: 60%
- (2) No: 40%

9. How can the National organization sell more Calendars?

- (1) Advertise: 60%
- (2) Decrease price: 20%
- (3) Increase price: 25%
- (4) Each club sell more Calendars: 5%

10. Do you think the Calendar is worth more than you pay for it?

- (1) Yes: 70%
- (2) No: 30%

11. (a) Does your club take advantage of the National Awards program?

- (1) Yes: 35%
- (2) No: 35%
- (3) Don't know: 30%

11. (b) Qualify your answer, why no?

- (1) Too difficult to submit applications: 50%
- (2) Not an item for discussion at club meetings: 40%

12. (a) Do you or any of your club members take part in the Photography Contest ?

- (1) Yes: 15%
- (2) No: 35%
- (3) Don't know: 50%

12. (b) If not, what can be done to improve it?

- (1) Make 2 levels (Professional and Novice): 40%
- (2) Make rules simpler: 30%
- (3) Show slides with name of plant/flower/garden and person owning the slide. 30%

Compiled 2003 by
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Internal Affairs Committee