

March 28, 2011



To Gardeners of America Members and Friends:

RE: 2011 TGOA/MGCA National Convention

The Mo/Kan Region is proud to be hosting the 2011 annual convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America. Our theme for the convention is "A Little Bit of Heaven in 2011". Join us on June 16, 17 & 18, 2011 while we learn about the flora & fauna native to Kansas and Missouri.

The convention will be held at The Doubletree Hotel located at 10100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210. Their phone number is (913)451-6100 and their web site is – www.Doubletree.Hilton.com/OverlandPark. We have been offered a great room rate of \$99 per night for a single/double. *This convention rate will be extended for three days before and three days after to any guests wishing to arrive early or stay on after the convention.* You need to let them know when you register. An early bird registration fee of \$270.00(tentatively) per person up thru April 13 and a registration fee of \$300.00(tentatively) from April 14 thru May 15, 2011 will cover all meals, seminars and tours from Thursday morning thru Saturday night.

One of our visits will be to The Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens which "was founded to keep the city at the forefront of environmental and ecological issues".

Another of Kansas City's pride is our football/baseball stadiums previously owned by Ewing and Muriel Kauffman. Their legacy also includes a foundation devoted to entrepreneurship. We will visit the beautiful gardens created as a memorial honoring this couple that gave so much to the Kansas City area.

We have scheduled several interesting speakers and experts for our seminars. A few that will enlighten and entertain us are Eric Nelson, Larry Ryan and Charles Gusewelle. Eric Nelson, owner of three local garden centers, will share his knowledge of Begonia's. Larry Ryan, owner of Ryan Lawn and Tree, will discuss Integrated Plant Management. Our Sat. evening speaker will be Kansas City's own Charles Gusewelle, the author of six books and his titles at the Kansas City Star have included reporter, editorial writer, associate editor and a columnist, which was distributed nationally.

If you will be flying into KCI or the Downtown airport, we will be happy to make arrangements to pick you upon your arrival Wednesday or Thursday and return you to the airport Saturday evening or Sunday. Please be sure to fill out your request on the registration form.

For those attendees who are arriving early or staying on after the convention, there is an endless a variety of things to do and see in the Overland Park/Greater Kansas City area. You might enjoy the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, American Royal Museum, or the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Maybe the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, Lakeside Nature Center or Powell Gardens is more to your liking. And there is always the Hallmark Visitors Center at Crown Center, Kansas City Zoo, Louisburg Cider Mill or Science City at Union Station just to begin the list of fabulous places to visit in Kansas City. We can't wait to see all of your wonderful faces in our home town. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

For more information; contact Sherra Schuck at – email: sschuck4@kc.rr.com or phone (913) 424-3029 or Honey Barnekoff at – email: Barnekoff@everestkc.net or phone (913) 722-5562.

For more convention information, check out our website at www.op-goa.org.

Thank you.

Sherra Schuck
Overland Park/Gardeners of America
Cochairman for TGOA/MGCA 2011 Convention

