

## **2005 TGOA/MGCA National Convention**

Reported by Anita Lanning, National Director  
(Member of Findlay Men and Women's Garden Club, Ohio)

The 2005 TGOA National Convention was held in Jupiter Beach Resort, Florida. We flew into Palm Beach International Airport in a hard rain and it rained every day we were there. The hotel was exquisite and located right on the beach. Everyone commented about how high the old-fashioned looking beds were. Some people requested stools to use to get in and out of them.

The first day we were in meetings and the second day was filled with choices of six seminars. One of the seminars was wild animals from an animal rescue center. We actually got to touch any of them we wanted to. I am here to tell you an alligator has a soft belly and jumps to the touch, while a 7' Florida King snake just lets you touch him without any resistance (while the handler has a firm grip on him)! The second night the calendar photography slide show was presented and it was beautiful as usual.

The third day the rain held off long enough to allow us to visit the American Orchid Societies headquarters and there were many beautiful specimens. The grounds were beautiful with orchids in trees and on posts.

The evening of the third day we had an outstanding banquet. The Findlay Club was awarded the George Spader Award for having the highest percentage of increase in members in all clubs. This is a traveling trophy and will be arriving soon. Also, Ann Brickner, Carlton Fruth, Bill and Anita Lanning were recognized for being National Spade Club members.

News of interest to everyone is that the national vote on a dues increase passed by 18 votes and will take effect in 2006. The increase will be as follows: regular membership will increase \$10, making the total \$30; family membership will raise \$5, making the total \$45 for two people and the life members increase will be \$100 making a total of \$300.

The new Administrative Secretary seems to be learning her new position and we feel she will become an asset to the organization. She is very willing to help.

Representatives from the Spartanburg, SC club attending this convention, were excited and enthusiastic about hosting the National Meeting April 20-22, 2006.

Again, we are reminded that gardeners are good people as we enjoyed meeting people and visiting with many friends from all over the US. We enjoyed good friends, and good food!