



Green Bay participants for this year's convention included (left to right) Esther Erdmann, Agnes Schussman, Rose Borowitz, Don Nighorn, Betty Cox, Judy Nighorn, Marsha May, Bob Mongin, Shirley Winnes, and Maxine Cayce-Cashman. Paul Hartman and Patricia Nellis also attended but were not available for the photo.

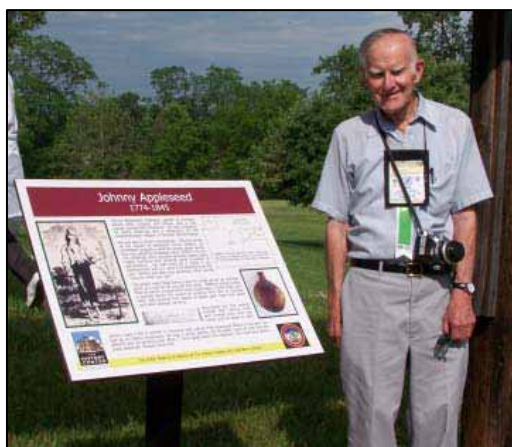
Fort Wayne Convention - 2008 Back to Our Roots

A Note from First-Time Attendees . . .

Don and I really enjoyed the National Convention. Congratulations to the Fort Wayne hosts. They did an incredible job. Everything was very well planned. The workshops and garden tours were informative and entertaining. Our favorite besides receiving my picture and watching Shirley receive hers for the calendar was the tour of the Merry Lea Environmental Center. It was exciting to see what we can do when we really think and implement GREEN. It was also great to meet so many wonderful gardeners and swap stories. If you ever get a chance to go, we highly recommend it. ~ Don and Judy Nighorn



Judy Nighorn and Shirley Winnes were awarded their framed photos which appear in the 2009 TGOA-MGCA calendar.



We visited John Chapman's (Johnny Appleseed) gravesite and thought it was appropriate to photograph our own "Johnny Appleseed 2005 Award" winner, Bob Mongin. The Men's Garden Clubs of America along with The National Johnny Appleseed Foundation, Inc., made improvements to the site in 1965. Historical records show that Johnny Appleseed worked in the Fort Wayne area in the 1830s until his death in 1845.



Comments from Bob Mongin . . .

The TGOA/MGCA Convention in Fort Wayne was a pleasing experience. Our group made it a week-long trip. Leaving Monday, June 9, we took the ferry across Lake Michigan. On Tuesday, we visited the gigantic flea market at Shipshewana (an Amish settlement), then to nearby Goshen to see The Old Bag Factory, and on to Fort Wayne Wednesday evening.

The convention was well organized with interesting seminars on many subjects. On one afternoon of free time, our Green Bay group found time to visit the Lincoln Museum and the beautiful County Courthouse in downtown Fort Wayne. Don Hall’s Guesthouse hosted the convention and gave us excellent service and food.



Garden structures, arbors, trellises, and many varieties of shade and sun plants, trees, and shrubs were viewed at the Allen County Extension Gardens at Purdue University which was offered as one of the tours.

Maxine Cayce-Cashman’s Views . . .

Want to have fun, food, fellowship, plus education and adventure? Carpool to a convention. I have never attended a convention where the food was so good. Ever heard of blackberry vinaigrette accented with real fresh blackberries?

The seminar on pest control—just bugs, no critters were mentioned—had a different slant. It was themed on getting to know your bugs and accept them as long as they don’t do too much damage. Then specific chemicals were recommended.

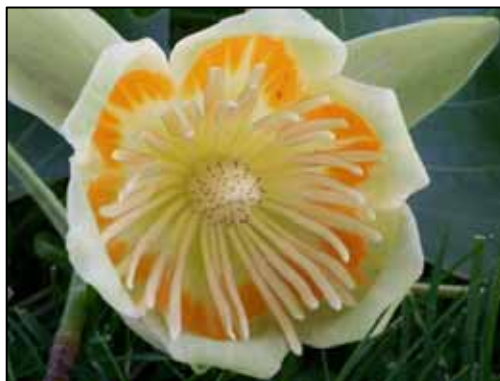
On the way back we stopped at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids. It was wonderful—the high point of the trip. They had

free-form tall sculptures that moved or floated in the wind—fascinating to watch. Also on display was a Degas sculpture exhibit. Degas molded figures in wax and clay to help him study motion and gesture to help him in his painting. After he died, his family found the figures in his workshop and had them cast in bronze.

His most famous sculpture is “Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen.” This was the only one Degas ever put on public display. The exhibit is based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and is on tour in the US. I read it will only be on display in four American cities. We were lucky.



There are always learning experiences at a convention—new plants, new and different ways of doing things, landscape ideas, container planting ideas . . . Patti Nellis was captivated with the first tulip tree flower she ever saw, and when she saw some tulip trees for sale, she negotiated for a good price on a tulip tree . . . and then she got two of them!



The flower of the *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip Tree). This yellow poplar is an Eastern U.S. hardwood tree but will also grow in Ontario and Michigan.

Patti Nellis Shares Her First Convention Experience . . .

My first excursion to the National TGOA Convention was truly a wonderful adventure. I was anticipating learning new gardening info, touring fabulous gardens, and seeing new places (and not having to cook for a whole week), but what I now treasure the most is sharing the experience with such wonderful people, building new friendships and memories with gardeners all over America.

Several of our GC of GB contingency attended a workshop called “Common Sense Pest Control” presented by Cliff Sadof of the Dept. of Entomology at Purdue University. He stated during the studies of using “row covers” to help control pests during the

heat of summer and on, members of the staff who ate the vegetables, such as cucumber and peppers, got a severe “stomach ache.” **He found through investigation that row covers actually changed the chemistry of the vegetables when they were used during the hot months of summer.** This info was especially informative to me because I was thinking of doing this technique myself this summer. Thought I would share this info with all of you. So many other wonderful experiences and info—would love to share. Really appreciate being able to share expenses, too. Bob’s “Wifelet #5” - Patti Nellis

Mulch Basics

from *Farmers’ Advance*, “MSU Extension Presents the Why and What Behind Mulch,” May 31, 2008
 article submitted by Patti Nellis; compiled in the following format by Shirley Winnes, Editor

	Organic Mulch	Inorganic Mulch
Examples	bark, straw, wood shavings, sawdust, peat, compost, ground corncobs, leaves, pine needles	Clear and black plastic, tarpaper, old carpeting, rocks
Soil temperature	Spring: keeps soil cool and wet Summer: keeps ground cooler during the day, warmer at night Winter: prevents alternate freezing and thawing	Plastic will warm the soil—often used for early planting of tomatoes, etc.
Advantages	Discourage weeds, retain moisture, add organic matter to soil	Discourage weeds, more or less permanent may keep lawn and heavy equipment away from trees and shrubs
Disadvantages	Break down in time and need to be replaced. Decomposition may tie up nitrogen making it unavailable to plants—use slow release fertilizer before mulching to compensate	Clear plastic will not control weeds



Betty Cox writes . . .

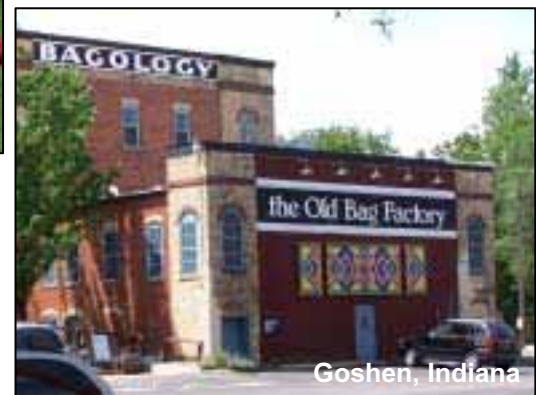
The seminars were good. How to cut back to make container plants fill out was presented at one of the seminars. They just whacked off a wave petunia plant, and one of the seminar participants nearly had a heart attack! The food was very good. We did see a lot by taking advantage of two days ahead of the convention—Shipshewana Flea Market and shops and The Old Bag Factory at Goshen, Indiana. I never did the ferry thing before—boy that beats going around Chicago!



Shipshewana, Indiana



Goshen, Indiana



Goshen, Indiana



Shipshewana, Indiana

Quilts and horse-drawn carriages are everywhere to be seen in northern Indiana. Quilt gardens and murals on buildings greet visitors—you can acquire a map to find 19 locations to see the gardens and murals.

From the Editor . . .

The theme for this year’s convention was “Back to Our Roots.” What a clever phrase with a lot of meaning for the Fort Wayne Club! The committees carried out numerous projects with carrots as part of the theme—we received a carrot pin to wear, carrot recipes were printed and distributed, one member hand crocheted a carrot for everyone’s packet, and another person sewed a table runner which looked like a quilted carrot. Then, it was explained that in 1992 when Fort Wayne had their first convention, various people set up the lunches and dinners, only to find out that at every meal, carrots were served! So, it became a standing joke.

By the way, I won the “carrot” table runner! I entered an estimate of the number of popcorn seeds in a jar in their contest and was the closest to the actual number!

The meaning of the theme phrase doesn’t end—the Allen County Public Library just completed a \$26 million expansion and is nationally known as having a

genealogy collection second only to the Mormon library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is the best genealogy collection in a library in the world. Convention participants could select an optional tour of the library and were transported by van to the library.

Thank you to Betty, Patti, Bob, Maxine, Judy and Don who contributed to the **tiller** by writing about their experiences.

The Month of June

It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes,
And pleasant scents the noses.

*Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806 – 1867)
submitted by Sherry Campbell*