

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2007

“What?” you ask, “There’s still two months before 2007!” And you are right, but for those of you who are still employed, you will soon be asked about when you want to take your vacation or have days off. Perhaps you would like to visit a different part of the country in 2007. Somewhere not too far yet with interesting points of interest near by. So, how about “Gardening Heaven in 2007”?

For the past 10 years, Ed and I have attended The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America National Conventions. We have traveled to Ashville, N.C. 1998; Green Bay, Wisconsin 1999; Kansas City, Missouri, 2000; Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2001; Tucson, Arizona – 2002; Albany, New York, 2003; Des Moines, Iowa, 2004; West Palm Beach, FL, 2005 and finally Spartanburg, South Carolina, 2006. Has it been worth it? You betcha! We have made many friends around the country, visited states we never would have had the chance otherwise, and stayed in hotels that would have been well beyond our budgets.

We have had the opportunity to see gardens and landscapes so different from Ohio with plants native to their respective areas, temperatures, soils and terrain. We experienced seminars on tissue culture, plant enhancements, and fantastic landscapes/gardens like the Biltmore Estate. Side trips including cruises, square dances, cowboy music, castles, the Truman Library, and often for the spouses, great shopping trips. The legwork each convention planning committee has done is outstanding. Each one surpassed the previous year.

So now, we look forward to the 2007 National Convention in Rockford, Illinois on July 11–14, 2007. A peek at the agenda has really stimulated interest. Visit the John Deere Historic Site in Grand Detour, ILL, the John Morley’s Gardens, Thousands of petunias along roadsides in Dixon, ILL and the Klehm Arboretum to mention just a few. Great accommodations and delicious meals.

The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America is made up of 14 regions, 70 clubs which boasts 4428 members throughout the United States of America. So go ahead and puff out your chests folks for we are members of a great organization. Come along with Ed and me to Illinois and meet some of these wonderful people.

These national conventions are for ALL TGOA MEMBERS, not just officers. Come and meet gardeners from throughout the USA and make new friends to share your love of gardening. Make it a family vacation. The planners have promised to have something for everyone. It is only a 440 mile, 7.25 hour trip by car. Come and plan on joining Ed and I or spend extra time visiting the sites enroute. More information concerning registration and reservations will be coming our way soon.

Ed and Gerry Herman, Members
Stow Community Garden Club