

Meet some of our honored guests and speakers -

Eric Nelson, has been in the Horticultural industry his whole life and the second generation owner of Family Tree Nursery which specializes in retail/mass merchandising and landscape designs, wholesale and greenhouse growing. Eric received his Horticulture degree from our own Kansas State University. He is on the Horticulture Advisory Board at Jo. Co. Comm. College and is the President of the KS Greenhouse Growers Association. Eric will share his vast knowledge of the beautiful and versatile Begonia.

Larry Ryan has a forestry degree from the University of Montana and has served on boards at horticulture and agriculture boards at Ks-State Un., Ok-State and Jo. Co. Comm. College. He spent 10 years on the tree board in Overland Park, KS and 3 years on the arboretum board. Larry says, like many foresters, he is a tree hugger. He loves everything about trees. In addition, Larry has spent a lot of time studying our environment and tools to effectively and efficiently manage the environment. In his presentation, Larry will talk about how we are missing an opportunity in horticulture by focusing on the tool when we should be focusing on the ultimate goal which is creating beautiful landscapes and beautiful communities. He hopes to show you the tools we have to create landscapes that are safe, efficient and powerful. Larry's talk is entitled, "Bringing Organics and Chemical Together to make more Beautiful Landscapes".

Bill Lanning is a retired administrator from Bowling Green State University. He is a National Past President of The Gardeners of America, currently the Treasurer for the Central Great Lakes Region of The Gardeners of America and he is a member of the Men's & Women's Garden Club of Findlay. In addition, he is a member of the Northwest Ohio Gladiolus Council and a member of the North American Gladiolus Council where he served as club president for nine years. Bill is the third Vice President of the American Gourd Society and a member of the Ohio and Indiana Societies. Bill and Anita served as Officers and Judges' coordinators for over 10 years for the Ohio Gourd Society. Bill suggested setting judging standards and having guides for judge's training on the national level. These have become standard guides for the national groups. Bill and Anita have judged gourd shows in three states. Bill is an accredited judge of horticulture, gladiolus and gourds. He is a Hancock County Master Gardener. Bill loves gardening and people.

Larry Moore anchors the award-winning 5p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. news. A native of Missouri and a graduate of the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism with a master's degree in television news, Larry holds the distinction of having anchored the news for more years than anyone in Kansas City. Larry has been involved in the coverage of almost every major news story that has affected the Kansas City area in the past 40 years. Most recently, Squire Publications editors and readers honored Larry as Kansas City TV Person of the Century. An avid vegetable gardener, Larry is the author of a personal book on gardening titled "The 20 by 30 Backyard Garden Guide" and a member of the Greater Kansas City Gardeners of America.

C.W. Gusewelle has been on the staff of THE KANSAS CITY STAR since 1955, as a reporter, editorial writer, foreign editor and is currently an associate editor and columnist. He has traveled extensively on assignment in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the former Soviet Union. His essays and short fiction have appeared in many American magazines, journals and anthologies. He was awarded the PARIS REVIEW'S, Aga Khan Prize for Fiction in 1977.

*I have learned there is some confusion regarding the movies shown on the schedule. I apologize for not being clearer regarding this. The hotel has a small theater near the meeting rooms. We were going to utilize this theater to keep the children or spouses entertained during a few of the meeting times. The movies are optional. If the interest is not there or attendees are not bringing their children, the movie may be canceled. The Doubletree has a number of other means of entertainment for those not attending meetings; i.e. outdoor courtyard, swimming pool, fitness room etc. The decision to show movies will be determined at a later date.



Proclamation

Whereas, the Men's Garden clubs of America was first chartered on September 25, 1932. Its name was changed to Gardeners of America/Men's Garden clubs of America in 1992 to reflect the growing diversity of gardening and its members; and

Whereas, the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America will hold its national convention in Overland Park on June 16, 17, and 18, 2011, at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel, hosted by the Mo/Kan Region; and

Whereas, the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America endeavor to disseminate new and improved gardening techniques; promote ways in which gardeners can contribute to safeguarding and improving the environment; render service to all members and the gardening public through educational programs and by developing and distributing garden information; teach children about gardening and its benefits through its Youth Gardening projects; improve the lives of the disadvantaged among us through its Gardening From the Heart projects; and improve the quality of lives through community beautification projects.

Now, therefore, I, Carl Gerlach, Mayor of the City of Overland Park, Kansas, do hereby proclaim June 16-18, 2011 as

GARDENERS OF AMERICA/MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA DAYS

In Overland Park, and urge all citizens to recognize and congratulate members of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America and welcome them to Overland Park.

Done this 16th day of June, 2011

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carl Gerlach'.

Carl Gerlach, Mayor