



THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER



Volume 16

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Number 5



***President's
 Message***
 8/01/05

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

On June 30th, 2005 The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown celebrated its 75th anniversary with a full day of seminars, speakers, tours, lunch and dinner, Chinese auction, awards and entertainment. More than 100 were in attendance and the day was a complete success. The seminars featured growing and curing gourds, plant diagnostics, organic gardening, container gardening, insects and perennials. The keynote speaker was Katy Moss Warner, President of the American Horticultural Society. She captivated the members and guests with her comments, warmth and friendship. She emphasized the importance of interaction with the community and how horticulture is such a vital part of civic pride. I had the pleasure of taking her on a tour of Mill Creek Park, (one of the largest metropolitan parks east of the Mississippi) and our

local horticultural gardens, Fellows Riverside Gardens, which is an 11-acre display garden of national recognition. We also toured the downtown area of Youngstown that is experiencing a rebirth after years of decline due to the loss of the steel industry. We culminated the day with a visit to Handel's Ice Cream Shop which is one of the top 10 rated shops in the country (Bill Cosby's favorite) and indulged in a day ending dessert. A committee of members that were primarily new to our club conducted this affair. Most of the members have less than five years experience with the club and were not only willing to take on the responsibility for its success but worked hard to accomplish their goal.

I mention all of this because it is an example of what any club can do. New members with new ideas and vitality are the lifeblood of any organization. Over the years I have seen too many clubs die off because members got old, some passed away and there was no new membership to carry the group forward. Don't let this happen to your club.

As mentioned in my previous message, the dues increase passed at the national convention in Jupiter Florida. Because of the wording on the

ballot, regular members will be increased to \$30, additional family members will be increased to \$15 and life dues will now be \$210. Once more, a reminder to assure continuity in your AHS subscription and member benefit card get your dues paid by the first of November! As with any increase in dues there are threats of withdrawal from the National organization. I hear the lament, "What does National do for me?" Really, the question should be "What does National do for my club?" Then also ask "What do I do for National?" There is much information and help available from headquarters. All that is required is to ask for it. I would like to emphasize that as long as ten members or more of any club want to remain with TGOA/MGCA they can retain their charter and continue as members of the organization.

Yours in Gardening,
Bill Carney

**"GARDENING, IT'S GOOD
 FOR AMERICA"**

Jim Mack, June 1, 2005

A correction was made to President Bill Carney's email address. Please make the following correction: add a "y" to the end of, wjcarne and before the @.

TGOA/MGCA 2005 National Executive Officers

President: William Carney, 2984 Algonquin Dr., Poland, OH 44514, 330-757-9207, wjcarney@juno.com

First Vice President: Dale Davies, P.O. Box 524, Van Wert, OH 45891, 419-238-9351, lhenney@bright.net

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Web Master, Frank Mitch, ffm2065@hotmail.com

2006 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Co-Chairs: Don Crowder and Linda McHam, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Members of the Men's

Garden Club of Spartanburg, SC urge you to begin making plans for the next convention of TGOA/MGCA in their city April 20-22, 2006.

Spartanburg is known as the "Crossroads of the New South" because of its location at the intersection of Interstate 85 (north-south) and Interstate 26 (east-west) and connecting with I95, I77, I40 and I81. Spartanburg county has the largest concentration of foreign-owned businesses in the U.S., including the only BMW plant.

Spartanburg is also home to Milliken, Inc. that has an outstanding arboretum, one of five in the county.

The convention will be held at a new Marriott Hotel and Convention Center with reasonable room rates under \$85 per night, seminars and speakers on interesting topics, as well as tours to places of interest for gardeners.

Registration is expected to be in the \$150-160 range and will include lunch and dinner for three days.

Spartanburg is also only one and a half hours away from three botanical gardens; the largest private residence and gardens ever built in the U.S. (Biltmore House and Gardens near Asheville); the North Carolina Arboretum; three rose nurseries (Ashdown, Bridges and Roses Unlimited); Parks Seed Company; Wayside Gardens;

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and Carter and Holmes Orchids. When you register we will send additional information about other places of interest in Spartanburg and South Carolina.

More complete information will be available soon on the TGOA/MGCA website and by request from our convention chair, Don Crowder, 106 Stockton Lane, Moore, SC 29269 or telephone 864-580-1829. In the meantime, begin making your plans to be in Spartanburg next April.

2007 CONVENTION
Rockford, IL

The 2007 convention is scheduled for July 12-14 and will be hosted by the Illinois/Wisconsin Region of The Gardeners of American in Rockford, Illinois.

*To be involved
is to have a voice*

DIRECTORIES

Please have someone in your club print the directory from the web site. If you have a member who is on the executive committee, board of directors or is a regional or club officer, check and make sure the correct information is in the directory.

Please check the spelling of the names, addresses (building number, street number, city, state and zip code), phone numbers with area code, and email addresses if applicable.

I would also like the name of your club/region newsletter and a club/region web site if applicable.

Please send any corrections or changes, as soon as possible, to national headquarters.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB SITE

By Frank Mitch, Web Master

<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>

Password = lily

The past few months have been a busy time due to the annual update of lots of reference information plus adding some new items. Newest postings are listed first:

The Statement of Revenues and Expenses for year 2004 can now be found in the TGOA / MGCA newsletter page in "Members Only". This is new for the website

and hopefully will answer a few of the member's questions about the financial status of TGOA / MGCA. If you would like more details please send requests to the national office, attn: Mr. Bob Young.

Several clubs sent in their list of annual club activities for posting in the Club Activities page. Examples are:

Sunflower Gardeners of
America (Kansas City, KS)

The Gardeners of Topeka
(KS)

Please send in your club's list if not already included.

Convention plans for 2006 were updated on the 2006 Convention page. Also starting in June 2005 the Spartanburg (SC) club newsletter was posted and will be each month until next April and it is a good place to find out more about Spartanburg as you prepare to attend the 2006 convention in April.

Clubs with anniversaries in 2005 are listed in the 2005 Awards page in the 2005 National Convention page.

All awards given at the 2005 convention are now listed in that convention page. The annual photo contest winning photos are also on the Photo Album page.

The Officers page and Member Clubs page have been updated to show National, Regional, and Club Officers for 2005 as well as National Directors. The

directory in Members Only shows these as well plus updates for club information and national committee members.

Well folks, a big task is now complete. We now have a new page (old page) back on the site: "Publications." As suggested by Olin Miller and decided at our Committee meeting in June in Florida, there are now 28 Publications on the new page on the public side. Just click on "Publications" near the bottom of the menu. Then click to go to a Publication Index to select what you wish to read. I am pleased with it. We now need to get articles from club members around the country. *FM*

GARDENING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TGOA/MGCA website
www.tgoa-mgca.org
Master gardeners
are standing by.

PHOTO AND CALENDAR CONTEST

By Judy Schuck, National Photography and Calendar Chairperson

I would like to thank all the photographers who participated in our 2005 photography contest.

We had many, many beautiful entries. We had 34 entries total, with 13 being either all digital or mixed with slides. There were eight entries from members of AHS. Three different panels, having photography and / or

gardening experience, judged the entries. Those entries were used to make up the presentation for the convention in Florida and will be used also for selection of the photos to be used in the 2007 calendar. A very special "Thanks" to my daughter, Sherra Schuck, for all the many hours she spent in making the show, which was shown in digital form.

I will have copies of the show in digital as well as VHS in the national headquarters soon. These are available for clubs to borrow for viewing or for a program at one of their monthly meetings.

The deadline for next year's competition will be December 21, 2005. There will be an updated photography manual on the web site. I will be sending a 2006 manual with each entry that I received this year when I return their entries to the photographers.

Again, thanks to all who helped to make this competition one of the best in many years. I hope to hear from all photographers next year as well as many more. *JS*

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Ty McClellan, University of Nebraska
- Anna Leis, Ohio State University
- Justin Roberts, Hinds CC of Mississippi
- Jessica Ritter, University of Nebraska
- Stephanie Snyder, Kansas State University

2006 Calendar Photographers

- January: Cecil O. Spray, Austin, TX
- February: James A. Tracy, Rockford, IL
- March: Elmo L. Dinehart, Spokane, WA
- April: Joe Spadin, Glendale, Arlington, TX
- May: Paul A. Hartman, Green Bay, WI
- June: Norman K. Wagner, Austin, TX
- July: Sherrill E. Lynch, Countryside, IL
- August: Honey Barnekoff, Overland Park, KS
- September: John Eichhorn, Phoenix, AZ
- October: Rodney Toth, Hubbard, OH
- November: Warren F. Abele, Richmond, MA
- December: Judy Schuck, Prairie Village, KS

GRAPE MYRTLES AND SOUTHERN LIVING Spartanburg MGC

Senior Garden Editor, Steve Bender, of Southern Living magazine and his photographer were back in town in July to continue working on the article on Spartanburg's crape myrtles, the good and (unfortunately!) the bad. We still have a long way to go in teaching good crape myrtle selection and maintenance.

Our crape myrtle plantings around town were looking spectacular in this wet summer. The white Natchez variety on East Main has been especially showy.

IDEA AND ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR CLUB/REGION

Membership Dues.

By Anita Lanning, National Director, Central Great Lakes Region

Many of us are thinking of ways to help our members with the increase in membership dues.

Most clubs have fundraisers and consequently have money in their treasury. What better thing could that money be used for than paying the \$10 per member for their membership?

We have a lot to offer our members and paying the additional amount will help to keep members as well and prevent more of a loss of members. *AL*

Interesting Speakers.

By Dorothy D. Wirtz, Treasurer of East Valley Garden Club of Mesa, Arizona

Greetings for Arizona:

Our garden club did not meet during the months of July and August, as the summer heat is almost too intense to be outside during the day. We then enjoy the A.C. inside and make garden plans for the nice weather in fall, winter and spring.

Our garden club has been growing in membership since we have been having more interesting speakers from topics relating to gardening,

master gardeners, and plant societies. We open the meeting with the speaker and have business meeting later, which seems to work well with the working class members. We have the tip-of-the-month and plant-of-the-month, which create much interest. Also, we are trying to get the plant sale table going at each meeting so new members will know what type of plants grow best.

We have a great group of members, so come visit our club when in this area. *DW*

Club Challenge.

By Audrey Friend - President Illinois/Wisconsin Region

Greetings from the Illinois/Wisconsin Garden Clubs!

Each of our eight clubs was issued a challenge. Each club was given a goal of ten new members this year.

As of June 30, 2005 we had 48 new members!! Wow, we are more than half way there! Who will win this contest? It is up for grabs; keep an eye open for updates! Way to go to all of our clubs for an excellent job!

All of the wonderful clubs in our region had a "garden walk" this summer. This was a challenge due to the extremely dry weather here in this part of the fabulous Midwest. Most of our clubs present "yard of the month" and "non-residential" awards. These awards are given to the

residential and non-residential yards whose landscaping and use of flowers is extraordinary and beautiful.

Our region is in the midst of planning the "Gardening Heaven in 2007" national convention, which will be held in Rockford, Illinois. This convention will be a fun and educational experience and the region is working together as a team to make it an outstanding experience for all!

Our region currently holds two board meetings, (more if necessary) and two regional meetings per year. Our group is willing to share ideas, so please feel free to contribute at any time! We are all learning and growing.

"Around The Region" is a newsletter that our region publishes and distributes semi-annually. If you are interested in receiving or contributing, please drop us a line. We welcome any and all informational tidbits and facts. Actually, even a funny now and again is always appreciated. *AF*

I leave you with this -
Remember, **L**ogic will get you from A to B, **I**magination will take you everywhere –
Albert Einstein

Club Activities.

By Gene Walker, Board Member

Below are some of the activities that the Emporia

GOA have undertaken so far this year (2005):

The EGOA had an educational booth at the local Lawn and Garden Show held at the Flint Hills Mall in Emporia. More than 250 people signed up for door prizes, and 16 of those indicated an interest in joining our club. The theme of the booth was "EGOA is branching out."

On March 5, 2005 the EGOA chartered a 56-passenger bus and went to the Wichita Lawn and Garden Show. Paul James, "The Garden Guy," from HGTV, was the featured speaker in the afternoon. There were many outstanding commercial exhibits that provided practical landscaping ideas. The Wichita show is listed as one of the top ten in the country.

The last Saturday in April, the EGOA members held their annual plant sale. The gross sales totaled over \$12,000 from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The net sale per member was \$93.

There were six EGOA members attending the national convention at Jupiter, Florida. In order to encourage attendance, EGOA paid part of the registration fees. It was truly an "Out of this World," experience.

Several EGOA members helped out as superintendents in the garden and orchard products department, at the

Lyon county fair held in Emporia in July. *GW*

NEWS from the Gardeners of Spokane.

By: James McKay, Ph: (509) 467-9804

Each year our members strive to increase our membership and give more members an opportunity to take part in as many activities as possible.

Once a month we have a club meeting. The central idea is to make the meeting interesting and educational. We always serve refreshments at the end of the meeting.

Our main means of financing our program of work is operating a large greenhouse at a local orphanage. We raise flowers and vegetables to sell to the public in the spring. We provide an educational outlet for the young people at the orphanage.

Twelve members of the club are certified flower and vegetable judges and we judge at various flower and vegetable shows in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The busy months for this enterprise are August and September.

Our program chairman arranges field trips during the months of June and July. For this year the field trips included an herb farm specializing in growing lavender. Another trip was to

"Yesterday Farms", a specialized vegetable farm. The family does all the work using the organic method of growing vegetables. Their source of income is selling produce on the home farm, Riley Creek Blueberry Farm. At this farm our club members pick blueberries for their own use. This is the only source of income for this family.

Lilies and More Lilies is an enterprise about 60 miles north of Spokane that raises all varieties of lilies and develops new varieties. They propagated a new variety and named it "Dede" after my wife.

We also have a chance to tour a rose garden that is in the process of developing new varieties of roses.

During the first weekend in August our club participated in a flower and vegetable show developed on the local level. The main purpose of this enterprise is to help them get ready for the larger shows later on.

In the fall our club members take part in the Spokane Interstate Fair. In addition to showing our own produce we have a show for young people. Our club enters them in the TGOA/MGCA large pumpkin and tall sunflower contest. In the past our youth have done quite well. *JM*

An active club brings in and keeps members. Out-of-sight and out-of-mind will kill a club.

TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT
By Charles A. Steele

You know our shrubs are getting so big that we want to cut them back, but now is not the time to cut them back.

Wait until they become dormant in the winter months and that will be the best time to cut them back. If they are cut back during the growing season they will get bigger and not be very attractive. I would advice you to cut them back in January, and then they won't take on new growth at that time. *CS*

Treasurer's Message

By Steve Bush, Treasurer

As most of you know by now in the last Newsletter I wrote (this was written in early June to get to AHS) in my message a summary of my understanding of the 2006 dues after the board meeting in FL. Later in June and in July there was discussion about the fact that the ballot only referred to a \$10 increase. Also, Honey Barnekoff consulted with our parliamentarian. It was decided that the increase as discussed at FL would need to be scaled back to no more than \$10 per type of membership. Unfortunately, life dues for 2006 must also be limited to only a \$10 increase; thus, they will be \$210 beginning in 2006. About July 15th Bob Young sent out rosters to the club treasurers with a letter to the club presidents explaining the 2006

dues. Bob and I signed this letter.

In the letter it was explained that dues would be as follows:

- Regular \$30 from \$20
- Family \$15 from \$10
- Life \$ 210 from \$200

NOTE: We did not feel family dues should be increased any more than \$5 to keep them in the same ratio to regular dues as they have been for years, (50%). There seems to be some confusion as how family dues are defined. Here is some background. For many years (not sure how many but prior to my time as treasurer at least) the database software and the financials have shown family dues to be the reduced amount payable for the second member of a household that has one regular or life member. Also, when the clubs report to Bob the dues collected, they have been listed out as regular and family with family being \$10 each. Some people have been of the opinion that family dues were \$30 (i.e. the combined amount.) If my last message contributed to that confusion, I apologize.

Obviously, in hindsight, I wish we had designed the ballot differently even if a two-page ballot would have been necessary. At the time I wanted to avoid that extra cost. We MUST raise life dues back to \$300. I was not in favor of the reduction to \$200 anyway and now it is even more imperative. If we

collect only \$210 and that is invested in 5% bonds that provides us only \$10.50 annually. Obviously, this is not acceptable after this year...when regular dues will be \$30. The resulting loss in annual cash flow will be detrimental to our fiscal health. *SB*



- Robert Anderson, Spokane, WA
- Louis Baltus, Garden Ridge, TX
- Zenas Cruickshank, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Helen Gless, Rootstown, OH
- Anthony Harding, Youngstown, OH
- Lee Hodges, Bertram, TX
- Merrill E. Nuss, Marietta, GA (see write up)
- Carl Parks, Medina, OH
- Lorenz Peterson, St. Louis, MO (see write up)
- George Soroka, Syracuse, NY

LORENZ F. PETERSEN, SR., asleep in Jesus on Wed., July 6, 2005, (known as "Pete"), was a life member of TGOA/MGCA and a long-time member of the Garden Club of Ritenour. He was the author of two slide show programs "We Find God in our Garden, parts I & II" which have been shown

nationally by clubs of TGOA/MGCA.

Mr. Petersen was born July 13, 1920 in Farnhamville, Iowa and graduated from the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Iowa. He was a Navy WWII veteran, and served on the USS Chester T. O'Brien (Destroyer Escort 421). He then worked in advertising and public relations for the Flesh Co. and was a longtime member of the Ritenour Garden Club and TGOA / MGCA. He was known as the 'Rose Man'.

MERRILL NUSS passed June 10, 2005. Born in Iowa, Merrill was a veteran of WWII and the Korean conflict. He was a past president of the Marietta Men's Garden Club and was a regional director of TGOA/MGCA. His wife, Mary, (also a TGOA / MGCA member) survives him.

On behalf of all TGOA/MGCA members, we wish to send our deepest sympathy to the families for their loss.

E & I MEMORIALS

Gifts from The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, OH were submitted in honor of Anthony C. Harding and George Hoover.



**FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK**
By AJ Freeman

TO ALL REGIONS AND CLUBS:

Please send to TGOA/MGCA headquarters, Johnston, Iowa, your officers' e-mail addresses.

In July I sent emails to at least two officers in each club asking for a write up for this issue. I received 40 delivery failures as a result. Please help me update my email address book. It is important that at least the club/region *liaison* also has a valid e-mail address.

ARTICLES AND NEWS NEEDED:

Please send to national headquarters in Johnston, Iowa (attn: AJ Freeman) a listing of your club activities. I use as much club news as space allows in this newsletter. Our goal is to share news of various clubs with all TGOA/MCGA members.

I would also like information from each club / region about its youth programs to put in our national newsletter.

Contact Mr. Bob Young, for national membership and finance questions or actions at TGOA/MGCA headquarters, afternoons, M-F, 515-278-0295, mgcamb@dwx.com

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES
FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

- Nov/Dec 05.....Oct 3, 05
- Jan/Feb 06.....Dec 1, 05
- Mar/Apr 06.....Feb 1, 06
- May/Jun 06.....Apr 4, 06
- Jul/Aug 06.....Jun 1, 06
- Sep/Oct 06.....Aug 1, 06

2006 Calendar Order Form

Ship to:
Name: _____
Club Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
1-249 \$2.75 each 250-999 \$250 each
1000+ \$2.35 each
Quantity ordered: _____ **Total Amount:** _____

Order via mail, phone, fax, stop in or email order requests to TGOA/MGCA headquarters in Johnston, Iowa. A bill will be forwarded with your calendars.

ENTERPRISE Rent-A-Car

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is pleased to offer discounts to members of the Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs of America.

Reservations may be made on line at: www.enterprise.com. To make a reservation on line enter your account number in the Corporate Account or Source Code field, the account number is **05K0309**. It will then ask for the first three letters of your organization's name. Enter **THE**, proceed with making your reservation and your discount will be included in the rate that is displayed.

You may also call **1-800-RENT-A-CAR** to make a reservation, be sure to provide your corporate id number to receive your discount.

Values aren't what you get out of an experience; they are what you put into an experience

NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART

Chris McKay, a grandson to James McKay, Gardeners of Spokane, WA is stationed in Kirkuk, northern Iraq. Chris is a member of the Idaho National Guard. The following is Chris's email address: chris.mckay@us.army.mil.

Please send him an email saying "Hi". And, keep him, his unit members, his wife and his family in your prayers.

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