



The Gardeners Of America
Men's Garden Clubs Of America
Member's Newsletter



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Number 1



The 2009 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

A friend said something to me not long ago that you might find interesting. He said, "With the information available on the internet, T.V. and radio, there is no real need to belong to a garden club anymore."

If this statement is even partially true, then it gives us a chance to search for "other" reasons you and I want to belong. I would suggest to you the following motives: friendships, camaraderie, learning gardening techniques and helping others garden. Only two of these reasons are sufficient for me – the wonderful people I have met and the places I have seen through

my gardening hobby. How about you?

Attending the TGOA/MGCA National functions gives you views, friendships, and insights you can get no other way; not to mention the introduction of an endless variety of new plants.

Do you realize the many lives you influence in a positive way through your garden club? I have seen and have received so many positive communications from people I didn't know through the years. It is amazing.

Our hero at this writing is Henry Pittman of the Spartanburg, S.C. club. Henry received the highest civilian honor one can get from the governor of that state. We are proud to be in your company, Henry.

Scott Tree, Chet Wilson and the members of the Santa Rosa club are preparing a fantastic convention for us.

Get that ground ready for a big spring garden, and invite someone to your garden club this month.

Remember those less fortunate this winter.

Y.F.L.

Bob Grossman



**CONVENTION
ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE**

TGOA/MGCA will make available up to \$5,000 as a loan to a club who offers to host a convention. The host club, if they obtain a loan from TGOA/MGCA, must repay this loan 100% with the first registration proceeds prior to the convention. If any other clubs in the region would like to contribute to the host club for the purpose of hosting the convention, this may be viewed as a loan or as a gift. These clubs would be repaid with convention proceeds, if it was given as a loan, after TGOA/MGCA is repaid. Any profits or losses will then be shared equally between TGOA/MGCA and the host club.

This change is reflected in the updated convention manual available online or from the headquarters.

MEET YOUR 2009 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



ROBERT (Bob)GROSSMAN, president

Born: 11/24/34
Where: Maryville, Missouri
Raised in Dallas, Texas
Graduated SMU – Marketing – 1962
Married – two surviving children: Eric, Ciane
Started “Metropak” in 1976
Started Armadillo Pkg in 1995
Involved in the packaging business since 1959
Still active in business
Four times president of the Dallas Men’s Garden Club
Past director of Park Cities Rotary Club
Past president of Town North Toastmasters

LAWRENCE SCHAEFFER, 1st vice president

No picture available.

Member of the Gardeners of Tucson, AZ
He and his wife, Julene, live in Tucson, AZ.



HUGH EARNHART, 2nd vice president

Hugh joined the Youngstown (later State) University faculty in 1963 and became chairman of the history department in 1966. He served as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and President of the Faculty Senate over his thirty-six year career.

He joined the Navy in 1950 and was posted to a helicopter squadron. He became a disc jockey for American Airlines and attended San Diego State University during this time.

He also began promoting jazz concerts and after leaving the service in 1954, he became an arts and repertoire agent for Coral Records, a subsidiary of Decca. He also played drums on tour and worked with many celebrities.

In 1960 he enrolled at Bowling Green University and earned his undergraduate degree and

finished his graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Hugh and his wife, Mary Kay, live in Poland, OH. Their family includes two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren. He loves golf; has served as president of the MGCY; is a Bronze Medal winner; 2nd vice president of the TGOA/MGCA; Ambassador to the Ohio Governor’s Gardens; board member of the OSU Extension for Mahoning County and as associate member of the Soil and Water Board of Directors.



TOM WILTEN, 3rd vice president

Personal: Tom Wilten was born January 10, 1941 in Port Arthur, Texas. He attended three undergraduate colleges, and then graduated from Baylor University College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas, May 23, 1966. After a stint in the United States Air Force, he set up practice in Dallas, Texas on October 6, 1971, where he practices general

dentistry today. He is married to the former Kaye Lynn Shurett of Dallas, has two sons, and one grandson.

Horticultural: In 1973, faced with landscaping his home, he became interested in horticulture. Within a year he was digging holes in his yard while propagating seeds and cuttings under lights in his garage. In 1977, realizing his small yard was limited, he moved to where he resides today. In 1985 he joined the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas, Texas. He served as chairman of sales and the show in 1989, then as a two term president in 1990 and 1991. He has maintained continuous local club director status. He served as president of the Southwest region two years in the mid-nineties, and he is presently director of the Southwest region. He has many interests in horticulture, but his two main interests are trees and propagation. He is an accredited judge, in which he shows his plants and judges those of others within the region.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

STEVEN BUSH,
Treasurer

Member of the Men's
Garden Club of Des
Moines, IA

No picture available.
Treasurer of
TGOA/MGCA since 2002.



JAMES MACK, Past
President
Graduated from Arizona
State University,
coached and taught in
high school in southern
Arizona. Participated in
the family machinery
and cattle business,
went into the Arizona
State Senate for six
terms. Worked in the
disability insurance
industry for ten years
and currently does
consulting and
government relations for
the mineral exploration
industry. Married to
Juanita they are active
in the First
Congregational Church
and the community in
Tempe, Arizona with
their three daughters
and their families.

***NOMINATION FOR
2010 3rd VICE
PRESIDENT***



JOHN J. KESSEN

I am John Kessen and have been the president of the Fort Wayne club for four years. My wife and I live in Rome City, which is about thirty miles north of Fort Wayne. We are both life long residents of the Fort Wayne area. We have two children, one boy and one girl. Presently, we have two grandchildren, one boy and one girl, with one on the way. I have an associate BSC degree in professional accounting from International College, a BA and Masters in Education from the University of Saint Francis and have additional graduate work at the University of Omaha. Other training includes being a licensed real estate broker, a certified automatic pinsetter service man, carried a home improvement contractors license and a construction superintendents license for a general contractor. Over

the years I have worked in industrial pricing, operated my own bowling alley, taught college, been a realtor, and served as CEO and vice president of the University of Saint Francis for thirty five years. Needless to say, I have done more than one thing at a time. I took an early retirement in December, 2000 and have been semi-retired since then. This means I only have three part-time jobs. I work in new business development for a general contractor, am a realtor, and work for News-America. In 2006, I hosted the national board of directors' board meeting in Kendallville, Indiana for Dale Davies. I am currently the third vice president and a national director of the Central Great Lakes region. In June, 2008, I was the chairman of the steering committee for the national convention of the TGOA/MGCA. I am the chairman of the TGOA/MGCA national convention site and planning committee. My wife and I are both interested in nature and gardening. We enjoy our retirement living on Sylvan Lake on property that was at one time part of what is now the Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site.

**THE BENEFITS OF A
GARDEN CLUB BELONGING
TO TGOA/MGCA**

Local clubs are the heart and vitality of our organization. It is the local level where the most significant ongoing education in gardening occurs, that community beautification of great value is done, and personal friendships and camaraderie are developed. Much quality information comes to us through the association we have with fellow members on the local level. "Running with a good crowd" brings many benefits!

But there is a new and entirely different dimension of value associated with membership in a national gardening organization like TGOA/MGCA. Here, too, much quality gardening knowledge and information is available. Networking and the strong friendships built on our love of gardening and related interests are invaluable. In addition to the charismatic importance of being a part of something larger than one's self, the national organization provides many unique services and benefits. Let's review some of them:

**Discounted Membership
in the American
Horticultural Society**

Discounted membership in the American Horticultural Society is available to TGOA/MGCA members for an additional \$35 for two years. Simply indicate on your TGOA/MGCA membership form that you wish to add this membership and AHS will bill you directly. (A membership outside our organization is \$35 per year.) This will include entry to botanical gardens and arboreta in the U.S. and beyond our borders at no charge or a reduced entry fee, and in some of those gardens, a discount in their garden shops. AHS members may ask horticultural questions via the AHS website or by calling a toll free number. Members will receive a subscription to *The American Gardener*, a bi-monthly magazine containing useful gardening information and professional quality photography.

**TGOA/MGCA National
Newsletter**

This informative newsletter is sent bi-monthly to all affiliated members and posted on the website. It provides

information about clubs around the country and the headquarters and contains educational articles and book reviews on gardening.

501(c)(3) Status

This is a most important benefit that we have available through affiliation with the national organization at no additional cost to the club. This status enables a club to operate as a non-profit organization and to solicit tax-deductible donations from corporations and individuals. A club then need not file annually with the IRS. We could, of course apply for this status on our own, but such a move could possibly cost \$3,000 per club.

National Conventions

These annual meetings at different places around the country provide a wonderful opportunity for members to get together and see fabulous gardens and learn more about gardening and horticulture. Members may attend educational seminars on topics of interest given by nationally known speakers plus great food and entertainment.

TGOA/MGCA Website

This up-to-date website provides members with a great deal of information about the national

organization, local clubs all over the country, and horticultural information. Members can access the website to get current information on national conventions and contests, some of which are detailed below.

Discount Program

Several national retailers provide a discount to affiliated members. These include Hertz and Enterprise Car Rental. Details of these and others obtained are on the website and in the national newsletter.

Scholarships

Affiliated clubs are able to nominate outstanding horticulture students for these \$1000 annual awards which are sponsored by the national organization.

Lending Library

This library is housed at the national headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, and contains an extensive assortment of literature on all aspects of gardening as well as biographies of famous gardeners. Usually a book from this library is reviewed in each edition of the newsletter. Members may obtain a copy of the list of books from headquarters or view it on the website. There is no charge other than return postage for borrowing

from this library. Purged books are available to the members for their library "collection."

Youth Gardening Programs

The national youth program emphasizes the responsibility we have for passing our love of gardening and our knowledge and enthusiasm to the next generation. These programs include the Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower contests.

Club Management Information/Support

The national office provides brochures on organizing and managing local clubs. These brochures are also available on the website and contain information such as job descriptions of officers, program ideals, public relations and publicity ideas, suggestions for building membership and more.

Regional Organization

The country is divided into 15 regions to provide leadership and support on a closer level; each region has, depending on its size, one or more national directors. Over the years, regional meetings have been a great source of camaraderie and education.

***MORE 2008 PUMPKIN
AND SUNFLOWER
CONTEST WINNERS***

Gardeners of Bluffton-
Pandora area, OH

Sunflower: 1ST Place-
Adam Basinger, 121 inches;
2nd Place-Aaron Basinger,
111 inches; 3rd Place-Lieah
Preston, 82 inches

Pumpkin: Lieah Preston,
8-1/2 lb

Gardeners of Rome, New
York

Sunflower: 1st Place-
Whitney Seamans, 16-3/4
inches
2nd Place-Forrest Clark and
Whitney Seamans (tie) 15-
1/4"

Pumpkin: 1st Place-
Matthew Hurlburt-Coke,
171 lbs; 2nd Place-Forrest
Clark, 79 lbs

Santa Rosa Men's Garden
Club, Santa Rosa, CA

Sunflowers: 1st Place-
Tayler O'Brien, age 5, 24
inches 2nd Place-Thomas
O'Brien, age 7, 23.5 inches;
3rd Place-William O'Brien,
age 3, 23.5 inches

Pumpkin: 1st Place-Sami
Veader, age 14, 1156 lbs;
2nd Place-Elizabeth
Caughey, Age 8, 1054 lbs;
3rd Place-Harrison Caughey,
age 5, 1016 lbs

Decorated Pumpkin: 1st
Place-Ryan Loewen, Age
16; 2nd-Place-Erica Loewen,
age 14; 3rd Place-Owen
Pugh, Age 7, & Ai
Godosky, Age 8



James King is shown hugging the winning 1156 lb pumpkin in the pumpkin growing contest recently in Santa Rosa, CA. Jim joined the Santa Rosa Club in 1947 and served as president of TGOA/MGCA in 1985. He was instrumental in chairing the bylaws committee during the early nineties when the organization amended its rules regarding admittance of female members. He has probably attended more national conventions than any other member.

Men's Garden Club of
Albany

Sunflower: 1st Place-
Ethan Boomhower, age
13, 20-3/4 inches; 2nd
Place-Matt Gade, age 11,
18 in; 3rd Place, Jack
Marcucci, age 12, 16 in

Pumpkin: 1st Place-
Ethan Boomhower, age
13, 271 lb; 2nd Place-
Thomas Gade, age 7, 91
lb; 3rd Place-Matt Gade,
age 11, 81 lb

All winners were recognized at a Giant Pumpkin/Sunflower contest during a fall festival held at Cornell Cooperative Extension and in the Albany County

Gardeners of Green
Bay, WI

Sunflower: 1st Place-
Autumn Linzmeier, 11
yrs old, 20-1/2 inches;
2nd Place-Alex
Mancheski, 19 inches;
3rd Place-Hunter
Linzmeier, 15 inches

Pumpkin: 1st Place-
Tristen Stevens, 9 yrs
old, 223-1/2 lb; 2nd
Place-Olivia Buss, 107-
1/2 lb; 3rd Place-Ryan
Buss, 107-1/2 lb

CONGRATULATIONS,
HENRY AND JESS
FROM TGOA/MGCA
WHAT AN HONOR!



Henry Pittman

Mayor Barnet proclaims Monday, November 17th, 2008 as Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Day. Founded in the fallof 1948 through the effort of a small group of talented and dedicated gardeners, Spartanburg Men's Garden Club celebrates 60 years of service to the community. Mayor Barnet honored the club with notification of the Men's Club Day proclamation during the club's 60th anniversary gala dinner.

Club member, Henry Pittman, received the Order of the Palmetto Award, South

Carolina's highest civilian honor, awarded by Governor Mark Sanford. The award recognizes Pittman's efforts to beautify Spartanburg through the planting and maintenance of trees, shrubs and his many other accomplishments, ranging from service on local and national garden club boards to educating the public on proper pruning techniques. He has been instrumental in the planting of over 5,000 trees and 3,800 shrubs in the Spartanburg area.

Jess Taylor, club member, was awarded the club's newly instituted "Award of Merit", henceforth to be known as the "Jess Taylor Award of Merit", for his high standard of participation, dedication, and enthusiasm. He served as club treasurer from 1986 to 1992. A retired engineer, he has overseen many projects for both the Men's Garden Club and Hatcher Garden. He has generously shared his knowledge of propagation techniques with club members and has provided innumerable plants for the club's plant sales. His generosity and enthusiasm inspire club members to get involved and give back to the community.

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**LETTER OF INTENT
TO ATTEND 2009
CONVENTION**

The Santa Rosa Men's Garden Club of Santa Rosa is proud to be hosting the 2009 annual convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden

Clubs of America. The convention will be held at the Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa in Santa Rosa, CA on May 28, 29 & 30th. Web site - www.flamingoresort.com. The room rate, normally \$159, will be \$119 per night for a standard room or \$139 for a deluxe room. For any guests wishing to arrive early or stay on after the convention, the \$119 rate will still apply. You just have to let us know ahead of time. We anticipate a registration fee of \$200 per person, to cover all meals, seminars, tours, door prizes, etc. and, by the way, great food.

Our theme for the convention is "Roses and Wine in 2009". Some of the tours being considered at this point are the gardens and winery at Korbel Winery, Ferrari Carano gardens and winery, Benzinger gardens & winery, Kunde gardens and winery, including their wonderful wine caves. Armstrong State Park with their towering, ancient redwood trees, Bodega Bay, where Hitchcock's film "The Birds" was made, the Luther Burbank farm & gardens (Santa Rosa was the home of Luther Burbank) and several other options as well. We are also starting

to contact some interesting speakers for our seminars.

For those attendees who are arriving early or staying on after the convention, there is so much more within northern California to visit. San Francisco is a one hour drive to the south (you cross the Golden Gate Bridge to enter the city.) The Napa Valley is a thirty minute drive to the east. Lake Tahoe is a four hour drive to the east (the drive alone is worth the trip, not to mention beautiful Lake Tahoe itself and the many casinos.) Monterey and Carmel are a three hour drive to the south. Yosemite is about a five hour drive to the southeast. Or you may just want to stay in beautiful Sonoma county with all of our wineries, fine restaurants and other points of interest.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. E-mail - chet36@comcast.net, phone 707-545-5335 (cell 707-478-5211) or by mail: Chet Wilson, 1910 Tonja Way, Santa Rosa, CA.

**LOOK
FOR CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORMS
IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER AND
ALSO ON THE
WEBSITE**

FROM THE GARDEN SHOP WILL NOT BE IN THIS ISSUE – CONSULT ONE OF YOUR PAST ISSUES OR THE WEBSITE IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MERCHANDISE

SEED SWAP

A new idea has been presented to include in the newsletters each time. Thanks to Jim Mack for the suggestion. We are going to be posting in each newsletter items for a "seed swap." The instructions are below.

- Always send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with requests.
- Exchange small amount of seed and include germination tips.
- Indicate how many seeds you have available and when your offer expires.
- When large seeds require additional postage; mention that in your letter.
- Never use swappers' names for commercial mailing lists or to advance religious or political agendas.
- Please don't offer bulbs or other vegetative plant parts; it is illegal to send them to some states.
- Please do not swap rare and endangered wildflower seeds.

- When submitting items for exchange, please start with the words "I have" and end with "I would like." (i.e. I have 25 bicolor marigold seeds and would like red zinnia seeds.)
- Requests will be printed in the order received.
- Please send your information to TGOA/MGCA HQS, P.O. Box 241, Johnston, IA 50131-0241 or via email to tgoasecy@dwx.com.

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ITEMS FOR SWAP

I have LEEK SEED which is used to make soup. Second year has a nice showy stalk that produces the seed 4 to 6 inch diameter head.

MEXICAN SUNSET FLOWERS in shades of orange, and bronze and yellow.

GERMAN GIANT RADISH – grows radishes golf ball size.

CORAL BELLS – lots of red leaves on this perennial and then little white bell flowers.

MIXED FANCY LEAF LETTUCE – Huge heads and good eating

FRENCH MARIGOLD SEED – mixed brick and orange colors

SNAP DRAGONS – mixed colors

CHINESE MONEY plant with purple blooms

PURPLE LIATRUS– Perennial with tall stalks and purple flowers on top
cherswares@aol.com

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I have YELLOW TRUMPET CATCLAW AND NASTURTIUMS. I would like BUTTERNUT, SUMMER and WINTER SQUASH.

J. Mack, 1101 E. Broadmore Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282



TINY BABY DEER

This tiny deer was delivered by C-section after his mother was killed by a car.

Little Rupert, who is so small he can fit in an adult's hand, was born after vets failed in their battle to save his mother. At six inches tall and weighing just over a pound, he is now in an incubator in the intensive care unit at Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital in Buckinghamshire. He has only recently opened his eyes. He presently is in an incubator on oxygen and being fed by a tube. Rupert will make a full recovery.

Taken from an article by Les Stocker, founder of Tiggywinkles, a British publication.

**CERTIFICATES AND
PLAQUES**

These may be ordered through Bob Young, National Headquarters, afternoons, Monday-Friday at (515) 278-0295 or email him at mgcamb@dwx.com or via mail.

HERTZ

As a member of the TGOA/MGCA, you are eligible for a discount card from Hertz. Visit <http://link.hertz.com/link.html?id=930>; or call your travel agent; or Hertz at 1-800-654-2210. Member savings cards are also available from headquarters.

Hint: To use a poinsettia as a cut flower, cut a piece and plunge it for a minute or two into 90% rubbing alcohol which allows the stem to take up water. The flower will last up to two weeks.

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.

**TGOA/MGCA Pre-Order
Calendar Form
2010**

Ship to:

Name: _____

Club Name _____

**Street
Address:** _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

1-249.....\$2.95 each

250-449.....\$2.75 each

500+.....\$2.65 each

Quantity ordered: _____

Total amount _____

**___ Ship calendars to name
and address above**

**___ Will pick up
on _____ (enter date/call
ahead for time). Invoice will
be sent with your calendars.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR PAYMENT AND
ACCEPTANCE OF ALL
ORDERS PLACED.**

**GARDENING IS GOOD
THERAPY**



**The Gardeners of America
Men's Garden Clubs of America
Johnston, IA 50131-0241**



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