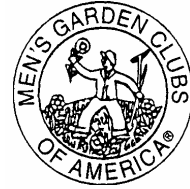


**THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**

Gardener Insert



4-Page Newsletter

July-August Issue



Gardeners Gone to Rest 2003

H. E. Schumacher, Belvidere, IL
 Franwick H. McCall, Lilburn, GA
 Robert Peterson, Belvidere, IL
 Betty Bigham, St. Ann, MO
 Ruth Blackledge, Jackson, MS
 William E. Ellerman, St. Louis, MO
 Robert H. Dewart, Tucson, AZ
 Robert F. McLendon, Fairhope, AL
 Sam Fairchild, Reidsville, NC
 Jack E. Person, Rockford, IL
 Frank R. Arnoldy, Webster Groves, MO
 Robert K. Harter, Belvidere, IL
 Fred M. Craig, Findlay, OH
 John J. Moore, Chicago, IL
 Clifford E. Webb, Wilton, CT
 Leonard F. Kubicek, Peninsula, OH
 Harold I. Holdeman, Austin, TX
 John F. Cassell, Rockford, IL
 Donald B. Stevens, Bradford, ME

GARDENING FROM THE HEART

The following members made GFTH donations in memory of **Ruth Blackledge**:

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tracy
 Howard Matz
 Mary Grandgeorge
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heggen
 The Gardeners of Jackson
 Tom & Honey Barnekoff
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brasher

The following members made GFTH donations in memory of **Sam Fairchild**:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brasher
 Dan Blackledge

ENDOWMENT & INVESTMENT

Donation received for the Memorial Fund of E&I from Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tracy, Rockford, IL in memory of Sam Fairchild, Past President .

Donation received from Honey Barnekoff in memory of Sam Fairchild.

Donation received from Mr. & Mrs. Dale Davies in memory of Ruth Blackledge

Donation received for the Scholarship Fund from Mary Grandgeorge in memory of Sam Fairchild.



GARDENING FROM THE HEART

DONATIONS

Neva M. Jones
 Ruth E. Davies
 Mildred Knapp
 Paul C. Peters
 Karl E. Schmidt
 John A. Carey
 Patrick R. Whipple
 Alejandro Villali
 Jeanne Welch
 Robert E. Baker
 Stephen J. Krisak
 George M. Richardson, Sr.
 Stanley J. Boyd
 Robert J. Parkhurst
 Charles S. Miller, Jr
 Rose M. Williams
 Alphonse R. Litz
 Richard J. Beney
 Brian K. Turner
 Joseph J. Spiker
 Mildred J. Hart
 Joseph E. Whitbread

**Sincere thanks to
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Buranich, Jr
 for their continued support
 of this program.**

Donation received for the Photography Committee Fund from Howard Matz in memory of Tom Kemp, former Director, SW Region.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Indianola Garden Club donated 60 bags of coco mulch for use in the beds at

*****MEMBERSHIP*****

The following clubs have a 10% or more membership increase in paid members from January 2003 through April 2003

MO-KAN REGION

Mission Springs GOA 30.8%

CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

Maple City Men's Garden Club 18.2%

Fulton County Garden Club 12.5%

NORTHWEST REGION

Gallatin County MGCA 12.5%

Each year at the National Convention the club with the highest percentage of membership increase receives the GEORGE SPADER AWARD

NOTE:

Membership cards for new members are mailed directly to them with a letter from the National President. Renewal membership cards are mailed to the club treasurer for distribution.

Marcia: tgoa.mgca.mmp@juno.com

Bob: mgcambr@dwx.

MEMBER AND CLUB RECOGNITION

The Gardeners of Central Lake County, Libertyville, IL received the distinguished 2002 AARS award for Outstanding Maintenance of the Lynn J. Arthur Rose Garden located in Libertyville. This honor was bestowed on the club during their 50th Anniversary year of planting and maintaining the Rose Garden.

The Rose Garden was started in 1953 by the Libertyville-Mundelein Men's Garden Club with the planting of the north section of the Garden. In 1954 the south section was planted to complete the basic plan. In 1977, the Garden consisted of eight beds with 666 plants of 50 varieties. It was one of 113 gardens in the United States accredited to receive and display the new All-American Rose Selections (AARS), which are introduced annually. As a result, new introductions are observed in this garden a season prior to the time they are offered for sale to the public. This Rose Garden has been maintained since its beginning by Club Members who have worked to make the display a little better each year. It is the

Club's largest project in terms of time expended. Approximately 25 members have helped maintain the plans. The Village of Libertyville has assisted financially by paying for the maintenance materials. This municipal garden, is open year round to approximately 25,000 visitors walking through.

TGOA MEMBER MAKES COVER

Karen Gray, St. Charles, MO and member of the Kirkwood Garden Club Kirkwood, MO appeared on the cover of the May issue of Better Homes and Gardens Magazine with a photograph of one of her garden paths with an Arbor that her husband Mike built her in 3 week ends for her birthday. The flowers and foliage on this garden path is truly awesome. Check out the May issue if you get a chance.

The Web Site Is Growing by Frank Mitch, Web Master

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>

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

What's New?

An Instant Messaging "Chat Room" is up and running on the web site. The new feature is available for online TGOA-MGCA committee meetings or other club member groups. Even two or so members could sign in and have real time discussions at such times as they wish to arrange. Instructions for use is posted on the Chat Room page in the Members Only section.

Remember the web site TGOA Member Survey that appeared in the Members Only section starting in December 2002? Well, the results have been tallied and you can read the compilation of the survey results in the Members Only section. Thanks to all who responded to the survey. Your input is, has, and will be extremely helpful in making our organization a better member oriented one.

By request, the annual committee chair reports that are submitted each year at convention have been posted on the web site so everyone can be informed as to what our committees are doing. The reports are posted if they are submitted for convention.

Attention: Club Treasurer/President

Important Notice regarding IRS TAX EXEMPTION FOR YOUR CLUB

This year, since it is so late, we will not be sending out a separate letter regarding applying for 2002 tax exemption status. Please follow instructions listed below

Another TGOA/MGCA Affiliation Benefit

TGOA/MGCA offers affiliated clubs and regions the opportunity to obtain IRS tax exempt status as a section 501(c)(3) organization under our Group Exemption Letter.

When your club or region has IRS tax exempt status, donations to your organization are deductible for income tax purposes to the full extent of the income tax code.

Taking advantage of this TGOA/MGCA benefit is simple, and requires only minimal document preparation for the initial application and for the annual follow up request for continuation. (form follows elsewhere in this newsletter)

You send your application and **annual follow up** request to the TGOA/MGCA office. On your annual follow up Financial Statement submitted to headquarters, please be sure to include your club name and address. IRS tax exemption under the TGOA/MGCA Group Exemption Letter does not impose any fund raising or spending limits on your club.

We have prepared a packet listing the specific requirements for inclusion and an application form. We will be glad to send you a packet if your club or region is interested in applying.

If you have already applied for and received IRS 501(c)(3) status directly from Internal Revenue Service, there is no need nor advantage for you to apply under the TGOA/MGCA Group Exemption program.

2004 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Our beautiful 2004 calendars have arrived from the printer and are available for immediate shipment. Prices remain the same as last year. See and use the handy order form printed in this issue if you missed it in the last issue.

Request for Continued Inclusion in the Group Exemption Letter of the Gardeners of America (send to National Headqtrs)

Club Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

State _____

Employer ID Number: _____

(Your club 9 digit #)

Were you required to file IRS Form 990 last year? _____

Yes or No

If Yes, please provide copy of your form 990.

If No, please provide a copy of your year end Treasurer's Report of Income & Expenditures.

To the best of our knowledge:

1. We are affiliated with The Gardeners of America, Inc.
2. We are subject to The Gardeners of America Inc.'s general supervision.
3. We are eligible to qualify for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
4. We are not a private foundation as defined in section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We certify that the above information is correct and that we wish to be included in The Gardeners of America, Inc.'s group exemption letter for the year 2002 filed in 2003.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Enclosure: IRS Form 990 or Treasurer's Report

NEW VALUE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS!

By Honey Barnekoff, National 1st Vice President
Member of Overland Park Gardeners of America

Did you know that your national membership is now more valuable? Your Executive Committee has made arrangements with several national retailers to give our members a discount on their goods and services in exchange for advertising in The Gardener magazine and a link from our web site to theirs.

You will find a coupon redeemable for a 15% discount from Gardeners Supply and Dutch Bulbs companies in your Gardener magazine or on our web site. The author of this article has had several occasions to use this discount, finding excellent products and service on each order.

From November (2002) through April 30th, 2003 you were given an opportunity to order seeds, etc. from Thompson and Morgan Seeds at a 10% discount on the first order. T&M promises to renew this arrangement in time for next year's seed buying. Likewise, Kinsman and Company offered a 10% discount on their products during March and April. We'll see if they will renew their offer in time for next year.

Chuck Brasher, MO-KAN Region National Director has made several such arrangements with retailers in his region for local members. With a little effort, your regions can enjoy such discounts for your members. Currently Chuck has at least 15 retail participants in his program. The members are required to show their membership card in order to receive the discount.

We are continuing to solicit discounts for YOU, our members, and hope you will take advantage of these generous offers. How much did you save this spring on plants, seeds, garden ornaments and tools?

~~~~~

**Editors Note:** I visited with Chuck Brasher and also Grace on two separate occasions concerning the program he has going in his region. Their greatest testimonial is that the discount program has brought in 30 new members for The Greater Kansas City Gardeners of America Club. These new members were recruited at their annual plant sale either on the spot, or with follow up by club members. Huge signs were posted, flyers were handed out, on the spot 10% plant purchase discounts were given IF people signed up to become instant members of the Gardeners of America and the Greater KC club. The cutting edge selling point of membership was that the break even point spent at participating retailers and garden centers is \$300. In other words, if you spent \$300 annually, your membership paid for itself. You belonged for free, and reaped all the other member benefits at no cost. And, since statistics show most gardeners spend from \$500 - \$1,000 annually, the TGOA membership cost became "you can't afford not to be a member". The continuing advantage goes on year after year, thereby giving members a very good economical reason to renew their TGOA membership.