



# The Gardeners Of America

## Men's Garden Clubs Of America

### NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 18

MARCH/APRIL 2007

Number 2



*The President's Message*

*Greetings from Arizona:*

We are off to a good start for 2007 with good personnel and support for our clubs and membership in the home office, great committees and great people chairing the committees leading the effort to achieve our goals. If you have an interest or ideas in any area addressed by our committees, be sure to touch base with a committee member or the chair as they are always looking for constructive ideas and working members.

Scholarship committee chairman Tom Wilten is accepting applications for scholarships from your clubs for college students majoring in plant sciences or horticulture. The applications for your club to submit are on the web site under **SCHOLARSHIPS**.

I know many of you have had and are having great experiences and ideas that would be of interest to those of us who are trying to grow better gardens. Please share those experiences with us through the **NEWSLETTER**.

Arbor Day is celebrated throughout America, November through May, with most states having their Arbor Day in March or April. Many of our clubs will

be participating in tree plantings and all of us will be getting ready for our Spring and Summer gardening. I hope you have a fulfilling Arbor Day, whenever it is in your part of our great country, as well as a productive and beautiful garden this year.

Reminder, mark your calendars for July 12-14 for the convention in Rockford, Ill.

*Jim Mack*

#### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

If you wish to be on a committee, please contact the committee chair or executive committee member responsible for the committee. See page 9.

*To be involved is to have a voice*

#### 2007 NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The 2007 national newsletter will no longer accompany the AHS magazine.

Instead, it will be mailed to each *paid* member unless that member prefers to have it emailed to him or her.

#### **M A R C H**

- 11 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 21 - Spring Begins

#### **A P R I L**

- 1 - Palm Sunday
- 3-10 Passover
- 6 - Good Friday
- 8 - Easter

#### DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter	Deadline Dates
May/June '07	Apr 2-6 '07
July/Aug '07	Jun 1-7, '07
Sep/Oct '07	Aug 1-7, '07
Nov/Dec '07	Oct 1-5, '07
Jan/Feb '08	Dec 3-7, '07
Mar/Apr '07	Feb 1-7, '07

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**TGOA/MGCA 2007  
National Executive Officers**

**President:** James Mack, 1101 Broadmore, Tempe, AZ 85282, 480-966-8387, [jandjmack@cox.net](mailto:jandjmack@cox.net)

**First Vice President:** Chuck Burt, P.O. Box 606, Austin, TX 78767, 512-606-0177, [txcwdancer@hotmail.com](mailto:txcwdancer@hotmail.com)

**Second Vice President:** Bob Grossman, 6115 Linden, Dallas, TX 75230, 972-701-8300 [bobgrossman@prodigy.net](mailto:bobgrossman@prodigy.net)

**Third Vice President:** Jerome Frampton, Jerome Frampton, 202 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Clear Lake, IA 50428, 641-583-0223 [Jerome@netconx.net](mailto:Jerome@netconx.net)

**Immediate Past President:** Dale Davies, P.O. Box 524, Van Wert, OH 45891, 419-238-9351, [lhenney@bright.net](mailto:lhenney@bright.net)

**Treasurer:** Steven Bush, 1522 17<sup>th</sup> St., West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-225-9638, [bushfinancial@mchsi.com](mailto:bushfinancial@mchsi.com)

**TGOA/MGCA HQ SUPPORT**

**Administrative Assistant,** AJ Freeman, 5560 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, IA 50131, 515-278-0295, [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com)

**Membership Manager / Bookkeeper,** Bob Young, P.O. Box 241, Johnston, IA 50131-0241, 515-278-0295, Fax: 515-278-6245, [mgcamb@dwx.com](mailto:mgcamb@dwx.com)

**CORRECTIONS**

Jan/Feb, '07 newsletter

The suspense date for scholarship application submissions is April 1<sup>st</sup> not February 15<sup>th</sup>. Re: Tom Wilten

Third Vice President's phone number: **641-583-0223**



**A Greater Kansas City GOA Presentation.** Above is a picture of Sherra Schuck accepting a scholarship from Chuck Brasher for her studies at Johnson County Community College. The presentation was at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, which involves wreath-making with fresh greens that the Parks and Recreation department pruned from local parks.

**NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS**

RE: January/February 2007 newsletter, page 9, by 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Chuck Burt.

TGOA / MGCA headquarters will be bringing on line an email list server to facilitate communicating timely announcements from headquarters to the TGOA / MGCA membership. This is a one-way conduit. Only emails originating from headquarters will be delivered to subscribers.

Participation in this email list by the membership is optional.

If you wish to receive these email announcements, you will need to subscribe to the email list server. Your email address will be kept confidential. No one will have access to it except headquarters staff. Other subscribers will not be able to view any subscriber's email address.

You may subscribe or unsubscribe at anytime by emailing your request:

**To subscribe** send a blank email to: [TGOAMGCA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:TGOAMGCA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) from the email address you wish to be subscribed.

**To unsubscribe** send a blank email to: [TGOAMGCA-unsubscriber@yahoogroups.com](mailto:TGOAMGCA-unsubscriber@yahoogroups.com) from the email address you want removed from the message distribution list.

What else can you expect by subscribing to this email list? One example is the advance notice of the newsletter on-line. Frank Mitch, our webmaster, receives a copy of the newsletter when it goes to the printer. He publishes it on the [www.tgoa-mgac.org](http://www.tgoa-mgac.org) website. By subscribing to this email list server, you will receive notice when the next newsletter is available on line.

Stay up to date with information from headquarters. Consider subscribing so you will get advance notices of happenings with TGOA / MGCA. Remember, you can easily take yourself off the distribution list by sending a blank email to: [tgoamgca-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:tgoamgca-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**2007 DIRECTORIES**

**CLUBS / REGIONS / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE, NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES:**

Please submit any changes /corrections to your information (i.e.: name, phone number, address, email) to Bob Young at national headquarters via mail, fax or email.

Treasurers/Secretaries, please ensure that headquarters has the information on your club/region officers and directors.

Thank you for your assistance.



**Gardening Heaven  
in 2007!**

July 12 - 14, 2007 at the Clock  
Tower Resort, Rockford, IL.

The dates for the national  
convention in the 2007  
calendar are incorrect.  
Please change them to the  
above dates.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Clock Tower Resort  
7801 E. State St.  
Rockford, IL 61108  
800-358-7666  
or 815-398-6000

[www.clocktowerresort.com](http://www.clocktowerresort.com)

Room Rate  
\$105 per night  
plus tax (1-4 persons)

Ask for *TGOA Group*  
to receive the special rate.

**Cut-off date: June 11, 2007**

**Travel: By air**, the Chicago/Rockford Airport has  
scheduled flights on United Airlines from Denver.  
Other flights are primarily to vacation destinations  
such as Orlando, St. Petersburg-Clearwater and  
Las Vegas. The hotel shuttle bus is available to  
pick you up.

**Travel: By air**, the Chicago O'Hare International  
Airport is about 70 miles away and provides air travel  
access to the whole country. While busy, it is not  
difficult to travel through (stormy weather the  
exception) and you are rewarded with convenient,  
friendly, scheduled bus service from the O'Hare Bus  
Center right to the door of the convention hotel  
(CoachUSA-VanGalder Lines). Departures are  
hourly on the half hour and recent fares were \$16.00  
per person, one-way.

**REGISTRATION**

TGOA/MGCA  
**National Convention**  
July 12 - 14, 2007

Greetings

Fun!

Current Club/Region Title(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Director      | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nat'l Past President   | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Officer     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nat'l Committee Chair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Editor      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nat'l Committee Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____            |   |

Member Since (year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Camaraderie**

- Life  
 Member-at-Large  
 Non Member Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate choice of Friday tour:

- Dixon area - Full day  
 Rockford area - Alternative choice

**Tours**

Registration fee: \$ 185 per person

**Seminars**

Check enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: TGOA/MGCA Convention 2007

**Registration deadline:** Monday, June 4, 2007

**Sharing**

**Mail registration form and check to:**

Steve Symes  
7777 Shaw Road  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
815-332-7830  
ssymes@att.net

**Knowledge**

**ACTIVITIES**

**Travel: By highway**, Rockford is at the  
intersection of Interstate 90 and Interstate 39.  
The Clock Tower Resort is literally right at the  
Business Hwy 20-State Street exit from I 90 &  
39.

Note that I 88 and I 90 in Illinois are Toll Roads  
so be prepared. No major road construction is  
scheduled in this area but roads are heavily  
traveled and do wear out so be alert for road  
construction.



**ROOF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Listed below are members who have contributed to the roof fund since the last newsletter.

To contribute, please send donations to Mr. Bob Young at national headquarters.

- Robert & Lorraine Dye, Shawnee Mission, KS
- Ed Risse, Marietta, GA



**GARDENERS GONE TO REST**

- Carl Baumberger, Lima, OH
- James Baylor, Newark Valley, NY
- Juanita Borman, Austin, TX
- Donald Cox, Lima, OH
- Harold Davis, Canal Fulton, OH
- Rose Elizabeth Eck, Van Wert, OH
- James Hall, Oklahoma City, OK
- Jack Linneman, Overland, MO
- Marge Meredith, Santa Rosa, CA
- Frank Miller, Owego, NY
- Dennis Morey, Santa Rosa, CA
- Herbert Nichols, St. Louis, MO
- Pearl Nichols, St. Louis, MO
- Fred Nyhan, Arlington, TX
- Duane Peterson, Franklin, TN
- Mary Standish, Kansas City, KS

**Attention Clubs and/or Regions**

Please submit your request to host the **2009** convention to Honey Barnekoff, 913-722-5562, [barnekoff@everestkc.net](mailto:barnekoff@everestkc.net) or any member of the Convention Site and Planning committee or executive officer as soon as possible.

**Membership Report**

*The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from*  
**October 31, 2006**  
**to January 31, 2007**

Lima MGC, OH.....16%

**GARDENING FROM THE HEART REQUESTS**

Please submit GFTH requests to Dale Thomas, chairperson, Jackson, MS and not to the national headquarters.



Committee chair contact information is listed on the national website or call national headquarters.



**Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity** *Lindley Karstens*

**YOUTH GARDENING**

Please have the chair of your youth gardening program contact Don Otterness, Youth Committee chair, Altamont, NY.

**From The Gardener Magazine, March/April 1990 Issue.**

The following are two of the many benefits you receive as a member.

**MEMORIALS / HONORS**

**E&I FUND**

A gift was received from Russell Smith, Wayzata, MN in memory of Dr. Pat Rollins, Sebastopol, CA and Sadie Luchsinger, Tempe, AZ.

*If you wish to submit a monetary gift to the headquarters in memory or honor of any member, please use the form from the website or get a form from your club's secretary or treasurer.*

**BETTER SHOWS, EXHIBITS.**

Your national office can provide aids, show ribbons, prizes, and guides.

**BEST OF JUDGING.** Certified judges, graduates of MGCA judging schools apply highest standards of judging according to MGCA judging manual.

**NOTE:** Please contact Peggy Moody, Shows and Judging chair, Ft. Dodge, IA for judging information.

**Deadlines for National Awards Applications**

Scholarship: April 1  
 Newsletters, Photography, and Other National Awards  
 March 15

Applications must be received by the committee chairs no later than the above dates.

Like birds? [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)

*How Does Your Garden Grow?*

## DALLAS LAUNCHES SURVEY OF CITY'S TREES

### Officials Eager for More Greenery and Shade

Monday, September 18, 2006

By Allen Houston, The Dallas Morning News

Dallas' concrete jungle turns many residents green with envy for cities with more trees and nature.

But Dallas, with its endless highways and strip malls, has rooted itself in an effort to bury its reputation for cold steel and glass.

In short, the city wants to become a tree hugger.

In December, the City Council created the Urban Forest Advisory committee. In August, it hired Walter Passmore as the city's first urban forester. Now, the advisory committee is raising funds for a major initiative: an inventory of all city trees, public and private. The tree census, expected to start in January, could cost up to \$1 million.

The moves signal a cultural shift in a city not known for promoting an eco-friendly scene. They may also bring Dallas up to speed with cities such as Fort Worth and Houston.

"Compared to other large cities we've been in the stone ages when it comes to how we take care of our trees, but we're finally starting to catch up," said Steve Houser, chairman of the advisory committee.

The region surrounding Houston completed its first tree inventory two years ago, tallying 663 million trees whose replacement costs was valued at more than \$205 billion. Fort Worth and Austin have done similar surveys.

Dallas' tree inventory would

Dallas' tree inventory would document the varieties of trees and their conditions. It would also identify areas needing trees and what varieties have been over-planted.

"Trees should be considered part of the infrastructure in the same way as our streets and sewers," said Michael Hellman, a park planner with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. "When managed properly, a tree's value increases in time. No other city infrastructure does that."

Mr. Houser, an arborist, has been a tree advocate in Dallas for more than a decade.

#### Shift in attitudes

"Five years ago, if I were to have approached council and talked to them about hiring an urban forester and performing a tree inventory, they would have laughed in my face," he said. "The philosophy was that 'We're pro-development, and we don't want anything to do with trees.'"

Bob Seaman, horticulturalist and advisory committee member, said that in the past, a disconnect existed locally regarding trees' benefits.

"Ten years ago, the main perception was that trees only served an aesthetic purpose," Mr. Seaman said. "Now we're more aware of the many positive effects that they have on air quality, our health, keeping our city cooler and the bottom line of economics in the city."

Mayor Laura Miller has been promoting tree efforts since her days representing Oak Cliff on the City Council. "There's been a huge shift in how the city of Dallas perceives trees," Ms. Miller said. "In the past we thought nothing about destroying

trees in the name of economic development."

#### Other cities' progress

Some large cities have surpassed Dallas on the forestry front.

Fort Worth hired its first urban forester in the 1920s, and its first city charter included an ordinance forbidding hitching a horse to a public tree, said Melinda Adams, Fort Worth's city forester.

Fort Worth's Urban Forestry program has a neighborhood tree-planting program, a tree farm and a citizen forestry program, and it trains city crews on how to properly maintain public trees.

"People are just now beginning to see the big picture with climate changes, and it's only going to become more profound as time passes," Mrs. Adams said. "Our city urban forestry programs will become even more important." Managing Dallas' trees has fallen to Mr. Passmore, who just moved to the city after 14 years as a community assistant forester in Mississippi.

Dallas received funds to hire an urban forester with a National Forest Service grant and will pay the rest of his salary from park department funds. For now, Mr. Passmore, with no dedicated staff and no budget, will try to establish an urban forest department. "The big challenge is making residents understand how significant the tree resources in the city are and how to utilize them best for us," he said. "There's 364 square miles of land for us to manage. That provides us with huge opportunities."

Continued on page 6, **DALLAS LAUNCHES**

**DALLAS LAUNCHES**, continued  
from page 5

### **Satellites and volunteers do the counting**

The city will use satellite technology to count trees and determine their species. In heavily urban sections, volunteers will drive city streets and alleys with handheld computers to input data.

To speed up the count, Mr. Houser wants to start a citizen forester program that would educate residents on forestry in return for helping with the survey.

The Houston-area tree inventory used GPS technology and volunteers. The city has started a second, more comprehensive examination of neighborhood trees.

"Before the first inventory, everything we did was on a reactive basis," said Victor Cordova, Houston's city forester. "Now we know which trees are likely to fall over, we know which ones are dead, we know which areas need more trees."

As Dallas moves forward, Mr. Houser believes the city has finally decided it wants a greener identity.

"I'm seeing council members who finally want to do more than leave concrete and strip malls," he said. "The current city officials seem like they are interested in leaving a living legacy for their children."

Ms. Miller is one of those officials embracing trees. She started climbing trees with Mr. Houser four years ago and has even entered a couple tree-climbing competitions.

She recalled when she and Mr. Houser climbed a large tree over White Rock Lake last winter. "It

was quite magical," she said. "We sat in a tree overlooking out over the lake. It gives you quite a different perspective about things."

Email: [ahouston@dallasnews.com](mailto:ahouston@dallasnews.com).

### **What Houston Discovered**

The following are findings from Houston's Regional Forest Report, released last year. The study by the U.S. Forest Service and the Texas Forest Service covered an eight-county region surround-ing Houston.

- The replacement cost of the region's 663 million trees is valued at more than \$205 billion.
- Trees store \$721 million worth of carbon.
- Trees generate \$456 million worth of environmental benefits annually.
- Trees save \$131 million in residential energy costs and help lower power plant emissions each year. Houston's trees remove more than 60,000 tons of air pollution per year.

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### **TREES ARE COOL**

By The National Wildlife Federation

According to the USDA, the cooling effect of a healthy tree is equal to 10 room-size air-conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Planting trees in our cities will absorb 33 million tons of carbon dioxide every year and save \$4 billion in energy costs.

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### **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE**

The Board of Directors has proposed the following Bylaws change: Article VIII.4. -- Remove from Bylaws and add to the Standing Rules and renumber the affected Sections.

Article VIII.4. of the Bylaws requires, among other things, that the annual meeting of the Board

shall be held the first Friday and Saturday of November. These dates are not always convenient for the Board members. By moving this section to the Standing Rules the meeting date can be changed as necessary to accommodate more of the members of the Board and thus increase attendance.

The TGOA / MGCA bylaws may be accessed by going to the website: [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org), going to the Members Only section and clicking on the Red Book.

Ballots will be coming out soon.

### **A Year in Review: the Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin**

By Shirley A. Winnes

A rather unusual situation presented itself in 2006 for the Gardeners Club of Green Bay. With a membership of more than 80, no one would commit to being our president. Our officers of vice president, secretary, and treasurer were filled with conscientious people who carried out their responsibilities dependably. So each month, a volunteer came forward from the membership to preside over our monthly meetings until a member who already served as president from 1997-99 consented to complete 2006 as president.

As always, there were interesting and successful programs for each meeting. We celebrated the retirement of one of our members after 30 years of serving as our county extension agent. The retiree, Paul Hartman, has also served as an advisor to our club, and he will be serving as our president for 2007.

Continued on page 7, **A Year**

**A Year**, continued from page 6,

A successful spring plant sale was held in May in partnership with our local Master Gardeners. Jersey Knight asparagus crowns were sold—1,000 of them with customer orders made already for 2007! Ten members participated in the TGOA-MGCA national convention in Spartanburg in April. Donations were made to assist the Green Bay Botanical Garden, to assist the perennial gardens at the local county extension grounds, and to a local foundation, which sponsors horticulture scholarships. Several members participated in the local county fair winning numerous ribbons and cash awards.

Two fall weigh-ins were held at the farmers market to award prizes for large produce, sunflowers, and pumpkins. Youth sunflower and pumpkin awards were presented at an annual harvest banquet held in November. Three Silver Trowel awards were given to local gardeners with a beautiful residential garden, a commercial garden, and an individual award for excelling in horticultural endeavors. Our club sponsored a garden bus trip.

All of these activities would not happen without devoted members who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise serving as officers, committee members, or just plain “digging in the dirt” by helping out at the county extension grounds, the botanical garden, and/or plant rescues.

Tell us what your club is up to!

Club newsletters may be emailed to headquarters instead of mailing them.

## **HARRIS SEEDS**

Special Money-Saving Offer to Garden Club members only!

The Harris Seeds Company of Rochester, New York recognizes the loyalty and dedication that garden club enthusiasts around the country share in their love of gardening. These good folks are the core of America's number one pastime, and through their collective efforts, garden club members have been instrumental in making gardening an integral part of our culture.

For this reason, as a measure of our appreciation, the Harris Seeds company is extending a **10% Discount** to garden club members on anything in the **2007 Harris Seeds Home Garden Catalog** or website. We will ship your order directly to your door (no group orders or order minimums necessary).

Harris Seeds has been providing the absolute finest seeds, plants and supplies to home gardeners for over 127 years, and we guarantee that you will be delighted with our products or your money back...no questions asked. Browse through our catalog or check out our website: **[www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com)**.

To take advantage of this special offer, follow these simple instructions by entering the special discount promotion code as follows:

**SAVE THIS NUMBER:**  
Garden Club Promo Code  
**7PRW07**

**Offer expires: 6/30/2007**

**Mail Orders** - enter the promo code on your order form found in our catalog.

**Telephone Orders** (call Toll-Free 800-514-4441) - Give the garden club promo code to our customer care representative,

when placing an order.

**Web Orders** - enter the promo code in the Promo Code field at checkout

## **CELEBRATION!**

Elizabeth Jane “Dede” and James McKay, Spokane, WA, celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary November 2006.

They were married November 20, 1941.

After serving in WWII James taught school until retiring in 1980 and began helping Dede with art galleries and bed & breakfast businesses. Dede is a professionally recognized artist.

They have seven children, 11 grandchildren & seven great-grandchildren.

## **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS IN MARCH 2007**

By Frank Mitch, Web Site Committee Chair and Webmaster

Some of you may be surprised to learn that Daylight Saving Time will start earlier this year and end later in the Fall. Congress revised the law last year to specify these dates:

Daylight Saving Time begins: March 11, and ends: November 4, 2007

Many computers are set for the previous dates as far as automatic change is concerned. You all will have three options to get the correct times on your computers this year:

**1. Make the changes manually:** Click on the time shown on the right end of the bottom task bar and make the changes on or after the correct dates or whenever needed. PC computers prior to WIN XP will

Continued on page 8, **Daylight**

**Daylight**, continued from page 7,

need to have the manual changes, probably Macs also.

**2. Download the Microsoft download fix** for your WIN XP Service Pack2 PC computers.

**3. New Computers with the new Vista** Operating System will handle the time changes automatically.

The Microsoft fix is a little more work but one time only (until the next vote in Congress): Go to this website page to download the MS WIN XP update and read the instructions: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=2D0ECBB C-FE8F-4BFC-8667-C1D46662B5 B7&displaylang=en>

Or search with this in Google: Microsoft KB928388 (It will go to the above page) Brief description: Installing this update enables your XP computer to automatically adjust the computer clock on the correct date in 2007 due to revised Daylight Saving Time laws in many countries.

Have fun and call your favorite computer guru if you have a problem.

### **Retirees Help Teach Gardening To The Disabled**

By Azra Hoqqie, Staff writer, Times Union, Albany, NY

ALBANY -- It was at a luncheon for his retired men's fraternity that Al Miller heard about volunteering at the Center for Disability Services. The speaker was Jerry Fitzgerald, the center's executive director back then, and his message inspired Miller to get involved.

For 20 years following his career at the state Department of Taxation and Finance, Miller used his love of gardening as a

way to help people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

On Wednesday mornings, he and other volunteers help people at the center on 700 South Pearl St.

"We teach gardening techniques, or play plant bingo with them or watch gardening videos," said Miller, a longtime member of the Men's Garden Club of Albany.

"They are pretty good at following directions," he said, "but it's not easy for all. One of them needs sign language. Some are not coordinated enough and we have to take their hand to assist in mixing soil to the right consistency, planting seeds in pots and watering them. Come spring, those seedlings will be transplanted into the ground.

The volunteers are participants in Gardening from the Heart, a national program started in Kansas City, MO.

The volunteers built raised beds so that the people who use wheelchairs could get close enough for the hands-on labor.

"Come late summer, we harvest," said Miller, adding that consumers take home a bag of what ever is harvested that week.

Bill Krug, who had a farm near Everett Road and donated a greenhouse to the center, is one of a half-dozen garden club members working with 17 men and women there in two groups growing such flowers as geraniums, marigolds, petunias and dianthus and peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables and chives, rosemary and basil, among other herbs.

"We have already started growing geraniums and will have a plant sale before Mother's Day," he said.

Note: Al Miller is a member and past president of the Albany MGC. Bill Krug is also a member.

### **About The Editor**

Who works in the office at headquarters in Johnston, Iowa?

The Administrative Assistant and Editor at TGOA / MGCA headquarters is AJ (Annie) Freeman. AJ has been married for 28 years, has two stepsons, and eight grandchildren.

In February 2002 she retired from the Iowa Army National Guard with 24 years service; the last 18 years were as a Federal employee.

Positions held included Military Police, Career Manager, and Supply Clerk. As a federal employee she performed clerical duties as the State Personnel Security Manager for the Guard.

In the early 1990s AJ spent over six years as a police reservist in Urbandale, Iowa.

After spending just over two years of her retirement sitting at the kitchen table playing on her laptop and gaining weight, she decided it was time to get a job and start getting back into shape. When TGOA/MGCA's national treasurer, Steve Bush, offered her a part-time position at headquarters in the fall of 2004, she accepted.

Thank you for your support, *AJ*

If you have a complaint, comment or question about how the newsletter is set up or on the content, please feel free to contact Dominick Mencarini, National Newsletter Editorial Chair, Rockford, IL. And please be specific.

## “Greatest Generation”

Written by Joseph Alessi, Jr., The Men’s Garden Club of Youngstown, Ohio, December 2006

Members of the ‘Greatest Generation’ helped to free the world by determining to do all that was necessary to defeat Axis armies.

Completing that monumental task, they joined with that same determination to build gardening clubs across the nation. Their zeal soon carried over and the *need* for a national organization presented itself and burgeoned into what is now the national TGOA/MGCA. But for how long will we survive a dwindling membership?

Numbers are being reduced for reasons of deaths, dues and dissatisfaction of one thing or another. As membership decreases we must do more than just thank our friends of the ‘Greatest Generation’. It was they that gave us our local clubs and the national affiliation to satisfy a *need* that remains today.

They passed the torch for us to continue solving the problems today. Beginning on the local level, an increasing membership could eliminate many problems. The rising national membership would provide additional minds with leadership abilities to help with problem solving.

What is the first thing each of us could do this minute to help? Every month invite a different guest to your next meeting or event. It’s as simple a thing to do as shaking a person’s hand.



Talk about the attributes of your club, there are thousands of

gardeners passing within an arms length that are eager to join if only someone would ask. Be the first in your club to qualify for the Spade Award in 2007!

Thank the ‘Greatest Generation’ by building on their efforts and the *need* to have garden clubs to join around the country as they did for us.

Rejuvenate

Revitalize

Members are the organization



Please feel free to visit our beautiful grounds at national headquarters in Johnston, Iowa any time.

### 2007 COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Listed below are the committee names, the chair and executive officer that is responsible for that committee.

- | <u>COMMITTEE</u>                  | <u>CHAIR</u>      | <u>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</u>   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Audio Visual Development:         | Vacant;           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP         |
| Awards:                           | Suzann Matz;      | President                  |
| Bequests & Grants:                | Jim Tracy;        | National Treasurer         |
| Book Review:                      | Dianne Fergusson; | 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP         |
| Building & Grounds:               | Tom Shanley;      | National Treasurer         |
| Bylaws:                           | David Moody;      | Past President             |
| Calendar:                         | Judy Schuck;      | 1 <sup>st</sup> VP         |
| Club Communications:              | Anita Lanning;    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP         |
| Convention Site & Planning:       | Honey Barnekoff;  | President                  |
| Credentials:                      | David Moody;      | President                  |
| Director Meeting Site & Planning: | Honey Barnekoff;  | President                  |
| Endowment & Investment:           | Bill Lanning;     | National Treasurer         |
| Environmental Issues:             | Marlin Caris;     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP         |
| Finance:                          | Steven Bush       |                            |
| Gardening From The Heart:         | Dale Thomas;      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP         |
| Membership/New Clubs:             | Paul Bessey;      | Past President             |
| Merchandise/Marketing:            | Vacant;           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP         |
| National Newsletter Editorial:    | Dom Mencarini;    | Pres. & 1 <sup>st</sup> VP |
| Newsletters:                      | Howard Matz;      | 1 <sup>st</sup> VP         |
| Nominations:                      | Jerome Frampton;  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP         |
| Photography:                      | Judy Schuck;      | 1 <sup>st</sup> VP         |
| Publicity & Public Relations:     | Henry Pittman;    | Past President             |
| Region Council:                   | Larry Schaeffer;  | 1 <sup>st</sup> VP         |
| Scholarships:                     | Tom Wilten;       | 1 <sup>st</sup> VP         |
| Shows & Judging:                  | Peggy Moody;      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP         |
| Website:                          | Frank Mitch;      | President                  |
| Youth Gardening:                  | Don Otterness;    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP         |

**Plaques & Certificates** may be ordered through Bob Young at national headquarters in Johnston, IA; afternoons, Monday-Friday at 515-278-0295, email: [mgcamb@dwx.com](mailto:mgcamb@dwx.com), fax: 515-278-6245 or via mail.

*Life member white caps  
(with both logos)  
are now only \$15*

**PUMPKIN / SUNFLOWER COMPETITION**

Seeds are available at national headquarters. Competition forms may be copied from the awards manual or printed off the website. When the competition is complete, mail the signed forms to Don Otterness. Plaques for first place winners and certificates for the remaining winners will be mailed to the appropriate clubs for signing and presentation.

**JUDGING CARDS**

Please order them from national headquarters at least 30 days before the competition. Allow five days for mailing.

Call AJ or Bob to order seeds.

**HERTZ**

You're a participant in Hertz Member Savings and TGOA/MGCA headquarters has a discount card for you. Being a member of the Hertz discount is a year-round offer.

Visit [hertz.com](http://hertz.com), call your travel agent or Hertz at 1-800-654-2210.

You may also contact HQ and have a car rental discount card sent to you.

**BIG PUMPKIN & GIANT  
SUNFLOWER FIRST PLACE  
WINNERS IN 2006**

Rachel Creach, Spokane, WA, with a 86.5 lb pumpkin.

Forrest Clark, Taberg, NY, with a 20 1/4 diameter sunflower.

Congratulations to all of the participants for a job well done.

**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](http://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.

**2007 Calendar  
Order Form**

**Ship to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Member #: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Cost**

1-249..\$2.85 each

250-749..\$2.60 each

750+..\$2.45 each

**Quantity ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Order via: mail, phone, fax, or email  
ATTN: Bob Young, at TGOA/MGCA  
headquarters in Johnston, Iowa.**

**A bill will be forwarded  
with your calendars.**

**2007 Calendars**

2007 TGOA/MGCA calendars are still available for purchase. Not only do they look terrific hanging on your office or home wall but also make great presents for family and friends.

Use them to give to new members, or as a recruiting tool and are suitable for framing.

They also can be given to local stores / businesses for their sale or as an appreciation gift for their support.

## From the Garden Shop ACCESSORIES

**A-Z Hints for Vegetable Gardener, book \$6**

**Caps & Hats** (choice of logo)

*Life member white cap (both logos) \$15*

Green/White or White Mesh Cap \$7.50

Green or White Sun Visor \$6

Sun body Hat (no logo)(discription below) \$20

White poplin Golf Cap \$8

**Jackets** (choice of logo)

Green or White Lined Windbreaker

M-Xlg \$32 XXlg \$35

Green or White Unlined Windbreaker

M-Xlg \$26 XXlg \$29

**Shirts** (choice of logo)

Green or White Sport Shirt, knit

M-Xlg \$22 XX & XXXlg \$25

Short Sleeve Arrow Dress Shirt

(15 to 17-1/2) \$28.00

Gardening from the Heart T-shirt

(no logo choice) L-Xlg \$5

**Vest** (choice of logo)

Green Poplin, washable \$16

**Jewelry** (club members only, logo choice)

Bolo Tie, \$6.75; Key Chain, \$4; Tie Tacks, \$4

Earrings (choice of post or wire), \$7.99

Pin, Membership President, Past President \$3.50

**Plaque, Club President (walnut) \$40**

**Mugs, Insulated, Hot/Cold (both logos) \$5**

Porcelain (both logos) \$3.50

Terra Cotta "Flower Pot" (both logos) \$5.50

**Gloves, Long Cuffed or Summer Glove \$6**

Plant Markers (set of 8) \$2 (unavailable at this time)

**Screen Saver: \$1**

**Umbrella** (sunflower or magnolia) \$15

*Shipping and handling charges will be added to your order using this chart:*

*Shipping is by priority mail.*

Total Order	Shipping and Handling Charge
Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
\$10 to \$49.99.....	\$7.50
\$50 to \$99.99.....	\$10.50
\$100 to \$199.99...	\$12.50
\$299 and over.....	\$14.50

Only checks or cash please. Headquarters is not set up for credit card actions. Credit cards may be used when ordering from the web site.

**Sunbody Hats** are made of Guatemalan palm leaves and are tough – rain or shine.

Sewn-braid palm leaf hats are the toughest hats you will find. The overlapping layers of palm braid from an almost impenetrable sun block. And when they get wet, they stiffen and keep their shape making them great in sun or rain.

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

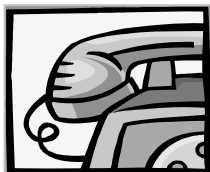
Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head size for Sunbody hat (only): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



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



**JUST THE FAX MA'AM  
JUST THE FAX**

Please fax information, articles or questions to headquarters at: 515-278-6245.

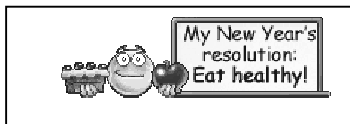
Include a cover sheet with your name, phone number and subject line. Please print or type information.

.....  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Please keep TGOA / MGCA headquarters notified of any changes in your status and/or address or of any administrative problems you may have.

.....  
**AHS 2007 PASSWORD**

The new AHS 2007 password may be found in The American Gardener magazine.



**TGOA/MGCA Website**

By Frank Mitch, Web Master and Committee Chair  
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>  
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>  
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>  
**Password = lily**

**Near and Dear  
to My Heart**

*Thought For The Year*

In case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity, we should remember England's Prime Minister Tony Blair's words during a recent interview.

When asked by one of his Parliament members why he believes so much in America, he said: "A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many people want in, and how many people want out."

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

1. Jesus Christ
2. The American G.I.

One dies for your Soul.....  
the other for your Freedom.

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**A Special Thank You**

I wish to thank everyone who has sent a memorial in a member's memory. What a great way to honor someone.

**National Membership  
Manager**

**Contact Mr. Bob Young, for national membership and finance questions or actions at TGOA / MGCA headquarters, Johnston, Iowa, afternoons, M-F, 515-278-0295, or via email: [mgcamb@dw.com](mailto:mgcamb@dw.com)**

**2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
AND REGION DIRECTORS**

Committee chairs: reports are to be submitted to the appropriate executive officer quarterly.

Region directors: reports are to be submitted to the national president quarterly.

Reports are to include what activities your committee / region was involved in.



**The Gardeners of America  
Men's Garden Clubs of America  
5560 Merle Hay Rd / P.O. Box 241  
Johnston, IA 50131-0241**

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