



Volume 18

# The Gardeners Of America

## Men's Garden Clubs Of America

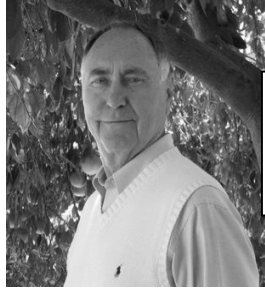
### NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2007

Number 3



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#### The President's Message

Spring is here in Arizona and we are enjoying the end of our fall/winter gardens. I know Spring means our crew of dedicated workers in Johnston, Iowa will be getting the headquarters ready for presentation to our members and the public. How fortunate we are to have, not only such a beautiful place to represent us, but the people to make this presentation for us. We thank each and every one of you working with your leader Tom Shanley for this most appreciated effort.

When you look at what we have in our organization and what we do in our communities across our great country, you can be very proud to be part of such a great organization. We are the beneficiaries of the effort, wisdom and vision of those people who worked so hard in TGOA/MGCA in the past. The fact that we have nearly three quarters of a million dollars in our Endowment and Investment fund working to accomplish our mission each year is testimony to the good planning and thoughtfulness of our past leadership.

Our mission in developing

leaders, engaging volunteers, having fun gardening and letting our expertise flow into our communities, makes America a better place to live and is very noble. This is a great task to accept, but we are fortunate to have the leaders, people and expertise to move forward and be successful in this effort.

I am looking forward to July when we will get together in Rockford, Illinois for our convention. We will be meeting with people who want to make a difference and enjoy the fellowship that is so evident in those people who grow things.

Thank you for your willingness to work and be a part of our mission, caring about who we are and what we do.

I hope to see you the second week of July in Rockford.

*Jim*

#### FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 2-3, 2007

Johnston, Iowa

Registration information will be available at the 2007 con-vention, July 12-14, Rockford, IL.

There will also be a mailing in August and more information in following newsletters.

For more information please contact Ron Heggen

#### IN GREAT APPRECIATION

TGOA/MGCA wishes to thank the MGC of Indianola for 60 bags of cocoa bean mulch.

**SPRING** Has Sprung!

## 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/Editor,** AJ (Annie) 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, [mgcambr@dwx.com](mailto:mgcambr@dwx.com)

## NATIONAL SPADE AND TROWEL AWARDS

Submitted by Joe Alessi, Men's Garden Clubs of Youngstown, OH

Every member is eligible to qualify for the **Spade Award Pin** by the recruitment and sponsoring of at least two new

members within a calendar year.

To qualify for the **Trowel Award Pin**, at least two new members by the same sponsor must continue their membership for the following year.

To qualify as a member in good standing, annual dues must be paid to date.

So get motivated!

## NATIONAL DIRECTORIES

### OFFICERS (clubs/regions/national directors)

If you are an officer at any level, please ensure that national headquarters has your correct information, i.e.: correct spelling of your name, complete address including zip code, phone number with area code and email address (if applicable).

Please contact your treasurer or secretary to ensure that he/she has forwarded all of your information to headquarters.

There are still several clubs that have not yet forwarded the officer information thus; the national directories are incomplete.

National region directors, please include the year your term expires.

## ROOF CONTRIBUTION

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.

Wm Kumpf, Elk City, OK  
Ritalyn Arps, Green Bay, WI  
Al Miller, Albany, NY  
Gerald Harn, West Des Moines, IA

## BALLOTS/VOTING

Club members: ballots should have been given to you from a club officer. Whether you chose to vote or not, return the ballot to the appropriate club officer.

Appropriate club officer: please do NOT mail the ballots back to headquarters. Mail them to TGOA/MGCA, P.O. Box 955, Ft. Dodge, IA 50501-0955 no later than July 1, 2007.

Members-at-large: please mail your ballot, whether you voted or not to the P.O. Box number above in Ft. Dodge no later than July 1st.

Members of the credentials committee will count the votes. The credential committee chair is David Moody. He will have a report at the national convention.

## WHY PEOPLE HAVE VEGETABLE GARDENS.

From The Gardener magazine, Mar/Apr 90

- \* Recreation; \* Exercise;
- \* Satisfaction of producing;
- \* Reliving youth; \* Education;
- \* Get Outdoors; \* Relieving tension; \* Fun

## 5 FAVORITE EDIBLE FLOWERS

From the Organic Gardening magazine, May 2007)

Flowers can taste sweet, herby, lemony, even spicy. Here's a selection that works well in sweet and savory recipes. **1. Pansies & violets** (wintergreen flavor); **2. Chives** (onion flavor); **3. Nasturtiums** (peppery), leaves are edible too; **4. Lavender** (perfumey flavor); **5. Daylilies** (mild bean flavor.)

Organic Gardening  
[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)

**CAN YOU FEEL IT?**

Are you ready to have fun?!

**TWO MONTHS  
COUNT DOWN**  
to the *TGOA/MGCA*  
*National Convention*



*Gardening Heaven*  
**in 2007!**

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

**CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION**

Registration fee: \$185  
Make check payable to:  
*TGOA/MGCA Convention 2007*  
Mail registration form and  
check to: Steve Symes, 7777  
Shaw Road, Belvidere, IL  
61008, 815-332-7830, [ssymes@att.net](mailto:ssymes@att.net).

**CONVENTION**

Registration deadline:  
Monday, June 4, 2007

**TO MAKE 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

**HOTEL RESERVATION**

Cut-off date: June 11, 2007

**CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

Greetings

**Wednesday, July 11**

3-8 pm Registration  
3-9 Hospitality Room

**Thursday, July 12, Business Day**

7-9 am Buffet Breakfast  
7:30 am-7 pm Hospitality Room  
8 am-2:30 pm Registration  
9-11 am Committee Meetings  
9-10 am Breakout Session  
10:15-11:15 am Breakout Session  
11:30am-2pm Box Lunch at Calvin Park Blvd & Neighborhood  
Garden Tour directed by Shep Blumenthal  
2:30-5:30 pm Director's Meeting  
6:30-7 pm Social Time - Cash Bar  
7 pm Dinner with the National Slide Show Competition

Camaraderie

Seminars

Fun

**Friday, July 13, Tour Day - Dixon Area**

7-8:30 am Buffet Breakfast  
7:30 am-7 pm Hospitality Room  
9 am Depart for Dixon, IL  
10 am Arrive in Dixon to view Petunias, John Morley's  
Gardens and other points of interest in Dixon  
Noon Luncheon with welcome speech by Mayor of Dixon  
and speaker, Greg Langan, on the Walgreen Estate  
3:30 pm Depart Dixon and return to Clock Tower  
6-7 pm Social Time - Cash Bar  
7 pm Dinner, organizational improvement (TBA)

Tours

**Friday, July 13, Alternative Choice Tour Day - Rockford**

7-8:30 am Buffet Breakfast  
7:30 am-7 pm Hospitality Room  
9 am Depart for Klem, Sinnissippi Gardens & Rockford  
Park district, Harding Gardens  
Noon Lunch furnished at Sinnissippi Gardens  
1:30 pm Depart for Clock Tower  
3-4 pm Two Breakout Sessions  
6-7 pm Social Time - Cash Bar  
7 pm Dinner, organizational improvement (TBA)

ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, July 14, Wrap-up Day**

7-8:30 am Buffet Breakfast  
7:30 am-7 pm Hospitality Room  
8:30-9:30 am Member's Meeting  
9:30 am Garden Glory tour & Anderson Gardens  
12-1:30 pm Stockholm Inn - Scandinavian brunch  
2-3 pm Breakout Session (4) TBA  
3:15-4:15 pm Breakout Session (4) TBA  
6-7 pm President's Reception, Social Time - Cash Bar  
7 pm Dinner with speaker, awards

Fun

Knowledge

Fun

Closing of  
Convention

**WARNING: Convention Attendance May Be Habit-Forming,** By Chris Christiansen, president, 1990 (from *The Gardener* magazine, *May/June 90*)

If you have never attended an MGCA convention, catch the habit.

The MGCA convention is an event, which combines the best of the horticultural and social sides of our organization. It is a time when we recognize the prior year's achievements of our members, clubs and regions and where we have the opportunity to share our horticultural success and failures with gardening enthusiasts from across the U.S.

The MGCA convention is also an excellent opportunity to meet or become better acquainted with MGCA's volunteer leadership.

Attending our convention for the first time gives you a new perspective of MGCA. My wife, Sylvia and I often recall the first MGCA convention we attended in Mobile, Alabama. Prior to that convention, MGCA in my mind consisted only of local club activities, an occasional region meeting, and a brick building in Des Moines, Iowa. Attending the MGCA convention in Mobile changed my view and I realized the full scope of the value that MGCA offers its members. Such a transformation of vision occurs in most members who attend their first MGCA convention.

It is not possible here to adequately describe the enrichment, satisfaction, and enjoyment you can get from attending the MGCA convention. But it is precisely for these reasons that most

members who attend one MGCA convention come back again and again and feel that doing so is truly time and money wisely spent.

If you have never attended an MGCA convention, I urge you to come to the 1990 MGCA convention in Des Moines in June. Like all previous MGCA conventions this will be an outstanding event, and an experience you will remember, and will want to repeat again and again.

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#### **Publicity and Public Relations Handbook**

By Henry Pittman, P/PR chair.  
[EHenryPittm@juno.com](mailto:EHenryPittm@juno.com)

The Publicity and Public Relations handbook has been updated and expanded by your P/PR Committee. It has valuable information, guidance and suggestions; and is available to Presidents and PR Chairs of all clubs. It can be downloaded from the Red Book at the 'Members Only' section of our Website at: <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/pdfs/RedBookUpdates/PublicityHandBookUpdate1206.pdf>.

Good honest publicity is the backbone of building a good public image for your club.

While much of the community beautification, gardening education, and green-space enhancement that you do is *not* to gain public 'thank you', your club will benefit from the community knowing of your activity—it will help your club grow in numbers, enthusiasm, reputation and respect. *So Promote*

When you get the phone recorder at HQ, please always leave your name and phone number. Thanks.



## **GARDENERS GONE TO REST**



Clarence Beeman, Overland, MO  
Rex Brinkman, Findlay, OH  
B.K. Brown, Rocky River, OH  
Edward Dolezal, Great Falls, MT  
Winnel Harvey, Madrid, IA  
Elmer Hoffman, Akron, OH  
Clayton Jubert, Green Bay, WI  
Wm Kasel, Mason City, IA  
Jack Kinzie, N. Ridgeville, OH  
Sam Lamport, Cleveland, OH  
Dewitt Murray, Albany, NY  
Herschel Nix, Kansas City, MO  
Clarence Randall, Wheat Ridge, CO  
Jevne Rhenisch, Hannacroix, NY  
N. Thomas Strnad, Cleveland, OH  
H. Monroe Thomas, Santa Rosa, CA  
Frank Underbrink, Libertyville, IL  
John Vanaken, Kent, OH  
Leyton Youngclaus, Santa Rosa, CA




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**Retraction** to the Mar/Apr 07 'Gardeners Gone To Rest.' It has come to our attention that Dr. Dennis Morey is alive and well in Santa Rosa, CA.

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### **MEMORIALS/HONORS**

A gift was received for the E&I fund from the Akron Men's Garden Club, Akron, OH in memory of Elmer Hoffman.

#### **A GOLDEN CELEBRATION**

Bob and Martha Smoker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 14, 2007 in Topeka, Kansas. They have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Bob is retired after 37 ½ years in the accounting department with Santa Fe Railway. Martha is a retired piano teacher after 42 years. They were married April 14, 1957 in Topeka, Kansas.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from Feb 31-Mar 31, 07*

Spartanburg MGC, SC, 10.26%  
 Gardeners of Bluffton-Pandora,  
 OH, 15.63%  
 Lima MGC, OH, 107.14%  
 Maple City MGC, MI, 16.67%  
 Mountain Shadow GC, GA, 10.20%  
 MGC of Syracuse, NY, 13.10%  
 Albany MGC, NY, 43.08%

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**COMPOST 'CAKE'  
 SATISFIES PLANTS'  
 TASTE BUDS**

By Floyd Lee, The Capital-Journal,  
 Topeka, KS, 4-15-01  
 RE: Bob Smoker, Topeka GOA, KS

When it comes to finding reasons to compost, it is difficult to argue with photographs of a fresh 14-pound beet, a 4-inch-wide strawberry or a nearly 3-pound Magnum tomato.

The impressive fruits and vegetables belonged to Bob Smoker, a Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener who has been dubbed "Mr. Compost" because of his many compost demonstrations in person and on television. He presented "Let's Compost,": a demonstration on the Kansas Expo centre grounds Saturday.

Employing a variety of visual aids, Smoker offered practical tips on creating, maintaining and trouble-shooting a successful compost heap.

"It's like putting a cake together," Smoker said as he stood next to a compost bin containing a watered, layered mixture of dried leaves, grass clippings, soil and rabbit manure.

"I don't think I'll eat it," one audience member jokes.

"But your plants will," said a smiling Rudy Kramer, who assisted in the demonstration along with Mary Powell and Ruth Taliaferro. Like Smoker, they are Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

Compost is a mixture of soil and decayed or decaying organic matter including fallen leaves, dried grass clippings, manures, sawdust, fruit or vegetable peelings, even coffee or tea grounds. Over time, fungi and bacteria convert the compost mixture into a nutrient-rich product that helps lawns and garden plants grow.

Smoker, who maintains a large 24-by-30 foot compost bin at his Tecumseh home, has given more than 100 compost presentations in person and on television since 1994. He said composting improves the taste of vegetables because of the extra nutrients they receive.

"My grandchildren can even taste the difference," he said.

Smoker said composting recycles yard and garden waste, which benefits the environment by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills. He displayed different examples of composting enclosures and offered specifics concerning various ingredients to include or exclude from the compost heap. He also said having fun was important as well.

"If they're not having fun, they're not doing it right," he said of gardeners.

Members of the audience said they found the demonstration informative and interesting.

"I was pretty impressed, said Shawn Bowen, of Topeka. "I've got a compost pile at

home, but it hadn't been working very well. Now, I've learned why. I haven't been putting the right stuff in it and turning it as much as I should."

Nearby, Christina Walker, of Wakarusa, said she liked the demonstration as well. "It was very informative," she said. "I look forward to starting my own compost pile."

Smoker mentioned that free compost bins are available to residents of Shawnee County. Those interested should contact the county extension office at 232-0062.

Smoker will present another demonstration June 9 at the Shawnee County Demonstration Vegetable Garden, west of the old locomotive at the south end of the Kansas Expo centre. The Demonstration Vegetable Garden is open to the public from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. each Saturday, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

Note: this article was in The Capital-Journal, Topeka, KS, 4-15-01

Bob Smoker would be happy to discuss compost with you at anytime.

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**Nail Cleaner and Whitener**

Source: *Lemon Magic: 200 Beauty and Household Uses for Lemon and Lemon Juice*,

Author: Patty Moosbrugger

Clean gardening dirt from under nails by inserting your fingertips in a lemon half. Twist them back and forth to remove grime. Afterward, soak nails in lemon juice for 5 to 10 minutes, and then brush them with a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and warm water.

## The Tioga County New York Men's Garden Club

had their annual Arbor Day Program on April 27, 2007.

This year trees were planted in memory of deceased members James Baylor and Franklin Miller. Two more trees were planted in memory of a young man who died in Iraq and a retired elementary school teacher.

This annual event involves club members, school personnel and community volunteers. We think it's a very worthwhile educational community project.

By Roy Yarrington

## Nasty Plants Getting Nastier

From the *Remedy* magazine, winter 2006, (also see [healthyupdates.com](http://healthyupdates.com))

Plants like poison ivy and ragweed are growing faster and becoming meaner say Duke University scientists.

When exposed to high levels of carbon dioxide, comparable to those responsible for global warming, poison ivy produces a more allergenic form of the oily substance that causes the rash. This is not good news for the approximately 80 percent of people who are sensitive to the plant.

Studies also suggest that a warmer climate and higher levels of carbon dioxide spur ragweed to grow bigger and produce pollen earlier in the year, making hay fever season longer and more intense.

## New Rhubarb Fruit Drink

According to the *Anchorage Daily News*, Alaska's rhubarb is ripe for the health-drink market.

Described as tart, refreshing and a little like lemonade, "Matanuska Red" could be the first Alaska-manufactured health drink to hit grocery store shelves.

The juice is mixed with a little pureed strawberry, so it tastes a little like strawberry-rhubarb pie, a classic pairing.

It's also packed with nutrients. According to a study done by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rhubarb outperforms cranberries in several categories: more potassium, calcium, foliate, beta-carotene, magnesium, and vitamins A and K than cranberries.

## TO MAKE GARDENING MORE ENJOYABLE

From *The Gardener* magazine, Mar/Apr 90

- \* Improve soil
- \* Get rid of perennial weeds
- \* Acquire good tools
- \* Provide good storage space
- \* Keep a good supply of seeds and fertilizer chemicals so you can plant or del with a problem on the spur of the moment
- \* Maintain a compost pile
- \* Spend money – even if you don't want to
- \* Keep good records
- \* Try to learn
- \* Disabuse yourself of the notion that vegetable garden must pay for itself
- \* Value aesthetics as much in the vegetable garden as in the flower garden

## Strange and Curious: Do Plants Communicate with Each Other?

Edited by AJ

Once a century, all of a certain kind of bamboo flower on the same day, according to garden writer Linda Hogan, "Whether they are in Malaysia or in a greenhouse in Minnesota makes no difference, nor does the age or size of the plant, they flower.

Some current of an inner language passes between them, through space and separation, in ways we cannot explain in our language.

They are all, somehow, one plant, each with a share of communal knowledge."

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Desert dweller facts: The saguaro cactus, symbol of the American Southwest only grows in the Sonoran Desert.

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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.

## TRAVELING THE U.S.A

**Longwood Gardens**, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org).  
**2007 Sunshine Farm & Gardens**, <http://www.sunfarm.com>

The Master Gardeners of Cornell Coop. Extension, Oneida Co., NY announces their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Herb & Flower Festival on Saturday, June 23, 2007 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (rain or shine) at the Parker Scripture Botanical Gardens. The theme is "Native Plants." [www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/oneida)

## WHEN YOU WANT HONEY

**F**ind the hive! When you want new members, go where they go.

Submitted by Joe Alessi, MGC of Youngstown, OH

Today membership is up over 58% since January 2004. In the first four months of 2004, twenty-two guests resulted in twelve immediate new members and two more of those later that year.

That ratio of two to one is the same today. Thus far in 2007 we are 94 members strong. Nine of those joined this year. But sowing plans and strategy came first.

We designed a new brochure/application and put them into the hands of gardeners by using counter displays at local nurseries, barbershops and other retailers frequented by our members.

Members carry business size meeting information cards and freely passed them out accompanied with their invitation to be a guest.

We sought and received free tables at home and garden shows, seminars, garden classes and nurseries. Members are on hand to answer questions, talk about the club and give free material and seeds. And, invite guests.

As part of its free community service, a radio station gives our club name with daily garden tips. Also, we answer telephones for fund raising projects by public radio and television stations.

Members write garden articles for local newspapers.

All avenues are explored to

to keep the club name prominent. Every one of these methods brought us one or more new members. Aside from personal contacts, home and garden shows gave the best results.

Expect membership losses. There are no triumphs without setbacks! The members that make things happen in your organization need to display a mindset of the expectation of growth.

You must remind members monthly that by bringing in the pollen today there will be honey tomorrow. Be steady but patient, and invite three or four guests to every event. Soon you will see new members.

The honey will not last forever, so it's necessary to sustain your quest for guests. In 2006 fourteen members sponsored twenty new members, but after deaths and other dropouts, we gained fourteen new members.

Proving successful is the value of inviting guests to meetings and events by continuous reminders from officers and newsletter articles.

Guests say that while at the meeting they decided to join the club. They noted how friendly and willing we are to share gardening knowledge. They see first hand how fun, light heartedness and camaraderie abounds. They liked what they saw; it was not as they imagined.

These are a few of the ways we use to rejuvenate our membership. However, the key remains the attitude of your members and their willingness to use every opportunity that is presented to promote the club

and invite a guest to meetings and events.

Oftentimes, a prospective guest's schedule is not compatible, but leaves the door open. Give them your newsletter and offer to invite them to up-coming meetings. If they accept, you may have a future member. Keep club news in front of their eyes and accessible.



Once your guest is in the hive, show them where the honey is and how it can be gathered; have them bring a guest...how sweet it is!



## THE TRADITION OF MAY DAY

By Aaron Jaco, Iowa Gardening  
April/Spring 2007 magazine  
[www.iowagardeningmagazine.com](http://www.iowagardeningmagazine.com)

When the first of May comes around, sneak to your sweetheart's doorstep and hang a basket full of fresh flowers and candy from the knob. Then ring the doorbell and run; if you're caught, May Day tradition says you get a kiss.

May Day is a holiday for celebrating life and love as they come full bloom in another spring season. The celebration dates to pre-Christian pagan years, when the Celts and Saxons celebrated spring as a time of fertility in honor of the god of the sun. In medieval England, children and the young at heart gathered colorful blossoms and shared them in friendship and flirtation. Other traditions, still popular in many communities, include festive dances and the decoration of a May Pole.

## PESTICIDES LINKED TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Written by Viveka Neveln and Courtney Capstack from The American Gardener, March/April 2007

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Recommended by Honey Barnikoff

Recent studies from various universities suggest that exposure to pesticides may increase the risk of Parkinson's disease, a life-threatening brain disorder that causes body tremors, speech impairment, and poor balance.

A study from the Harvard School of Public Health published in the July 2006 issue of *Annals of Neurology* showed that the incidence of Parkinson's disease increased by 70 percent in those exposed to chronic, low doses of pesticides. Another study published last year by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, suggests pesticide exposure "increases the risk of developing Parkinson's disease" in men, but not women. "Pesticide use combines with other risk factors in men's environment or genetic makeup, causing them to cross over the threshold into developing the disease," reports Mayo Clinic neurologist and study investigator Jim Maraganore. "By contrast, estrogen may protect women from the toxic effects of pesticides."

At the American Chemical Society's national meeting last September, researchers from Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology reported that certain pesticides, namely the now banned but environmentally persistent pes-

ticide dieldrin, could accelerate the onset of Parkinson's. And a study in the *British Medical Bulletin*, published in January, stated that organochlorine insecticides and maneb have been consistently associated with the disease.

"Many classes of pesticides are associated with Parkinson's and many other diseases," says Eileen Gunn, project director of Beyond Pesticides, a non-profit organization that works to protect people and the environment from the misuse of pesticides. According to Gunn, these include the herbicide paraquat and the botanical insecticide rotenone.

"It is best to rely on biological, cultural, and mechanical controls, and 'organic' products where possible," Gunn cautions. If pesticides must be used, make sure to follow label directions and take appropriate precautions to avoid exposure. For more information, visit [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org) or call (202) 543-5450.

## CARBON DIOXIDE, Natural "Pollutant"

By Marlin Caris, Chair,  
Environmental Issues Committee

We are constantly being bombarded by every means available that the culprit is carbon dioxide.

As high school chemistry students we learned that without carbon there is no life. Every living organism that has ever existed on this earth has been the result of the presence of carbon in one form or other. Healthy plants inhale carbon dioxide; animals exhale carbon dioxide. Decaying plants and

animals and combustion also create carbon dioxide.

The public has been led to believe that additional carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a pollutant. However, greenhouse operators burn carbon black to increase CO<sub>2</sub>, which enhances plant growth. If CO<sub>2</sub> is increasing in the atmosphere, I would therefore assume that all plant growth on earth is also being enhanced, and becoming carbon sinks, thus reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

Various sources estimate that 57 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> in Earth's atmosphere comes from evaporation of ocean water. Animals and the decay of organic matter make up 38 percent. That leaves 5 percent as estimated to be caused by activities of man.

For this, the alarmists want to dismantle the industrialized world. Are there enough caverns on earth to house everyone?

*If you wish to submit a monetary gift in memory or honor of any member, please use the form from the website or get a form from your secretary and mail it to Bob Young.*

The greatest gift  
of the garden  
is the restoration  
of the five senses.

Hanna Rion

**Growing A Good Time!**

**Harris Seeds (exp. June)**

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

10% discount. Must have  
promo code from Mar/Apr  
07 national newsletter.

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AND/OR NEWSLETTER

By AJ Freeman, TGOA / MGCA Newsletter Editor and Frank Mitch, Web Site Committee Chair

Please feel free to submit articles for your national newsletter and/or website at any time.

Submission in a digital file such as MS Word (newsletter or website) or Publisher (web site only) is preferred. Do *not* use MS Works. Use font type Times New Roman or Arial.

Please state whether the article is for the website and / or the national newsletter.

A relevant photo is welcome and a digital .jpg format is preferred. Always include a write up explaining photos (who, what, when, where, why.)

Email articles and photos to [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com) or mail to the TGOA / MGCA mailing address attention AJ Freeman or fax: 515-278-6245.

### *National Newsletter*

Articles should be 200 words or less in font size 12 and the font type should be either Times New Roman or Arial.

### *Web Page*

Articles should be one page or so in length, about 500 words.

### **TGOA/MGCA Website**

By Frank Mitch, Web Master and Committee Chair

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

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>

**Password = lily**

*"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad"*

## DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

*Changed 11 April 2007*

Newsletter	Deadline Dates
Jul/Aug '07	Jun 1-5, '07
Sep/Oct '07	Aug 1-3, '07
Nov/Dec '07	Oct 1-3, '07
Jan/Feb '08	Dec 3-5, '07
Mar/Apr '08	Feb 1-5, '08
May/Jun '08	Apr 1-3 '08

## WHY GARDEN?

Submitted by Robert Oberst, Syracuse, NY

Whether you only have a little time  
 Or many free hours;  
 Whether you have only a single clay pot  
 Or an acre of land;  
 Whether your yard has only part shade for a few hours  
 Or many hours of full sun;  
 Whether it rains for 100 days a year where you call home  
 Or you live in a desert;  
 You can still have a garden.  
 Whether you have an inside Or an outside place to grow plants  
 You can have a real chance to see  
 A variety of plants grow and even bloom.  
 Although almost any place can be your garden  
 From a small plot, an old bucket  
 or even a styrofoam cup  
 Some of your attempts to grow plants will fail.  
 But with some persistence and a willingness to learn and work  
 As well as some help from the Original Master Gardener  
 Your garden will grow and even thrive.  
*Keep planting!*

## BOOK REVIEW

By William J. Carney, Book Review committee member.

### **Perennials For American Gardens**

Authors: Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom

Many of us have libraries of our own. Some are extensive and some are several volumes that are limited to our particular favorite type of gardening, and some of us make use of a public library when particular information is needed. In any case this is one book that fits the bill for all.

The cover identifies it as the definitive A-to-Z reference guide to over 3,000 species, cultivars and hybrids for gardeners across the country and it certainly does that with a thoroughness hard to find in any other publication. Plants are in alphabetical order by botanical name and all current cultivars are included in description, growth habit, blooming season, zone preference and suggestions as to where to use and how to care for. Also, at the back of the book is a cross reference by common name for the forgetful gardener like me.

Aside from the fact that the book contains all the information you need to know about nearly every perennial grown in the continental United States, there are a number of appendices that provide further tips as to type of selection, soil requirements, how to plant and how to propagate. There is a list of plant sources and a state-by-state catalog of display gardens.

There are a number of books written about perennials and most of them are good, but in my opinion this one is the most informative and complete.

**Plaques & Certificates** may be ordered from national headquarters in Johnston, IA; Monday-Friday at 515-278-0295, email: [mgcambr@dwx.com](mailto:mgcambr@dwx.com) or [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@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.

**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 [www.hertz.com](http://www.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.

When calling use the name **Gardens of America** and the CDP#: **0338537**.

*Call AJ or  
Bob to  
order seeds.*

**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 in 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.

Or call **1-800-RENT-A-CAR**. Be sure to provide code above 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 & Handling
Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
\$10 to \$49.99.....	\$7.50
\$50 to \$99.99.....	\$10.50
\$100 to \$199.99.....	\$12.50
\$200 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. Be advised: call the office at 515-267-0295 before faxing.

Include a cover sheet with an attention and subject line, your name and phone number.

Please print or type.

**2007 COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS AND REGION  
DIRECTORS**

Committee chair: reports are to be submitted to the appropriate executive officer quarterly. And, please forward the names of your members to headquarters as soon as possible.

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

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

**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.

**GARDENING FROM THE  
HEART REQUESTS**

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

**ATTENTION CLUBS**

Please have the chair of your youth program contact Don Otterness, Youth Committee Chair. Contact information for Mr. Otterness is on TGOA/ MGCA website or call national headquarters.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MAY**

- 13 - Mother's Day
- 19 - Armed Forces Day
- 28 - Memorial Day

**JUNE**

- 4 - Convention Registration Deadline
- 11 - Hotel Reservation Deadline
- 17 - Father's Day
- 21 - Summer Begins

**AHS 2007 PASSWORD**

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

**INTERESTING  
WEB SITES**

- \* National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Counsel:  
<http://www.treelink.org/nucfac/>
- \* Flower Magazine/Southeast  
<http://www.flowermag.com>
- \* Michigan State University, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources:  
<http://www.anrcom.msu.edu>



**National Membership  
Manager / Bookkeeper**  
Contact Mr. Bob Young, for national membership and financial 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).



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

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