











**WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER**

*Courtesy of the Bright Hoe, Boone Co MGOA, IL*

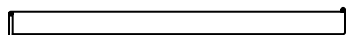
A volunteer is:

- Someone who gives freely, but one but is insufficiently thanked.
- Someone who often begins a job feeling out of place, yet always becomes an important part of the program.
- Someone who is sometimes not noticed, but whose presence is always felt.
- Someone whom this club needs if its projects and activities are to be successful.
- Someone....could that **SOMEONE** be **YOU**?

**CRAB GRASS PREVENTION**

The best time to apply crabgrass prevention is when the soil temperature is approximately 52 degrees. Use a soil thermometer to check the temperature. Areas close to driveways, and curbs warm faster than the center of the lawn.

*Courtesy of The Grapevine, Gardeners of North Iowa, IA*



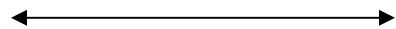
You might want to check the website [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org). If you are ever in this area, it

may prove to be an interesting site to visit.

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**WIKIPEDIA**

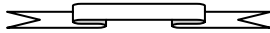
We now have the article about our national organization published in Wikipedia, the huge and popular internet encyclopedia. A big thank you to Lou Adams of the Spartanburg MGC for putting this together. Please take a look:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)  
and then type in "The Gardeners of America" in the search window.



**PLEASE HELP PROMOTE "YOUTH GARDENING"**

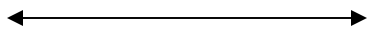
Remember to get your requests in for the pumpkin and sunflower seeds. Check with your local schools. Many of them still have agriculture programs, and check with the local 4-H clubs. Also, get your requests in for any awards related to this program before the convention.



**IT IS BALLOT TIME AGAIN**

The ballots are in the mail. Please note to be sure to vote for your national officers and the bylaws and dues changes. Ballots are due by June 2, 2008. Please be *sure* to send them to the address on the ballot and *not* to HQ.

*The most endangered species.....***DEDICATED LEADERS**



**CORAL BELLS**

Source:  
Greg Sampson/Bob Sampson,  
Extension Communications  
Specialist

"*Heuchera*", or as they are more commonly known, coral bells, have seen an explosion of new cultivators since the very first ones came on the gardening scene in the early 1990s. Since then, every new gardening season has seen new *Heuchera* arrive to satisfy the taste of plant lovers worldwide.

No plant has undergone such a dramatic resurgence in the garden. Ever since *Heuchera* "Palace Purple" became a household word in perennials, the plant has made its presence known.

What makes the plant so attractive is its color, achieved mainly through foliage, as well as its neat habit, diverse leaf shapes, relatively low maintenance, and its ability to find a place in almost any garden.

*Heuchera* prefers a semi-shaded site with some cultivators doing very well in sun locations, provided soil moisture is not limited. Soil that is well drained but yet retains some moisture for good growth



They grew larger and formed lots of buds, and then the best scenario possible occurred. They burst into bloom at exactly at same time as the peony. What luck! That azure blue with cherry red. Nirvana. I wish I could give you a lot of instructions and supply you with smart and nifty how-tos. The truth is that I did nothing. I didn't cover the seeds. I didn't water. Oh, yes, I did thin them and keep the weeds out as usual. It's handy to remember that nigella seed sown in April (as an annual) will bloom a bit too late to compliment the peonies. Ripened seed from the first crop of 'Miss Jekyll' nigella was sown in summer, rather than spring, in order to achieve this combination. Now the nigella self-sow reliably all by themselves and I admire this lovely match every year in late May and early June.

Di DeCaire created and maintains a 250-foot long x 18-foot wide serpentine garden that is enjoyed by all who pass by her 1875 farmstead. She is an expert at combining perennials for exciting effects. DeCaire has an AAS in horticulture and sells divisions of perennials and her own daylily varieties at her roadside stand.



**THREE GOOD REASONS TO JUST LET THEM GROW**

You may not want your lawn studded with gold, but as an organic gardener, you'd be better off fighting a different battle. Not only are dandelions harmless, here's how they are good for your garden.

1. Dandelions nourish bees and are important for honey production.
2. They attract beneficial ladybugs.
3. Their deep roots help aerate compacted soil.

MORE WEBSITES FOR YOU  
[www.japanesegarden.com](http://www.japanesegarden.com)  
[www.all-americanselections.org](http://www.all-americanselections.org)

**SHOULD YOU  
PRUNE ROSE BUSHES  
IN THE SPRING**  
*Quoted from the MSU  
Extension Office, MI*

It is a good idea to remove any dead, diseased or otherwise damaged canes to the base of the plant and remove any suckers or shoots coming up from the rootstock. Slightly damaged canes should be cut back to healthy tissue. Cutting back to an outward-facing bud will direct growth toward the outside of the plant rather than crowd the inside. Opening up the center promotes good ventilation and helps prevent disease. If a bush rose has more than eight strong canes, remove the extras before cutting the remaining ones to a uniform height. The finished plant should have canes evenly distributed around the center of the V-shaped plant.

**PLANTING A  
GARDEN**

*Submitted in the Flora Flash, Ft.  
Wayne, IN*

1. Plant an angry wise man and *Scarlet Sage* will come up.
2. Plant a box of candy

- and *Candytuft* will come up.
3. Plant Cupid's Arrow and a *Bleeding Heart* will come up.
  4. Plant some steps and *Hops* will come up.
  5. Plant days, months and years and *Thyme* will come up.
  6. Plant Christmas Eve and *Star of Bethlehem* will come up.
  7. Plant orange blossoms and *Bridal Wreath* will come up.
  8. Plant a sermon and *Jack in the Pulpit* will come up.
  9. Plant grief and *Weeping Willow* will come up.
  10. Plant Cinderella at midnight and *Lady's Slipper* will come up.
  11. Plant a ship that has nowhere to go and *Portulaca* will come up.
  12. Plant Star Spangled Banner and *Union Jack and Flags* will come up.
  13. Plant claws and a roar and *Tiger Lilies* will come up.
  14. Plant a Richmond caterpillar and *Virginia Creeper* will come up.
  15. Plant contentment and *Heart's-ease* will come up.
  16. Plant what a married man never has and *Batchelor's Buttons* will come up.
  17. Plant sad beauties and *Bluebells* will come up.
  18. Plant a labyrinth and *Maize* will come up.

**RECYCLE OLD  
CALENDAR PAGES BY  
MAKING ENVELOPES**

*Idea submitted by  
Mary Berg,  
TheTiller, Gardeners Club  
of Green Bay, WI*  
Those beautiful flowers on our national calendar pages can be recycled as an envelope! Here's how:  
Gently open a real envelope so that you can trace the shape onto the calendar page. Cut, fold, and secure sides with tape. Use white adhesive labels to write the address on the envelope. Mary says this idea was learned from Green Bay's Margaret Gerhard, recycling person extraordinaire!

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**DON'T FORGET TO  
SEND IN YOUR  
REGION AND  
COMMITTEE REPORTS  
FOR INCLUSION IN  
THE CONVENTION  
PACKETS! PLEASE  
HAVE THEM TO ME BY  
MAY 15!**

.....  
**THE PHILOSOPHER  
GARDENER**

*The Compost, Rockford GOA, IL*

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.  
Margaret Atwood

Gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes, it is the triumph of hope over experience.  
Marina Schniz

**FROM THE DESK  
OF YOUR TREASURER**

In an earlier newsletter I wrote of the new IRS policy requirements for small tax-exempt organizations who previously did not file on their own (or in conjunction with TGOA/MGCA.) The following info is a reprint from the Spring 2008 SSA/IRS Reporter newsletter.

**IRS LAUNCHES NEW ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM FOR SMALL TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS**

The IRS launched a new free electronic filing system to enable small tax-exempt organizations to file Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ.

The new electronic filing requirement, a provision of the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006, applies to organizations not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ because their gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less. Form 990-N can only be filed electronically; there will not be a paper version of the form.

**How to Use:**  
Filers will access and register to use the electronic filing system through the IRS Web site, IRS.gov (<http://www.IRS.gov>). After registering as a user and creating a Login and

Password, the filer will receive an email with a link that will allow the filer to activate their Login ID and create the e-Postcard. Organizations will need the following items of information in order to file:

- EIN
- Tax year
- Legal Name
- Mailing address
- Any other names used
- Web address if one exists
- Name and address of a principal officer
- Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less.
- 

Some of this information will be pre-populated on the Form 990-N from IRS records.

The e-Postcard filing system will allow organizations to notify the IRS that they are no longer in business and have terminated their existence. Exempt organizations who fail to file Form 990-N for three consecutive years will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

The IRS also created a system to provide for the public disclosure of the filings either on-line or by downloading the files. The disclosure site will have enhanced search capabilities

allowing the public to search by EIN, name or location.

Related Links:

- Tax Information for Charities and Other Non-Profits at <http://www.irs.gov>
- Subscribe to the Exempt Organization's EO Update (*at* <http://www.irs.gov> under Charities and Non-Profits); a regular email newsletter that highlights new information posted on the charities pages of the Web site.
- Form 990 Redesign for Tax Year 2008 (Filed in 2009) is also under the same website.

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**NOAH'S ARK OF 100 MILLION SEEDS  
Complements of USA  
Today**

An interesting article appeared in the 2/27/08 USA Today. A doomsday seed vault on a remote Norwegian island in the Arctic Ocean opened Tuesday (2/26), creating a bank of more than 100 million seeds representing every major food crop on Earth. At 4 degrees below 0 F, it will preserve the thousands of regional and local crop varieties farmers worldwide have bred for thousand of years. I'll bet most of us didn't know about that!

## *From the Garden Shop*

### ACCESSORIES

**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
- sunbody hat (no logo)(description 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 & XXLg \$25

short sleeve Arrow dress shirt

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

Gardening from the Heart t-shirt

(no logo choice) L-XL \$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

pins: membership, president, past president, etc. \$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  
 S, M, Lg

**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 priority mail.*

Total Order	Shipping and Handling Charge
Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
\$10.00 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 website.

**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 form an almost impenetrable sun block. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATES & PLAQUES**

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

**HERTZ**

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

*"Many people like to manipulate nature. I like to live with it." Kitty Clasing, Master Gardener.*

**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.

**2008 Calendar Order Form**

**Ship to:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1-249.....\$2.85 each**  
**250-749.....\$2.60 each**  
**750+.....\$2.45 each**

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

**Total amount** \_\_\_\_\_

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



**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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