



Volume 20

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The 2009 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

Seed sales are up all over our country!

That means a lot of new gardeners are out there.

Let's make it a point to go capture some of them for our local club.

Spring has sprung, and I hope you have too.

Hugh Earnhart is working diligently trying to replace a good man, Don Otterness, who chaired the "Youth Gardening" committee for many years. If you can help Hugh, please call him at 330-757-4727 or email him at gowie55@aol.com.

If you have noticed how interesting and easy to read our newsletter is this year, thank our national secretary Sheryl Bacon for a job well done.

Check out the "seed swap" section and get involved in it.

I hope you have saved \$30 and registered for the convention already. In any case, you need to go and see a beautiful part of the country.

We are picking green onions here in Texas already. Think---"fresh home grown tomatoes" on your kitchen counter. Are you ready for lunch?

Get out there and grow something!

YFL
Bob Grossman

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

I am pleased to tell you that Sherra Schuck and Honey Barnekoff of the GOA Overland Park Club

in Kansas will co-chair the 2011 convention. Our 2012 convention will be hosted by the MGC of Youngstown, Ohio. **WE NEED A HOST CLUB FOR THE 2010 CONVENTION.** As I have mentioned in earlier articles, we now have start up money available for the conventions and we do offer support and assistance. It does not take a lot of people to host a convention. We do not want to go a year without having a convention.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A HOST FOR 2010.

It is not too early to offer to host the 2013 convention. If you have questions or concerns about being a host, please give me a call. I would welcome a call indicating an interest in hosting a convention.

John Kessen, Chairman
Convention Site and
Planning Committee
(260)854-2988

NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY is MAY 8, 2009

I want to thank Sherra Schuck for the photo which I used this month in the banner of the newsletter. If you view the newsletter in color, it is beautiful.

The master list of the current library of books which we have on the shelves here at headquarters is now on the website. If you do not have internet capability and wish a listing, please call or send me a request and I will get a listing in the mail for you.

Watch for a *new* column in the newsletters. I am going to feature a club each time, so if you have something special you want mentioned, please let me know. Hopefully, this will be of interest and let other members know what is going on in other clubs who belong to national.

By the time you read this newsletter, the new TGOA/MGCA brochure will be printed and available for handouts. These should be a good marketing tool to advertise our organization. Please let us know if you are in need of any of these for your use in recruiting new members.

I just heard the “new term” for the Victory garden now is the Recession garden.

I want to remind you to please help me keep the directories current. If you have an address change/email address change or phone number change, please let me know. Thank you in advance.

Don't forget to check out the Thompson & Morgan Seedsmen, Inc. offer – 10% off every order for TGOA/MGCA members. 1-800-274-7333 or www.tmseeds.com

New books have arrived. There are four new children's books in our library: The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin; Wiggle and Waggle by Caroline Arnold; The Vegetable Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta/Bob Thomson/Edgar Stewart; and Plant Secrets by Emily Goodman.

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The Luther Burbank Home and Gardens

Submitted in the Greater Kansas City Gardeners Of America newsletter

While at the convention in Santa Rosa, CA you might want to find time to tour the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens located in downtown Santa Rosa.

Santa Rosa was the home of horticulturist Luther Burbank who said of Sonoma County, “I firmly believe, from what I have seen that this is the chosen spot of all this earth as far as nature is concerned.” Burbank lived in Santa Rosa for more than fifty years in the late 19th and 20th centuries, working to develop new strains of plants and toward improving the world's food supply. During that time, he introduced more than two hundred varieties of fruits, vegetables, grains, and ornamental flowers, including the Shasta daisy and the Santa Rosa plum. (Note: Burbank developed the Burbank potato in Lunenburg, Massachusetts in the early 1870s. In 1875, Burbank sold his farm and the rights to his potato and moved to Santa Rosa, CA.) His home and gardens have been designated a California historic landmark and a national historic landmark. Burbank is buried under an oak tree on the property.

CLUB FEATURE

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

This club was established in 1947 by a group of dedicated gardeners to advance the

interest in gardening in Sonoma county. Since its inception there have been several civic beautification projects completed by the club.

The rose garden at Julliard Park was established by the club in 1962 and is still under club's care.

The club has an exhibit in the Professional Hall of Flowers at the Sonoma county fair each year. About 90% of the plants in this exhibit are grown by the club members.

The club started a giant pumpkin and sunflower contest in 1965, for youth aged from 4 to 16 years, which has been held annually since its inception. This contest has become a part of the Harvest Fair held each October at the Sonoma county fairgrounds.

There are two plant sales, one in April and one in October, held by the club.

The money made through the Hall of Flowers exhibit and plant sales is used to provide scholarships to Sonoma county youth in horticulture and related fields.

Although started as a men's club, women are welcome to join.

Congratulations on your club now being in its fifty-second year. This is an accomplishment; thanks to the officers and members in keeping your club functioning.

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

*Submitted by Robert M. Smoker,
Topeka GOA*

Compost is a mixture of soil and decayed or decaying organic matter including fallen leaves, dried grass clippings (having had no weed killer on it), manures (not cat or dog), sawdust but not treated, 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.

Composting recycles yard and garden waste, which benefits the environment by reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfills.

It is like putting a cake together. It should be damp, but not too dry or too wet or it won't work. The bins should be at least 3'x3'x3'. My bin is a large 24'x30'. It should be turned often so the oxygen can help the bacteria to break down the pile.

The vegetables taste a whole lot richer because of

the extra nutrients they receive. If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right.

Happy gardening and composting.

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PLANTS AND PETS

ASPCA



For all of us pet owners, here are some plants that that can cause illness and/or death to our beloved pets. Be aware of: Amaryllis; Autumn Crocus; Azalea/Rhododendron; Castor Bean(Ricin is a highly toxic protein); Cocoa Bean Hulls; Chrysanthemum; Cyclamen (bulbous-roots contain the most toxin); English Ivy; Lilies; Marijuana; Oleander; Peace Lily; Pothos; Sago Palm; Schefflera; Tulip/Narcissus bulbs; Yew

**IMPORTANCE OF
KEEPING YOUR DUES
CURRENT**

When you join the national organization you are assigned a membership number. If you do not pay dues for a year, you are taken off the current membership roster. If you then decide to pay dues for the following year, you

then have to be assigned a new membership number. Keeping your dues current allows you to only have one membership number during your lifetime of membership in the national organization and is much less confusing for everyone.

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LILIES

By Richard Beyer, Submitted by Donald Lee, Gardeners of North Iowa

There are other perennial flowers that I like just as well as lilies, but the lily is amongst the most useful, flexible and hardy.

Lilies grow just about anywhere; they don't spread and overtake other flowers. They carry names such as "Queen" and "Grand Dame", and well they should. Their colors are beautiful, from the zesty oranges and yellows of day lilies to the purples, pinks and whites of Asiatics.

I am fond of the lilies for their 'blue-collar' nature. Lilies are not only beautiful in their own right; they are an almost worry-free plant and can even be beneficial to others. They are a nice filler flower because they do not overtake other plants. Better yet, planted near other perennials, such as clematis, lily leaves

provide welcome shade for more fragile root systems.

Lilies fall roughly into three categories, although one kind is really not a true lily at all. Day lilies, often called ditch lilies for their appearance by roadways, belong to the species *hemerocallis* and have tuberous roots. Their flowers are trumpet shaped, often seen in beautiful reds, yellows and oranges.

The other two – Asiatic and Oriental lilies – are true lily species and are properly called garden lilies. Asiatics have trumpet, bell and star-shaped petals curving back, while Orientals have wider leaves, are larger and are known for their intense fragrance and two-toned color combinations. There are several hundred cultivars available for Asiatic and Oriental lily types. The trumpet species may be more difficult to find, but is worth the effort. Check the internet for ordering houses, many of which are located in Missouri.

Among the most popular is my favorite, the "Stargazer". The Stargazer's white and red petals provide a vibrant spray of color in mid to late summer. I have all types of lilies in my garden and, as a result, have lilies

blooming all summer long. Although blooms last only a day or two, the multiple blooms on stems provide continual color for weeks. Prime blooming time for Asiatics is in May and June; Orientals take over in July and bloom into August. Day lilies finish out the warm season in August and into September. If you have them all, you have a garden blooming all summer.

Better yet, lilies are not fussy. They do well just about anywhere, in most types of soil and most bugs won't hurt them. They do best in partial or full sun. Moist soil is best, but most hybrids, especially day lilies and Asiatic lilies, thrive just about anywhere. Oriental lilies live best in well-drained soil.

Fall is probably the optimum time to plant lilies. While you can also plant bulbs in the spring as well, root systems are better established after fall plantings. Don't be afraid to do them in the spring if you want. Three or four bulbs should be placed under about two inches of soil in one planting. (I plant the bulbs about the same distance apart as their expected height.) For instance, if a lily is thought to grow to a height of three



**GROWING
GLOXINIA**

Michigan State University
Leslie Johnson, College of
Agriculture & Natural
Resources

Gardeners looking for a challenge during the indoor gardening season need to look no further than growing gloxinia from seed.

Seed started in December can be in bloom by next Mother's Day with the right combination of indirect light, warm temperatures, rich organic soil and plenty of moisture.

Start with a sterile potting mixture, moisten it and spread it in a shallow container. Then press the gloxinia seeds into the surface. They need light to germinate, so do not cover them.

To keep conditions humid, cover the container with a pane of glass or clear plastic, then place the container in a shaded spot with temperatures consistently around 70 degrees. Seed should germinate in two or three weeks at that temperature. Germination will be slower at lower temperatures.

Three or four days after seedlings appear, prop up one corner of the glass or pull the plastic back off of one corner to allow some

air exchange. Two or three days after that, remove the cover entirely, and place the container where plants will receive bright light.

Plants will do best if they're exposed to 16 to 18 hours of bright light daily. Once the cover is off and plants are growing, water as needed to keep soil moist. The plant roots are very near the surface and won't tolerate drying out.

When seedlings have their third set of leaves, it's time to transplant them, spacing them at least one inch apart. When leaves begin to overlap, transplant again and place them in individual five to six inch pots with drainage holes and saucers.

Plants that grow spindly and flower sparsely aren't getting enough light or have been overfed with nitrogen. If flower buds dry, turn brown and drop off, temperatures are too high or roots are either too wet (poor soil drainage) or too dry. Splashing water on the foliage will result in yellow spots. Water from below. Plants should be in flower by May.

VICTORY GARDENS

2.0

Taken from Organic Gardening magazine Beth Huxta, author

A campaign known as SF Victory Gardens is

building on the historic model of the Victory Gardens concept during World War I and II. The Victory Garden is a concept with the intention of helping to resolve one of our many pressing environmental problems through the act of gardening.

Home fruit and vegetable gardening can play a significant role in reducing the food miles associated with the food we consume, thus reducing the amount of oil used. The average American meal travels 1,500 miles from farm to table according to Blair Randall, SF Victory Garden director.

In 2008, 50 to 150 pounds of vegetables were grown in raised beds in front of the San Francisco City Hall for the food bank. This produce was distributed to dozens of meal programs throughout the city. This group achieved a major goal with this temporary garden. The city is currently reworking a food policy framework that accounts for local food production and distribution.

**NEVER GO TO A
DOCTOR'S OFFICE
WHOSE PLANTS ARE**

DEAD. Erma Bombeck
*Submitted by Men and Women's
Garden Club of Findlay, OH*

**AAS WINNERS FOR
2009**

*All-America Selections
Downers Grove, IL*

Each year All-America Selections introduces new, tested flowers and vegetables that have proven superior qualities. The winners for 2009 are:

Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner: Viola F1, Rain Blue and Purple

The plants are cold and heat tolerant resulting in flowers throughout the seasons. They will bloom in the south during fall and winter; in the north in the spring and summer. They are perfect for hanging baskets or patio urns or the garden.

Vegetable Winner: Squash F1, Honey Bear

The Honey Bear acorn squash was bred to be baked and served in the half shell. The three outstanding qualities are: a compact plant, high yield and tolerance to powdery mildew. The plant produces three to five fruit throughout the growing season.

Vegetable Winner:
Eggplant F1, Gretel

An early white eggplant produced in clusters and can be harvested in 55 days. Gretel grows rapidly

under warm temperatures. The pure white fruit is sweet with tender skin and usually three to four inches in length. Ideal for growing in a large container.

Vegetable Winner: Melon F1, Lambkin

An oval shaped melon weighing between two and four pounds with a thin rind surrounding a sweet, aromatic, white, juicy flesh, is also classified as a Piel de Sapo melon a.k.a. Christmas type, They should be stored in a cool place such as a refrigerator.

GREEN FACTS: SAVE



**TREES,
GET FEWER
CATALOGS**

*Submitted by Greater Kansas
City Gardeners of America*

When seed catalogs start to fill up your mailbox, don't you wish you could do some thinning? Now you can. Visit Catalog Choice at www.catalogchoice.org and choose to stop receiving duplicates and others you don't want. Use your customer number from the mailing label for the best success. If the catalog you're looking for

isn't there, you can suggest that it be added. The service is free, and Catalog Choice won't sell, rent or share your information with anyone else. Another tip to reduce catalog clutter around your home: tear off the cover of your favorite catalogs along with the website address and put it in a file folder. Recycle the rest of the catalog. Then, when you want to view a catalog you will have quick access to the website address.

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LET'S PLANTGATE

Submitted by Cindy Amack

The Littleton, CO Garden Club has an activity they call "plantgating." At their annual May meeting, they have a tailgate-like/plant exchange party in the parking lot at their regular meeting site.

The members tend to bring more plants than they exchange thus leaving more for those members whom have less established gardens to take home and use.

Add refreshments and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow club members and also the opportunity to enhance your gardens with new annuals, vegetables and perennials in an inexpensive way. What a great idea for gardeners to expand their gardens.

**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

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\$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.

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Name _____ Club name _____

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**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 or via mail.

HERTZ

As a member of the TGOA/MGCA, you are eligible for a discount card from Hertz. Visit www.hertz.com; or call your travel agent; or Hertz at 1-800-654-2210/2240. Member savings cards are also available from headquarters. Member savings CDP#0338537.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

ENTERPRISE Rent-A-Car offers discounts to members of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

Reservations may be made on line at www.enterprise.com. To make a reservation on line, enter account number **05K0309** in the corporate account or source code field. 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.

A QUOTE by Lucille Ball

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

**2010 Calendar
Order Form**

Ship to:

Name: _____

Club Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

1-249.....\$2.95 each
250-499.....\$2.75 each
500+.....\$2.65 each

Quantity ordered: _____

Total amount _____

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

___ **Will pick up on** _____
(enter date/call ahead for time.)

Invoice will be sent with your calendars. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ORDERS PLACED.

