



SUPPLEMENT TO *THE AMERICAN GARDENER* NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

Newsletter

Volume 1

November - December 2004

Number 6

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

This is the first message of my term and I wish to thank the members for the opportunity to serve as your President. I sincerely hope the coming year will be a productive one for all.

It's often been said that the best message is one that is short and sweet. While I'll try to keep it short it can't be very sweet.

Two critical issues face our organization and they are not new. Membership and financial stability are vital to our survival. Unfortunately neither of these problems can be solved at the National or Regional level. The success of this organization depends on local enthusiasm and cooperation.

We have many tools available for clubs to aid in recruitment of new members. The affiliation with the American Horticultural Society with all of its benefits including an outstanding magazine along with our own National Newsletter, a library available to all members, promotional literature and merchandise, an informative web site, and a beautiful National Headquarters open to visitors are all assets to use. Many past Presidents have some excellent plans and ideas to increase membership but until the members and clubs themselves, at the grassroots, get out and get going to recruit new members we will be at a standstill.

A famous national politician once said, "All politics are local". The same can be said of any national organization. It all begins -at the local level.

Your President

Bill Carney

Change in Headquarters Staff

By the time you are all reading this I will no longer be working for TGOA/MGCA. I was given a grant to go back to college and take some more classes. I will be pursuing my MBA at a local university. I have greatly enjoyed my time working with you all and meeting a fair number of you at the convention this past June. It has been a wonderful experience to work with such a helpful group. An extra big thanks to the Des Moines club, who made me feel right at home on my first days and helped out immensely with convention preparation.

Annie Freeman has taken over the position. She started on October 20th. I know you'll all help her to feel as welcome here as you made me. She'll have this organization running smoother than ever in no time.

Thank you again for all the help and kind words I have been given. This truly is a one of a kind organization!

Kahla Main

The following clubs have had a 10% or more increase in paid members from December 31, 2003.

AZ-NM REGION

Valley of the Sun Gardeners	24.64%
East Valley Gardeners Club	23.08%

BLUE RIDGE REGION

Spartanburg MGC	17.05%
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CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

Men's & Women's GC of Findlay	113.04%
Fulton County Garden Club	11.11%
MGC of Youngstown	17.86%
Fort Wayne GOA	19.23%
At-Large-Central Great Lakes	25.49%

FLA-GA REGION

Marietta Gardeners Club	36.96%
Mountain Shadow Garden Club	18.52%

IL-WI REGION

Elgin GOA	20.00%
Dixon Area Garden Club	11.76%

MID-AMERICA REGION

Indianola MGC	13.51%
MGC of North Iowa	12.96%

MID-SOUTH REGION

Rankin County GOA	16.67%
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MO-KAN REGION

GOA of Overland Park	29.82%
Mission Springs GOA	10.00%

NORTHWEST REGION

Gallatin Gardeners Club	19.44%
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UPSTATE NEW YORK REGION

Tioga County MGC	28.00%
At-Large-Upstate NY	15.38%

The Web Site Is Growing by Frank Mitch, Web Master

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

The Club Activities page is currently in need of more representation by more clubs. Some Regions are not represented at all. If your TGOA club is not currently included please send a list of 6 or so of your club's regular annual activities such as Fund Raisers, Educational programs, Community Service, etc. These will be very helpful as ideas for other clubs in planning their activities. Send to Frank Mitch at fmm2065@hotmail.com or to the TGOA office.



Gardeners Gone to Rest



Ann Knowles of Lima, OH
Arthur Palmer of Lima, OH
Bob Baenen of Green Bay, WI
Clyde Wooten of Colorado Spring, CO
Diana Dumoulin of Phoenix, AZ
Gertrude V Kraner of Decatur, IL
Jean Engstrom of Lima, OH
Joseph Menichetti of Overland Park, KS
L E Riggerbach of Wadsworth, OH
Larry C Grove of Des Moines, IA
Madrille R Wilson of Austin, TX
Mary K Wall of St Louis, MO
Max C Olson of Des Moines, IA
Merril Wise of Streetsboro, OH
Norman Seuffert of Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Paul Harkey of Dallas, TX
Ralph E Fosnight of Lima, OH
Richard Hahn of St Louis, MO
Tom J Dowley of Keene, NH

Newsletter Submissions

Due to the limited space in our current newsletter, some submissions are simply too long to include. In order to best serve our members, the TGOA/MGCA newsletter is also published on the website. In addition to what is able to fit into this paper newsletter, we will feature additional articles and information from our members. Please be sure to check out the newsletter's online home on our website in the MEMBERS ONLY area. Please email or fax any articles related to gardening or TGOA Headquarters.

All members should submit their articles or club information to Annie by no later than the 1st of the month preceding the published date, so for the Jan/Feb issue, all information to be included should be in by Dec 1 to be considered for publication. All information sent will be posted on the website and some may be chosen for the newsletter as well. Please include a contact name and number in case there is need for clarification.

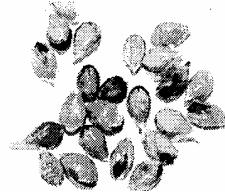


American Horticulture Society 2005 Seed Exchange

As members of AHS, we are entitled to request seeds from the Seed Exchange program. It's a great opportunity to obtain unusual seeds. Here's how it works:

Members save seeds from their gardens and send them to AHS Headquarters by November 1, 2004. AHS publishes a list of available seeds, which is mailed along with the Member's Guide, which will accompany the Jan/Feb issue of *The American Gardener*. Members who donated will get first choice and there is no charge for the seeds; just make a donation to cover shipping costs.

AHS Headquarters
7931 E Boulevard Dr
Alexandria, VA 22308-1300
1-800-777-7931
Gardener's Info Service: gis@ahs.org



And don't forget to check out the AHS website located at www.ahs.org. To enter the members' only area, please use the password (meadow). Here you will find an extensive list of bulletins on various subjects like Poison Ivy Control, Tips for Successful Seed Germination, Forcing Cut Branches for your Home and much, much more.

Topeka Club Celebrates

On November 4, 2004, The Gardeners of America Topeka celebrated their 20th anniversary as a TGOA/MGCA club. The club was founded in 1984 with 20 members. It has grown over the years and is currently 44 members strong. A celebratory gathering was held in Topeka, where they honored the original members. Robert Smoker did a lot of research into the club's history to track down all the original members and invite them to this gathering. While working on a list of past club presidents, he realized that he had been president for 10 of those 20 years. He was also the founding president. It's great to see clubs growing and changing with the times.

Club Updates and Membership Info

It's time to start thinking of the annual National Directory. There's a lot of information in the directory and it needs to be updated.

I would like each club president and each regional president to send me a complete list of officers. Include name and position, as well as telephone number, home address, and email address if applicable.

The directory will be edited and published to the web in early 2005 and will be available from Headquarters at that time.

Please send all the information by email or postal mail to the National Headquarters. Thank you for all your hard work on this and other topics.

The Gardeners of America/ Men's Garden Clubs of America

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