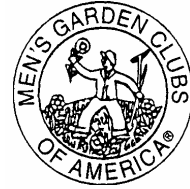


**THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**

**Gardener Insert**



**4-Page Newsletter**

**May-June 2004**



## **Gardeners Gone to Rest 2004**

Fred E. Pittman, Decatur, GA  
Louis Costanza, Los Gatos, CA  
Leamond Lassiter, Marietta, GA  
Walter Soderberg, Spartanburg, SC  
Leo Wiskoski, Albany, NY  
Harold Hatcher, Spartanburg, SC  
Sheldon Flynn, Grosse Pte Farms, MI  
Rozel Frazer, Belvidere, IL  
Joe Skillings, Eden, NC

## **Tax Deductible Gifts to TGOA-MGCA Endowment**

### **Help Others Enjoy the Garden Club Into the Future**

Do you have stocks or other appreciated securities that have grown in value? Are you looking for ways to remember the garden club and help keep the benefits of belonging alive and well into the future?

Consider a gift of stock, mutual funds or other securities. Through this type of gift, you can give more than originally invested and take a tax deduction for current market value on the date of the gift.

To take a deduction for gifts of securities at their current value you must have owned them for at least a year and a day.

The headquarters staff and the national treasurer can assist with your gifts and the transfer of the securities into the E&I (endowment and investment) fund. You may even designate how the future income from your gift will be used.

Consult your lawyer or tax accountant for more details on the gift that keeps on giving.

Jim Tracy, Chair  
Bequests & Grants Committee

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### **ENDOWMENT & INVESTMENT**

Donation received from the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown in memory of two Youngstown-club members, Clarence Cipkala, and John Paull

Donation received from the Men's Garden Club of Van Wert in memory of two Van Wert club members, Genevieve Foltz and Dale Keysor

Honorarium received from the Junior League Garden Club of Kansas City for Honey Barnekoff who spoke at their Feb. meeting.

Stipend received from the Leawood Garden Club for Honey Barnekoff who spoke at their March meeting

### **GARDENING FROM THE HEART**

Donation received from the Men's Garden Club of Grosse Pointe in memory of Sheldon Flynn

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### **Editors Fond Farewell**

By the time you read this printed message in the last issue of *The Gardener* magazine, I will, as you know, no longer be your magazine Editor. Perhaps many of you didn't know I was the editor in addition to being the National Office's Executive Secretary. My position's downsizing coupled with the life altering health event (at a young age) I experienced in December (major heart attack) has resulted in my decision to dramatically alter my future as well. I have submitted my resignation effective close of business April 30th, 2004. I have enjoyed my 2 years 3 1/2 months helping/working/talking with all of you, and will remain true to the fond memories that have been created during my tenure. Best wishes to all.

Fondly I remain,  
Marcia M. Peterson

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### **2005 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Palm Beach Gardens Garden Club will be hosting our 2005 convention on June 2-3-4, 2005 at the Jupiter Beach Resort. The room rate will be \$109.00 per night plus tax. Editor's Note: This 4 star hotel and all its amenities can be viewed at the internet address [www.jupiterbeachresort.com](http://www.jupiterbeachresort.com) It's definitely worth checking out! Looks to be a gorgeous hotel!!!**

\*\*\*\*\*MEMBERSHIP\*\*\*\*\*

The following clubs have a 10% or more membership increase in paid members from January 2004 through March 15th, 2004

<b>FLA-GA REGION</b>	
Marietta Gardeners Club	26.1%
<b>MO-KAN REGION</b>	
Excelsior Springs Garden Club	20.0%
GOA of Overland Park	15.8%
Mission Springs GOA	10.0%
<b>NORTHWEST REGION</b>	
Gallatin Gardeners Club	19.4%
<b>MID-SOUTH REGION</b>	
Rankin County GOA	16.7%
<b>AZ-NM REGION</b>	
East Valley Gardeners Club	15.4%
<b>IL-WI REGION</b>	
Elgin GOA	15.0%
<b>UPSTATE NEW YORK REGION</b>	
Tioga County MGC	12.0%
<b>CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION</b>	
Fulton County Garden Club	11.1%

Each year at the National Convention the club with the highest percentage of membership increase receives the **GEORGE SPADER AWARD**

**NOTE:**

Membership cards for new members are mailed directly to them with a letter from the National President. Renewal membership cards are mailed to the club treasurer for distribution.

Natl Sec: [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com)  
Bob: [mgcamb@dwx.com](mailto:mgcamb@dwx.com)

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Special Spring Building and Grounds Project Note:  
Good News!

The new concrete steps have been installed at headquarters. These have replaced the old railroad tie steps of days gone by. Be sure and check them out when you come to convention in June and see the results of your 2003 Albany convention donations at work.

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Bookkeeper Bob Young will be on vacation and out of the office beginning Monday May 3rd. He will return to work on Monday May 17th. Any accounting or membership dues issues should be addressed to him.

Also, note new email address to use for new National Executive Secretary.

**The Web Site Is Growing by Frank Mitch, Web Master**

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>  
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>  
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>  
Members Only Password: merlehay

**What's New?**

**The Best Kept Secret!**

Not very much new because we need your help! Help us reveal the **Best Kept Secret** about TGOA/MGCA clubs. Recently we found that the club activities page is one of the most popular pages in the TGOA web site. Recent additions to this page were listings from Stow OH, and Olathe KS clubs and updates from Dallas TX. But, there are many many states not even represented on this very popular page. Why are you all hiding your club activities?

All TGOA clubs not in the Club Activities page are encouraged to send in their lists, but especially any clubs from these states where not even one of the TGOA clubs is shown:

**AZ-CA-CO-FL-GA-IL-IN-IA-MI-MS-MO-NY-NC-PA-WI**

Come on clubs, stop keeping your activities a secret! Who knows, you might get some new members if some interested gardeners read about your club on the web site. Please send in a list of about 6-10 of your main typical annual activities, including fund raisers, educational programs, youth programs, community service projects, horticulture shows, etc. Send by email to [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com) OR send in by mail to the TGOA postal address.

**The Second Best Kept Secret!**

**The TGOA-MGCA Garden Shop!**

A year ago the Garden Shop on the web site was completely revamped with color photos of all products, easy ordering on line, and credit card payment provision. Why are you all not using it? The number of orders in one year can be counted on one hand with fingers left over. Many of you buy on the Internet, books from Amazon.com, auction stuff from E-Bay, etc. It is so convenient and quick. If you order by mail a bill for shipping needs to be paid later; this is avoided on the web site. Please let us know why you are not using it so we can make any needed changes.

The only complaint we have received about the Garden Shop on line is a high shipping charge for one small item. But that is true with any mail order. Try ordering one packet of seed from a seed company and don't be surprised if your total cost is more than double the seed cost. The answer is to order several items and your shipping charge will be very reasonable. Include some items for your fellow club members and really save on the shipping charges. Here is where to find the on line **Garden Shop:**

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>

**Let's not keep the on line Garden Shop a secret any longer.**

## **CLUB MEMBER INVOLVEMENT** **by Gerry Herman, Past President,** **Central Great Lakes Region**

As a member of the Newsletter Competition Committee, I recently had the privilege of taking part in the evaluations of club newsletters from around the country. It was both a difficult and informative job.

Difficult because I believe that a club's newsletter MUST reflect the club and its members and consideration must be given to the cost of printing and mailing.

What I appreciated most was the information gained by reading through the various newsletters. Time and again the issue of recruitment and retention came up as well as member involvement. Some clubs have a policy that every member must sit on at least one committee. With so many club members being well into their senior years, I wondered how that would work out in other clubs. In reviewing the many committees that especially larger clubs have, I can see both the necessity and the possibility for involvement.

Younger members who feel over committed to their children and after school activities should be able to make a few calls or send out meeting notices by email. School age children could help stuff envelopes with very little time involved, even while watching TV.

Older members can do likewise, and even do things like help as clerks during the horticultural shows, help with registration at various events, be the cashier during plant sales and probably most importantly, be a mentor or consultant to young gardeners. I have often heard older members say, "but I don't garden anymore". No excuse! They have more experience than you will find in several gardening books. They also have the time to read up on the latest methods or plants. This is valuable information that when shared can help a club grow into an invaluable resource for the community.

With so many children living so far from their grandparents, how wonderful if our older members can stand in and share their gardening experiences from years gone by. Pat a youngster on the back for a job well done or help them prepare for the horticultural show. In your garden club, there is a place and a job for every member. You can and should MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

## **Gardening From The Heart In Ohio** **By Frank Mitch, Director,** **Central Great Lakes Region**

Landscaping new Habitat for Humanity homes struck the fancy of Men's Garden Club of Akron members when they were searching for a new community service project. Past President Andy Bettick developed plans with the local HFH group and an agreement was signed early in 2003. Then the project was submitted to TGOA's Gardening from the Heart National Committee for financial assistance, resulting in approval and very significant monetary support.

Akron club members pitched in to landscape four homes in 2003. A large part of each landscaping included preparation of the lawn area, addition of top soil and planting grass. Next was installation of suitable small trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. The new owners of each home participated in the work since that is a requirement for all HFH homes. The club's HFH committee also developed and implemented an education program for each homeowner. Meetings were held with each owner to cover the basics of lawn care and home gardening. This mentoring part of the program was very much appreciated by the owners.

Approximately 74 yards of topsoil for 4 homes was donated by a local supplier except for hauling. Many of the plants and shrubbery were donated by club members and local nurseries. One nursery donated 46 one gallon potted perennials. Another nursery donated 37 two or three gallon potted evergreen shrubs. A local environmental education center donated 44 large divisions of hosta plants. Habitat for Humanity is very well recognized all around the world as a very significant community service institution.

The club's plans for 2004 include landscaping at least four new homes, and working in the same way with the new homeowners. Committee Chair, Andy Bettick said: "We believe this was a very worthwhile and successful year for habitat and we wish to thank everyone who helped and contributed to its success." Also, the support of Gardening from the Heart was very much appreciated by the Akron club.

# Flowers and More in 2004!

## The Gardeners of America National Convention

### Des Moines, Iowa, June 24 through June 26, 2004

In the March April *Gardener* we suggested that you consider planning your travel to arrive in Des Moines early. And we told you that we even have rooms held for Tuesday night June 22. Did we forget to tell you that the **convention rate does apply for the 22nd and the 23rd**? Well, of course it does.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Do you need a roommate to help share expenses?** We'll connect you with other singles. Sharing expenses can double your fun. Tell us how another gardener can reach you. We'll share your information with others and let you work out the details.

Interested in an Early-Bird-Arrival or Before-We-Head-Home tour?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Salisbury House**, a 42-room mansion modeled after the King's House in Salisbury, England, this American Castle is nestled on a ten-acre estate of virgin woodlands in the heart of Des Moines. Salisbury House has been called a "national treasure" by the National Trust For Historic Preservation and was featured on the national television series America's Castles on the A & E Cable Network.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Terrace Hill**, the Palace of the Prairie built by Benjamin Franklin Allen, Iowa's first millionaire. 18,000 square-foot home, started in 1866 and completed in 1869 at an original cost of \$250,000 included the Mansion with every modern feature of it's time including hot and cold running water, gas lights, a lift, and indoor rest rooms. Terrace Hill still has a commanding view of the city and is home for Iowa's Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Living History Farms**. Walk through 300 years of Iowa's agricultural heritage. Native Americans growing crops at the *1700 Farm*, early farmers work the *1850 Farm*. Horsepower and cast-iron machines revolutionized agriculture at the *1900 Farm*. Join the bustle of the *1875 town of Walnut Hill*.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge and Prairie**, the world's largest tallgrass prairie reconstruction project ever attempted. Congress approved the tallgrass prairie restoration in 1990. Today you'll experience the breathtaking beauty of over 5,000 acres of tallgrass prairie and native midwest wildlife. Catch sight of the buffalo roaming or the elk at rest.

Feeling Playful? Want to see a ball game? The Iowa Cubs are the Chicago Cubs AAA Affiliate team.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Iowa Cubs** vs. Nashville Tuesday night - tickets are just \$6.00-\$10.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Iowa Cubs** vs Nashville Wednesday night - same ticket prices and some extra fun thrown in.

**Prairie Meadows** A 1,500 slot machine, anytime day or night casino with both reel and video slots from pennies to \$100. Prairie Meadows also features seasonal live Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse and Harness racing, or join in the action at some of the country's top tracks with daily simulcast horse and greyhound wagering.

**Adventureland Park** For the kids in all of us there's Adventureland. It's a great amusement park just 20 minutes from the hotel, and we'll get the family there.

Golf courses, shopping, antiques, crafts, malls, and of course just a few surprises up our sleeve. Oh, and did we mention Gardens?

Flowers and More in 2004!

*The Des Moines Men's Garden Club*