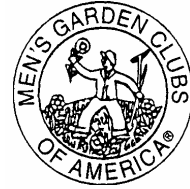


**THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**

**Gardener Insert**



**4-Page Newsletter**

**January-February 2004**

**Youth Gardening Contest Winners for  
2003  
Giant Sunflower and Pumpkin**

*Sunflower Winners Are from the Santa Rosa CA Men's Garden Club & The Men's Garden Club of Albany, NY:*

- 1st Place: Ryan Loewen, Santa Rosa, Age 11, 26.5"  
2nd Place: Caitlin Wilwol, Eagle Ridge, Age 14, 22.5"  
3rd Place: Ryan Loewen, Santa Rosa, Age 11, 22"

*Pumpkin Winners are from the Spokane WA Garden Club & Santa Rosa Men's Garden Club:*

- 1st Place: Adam Blalock, Spokane, Age 17, 733 lbs  
2nd Place: Amber Stevens, Windsor, Age 10, 526 lbs  
3rd Place: Elysia Godberry, Chencey, Age 14, 461 lbs

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

The following clubs have a 10% or more membership increase in paid members from January 2003 through December 2003

**MO-KAN REGION**

<b>Mission Springs GOA</b>	<b>53.9%</b>
<b>2004 Winner of George Spader Award</b>	
<b>12/31/02 - 12/31/03</b>	
Excelsior Springs Garden Club	14.3%
GOA Overland Park	18.8%

**OZARK REGION**

Richmond Heights Garden Club	14.3%
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**CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION**

Fort Wayne GOA	36.8%
Maple City Men's Garden Club	18.2%
Fulton County Garden Club	12.5%
Gardeners of Bluffton-Pandora	13.9%

**NORTHWEST REGION**

Gallatin County MGCA	12.5%
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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION**

Santa Rosa MGC	13.8%
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**UPSTATE NEW YORK**

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club	12.5%
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**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.**

**Dues Reminder:** National dues for 2004 are due in January. All members not paid and recorded by March 1st will be resigned from our membership organization roster.

**GARDENING FROM  
THE HEART  
DONATIONS**



**Rose Scaia  
George Allan Sr.  
Marion H. Welch  
John L. Kelly**

**George Michalec**

**Edward Root  
Harold A. Kollof  
Margaret McSweeney**

**Leila Waterbury**

**Sincere thanks to**



**GARDENERS GONE TO REST**

- Joyce Becker, Topeka, KS  
Genevieve Foltz, Van Wert, OH  
Jerry Balcom, Rochester, NY  
Raymond Sanders, Burr Ridge, IL

**The Web Site Is Growing  
by Frank Mitch, Web Master**  
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>  
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>  
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>

**WHAT'S NEW?**

1. A direct link on the Home page to the American Horticulture Society web site. Also news of the new partnership agreement with AHS.
2. TGOA-MGCA Calendars and shirts are on special sale to the public in a notice on the website Home Page.
3. Thompson & Morgan 2004 free seed offer on the Member Bargains page.
4. Tentative Schedule for the 2004 Des Moines National Convention on the National Conventions page.

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**2004 National Convention - Des Moines Iowa**

Make plans now to attend Flowers & More in 2004 June 24 through June 26, 2004. Registration will be \$215 if paid by May 15th and \$235. if paid May 16th or later. Rooms will be \$75 + tax per night. Watch the next issue of THE GARDENER for registration forms, hotel reservation information, and a schedule of events.

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Excess books were mailed in Dec. Please pay your postage promptly. 04 calendars are now available at a reduced price of \$1.25 ea + shipping



2003 TGOA Ohio State Scholarship Winners & presenters are as follows in this photo: James Fee MGCA of Akron, Co-chair of Scholarship committee (left) Jonathan Scott, Walter Pickens ATI Student winners (both center), Barbara LaMoreaux, ATI Coordinator, Financial Aid (right). In addition to TGOA-MGCA scholarships, an additional \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to each student by the MGCA of Akron

**JUST FOR THE JOY OF IT!**  
**The NEW Benefits of Being a Member of TGOA/MGCA**  
by Honey Barnekoff

Local clubs are the heart and vitality of our organization. It is at the local level that the most significant ongoing education in gardening occurs, that community beautification of great value is done, that personal friendships and camaraderie are developed. Much quality information comes to us through the association we have with fellow members on the local level. "Running with a good crowd" brings many benefits!

But there is a new and entirely different dimension of value associated with membership in a national gardening organization like The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America. Here, too, much quality gardening knowledge and information is available. Networking and the strong friendships built on our love of gardening and related interests are invaluable. In addition to the charismatic importance of being a part of something larger than oneself, the national organization provides many unique services and benefits. Let's review some of them:

**Membership in the American Horticultural Society –**

- Beginning July 1, 2004 your membership in TGOA/MGCA will include membership in the American Horticultural Society with all the benefits of full membership. That will include entry to 150 botanical gardens and arboreta in the US and beyond our borders at no or reduced entry fee, and in some of those gardens, a discount in their garden shops.
- A subscription to *The American Gardener*, which is a bimonthly publication of the AHS, with timely, informative and entertaining articles on gardening throughout our country.
- A seed sharing program is available in which one may obtain many kinds of seeds at no cost (requested donations fund the interns who run the program).

AHS maintains an 800 number through which members may ask horticultural questions or via their website.

AHS offers many tours and educational programs to its members.

River Farm, on the banks of the Potomac, is the home of the American Horticultural Society and is open to the public and to members. River Farm was owned by George Washington, father of our country.

**Publications from TGOA/MGCA include-**

- *The Gardener* magazine, the national publication unique to TGOA/MGCA, is published by its members and carries timely, factual, well researched articles. Published bimonthly, the magazine keeps us up-to-date with the newest and best horticultural information. The covers of the magazine are always exquisite pictures from our National Photography Contest. Beginning July 1, *The Gardener* magazine will be replaced by *The American Gardener*, the publication of the American Horticultural Society, with whom we will begin a horticultural partnership.
- Again, beginning July 1, 2004, a newsletter insert will be included in *The American Gardener*, bringing news of what is happening in other clubs and at headquarters. It is an important communication tool.

**National Programs sponsored and promoted by TGOA/MGCA include-**

- Youth Gardening. This program emphasizes the responsibility we have for passing on our love for gardening and our knowledge and enthusiasm to our young people. This is, in a way, our responsibility. It also builds a cadre of future members for our clubs.
- Gardening From the Heart is a program that places emphasis on helping disadvantaged gardeners in the community enjoy the joy and therapy of gardening. This is a community service with special benefits to not only the recipients but also to the local club and its participating members.
- Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower Contests provide a wonderful competitive and fun way to promote horticulture, particularly to our young people. This project is sure to get media attention for both the "super growers" and the local sponsoring club. It is often coordinated with a club's Youth Gardening project.
- The Photography Contest is not only a great opportunity for members to enjoy sharing their art and technical capability with a national audience, but also provides the national organization with valuable material for use in a number of ways. The Photography Committee produces a video from the hundreds of slides submitted; the Calendar Committee selects pictures to use in its annual publication, and The Gardener's covers are from this contest. These photographs will also be used in *The American Gardener* where appropriate.
- The Awards Program recognizes clubs and individual members for exemplary service and contributions to, not only TGOA/MGCA, but also to their local clubs and communities. These include both standard awards recommended by the Awards Committee based on nominations from local clubs and special Presidential Citations for unique national service.

- The Calendar, a highly valued annual color publication, uses some of the most outstanding art from the Photography Contest. Our calendars are used by clubs for local public relations, as special gifts, for fund raising, for new-member recognition and in many other ways.
- The Lending Library, housed at the National Headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, contains an extensive assortment of literature, which members may borrow for only the cost of return postage. A list of all literature and books is available on the web site or from the headquarters.
- The Audio/Visual Library contains a great variety of garden and horticulture-oriented slide programs with audiocassettes and VCR programs. These can be found on our website.
- The Website brings more national attention to TGOA/MGCA and provides tremendous amounts of information about clubs, meeting plans and projects as well as broad gardening information and even Question and Answer pages for members as well as the general public.
- Club Organizing Brochures are available for help to clubs who want to sponsor a new club in a neighboring community and to groups who want to organize a club themselves. Building a new club is a precious gift to others--if you know that your club is valuable to your members and your community, then think how important a new club would be to others!
- Club Officer and Organization Aids are available from National and on the website. These include job descriptions for each officer, suggestions for writing a local newsletter, program ideas for use at the local level, public relations and publicity suggestions and help in building membership in clubs.
- Scholarships of significant dollar value are awarded annually to outstanding and needy students majoring in horticulture or floriculture at accredited college and universities. Application information is available from National.
- Judging Schools are provided to encourage members to become accredited judges for vegetable and flower shows.
- The National Convention is held annually in cities of member clubs. Many members find it an excellent opportunity to view various sections of our country. It is a wonderful time to meet with fellow gardeners from throughout America to conduct the business of the organization, participate in seminars and workshops, tour public and private gardens, hear lectures by eminent authorities on horticultural subjects, view the new photography entries, elect new officers and present annual awards.
- The Regional Organizations provide help and leadership on a closer level. The country is divided into 15 regions with officers elected by their local clubs. Each region has, depending on size, one or more National Directors.
- Regional Meetings are held at least annually and are another opportunity for developing gardening friends and colleagues.
- TGOA/MGCA provides a 501c3 umbrella designation for the benefit of your club or region. While it does not provide an individual benefit of membership, the umbrella is invaluable to your club and region and is available for just a little paperwork on an annual basis.
- Leadership. Last is the opportunity to serve others on any of the three levels--local, regional, or national-- to utilize your knowledge, expertise, experience and enthusiasm to further gardening in any of its many facets. Here is YOUR chance to return some of the gifts bestowed on you, to share your love of gardening with others and to make life-long friendships.

Use your national organization. Contact the national office in Johnston; we will help.

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America  
 5560 Merle Hay Road, Box 242, Johnston, Iowa 50131-6245  
 Telephone 515/278-0295 Fax 515/278-6245

Honey Barnekoff is a life member of TGOA/MGCA, and a member of Overland Park, KS GOA. She has served on many committees and offices in the Missouri-Kansas Region, on several TGOA/MGCA national committees, and in elected top offices in TGOA/MGCA. She is a master gardener.

The TGOA/MGCA national web site thanks the author for providing this article to the organization in April 1999.

**BIG PUMPKIN  
GIANT SUNFLOWER CONTEST  
ORDER FORM**

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR \$15.00 CHECK TO:**

TGOA/MGCA  
PO BOX 241  
JOHNSTON, IA 50131-0241

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB & REGION # \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP ORDER TO: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pumpkin Seeds:** Number of **Participants** (6-10 seeds per person will be sent) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunflower Seeds:** Number of **Participants** (8-10 seeds per person will be sent) \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive seeds in bulk shipment. You will need to obtain small zip lock bags for distribution. A copy of planting instructions will be sent with the seeds. You may reproduce for youth gardeners. Three pumpkin & sunflower certificates for top 3 winners will be sent with the seeds.

Anticipated Seed Distribution:

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Clubs      \_\_\_\_\_ Our club      \_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (list)

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTING PUMPKIN AND SUNFLOWER WINNERS IS NOVEMBER 15, 2004**

**Note:** When you are sending in your winners, please include the completed Youth Gardening questionnaire to nominate your youth program for the TGOA/MGCA national award. (also sent with seeds) Page 22 in the Awards manual (which is attached to the questionnaire) outlines the criteria and procedure for this nomination.