

TGOA/MGCA President's Message January/February 2004



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a wonderful year, full of new programs and activities.

By this time, I'm sure your National Director has explained to your clubs the new partnership with the American Horticultural Society, which will begin with the July/August issue of The American Gardener, the publication from AHS. This is so exciting! It will mean we will discontinue publishing The Gardener magazine in favor of receiving the AHS publication. You will find it to be an excellent publication with many informative and entertaining articles on gardening all over America. You will also find a newsletter from TGOA/MGCA, just for our members, enclosed with the magazine.

We will open our Photography Contest to all of AHS' members, so competition will be keener, but AHS promises to use our beautiful photographs in its magazine and on the cover, when they can. Think about the prestige of having your gorgeous photo in or on the front of a magazine that is being sent to 37,000 members, libraries and others!

Also AHS would be pleased to use the articles written by our garden writers as space and appropriateness permit. Please, garden writers, and book reviewers, check the AHS website for the writers' guidelines, to send your articles to AHS. (www.ahs.org)

Perhaps we can attract some new members, since AHS is not organized into clubs or regions, and maybe even find cities in which we can establish new clubs.

Through this partnership, you will be given either free or reduced cost entry to many of the botanical gardens and arboreta in the United States and some beyond our borders.

There is also a seed-sharing program, at very small cost, the details of which you will find in the magazine in the appropriate issue.

AHS provides tours, programming, and an 800 number for horticultural questions. They are headquartered at George Washington's historical home on the Potomac, River Farm, in Alexandria, VA.

All of these things are being provided to you at no increase in membership dues! We believe this is adding value to your national TGOA-MGCA affiliation.

We are fast approaching the deadline for national awards, February 1, for all except Newsletters, Dec. 31, and Photography, February 25, and trust that you have your homework all accomplished to submit deserving clubs, individuals and programs for recognition.

Very importantly, once again, your 2005 TGOA-MGCA National officer voting ballot will be stitched into the March/April issue of The Gardener magazine. Please look for it this year, and take time to vote for the candidates running for national office. Affix your first class postage on the private ballot and put it in the mail by June 1st in order for your vote to count in making a difference in how your organization is run. Remember, each voting household member will receive a stitched in ballot copy of The Gardener magazine.

Have you looked at the website lately? Frank Mitch, webmaster, and his hard working committee have updated the information for 2004 and there are many new items of information and interest. Please take time to check it out: tgoa-mgca.org or gardenersofamerica.com or .org.

Another item on the website, and in the magazine, is the members' discounts. Thompson and Morgan has again offered us \$10 off our first order of the year. The offer is on the website now and will continue through April. They have generously offered this year to add us to their revenue sharing, i.e., for any orders received through our website to theirs, they will send 15% of the cost of our orders back to our national organization.

Gardeners Supply/Dutch Bulbs will give you 15% off any orders received all year long. Please see the offer online or in the magazine.

Avis Rent-a-Car is also offering TGOA/MGCA members a discount. All you need to activate this offer is your membership card.

National Convention in Des Moines. Our hosts have planned a wonderful meeting, replete with compact business meetings, entertaining tours and presentations, enlightening education, delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Check out the website for more information and a tentative schedule. The convention has been shortened by one day to help make it more affordable. Please plan to join us... it's infectious!

Let the headquarters or me know if there is anything with which we may be of assistance. We are here to serve.

Happy Gardening,

Honey Barnekoff

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2004 President

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Lastly, please put June 24, 25, 26 on your calendar to attend the