

## TGOA/MGCA President's Message

### March/April 2004



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Look in the middle of this issue, please, to find your ballot stitched inside. All you'll need to do is mark your selections, tape it shut, put a 37 cent stamp on it, and throw it in the mail. This is the most direct means of exercising your choice of leadership for our organization that has ever been available. We began the new system last year to give you a greater voice in the selection of your national officers. Do it today so you won't forget.

Are your vacation plans made yet in which you included attendance at the National Convention in Des Moines?

We're going to work first, and play later, just like your mothers told you when you were young. The combined board and member meeting will be the first thing on the agenda Thursday morning. Then it's off to the demonstration gardens at Better Homes and Gardens (Meredith Publishing), Rieman Gardens at the Iowa State University, and the Des Moines

Botanical Gardens, maybe not in that order.

You'll be treated to all your meals, which are included in the registration package. The hotel is \$75.00 a night, which is less than we have paid in many years.

The photography show will be high entertainment with the winning photographs from our talented photographers.

There will be helpful seminars at the hotel and an excellent banquet and President's reception on Saturday night. Please watch the website or check *The Gardener* for the complete agenda. Sound like fun? You'll be glad you decided to attend! Send your registration in before the deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup> for a cost of \$215. per person. After that, it will be \$235.

Don't know about you, but I can hardly wait until that first issue of *The American Gardener* arrives. Having been a member of the American Horticultural Society for about five years, I can tell you it's an excellent magazine with helpful tips and hints from some of the best gardeners in our nation. The articles are informative as well as entertaining. Our photographers will receive wider acclaim because of the use of our photos in *The American Gardener*. Watch your mailboxes in June.

But let me pause a moment in such high enthusiasm to thank Marcia Peterson, our national secretary, whose talent, diligence and perseverance have produced our own *Gardener* magazine. Thank you, Marcia, for doing such a superb job! We have enjoyed your work, the timely articles, the photos from our conventions and board meetings and other club events.

Now let's thank another committee and its chairman: the Endowments and Investments Committee. Through the careful and judicious investing of our funds, Bill Lanning, Reeves Davis, Robert Ireland, Howard Matz, Albert Miller, and Jim Tracy bring us much needed funds to keep our organization sound financially. Did you notice these are all past presidents? Bill Lanning is the chairman and Jim Tracy is the brain that watches over these funds, investing and re-investing in just the right instruments to ensure the conservation of our funds as well as income from these funds.

E & I Committee is guided by our bylaws, which were very carefully crafted to ensure our organization's longevity. We may spend the income from the funds, but never the principle. These gentlemen are to be commended for the superb work they do for us. Thank you, gentlemen.

Have you invited someone to join your club? We will need to recruit new members, and retain the ones we have, to fund our AHS partnership and keep our organization strong. Just think, you'll be receiving two memberships for the price of one, with a new magazine, more than 150 botanical gardens you can visit at little or no cost, an 800 number you can call with your horticultural questions, and a seed sharing program in which you can receive seeds for only a donation. Of course, you still have all the benefits your membership has brought you in the past. I'd ask that you look on the website for the updated version of *Just for the Joy of It*, the article about the benefits of your membership.

Please remember to order your seeds from Thompson and Morgan, either through the website or from the ad in this magazine. This offer will expire the end of April, and you should have seeds sown by that time. T & M is sharing revenue with us, if you will just let them know you are a member of TGOA/MGCA when you order. Pretty generous!

I'll look forward to seeing you in Des Moines in June and happy gardening to each of you.

Honey Barnekoff  
President  
913-722-5562  
barnekoff@everestkc.net