



# The Gardeners Of America

## Men's Garden Clubs Of America

### NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 18

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

Number 5

THROUGH OUT THE TGOA/MGCA NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND VARIOUS PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE 2007 CONVENTION	
TGOA/MGCA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	2
BOOK REVIEW	2
HELPING MORE AMERICANS ENJOY THE REWARDS OF GARDENS & GARDENING	2
NEW ROOF CONTRIBUTION PLAQUE	2
TGOA PHOTO CONTEST ARTICLE	3
GARDENERS GONE TO REST	3
MEMORIALS/HONORS	3
2007 AWARDS	4-5
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	5
I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THE 2007 TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, BY JESSICA ROZMUS, AHS	6
SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AND/OR NEWSLETTER	6
REGISTRATION AND RESERVATION INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN NOVEMBER.	7-8
GARDEN CLUB IN JOHNSTON FOR ALL	7
ATTENTION CLUBS	8
BIG PUMPKIN & GIANT SUNFLOWER CONTEST	8
QUIRKY QUESTIONS, STRAIGHT ANSWERS	9
AROUND THE REGION (IL-WI)	9
GARDENING TIPS	9
TGOA/MGCA 2008 NATIONAL COMMITTEE SELECTION FORM	10
FROM THE GARDEN SHOP	11
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	12



#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE TGOA/MGCA PRESIDENT**

What a great job the Illinois - Wisconsin Region did on our convention "Gardening Heaven in 2007" and a special thanks goes to the Rockford Area Gardeners for hosting our convention in their beautiful city.

Everyone had a great time, the meetings were fruitful, we had excellent seminars, a beautiful slide show on our photographic competition, great awards and award recipients, outstanding tours, a most interesting and educational banquet speaker, Roy Klehm, and we had fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Everyone who attended learned a great deal and had a good time.

The executive committee and directors are in the process of setting up a new committee on national projects. Chuck Burt and I are looking for a few good people who would like to pursue these projects that come, from time to time, to the attention of our organization. Opportunities are available to serve on a nationwide project with a

partner or by yourself. We will be addressing and setting up this committee at our directors meeting in November in Des Moines. In the event you would like to work on this effort, let Chuck Burt or me know.

I know it is a year away, but it is not too soon to put the Fort Wayne convention on your 2008 calendar, June 12-14. I would also like our clubs and / or regions to consider hosting our 2009 and 2010 conventions.

It was good to see so many of you at the convention and I hope all of us are having fun in our gardens.

*Jim Mack*

**TGOA/MGCA HQ wishes to thank** the Illinois-Wisconsin Region / clubs, all members / attendees, speakers / presenters, tour gardens and guides, Mayor of Dixon, other assistance personnel and last but not least, the Clock Tower Resort, its employees / staff and the gracious town of Rockford, IL for making our 2007 national convention the wonderful experience it was.



**Chuck Burt,  
Austin, TX ,  
2008 National  
President**

The next national newsletter will have the president's message by Chuck Burt.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**SEPTEMBER**

Mon, 3 - Labor Day

**OCTOBER**

Mon, 8 - Columbus Day

## TGOA/MGCA 2007 National Executive Officers

**President:** James A. Mack, 1101 Broadmore, Tempe, AZ 85282, 480-966-8387, [jandjmack@cox.net](mailto:jandjmack@cox.net)

**First Vice President:** Chuck P. Burt, P.O. Box 606, Austin, TX 78767, 512-606-0177, [txcwdancer@hotmail.com](mailto:txcwdancer@hotmail.com)

**Second Vice President:** Robert L. Grossman, 6115 Linden, Dallas, TX 75230, 972-701-8300 [bobgrossman@airmail.net](mailto:bobgrossman@airmail.net)

**Third Vice President:** Jerome W. Frampton, 202 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Clear Lake, IA 50428, 641-583-0223 [Jerome@netconx.net](mailto:Jerome@netconx.net)

**Treasurer:** Steven H. Bush, 1522 17<sup>th</sup> St., West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-225-9638, [bushfinancial@mchsi.com](mailto:bushfinancial@mchsi.com)

**Immediate Past President:** Dale G. Davies, P.O. Box 524, Van Wert, OH 45891, 419-238-9351, [lhenney@bright.net](mailto:lhenney@bright.net)

### TGOA/MGCA HQ SUPPORT

**Administrative Assistant, A.J. Freeman,** 5560 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, IA 50131, 515-278-0295, [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com)

**Membership Manager / Bookkeeper,** Robert Young, P.O. Box 241, Johnston, IA 50131-0241, 515-278-0295, Fax: 515-278-6245, [mgcamb@dwx.com](mailto:mgcamb@dwx.com)



## BOOK REVIEW

**New Flowers: Growing the Newest Garden Varieties,** Tessa Paul, Harry N. Abrams, Publisher, New York, 1990, Introduction by Daphne Ledwood.

Submitted by Ellen Franz, certified master gardener, member-at-large, Bayview, OH

Read the introduction! This first section of the book is not long or difficult. These important pages set the state of understanding the complexities of modern plant breeding. Like it or not, the work of the birds, bees, butterflies, moths, etc, have been superceded by science. It is important to be aware of the extensive (and expensive) changes in new plant life.

With your homework done, now enjoy the 200 photos of new flowers, plus shrubs, trees, and ground cover. The text accompanying the pictures is aptly placed and easy to follow. New Flowers continues with a section on garden design, including pools, ponds, walkways, and walls.

A two-page list of nurseries and suppliers will help you find your special plants. The index is simple and specific. For photo buffs, an Acknowledgement page lists photographic credits.

New Flowers is a gardener's feast!



John Morley's Garden, Dixon, IL

## HELPING MORE AMERICANS ENJOY THE REWARDS OF GARDENS AND GARDENING

Article taken from an American Horticultural Society pamphlet, approved by Jessica Rozmus

For more than 80 years, the AHS has helped home gardeners and professional horticulturists increase their knowledge, feed their passion for gardening, and embrace responsible stewardship of the earth.

While many AHS programs are open to non-members, membership in the Society is the best way to access a range of exclusive benefits. Among these are The American Gardener magazine and the members only section of the AHS website, which provide members with in-depth, earth-friendly gardening information. The AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program offers members free and reduced admission to more than 200 public gardens and flower shows across the nation.

AHS members also received priority consideration for gardening workshops and conferences, tours of unique gardens through the Travel Study Program, and opportunities to share and grow rare and hard-to-find plants through the Annual Seed Exchange.

### ROOF CONTRIBUTION

Listed below are members who have contributed to the roof fund since the last newsletter.

To contribute, please send donations to Bob Young at national headquarters. Thank you!

Robert Grossman, Dallas, Tx  
Lawrence Schaeffer, Tucson, AZ



This photo of the Rock River was donated by Tom Wilten.



Picture donated by Tom Wilten  
Gazebo at John Morley's garden in  
Dixon, IL



by Shirley Winnes  
July 12, 13, and 14

This year's participants at the "Gardening Heaven in 2007" Convention in Rockford, Illinois, are (seated left to right) Rose Borowitz, Agnes Schussman, Betty Cox, (standing left to right) Bob Mongin, Shirley Winnes, Harvey Plansky, Mary Naumann, Paul Hartman, Ritalyn Arps, and Sue Rohan. Shirley is holding a second place award plaque for the Tiller, and Mary is holding a book she won as a door prize.

*I would like pictures of other 2007 convention helpers for the Nov/Dec newsletter. AJ*



President's Reception. Juanita Mack, Ila Mae Heggen, President Jim Mack, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Chuck Burt.

### TGOA Photo Contest

Article from The American Gardener, Jul/Aug 07 issue.

Are you proud of your garden and interested in showing it off to gardeners across the country? Consider capturing those tantalizing plant combinations and perfect blooms on film for The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA) 2008 photography contest.

Two AHS members who submitted images for the 2007 competition will have their photos published in the 2008 TGOA/MGCA calendar. AHS Immediate Past Chair Arabella Dane's photo will be the featured image for the month of July, and a photo by Anne C. Allen, from Brownsville, Vermont, will grace the October page.

The deadline for submis-

sions to next year's competition is February 13, 2008. For additional information, contact Judy Schuck, the TGOA / MGCA national photography and calendar chairperson, at (913) 362-8480 or visit [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org).



### GARDENERS GONE TO REST

Due to technical difficulties with Bob Young's hard drive; there will be no Gardeners Gone To Rest in this newsletter. The Nov/Dec newsletter will cover those members we have lost.

But, please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss.



### MEMORIALS/HONORS

A gift was received for the GFTH program from Ronald and Ila Mae Heggen in memory of Leyton Youngclaus.

A gift was received for the Memorial Fund from the Akron Men's Garden Club in memory of Louis F. Kreek Jr.

*If you wish to submit a monetary gift for a specific program in memory or honor of any member, please use the form from the website or get a form from your club's secretary and submit it to national headquarters.*

To be persuasive, we must be believable.  
To be believable, we must be credible.  
To be credible, we must be truthful.

*What is on page 12?*

**2007 Awards****Scholarship Awards:** (Candidate, Affiliation, Sponsor)**Patricia Zehl**, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, sponsored by the Mo-Kan region.**Timothy Sauner**, Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute, Wooster, OH, sponsored by MGC of Akron, OH.**Matthew Long**, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, sponsored by the Mo-Kan region.**Kimberly Cottrell**, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO, sponsored by the Mo-Kan Region.**Monica Hudak**, Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute, Wooster, OH, sponsored by MGC of Akron, OH.**Community/Organization Beautification Award:**

Men's Garden Club of Des Moines, IA

Gardeners Club of Mendota, IL

Boone County Gardeners of America, IL

**Home Beautification Award:**

Linda Cobb, Spartanburg MGC, Spartanburg, SC

**Newsletters:** (Club or Region, Editor)**Class A Club Award:** (101+ members) "The Manure Spreader," Kay Elliott, Greater KC GOA, MO**Class B Club Award:** (51-100 members)**1<sup>st</sup> place:** "The Germinator", Joseph Alessi, Jr., MGC of Youngstown, OH**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** "The Tiller", Shirley Winnes, GC of Green Bay, WI**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** "The Green Thumb", Bob Ploger, Gardeners of St. Charles County, MO**Class C Club Award:** (Up to 50 members)**1<sup>st</sup> place:** "The Back Acre News", Nancy Kronberg & Anita Lanning, Men & Women's GC of Findlay, OH**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** "Flora Flash", Cheri Kessen, Fort Wayne GOA, IN**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** "Green Thumb Chatter", Ann Krahn, TGC of Mendota, IL**Silver Medal:** Recognition for a member who has rendered outstanding service to TGOA/MGCA.

William Lanning, Men &amp; Women's Club of Findlay, OH, and Jerry Miller, MGC of Des Moines, IA

**Photography:****Sweepstakes Winner:** Richard Quataert, MGC of Rochester, total score: 225; Blue -12, Red - 8, Yellow - 0**Best of Show:** Karyn Chaffin, Denver GOA, Passiflora x alato-caerulea**1st Runner-up:** Rodney Toth, Youngstown, Dahlia pinnata, 'Vassio Meggos'**2nd Runner-up (tie):** Athol Cline, Gardeners of Tucson, Stapelia gigantea, Carrion Flower  
Judy Schuck, GOA Overland Park, Bee on Eryngium x oliverianum**Judges Awards:** First Group of 3 Judges - Sections A, B, E, F, G, M, no choices made

Second Group of 3 Judges - Sections C, D, I, J, K, L

Judge # 1 - Donald Delmez, Gardeners of St. Charles, Iris ensata, 'Sue Jo', Japanese Iris

Judge # 2 - Judy Schuck, GOA Overland Park, Bee on Eryngium x oliverianum

Judge # 3 - Richard Quataert, MGC of Rochester, Tulipa

Third Group of Judges - (Digital) All Sections

Judge #1 - Anne Allen, Member at Large (AHS), Malus, 'Snowdrift', Crabapple

Judge #2 - Athol Cline, Gardeners of Tucson, Tradescantia zebrina, Zebrina Flower

Judge #3 - Athol Cline, Gardeners of Tucson, Stapelia gigantea, Carrion Flower

**Best of Section Winners:**

<u>Section</u>	<u>Description/Common &amp; Botanical Name</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Club Name</u>
<b>A</b>	Roses/ Rosa rosaceae	Sherrill E. Lynch	Member-at-Large
<b>B</b>	Annuals/Zinna elegans zowie, 'Yellow Flame'	Helen Lynch	Member at Large

Continued on page 5, **Best of Section Winners**

**Best of Section Winners**, continued from page 4

<b>C</b>	Herbaceous Perennial & Biennial Flowers (excluding Bulbs), Rhododendron/Datura meteloides, Angel's Trumpet	Karyn Chaffin	Denver GOA
<b>D</b>	Bulb-Like Flowers/Nymphaea, Waterlily and Canna	Sherra Schuck	GOA Overland Park
<b>E</b>	Specialty Flowering Plants/ Stapelia gigantea, Carrion Flower	Athol Cline	Gardeners of Tucson
<b>F</b>	Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines/ Passiflora alato-caerulea, Passion Flower	Karyn Chaffin	Denver GOA
<b>G</b>	Edible Fruit and Nuts/Malus, Crabapple	Jerry Cleland	Gardeners of Central Great Lake County, IL
<b>H</b>	Vegetables/Piper Nigrum, Petter	Helen Lynch	Member at Large
<b>I</b>	Plants Grown in Containers, Pots, or Hanging Baskets/ Tradescantia Zebrine, Zebrina Flower	Athol Cline	Gardeners of Tucson
<b>J</b>	Wildflowers/ Hemerocallis fulva, Highway Daylily	Anne Allen	Member at Large (AHS)
<b>K</b>	Private, Public & Natural Landscapes/ Private Landscape	Di DeCaire	Member at Large (AHS)
<b>L</b>	Specimen Photography/Dahlia pinnata, 'Vassio Meggos'	Rodney Toth	MGC of Youngstown
<b>M</b>	Miscellaneous/Bee on Eryngium x oliverianum	Judy Schuck	GOA Overland Park



Executive Committee, Board of Directors meeting. From left to right: Past President, Dale Davies; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Robert Grossman; National Treasurer, Steven Bush; National Administrative Assistant, AJ Freeman, and the National President, James Mack.



Saturday evening, July 14, 2007. Howard Matz (center, holding plaque) presenting award to Bill Lanning. Picture donated by Henry Pitman

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from 2006-2007.*

- Spartanburg MGC, SC, 17.95%**
- Burlington MGC, NC, 11.11%**
- Gardeners of Bluffton-Pandora Area, OH, 15.63%**
- Lima MGC, OH, 121.43%**
- Maple City MGC, MI, 16.67%**
- Ritenour Garden Club, Overland, MO 31.25%**
- Marietta Gardeners Club, GA, 13.46%**
- Mountain Shadow GC, GA, 12.24%**
- MGC of Houston, TX, 26.67%**
- Rockwall-Rowlett Garden Club, Rockwall, TX, 30%**
- MGC of Syracuse, NY, 13.10%**
- Albany MGC, NY, 52.31%**

*This was the year of the sprinklers. Can Ft. Wayne out do that?*

*We'll see!!*



Friday afternoon, July 13, 2007. Bus tour to Rockford gardens  
Picture donated by Henry Pitman



Anderson Japanese Garden tour,  
Taken by Frank Mitch

**I had the pleasure of attending the 2007 TGOA/MGCA National Conference held in Rockford, Illinois** and saw first hand the community wide pride in the beautification of the city, which lends itself to the “small-town feel.” This was an appropriate setting for the conference as many members from all over the country met up to share stories, tips and advice on the many aspects of gardening in their communities, as well as simply reconnecting with friends. Community beautification and education drove this symposium with knowledgeable speakers and amazing tours. I had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people who shared their stories with me and welcomed me into their circle. Thank you TGOA/MGCA for having me. I look forward to next year in Fort Wayne, Indiana (especially the carrots ☺).

Jessica E. Rozmus, Education Programs  
Coordinator American Horticultural Society, 7931  
East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308  
[jrozmus@ahs.org](mailto:jrozmus@ahs.org) (703) 768-5700 ext. 137

## **SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AND/OR NEWSLETTER**

By AJ Freeman, TGOA/MGCA Newsletter Editor and Frank Mitch, Web Site Committee Chair

Please feel free to submit articles for your national newsletter and/or website at any time.

Submission in a digital file such as MS Word (newsletter or website) or Publisher (web site only) is preferred. Do *not* use MS Works.

Please state whether the article is for the website and / or the national newsletter.

A relevant photo is welcome and a digital .jpg format is preferred. Always include a write up explaining photos (who, what, when, where, why.)

Email articles and photos to [tgoasecy@dwx.com](mailto:tgoasecy@dwx.com) or mail to the TGOA / MGCA mailing address in Johnston, IA attention AJ Freeman or fax: 515-278-6245.

### ***National Newsletter***

Articles should be 200 words or less in font size 12 and the font type should be either Times New Roman or Arial.

### ***Web Page***

Articles should be one page or less in length. No more than 500 words.

**TGOA/MGCA Website**, by Frank Mitch, Web Master and Committee Chair  
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>; <http://www.gardenersofamerica.org> **Password = lily**

## **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

Does anyone from Arkansas have any gardening information or stories they would like to share with gardeners across the U.S.A. by submitting an article for the national newsletter?

How about members in Colorado and Georgia?

We sure would love to hear from you.

**REGISTRATION**

**TGOA/MGCA**

Board of Directors Meeting  
November 2 & 3, 2007

**Registrant:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse/Guest:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee: (Per Attendee)**

Prior to **October 11, 2007** - \$75

After **October 11, 2007** - \$85

**Amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival: Auto / Airport:**

**Advise Hotel When Making Reservations**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Departure: Auto / Airport:**

**Arrange At Hotel**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Airport Transportation – Furnished by hotel

Other Transportation – Available from hotel to  
surrounding area venues

Send this registration form and check, no later  
than **October 11<sup>th</sup>** to: Ronald A. Heggen

*Make registration check payable to:*

**TGOA / MGCA Director Meeting**

**HOST:** Ronald A. Heggen, 10608 Sharon Circle,  
Urbandale, Iowa 50322-6300, (515) 262-8635,  
Fax: (515) 262-8635, E-mail: [raheggen@dwx.com](mailto:raheggen@dwx.com)

**HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

Board of Directors Meeting  
November 2 & 3, 2007

**Best Western Des Moines North**

5055 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, IA, 50131

**(515) 276-5411**

**Email: [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com).**

For general information: (515) 276-5151

(Ask for Molly)

*Indicate that you are with*

**TGOA / MGCA Directors Meeting**

Room rates (plus 12% tax):

Regular rooms - \$69

Efficiency suites - \$79

Full suites - \$99

**All rooms are non-smoking**

**Deadline: October 4, 2007**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Airport Transportation Required, Advise)

**Departure:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Airport Transportation Required, Advise)

**Special needs required:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card**

Master Card

Discover

VISA

American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card if different from the name above:

\_\_\_\_\_



**TGOA / MGCA  
DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2 / 3, 2007**

**MEETING SENARIO**

**Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**      **REGISTRATION – Lobby - 1:00 to 4:00 PM**  
*Dinner on attendees own*

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**      *Breakfast on attendees own*  
**HOSPITALITY ROOM – 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**  
**REGISTRATION – Hospitality Room**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8:00 to 10:30 AM**  
**ENDOWMENT & INVESTMENT**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING - 10:45 AM to 12.00 PM**  
*Lunch on attendees own*  
**DIRECTOR MEETING - 1:30 to 4:30 PM**  
**DINNER – 6:00 PM - Buffet Meal**  
*No Social Hour*

**Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**      *Breakfast on attendees own*  
**HOSPITALITY ROOM – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
**HEADQUARTERS VISITATION – 9:00 to 11:00 AM**  
*Lunch on attendees own*  
**SEMINAR – 1:00 to 2:15 PM**  
**RAILWAYS in the GARDEN**  
**SEMINAR – 2:45 to 4:00 PM**  
**WINE CREATION, SAMPLING & SALES**  
**SOCIAL HOUR – 5:30 to 6:30 PM**  
**DINNER - 6:30 PM – Plated Meal**  
**7:30 PM - Program & Installation of Directors & Officers**

**Steeped in the Past** (from the Organic Gardening magazine (late summer))

Amerigo Vespucci, our country’s namesake and Columbus’s ship-stocker, loaded barrels of pickles onto the *Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria* to help prevent scurvy outbreaks. Because of their ability to keep without spoiling in brine for as long as two or three years, pickles were also invaluable to early settlers, who made them at the end of the summer to eat during the lean winter months.

**ATTENTION CLUBS**

Please have the chair of your youth program contact Don Otterness, Youth Committee Chair. Contact information for Mr. Otterness is on TGOA/MGCA website or call national headquarters.



**BIG PUMPKIN & GIANT SUNFLOWER CONTEST WINNERS, FALL 2007**

Please send participant information to Don Otterness as soon as possible so HQ can make plaques and certificates for the winners in a timely manner and list the first place winners in the next newsletter.

**Classic Cottage Style Hollyhocks**  
 Louise Beebe Wilder, American gardening writer (1878-1938)

*Hollyhocks are among the most pictorial of plants, and it is very difficult to find anything else to take their place*

**Unsure about “Kosher”?** It signifies that garlic flavor has been added to the dill recipe.

## Quirky Questions, Straight Answers

by Diane Cyr, The Old Farmer's Almanac, All-Seasons Garden Guide magazine

### FIRE AWAY

**Which works better for  
controlling fire ants:  
grits or urine?**

\* Debatable, according to Wm D. Adams, now-retired extension agent for Harris County, Texas. Grits allegedly work because fire ants eat them and swell to death. Urine supposedly is effective because its high nitrogen content discourages fire ants from building mounds. Neither method, though, "is a county recommendation," says Adams, who generally endorses use of commercial bait or mound treatment. Privately, though, he does not discourage experimentation. A woman once reported that her way of treating fire ants was to put Grandma's bedpan on the lawn. "I suppose that would run anybody off," Adams reasons.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE SCOOP ON POOP

**If chicken manure makes good  
compost, how about my parrot  
droppings? And if steer manure  
works, why not doggy-doo?**

\* Parrot poop is fine, but a dog's is not, says Barbara Bromley, horticulturist for Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Mercer County, New Jersey. Like meat, butter, and other animal products, feces from carnivorous critters do not belong in the compost pile. Digested meat products can carry dangerous parasites, in addition to smelling bad and

attracting flies and rodents. "Bury them in the part of your yard that is not going to produce food crops," she says.

Here's what you can compost: contents from the vacuum cleaner, sweepings from your bunny hut, bits of wool carpet. "You can even put in leather shoes," she says. "Just cut them into little bits."

[Almanac.com/garden](http://Almanac.com/garden)

**Around The Region**, the Illinois – Wisconsin Region newsletter, August 2007.

by Audrey Friend, Belvidere, IL

### **Hallelujah! It's Over!**

What a fabulous convention.

A huge thank you to the steering committee who faithfully met at our home every month for two and a half years, all the committees and helpers who did a super job, and to the members who attended the convention.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

What a climax to end my ten years as President of the Region. A complete report will be given at our Regional meeting in September.

Beautification awards were presented to Jim Armstrong of Mendota and Boone County Gardeners. Newsletter award was presented to Ann Krahn of Mendota. Congratulations – we are so proud of you.

Thanks again for supporting the Region in all our projects – you are a great bunch of gardeners!

### **Thanks from the Members**

Members from all over the country have sent notes in

praise of the 2007 convention. From Daniel: "Our national convention was awesome...do we ever have a friendly bunch as members. I went on excursions every day, and saw the most beautiful gardens I've ever seen." Ann wrote: "We may not have the grandeur of the mountains, nor the splendor of the oceans, but the Midwest has a beauty of its own. You promoted the heartland in a remarkable way – showcasing its gardens, beautiful countryside, and especially the charm of its small towns in a wonderful package." Sue commented: "The Dixon tour was definitely the highlight. I was in awe of the beauty of Morley's garden. From Betty: "I heard about the history of Walgreens, saw the Blackhawk statue, Reagan's home, a Japanese garden..." And finally from Sue: "All of us enjoyed another great convention...I especially liked the seminar on bees...and one on roses. We renewed old friendships and made new ones. Hope to see you in Fort Wayne next June."

### **\*\*\*GARDENING TIPS\*\*\***

From the Romin' Gardener, August 2007: Newsletter of the "Gardeners of Rome New York"

Be sure to check the hanging baskets and container grown plants every day during hot weather and about every second day on moderate summer days. Don't just check the surface...push your finger an inch or two into the soil to be sure there is adequate moisture below throughout the root area. Water them thoroughly each time you water, but be careful not to over water them.

**TGOA/MGCA 2008 NATIONAL COMMITTEE SELECTION FORM**

Members from each club are encouraged to volunteer serving on the National level. Please indicate *several* interests. Positions will be chosen by the National President elect prior to the November 1-3, 2007 BoD meeting. Mail, E-mail, or Fax (see page two) your choices to the National Headquarters in Iowa no later than October 1, 2007.

<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>Check One &gt;</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Member</b>
Audio Visual			
Awards			
Bequests and Grants			
Book Review			
Building & Grounds			
Bylaws			
Calendar			
Club Communication			
Convention Site & Planning			
Credentials			
Directors Meeting Site & Planning			
Endowment and Investment			
Environmental Issues			
Finance			
Gardening From Heart			
Membership & New Clubs			
Merchandise & Marketing			
National Newsletter Editorial			
National Projects			
Newsletters			
Nominations			
Photography			
Planning			
Publicity & Public Relations			
Region Council			
Scholarships			
Shows and Judging			
Special Projects			
Web Site			
Youth Gardening			

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ MISC: \_\_\_\_\_

## From the Garden Shop ACCESSORIES

**Caps & Hats** (choice of logo)

- Life member white cap (both logos) \$15*
- Green/White or White Mesh Cap \$7.50
- Green or White Sun Visor \$6
- Sun body Hat (no logo)(discription below) \$20
- White poplin Golf Cap \$8

**Jackets** (choice of logo)

- Green or White Lined Windbreaker  
M-Xlg \$32 XXlg \$35
- Green or White Unlined Windbreaker  
M-Xlg \$26 XXlg \$29

**Shirts** (choice of logo)

- Green or White Sport Shirt, knit  
M-Xlg \$22 XX & XXXlg \$25
- Short Sleeve Arrow Dress Shirt  
(15 to 17-1/2) \$28.00
- Gardening from the Heart T-shirt  
(no logo choice) L-Xlg \$5

**Vest** (choice of logo)

- Green Poplin, washable \$16

**Jewelry** (club members only, logo choice)

- Bolo Tie, \$6.75; Key Chain, \$4; Tie Tacks, \$4
- Earrings (choice of post or wire), \$7.99
- Pin, Membership President, Past President \$3.50

**Plaque**, Club President (walnut) \$40

- Mugs**, Insulated, Hot/Cold (both logos) \$5
- Porcelain (both logos) \$3.50
- Terra Cotta "Flower Pot" (both logos) \$5.50

**Gloves**, Long Cuffed or Summer Glove \$6

**Screen Saver:** \$1

**Umbrella** (sunflower or magnolia) \$15

*Shipping and handling charges will be added to your order using this chart:*

*Shipping is by priority mail.*

Total Order	Shipping and Handling Charge
Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
\$10 to \$49.99.....	\$7.50
\$50 to \$99.99.....	\$10.50
\$100 to \$199.99...	\$12.50
\$299 and over.....	\$14.50

Only checks or cash please. Headquarters is not set up for credit card actions. Credit cards may be used when ordering from the web site.

*Sunbody Hats are made of Guatemalan palm leaves and are tough – rain or shine.*

**Sewn-braid palm leaf hats are the toughest hats you will find. The overlapping layers of palm braid from an almost impenetrable sun block. And when they get wet, they stiffen and keep their shape making them great in sun or rain.**

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

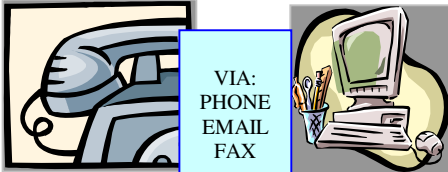
Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head size for Sunbody hat (only): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



**FROM THE  
EDITOR'S DESK**  
By AJ Freeman



**National Membership  
Manager / Bookkeeper**

Contact Mr. Bob Young, for national membership and financial questions or actions at TGOA / MGCA headquarters, Johnston, Iowa, afternoons, M-F, 515-278-0295, or via email: [mgcamb@dw.com](mailto:mgcamb@dw.com)

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Please keep Bob Young at TGOA / MGCA headquarters in Iowa notified of any changes in your status and/or address or of any administrative problems you may have.

**AHS 2007 PASSWORD**

The new AHS 2007 password may be found in The American Gardener magazine.

**INTERACTIVE MAPPING OF GARDEN CENTERS AND NURSERIES**

This is a website that has interactive mapping of garden centers and nurseries across the US. In order to view the Garden Centers map, go to [www.mapmuse.com](http://www.mapmuse.com), select see All Interests, hit G then select Garden Centers and Nurseries from the list of interests (or go to: [http://find.mapmuse.com/interest/garden\\_centers](http://find.mapmuse.com/interest/garden_centers).)

**JUST THE FAX MA'AM  
JUST THE FAX**

Please fax information, articles or questions to headquarters at: 515-278-6245.

Include a cover sheet with an attention and subject line, your name, and phone number. Please print or type information.

**Attention Clubs/Regions**

Please submit your request to be host for the 2009 convention to the Convention Site & Planning chair or any Executive Officer.

**2007 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND REGION DIRECTORS**

Committee chairs: reports are to be submitted to the appropriate executive officer quarterly.

Region directors: reports are to be submitted to the national president quarterly.

Reports must include the activities in which your committee / region was involved with.

Check out TGOA/MGCA ad in The American Gardener (Jul/Aug), page 55. Article, TGOA Photo Contest, page 10.

**Near and Dear  
to My Heart**

**Gardening in Iraq**



**The Gardeners of America  
Men's Garden Clubs of America  
5560 Merle Hay Rd / P.O. Box 241  
Johnston, IA 50131-0241**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DES MOINES, IA  
PRMIT NO. 2934