

Everett G. Ames, Paulding, OH
Kenneth Miller, Van Wert, OH
Robert E. Boles, Des Moines, IA
Joe W. Knight, Jr., Des Moines, IA
J. Marshall Magner, Webster Groves, MO
Howard M. Rayner, Hindsdale, IL
Frank A. Brogan, San Antonio, TX
Leslie D. Scott, Mesquite, TX
Ervin F. Campbell, Ozark, MO
Phil M. Negley, Des Moines, IA
William D. Alexis, Wadsworth, OH
Lyle Keller, Santa Rosa, CA
W. E. Lindsey, Reidsville, NC
William C. Fischer, Kansas City, MO



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from 2007-2008.

- Gardeners of Tucson, AZ***
- Greater Cleveland MGC, OH***
- Gardeners of Central Lake County, IL***
- First MGC of Dallas, TX***
- MGC of Syracuse, NY***
- Gardeners of Rome, NY***
- Tioga County MGC, NY***



FROM YOUR EDITOR

What a great time and learning experience I had at convention. The food was wonderful, the seminars were very informative and meeting all of you that attended was a great pleasure. This was my first convention and for those of you who were unable to attend, it was fantastic. Thank you Fort Wayne for all of your hospitality and the opportunity to attend this event..

Just a reminder to please send me your articles/photos for the newsletters. Input from our members will provide us all a wide vast of knowledge and insight to our mutual love of gardening.

Also, help me keep the directories current. Send me your changes and I will post them in that month's directory.

I will be working on our "lending library" here at headquarters as I find the time. Look forward to a more current listing of books for your use and also the availability of books which will be available for you to

request for your own library. This is a monumental task, but will eventually be updated.

ATTENTION: Please have the chair of your youth program contact Don Otterness, youth committee chair and send him the participant information and winners of the Big Pumpkin & Giant Sunflower Contest for 2008. Plaques and certificates are available for the winners.

>_>_>_>_>_>_>_>_>_>

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2009

- Robert L. Grossman, President;
- Lawrence M. Schaeffer, First Vice-President;
- Hugh Earnhart, Second Vice-President;
- Tom Wilten, Third Vice-president;
- Steven H. Bush, Treasurer

ONE MORE TIME!
We need volunteers to chair some of the national committees and also members to participate in them. Please submit your selections to HQs and we will pass them on to the national president. These committees are an important part of our organization. Let's keep them working.

God: Grass? But it is so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it. Sometimes two times a week.

God: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they see it?

St. Francis: No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight...they fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this Lord, but when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide

beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and from a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No way! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing the leaves away, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a really stupid movie about.....

God: Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from Saint Francis. ☹

.....
..

DEER, DEER AND MORE DEER

Published in the Garden Club of Austin, TX newsletter

Having trouble with deer? Here is a website that might give you several suggestions:

http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/travis/docs/Gardening_In_Deer_Country.pdf

.....

2008

CONVENTION

I want to thank all of the attendees of the 2008 TGOA/MGCA National Convention. We know that everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. One of the attendees stated that he has attended many business conventions along with gardening conventions and the 2008 convention was at the top of the list. If you have any pictures you would like to share please send them to Frank Mitch so that they can be put on the website and shared with the membership.

Now we need to start looking forward to the 2009 TGOA/MGCA annual convention in Santa Rosa, California in late May. Our Santa Rosa hosts, Scott Tree and Chet Wilson, have the planning well in hand. I have had a chance to look at the list of all the things they want to show us. It is fabulous. They promise that you will be charmed by their surroundings. It is time to start making plans to attend.

At this time, we do not have a host club or clubs to

sponsor the 2010 TGOA/MGCA annual convention. I have proven that you can do a great convention with a steering committee of eight. Do not be afraid to host a convention. It is a lot of work, but it is fun. One of the really great things to see is the joy and amazement on the faces of the attendees. We need to have a convention in 2010 and as chairman of the convention committee I am here to help you. You will not be standing on your own. It was really great to hear at the annual meeting that some clubs are willing to support a convention financially. Please send all of your offers of assistance and sponsorship to me. I am the clearing house for information and offers.

John Kessen
 chairman of the convention committee
 1205 Limberlost Trail
 Rome City, IN 46784
 (260)854-2988

Gazing Ball Folklore
 A gazing ball will ward off witches from your garden. During the 17th Century in England, gazing balls were used to protect plants from the wicked witches who would come to steal them. The gazing balls attracted witches, but once the witches saw their ugly reflections, they fled the garden

and the plants were safe.
 Submitted by The Gardeners of Green Bay, WI



GOA-Topeka members present Jerold Binkley (center) with a check for Topeka Beautification Association.”

GOA – Topeka has a reputation for generosity with volunteers and dollars, with community donations of over \$15,000 since 1998. For many years, members raised funds with an annual spring plant sale, which included member-grown plants of many varieties, in addition to nursery-grown bedding plants. \$7,000 in scholarship money was given to Kaw Area Technical School, Topeka, and Kansas State University, Manhattan, for horticultural students.

Over \$6,100 went to garden development and a pond fountain at Lake Shawnee Gardens. Lake Shawnee is a focal point for the club’s volunteerism, starting in spring with planting, and continuing into summer and fall with weeding and cleanup. Several years ago, the club donated

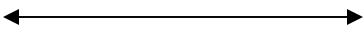
countless hours of bed preparation and planting, as well as plants, for the newly designated garden area at the lake. A peony garden, with a plaque honoring award-winning local peony hybridizer Myron Bigger, was part of this effort.

Other donations include \$1,000 to the horticulture class at Kaw Area Tech for poinsettias, which were given as part of holiday baskets to elderly and other needy citizens in Topeka. \$1,000 was given to the KSU Gardens in Manhattan, a great place to spend an afternoon, knowing that students there are learning their trade, by planning, planting, and maintaining the grounds.

Most recently, GOA-Topeka presented a \$1,000 check to local community gardener Jerold Binkley, for the Topeka Beautification Association. This was the twenty-second, and final, year that Binkley and his wife, Joan, have allowed the Topeka Beautification Association to use their three and one-half acre garden for its Tulip Time fundraiser. He told us that, over the years, the self-guided tour has raised \$350,000. The Binkleys have landscaped their garden with more

than 25,000 tulips and 12,000 daffodils, as well as with many perennials and flowering shrubs and trees. Jerold himself newly plants about half of the tulips every fall. The club members enjoyed a perfect evening at Tulip Time for their April meeting, with daffodils still perky, and tulips at their peak beauty, with redbuds and other flowering trees as an elegant background.

by Shirley Darby,
member GOA – Topeka,
Kansas



PUMPKIN HISTORY

References to pumpkins date back many centuries. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for “large melon” which is “pepon.” “Pepon” was nasalized by the French into “pompon.” The English changed “pompon” to “pumpion.” American colonists changed “pumpion” into “pumpkin.”

Native Americans dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. They also roasted long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and ate them. The origin of pumpkin pie occurred when the colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and filled the insides with milk, spices and

honey. The pumpkin was then baked in hot ashes.

For more pumpkin facts, visit the website:
www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/

BOOK REVIEW

By Ellen Franz,
Member-at-Large
Master Gardener, Bayvier, Idaho

A LIFE IN NATURE

By Linda Lear

The author, Linda Lear, provides her readers with a comprehensive, and sensitive look at the life and time of long life, Beatrix Potter honed her many talents. In this careful process, she fulfilled her own goals and shared her gifts in a myriad of ways. Beatrix Potter was a quiet, steadfast crusader for all things, great and small, in nature.

This is a book you can pick up at any page and easily become absorbed. The copious notes and excellent index are a help. If, when you finish the book and yearn to know more about Beatrix Potter, an extensive bibliography awaits your curiosity.

Yes, Beatrix Potter was a gardener, not out of economic necessity, but for a deep desire to see nature at its artistic best. One question remains – when did Beatrix Potter ever find the time to write so many letters?

WE ARE IN NEED OF MEMBERS INTERESTED IN DOING BOOK REVIEWS FOR THE NEWSLETTERS!

Flower Show Judges' Training

The Judging School is to train top quality flower show judges. The training program's objective is to teach the principles of judging in a wide variety of horticultural classes.

Judging schools may be planned, coordinated, and conducted by region organizations. All schools require approval of the national show and judging committee.

The region judging chairman should apply to the national judging committee for permission to conduct a training school with the TGOA/MGOA Judges Manual to serve as the textbook for the training program. The school application should be a complete program outline with instructors' qualifications.

The national chairman will notify the region chairman of the official authorization for the training as well as

**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
- Sunbody hat (no logo)(description 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 & XXLg \$25

short sleeve Arrow dress shirt
(15 to 17-1/2) \$28.00

Gardening from the Heart t-shirt
(no logo choice) L-XL \$5

VEST (choice of logo)

green poplin, washable \$16

JEWELRY (club members only, logo choice)

bolo tie, \$6.75; key chain, \$4; tie

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
S, M, Lg

PLANT MARKERS: (set of 8) \$2
(unavailable at this time)

SCREEN SAVER: \$1

UMBRELLA (sunflower or magnolia) \$15

Shipping and handling charges will be added to your order using this chart. Shipping is priority mail.

Total Order	Shipping and Handling Charge
Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
\$10.00 to \$49.99.....	\$7.50
\$40 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 website.

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 form an almost impenetrable sun block.

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: _____

**CERTIFICATES &
PLAQUES**

These may be ordered through Bob Young, National Headquarters, afternoons, Monday-Friday at (515) 278-0295 or email him at mgcamb@dwx.com or via mail.

HERTZ

As a member of the TGOA/MGCA, you are eligible for a discount card from Hertz. Visit <http://link.hertz.com/link.html?id=930>; or call your travel agent; or Hertz at 1-800-654-2210. Member savings cards are also available from headquarters.

"Many people like to manipulate nature. I like to live with it." Kitty Clasing, Master Gardener.

ENTERPRISE Rent-A-Car

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is pleased to offer discounts to members of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

Reservations may be made on line at www.enterprise.com. To make a reservation on line, enter your account number in the Corporate Account or Source Code field. The account number is: **05K0309**. It will then ask for the first three letters of your organization's name. Enter **THE**, proceed with making your reservation and your discount will be included in the rate that is displayed.

You may also call **1-800-RENT-A-CAR** to make a reservation, be sure to provide your corporate ID number to receive your discount.

**2009 Calendar
Order Form**

Ship to:

Name: _____

Club Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

1-249.....\$2.95 each
250-749.....\$2.75 each
750+.....\$2.50 each

Quantity ordered: _____

Total amount _____

Order via: mail, phone, fax, stop in at our HQ or email your order requests to TGOA/MGCA in Johnston, Iowa. A bill will be forwarded with your calendars.



**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
PERMIT NO. 2934