

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 22

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Number 4



The 2011 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

The 2011 Annual Convention of the TGOA/MGCA in Overland Park, Kansas is history and by all accounts it was a big success. Special thanks is in order for the Overland Park Gang who spent time and effort to give those in attendance three days of hospitality, seminars, and garden tours. You ladies are special. Thank you for being a super host.

On the business side of the convention, the Board of Directors approved the cookbook project to help the clubs raise funds, the committee assignments, the changes in the newsletter manual, and the use of materials in the library at headquarters.

The Executive Forum, the second year for

this activity, was once again informative and interesting. There was a larger attendance this year and more input from the membership than last year. There were several excellent ideas for meeting the two most pressing issues for TGOA/MGCA organization - membership and revenue. I hope this forum continues in the future.

There were several new award winners in the photo, newsletter, and scholarship competitions. We are currently reworking the newsletter manual, the photo requirements, and the awards prerequisites. Ms. Karen Clark, Overland Park Garden Club, has assumed the chair of the awards committee and along with her committee will overhaul some outdated requirements for the national awards. Thanks Karen for accepting this task.

The Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2011 in Des Moines. Major reasons for returning to Iowa is so the directors and the membership can visit the headquarters and see what a wonderful establishment we have and how well it is run.

Please meet the deadlines for registration and hotel reservations so as to facilitate last minute planning. Mr. Ron Heggen has been exceptional in planning this event. Thanks Ron.

Last but not least is the Executive Committee. This committee of TGOA/MGCA officers is dedicated to the tasks of increasing the membership, raising revenues for operational purposes, and promoting the organization in the field of horticulture. Help where you can - it is your organization.

I had a great time in the Land of the Yellow Brick Road -Kansas. Mary Kay and I met some new friends, visited with old colleagues, saw some great gardens, and hope that we made a better organization in the process.

Happy Trails!
Hugh Earnhart
President

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TGOA/MGCA MISSION
To promote gardening education and related environment issues to the membership and the gardening public, through charitable, education and scientific means.



**FROM
YOUR
EDITOR**

I thought this was an interesting insight which appeared in the Central Great Lakes Region newsletter, the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster.

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“DOES A CLIQUE RUN OUR ORGANIZATION”

*Taken from the Central Great Lakes Region newsletter
Written by Joe Alessi, Jr.,
Youngstown, Ohio
Edited by Sheryl Bacon
for this newsletter*

The word is that a *Clique* runs the CGLR. We have found this to be true; it is obvious who these members are. If you are one of these individuals, there may be no need for you to read more.

You are among the faithful members present at meetings, you accept appointments to committees, hold office, give willingly of your time, your energy, effort and you believe that the more you put into an organization, the more you'll get out of its accomplishments. Thank you for all you do for your fellow members!

Also, we discovered that these same

people belong to the *Cliques* in their local clubs. Without these *Cliques*, National, Regions and local clubs would cease to exist; robbing many future gardeners the satisfactions we all enjoy today.

Two of the principal reasons that organizations fold up and pass into history are one; they fail to recruit new and younger members to keep the pump primed and moving. The other is when the call for, “All Hands On Deck” is met with too many hands not heeding the call, this causes the ship to flounder and sink.

Step up and help man the rails in your perspective local club and build the membership. Farming is good when the soil is good; so then, like the soil, when the local clubs are good; they help feed the National and Regions with the members that become the *Clique*.

It's the dedicated members that make things happen and fill the rolls of these “*Cliques*”; they are of inestimable value, like a healthy heart that pumps the lifeblood to a body, the *Clique* pumps the nourishment required to every organization.

NOTICE: There are positions open in the

Clique. It's easy to apply; you can begin by taking a lively interest in meetings, projects and events. Give helpful, constructive suggestions, and before you know it, you'll be a member of the best *Clique* around – National, Regions and your local clubs. Ask how you can join the *Clique* or answer the call of your officers and committee chairpersons.

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**2011
CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

2011 Board of Directors' meeting, November 4-5, Des Moines, IA

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**DEADLINES FOR
SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR THE
NATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter	Date
Sept/Oct	1 Aug '11
Nov/Dec	1 Oct '11

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**”YOUTH
GARDENING
OCTOPUS”**

Youth Gardening

Octopus is very happy these days. His tentacles are growing along with a lot of pumpkin and sunflower seeds and some fine young gardeners. There have been ten clubs

that have requested seeds from national so far. This is a record in itself but many of the clubs have ordered up to 500 seeds! I have heard from several of you about what you are doing in your clubs to encourage and mentor youth. I would like to hear much more from you. The more I hear the more I can share and that will help all of us to grow. The Youngstown Club (Ohio) asked the kids what they would like to plant. Dave Causer got some interesting responses: peanuts, 8 ball zucchini, pac choy, popcorn, noodle beans which get up to 20" long to name a few. The Dixon Club (Illinois) is very busy making bluebird houses and bat houses, raising gourds to make into bird houses, making a three sisters garden, collecting Monarch caterpillars to raise then release into the butterfly house, making a sunflower house so children can listen to the book "The Sunflower House" while inside it. This club was lucky enough to have a 30' x 40' greenhouse donated to them so children are starting and raising their own plants. Their club has purchased 2 1/2 acres for all these things. My club (Fort Wayne, IN) has found a way to grow

potatoes in a reusable bag and I have found some interesting seeds for my grandkids: snake, dipper and birdhouse gourds, rattlesnake pole beans and rainbow carrots. Gardening can be such fun and nature so interesting, please share it with a youth this summer. Don't forget to let me know what you are doing in your clubs – please keep those emails coming.

Cheri Kessen
Youth Gardening Chair
 ckessen2001@yahoo.co
 #####

"SUMMER TIME"



The good work of the grounds keeping volunteer group from the Men's Garden Club of Des Moines is coming into its own. Needless to say, the rains we have been experiencing have had something to do with the good growth. I only wish that those of you reading this would have an opportunity to view the color and highlighting that has come forth from the plantings accomplished.

If only I could round up the photographers that provided the entries in the 2011 annual photography contest for TGOA/MGCA to come to Des Moines and ply their expertise, a good show would be provided from the grounds.

Although the individuals that maintain

your grounds receive no compensation for their efforts, there are ongoing costs that require funds to cover the materials to complete projects. The funds come from three sources. The first source is an annual stipend from the earnings of the Endowment and Investment fund. These funds are provided to the headquarters on a monthly basis. The second source is donations from individuals, clubs and regions. There were at one time a fairly good number of donations that could be counted on. I am sorry to say that there is only one that our office can count on now. It is an annual donation of \$1,000.00 from the Men's Garden Club of Des Moines. It would be nice if other donations would be forth coming. The third source is responses to special appeals. We have no projects in mind at the present time, but I am sure the caretakers of the grounds will come forth with some upgrading projects in the future.

We all owe the dedicated members that maintain the grounds and I would hope that members, clubs, etc would make a donation to the headquarters to help with its upkeep and improvement.

As before, if you are ever in the neighborhood, do stop by and see for yourself the facility just off Interstate 80 / 35 in central Iowa.

Ron Heggen
 Headquarters Overseer



**PURPLE
MARTINS
IN
PORTAGE
LAKES,**

**OHIO, RETURN EACH
YEAR**

Larry and Judy Hunter of Akron, Ohio, started their purple martin project in the year 2000 with just two poles and one pair of martins. Each year more and more martins returned in the spring. This year they have approximately 150 nesting pairs. Today their purple martin association is one of the largest privately funded wildlife programs in Ohio. The martins return each year to the same areas and in many cases to the same martin houses that Larry and his members erect each year on poles. The purple martin association has spent over \$15,000 on martin houses which are large gourds specially made for the martins. Special made poles with cross bars, ropes and other attachments support and guard the gourds, both man-made and natural, that are numbered and maintained by the members of the association. Because martins feed naturally on flying insects and not seeds, their habitat is near the water where the gourds are placed.

Cold and wet weather conditions often come in Ohio in March and April when the martins return from the south. To help the adult martins and especially the young in the nests, the

association has learned to feed them by throwing scrambled eggs with granulated eggshells into the air for the birds to swoop down and catch. Many times they will carry the bits of scrambled eggs back to the nest to feed the nestlings which help them to survive in the bad weather. It is believed that the protein plus the calcium in the shells account for the extraordinary return rate because the martins are in such good shape when they leave their nests.

The public interest in purple martins continues to grow and funds and helpers keep coming according to Larry. The author of this article joined this organization in 2006 for the small annual membership fee of \$10.00. Larry and Judy currently send about 550 newsletters and e-mails to interested birders all over the United States announcing the programs and events of the year.

For more information contact:

Portage Lakes Purple
Martin Association
Mr. Larry Hunter
4737 Bickford Ave
Akron, OH 44319

**“STATISTICS ON
PURPLE MARTINS”**

The purple martin is the largest bird (about 8 inches long) of the swallow family and is sometimes mistaken for the tree swallow. It prefers large open areas where it can fly

and dive rapidly as it feeds on flying insects such as flies, mosquitoes, wasps, various bugs and even dragonflies. It takes its food in flight. It does not feed on seeds at your birdfeeder. They are usually found near lakes, ponds and grassy wetlands where they can find food. The martins breed in colonies. Years ago the American Indians used hollowed gourds hung on poles to attract the martins each year when they returned.

The martins in this area migrate north from South America (Brazil) to southern U.S. and on up to Ohio and other states. In March or April many return to the same nesting gourds and Larry and his people keep track with records on all of them. The female lays three to eight white eggs between March and July and incubates them for 15 or 16 days. When 28 days old (4 weeks) the young leave the nest. Both parents assist in the feeding and care of their young. In August or September when the young can fly, the martins abandon their next gourds and prepare for southward migration. They gather in huge flocks in the evening and thousands will roost together and eventually fly south. The purple martin's natural enemies are owls, hawks, snakes, and English sparrows and starlings.

Submitted by Mr. Les Knight, Gardeners of Greater Akron, Akron, Ohio

**AWARDS PRESENTED AT
THE 2011 CONVENTION**

“SILVER MEDAL”

*Frank M. Mitch,
Gardeners of Greater Akron,
OH*

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**“BILL HULL MEMORIAL
CUP”**

*William “Bill” McCool,
Gardeners of Jackson, MS*

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**“PHOTOGRAPHY
AWARDS”**

(Sweepstakes Award):

*Richard States,
MGC of Youngstown, OH
(Best of Show):*

*Richard States,
MGC of Youngstown, OH
(First Runner-up):*

*Karyn Chaffin,
Member-at-large, CO
(Second Runner-up):*

*Helen Lynch,
Member-at-large, IL*

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“NEWSLETTER AWARDS”

(First Place Region Award):

*“The Johnny Appleseed
Broadcaster”,
Central Great Lakes Region*

Class B: 51 – 100 members
(First Place)

*The Germinator,
MGC of Youngstown, OH*

Class C: 50 or less members
(First Place)

*The Spade,
Gardeners of Greater
Cleveland, OH
(First Runner-up)*

*Earthman of Arlington,
Arlington MGC, TX*

*“Gardeners of
Greater Cleveland”*

On November 2, 1932 four Cleveland businessmen founded the “Businessmen’s Garden Club of Cleveland.” By the end of the first year there were 59 members, and they had set the pattern for lectures on horticulture and community service that are still in place. In August, 1934 they affiliated with the Men’s Garden Clubs of America. This means that the Cleveland Club is one of the oldest clubs in continuous existence. Currently we have 60 members.

We are now known as the “Gardeners of Greater Cleveland” after a couple of name changes. This reflects the women members and officers in the club going back many years. We encourage spouses to join, and have a number of couples who share their gardening and their participation in the club.

We have several areas we focus on:

1. Service. Shortly after the founding, the club began service projects by planting trees along Cleveland’s main thoroughfare – Euclid Avenue (or US Rt. 20). We have continued that tradition throughout our history. In the past three years we completed major projects at the Women’s Transitional Housing Shelter, the Joseph’s Home for Disadvantaged Men, and the Interfaith

Hospitality Network. Our website has photos. The three gardens required about \$20,000 to fund and countless hours to construct. We are grateful for a “Gardening from the Heart” Award in 2010 to help our work on the IHN Garden. (See the ‘before’ and ‘after’ pictures of this project.)

2. Scholarships. Every year since 2000 we have given scholarships to deserving high school seniors who are continuing their education in horticulture. Through this May the club has awarded 20 scholarships worth more than \$12,000.

3. Meetings, lectures and fellowship. The club meets the second Monday in September through June and has an annual summer event. We all enjoy the company and the collective knowledge of our fellow members from a wide variety of gardening interests. Next year we’ll start a speaker’s bureau with the Akron and Youngstown, OH clubs.

We are very proud of our monthly newsletter “**The Spade.**” Vince Staffileno is the editor, and he’s won the best newsletter award from both the Central Great Lakes Region and the 2011 National Award from the Gardeners of America. Let Vince know if you’d like to be on the Email list and he’ll add your name. His Email is: vrs1023@gmail.com. We have a newly developed web site that is available to anyone. Go to: www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org

5 feet in height, is fragrant and reblooms in autumn after its big spring display.

The 'Field Roebuck' rose, sold out for this spring, is described thusly in the rose emporium's online catalog: "This rose was named after the Dallas rosarian who devoted a lifetime of service to the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society and the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas. This rose is a perfect tribute to a great gardener."

Having a rose named in honor of someone is not a cheap affair, but in this case it certainly was worthwhile.

Field was also a recipient of the Golden Quill Award, which he received for 75+ articles he wrote for the Dallas Morning News back in the middle nineties; he has authored reference books on roses.

*Article submitted by
Dr. Thomas Wilten, National 1st
Vice President*

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An Ode For All of Us

Be an active member
The kind that would be missed.
Don't be just contented
That your name is on the list.
Do attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd.
Don't just stay at home
And crab both long and loud.
Do take time an active part
To help the club along.

And take time out to visit
A member who is sick.
Don't leave the work to just a few
And gripe about the clique.
There is quite a program scheduled
That means success is done
And it can be accomplished
With help from everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly
To help with hand and heart.
Be an active member,
And take an active part.
Think this over, member
Are we right or are we wrong?
Be an active member
And NEVER JUST BELONG!

Anonymous
(posted in the Flora Flash,
Gardeners of Fort Wayne, IN)

**SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS
ANNOUNCED AT 2011
CONVENTION**

*Kelly Lane Herrman
St. James, MO
University of MO-
Columbia*

*Laura Ann Hlusko
Fredonia, PA
Penn State*

*Justin Brock
Hunter, KS
Kansas State University*

*Emily Tinalli
Coram, NY
Farmington State College*

*Stephen Patrick Kelleher
Xenia, OH
Ohio State University*

Russian Charm

An early riser, [Siberian squill](#) blooms right after snowdrops. From a small bulb rise three or four strap-like leaves and several dainty flower stalks that branch to nodding blue flowers with anthers that are darker blue. You have to lie down, chest first, to see the flowers from below. The sight, with the sky for a backdrop, repays embracing the cold, wet ground.

When the leaves appear, they make a broad green thicket and the flowers that follow almost touch from plant to plant to make a blue canopy that is visible from across the garden.

This is USDA Zone 5 and the bulbs have been flawlessly hardy. By the time the flowers wane, there are still no leaves on the nearby honey locust to shade the plants, so plenty of sunlight refuels the bulbs. I think the plants have more flower stems and flowers now than they did years ago.

There are [other forms](#) of this squill, including a white-flowered cultivar called 'Alba' and a deep-blue cultivar called '[Spring Beauty](#).' There are also other squills: *Scilla bifolia* (pale lilac-blue flowers), *S. mischtshenckoana* (large-flowered, pale blue) and *S. peruviana* (flowers are violet stars with yellow anthers, gathered in a sphere the size of a [softball](#), Zone 7).

By [Mark Kane](#) - the
Groundskeeper,
www.yourgardenshop.com

“BOOK REVIEW”

“Growing Stuff”
AN ALTERNATIVE
GUIDE TO GARDENING

By Black Dog Publishing

Review by Sheryl Bacon

Growing Stuff, An Alternative Guide to Gardening is comprised of articles by several different contributors. It covers articles on getting started in gardening; ideas for edibles, fruit and vegetable; herbs and flowers; wildlife and practical projects; curiosities and other things and resources.

Each article has instructions for planting, reaping and harvesting. The articles also cover instructions on creating the subject projects, a very colorful picture of the plant or project and sometimes even a recipe to go with what you grew. The authors have presented their sections in an easy to read format with

step-by-step directions that are short and to the point. The book reviews many ways to “garden” in small places.

I especially enjoyed the detailed instructions on each page and the unique ideas in the Curiosities and Other Things section.

The first few pages of the book are a gentle reminder of gardening basics which is always good to review. In the back is a list of useful gardening websites, supplies, blogs and communities of interest.

This book is written for gardening beginners and enthusiasts, but would be a good quick reference for all. I recommend this book and am very thankful to Black Dog Publishing for allowing us to review it and add it to our TGOA/MGCA lending library.

“GARDENING TIPS”
“WEBSITE SOURCES”

Source: Jane Scherer, 217-244-5849, jscherer@illinois.edu

News writer: Debra Levey Larson, 217-244-2880, dlarson@illinois.edu

The University of Illinois Extension offers numerous websites for a range of gardeners, from those who are getting their hands dirty for the first time to experienced gardeners. These are wonderful online resources sharing research-based information:

Watch Your Garden Grow

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/veggies/> features information on the basics of vegetable gardening, how to plant the garden, and a directory of vegetables.

Selecting Trees for Your Home

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/treeselector/intro.cfm> helps consumers make knowledgeable decisions when selecting a tree. “The site was developed to give consumers facts about each plant in an effort to help the consumer make a decision about which plant is appropriate for his or her landscape,” Scherer said.

Gardening with Perennials

[\(http://urbanext.illinois.edu/perennials/\)](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/perennials/) includes information on common perennials, perennials for specific uses, how to prepare a perennial bed, guidelines for planting and transplanting, care for the plants after planting, how to divide perennials, and fall and winter care.

Our Rose Garden

[\(http://urbanext.illinois.edu/roses/\)](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/roses/) is designed to help the home gardener learn not only about all the different kinds of roses available but how to plant, fertilize, and care for them. . Whether planning a backyard garden, community garden or school garden, this site gives children lots of ideas to get started.

Food Fun

[\(http://urbanext.illinois.edu/foodfun/\)](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/foodfun/) is a great resource for parents and teachers to stress the importance of eating fresh vegetables.

Wildflowers

[\(http://urbanext.illinois.edu/wildflowers/\)](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/wildflowers/) can help gardeners incorporate wildflowers into their gardens by giving information on various native wildflowers. “The idea of the site is not to recommend plants, but rather to give enough information to make your own decision as to whether or not a wildflower suits your needs,” Scherer said. The website may also be helpful to people who have wildflowers on their property and those who simply enjoy seeing plants in natural settings and want help identifying them.

“The site also covers winter protection for the plants, pruning instructions and guidelines, diseases and pests that affect roses, a directory of roses, rose societies and organizations, and mail-order sources for roses,” said Scherer.

My First Garden

[\(http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/\)](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/) covers topics such as gardening basics and planning a garden

through pictures and illustrations. Whether planning a backyard garden, community garden or school garden, this site gives children lots of ideas to get started.

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**FROM THE GARDEN SHOP WILL RETURN NEXT NEWSLETTER
THE PRICES WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS THE CONVENTION PRICES WERE
FOR NOW
A NEW LISTING WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON
PLEASE CALL HEADQUARTERS FOR ORDERING AND PRICING**



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5560 Merle Hay Rd/P.O. Box 241
Johnston, IA 50131-0241

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Membership cost of \$40 for two years for a single or \$40 for one year for a couple. Check out the benefits of membership.
www.ahs.org

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HERTZ: TGOA/MGCA member number is **CDP#338537**. Make reservations at www.hertz.com or 1-800-654-2210/2240.

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TGOA/MGCA WEBSITE
 BY Frank Mitch, Web Master
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>
 Password: *lily*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
www.wikigardens.com

Please check out the website; it is always changing.

ENTERPRISE:

TGOA/MGCA account number **SB00001**; enter **pin #ENT**. There is a 5% discount. Make reservations on line at www.enterprise.com or call 1-800-RENT-A-CAR.

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SUNSHINE FARM & GARDENS: Members can save 10% off with offer code MG10. Check out <http://sunfarm.com> or <http://sunfarm.com/specials/>.

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2012 CALENDARS



**PLEASE SEND YOUR
 ORDERS TO HQS OR
 CALL US AT:
 (515) 278-0295**

**2012 Calendar
 Order Form**

Ship to:
Name: _____
Club Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

1-249.....\$2.95 each
250-499.....\$2.75 each
500+.....\$2.65 each

Quantity ordered: _____
Total amount _____

___ **Ship calendars to name and address above.**

___ **Will pick up on** _____

(enter date/call ahead for time.) Invoice will be sent with your calendars. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ORDERS PLACED.

