



Volume 20

JULY/AUGUST 2009

Number 4



*The 2009 President's Message*

*Fellow Gardeners,*

I'm writing this column before we attend the national convention in Santa Rosa. We will give you a rundown on the convention later, should you unfortunately not be able to attend.

We are certainly looking forward to seeing our gardening friends in California.

We have been lucky in Texas this spring; lots of cool weather and much rain. Lakes are full. Grass is a beautiful green. Flowers and vegetables are growing profusely. I'm not looking forward to July and August and the heat. We use B.T. here for the worms. That's about the only chemical we have used so far, other than

fertilizer. I hope your garden is flourishing also.

The passing of Don Otterness leaves us without a chairperson for the "Youth Gardening" committee. Please contact Hugh Earnhart, or Sheryl in Des Moines if you would like to help with this committee. We could use someone to chair the bi-monthly newsletter. Sheryl has been doing this by herself.

I am picking lettuce, onions, beets, greens, and spinach now. Soon the tomatoes will be getting ripe. It's a race against time on tomatoes, but they are worth it!

If you'd like to see us online, go to: [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org); members only; password *lily*. This will get you just about anywhere in our organization.

In case you haven't heard, John Kessen twisted the arm of the Central Great Lakes Region people and they agreed to have the 2010 convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan in June.

Good job, John! Anything for 2013 yet? (Just kidding.)

See you in Santa Rosa.

YFL

Bob Grossman

+++++  
**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from 2008-2009.*

East Valley Gardeners of Mesa, Mesa, AZ

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Board of Directors' meeting:**  
*October 22-24, 2009*  
*Dallas, TX*  
*(Info on our website)*

**Remember to turn in your pumpkin and sunflower contest winners to headquarters.**

**"SEED SWAP" items for each newsletter. Let's keep this column going.**



**FROM YOUR EDITOR**



A kudo to the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Ohio. They recently renamed their Gardener of the Year/Bronze Award to The Bill Carney Bronze Award. The club voted unanimously to rename the award in Bill's honor. Bill's presence and contributions (and service as president) of the MGCY, the CGLR and TGOA/MGCA was the stimulus in renaming this award. He definitely has gone the extra mile for all of these organizations. Bill was the 2005 national president. What an honor for Bill.

We want to thank the Men's Garden Club of Des Moines for their donation of \$1000 to the headquarters building and grounds fund.

A thank you to Jim Davies and the Indianola, IA Men's Garden Club for their donation of sixty bags of cocoa bean mulch for use at headquarters. And we can't forget Ron Heggen, Tom Shanley and the rest who helped transport the mulch to headquarters.

The Central Great Lakes Region has stepped up to sponsor the 2010 annual convention in Grand Rapids, MI June 10, 11, & 12, 2010. The theme will be "Together Again in 2010." There will be more information to follow in upcoming newsletters. Thank you to John and his committee for making this happen.

Headquarters received a shipment of a stellar garden performer, **SunPatiens**, compliments of Floragem, LLC and Altman Plants of Vista, CA. This is an annual that goes all season and is great for tough spots with full sun and heat. It matures at 18" to 24" in height and is available in a wide range of colors. New colors for 2009 are compact magenta, variegated white and compact rose oval.

You might want to check out [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) for information about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the oldest botanical garden in the United States that is still operating, The Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, IL. This garden was founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw and was built to compare with the great formal botanical gardens of Europe. This article

submitted by Greater Kansas City GOA.

The tentative agenda and information for the hotel reservations for the board of directors' meeting in Dallas, TX, October 22-24 is now on the website. Thank you, Bob and Frank, for the early information.

**Incoming**, hopefully, is a new club from Denton, TX. I will keep you posted.

**Outgoing**, unfortunately, will be the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Spartanburg, S.C. Good luck to their club in the forthcoming years.

Another great convention is over. What a great time everyone had in beautiful northern California. The MGC of Santa Rosa did a **wonderful** job in hosting the convention. The facility was superb, good food and very interesting seminars and tours. It was nice to see how the club worked together with such enthusiasm. As I am not the greatest photographer, I don't have many pictures yet, but if anyone wants to share some convention photos, please do so. I hope everyone arrived home safely. What an experience flying is nowadays!

We all should applaud *Jim King, Santa Rosa, CA* for 29 years of attending an annual convention and *Maribelle and O. Reeves Davis* for their 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of attendance.

A brief synopsis of the tours and seminars was a trip to the Armstrong Redwoods, Luther Burbank gardens, wineries with wine tasting and beautiful gardens and very informative seminars on bonsai, olive oil & olives, sweet peas, the beautiful photography show as presented by Sherra and Judy Schuck (as usual a great job) and, of course, more wine tasting at the Flamingo. Plus, we cannot forget seeing a lot of our 'gardening' friends. A great time had by all!  
*Sheryl – tgoasecy@dwx.com*

-----  
**MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

*This was written by Sandra Terry, GC of Greater Kansas City*

I challenge you to bring a guest to the next meeting and spread the word.

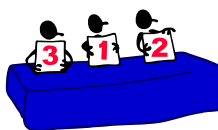
Your membership entitles you to all the services provided by the national headquarters, e.g. a lending library, newsletter, website, gardening book reviews, annual conventions,

scholarships, eligibility for awards, the photography competition, a "seed swap" and others.

Your membership also entitles you to monthly gardening programs which include knowledgeable speakers and/or garden tours.

The club enables you to meet and make friends with fellow gardeners from across the community. It is a chance to learn new ways of doing things and sharing ideas with others. It is very important that we continue this learning tradition. My experience is that you never feel alone at one of our functions. It is fun and a tremendous learning opportunity.

And finally, and most important of all, your membership is a great way to meet people who have the same interests ----  
**GARDENING!**  
\*\*\*\*\*



**JUDGES TRAINING REVISION**

Changes by Peggy Moody, Steve Kimball

After discussion of the judges training requirements, it was decided to make the following changes:

"Society" and Master Gardener: Minimum of

one (1) year of apprentice training; must be completed within one and a half (1-1/2) years after serving as an apprentice judge at their first flower show.

Must serve as an apprentice judge at three (3) flower shows, under the tutelage of, at a minimum, two accredited judges (the apprentice and two accredited judges who will train the apprentice at each flower show.)

Rational: The "Society" judge, while experienced and trained in a particular type of flower, lacks the experience of judging all types of flowers, plants and vegetables. The master gardener, while experienced and trained in all aspects of all flowers, plants and vegetables, lacks the experience of judging.

The judging chair is to keep track of which division the apprentice judge has served, so that they get experience in all areas of judging.

All the other requirements remain the same.

-----  
**IDEA!**

If you are a judge, would you please send me your name and the other pertinent information

relative to being a judge? I would like to compile a directory of judges to keep here at national for reference.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRECIOUS GIFT**

*By Robert Oberst  
Men's Garden Club of Syracuse*

A flower is a poem  
With the word written  
On the petals  
And the rhyme in the  
fragrance.  
It is a delicate and precious  
Gift from God.

-----  
**\*CLUB FEATURE\***

**FIRST MEN'S  
GARDEN CLUB OF  
DALLAS**

[www.dallasgardeners.org](http://www.dallasgardeners.org)

The Dallas club was formed in 1941 by a small group of dedicated and enthusiastic gardeners to exchange information and experiences and to engage in pleasurable and worthwhile civic projects. Today, they strive for those same goals.

In 1950 club members located a national organization called the Men's Garden Clubs of America, established in 1932. The Dallas club became an affiliate that year and adopted the official name of The First Men's Garden Club of Dallas. They incorporated in 1971 and became affiliated with the American Horticultural

Society in 2004. The club is a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to advance the interests of horticulture, conservation, and environmental protection and beautification programs.

Each year funds are raised and scholarships are given to deserving horticultural students, community and school gardening projects, tree plantings and educational programs and seminars.

The club joined forces with the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society to sponsor a new collection of plants to help revitalize areas that have not been kept up with landscape changes over the years.

Today, the club has over forty five members with many of them life members.

Bob Grossman, our national president, and the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas will host the annual board of directors' meeting this fall.

-----

**EXERCISES FOR  
GARDENERS**

*Compliments of Beverly Kemp,  
Garden Club of Austin, TX*

If you don't have a gym membership, try this. This exercise is to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It is suggested to do it three times a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a five pound potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides, and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to ten pound potato sacks, and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a fifty pound potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

Once you feel confident at that level, start putting potatoes in each of the sacks.

**RESULTS OF THE 2009  
SCHOLARSHIP  
COMPETITION**

- With a possible score of 700:
- Karlyn Ruth Green*, Akron, OH 687
- Karen Momper*, Columbia, MO 652
- Amy Elaine Ryan*, Medina, OH 618
- Philip D. Hatfield*, Wapakoneta, OH 612
- Alyson E. Pierce*, Youngstown, OH 605

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated in the competition.



and their cars broken into (not at the hotel.)

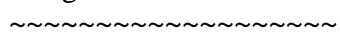


*Submitted by Marcia Davies  
Paul Stemen is a member of the  
MGC of Van Wert, OH  
This contest is sponsored by the  
Chicago Tribune*

Inside its tidy rose bedecked picket fence, a geometrically arranged 40-foot square garden in northern Ohio was planted to evoke those at Colonial Williamsburg, the historic town in Virginia with gardens designed in the 1920s and 1930s in 18<sup>th</sup> Century styles. Contest judges felt Paula had truly achieved what she intended in her design and liked its coherence and the balance of plants in the ground and in containers. The center circle is filled with "Munstead" and "Hidcote" lavender and the urn in the middle planted with pink and raspberry petunias, perilla and eucalyptus. The four beds in the corners are planted with roses (shrub, floribunda and hybrid tea), perennials, herbs (including thyme, bay, rosemary, lemon verbena, feverfew, cilantro and sage) and plants that attract butterflies, some in the ground and some in containers. The arbor and

white picket fence are draped with climbing roses, and the outer bed contains more roses (including several Knock Out cultivars, 'The Fairy' and 'A Carefree Wonder') and oak leaf hydrangea. Containers and ornaments are coordinated in cobalt blue, and the plants are chosen so something is in bloom from the first Iris reticulata and Scilla sibirica of spring through frost. Elsewhere are a large vegetable garden; big spreads of heirloom daylilies; ornamental grasses and peonies.

Paula passed on a couple tips for a winning garden: use soil rich in organic matter and use the right plant in the right place. Good job. Congratulations!



### BOOK REVIEW

Wiggle and Waggle  
*By Caroline Arnold*

Wiggle and Waggle; what an interesting way to portray the purpose of worms in the garden. This book is written for small children to understand the purpose of worms and how they benefit the growth of a garden. By chronicling the summer life of two worms in a garden, it explains how the vegetables grew to

maturity. It also explained through a "picnic" scenario, what the worms eat and some of how they live.

The worm facts mentioned at the end of the book are very interesting and add more to the story of Wiggle and Waggle and the illustrations in the book are perfect for telling the story.

This book is not only interesting to children but can be enjoyed by everyone.

Review submitted by  
Sheryl Bacon



### SIMPLY DELICIOUS GREEN BEANS

*Taken from the Gardeners of  
North Iowa newsletter*

Is your family ambivalent about green beans? Pick a double handful of tender green beans from your garden and break off the tiny stem ends. Have ready a skillet or small wok, one tablespoon olive oil, one teaspoon balsamic vinegar, one teaspoon sesame seeds and a pinch of sea salt. Heat the skillet to extremely hot, quickly add the oil and beans, and stir rapidly for one minute. Add balsamic vinegar, stirring for one minute more. Add sesame seeds and salt; toss in the pan, then serve. They will love the taste and ask for more.



**SQUASH IS A  
FRUIT**

*By Jennifer Schultz Nelson  
University of Illinois*

A squash is technically a fruit since it develops from the swollen ovary of the blossom, but it is commonly referred to as a vegetable, said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of varieties with two major types being summer squash and winter squash. Zucchini are a specific type of summer squash. Summer squash have thin tender skin, mild flavor and are harvested while young and immature. If allowed to mature, the seeds and flesh are tough, and many gardeners will testify that left unattended, summer squash will assume enormous proportions in a short time.

Winter squash are harvested late in the season. Their skin is very thick, housing very flavorful flesh that stores well and is a staple in many homes over the winter months.

The zucchini traces its origin to the native summer squash in Central and South America. European explorers brought these summer

squash back to Europe, where they became popular with nearly everyone except the French. They considered the squash inferior until they learned to use the young tender fruits which were much more palatable than the fibrous mature fruit.

The Italians are credited with developed what we now call zucchini. It is widely thought that a chance mutation in an existing summer squash gave rise to the squash we now call zucchini in the late 1800s near Milan. The Italian words “zucca, zucchini, and zucchini” are the singular and plural words for squash, giving rise to the name zucchini that we use today.

Zucchini didn't make it to the United States until the 1920s, when Italian immigrants brought seeds with them to California. A small southern California seed company began distributing seed a short time later, but zucchini didn't catch on with the rest of the United States until the late 1930s.

++++  
**FAVORITE OLD-TIME  
POEM**

*By Jacquelin Letchworth  
Contributed by Bob Campbell  
Men and Women's Garden Club  
of Findlay, OH*

**The Wedding of the  
Flowers**

*At the wedding of the  
flowers  
The guests arrived in  
**Phlox**  
The place was in the  
garden.  
The time was **Four-  
O'Clock.***

**The Old Maid** and the  
**Bachelor's Button**  
*Were going to be wed,  
And I never was so startled  
As when the flowers left  
their bed.*

The **Old-Maid** wore her  
**Bridal Wreath**  
*On a wig of Maidenhair.  
With **Lady's Slippers** on  
her feet.  
My ,how the flowers did  
stare.*

*But all dressed up in  
**Joseph's Coat**  
With a **Turk's-Cap** on his  
head.  
The **Bachelor's Button**  
was a sight  
For one about to wed.*

**Violet** with her **Baby's  
Breath**  
*And eyes of **Cornflower  
Blue,**  
Was chosen maid of honor  
Instead of **Black-eyed Sue**  
While **Wedding Bells** rang  
softly  
**Rose** sang **Forget-Me-  
Not,**  
Then the **Willow** started  
weeping  
Right there on the spot.*

*While **Jack-in-the-Pulpit**  
read the vows  
**Sweet William** held the  
ring,  
But the best man, **Johnny-  
Jump-Up**,  
Shook like everything.*

*The bridesmaids were in  
the **Daisies**  
All dressed in **Queen  
Anne's Lace**,  
But the **Sunflowers** shone  
so brightly,  
They had to shade their  
face.*

*Now if anyone should  
wonder  
How the flowers left the  
sod,  
It was **Prince's-Feather's**  
magic  
He waved his **Goldenrod**.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Share the Gardening Experience**

*By Randy Greeno, president of  
Men's and Women's Garden  
Club of Findlay, OH*

If you have had kids we have all told them when they were little to share. Maybe we should listen to ourselves and do the same. *Share the gardening experience!*

I recently was involved in an interview for a local paper with several other garden club members and the reporter asked why we gardened? I think in one way or another each of us said that it was about *sharing the experience.*

Several of the members said they loved to grow vegetables (mostly tomatoes) to share with their neighbors and one mentioned that he enjoyed watching his neighbors come over and pick a tomato or two. As for myself I don't grow many vegetables, maybe one or two pepper plants, but concentrate on flowers. This doesn't mean that I can't *share the experience.* I *share the experience* by providing beauty to my neighborhood. By providing this I get to share a little friendly conversation about growing flowers. Visitors ask :“ What is that flower?” “Is it hard to grow?” “How long does it bloom?” “Does it smell?” That gives me a chance to share a little information about the flowers that I have in my garden. Sometimes I will offer starts of flowers with my neighbors which may help them become more interested in gardening. I have started several new friendships over sharing a new start of a flower and that flower becomes a tie between us. I have been asked several times to share my ideas about what might look good around my neighbor's house.

No matter what we grow, there are many ways

to *share the experience*, if by letting people taste the experience, see the experience or by letting them become part of the gardening experience. *Share the experience* with someone this year!!

---

### **SHEET COMPOSTING**

*By John Hunt, First Men's  
Garden Club of Dallas, TX*

By this time of year two things have played out in your garden. First, the supply of nitrogen has been depleted by the plants or leached from the root zone by rain or irrigation. Second, and most importantly, much of the organic matter has been lost due to summer heat. During the summer, microflora, heat-loving bacteria explode in numbers and consume organic matter in the soil at a high rate. It is important to replenish the soil on an annual basis.

Organic matter improves the texture of the soil and is the soil's storehouse for nitrogen and other nutrients, this loss can result in reduced plant vigor and lower crop yields. With a little work, your soil can replenish its supply of humus during the winter. Organic matter/compost is the best thing you can give your



**"FROM THE GARDEN SHOP" WILL NOT BE IN THIS ISSUE – CONSULT ONE OF THE PAST ISSUES OR THE WEBSITE IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MERCHANDISE**

**Note: The merchandise committee is looking at some possibilities of new merchandise. We will keep you posted.**

**BILL MOOREHOUSE**

By Frank Mitch  
Former TGOA/MGCA national director, William Moorehouse, died peacefully on June 4, 2009. He served for many years as one of the directors from the Central Great Lakes Region. He was the nominations committee chair previous to this year, having nominated many of the officers eventually becoming national presidents. He also managed the group ordering calendars each year for most of the CGLR clubs. Bill had been a member of the Akron club since 1984 and served as the Akron club president in 1987. Bill also was an accredited show judge which he enjoyed very much at various CGLR clubs' horticulture shows. Bill's opinion was that all members should learn how to be judges. He also was very good at writing detailed contracts covering club dinner meetings and ordering large quantities of geranium plants for the Akron club's annual fund raising sale. We thank Bill for everything he did for the TGOA/MGCA organization.

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AWARDS**

Howard Matz, chair of the newsletter committee, had Ron Heggen do the presentation of the annual newsletter awards.

A club member submits eight copies of three different issues of their newsletter. The committee reviews each issue that is submitted for the cover page, the layout, the style and the content of each issue based on a perfect score of 100 points. Newsletter submissions are grouped according to the club's membership.

Class A – membership of 101+; No entries.

Class B – membership of 51-100; three entries

1<sup>st</sup> place: The Germinator with David A. Campana of MGC of Youngstown, OH, editor

2<sup>nd</sup> place: The Green Thumb with Bob Ploger of First MGC of Dallas, TX, editor

3<sup>rd</sup> place: The Fertilizer with Chris Christiansen of MGC of Des Moines, editor

Class C – membership of less than 50 members; one entry

1<sup>st</sup> place: The Kansas Sprout with Sherra Schuck of GOA/Overland Park, editor

Regional Newsletters:

1<sup>st</sup> place: The Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster with Joseph Alessi, Jr., Central Great Lakes Region, editor

The other members of the newsletter committee are Hugh Earnhart, Poland, OH; James Fee, Akron, OH; Albert Labunski, Rockford, IL; and Suzann Matz, Colorado Springs, CO.

We, as the newsletter committee, would like to see more newsletters submitted next year. Any three issues from January 2009 to December 2009 from any club are eligible.

The TGOA/MGCA national award committee presented the **2009 Home Beautification Award** to *Terrie Rourke* of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Spartanburg, SC. Terrie and her husband have created a wonderful one acre garden planted with a variety of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. The back of the property slopes down toward a large lake with several seating areas. Congratulations to *Pat and Terrie Rourke* on this award!



**The Gardeners of America**  
**5560 Mere Hay Rd/P.O. Box 241**  
**Johnston, IA 50131-0241**



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



**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](mailto:mgcamb@dwx.com) or via mail.

**GARDENING TIP**

*Compliments of the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas, TX*

A chrysanthemum in the vegetable garden is like a canary in a coal mine. The mum wilts before other plants when water is needed, giving you early warning to start irrigating.

+++++

**SUMMER IS GREAT!**

**\*\*\*PARTNERS IN GARDENING\*\*\***

**HERTZ:** Member savings cards available from headquarters. TGOA/MGCA member number is CDP#0338537. Make reservations at [www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com) or 1-800-654-2210/2240.

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

**THOMPSON & MORGAN SEEDSMEN, INC.:** 10% off of every order for TGOA/MGCA members. Call 1-800-274-7333 or online at [www.tmseeds.com](http://www.tmseeds.com).

Websites for your references:  
[www.tauton/finegardening](http://www.tauton/finegardening)  
[www.icgov.org/garlicmustard](http://www.icgov.org/garlicmustard)

**2010 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.**

