



Volume 21

MAY/JUNE

Number 3



The 2010 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

President Larry Schaeffer has requested assistance with writing this message.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I begin this part of the newsletter. A dear friend, past president of the TGOA/MGCA, and long-time member of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, William J. Carney, departed the gardens here on earth, April 1, 2010, for a more peaceful garden. Members of the TGOA/MGCA will remember William for his good sense of humor, willingness to help in various tasks, mentorship and leadership as president during the year 2005. It was Bill, along with several others, that encouraged me to get

involved in the national organization.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Joanne, and her family members at this time of sorrow. We will miss you William. Take care of him God and keep him in your glory.

Now, to matters of this summer and here on earth. Those responsible for the national convention this summer did a walk-thru last weekend at the facilities in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The hotel, food, and program for the event are best described as outstanding. You will not want to miss this convention, so please plan your schedule around June 10-12 and come to Grand Rapids.

We are looking for several chairpersons for the following committees – awards, national newsletter, calendar (after 2011), publicity-public relations, and photography (after 2011.) Give the executive committee a call if you can be of assistance. The organization is only as

good as its membership participates in its operations.

The executive committee will have an open forum at the national convention this summer. We encourage you to visit with your officers about the TGOA/MGCA organization and its future. All members are responsible for our future.

Have a pleasant spring, enjoy the gift of flowers, and remember the phrase "Together Again in 2010". A Great Lakes Regional flavored lemonade awaits you.

Happy trails!

Hugh,
1st Vice President

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE "EVENTS SCHEDULE" FOR CONVENTION.

BESIDES THE TOURS AND MEETINGS, ENJOY THE INTERESTING SEMINARS OFFERED!



**FROM
YOUR
EDITOR**

TGOA/MGCA welcomes **Chris Mulvania** to the headquarters staff. Chris will be working from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. She is assuming the duties of our past membership manager/accountant, Bob Young, who recently passed away.

Headquarters has a new supply of the exhibitor cards in. They are \$.13 each. Let me know how many you need for your upcoming shows.

Does anyone have any ideas of what we can do to encourage clubs to affiliate with us and/or retain our current membership? The common reason seems to be 'we don't get anything for our \$15'. What can we do to change this mindset? **Please** submit all and any ideas you have. All suggestions will be valuable.

It was brought to my attention I need to clarify the status of Jim Bagwell on the ballot. Jim is the 3rd vice-president nominee until after the votes are counted.

****TRIBUTE TO A PAST
TGOA/MGCA
PRESIDENT****

James Robert McKay, the 2001 past national president, passed away after a very short illness during the month of January. He had served in many areas of his local club, region and national offices. He also had been active in the 4-H clubs, FFA and was a master gardener. He was a World War II veteran and had taught for over thirty years in the Walla Walla school district. He is survived by his wife Dede and children and many other relatives. Dede welcomes all who wish to continue correspondence with her at 15205 N. Shady Slope Road, Spokane, WA 99208

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CHECK OUT PAGES 4 & 7 FOR CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS!

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Frank Mitch and I have been working on keeping the information on the website updated. Please check out the forms that are listed in the Red Book when submitting your new dues and member listings for the year.

Thank you, Frank, for all the work you do with the website and for everyone's patience as all items are updated.

**UPCOMING
CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

2010 Convention, June 10-12, Grand Rapids, MI "Together Again in 2010"

2010 Board of Directors' meeting, October 29-30, Tucson, AZ

2011 Convention, June 16-18, Overland Park, KS "A Bit of Heaven in 2011"

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

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Send in your pumpkin/sunflower contest winners this fall.

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Awards for next year's convention, December 31.

+++++
Seed Swap items any time.

+++++
Book Reviews – wanted anytime.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTERS:

Jul/Aug '10 1 June '10
Sept/Oct '10 1 Aug '10
Nov/Dec '10 1 Oct '10

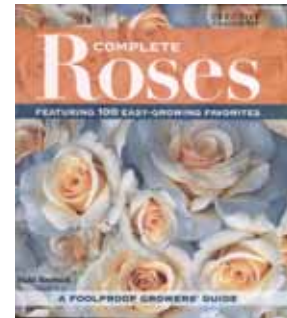
Please try to adhere to these dates if possible. Exceptions are always possible. It takes the printer about three weeks to process the newsletters.

“TOGETHER AGAIN IN 2010”

Our national convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is rapidly approaching. All around the Central Great Lakes Region volunteers are scrambling to make our chairman John Kessen's goal of the best convention ever, a reality. John, the mastermind of the 2008 convention in Fort Wayne, has assembled an all-star committee. Vice-chairman, Hugh Earnhart, will arrange committee meetings, awards, and the photography show. He will coordinate participation of local gardeners in our seminars. Vice-chair Cheri Kessen will set up and manage tours, oversee seminars and organize the skits. Lynda Heavrin will assist in offsite tours. Our computer guru, Frank Mitch, will oversee all aspects of registration. He will be assisted by Anita Lanning, Sam Morian, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, John Cochran, Les Knight, and David Rich. They will also prepare the coveted goody bags. Our treasurer, Bill Lanning, will try to keep everyone on budget. Steve Maki, as secretary, will maintain a written record of the whole project. Don Morrison and Tom Davis will introduce

speakers and host speakers at lunch. Hotel logistics will be under the direction of Bernie Holmes. He will schedule rooms and AV equipment. Who else to maintain the hospitality room, but the connoisseurs of fine food from Van Wert, Dale and Marcia Davis. The memorial service, invocations, and music for the banquet will be in the capable hands of Rodney Toth, John Schinker will handle publicity, news releases, printed program booklet and pocket cards. LeRoy Hart will provide the daily news. Sue Holm will prepare decorations for all meals and events. Assisting all around as needed are Mary Kay Earnhart, Gerry Herman, Donna Maki, and Kay and Jerry Musgrave. This team is working hard to achieve a successful convention. There remains only one obstacle to our goal of success. That is YOU! Without you all of this work is for naught. Beyond the outstanding array of seminars and speakers; beyond the Meijer Gardens; beyond the good food; beyond the convenient location just minutes from the airport; beyond the outstanding facilities of the Hilton Hotel; beyond all this, there is a large group of

friends just waiting to meet you. If you have never been to a national convention, you owe it to yourself to attend this one. See you in Grand Rapids,
John Schinker



New Rose Book

By John Hunt FMGC-D

Field Roebuck is a life member of TGOA/MGCA and the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas He wrote his first book about roses in 2000. The title of his first book is "Foolproof Guide to Growing Roses" (Copyright 2001)

Field's new book is titled "Complete Roses" Featuring 100 Easy-growing Favorites. (Copyright 2007)

"Complete Roses "will appeal to anyone who wants roses in their garden. It is ideal for gardeners who have been afraid to grow roses as well as for those who already grow these lovely flowers and want to learn more about them. Unlike many competitive books that

originate in Great Britain and do not address North American growing issues, this book covers the effects of local climate on roses. Readers will learn how to efficiently, prepare and maintain the soil for optimum plant health, care for the plants easily and control pests and disease with environmentally friendly methods, plus pruning techniques for every type of rose.

Field tells me that he doubled the number of photos in the book and also has some very interesting stories about some of the roses. This is more of a "new book" versus an updated or 2nd edition of the first. To see a preview go to Google and enter "field roebuck rose book".

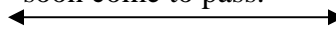


FIRE ANTS

Bu Gordon Hale, Arlington MGC

There's a little critter that no God ever made.
He must be old Satan's creation.
He'll crawl up an arm,
he'll crawl up a leg.
His bite hurts worse than all tarnation.
Some of him's red and some of him's black,
But all of him's meaner than hell.

And folks, when he bites the sting is a pain
Worse than my tongue can tell.
You may think that his bite will eventually leave.
And you will forget all the pain.
You're wrong old pal, little blisters show up
And itch like to drive you insane.
There's all sorts of things that people have tried,
To slaughter this imp and his kin.
But nothing at all seems to work very long,
In our battles with him, he'll win.
So, every year when the springtime comes
And our gardening chores they amass.
We can ever rely that this cruel little fiend
And his battalions will soon come to pass.



"NEWS FLASH"

After finally getting through our Iowa winter, we welcome the local Des Moines club volunteers here again as they start spring cleanup. In addition to cleanup and lawn fertilizing, they are deciding which annuals to order for 2010. With all of their hard work we again will have outstanding gardens to enjoy. Visitors to the grounds are already stopping by and we have

inquiries for weddings to be held here on the grounds. I'll try and post pictures as the summer goes along.



BAPTISIA AUSTRALIS (*blue false indigo*)

Picture a plant that has grey-green foliage; indigo blue, pea-like flowers; and large inflated seed pods that turn coal black and rattle in the late fall and early winter wind. That's the dramatic 2010 perennial plant of the year. Baptisia australis is also known as wild indigo, rattleweed, and rattlebush.

The genus name is derived from a Greek word meaning "to dip (dye)" and refers to the fact that extracts from this plant were once used as a substitute for indigo dyes. Blue false indigo grows three to four feet tall and about as wide. It grows best in full sun to part

ONE OF THE VERY SPECIAL "EVENTS" COMING UP AT CONVENTION!!

As part of the national convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Proven Winners is hosting a special dinner and garden tour at Dale Deppe's private garden on Friday, June 11th, at 6:00 p.m. Dale Deppe is the owner of Spring Meadow Nursery, which introduces new flowering shrubs under the Proven Winners ColorChoice plant brand. Dale's garden includes some of the top new shrubs available today, including several which are just now coming on the market. Proven Winners will be giving some of these new plants and other gifts to those in attendance. In addition, Tim Wood, Spring Meadow's plant hunter, (and coincidentally, TGOA/MGCA life member) will be giving a presentation on Saturday at 1:15 p.m. titled "Woody Perennials: New Trends in Flowering Shrubs." To get a preview of Tim's talk, visit his blog at www.plantquest.blogspot.com. And to show our gratitude to Spring Meadow, we are also encouraging all our members to check and join the Proven Winners

ColorChoice Fan Club on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pwcolorchoice. At the Fan Club, you can get the latest information on new shrubs, as well as gardening tips and answers to gardening questions.

TIM WOOD
Spring Meadow Nursery
12601 120th Ave
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 223-3367
www.springmeadownursery.com

Have you seen my blog?

TOMATO LORE AND LEGEND

Compliments of Greater Kansas City GOA
 Did you know that up until the eighteenth century, physicians warned against eating tomatoes, fearing they caused not only appendicitis but also stomach cancer from tomato skins adhering to the lining of the stomach?

Colonel Robert Gibbon Johnson of Salem, New Jersey had brought the tomato home from abroad in 1808. He had been offering a prize yearly for the largest fruit grown, but the general public considered the tomato an ornamental plant rather than one for food. As the story is told, Colonel Johnson in 1820 proved

tomatoes non-poisonous and safe for consumption. He stood on the steps of the Salem courthouse and bravely consumed an entire basket of tomatoes without keeling over or suffering any ill effects whatsoever. His grandstanding attracted a crowd of over 2,000 people who were certain he was committing public suicide. The local firemen's band even played a mournful dirge to add to the perceived morbid display of courage. This public stunt garnered North America's love affair with the tomato.

Botanically-speaking, the tomato is a fruit and can be further classified as a berry since it is pulpy and has edible seeds. In 1893, an importer claimed the tomato as a fruit in order to avoid vegetable import tariffs imposed by the United States. This dispute led to the Supreme Court ruling for taxation purposes that the tomato be classified as a vegetable, since it was primarily consumed in the manner of a vegetable rather than a fruit which was usually used in desserts.

Some other botanical fruits classified as vegetables include squash, cucumbers, green beans, and peppers.

HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN

Contributed by MGC of Akron,
OH
Howard Palmer

First, you come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.....

For the garden of your daily living, plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

GARDEN TIPS

*From Willie Weedpuller
Flora Flash, Ft. Wayne, IN*

Willie is passing on some of his favorite garden tips:

1) To insulate and protect clay pots, line inside with bubble wrap or thin bendable Styrofoam. Roots are protected from cold walls in winter and it helps to retain moisture in the summer.

2) Tennis ball cans make great vases when giving flowers from your garden to someone. Fill the bottom with a few stones and fill with enough water to keep stems submerged. Another plus is this fits most car cup holders so no spills.

3) Grow sweet annie (*Artemisia annua*) to cut and use to swipe away cobwebs. The slightly sticky foliage traps the cobwebs and leaves a pleasant apple scent. Then discard in your compost pile.

4) To identify plants in garden beds, write with a permanent marker on the blade and handle of a plastic knife. Push the blade into the ground. The information stays on the blade. One report was up to three years.

NEW BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED FOR OUR LIBRARY

1) *Landscape*, by Ferdinand Protzman

2) *100 Vegetables*, by William Woys Weaver

3) *The Potting-Shed Papers*, by Charles Elliott

4) *Thoreau's Garden*, by Peter Loewer

5) *Time and the Gardener*, by Elisabeth Sheldon

6) *Virgin Earth*, by Phillippa Gregory

7) *Planting the Seed*, by Suzanne Winckler

8) *Setting the Stones*, by Marc Peter Keane

9) *The Magical Garden*, by Sophia with Denny Sargent

10) *Birthflowers of the Landscape*, by Linton Wright McKnight

11) *The Japanese Way of the Flower*, by H.E. Davey, Ann Kameoka

12) *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region*, by Linda H. Beidleman/Eugene N. Kozloff

MORE NEXT NEWSLETTER



**OCTOPUS
– Youth**

**Gardening
Article for April, 2010**

In preparation for the upcoming national convention in Grand Rapids, MI, I decided to take a little different approach to this newsletter's article. I got out the manual and thought I would review for all our members just what the youth committee is all about. From the Youth Gardening Handbook: **Every affiliated garden club should have a youth gardening program.** We must interest our young people in the joy of gardening! The purpose – to encourage youth, ages 6 to 18, to become interested in gardening, to learn the joy and benefits of working with the soil and to make them aware of the environment and its requirements for a better and cleaner America. Let's not stop there! First of all no one is ever too young to learn. Secondly, little children are extremely curious and wonderfully detailed. Their observation skills far outweigh any adults. Therefore, let's get those pre-schoolers involved. They will pick up on the *beautiful flowers* they see or the *tiny clear*

wings of a dragon fly that we adults might not even have seen. Oh! Yes, appreciation can be taught. Objectives that the **handbook lists are:**

1. To develop a positive attitude about gardening in our young people
2. To assist young people to develop new gardening skills
3. To build confidence and good work habits through gardening
4. To motivate an awareness of environmental problems and establish programs involving youth in cleaning-up projects, beautification projects with lawns and flowers and maintenance activities of public areas, communities and homes
5. To develop good citizenship and socially desirable behavior in schools, public places and homes. I have heard of a couple of clubs which have wonderful programs and do work quite a bit with youth, but only a couple. What about the rest? The busyness of today's world certainly includes today's youth. Gone are the days of lots of

free time and choices must be made as to just what activities the children will be involved. Our club members are growing older and most clubs are not getting very many new, younger members to join. Therefore, many clubs cannot carry out large, involved youth projects. However, every club should be able to come up with something in the way of encouragement, mentoring, instructing and/or sharing the joys of gardening to share with today's youth. Please share your thoughts and ideas with me and I can then establish some reference information which will be a source of helpful ideas for all of us. Please let me know if you would like to become a member of the youth committee. We need all your good ideas to get our gardeners of tomorrow growing.
Cheri Kessen

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Headquarters will be bringing merchandise to the convention. You will want to check out the new sweatshirts and the aprons.

“VANILLA FACTS”

taken from the Earthmen, Arlington MGC, TX

Vanilla extract is from the vanilla orchid plant. The species is named *Vanilla Planifolia* and it is the primary orchid species of commercial enterprises in the sense of a food product. It was discovered during the 16th century by Aztec indians. It is documented that the plant was given by emperor Montezuma to the Spanish conquistadors in 1518 and brought to Europe.

The vanilla orchid is a true epiphyte or air plant and lives in the humid rain forests of central and South America, Mexico, Tahiti and Madagascar. It enjoys the high humidity of these areas and grows as a vine. The vines can reach a length of up to 30 feet and the plant takes seven to eight years to mature.

Vanilla is the only edible fruit of the orchid family, the largest family of flowering plants in the world.

Vanilla is the world's most labor-intensive agricultural crop, which is why it's so expensive. It will take up to three years after the vines are planted before the first flowers appear. The fruits, which resemble big green beans, must remain on the vine or fine months in order to

completely develop their signature aroma. However, when the beans are harvested, they have neither flavor nor fragrance. They develop these distinctive properties during the curing process.

When the beans are harvested, they are treated with hot water or heat and are then placed in the sun every day for weeks to months until they have shrunk to 20% of their original size. After this process is complete, the beans are sorted for size and quality. Then they will rest for a month or two to finish developing their full flavor and fragrance. By the time they are shipped around the world, their aroma is quite remarkable!

THE REAL MEANING OF PLANT CATALOG TERMINOLOGY

As quoted from the Fort Dodge Area Gardeners "The Hoe & Weed"

By Bev Longnecker

“A favorite of birds” means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.

“Grows more beautiful each year” means “Looks like road kill for the foreseeable future.”

“WELCOME SUMMER”

“Zone 5 with protection” is a variation on the phrase “Russian roulette.”

“May require support” means your daughter’s engineering degree will finally pay off.

“Moisture-loving” plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

“Carefree” refers more to the plant’s attitude than to your workload.

“Vigorous” is code for “has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the word.”

“Grandmas’ Favorite” – until she discovered free-flowering, disease-resistant hybrids.

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FIRST TIME USHERS
Anonymous

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, “Don’t pay for me Daddy, I’m under five.”

GRANDMA’S AGE

Little Johnny asked his grandma how old she was. Grandma answered, “39 and holding.”

Johnny thought for a moment, and then said, “and how old would you be if you let go?”

*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)(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 \$1

JEWELRY (club members only, logo choice)

bolo tie, \$6.75; key chain, \$4; tie tacks, \$4
earrings (choice of post or wire), \$7.99
pins: membership, president, past president, etc. \$4.00

PLAQUE, club president (walnut) \$55
w/bronze plate(walnut \$38)(pressed wood \$30)

MUGS:

porcelain (both logos) \$3.50
terra cotta "flower pot" (both logos) \$5.50

GLOVES: long cuffed or summer glove \$6
S, M, Lg

SWEATSHIRTS: (TGOA logo)

M-XL \$15 2XL-3XL \$18

APRONS: \$14

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.

SUN BODY 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 (Please submit order and we will invoice you)

Name _____ Club name _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head Size for Sun body hat (only): _____ Total enclosed: _____

*APPROPRIATE SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES WILL BE ADDED TO THE INVOICE



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 PLAQUES**

These may be ordered from national headquarters at (515) 278-0295 or via mail/email.

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

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)

Two years for a nominal fee to active TGOA/MGCA members. Check out the benefits of membership.

www.ahs.org

HERTZ: Member savings cards available from headquarters.

TGOA/MGCA member number is **CDP#0338537**. Make reservations at www.hertz.com or 1-800-654-2210/2240.

CONVENTION TIME!!!!

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.

Take 10% Off Your Order with Offer Code MG10



Quality English Seeds Since 1855
 Over 1700 unique and unusual seeds to choose from - Call for a free catalog today!

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www.tmseeds.com

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

HAVE YOU REGISTERED??

2011 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.

