

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



SEASONS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Volume 22

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

Number 6



President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I greet you for the first time as your president. I will try to make this year one filled with communication. It is my goal for all of our members to feel that they can call and/or write to me regarding the TGOA/MGCA. The executive committee and I are committed to improving relations with our membership.

I think that our predecessors made some wise decisions regarding the way they set up the TGOA-MGCA organization. We start out with individuals who join affiliated clubs and then the clubs join the region they are located within. Next, we have the structure of the national. It is important that the members at the club level

know and understand what their club is doing and is trying to do at the local level.

Next, the members should be familiar with the region in which their club belongs. The region offers more opportunities for the membership to get to know other club members from their general area. The regions usually meet several times a year and put on some very good educational programming. They, also, work to provide training for our judges program and arrange for judges to do the Flower and Garden shows in the region. Normally, the region has a periodic newsletter that provides information and training tips. It helps to keep the membership informed. Each region has the opportunity to elect a national director and alternate. The number of members in the region determines how many directors the region can elect. The board of directors meets at least twice a year to review and take care of the business of the TGOA/MGCA.

Then it is time to talk about the national organization. The executive

committee of the board is elected by the national membership each year in the spring. We have a national office with staff in Johnston, Iowa. If you have a question or need some help our staff at the national office can lead you in the right direction and get you in contact with the right person to assist you or direct you to the right resources.

We feel that our new listing of what the TGOA/MGCA provides for the members is helpful when recruiting new members and reminding our current members what we have to offer. You will find the listing included in this newsletter. It might be a good idea to pull it out and place it in a place where it is easy to use as a reference.

We feel that one of the ways to get to know and become friends with fellow gardeners is to attend the national convention, which is held each year. It is an opportunity to meet fellow gardeners and share gardening ideas and expertise. Many times it is the opportunity to make and renew friendships. Our

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to repeat, they continue mouthing the same silent message. Do they think I'm a lip reader?

Not only are these kids younger than I was at their age, but the people who are my age now are much older. I ran into an old friend the other day and he had aged so much that he didn't recognize me.

SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATION LETTERS

Recipients of \$1000 National Scholarships in 2011

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From Justin Brock, Junior
Landscape Management
Kansas State University

I would like to express my deep appreciation of your choice to select me as the recipient of the 2011 Scholarship Award. The financial aid you are providing will be very helpful to me as I continue to pursue my education in the landscape industry. I consider it a great privilege that you have chosen to recognize my academic diligence in this manner.

Horticulture continues to be an intriguing field of study for me. During my past four semesters, I have come to realize just how little I actually know. I look forward to expanding and deepening my knowledge in the coming academic year.

Once again, I thank you for this scholarship.

From Kelly Herrman, St. James, MO.

Thank you for selecting me to be the recipient of the 2011 scholarship. This will be helpful as I continue my education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. I am planning on studying plant sciences and my goal is to own a greenhouse and a florist shop. Thanks again for selecting me as the recipient of this generous scholarship.

CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS PRESENT THE "DELBERT DUNBAR" AWARD

The Delbert Dunbar award was presented to John J. Kessen, the 2012 National TGOA/MGCA President.

Criteria for this award are that the recipient must have performed outstanding service in all the following areas:

- Serve as a national officer, committee chairperson, or director.
- Serve as a regional officer or committee chairperson.
- Serve the local club as an officer or committee chairperson.

Nominations criteria:

- A letter of nomination by a Central Great Lakes Gardeners member, listing in detail the service and dates of the nominee's contribution.

- All nominees to be living members in good standing.
- Only one nomination can be made by any club in one year.
- The same person can be nominated any number of times.
- The award can only be made once to any individual.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012 "Buckeye Bash"
Convention, Youngstown,
OH June 13-16, 2012

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2012 Board of Directors'
meeting, October 19, 20
Ft. Wayne, IN

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PHOTOGRAPHY awards
– due February 16, 2012

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SCHOLARSHIP awards –
due April 1, 2012

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ALL OTHER awards to be
presented at the 2012
convention, due December
31, 2011.

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BALLOTS will be mailed
ninety days prior to
convention.

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter	Date
Jan/Feb 2012	Dec 1, 2011
Mar/Apr 2012	Feb 1, 2012

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Jan/Feb 2012 Dec 1, 2011

Mar/Apr 2012 Feb 1, 2012

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YOUTH GARDENING OCTOPUS

It's time for harvest and youth across the country are collecting their rewards for all their hard work this past growing season. I've heard tell that some youth are already thinking about what they will grow next year. Individual clubs are busy planning how they will host the final celebration for the Big Pumpkin/Giant Sunflower contest. Be sure that every person that was involved gets some kind of recognition. "Everyone is a Winner" ribbons can be purchased from national. Our job as adult gardeners is to encourage and excite our young gardeners. Now once the local clubs pick their winners, they need to send in

the three pictures, the youth's name, address, phone number, and the size of the sunflower or the weight of the pumpkin to me via ckessen2001@yahoo.com or mail to 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784 or to national % Sheryl by Nov. 15th. It is only your top winner in sunflowers and top winner in pumpkins that you need to send to national and it is possible that the same person might be the winner for both competitions. Winners of the national contest will be chosen in Dec. and all names will be in the Jan./Feb. national newsletter.

One way we can all grow together is to share our information and successes. Dave Causer of the Youngstown club has been very good about keeping me up on their progress. Awhile

back he shared the story of 12 year old Katie Mc Hugh and her peanut plants. She started last April planting and caring for her peanuts. She was the only youth gardener to enter the MGC Horticulture Show and won a blue ribbon for her Giant Virginia Peanut Plant. Next came a picture of Rachel Mowad happily surrounded by sunflowers. Dave's last email brought in 25 pictures of youth busily wrapping up the growing season. I picked 5 to share with you. Remember, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call, write or email me.

*Cheri
Youth Gardening Chair*

*Photos compliments of
David Causer, MGC of
Youngstown*



*Rachael Mowad
"Lets Bloom Together"*



*Youth Gardening Program
MGC of Youngstown, OH*



“THE GARDENER”

*Written by Barbara Devine,
Submitted by Ken York, MGC of
Albany, NY*

The gardener toils every day,
Working the soil in every
way.
The first year of planting the
schedule is light for against
Mother Nature he puts up a
fight.
Until he learns the tricks of
the trade
He learns how to handle that
shovel and spade.
During the winter time spent
dreaming of plans
He gathers his thoughts and
his watering cans.
He attempts to grow
seedlings in small rooms
upstairs
In rooms warm as summer
how humid the air.
He walks around long tables
adjusting the light
Sowing the seedlings to grow
up just right.
Soon winter will end when
warm currents flow
And spring has sprung
It just melts all that snow.
He gathers his gloves
He puts on his boots
He walks to his land
He checks for his shoots
He looks for the signs that the
time is just right
That old man winter's teeth
will not again bite.
When he feels safe that Jack
Frost is at rest
He puts on his gardening
trousers and vest.
The pockets are filled with
toiling tools.
You need them you see
because there are the rules

You have rules to follow
when planting your seeds
For plants are living things
and they do have needs.
They need their food, water,
and light
Or they have no chance to
win the fight.
The fight against nature,
humans, and more
The insects, the drought, and
whatever's in store.
The gardener he toils almost
every day
As he kneels in the dirt he
may silently pray.
He prays to the Sun God, the
Rain God or Thor
He prays to whoever may
help his plants more.
Then he laughs to himself for
he knows what is true
They are at his mercy
They haven't a clue.
Without his care they will
wither and die
Their limp lifeless bodies in
the dirt will lie.
The control he has for the life
he has grown
He can crush if he wants with
a throw of a stone.
He thinks many thoughts
when turning the earth
He may think of dying or
even his birth.
He may solve
a problem that's bothered
him so
He may squat so long it may
bother his toe.
He wonders how long the
earth has been still
Was it untouched until he
started to till.
He looks around at the end of
his day
To see all the creatures at
home and at play.
His friends are made up of
slimy worms and frogs

They catch his nemesis and
live under logs.
They help move the earth so
the roots can grow
They help the gardener as he
handles the hoe.
The spiders have eyes that
watch night and day
They catch all the insects that
they make their prey.
They harvest a food unlike
what the gardener grows.
They are needed much more
than the gardener knows.
They spin their webs that are
the land they hoe.
They plant their attack and
let it grow.
Just like the wind they swoop
just right
They harvest their crop with
a single bite.
As summer passes and the
care was right
The gardener sees signs that
he's won the fight.
He gazes at such wonders of
flowers and peas.
He listens to sounds of hard
working bees.
He gathers so proudly.
He reaps what he sows with
all his hard labors
His back has some woes.
The life fight of the
gardener who toils each
day for the love of the
harvest that lives on this
way
And in the end if all goes
right, the gardener's smile



Q & A



Hugh Earnhart

*YSU Professor Emeritus
President, Men's Garden Clubs
of America*

During his 37 years as faculty in YSU's Department of History, Hugh Earnhart specialized in the American Civil War, often leading tours to Civil War battlefields and assuming the dress and persona of his hero, Abraham Lincoln. Earnhart retired from YSU in 1995, and in 2002 was presented the Heritage Award, the university's highest honor.

But the multifaceted Earnhart has always been an avid farmer and gardener and is now president of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, a 2,800-member national organization. Also a past president of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, he grows vegetables for food and daffodils and dahlias for their unrivaled beauty.

'Whatever You Do, Teach Your Grandchildren to Garden'

Q: You describe your involvement in gardening as "a vacuum cleaner." Would you expand on that?

A: All the time I was at YSU, I farmed part time on 100 acres we had in Leetonia – beef cattle, and corn and hay to keep them fed. But when our youngest daughter, who had been my right-hand helper on the farm, went to college, we sold the place and moved to Poland.

Then, when I retired from teaching, I made the mistake of taking a Master Gardener class. From then on, I was hooked. That was the vacuum that swept me in.

Q: You're well known in area gardening circles for your dahlias and daffodils. What is it about all those daffodils?

A: First of all, I want to see if I can do it. And number two, I haul them to a show to see where I stand. The petals have to overlap in a symmetrical way, you want to see the trumpet part come out just right, and you have to look at color. I've had trouble getting my pinks; I just couldn't get that brilliant color. I emailed a man in New Zealand who had been very successful with this. He said, "Add a little Epsom salt to the soil."

Q: What other gardening tricks do you have up your sleeve?

A: I give a talk on container gardening, and I tell people: "You get out of the top what you put in the bottom." I tell them to add a little Epsom salt, a little sugar, and a little seaweed, but go easy on the bone meal. Bone meal breaks down so slowly, it often locks up other nutrients the plant needs.

Q: The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is known for its fabulous bulb plantings in the Fellows Riverside Garden. What other activities is the club engaged in?


A: We have a lot of projects, always. Two years ago, several members took on an experimental planting of elm trees down along Western Reserve Road. The specially selected trees are part of a federal/state test planting to determine if they can survive the Dutch elm disease that killed almost all the mature elms in the United States during the 1950s and '60s.

We also operate a greenhouse at the Mahoning County Adult Services Corp. on Bev Road. We start seedlings there in the late winter and sell them as a fundraiser for the club in late May.

And we conduct electronic tree surveys that tell us what trees are where, their size and general condition. People are finally becoming aware of how much trees are really worth when you consider the value they provide in energy savings from their shade, carbon offsetting, runoff absorption and aesthetics.

Q: You're a historian. What's your perspective on the past and current state of gardening and agriculture in this country?

A: Whatever you do, teach your grandchildren to garden. When we left the Victory Garden projects of World War II and went through the next five decades, we produced two generations of people who do not know how to plant beans!

Now we're trying to get that back. We have more farmers' markets, because we don't know where most of our food comes from. No other country in the world has the soil, the climate, and the space to grow food that we have in the U.S. If we would tie our agriculture to foreign policy, we'd be a lot better off. Essentially, we could trade wheat for oil. That would go a long way toward solving some problems. 

Interview by Jean Engle

“CLUB FEATURE”

THE GARDENERS OF SPOKANE, WA

*Submitted by Sheryl Stryker,
Editor and Steven Nokes,
Treasurer*

Our club was started in 1949 as the Men’s Garden Club of Spokane. It was the only men’s Garden Club in Spokane until 1996 when we changed our name and women could join our club.

We hosted the National Convention of the Men’s Garden Club of America and The Gardeners of America in 1997.

The national Gardeners of America Calendar was started here with the Men’s Garden Club of Spokane about 1977.

We had three greenhouses at Hutton Settlement from 1989 to 2009.

We now have:

- Community planting in the spring.
- Yard tours
- Fair booth at the Spokane Interstate Fair.
- Training for Horticultural judges for our community fairs.

- Youth pumpkin and sunflower project
- Christmas Wreath project.

We have a garden related speaker each month at our garden club meetings.

We look forward to a new year with renewed energy.

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“POINSETTIA”

*Common Names: Poinsettia,
Christmas Flower*

Botanical Name: Euphorbia pulcherrima

Family: Euphorbiaceae

*Submitted by Gardeners of Tucson, AZ and 100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names
By Diana Wells*

The poinsettia was named for Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to the newly independent Republic of Mexico from 1825 to 1829. He was a keen botanist and gardener, and he introduced the American elm to Mexico as well as sending the poinsettia to America. The poinsettia, whose color comes not from its flowers (which are an insignificant yellow), but from its brilliant bracts, was used in Mexico to decorate churches at Christmas time

and called flor de la noche buena, or “Nativity flower”.

Though it comes from tropical Mexico, the poinsettia is a short-day plant and only sets flowers when the nights are long and the days short. In its native country it grows to sixteen feet, but it is widely raised here in greenhouses for Christmas. If you wish to make it bloom again next Christmas, you must practice a little poinsettismo against its natural inclinations and cover it like a pet parrot early every evening so it gets no light.

It is a member of the euphorbia, or spurge family, called after Euphorbus, physician to Juba, king of the ancient kingdom of Mauretania. The name “spurge” comes from the Old French espurge, and it was one of the powerful purgatives used in the Middle Ages to rid the body of “evil humors” like black bile and melancholy. Taken in quantity, however, it was poisonous.



“TIME FOR A CHANGE”

Poem written by Robert L. Oberst, MGC of Syracuse, NY

*Summer like air left town
Last night.
Without warning it took
Its hot misty days
And sultry nights and
Moved on.
The bright sun that came
Up this morning
In a bright blue sky
Had a fall chill about it,
And the brisk wind said,
“It’s time for a change”.*

“SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT”

If you have noticed the barcodes on the back page of the calendars, this is what will allow corporate stores to stock and sell our corporate calendars.

If you know of other venues that you can interest in selling our calendars, please let us know.

Do you have a corporate headquarters in your city or state? If you do, could you contact them and get the name of a person to work with in regard to promoting the sale of our calendars?

Please contact Louis Jones, (601) 854-8561 or Sheryl Bacon at headquarters, (515) 278-0295.

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“DO YOU LIKE TO KEEP GARDENING RECORDS”

Check out yourgardenshow.com website for more information. This is a free website for gardening information and questions.

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“EMERALD ASH BORER”

Taken from The Germinator MGC of Youngstown, OH

Some of the signs to look for when watching for the metallic green Emerald Ash Borer are:

- D-shaped exit holes in trunk and larger limbs.
- Serpentine, S-shaped galleries tunneled just beneath the bark.
- Legless, flattened, heavily segmented, white to cream-colored larvae (1” when mature).
- Initial thinning of canopy and top dieback.
- Unnatural shoots sprouting from trunk and/or base of tree.
- Heavy woodpecker damage, especially in winter.
- Thin, 2” – 5” long vertical splits in bark.

“ANOTHER REMINDER”

There are three ways to receive your newsletter:

- *Emailed direct to you.*
- *Hard copy by direct mail.*
- *From the TGOA/MGCA website: www.tgoa-mgca.org*

If you choose the email method, please make sure you keep headquarters updated with your current email address and your mailbox is not full; otherwise, delivery will be rejected.

In the event you have signed up for the direct email delivery and you do not receive the newsletter, please contact: tgoasecy@qwestoffice.net for assistance.

Website and email delivery are approximately two weeks earlier than direct mail and you also receive it in color which enhances the newsletter.

“COOKBOOK UPDATE”

The recipes for the national cookbook are now being collected. Please consider submitting recipes for this cookbook. We want all clubs/regions represented. An assigned committee chairperson will be contacting you soon.

“NEW PARTNERSHIP”

Tuff Guard truly is the **Perfect Garden Hose**. The unique polypropylene double helix construction makes this the most flexible and only unkinkable garden hose. Another benefit of this construction makes it crush proof.

The lightweight characteristics are achieved by constructing the hose from thermoplastic elastomers, making it 35% - 50% lighter than conventional garden hoses with superior durability and abrasion resistance.

No more frustration reeling and unreeling because this hose has no memory and straightens itself with no effort. With the internally expanded full flow heavy duty brass couplings you get the flow rate of a 3/4” hose with a 5/8” diameter.

Unlike all other garden hose, the heavy duty brass ferrules thread onto the outer helix to anchor the couplings making end pull offs and leaks virtually impossible.

All these features make this the ideal hose for residential and industrial users. **Tuff Guard** is equally suited for washing your car, boat, RV snowmobile, house or garden watering as it is for wash down use in industrial plants, rock quarries, cement trucks,

landscaping and horse barns.

JGB Enterprises, Inc. www.jgbhose.com, donated hoses for TGOA/MGCA to test. Please check the website for information on them. So far, everyone who has used them, have praised the fact that they do not kink.

The price is 1-25 hoses at \$40 each for a 50 foot section; or, 25 or more hoses for \$37.00 each. A 100 foot section hose is \$70.00.

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“HERB INFUSED SUGARS”

Taken from the Flora Flash, Ft. Wayne, IN
As written by Marie Iannotti

We know about herbal butters, oils and vinegars, but have you ever made **herb infused sugars**? They are used in drinks and baked goods like cookies, cakes and biscuits. The directions are:

1. Select 3-4 sprigs of fresh herbs. Good choices include lavender, mint, rosemary, sage or thyme.
2. Gently bruise the leaves by crushing with a mortar and pestle or the back of a spoon. You don't want a paste, but you do want to release the oil. When you can smell the herbs more fully, you can stop bruising.

3. Measure two cups of sugar and add to the crushed herbs, a little at a time, stirring the herbs throughout the sugar.

4. Place the sugar mixture in an air tight jar and allow to stand for two days in a cool, dry place.

5. Open and stir the sugar every two to three days, to evenly distribute the herbal essence. The herbs still have moisture in them and stirring the sugar will keep it from clumping.

6. The sugar should be ready after about two weeks of storing and stirring. The sugar will have absorbed some of the herbs oils and the herbs themselves will have begun to dry.

7. Use the sugar, herb flecks and all, to season homemade goodies, iced tea and lemonade or when making homemade jellies.

8. Tip: Batch may be doubled, but any larger and it is hard to blend well.

9. Store out of direct sunlight.

10. Sugar is good as long as the herbal smell is still aromatic and true.

TRIVIA

Submitted by Sara Thill, Fort Dodge Area Gardeners, Fort Dodge, IA
Did you know that a single teaspoon of good garden soil may contain up to 5 billion living organisms? Wow! As humans, we might be bigger and hopefully brighter, but we sure are outnumbered!!!!!!

**FROM THE GARDEN SHOP
ACCESSORIES**

CAPS & HATS (choice of logo)

Life member white cap (both logos) \$3.00

- white mesh cap \$1
(TGOA only)
- green or white sun visor \$1
- *Sunbody hat (no logo)(description below) \$10
- white poplin golf cap \$1

JACKETS (choice of logo)

green or white lined windbreaker
M-XXLg \$10

green or white unlined windbreaker
M-XXLg \$7.50

SHIRTS (choice of logo)

green or white sport shirt, knit
M-XXLG \$8.50

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

VEST (choice of logo) green poplin, washable \$10

JEWELRY (club members only, logo choice)
bolo tie \$.50; key chain, \$.50; tie tacks, \$.50;

PINS: membership, president, past president,
etc. \$4

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

MUGS:

porcelain (both logos) \$1
terra cotta "flower pot" (both logos) \$2.50

GLOVES: summer glove/sleeks \$4
S, M, Lg, XL

SWEATSHIRTS: (TGOA logo)
M-XL \$10 2XL-3XL \$12

APRONS: \$10

UMBRELLA (sunflower or magnolia) \$10

YOUTH GARDENING RIBBONS

(\$.50 each which includes shipping & handling)

Shipping and handling charges will be added.
Only checks or cash please.

Not all sizes/logos are available. Please check with headquarters for current inventory. These are convention special prices. We will not be re-stocking some of these items in the future.

* **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 (Please submit order and we will invoice you)

Name _____ Club name _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head Size for Sunbody hat (only): _____ Total enclosed: _____

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



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

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 SOCIETY (AHS)**

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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"NOTICE"

For those of you that do use the **Hertz** discount that they offer to our members, the present discount savings card has been eliminated. **Our CDP# 338537** is still the same and you will need to continue to use this number.

Go to **hertz.com** for low web rates. Enter your rental location, date and arrival information. Check the box next to "I have a Discount" (**CDP, Coupon or other Offer**). Enter your **Discount Card CDP#** and the **PC#** for the offer you choose. Visit **hertz.com**, call your travel agent or call Hertz at **1-800-654-2210**.

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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2013 CALENDARS



**PLEASE SEND YOUR
 ORDERS TO HQS BY
 MARCH 31, 2012 OR
 CALL US AT:
 (515) 278-0295**

**2013 Calendar
 Pre-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.