



Volume 20

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Number 6



The 2009 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

Some of you all will be happy to hear that this is the last message you will receive from a Texas president for at least a year.

The president's special lapel pin surfaced in September. It was with past president Chuck Burt's clothes. Chuck's son found it. It has some real diamonds in it, and some people were disturbed that it appeared to be lost for almost a year. If you came to the October meeting in Dallas, you got to see it.

We are still getting inquiries from gardeners around the country who want to start clubs in their area. We encourage this as much as possible at

headquarters. We hope you do that locally.

The national recession we are experiencing will last for sometime. One good thing about it is that people want to grow their own food. We can help them, can't we?

Bob Young at the head shed in Des Moines has been ill. You might check with Sheryl there on Bob's progress. All Bobs are good guys, and our Bob Young is an exceptional person.

We're picking purple hull peas, tomatoes, green beans, okra, basil and many kinds of peppers right now. All these veggies make a great pizza. Aren't vegetable gardens great!!!!!!

I leave you with this message----get involved with your local club, and if you have time, the national needs your help on our many committees. Just call Sheryl at (515) 278-0295 or contact a local club officer. You will encounter the best

people/gardeners you have ever met.

Hopefully we will see you soon and "adios" from Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our new recently nominated and installed national directors:

Colette McNally,
Sunlakes, AZ
ARIZONA-NEW
MEXICO REGION

Cheri Kessen, Fort Wayne,
IN
CENTRAL GREAT
LAKES REGION

Steve Kimball, Rockwall,
TX
SOUTHWEST REGION

These directors and the others are there to help. Give them a call if you need assistance in your region.

Also, thank you to all of the directors for their time and efforts.

FROM THE
Happy Holidays
STAFF AT HQS

TGOA/MGCA 2009 National Executive Officers

President: Bob Grossman, 6115 Linden, Dallas, TX 75230 (972) 701-8300

bobg@printedbags.com

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<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>

Password: *lily*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
www.wikigardens.com

Your website is always changing. Check it out.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter	Date
Jan/Feb '10	Dec 1, 2009
Mar/Apr '10	Feb 1, 2010
May/June '10	Apr 1, 2010

MEMORIALS/HONORS

If you wish to submit a monetary gift to the headquarters in memory or honor of any member, please use the form from the website or get a form from your club's secretary. *Headquarters wishes to thank everyone who honors someone in this special way.*

GARDENERS GONE TO REST



Michael Deschler, Ft. Wayne, IN
Robert W. Sims, Pasadena, TX
James Goldston, Cherokee Village, AR
Dixon Weatherhead, Kirtland, OH

Fred J. Cox, Aurora, OH
Khodamorad Rod Kermani, Slingerlands, NY
Ray Alan North, Coronada, CA

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

ALERT! ALERT!

We are changing our internet and email provider here at headquarters. We will have a faster speed for our internet service and also will now be using our current website domain in our email addresses. The changeover is scheduled for October 16. Our new emails here at headquarters, i.e., may be tgoasecy@tgoa-mgca.org and mgcamb@tgoa-mgca.org. I will do mass emails to club presidents and secretaries after the 16th to verify the email addresses. Our current email addresses will also be valid until at least November 1. Any questions, you can always give me a call. Hopefully, this changeover will be for the better and we will have a smooth transition during this process.

Sheryl

FROM YOUR EDITOR



Congratulations to all the award winners at the individual clubs for the various awards they have been presented.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Please send me your email addresses if you have one. I can include them in my directory for use in sending future information.

CONVENTION

UPDATE: The 2010 convention page is now on our TGOA/MGCA website. Access it from the national convention's page at <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/Convention2010.htm>. So far it contains the recent 2010 national convention press release and the hotel reservation form. You can go to the Hilton hotel reservation website from that form or call or mail in your reservation.

Also, visit the Grand Rapids Visitors Bureau on the 2010 convention page on this website: <http://www.grandrapidsattende.com>. Click on 2010 June conventions for the listing and information

about the city, museums, maps, events, etc.



Sunpatiens which were donated earlier this year to headquarters compliments of Floragem, LLC and Altman Plants of Vista, CA.

In September all club presidents were sent a hard copy of the Awards Manual for their reference. Hopefully, your clubs will utilize them and have some awards to present at convention next June (besides your local club awards.)

This is an interesting website if you like lilies: www.lilydossier.com.

ATTENTION:

Clubs please send me your new officer listings for 2010 so that I may update the directories.

Check out the library listing and procedure manual in the Blue Book on the website. The listing is updated as new books come in to headquarters.

We look forward to 2010 being a great year.

UPCOMING 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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AWARDS deadlines:

Photography; February 13, 2010

Scholarship; April 1, 2010

All other awards;

All others: December 31, 2009

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Ballots for voting on changes of bylaws and 2011 officers



Flowers at headquarters, July 2009.

BOOK REVIEWS

Submitted by Marilyn Bynum,
Sunflower GOA, KS

IRISES

By Sidney Linnegar and
Jennifer Hewitt

This is a small (64 pages) volume put out by the Royal Horticultural Society as part of a series on various flowers and gardening topics. The book is comprehensive; especially going into all the different beardless irises. The photos and drawings are lovely and well-illustrate the peculiar features of the more unusual varieties like Iris Japonica, a crested iris. I've tried to photograph this one; the picture in the book is much clearer.

There is one omission in an otherwise very complete book; the names of hybridizers and dates of introduction for the specific flowers photographed.

Overall, this is a book well worth, not just reading, but owning, if you love iris as I do.

**HEIRLOOM
FLOWERS, VINTAGE
FLOWERS FOR
MODERN GARDENS**

Written by Tovah Martin

Have you ever wondered why red poppies (corn poppies) are associated

with World War I? This book gives the explanation.

There are three sections: the first explains the history of flowers, especially in cottage gardens where 'old-fashioned' flowers are more likely to be held onto; the second section describes the history and growing needs of popular specific perennials, annuals, bulbs and vines; the third part lists resources: commercial sources by state, plant societies and heirloom gardens to visit.

The poppy connection with World War I resulted from the fact that poppy seed will germinate when the soil is turned. On the battlefields of northern France, the many trenches and mass graves produced a crop of poppies which must have been a bittersweet sight.

Tovah Martin writes in a clear, concise style; the photos are handsome. Gardeners who like history will enjoy this book.

****FUTURE
CONVENTIONS****

It is time to be receiving a commitment for hosting the 2013 national TGOA/MGCA convention. You are all aware that it is very important for our organization to have an annual national convention. It takes a

club, region or group of members to provide a hosting opportunity. Hosting a convention is a great experience and a tremendous learning opportunity. If you decide now to host the 2013 convention you will have a little over two years to prepare for it. I am always ready to answer your questions and assist you in getting the ball rolling. From my personal experience I can tell you it can be fun. Please consider this your personal invitation to volunteer to host the 2013 national convention.

John Kessen, Chairman
of the Convention Site and
Planning Committee

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AUTUMN FIRES

"In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer
flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all,
Flowers in the summer
Fires in the fall!"

By Robert Louis Stevenson

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HAVE WE LOST OUR LADYBUGS?

Taken from the Garden Gate magazine



There are more than 400 ladybug species native to North America, but did you know that some are now considered rare? The Lost Ladybug Project is trying to find out just how many native species are left. You can help: visit www.lostladybug.org for tips on identifying and photographing these familiar insects. Submit your photos to the website. Scientists are hoping to get a better idea of just how many ladybugs are taking over and how this might affect our gardens.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER-ALYSON PIERCE



Paula Pierce and her daughter Alyson with the check for Alyson's 2009 scholarship award from TGOA/MGCA. Alyson came to the monthly meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, OH to thank

the members for submitting her application.



LET'S MAKE COMPOST TEA

*Organic Gardening Magazine
Lyndsey Kelly Weiner, NY*

Poke holes in the bottom of a milk jug. Place compost in the bottom of the milk jug and fill it with water and place near the plants you want watered. As the sun bakes the jug, the mixture turns into compost tea, which then is slowly released near the plants. The compost weighs the jugs down so there is no need to bury them or worry about them blowing away.

WEATHER LORE

As quoted by Randy Greeno, Gardeners of Findlay, OH

Year of snow.....fruit will grow.
When a cow tries to scratch her ear it means a shower is very near.
The sharper the blast, the sooner it's past.
Onion skin is very thin, mild winter is coming in.
Onion skin is thick and tough; winter will be cold and rough.
When the dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass.
The more rain, the more rest....fair weather's not always best.

TIME TO FILTER THE AIR

From the Gardeners of North Iowa

It's time to remind everyone that indoor winter weather needs some freshness added to it. One of the best ways to filter the air is from air-filtering plants. The top ten best plants for this are:

- Bamboo Palm
- Chinese Evergreen
- English Ivy
- Gerbera Daisy
- Janet Craig Dracaena
- Corn Plant (dracaena)
- Peace Lily
- Pot Mum
- Snake Plant (sansevieria)
- Striped Dracaena



PLANTING A LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE

University of Illinois Extension

Families thinking "green" this holiday may want to consider purchasing a live Christmas tree that can be planted outside after the holiday. Planning ahead for when the tree will be planted outdoors will be critical if you want to enjoy the tree in your home landscape for many years to come.

Once you get the tree home, keep it on the north side of the house or in a shady location and out of

top third of the soil is dry. Water thoroughly and then allow the plant to dry out.

Christmas cactus needs to be fertilized only three or four times per year. Christmas cactus bloom between Thanksgiving and Christmas, but gradually start to bloom earlier and more frequently each year. Do not fertilize for a month before you expect the plants to bloom. Never fertilize when the plant is in bloom, as the flowers will drop off.

Christmas cactus enjoys bright indirect light. Direct sun may stunt the plant's growth or burn the bracts. The plant may be placed outside in the shade during the summer. Ideal temperatures are 65 – 75 degrees during the day and 50 – 65 degrees at night. Being in darkness for 12 hours each night helps encourage a Christmas cactus to bloom.

Propagating a Christmas cactus is extremely easy. Break off three or four leaf segments; the more you use, the fuller the plant will be. Place the segments around the edge of a small pot filled with sandy soil. Do not use a large pot, as the soil will never dry out and the plant will die. Place 1/3 of each leaf

segment into the soil. The new plant should root within a month.

Dead blooms should be cut off on a daily basis as this encourages new flowers. Cut back the Christmas cactus slightly when it has finished blooming. Trimming the plant encourages root growth, a fuller plant, and more buds next year.



WHAT IS IT – CAN IT BE!

By Hugh Earnhart

While perusing a recent catalog of the Collector's Greenhouse, located in Battle Ground, Washington, I found a "it looks like it – but it's not" the same plant. However, this plant is bound to raise some interest among your neighbors when they see it in your landscape. The plant has a common street name of False Hemp and it has its origins in present day Turkey. The species entry is Datisca Cannabins.

The characteristics of the plant are: hardy through Zone 5, a perennial, grows six feet or more in height,

produces attractive supple or lissome branches that yield pinnate or compound leaves. During the summer it will produce small yellow flowers. In the scheme of landscaping this plant is basically a foliage plant.

Now the fun begins. Datisca Cannabins looks like and has about the same profile as marijuana. It is, however, legal, can be purchased and planted, and makes a great foliage plant in your yard. Law enforcement personnel will need to develop horticultural skills to tell the difference between the two plants. With landscape thievery on the rise in various areas of the country, an individual might have to plant several times before the drug users get the message that it is not the real McCoy. Tell your neighbors what the foliage is before you plant just to stay on their Christmas list.

You can purchase this plant material from the 2009 catalog of Collector's Greenhouse, 16804 N.E. 103 Ave., Battle Ground, Washington 98604. The cost is two dollars plus shipping and handling.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.



**AMARYLLIS,
BRINGING IT BACK
INTO BLOOM**

By Ward Upham, Kansas State University

With proper care, amaryllis will bloom year after year. Bring the pot in before the first frost and place in a dark location. Withhold water so leaves have a chance to dry completely. Then cut them off close to the top of the bulb. Amaryllis needs to rest for at least a month before the plant is started back into growth. It takes an additional six to eight weeks for the plant to flower.

When you are ready for amaryllis to resume growth, water thoroughly and place the plant in a warm, sunny location. Do not water again until the roots are well developed, as bulb rot is a concern. Amaryllis needs temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees F during the period before flowering as higher temperatures can weaken leaves. The flower bud may start to appear right away or the plant may remain dormant for a period of time but eventually all mature bulbs do bloom if they have been given proper care during the growing season. Keep

the plant in a cool location and out of direct sunlight when the flower buds begin to show color so that the flowers last longer. Amaryllis can remain in bloom for about a month.

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IVY

Like the evergreens, ivy is also seen as a symbol of eternal life and is used in Christmas decorations but not to the extent of pine, fir, mistletoe and holly.



Headquarters

VEGGIE GARDENERS

Submitted in the Germinator
Men's Garden Club of
Youngstown, OH

The following is an example of what is being done in the Youth Gardening program in Youngstown.

One of the main reasons for the existence of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is to promote gardening education and expertise in the community. Their annual Horticulture Show has been one of the primary means that end.

In 2008 with the establishment of the Youth Gardening Committee chaired by Joe Alessi, the program obtained funding from grants and some donated space for a project. Twelve 4'x10' raised beds with four sections each were installed to accommodate eleven future gardeners ages 12-16 and even younger if they had completed the MetroParks' program there in Youngstown.

Anyone thinking this project merely involves a bunch of kids digging around in the dirt should attend one of their sessions. A typical meeting involves planting vegetables, herb and edible flowers in soil that has been tilled and composted. Each child erects a scarecrow in their plot to help track the direction of the sun, and windsocks and rain gauges help them get practical references to lessons about the weather.

Every meeting has a classroom session prior to working on the plots and every effort is made to make the lessons interesting. A new horticulture-related word, such as chlorophyll, is learned weekly. Journals are kept to answer

color, flower, culture, diseases and insects, landscape value, cultivars, propagation, native habitat and additional information on that particular plant.

This manual is a very valuable reference book for researching a plant that we only know the scientific name for. Due to the book being over 1300 pages, it will be kept here in the library at headquarters as reference material.

This is the sixth edition of the manual, recently revised in 2009. We thank Stipes Publishing LLC, 204 West University Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61820 for their contribution to our library.

2010 ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS AWARD WINNERS

All four flower classes are distinguished by having a 2010 AAS Award Winner.

There were no 2010 vegetable AAS winners. This does occur, but not often.

The following are the award winners for 2010:

Gaillardia 'Mesa Yellow' – A 3” daisy-like flower and globe shaped seed head. These plants are adaptable to smaller space gardens or any type of container.

Snapdragon 'Twinny Peach' – A double or butterfly flower form that does not have jaws or joints to snap. It likes full sun and has exhibited heat tolerance.

'Endurio Sky Blue Martien' – The cool season winner. Unique spreading/mounding viola, in a beautiful sky blue which grow 6” tall and 10-12 “wide.

Ainnia 'Zahara Starlight Rose' – The bedding plant winner. Proven resistance to leaf spot and mildew. Generous color all season, heat and drought tolerant and easy to grow in gardens. Mid-size, about 12 to 14 inches tall and wide.

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“CLUB FEATURE”

THE GARDENERS CLUB OF GREEN BAY

As published in the Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, WI was started in 1967 and became chartered in 1968 by the Men's Garden Clubs of America (now TGOA/MGCA).

Their objectives are to:

*Promote interest in gardening among those who are close to the soil, for their own enjoyment and entertainment.

*To work with youth to interest them in gardening.

*To promote education and appreciation of horticulture for people of all ages.

*To stimulate community beautification through various forms of recognition.

Membership is extended to serious gardeners who have a concern for the above objectives of the organization.

Members are involved with the Green Bay Botanical Garden, and the Brown County Agriculture and Extension Service Center through financial support and contributions of labor and plant materials. Silver Trowel awards are given to recognize contributions to community beautification; six awards are given to youth in the Big Sunflower and Big Pumpkin contests, and much more.

Green Bay is a very active club with over seventy members. Their club web address is:

<http://roadrunner.com/~gardenersclub/>.



Waterfall pond at headquarters

FROM THE GARDEN SHOP ACCESSORIES PAGE WILL RETURN NEXT ISSUE

TOGETHER AGAIN IN 2010

Save this date, June 10-12, 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. An exciting, informative, adventurous convention is being planned. Some of our exciting activities and excursions include speaker Ryan Sensenig, well-known ecologist, and assistant professor of biology and director of environmental science program at the Merry Lea Environmental Center in Goshen, Indiana. An excursion to the P.J. Hoffmaster State Park is also being planned.

For those of you who know of Mr. Ryan Sensenig, you will agree that he is a very knowledgeable ecologist. He was born in Kenya and lived there until the age of ten before coming to the United States to live. After his marriage, he returned to Kenya for two years to complete his PhD field research. Mr. Sensenig is currently involved in two research projects which focus on grassland systems in Kenya. He is well-versed in conservation and sustainable development, fire ecology in grasslands and tall grass prairie ecology, to name a few areas of expertise. This is one speaker you won't want to miss.

If you are a nature lover, you will love the beautiful views at the P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. There are many sand dune formations, great wildlife viewing, a butterfly garden and a pond with running water that attracts many species of birds such as scarlet tanagers, northern orioles, red-eyed vireos and indigo buntings.

These are just two of the many activities and fun you will find at the convention. So plan ahead and mark your calendar now so you won't miss the adventures, activities and the reunion of friendships. June 10-12, 2010, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Together Again in 2010.

**HILTON GRAND RAPIDS AIRPORT
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The Gardener's of America
National Convention
June 9-13, 2010**

Hilton Grand Rapids Airport is proud to be hosting the Gardener's of America National Convention. All affiliates attending this convention will receive a special rate of \$89.00 (plus tax). To reserve a room, please call or mail/fax this form to the hotel. Reservations may also be made over their website at <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/GRRHIHF-GARD-20100609/index.jhtml> Please mention "The Gardener's of America" for your special rate. Group Code: GARD

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CERTIFICATES & PLAQUES

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

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.