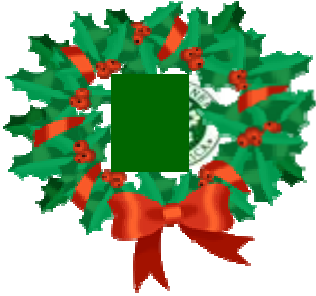


TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Season's Greetings and Best Wish's for the New Year

Volume 21

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Number 6



LAWRENCE SCHAEFFER
2010 PRESIDENT

Fellow Gardeners,

For the past several weeks I have been calling club presidents to inquire about club finances, memberships, projects and anything else that happened to cross our conversational paths at the moment. (If I have not reached you yet - don't fret I will reach you soon.) I am shocked at what some clubs have told me they are experiencing. For example, one club has decided to meet only eight months of the year to save on meeting expenses. Another is discontinuing their chrysanthemum sale each fall because they cannot compete with the large retail chains. Another president said

they had lost several members because of job lay-offs. Club Projects have also been axed because of the lack of funds. It is no secret the Nation is experiencing some rough economic times, encounters we have not seen since the depression years of the 1930's. The TGOA/MGCA is having difficulties as well.

With that in mind - let us begin to think of how we survive this mess. Since the TGOA/MGCA is the umbrella of the various club members, the Executive Committee of the organization is taking "The bull by the horns". Club presidents, club secretaries, and members of the various clubs - tell the Executive Committee what we can do to help your club. What would you like the National Organization to do at this point in time to help your club and your regional organization to continue, to be more active or to out-

live this current predicament ???

You do not need to elaborate in your suggestions - just be clear, reasonable, and thoughtful in your suggestions. We will take the mantle and act on your recommendations to make your club - your region and your TGOA/MGCA a more viable organization.

It is true in an economic crisis the adage is "Tighten your belt and survive," as we at headquarters are in the process of doing just that. But, we still have a base-level that needs to be met in order to continue. What is true here in Des Moines, Iowa is also true in the various clubs. **Think** about what has been said here and contact me, members of the Executive Committee or members of the Board of Directors. We want to hear from you. Now!!!

HUGH EARNHART
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



**FROM
YOUR
EDITOR**

It has come to my attention that the article in the July/August 2010 newsletter reference the “Interesting Facts About Onions” may be stating a fallacy. Please do your own researches reference this article. There are many variations on this particular subject so use your own judgment. We all have different beliefs.

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Louis Jones, Gardeners of Jackson, MS and a past national TGOA/MGCA president sent in a hint for all to keep in mind. He stated instead of using pepper spray for self-defense, we can use wasp spray. The wasp spray will spray ten to twenty feet while the pepper spray only goes three or four feet. Just shoot for the eyes and move quickly away from your attacker. As he quoted, “we only have one life and not seven, like the cat.”

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IN CASE you are wondering what national gives you for your money? **PARTICIPATE AND VOLUNTEER.** The national committees are not that time consuming and are very informative.

They provide an insight to the organization and you meet wonderful people in the process. **BECOME** a more active part of your national organization. You will enjoy it!

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REMINDER – our new sweatshirts and aprons would make a great Christmas gift!

(see page 11)

SHERYL

**“GARDENING FROM
THE HEART”**

Let us take a moment and look at ourselves. At our base we are gardeners, we like to grow things and do it well. Our clubs have programs to help achieve the goal to become good gardeners. We become learners and teachers at the same time. Hopefully, we become good citizens and have our expertise in gardening flow into our communities providing educational, environmental, beautification and practical (there is nothing like home grown fruits and vegetables) aspects of our craft. We feel projecting into the greater community is meaningful in many ways. It is the admirable goal of TGOA/MGCA to develop our people at the club level into leaders not only in gardening, but also into responsible

community leaders making America a better place in many ways. We do make a difference and we make our country stronger, happier and a better place to grow and live.

One of the great examples of our making a difference in people’s lives is our **Gardening from the Heart** program. Society has been aware of horticulture therapy and the benefits derived from it for many years and our **GFTH** programs are good examples of making a difference from prisons to hospitals, homes for the elderly, schools and many others. Again, we can be proud of the impact we make on others lives.

Gardening from the Heart is supported financially by donations from us. This is a good way to memorialize a departed gardener or a new child into your family. What better way to welcome or remember someone meaningfully to you than doing something that makes life better for others through a **GFTH** investment?

Jim Mack
 Chairman
Gardening from the Heart committee

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“HIGHLIGHTS FROM LETTER RECEIVED REGARDING A GFTH GRANT”

Gardeners of Greater Cleveland
September 14, 2010

Dear Ms. Bacon,
Thank you very much for the financial support of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) new courtyard garden. IHN serves homeless families at the Cleveland location and our garden club was pleased to renovate the space for them. Your \$1,000 grant enabled us to install a water line to the garden, lay a patio, build appropriate screening and purchase many of the plants for that space.

Most of the clients are single moms with very young children. So this new space provides them with a safe outdoor garden area. It is also a low maintenance space with tough, drought tolerant plants that should thrive for years to come. Attached are some photos that show the improvements.



(Before)



(After)

This is the third homeless shelter garden we've installed. Our club finds this activity very rewarding and is pleased to see TGOA/MGCA promoting Gardening from the Heart projects.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Rensel
GGC Projects Chair
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^



The top pumpkin production states are Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California.

In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

Pumpkins are 90% water.

Pumpkins are a fruit.

Pumpkin flowers are edible.

Pumpkins were once recommended for

removing freckles and curing snake bites

“POEM”

*written by Edward B. Risse,
life member from Marietta
Gardeners Club*

Dear Lord, you let me live and love,
And there is much that I have done, for now I'm 91.

But there is more I wish to do,
So Lord, I thank you for now I'm 92.

The beauty of the world I love to see,
Because, Lord, you let me reach 93.

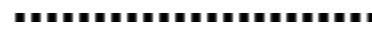
You always keep open the door,
And Heavens' gate, so let me in at 94.

My life has changed, but I'm alive,
And happy to be passed 95.

So I may be too old to bend and pickup sticks,
But thank you, Lord, I'm now 96.

And if you let me get to Heaven,
Allow me, Lord, to reach 97.

Thank you, Edward, for your contribution to our newsletter.



SPARK THE INTEREST

*Ideas taken from
Willie Weedpuller
Ft. Wayne GOA*

Scenario A: Abby, a 20 year old horticulture student. Clubs could use the internet to invite other young people to a meeting. Use others in the same age group to recruit friends. Create a relationship with the local college horticulture department and instructors to spread the clubs' message. Offer free student memberships and stress the opportunity to learn from experienced gardeners. Offer letters of recommendation for scholarships or jobs.

Scenario B: Cathy and Brian are married with two children, five and seven years old. They both work full time and are busy with children's activities. They like flowers but have little knowledge about how to have a good garden. Clubs could send their newsletter and a personal invitation to attend one of their meetings. Clubs could look for ways to involve the kids and the adults and work together as a family. Clubs could give a free one year membership to families.

Scenario C: Dave is a 40 year old divorcee with

children ages eight, fourteen and eighteen. He enjoys gardening, home and garden shows and garden magazines and volunteers at a variety of his children's activities. Clubs could have special activities or meetings for singles. They could link up with school community service activities and/or partner with groups in the schools to involved kids in gardening. Have a question and answer session with experts and experienced gardeners. Hold a seminar and advertise in garden stores and shows, have speakers on a variety of gardening topics. At plant sales or shows, offer a signup sheet for free plants and club information.

Scenario D: Elly is a 52 year old mom with grown children. She works part-time and has always gardened. She browses garden stores. Clubs could leave brochures in these garden centers. Arrange a daytime fun event at a local garden. Find local shops that will give percent off discounts to members. Find other members to keep in touch with her and develop friendships.



The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is the home of our 2011 national president, Hugh Earnhart; past president, William Carney; and Central Great Lakes Region past presidents Rodney Toth and John Schinker. Their newsletter, The Germinator, has received regional and national recognition over the past several years.

The mission of the MGC of Youngstown is to promote community beautification and a better understanding of gardening through education. Since its inception in 1930 as the "Steel City Garden Club", MGCY has evolved and expanded its activities while maintaining the principles laid forth by its founding fathers. The name was changed in 1940 when we became affiliated with the national organization that was to become The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

MGC of Youngstown came into existence during the depression years, but the monthly meetings still had a wide diversity of guest speakers not just related to vegetable gardening. This tradition continues today with guest speakers and a twice-a-year pancake breakfast.

My favorite chapter tells how to make the most of your space. Of particular interest are no-dig beds. I am trying to become a non-digger but find a long way to go with my heavy clay soil. Big farmers have moved toward no till or low till farming, why not the home gardeners?

Other chapters in the first half contain very useful details about where to garden, high productivity from small spaces, creating super soil, getting started with vegetables, and plant care.

All about the plants in the second half goes into detail about growing vegetables, fruits, bush foods, herbs and flowers, plus a chapter with a few cooking recipes. The author chose the limited number of plants for reasons of suitability for small spaces, multiple uses, productivity and great taste. Of most interest for much of North America would be the selections of vegetables and herbs. The fruits described are mainly tropical and the bush foods are almost all wild plants found mostly in Australia. For each plant she writes about how to sow or plant, soil, use and nutrition of product, harvest and

storing, and saving of seed for some of them.

The author's final words concern current world problems with energy and oil. A quote from her son is, "The Stone Age didn't end because the world ran out of stones." It ended because people discovered new ways of doing things, new technologies. Her message is: "take back the power, grow as much of your own food as you can, and you and your family will be in a better position to adapt to changes, whatever they might be."

Published in 2009 by
CSIRO Publishing gardening
guides , Collingwood, VIC
3066, Australia Website:
www.publish.csiro.au

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"RECOVERY"

The damage caused by the storm on July 18th has been cleared, as can be noted by the enclosed pictures.

Damage to the building eave troughs has been repaired as well as the fencing around the storage area at the back of the headquarters building.

Yes, our insurance policy will cover some of the cost, but to fully replant the lost forestry we look to our regions, affiliated clubs and members to once again come forth with

contributions to replace the lost growth that makes our grounds a place of horticultural elegance.

While we had the tree service on the grounds, we also had them remove a "Crimson Frost Birch", which had been donated by Larry and Hattie Hobart for Wallace Hobart of the Rockford Area Gardeners, which was on its last leg.

At this time we are in receipt of three donations, one from a member-at-large in Minneapolis, one from a member-at-large in Southern Pines, NC and the other from the Sunflower Gardeners of America Club in Kansas City, towards the fund to cover replanting of the lost foliage. At least three trees are planned to be planted in the spring. Bids for the replacements are in hand at this time.

Any and all contributions to replace the lost trees, and others, as a memorial maybe, will be greatly appreciated. If a specific planting is desired, please inquire and an estimated cost will be provided.

As always, normalcy will be accomplished and the grounds returned to a spic and span example of gardening expertise!!!

*Ronald A. Heggen
Building & Grounds Overseer*

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restoration of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the public square was several years in the planning. The monument originally had three rectangular grassy areas planted to represent the twenty-four corps badges of the Civil War Army of the Union.

Historian Tim Daley researched the original flower beds, reconstructed the design and figured how many plants and colors were needed. The cost of the plants to complete it was \$6,500. Red, pink, and yellow altemanthera and white santolina made the colorful badge design.

Thanks to President Henry Doll and Vice President Larry Kell for their organizational skills in this community project. You did the TGOA/MGCA proud and we are glad to have you as a member.

Author, Hugh Earnhart

MGC OF YOUNGSTOWN

Sent in by Joe Alessi

Cleanup day at the youth gardens was a "club member event".



MOLE CONTROL

From the Garden Gate magazine, Author Unknown

Believe it or not, everything about moles is not bad. They do eat pest insects and aerate the soil. Bulbs and plant roots aren't on their diet. But their tunnels are a problem. You can forget the vast majority of the "remedies" you hear for getting rid of moles. Here's why a couple of common solutions – eliminating lawn grubs and flooding tunnels – won't work. If you get rid of grubs, the moles eat other insects. And there's not enough water pressure from your hose to flood the tunnels – moles move quickly when they have to. To really get rid of these critters, keep watering to a minimum so the soil is harder, which discourages both insects and moles. The surest solution is a trap. Set the trap on a foraging tunnel and follow the directions carefully to ensure humane results.

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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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PHOTOGRAPHY awards – February 16, 2011

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SCHOLARSHIP awards – April 1, 2011

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ALL OTHER awards for 2011 are due, December 31, 2010.

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BALLOTS for voting for 2012 TGOA/MGCA officers and for bylaws changes – early March

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL

"A Garden Tip"

You may use an old pair of nylon stockings to store your dried onions. By tying a knot after adding each onion, it is simple to snip off one onion at a time when it is needed.

Author Unknown, The Garden Gate

*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 \$3

VEST (choice of logo)

green poplin, washable \$16

JEWELRY (club members only, logo choice)

bolo tie, \$6.75; key chain, \$4; tie tacks, \$4
earrings (choice of post or wire), \$7.99

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

Name _____ Club name _____
Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head Size for Sunbody hat (only): _____

Total enclosed: _____

