

# TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



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Number 5



*The 2011 President's Message*

**It** seems like only yesterday that I moved into the leadership role of the TGOA/MGCA organization. Now some two years have passed and it is time to welcome a new president to the helm. We have accomplished a great deal in moving this organization forward in the past two years. There are still several important items that need our attention.

**First**, we need to make our organization more visible to gardeners across this land. In short, we need to establish or attract more garden clubs.

**Second**, Club officers have got to want to lead and be responsible for the oath they took in accepting the office.

**Along** with that same line - directors need to be more active in representing the TGOA/MGCA to the various clubs under their charge.

**By** the time you receive this newsletter, the Cookbook Committee will be hard at work collecting recipes. Club members; please submit recipes to this project. The clubs will reap the monetary rewards when you sell the cookbooks to your friends; clubs have told me they are pressed for cash. Here is an excellent way to build your treasury. It's another way the National office helps the individual clubs.

**I** also want to thank the officers, the committee chairs, and committee members for the super work that they have done the past two years. The TGOA/MGCA is better, stronger, and more visible because of your efforts. The organization rides on the backs of those individuals who contribute to the business of helping us

improve our services to the clubs that are members.

**THANK YOU!**

**I** would not have lasted a day as president if it were not for Sheryl Bacon. She was always willing, able, and knowledgeable in running the day - day activities at headquarters. She is a very valuable person up-front for us, the general public. Along those same lines, I need to also thank Ron Heggen who stepped-up-to-the plate when I needed his assistance on more than one occasion. Thanks Ron and Sheryl for your loyalty and dedication.

**Finally**, I need to close and go judge a flower show in an adjoining county. But I leave you with this thought; "Old presidents never die, they just fade away." With this letter and the swearing in of John Kessen as president in November, I will just fade away into a garden. See you there.

Happy trails,  
*Hugh*





**FROM  
YOUR  
EDITOR**

It has been brought to my attention that we need to give all of the MO/KAN Region credit for the wonderful convention which was recently held in Overland Park, KS. The Emporia, KS; Mission Springs GOA, KS; Sunflower GOA, KS; Greater Kansas City GOA, MO; and the GOA Overland Park, KS were the hosts for this event.

Congratulations for a job well done!

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TGOA/MGCA convention attendees wish to express a special thanks to Sherra Schuck, GOA Overland Park, KS for stepping up to the plate as the “go to person” and emcee for the convention activities while Honey was involved in the care of Colette McNally. (See following article)

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**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**WHERE:** Holiday Inn & Hotel Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA  
**WHEN:** November 4 & 5, 2011

**REGISTRATION:** Information is on the website.

**“Above and beyond  
the call of duty”**

*Written by Jim Mack  
Past National President,  
Tempe, AZ*

What a great convention we had this year. It went well for most of us but for Colette McNally and Honey Barnekoff things went into overdrive when Colette fell and broke her arm and dislocated her shoulder (that required surgery complete with hardware screws, plate etc.) Colette was in the hospital under the watchful eye of Honey and then home to Honey’s house for recuperation long enough to be able to travel; the stay included Paul Bessey, Colette’s passenger to the convention. Without going into all that went on, Honey drove back to Arizona with Paul and Colette. One other thing I do not like to report is when they arrived at Paul’s house in Tucson it had been broken into. Upon arrival in Chandler, Colette’s home, Honey took Colette to the store, drug store and the doctor before catching a plane back to Kansas. It was all around a very hard situation but Honey handled it efficiently and most graciously. I think we all owe Honey a great big thank you for being the true life Good Samaritan

and be most proud of her as a member of our organization.

Honey, we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts !!!!

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**2011  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS**

**2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS’** meeting, November 4-5, Des Moines, IA  
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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 for 2011 due, December 31, 2011. Presented at convention in June 2012.  
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**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter	Date
Nov/Dec	1 Oct ‘11
Jan/Feb	1 Dec ‘12

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## “LET’S GET THESE AWARDS OUT”

Hugh has sweet talked me (read twisted my arm) at Convention into being the Chairperson of the National Awards committee. I am honored he has placed such faith in me.

I have been tasked to:

1. Clarify and update national award criteria.
2. Update and hopefully make easier submission procedures.
3. Most importantly; increase the number of entries for each award.

To start with I would appreciate input from all clubs on our current Awards and procedures. How many entries do you make each year, or if none why not. My contact information is Karen L. Clark, 7236 Conser, Overland Park KS 66204. [kclark4911@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kclark4911@sbcglobal.net). I want to hear from you.

Some of the initial changes I would like to implement are:

1. Establish an Award’s committee of at least one member from as many chapters that want to participate.
2. No longer use Executive Board members as judges. They are busy enough already keeping the Organization running.
3. Recluse chapter members from judging their own entries. Entrants already know their own entries are the best. With enough

committee members this should not be a problem.

4. Explore use of electronic media for entries, i.e. use of PDF and jpeg files. Perhaps even short videos for the Beautification Awards. This would ease the cost of entries. I remember at the 2010 Convention the comment was made that making 6 copies of entries for judging was to expensive for some clubs. This is not intended in anyway to exclude those who choose not to use computers. Those chapters that are more comfortable using paper will only have to send one original to me and I will convert it for distribution.

5. Finally, post winning entries on our National website so all the members can learn from each other and keep improving future entries.

Our first speaker at 2011 Convention spoke about using the media to enhance TGOA/MGCA and grow membership. All of our National Awards have two procedures in common.

1. Articles to support the application.
2. The name and address of your local newspaper. I urge everyone to publicize, publicize, publicize what you do.

I issue the following challenge. Print off the Woodson K. Jones Memorial from the award section of the red book. Take it to your next chapter meeting and as a group discuss the Award criteria and see how high your chapter score would be.

Talk about what articles, flyers and other materials you could use to back up you score. Finally, put it all in a letter (snail or email) and send it to me by December 31; because you know what...That is all it takes to enter.

In closing, I look forward to having your help in improving the award process and the Organization. I will be in touch.

*Karen L. Clark, Overland Park TGOA.*

## “ALERT”

There are three ways to receive your newsletter:

1. Hard copy by direct mail.
2. From the TGOA/MGCA website: [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org)
3. Emailed direct to you. If you choose this 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](mailto:tgoasecy@qwestoffice.net) for assistance.

Website and email delivery is approximately two weeks earlier than direct mail and in color.

**“DUTIES OF A CLUB  
LIAISON”**

**Goals:** Be a responsive and responsible link between National Headquarters and the club

**Activities:**

1. Receive and appropriately distribute documents and information sent from National.
2. Attend all club Board Meetings.
3. Seek answers from National on all unresolved club questions, and report to the Board.

The club presidents are the liaison unless the club has appointed someone different.

Please let headquarters know who the liaison is for your club if it is not the president. This is a very important communication link between the club and National. We need a responsible person in this position to maintain communication with National and keep TGOA/MGCA headquarters working for the clubs.



**HEY YOU!**  
**It's Only  
My  
Opinion**

*Written by Joe Alessi, MGC of Youngstown, OH*

What keeps a club growing and its members active? The mindset of each member as an individual, and the composite mindset of the total membership are

paramount for staying the course and continued growth.

Can the leadership by members that are elected or appointed change either growth or activity? I believe yes, but only if the general membership can be convinced that the leaders are on the right track. What is the right track? It's what the members want it to be.

A knowledgeable leader learns what the members want, and then finds a way to help them get it; it's the prerequisite for successful leadership. Not all your members will want the same thing, which is the reason for promoting the numerous committees, projects and events. Fail in this area and you will see the membership begin to decline, lower meeting attendance, lessening work project volunteers and leader candidates.

The President is only one segment of a successful organization. Each chairperson must do their job or get out of the way of those that want to do it.

Complacency is the opening all opponents for success look for. It behooves a president to find, convince, appoint and oversee each chairperson that will do his or her job efficiently. But he and they alone cannot do all that is required. The full membership must pitch in and do something to help; too often there are too many members that do nothing at all, except enjoy the efforts of others.

The Membership Chairperson must do more

than count the heads. Their duties are more important than many believe. It's their job to find ways to recruit new members, and help them feel welcome by being well informed of club events, projects and privileges. A well-informed member is a more cooperative active member.

It is the responsibility of every new member's sponsor to assist the Membership Chair with the new member. Many sponsors fall short of their obligation in this area to the new member.

Committee members should act as greeters welcoming both members and guests at all your club meetings and events.

The Club Editor is armed with the very vital task of writing the history, being inspirational and informative. A newsletter can be your most powerful tool keeping the membership in a family-like personal, caring mode. A newsletter is the world's window into an organization's accomplishment, successes and historical pride in it.

Not taking full advantage of your newsletter to help promote every aspect of the club is doing a disservice to the entire membership. I repeat, "A well-informed member is a more cooperative active member."

Most of the one or two page newsletters from various organizations that I have read, are not cost effective or able to do a complete job or being inspirational, provide enough

information, give credit when due, and do not adequately record club history.

The membership is of course, the most important aspect of all the preceding text, for without them all of this page would be blank, but because of them all the preceding words are written.

What you read is only my opinion...If mine makes you unhappy, then let your newsletter editor have your rebuttal or respond as intensioned, with a positive mindset by becoming a more active member or one of your club leaders and help it continue to grow.



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**YOUTH  
 GARDENING**

The octopus arms are stretching out more and more across the U.S. Let's keep that trend going. Please inform me of what is going on in your club regarding the youth, projects with them and your mentoring to them. I have been hearing a lot of great things. We will all grow by sharing.

The pumpkin and sunflower contest is entering its final phase. Here are some things to remember for clubs or individuals who are sponsoring or mentoring our young gardeners. Each youth will have to return their three pictures and final product to a person or club that is a member of TGOA/MGCA. Each club needs to have some kind of a function that the youth and their family is

invited too; this is an excellent way to grow your membership. The pumpkins and sunflowers are then judged and awarded their prizes. Clubs are free to handle this however they wish. Each club must have only one top winner for pumpkin and one for sunflower. Clubs must send in to national for those two winners (this could be the same person) the weight of their pumpkin and the diameter size of their sunflower head, along with their name, address, sponsoring club and three pictures by Nov. 15th. All winners' information sent in to national will be published in the national newsletter and pictures of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place national winners will accompany the listing.



If anyone or a club is interested in a "Everyone is a Winner" ribbon or a sticker of our youth logo, let Sheryl know. They are in the office for your use. National winners will receive special certificates, etc.

*Cheri Kessen*  
 Youth Gardening Chair  
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**"HOT-HOT-HOT"**

Work continues on the grounds in Johnston. The

dedicated volunteers from MGCDM make an appearance weekly to maintain established beds and rework other areas of the facility.

As I compose this piece, we have just ended one of the hotter Julys on record, but looking to August, we hope for more pleasant weather. After an extremely damp June, the clouds parted and artificial means were required to keep the bloom in our plantings during the month of July.

I personally appreciate the two donations made in July to the B&G reserve to help cover costs now and in the future. One was a memorial and the other a straight donation.

When you are reading this, the B&G crew from MGCDM will be planning the jobs necessary to accomplish fall plantings for next spring and cleanup after the frosts that shall be forthcoming. Also, the two waterfalls will need to be winterized and trees trimmed.

This shall be my last item regarding the grounds for this year. There are costs associated to the grounds that go on during the winter months, so if regions, clubs and/or members can come forth with any donation, it will be greatly appreciated. I thank you in advance for any contribution that may be considered.

Headquarters Supervisor  
*Ron Heggen*

**“EXCERPTS FROM  
WILLIE WEEDPULLER”**

Submitted in the Ft. Wayne, IN  
“Flora Flash”

Willie was so happy to attend the National Convention this year, but was saddened that so many gardeners had to miss it.

These conventions are one of the greatest benefits of belonging to a national organization. Seeing old friends; new gardens and hearing great speakers refreshes your soul. I’m happy if I just see one new flower, learn one new fact or get one great new idea, but I got lots more than one. The flower decorations were outstanding and several gardeners went home with them as prizes. Everyone was given a cactus the first day.

Did you know there are 13,000 species of begonias and they are found on every continent but Australia? We also had seminars on Plant Management and Bill Lanning did his gourd presentation

Tours were to Kauffman Gardens, Overland Park Arboretum where we had a scavenger hunt and to a home garden filled with hostas conifers and ginko’s to name a few..

By attending the member’s meeting, I learned that many of the club officers are not carrying out their sworn duties and not keeping up with the communication from National. We all need to improve on this and work together to build a stronger

organization. National is aware of many of these current problems and is working hard on new solutions. We all need to stop asking “what does National do for us?” and ask instead “what can we do for National?”

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**SPEECH AT  
CONVENTION**

*Given by Larry  
Moore, News Anchor for the  
ABC station in Kansas City,  
MO  
Greater Kansas City GOA,  
MO*

Someone once said that a good talk is one that has a good beginning and a good ending and they are as close together as possible.

I have been involved in growing things since I was five years old when I helped my grandma plant vegetables and flowers. In high school and during my first two years of college, I operated a commercial truck garden in north Missouri, supplying hospitals and supermarkets with fresh home grown veggies.

About gardening, that wonderful past time that we all enjoy, the most recent studies I’ve seen show us that gardening is the most popular leisure activity in our nation. That more people spend time growing flowers, fruits, and veggies than any other hobby or endeavor, even more popular than golf. It is a hobby that produces some of the healthiest exercise possible, doctors tell us. The produce we grow enhances

our minds and bodies even more because home-grown food is the tastiest and the most nutritious; plus we save money by growing our own. It is pretty difficult to find an activity that produces more benefits and you can do it in your own backyard.

If there are so many things so good about gardening, growing our own food, why do we hear so little about the value of gardening on the evening news or in your daily newspaper? The answer I’ve found over the years is that very few people, who are actually in the media, reporting the news, are actually personally involved in gardening. It becomes our job then, fellow gardeners, we who are members of the Gardeners of America, to publicize what we do. By growing our own, we are greening the earth, we are improving diets, and we are making people healthy. That’s a pretty powerful message.

We as gardeners must reach out to the mainstream media to get our message out to the public.

How about organizing an effort to provide homegrown produce to food pantries; then make sure, the media knows about it.

Get the information about what we do into the hands of reporters, the media. Put that information into news releases--e-mails and/or snail mails--and get the releases into the hands of reporters who report the news. If we do things and don’t tell anyone, how do we expect

anyone to know the great things we do as gardeners.

What I'm suggesting is not easy to accomplish or everybody would do it. But it is important to get the word out. And we must try. It can be depressing. You can put together maybe ten great news releases with e-mail and snail mail, and you might get only one inquiry. Still that one inquiry is better than getting no publicity whatsoever for the project your group has worked on.

You also might want to consider presenting an annual award from your chapter or local organization, someone who has been involved in gardening and has achieved a great deal in the community as well. If you choose a well-known person, a dinner to honor the person could be a fund-raiser and could also generate some valuable publicity in the community. Again, make sure reporters in the media know all the details so they can do news stories.

We as gardeners didn't take an oath to be humble. If we do something that is really good, we have the right to tell others about the work that we have done and the best avenue to report the benefits of that work is through the news media. We really do need to tout our achievements in the world of gardening and there is nothing wrong with that. We really do need to reach out beyond our own newsletter. In many ways it is wrong if we keep it a secret. We are

keeping something secret that has lots of benefits for a lot of people--growing your own food, providing health benefits, and saving money on your grocery bill.

I am reminded of the story of a couple of farmers who were out for a walk on a beautiful Sunday afternoon when all of a sudden a rampaging bull came at them. They had nowhere to go, no fences nearby. One dug himself into a fox hole. The other climbed a small tree.

The bull looked up the tree, but couldn't do anything with the guy up there. About that time the guy in the hole popped up and the bull took after him just barely missing him. The same thing happened a couple of more times. Finally the guy in the tree yelled down at him, "Why don't you stay in the hole?" He yelled back, "Because there's a damn bear in here."

So sometimes a job is more challenging than it might seem. There can be more to it than meets the eye. But promoting the value of vegetable gardening and the work of Gardeners of America is something that can be done and we can all take pride in the result.

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### ***"RECRUITMENT"***

*Submitted by John Kessen,  
Fort Wayne GOA, IN*

Our national second vice president, John Kessen, attended the American

Horticultural Society's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Garden Symposium at Michigan State University on July 21-23, 2011. His mission was to educate the attendees about the TGOA/MGCA. It was a very interesting experience. The AHS staff was very helpful. We were given the first table that leads into the food line to man. So, just about every attendee had the opportunity to stop during symposium and visit. He found out that many of their attendees were not at all familiar with the TGOA/MGCA. He met many attendees that were very interested in the information he was handing out. John encouraged the attendees to join the TGOA/MGCA or if the club they belonged to was not part of our club, they were encouraged to have their club affiliate with us. They had 220 attendees and he felt that over half of those attendees spent some time finding out about the TGOA/MGCA. It was a super chance to let gardeners know who we are. This is the start of a process to let the public know who we are. We are a well kept secret. Many seemed impressed with what we have to offer.

**"CLUB FEATURE"**  
**MOUNTAIN SHADOW**  
**GARDEN CLUB**  
*By Ruth Kail*

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club is located in Stone Mountain, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. It was started in the mid-eighties by Ralph Chewning and other men who lived near Eastminster Presbyterian Church where its meetings are held. Mr. Chewning went on to become one of the national presidents of MGCA. The club currently has 54 members.

The thing this club is known for is that it has wonderful speakers. The club's officers and board of directors use the months of July and August to brainstorm topics and possible speakers for the following year. This allows plenty of time for the club to choose interesting subjects and line up well-known garden personalities from the greater Atlanta area; i.e. Walter Reeves who has a local garden call-in radio show and a T.V. program. . The membership chairman contacts each guest encouraging them to return.

The club is lucky to have several professional landscape designers as officers and board members. For the "entertainment" at the annual September picnic, they form a panel to answer garden questions from members. .

. Mountain Shadow has two major fund raisers. Our

plant sale is held in April. We sell a combination of member-grown plants and consignment plants. The other is a pecan sale in November that continues until the nuts are sold out. People in the area look forward to these fresh picked pecans from southern Georgia. These events fund our speakers and an annual scholarship check that is awarded to a horticultural student at Gwinnett Technical College.

The club has a number of on-going and occasional service projects that include some upkeep of the church grounds, work in elementary school classes and with the Boy Scouts of America as well as other local groups that ask for assistance with garden projects.

The Mountain Shadow Garden Club is happy to be a part of the national TGOA/MGCA. Some of our members enjoy the conventions, others the relationship with AHA that allows free entrance to the Atlanta Botanical Garden and others and the calendars. But, all of us appreciate the hard work that the national and regional officers do to keep such a large organization going.



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**JIM**  
**TUCKER**

If it weren't for Jim Tucker, the Mountain Shadow Garden club would no longer be the active club

that it is today. When he joined in 1997, it was in decline--shrinking membership, haphazard programs, unfocused meetings, no leadership, outreach, goals or fundraising. What was Jim's answer to this situation? A strategic plan of course! The meeting format was changed; entertaining and educational programs were lined-up early and were well publicized. Membership grew.

He has been in charge of membership, engaged all the speakers for many years; was president for four years and was GA-AL Regional officer. He has edited the club newsletter since 2003. He arranged fieldtrips; gave garden demonstrations; answered questions for our club Q&A; was in charge of the plant sale to which he contributed more plants than any other member; and promoted the sale of pecans, which has become the club's major fundraiser.

Today Jim is an active 88. His favorite garden activity is plant propagation. His yard is full of the azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons, hellebores, iris and other flowering shrubs. In his sunroom he cares for forty orchids and takes pride in how he has nurtured them into flowering year after year.

He is still an active participant in Mountain Shadow Garden Club. He enjoys cooking and is an expert pie maker. All club members appreciate his hard work and thank him for the contributions he has made.

**“A POEM FOR OUR POETRY BUFFS”**

Written by Robert Oberst, The Gardeners of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY

A tall man-sized sunflower plant  
 Just outside our kitchen window  
 Is fully blooming now.  
 Not content to have one blossom  
 Our plant will have several soon  
 But, for now, the one large bright flower  
 Points our way as bees have no problem  
 Collecting its pollen.  
 When the flower fades  
 We will let the plant stand  
 And then bow its head.  
 And if the squirrels don't get it first  
 A couple of nearby cardinals will get  
 Their daily breakfast  
 Outside our window  
 For at least a week of so  
 And we won't mind at all.

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**HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE:**

**“Geum “Georgenberg”**



Commonly known as “Avens”, the genus Geum is in the rose family. These ‘Georgenberg’ are

grown in full sun and produce a very generous abundance of tight, compact, round clumps. Plant height is 3” to 6” and in a couple years, they will form an almost perfect round 12” plant with dozens of divisions to share with friends. The ‘Georgenberg’ flowers are on very rigid stems held close to the plant. The plant has rich, exceptionally dark green foliage; does not burn in full, hot, dry sun; insects do not find the foliage very tasty; and the plant is tough as nails. Left outside, they’ve never blinked an eye at single digit temperatures with no snow cover. Another big plus for some is that the deer, rabbits and other varmints seem to not care for the Georgenberg.

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**PARROTT FLOWER**



A rare flower from Thailand. It is a protected species and cannot be exported.

*Submitted by Sue Brelsford, MGC of Des Moines, IA*

**PHOTO CONTEST**

*Horticulture* magazine and DavesGarden.com are sponsoring a Garden Photo Contest. Grand prize is \$1000; winners and runners-up will be featured in print with *Horticulture* and online at HortMag.com and DavesGarden.com plus win a one year subscription to *Horticulture* and DavesGarden.com. No entry fee and submit as many photos as you like. Categories are:

- Wildlife, Animals & Insects in the Garden
- The Edible Garden
- Garden Landscapes
- Seasonal Gardens(Spring, Summer,Fall, Winter)
- People in the Garden

Submit photos to: <http://www.hortmag.com/gardenphotos>

**DEADLINE:** September 30, 2011.

For questions on the contest, feel free to email [Rebecca.staudenmaier@fwmedia.com](mailto:Rebecca.staudenmaier@fwmedia.com).

**“REGION NAME CHANGE”**

At the Central Great Lakes Region summer conference held July 28-30, a vote was approved to change their name to **“CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS”**.



