



Volume 20

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Number 5



The 2009 President's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

You have heard by now about the fine convention we had in Santa Rosa, California.

You need to plan your itinerary for the next three conventions: June 2010 in Grand Rapids, MI; June 2011 in Kansas City and June 2012 in Youngstown, OH.

It's been "hot" in Texas, but the garden is still looking good. Okra, beans, peas, and peppers are coming strong.

All of your vice-presidents will be moving up a notch in October in Dallas.

Larry Schaeffer from Arizona will be installed as your new president at that board meeting. Please let me know if you have any

ideas about the working committees in our club.

You and your spouses are all invited to come to Texas, October 22-24, for a good meeting and some fun. The weather should be really nice. We will be at the Holiday Inn Select, North Dallas, at only \$85 per night. You can't miss it!

I was never a very good salesman, but you know what I mean. Be there or be square!

Can anyone take Mr. Otterness's place as chair of the youth committee? There must be someone out there!

Also, Hugh Earnhart is looking for a leader for the "awards committee."

Actually, these committees are fun to work on, and they don't take up too much time.

Your president and his bride will soon be on an Alaskan cruise. It's like waiting for Christmas to go. We start out by seeing the Butchart Gardens in

Victoria, B.C.; my third time there. A truly beautiful place.

Don't forget to share your gardening delights with an acquaintance soon. Ask several people to come to your next garden club meeting.

We're doing well this year in our efforts to make everyone's garden grow.

Thanks to you members who aren't too busy to help us with our committees.

I only have one more newsletter after this one to send to you. If you have any ideas for me that would improve this newsletter, let me know. Being your president this last twelve months has been extremely rewarding for me; mostly because of the interaction with the very fine people in our organization.

"Hasta Luego" from Texas.

"SEE YOU IN DALLAS"

FROM YOUR EDITOR



What has happened to the "SEED SWAP"? Doesn't anyone have any wants or would like to share what they have? Let's generate some activity for this great idea!

Please send me your *pumpkin and sunflower* contest winners so that I may include them in the newsletter.



Landscaping which was recently completed at the headquarters building this Spring.

I want to give Frank Mitch, our webmaster, a special thank you for all the work he does on posting the updates on our website.

DON'T forget to register for the Board of Directors' meeting in Dallas October 22-24. President Grossman's letter and the registration information are on the website.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The following club(s) have a 10% or more increase in paid members from 2008-2009

East Valley Gardeners of Mesa, AZ

We are sorry to hear of the loss of the Ritenour Garden Club, Overland, MO. Records here at headquarters show they had been in existence since 1950. There are still four life members from this club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors' meeting, October 22-24, 2009, Dallas, TX

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS

To the recently elected officers for 2010:

- Lawrence Schaeffer, President;*
- Hugh Earnhart, 1st Vice-President;*
- Tom Wilten, 2nd Vice-President;*
- John Kessen, 3rd Vice-President*
- Steve Bush, Treasurer*

We also have two new national directors to be installed: *Colette McNally*, Arizona-New Mexico and *Steve Kimball*, Southwest Region.

These officers will be installed at the installation banquet in October at the Board of Directors' meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE TGOA/MGCA LIBRARY

- Grafting & Budding* by W.J. Lewis & D. McE Alexander;
- Sustainable Gardens* by Rob Cross & Roger Spencer;
- The Vegetable Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta/Bob Thompson & Edgar Stewart;
- The Ugly Vegetables* by Grace Lin;
- Plant Secrets* by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes
- Flower Gardening Secrets* by Cynthia Van Hazinga
- Container Gardening* by Sally Roth/Pamela Peirce
- The Art of the Kitchen* by Jan Gertley

**AWARD
AVAILABILITY
REMINDER**

TGOA/MGCA has a multitude of awards available to their members. A brief synopsis of availability is:

- Beautification** (Communities or Organization) – one award per year
- Beautification** (Business) – one award per year: plaque
- Beautification-Home Garden** (maintained by member and/or immediate family) - award per year: plaque
- Beautification-Home Garden** (maintained by professional gardeners or landscapers) - one award per year: plaque
- Bill Hull Memorial Cup** – one award per year: plaque, traveling cup
- Certificate of Recognition** – three per year: plaque
- Certificate of Appreciation** - certificate
- Creativity** – one award per year: plaque
- Environment and Conservation Achievement** – one per year: plaque
- President's Environmental and Conservation** – one per year; plaque

- Gardening From the Heart** – one per year: plaque
 - Johnny Appleseed** – one award per year: plaque
 - Gold Medal** – one award per year: plaque
 - Silver Medal** – one award per year; plaque
 - Newsletter/Club and Region** – awards per class: plaques
 - Scholarships** – five cash awards per year
 - Photography** – awards in four levels: plaques and certificates
 - Spark Plug** – one award per year/National: certificate
 - George Spader** – one award per year: plaque
 - Spade Club Award** – one award per club per year
 - Trowel Club Award** – three awards per year
 - Woodson K. Jones Memorial** –three awards per year: plaques & traveling trophy
 - Youth Gardening** – top three winners: National, certificates; local, ribbons & certificates
- REGION AWARDS**
- Certificate of Honor** – certificates
 - Environmental and Conservation Achievement** – certificates

- Green Bronze Medal** – plaque
- Horticultural Achievement** – certificate
- Horticultural Journalism** – certificate
- Spark Plug** – certificate

**AFFILIATED
CLUB AWARDS**

- Beautification** - certificate
- Big Pumpkin Contest Certificate**
- Bronze Medal** – highest award at club level: plaque
- Certificate of Honor** – certificate
- Environmental Conservation** – certificate
- Giant Sunflower Contest** certificate – certificates
- Our Thanks to You** – certificates
- Spade Club membership** – pin & ribbons
- Trowel Award** – pin
- Spark Plug** - certificate

Please see the **Red Book** on the website, **Awards Manual**, for further details on each award. The deadlines for award applications are also on the website. Let's see if we can have a list of awards to present at the next convention.

**PHOTOGRAPHY
WINNERS
BEST OF SHOW – 2009**

Best of show:

Karyn Chaffin,
member Denver Gardeners
of America, CO
Echinacea purpurea with
Two-Tailed Swallowtail
butterfly

1st runner-up:

Sherra Schuck,
member GOA Overland
Park, KS *Dicentra*,
Old Fashioned Bleeding
Heart

2nd runner-up:

Debra Kayata,
member-at-large/AHS,
Ocean City, NJ
Tulipa

Sweepstakes winner:

Karyn Chaffin, member
Denver Gardeners of
America, CO
Total score: 258

Check the website to view
the photos.

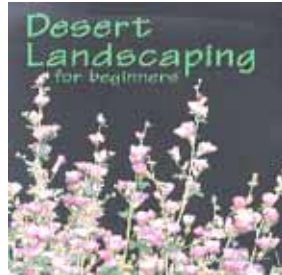
GARDENING TIP

To water potted plants
easily, stick one end of a
thin cotton rope in the soil
and the other in a bucket of
water.

Taken from Down-To Earth
Garden Secrets. Sent in by the
Men and Women's Garden Club
of Findlay, OH.

BOOK REVIEW

*Reviewed by Olin D.
Miller, Valley of the Sun
Gardeners & Master
Gardener Volunteer*



**DESERT
LANDSCAPING
FOR BEGINNERS**

**Edited By Cathy Cromell
Arizona Master
Gardener Press**

Most landscaping books
are written for other parts
of the country by authors
who have no experience
with low desert
landscaping. Desert
Landscaping for Beginners
- written by low desert
horticulturists, cooperative
extension horticulture
agents, and master
gardeners with many years
of experience in desert
landscaping - fills the need
for a comprehensive desert
landscaping book. Each of
the 13 chapters in the book
deals with a different topic.

The first chapter, by
master gardener Frank
Martin, establishes the
theme of the book by
describing a variety of
ways that native plants
have adapted over
thousands of years to
enable the plants to store

water, conserve moisture,
and utilize the scarce
nutrients in the soil. This
chapter provides a
fascinating insight into
how desert plants not only
survive but also thrive in
what seems to us to be a
very hostile environment
for plants. In other
chapters, the authors cover
just about everything one
needs to know to
understand desert
landscaping.

Chapters about
landscape plants include
trees, shrubs, cacti and
other succulents,
wildflowers, citrus, roses,
and turf. Each of these
chapters completely
describes plant selection
and care.

Routine maintenance
issues such as irrigation,
tree and shrub pruning,
frost protection, seasonal
pest control, and specific
plant problems are also
covered in separate
chapters.

The book is available at
bookstores or online from
the publisher at
http://cals.arizona.edu/mari_copa/garden/html/pubs/mg_press/source.htm and at
www.amazon.com. It can
also be purchased by mail
from the publisher at The
University of Arizona,
Arizona Master Gardener
Press, 4341 E. Broadway
Road, Box 103, Phoenix,
AZ 85040-8807.

“CLUB FEATURE”

edited by Frank Mitch

The Men's Garden Club of Akron, OH was

organized April 27, 1937 when a group of men interested in gardening met with E.V. Newton, president of the National Men's Garden Clubs of America and Mr. Frankel of the Cleveland club to explore the possibility of forming a new club. The club was formed with Ray Cheetham elected as president. The annual dues were set at \$1.50 and committees were formed.

In 1937 the Akron club joined the National Men's Garden Clubs of America. The initiation dues were fifteen dollars plus twelve cents per member.

In 1938 the club held their first flower show with fifteen members contributing 135 entries.

In January 1940 the club published their first monthly newsletter and named it The Garden Gabber. The club had grown to 22 members by then.

In 1942 National reported 56 men's garden clubs with 5,000 members.

Over the next few years, due to the war efforts, the flower shows were held

when possible, but the club flourished and kept their membership growing.

1947 was the beginning of the Big Tree program. Each year four tree varieties were selected. Members turned in nominations from the local and surrounding counties. After a lot of measurements (height, diameter, crown spread), the winners were determined and the tree owners received plaque awards. By year 2000, new tree varieties were exhausted. The contest was then wide open to all varieties and club members received certificate awards, not the tree owners.

Around 1990, total membership was over 300. For many years a high percentage has been life members. Today there are 109 plus members.

Other past club activities over the years: garden beautification of a hospice grounds, planting 6,000 mums each year at Stan Hyet Hall and Gardens and work at Crown Point Environmental Center.

The club has for many years awarded two \$1000 scholarships to deserving horticulture students. The large TGOA/MGCA

scholarship fund came from the estate of former Akron member, George Mines. The Akron club has sponsored many nominations in the past ten years and had many winners, five in 2008 and three in 2009.

This year Akron cooperated with Youngstown and Cleveland clubs to have an exhibit at the large Cleveland IX-Center Home and Garden Show, which was held for nine days in February. Members enjoyed working at the show and obtained new members from their participation.

Some Akron club members are included in the Central Great Lakes Region committee to sponsor the 2010 national convention in Grand Rapids, MI. Six region clubs are committed to this project.

The Akron club was the first TGOA/MGCA club to have a club website: <http://www.acorn.net/mgcaakron>.

.....
Gardening is a tonic for all young, old, man or woman. If you garden, your soul is at peace and your heart is fulfilled.

Compliments of the Gardeners of the Bluffton-Pandora Area.



Tom Shanley, Lyle Morse and Jack Schoop, Building and Grounds committee, MGC of Des Moines. Two boulders were recently placed at headquarters to prevent vehicles from hitting the railroad ties surrounding the island of the parking lot at headquarters.

INDIAN WINTER FORECAST

By Frank Mitch, Akron MGC

It was already late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was a chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village

should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at the National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later the chief called the National Weather Service again, "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely." The man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen."

"How can you be so sure?" the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Always remember this whenever you get advice from a government official!!!!!!

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"CONVENTION NEWS"

"Together Again in 2010" is the slogan for the 2010 TGOA/MGCA National Convention. Chairman John Kessen and co-chair Hugh Earnhart, along with the entire convention committee, have already completed most of the preliminary planning.

- WHO:* Hosts, Central Great Lakes Region
- WHAT:* TGOA/MGCA National Convention
- WHY:* To get together again
- WHEN:* June 10-12, 2010
- WHERE:* Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan

More detailed information will follow later.

**GARDEN
NIGHTMARES**

An asparagus spear took
steady aim
At a big green cabbage
head.
A cherry tomato cried
bombs away
And dropped in a lettuce
bed.

A potato signaled a carrot
friend,
It's time to go
underground.
A radish and onion
overhead the call,
And they too went
downward bound.

Cucumbers vied with
zucchini and squash,
The contested night and
day.
Then the melons, water
and musky types,
Joined in the widespread
fray.

The pumpkins grew
neutral as they ere do,
Corn looked askance and
grew tall.
Belligerent beans glared at
neighbor pears,
And the red beets bled for
them all.

They bickered and spat
day and night,
Going all out in their
vegetable fight.
And were so engrossed
with such petty deeds,

They all lost the battle to
sneaky weeds.

Submitted by Bob Van
Kirk, Fort Wayne GOA

THE THREE SISTERS

They will grow on you!
*Submitted by the Men's Garden
Club of Albany*

The classic example of
happy companions is the
legendary "three sisters" –
corn, pole beans, and either
pumpkins or squash. This
trio is one of the easiest
and most satisfying to
grow.

To try them in your
garden, in spring, prepare
the soil by adding fish
scraps or wood ash to
increase fertility if desired.

When the danger of frost
has passed, plant six
kernels of corn an inch
deep and about ten inches
apart in a circle about two
feet in diameter.

As the corn grows, mound
up the soil around the base
of the stalks until a hill
about a foot high and three
feet wide is formed.

When the corn is about
five inches tall, plant four
bean seeds, evenly spaced,
around each stalk. About a
week later, plant six
squash seeds, evenly
spaced, around the
perimeter of the mound.

Each of the sisters
contributes something to
the planting. Together, the
sisters provide a balanced
diet from a single planting.

As older sisters often do,
the corn offers the beans
needed support. The
beans, the giving sister,
pull nitrogen from the air
and bring it to the soil for
the benefit of all three.

As the beans grow through
the tangle of squash vines
and wind their way up the
cornstalks into the
sunlight, they hold the
sisters close together.

The large leaves of the
sprawling squash protect
the threesome by creating
living mulch that shades
the soil, keeping it cool
and moist and preventing
weeds.

The prickly squash leaves
also keep away raccoons,
which don't like to step on
them.

By the time European
settlers arrived in America
in the early 1600s, the
Iroquois had been growing
the "three sisters" for over
three centuries. The
vegetable trio sustained the
Native Americans both
physically and spiritually.
In legend, the plants were a
gift from the gods, always
to be grown together, eaten

RADISHES GET NO RESPECT

taken from The Bright Hoe, IL

In Greek and Roman times, the radish was very different than the ones we grow today. The radish was grown for winter storage, and often weighed 50 to 100 lbs. each. It was eaten cooked or raw and seasoned with honey and vinegar.

During the seventeenth century, the radish was used for a variety of "so called" medicinal purposes. It was used as a general antidote for poisoning, a cure for snake bites, to alleviate the pain of child birth and to remove freckles. When mashed, and then mixed with honey and dried sheep's blood, it was reported to cure baldness!

The radish was eaten during breakfast, lunch, and dinner by early American settlers. By the late eighteenth century, at least ten varieties of radishes were popular in home gardens. Thomas Jefferson grew eight different varieties in his own gardens at Monticello.
"Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing, because he could only do a little." by Edmund Burke

GARDENING FROM THE HEART REVIEW

In 1976 at the national convention in Colorado, a horticulture therapy program was approved. The success of the Tucson, AZ Men's Garden Club at the Arizona Children's Home, was the factor in approving this program.

In 1986 the concept of outreaching therapy was expanded from youth only to include adults, residential seniors and veterans in medical centers and the idea of a partnership with an institution was established.

The objective of the program is to establish club partnerships with local institutions serving youth and adults and provide support and encouragement in the field of horticulture therapy.

Dr. Carl F. Menninger, Topeka, Kansas, a pioneer in the treatment of persons with mental illness, communicated the fact that "gardening gives hope, promise, and satisfaction." The use of plants improves the quality of life to persons with diverse physical and emotional challenges. Plants can involve all five senses. The vision impaired can touch, smell and taste plants. Those with hearing problems can enjoy the

beauty plants provide. Arthritic hands can mix potting soil and use for planting. Handicapped persons gain so much when raised bed gardening is introduced. Emotionally disturbed acquire the pride of accomplishment from plant growth and care. The elderly find a new interest in the sunset years by caring for plants.

Top management of the institution must be supportive and club members can provide the plants, possibly the labor, and some financial support for these programs. Memorials and club contributions are the main source of income for this national program. Grants are available upon request to clubs that wish to begin a program.

Gardening From the Heart represents one of the finest volunteer programs in America and brings joy to thousands of disadvantaged people. Garden clubs give of their time, experience and resources and receive rewards that are priceless. For more information on this program, please contact your national office at (515) 278-0295 or email:

tgoasecy@dwx.com.



**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
- Sunbody hat (no logo)(description below) \$20
- white poplin golf cap \$8

JACKETS (choice of logo)

green or white lined windbreaker

M-XLg \$32 XXLg \$35

green or white unlined windbreaker

M-XLg \$26 XXLg \$29

SHIRTS (choice of logo)

green or white sport shirt, knit

M-XLg \$22 XX & XXLg \$25

short sleeve Arrow dress shirt

(15 to 17-1/2) \$28.00

Gardening from the Heart t-shirt

(no logo choice) L-XL \$5

VEST (choice of logo)

green poplin, washable \$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

pins: membership, president, past president, etc. \$3.50

PLAQUE, club president(walnut) \$40

MUGS: insulated, hot/cold (both logos) \$5

porcelain (both logos) \$3.50

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

GLOVES: long cuffed or summer glove \$6

S, M, Lg

PLANT MARKERS: (set of 8) \$2

(unavailable at this time)

SCREEN SAVER: \$1

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
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Up to \$9.99.....	\$4.00
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\$10.00 to \$49.99.....	\$7.50
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\$40 to \$99.99.....	\$10.50
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\$100 to \$199.99.....	\$12.50
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\$299 and over.....	\$14.50
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Only checks or cash please. Headquarters is **not** set up for credit card actions. Credit cards may be used when ordering from the website.

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

Name _____ Club name _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Style/Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Head Size for Sunbody hat (only): _____

Total enclosed: _____



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



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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 mgcambr@dwx.com or via mail.

****PARTNERS IN GARDENING****

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)

Two years for a nominal fee to active TGOA/MGCA members. Check out the benefits this membership includes. www.ahs.org

HERTZ: Member savings cards available from headquarters. TGOA/MGCA member number is **CDP#0338537**. Make reservations at www.hertz.com or 1-800-654-2210/2240.

ENTERPRISE: TGOA/MGCA account number **SB00001**; enter pin #ENT. There is a 5% discount. Make reservations on line at www.enterprise.com or call 1-800-RENT-A-CAR.

Take **10% Off Your Order** with Offer Code **MG10**

Quality English Seeds Since 1855
 Over 1700 unique and unusual seeds - all GMO free.
 Money Back Guarantee.

Thompson & Morgan 1-800-274-7333
www.tmseeds.com

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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.