

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 21



Lawrence Schaeffer
2010 President

Fellow Gardeners,

It seems like only yesterday that summer was on the sunrise side of the mountain and now it has already moved to the twilight side. Like the rest of the country, it has been unseasonably hot here in Ohio and the plant life shows it. Nothing we can do about it, but to move on into fall and winter. Perish the thought.

This past month (July) a storm passed through the headquarters area and did some minor damage to the building and up-rooted a tree or two. Thanks to the staff and the Des Moines Garden Club crew, they were on top of the situation, and as they do every time, got matters under control. As I said in

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

a letter earlier this year, this group is a special garden crew. Thanks again for a job well done.

At the yearly convention this summer, the executive committee held an open forum for members to express their concerns. One of these concerns was a lack of grant writing to move the TGOA/MGCA forward. Another concern was the lack of directors' and club officer's participation in the national organization. Some regions have directors and clubs that are very active and others we have only names. This is a very serious, but delicate matter that needs our attention. These two items will need to be addressed when we gather again in Tucson in October. Be thinking!!!

Finally, the nominating committee will have to fill two positions in the next election this coming spring. Tom Wilten (Texas) does not wish to stand for election next year. That decision

Number 5

necessitates that John Kessen (Indiana) moves to president for 2012 and James Bagwell (South Carolina) moves to first vice president. The elected positions, second and third vice presidents, must be filled. Members of the TGOA/MGCA – put on your thinking caps and offer some suggestions to **lead** this organization in the future. If responsible individuals do not step forward, we may have to “recycle” former leaders.

Have a pleasant day and Happy Trails.

Hugh Earnhart

First Vice President

**THERE IS STILL
TIME TO REGISTER
FOR THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS'
MEETING IN TUCSON,
AZ, OCTOBER 28-30.
THE FORMS AND
INFORMATION ARE
ON OUR WEBSITE.**

Besides the business meetings and the installation of officers for 2011, we are visiting the Tohono Chul Park. See you there!



**FROM
YOUR
EDITOR**

Headquarters recently received a beautiful Polar Bear poinsettia from the Ecke Poinsettias Ranch, Encinitas, CA. This poinsettia is the whitest poinsettia available while still featuring dark green leaves. The green undertones of the bract creates a much brighter white as contrasted to the creamier, yellow undertones of most other dark leaf white genetics on the market. The green comes out in the veins of transition bracts, creating a striking contrast in the look of this plant. Ecke Ranch makes a donation to Polar Bears International for each plant sold. We thank them for their donation to us. Their website is www.Ecke.com.

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**** REMINDER ****
**EVERYONE INTERESTED
IN RECEIVING YOUR
NEWSLETTER FROM
THE WEBSITE OR via
EMAIL, PLEASE LET ME
KNOW. THE
NEWSLETTER IS ON THE
WEBSITE IN COLOR TWO
WEEKS BEFORE THE
HARD COPY IS MAILED
OUT.**

Sheryl
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**STOP DIMINISHING
MEMBERSHIP**

*Taken from the Central Great
Lakes Region
Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster*

To solve the problem of declining club membership takes more than talking among ourselves, a comment, or this one line in your newsletter;

**“RECRUIT NEW
MEMBERS.”**

It takes a concerted effort to formulate step-by-step plans detailing how to increase membership.

Once a workable plan is in place, you must continue to convince your existing members to put the plan into action; success won't happen overnight!

It's hard to fathom why membership is in decline, especially when there are hundreds of professional and home gardeners that we meet every day. How many of those gardeners know that you garden or about the benefits of your garden club?

How many gardeners have you spoken with that you never mentioned your club or invited them as your guest to a club meeting or event?

Recruiting new members is not much different than a company marketing a

product or seeking new customers. Similarly, promotional tools geared to the club must first be developed. Then follow with “how to” ideas, to put the package into action. You will need the cooperation of club members to help activate the plan; one or two members cannot do it alone.

Your plans should include studying the events and community projects that could involve your club. Are you fulfilling the desires of your members by providing them with the variety of activity that interests them? Seminars, speakers, trips, social, community projects or hands on gardening projects, for example. Learn what your members would like and expect from club membership.

These are just a few ideas to encourage everyone to recruit new members. TGOA/MGCA needs all the publicity we can give. Let's **encourage** new members to our great organization.

**THE GREATEST ASSET
THAT AN
ORGANIZATION CAN
BOAST OF IS ITS
MEMBERS!**

Also, hundreds of our at-large members live relatively close to one of these stores. This is a way to help out national without contributing any of your own money. Please contact me if you want more info about this program. On behalf of all TGOA/MGCA officers and directors I thank those who choose to help us in this way.

Steven Bush, Treasurer
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Gardening from the Heart

Gardening from the Heart here in Arizona has been an outstanding effort and joy. The program began with The Gardeners of Tucson and continues to be a meaningful part of their clubs activities. The Valley of The Sun Gardeners in Phoenix have several projects continually going on from Ronald McDonald Houses to the Arizona Veterans Home in Phoenix and the surrounding area.

I am happy to depict the outreach of the East Valley Gardeners Club, my club in the East Valley of Arizona/Phoenix area. Our **Gardening from the Heart** program has included helping grammar schools, the entrance and grounds of the Mesa Historical Museum,

Discovery Point, Sunland Village, Centennial Village over the past few years and we are currently working with the city of Mesa on the Alston House yard, the home of an early pioneer doctor, a reclamation project the city is undertaking.

These projects are set up with the governing agency or organization using the **TGOA/MGCA** application **GFTH** forms and guidelines from the **GFTH** program. Our club members supply the plants or have planting parties or purchase the needed items. We have a working relationship with some of the local merchants and if they are able to help financially we ask the recipient to do so. Our club feels it is a good way to spend some of our fundraising monies. Sunland Village was so pleased with the job we did for them the residents gave our club a substantial donation last year. Our club members are the key to our success as they furnish most of the plants used and the leadership of the projects making sure we enlist the participation of the residents or people from the local community. We have recruited a good number of members through our projects. We

have some ongoing participation in all of our projects, some quite minimal and others very meaningful providing leadership and participation often with just one or two individuals from our club going by to see the people regularly.

Our club is in the second year of community gardening at Mesa Community College where we test several urban gardening systems as well as watering systems both organic and non organic that our members and the community are able to see in action. We have a Moringa Oleifera Tree project that we are working on with over 100 of these food trees that we are making available here in the East Valley.

Bottom line we here in Arizona love **Gardening from the Heart**. I as the newly elected chairman of the TGOA/MGCA **GFTH** committee and my committee members encourage you to participate in this worthwhile endeavor and in the event you need funding for a project in your area let me know and our committee and the Executive Committee will consider requests you feel

you need to enable you to attain success.

I hope this newsletter finds all well with you and your clubs efforts.

Jim Mack
Chairman, Gardening from the Heart Committee

"CLUB FEATURE"

FORT WAYNE GOA
Fort Wayne, IN

In 1927 a leading Chicago newspaper sponsored a garden contest in the "Chicago land area" with a prize of \$1000. Mr. Leo Nack won. With this inspiration, in 1928 Mr. Nack sent a letter to the well-known Chicago area gardeners to convene a meeting about creating a club for gardeners. On March 15, 1928 the organization was completed with Mr. Nack as the first president. To Mr. Nack goes the credit for being the founding father of the Men's Garden Club.

Early in 1920, Jay Darling conceived the thought of a men's group of gardeners in Des Moines, IA. Thus, on February 10, 1930, the Men's Division of the Des Moines Garden Club was born.

Having been a guest at several meetings of the Chicago club, Mr. Will Lathrop of Aurora, IL was so thrilled with the type of men he met at the meetings, that he organized a club in Aurora on February 26, 1930.

The Fort Wayne club was organized on February 10, 1930 with Elmer Nies as president.

On September 26, 1932 representatives of the four clubs met in Chicago and created the organization which became known all over the world as the Men's Garden Clubs of America. Mr. Alfred Holmes of Des Moines was elected president and Mr. Don White of Fort Wayne was elected vice president. Mr. Arnold Koeneman of Fort Wayne was elected to the board of directors.

The first annual meeting was held on July 29, 1933 in Chicago at the Conservatory of Garfield Park during the "Century of Progress." The second annual meeting was in July 1934 in Chicago. At that time Mr. Don White of Fort Wayne was elected president. The third annual meeting was held in Fort Wayne in 1935.

In 1947, Fort Wayne received the gift of a twelve acre tract of land which included the present side of the Johnny Appleseed grave. The Johnny Appleseed National Foundation was formed in 1955 in Fort Wayne by the officers and members of the Fort Wayne club. In 1962 the club installed a new sign at the gravesite and renovation and beautification commenced. The gravesite is not a part of the National Park Service.

Since its founding, the Fort Wayne chapter of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Club of America has been very active within the community with a number of beautification and educational projects. Currently the Fort Wayne GOA is developing a butterfly garden at Solomon Farm. Solomon Farm is a part of Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation. Three national conventions have been held in Fort Wayne, and the club is very active in both the Central Great Lakes region and the national organization.

*ALWAYS DO RIGHT, THIS
WILL GRATIFY SOME PEOPLE,
AND ASTONISH THE REST.*
Mark Twain

**SYNOPSIS OF
NATIONAL
TGOA/MGCA
CONVENTION
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
2010**

*Taken from an article written by
Tom & Florence Haskett &
Ted & Shirley Laven
Emporia GOA, KS*

The 2010 convention, "Together Again in 2010", began on June 10 with a buffet breakfast.

Following committee meetings, there were presentations by Rebecca Finneran, horticulturist of Kent County Extension office who presented a program on "season long color" and Plant Propagation: Be Fruitful and Multiply by Dr. Tom Wilten who gave reasons to propagate and demonstrations on how to do softwood and hardwood cuttings. Sherra Schuck presented a program on photography on the basics of lighting, color, composition and showed what would happen when you used different f-stops, regular light, reflected light and the effect of using different times of day to change your photo composition. Sherra also gave a photography slide show at our Thursday evening banquet.

Friday was tour day. The first stop was to

Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Meijer Gardens has 132 acres featuring a woodland shade garden, nature trail and wetlands, a Victorian garden, an English perennial and bulb garden, an arid desert garden, and a five acre children's garden. In addition, Dale Chihuly, a well-known glass artist had his works displayed at the gardens.

Next stop was a tour of the Kent County Extension grounds where they have developed two vacant lots into beautiful gardens complete with a waterfall.

Then we were on to the Hoffmaster State Park where we saw huge sand dunes along Lake Michigan. Exhibits in the visitor center illustrated the history and ecology of the sand dunes. A tour of the beach area along the Grand River in Grand Haven was enjoyed as we rode to the home of our dinner host.

Our catered evening meal was hosted by Dale G. Deppe, the owner of Spring Meadows Nursery, at his private garden. He is one of the five licensed propagators for Proven Winners plants. He is the propagator for new shrubs. We toured his yard and his product development manager, Tim Wood, explained how he came to develop many of the

shrubs and he pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of various shrubs. Breeders for Proven Winners are scattered throughout the world and he travels the world looking for varieties that meet Proven Winner standards. As we loaded the busses to return to the hotel, we all were given a Proven Winner shrub.

Saturday the membership meeting was held and reports by various officers were given. After the meeting, seminars were held by Dr. Ryan Sensenig of Goshen College on "Grazing My Garden" and Tim Wood, Spring Meadows Nursery, gave his presentation on "Woody Perennials: New Trends in Flowering Shrubs".

Saturday evening was the Hawaiian theme banquet with a program presented by Steve Lawarre, director of horticulture at Meijer Gardens. His presentation was on carnivorous plants.

After the presentation, awards were presented to several individuals and a preview of the 2011 convention was given.

The seminars and tours were all outstanding this year. It was delightful to see and greet friends that were made at previous conventions.

The above is a recap of the viewpoint of some of our members on the 2010 convention. Hopefully, this will encourage others to consider attending these conventions. They are a highlight of TGOA/MGCA membership.
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“A NOVEL IDEA”

taken from the
Fort Wayne GOA
Willie Weedpuller article

A most fascinating article by Kate Jerome of Pleasant Prairie, WI outlined quite a garden invention. It is **worm tubes**. The premise is to have a place actually in the garden into which you can put vegetable scraps; the worms then come into the bottom of the tube, eat through the scraps and move out into the garden to deposit their castings. There are several different methods for creating these tubes. One source used metal drain pipe, another used large plastic pots glued or wired together at their tops. The bottoms were cut out and the bottom pot was drilled with holes. Six-inch PVC drain pipes work well too. Cut into three-foot sections with a circular or hacksaw. Drill one-inch holes in the bottom foot of the pipes with a hole saw. The tops need to be covered to keep out flies. You can purchase PVC caps, but small terra cotta pots with a piece of screen covering

the drain hole works well. They are heavy enough to stay in place, lighter weight lids would need a rock on top to keep them from blowing off. These tubes sticking up in the garden also function as bird perches. Having insect-eating birds find a ready place to sit and watch for prey is an added bonus. Put a little finished compost in each tube; add some kitchen scraps and then a bit of soil. Now sit back and watch and know that your kitchen waste is being worm-composted.

BOOK REVIEW

*Submitted by Hugh Earnhart,
MGC of Youngstown*

“Crops in Pots”

by Bob Purnell

Last spring I was in the local bookstore and found a delightful book entitled Crops in Pots by Bob Purnell. In this publication there are fifty different projects that can be grown in pots on the back deck, in an arbor, on a balcony, or tucked away among the garden perennials. Each of the fifty projects is grouped around a culinary theme with a list of easy-to-find plants, planting instructions, and other growing information. Some of the imaginative planter themes are:

Winter Vegetable

Cubes – Three handsome containers of cauliflower, chard, and kale for harvesting throughout the winter.

Floral Feast – A

medley of edible flowers that includes violets, marigolds, nasturtiums, and sunflowers.

Potted Potager – A

mouth-watering mixture of vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs that will produce all summer long.

Sky High – Sun

bright climbing beans reach upward toward the sky and blue morning glories add that extra splash of color.

The various

projects provide plenty of inspiration for a variety of admirable meals in containers and close to the kitchen.

Bob Purnell is a writer, broadcaster, lecturer, and an award-winning garden designer. He, also, has a nursery that specializes in container plants. His first book was Container Gardens by Numbers.

**RESOURCES FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT
NATIVE PLANTS**

- www.bestplants.org
- www.chicagowilderness.org
- www.prairienet.org
- www.for-wild.org

*Compliments of Gardeners
of Central Lake County*

**2011
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2011 Convention, June 16-18, Overland Park, KS
“A Bit of Heaven in 2011”

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2011 Board of Directors’ meeting, November 4-5, Des Moines, IA

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PHOTOGRAPHY awards – Due February 16, 2011

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SCHOLARSHIP awards – Due 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 – Due early March

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

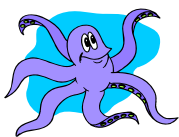
Newsletter	Date
Nov/Dec '10	1 Oct '10
Jan/Feb '11	1 Dec '10
Mar/Apr '11	1 Feb '11

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

YOUTH GARDENING

By Cheri Kessen



OCTOPUS
July 2010

A big thank you to the fourteen clubs that responded to the youth

gardening survey. I am still waiting for the remaining thirty-four clubs to respond. According to the Youth Gardening handbook, every affiliated garden club should have a youth gardening program. Of the fourteen clubs that responded only four have a program and what about the other thirty-four? Other results of the survey showed that only one club out of the fourteen gets sunflower and pumpkin seeds from national. I also found that there was actual disinterest in the clubs when it comes to youth and some don’t even want youth involved. What is this saying about our future?

At the national convention I heard about some clubs that were doing good things with youth but they haven’t given me anything in writing yet as was promised.

The list of children’s gardens has a good start and I hope when you read through the list many more of you will be able to send me additions. For anyone who would like some ideas, projects &/or activities, that list is coming along too. Just let me know at ckessen2001@yahoo.com.

One thing that was mentioned at the convention about several

items, is that we must start thinking outside of the box. Well, I have been out of the box for several months now but I need you to join me. The octopus would like to get some more of his legs – please help!

CHILDREN’S GARDENS

CALIFORNIA – Hamilton Children’s Garden, San Diego Botanic Garden. Largest interactive children’s garden on the west coast sdbgarden.org

FLORIDA – The Children’s Gardens, Naples Botanical Garden

GEORGIA – Children’s Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden (2005 AHS) www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/kids/kids_map.html

ILLINOIS – Children’s Garden at Keelum, Cantigny Park, Wheaton www.cantigny.org

IOWA – Children’s Garden, Reiman Gardens in Ames

MICHIGAN
4-H Children’s Garden, Michigan State University Children’s Garden, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids Meijergardens.org

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska (2007 AHS)

Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista

MISSOURI - Ozanam Home, Kansas City

Niles Home for Children, Kansas City
Boys & Girls Club, Kansas City

Troostwood Youth Garden, Kansas City
Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis (2006 AHS)

OHIO – Youth Garden, Cleveland Botanical Gardens

- The Children’s Garden, Lima
- Master Gardeners Children Garden, Smiley Park, Van Wert

PENNSYLVANIA – Camden Children’s Garden, Greater Philadelphia (2008AHS)

TEXAS – Dallas Arboretum, 15 playhouses for children

VIRGINIA – Children’s Garden on River Farm, Alexandria
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond



“DESTRUCTION”

Early in the morning of Sunday, July 18th, a strong weather phenomenon passed through central Iowa, in particular Johnston, the location of our TGOA/MGCA headquarters. Winds during the storm surpassed 70 MPH.

As a consequence of the storm, damage to the headquarters grounds was sustained by the felling of trees and damage to venue facilities.

Pictures of the resulting carnage are included with this piece.

Our property insurance will cover the removal of the tree destruction and gutter damage, but will not cover replacement of the tree plantings that should be replaced.

The large tree that has to be removed, a “Pin Oak” that was planted when the grounds were originally formatted in the mid sixties. Later the Men’s Garden Club of Santa Rosa, California provided funding to landscape a berm around the tree. We now look forward to a member(s) or club(s) to donate funds to plant a new Pin Oak to replace the soon to be removed regal growth on the grounds.



PIN OAK TREE ON GROUNDS AT HEADQUARTERS





The second tree being removed is a “Chanticleer Pear”, donated by Leonard and Daisy Hahn, of Independence, Missouri. The tree is one of four pear tree plantings north of the headquarters building. Again, we look forward to a gift to replace it.



Bradford pear tree which fell on the fence and gutter at headquarters



There has been other clean- up work caused by the storm, and the Men’s Garden Club of Des Moines volunteers have provided sweat equity to clean up same.



Funds are necessary to refurbish damaged grass areas and other asunder items not covered by insurance. I call upon affiliated clubs and members to provide donations to cover uncovered costs.

I thank you in advance for any contribution you shall forward to assist in the recovery of your headquarter ground.

Ronald A. Heggen
Building & Grounds
Overseer



Storage area



Eavespout on headquarters building damaged by storm

GO TO THE TGOA/MGCA WEBSITE AND VIEW THE PICTURES IN COLOR

FROM THE GARDEN SHOP WILL RETURN SOON. PLEASE REFER TO PAST NEWSLETTERS FOR MERCHANDISE. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO CALL IN YOUR ORDERS

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR SWEATSHIRTS FOR THE COOL WEATHER!



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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DES MOINES, IA
PERMIT NO. 2934

**CERTIFICATES &
PLAQUES**

These may be ordered through national headquarters at (515) 278-0295 or via email.

*****PARTNERS IN GARDENING*****

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)

Membership cost of \$40 for two years for a single or \$40 for one year for a couple. Check out the benefits.

www.ahs.org

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HERTZ: TGOA/MGCA member number is **CDP#338537**. Make reservations at www.hertz.com or 1-800-654-2210/2240.

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ENTERPRISE:

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

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SUNSHINE FARM & GARDENS: Members can save 10% off with offer code MG10. Check out <http://sunfarm.com> or <http://sunfarm.com/specials/>.

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY "PARTNERS IN GARDENING" THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR LIST OF PARTNERS!!

2011 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.

