



THE GARDENERS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of The Gardeners of America

January - February 2023 | www.gardenersofamerica.club

President's Message

With the start of a new calendar year and it is a good time to set some objectives that we would like to accomplish, or at least begin to work on this year and next.

TGOA has a new newsletter editor, Jonny Prell from the Cleveland club, and Secretary Ritalyn Arps from the Green Bay club. Their contact information is included in this newsletter.

Heidi Logan Nations is beginning work on an updated Facebook page, and Jonny Prell is working to update the TGOA website.

John Kessen, chair of Conventions Committed and his crew are working hard to get the 2023 National Convention organized. The 2022 convention was a great success and we are planning for a repeat performance this year. Put July 20-23 on your calendar to save the dates. More information on progress and planning in the next newsletters.

As we start this new year, what would you like to see happening with TGOA? What is your club doing that has proved to be a success? This newsletter is one way to communicate with other clubs what your club is doing and maybe what to avoid. Have your newsletter editor send each letter to TGOA to share what is happening in your area.

One area that we want to encourage this year includes getting more Youth Gardening activity started in schools. Steve McIntosh of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland and a member of the Youth Gardening Committee outlined last year a pilot program. More detailed information is included in this newsletter.

About 8 years ago the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland with help from Home Depot created raised bed gardens at the local VA hospital with a Gardening from the Heart grant. A local veteran's group has provided funds annually to help fund this ongoing project. I would think there is a local veteran's group in your area to assist in establishing and maintain a garden for vets. More details and photos later in this newsletter.

Wondering what you can do to get more involved, volunteer to serve on one of the National TGOA committees. The list of committees is included later in this newsletter.

If you have a question, give me a call or a text, Have an idea to share, send it along.

Larry Kell

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Gardeners of America ("TGOA") shall be to promote gardening education and related environmental issues to its membership and the gardening public through charitable, educational, and scientific means.

Contact Information:

Website: www.gardenersofamerica.club

National Email:
TGOA.org@gmail.com

National Phone:
330.814.0068

National Address:
The Gardeners of America
PO Box 40545
Bay Village, OH 44140-0545





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2022/2023 National Officers

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Secretary, Ritalyn Arps
920.621.5184
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Past President, May Ann Ferguson-Rich
330.630.9625
mafr43@hotmail.com

Current Committees & Members

Want to become more involved?

TGOA & Local Club

Expansion:

- Heidi Nation
- Tom Davis

Scholarships:

- Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
- Heidi Nation
- David Rich
- Nick Calabro
- Bob McMahon

Youth Gardening:

- Cheri Kessen
- Steve McIntosh
- John Schinker
- Ritalyn Arps

Photography:

- Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
- Jill Leisgang

E&I Committee:

- Tom Davis
- Larry Kell

- Heidi Nation
- Bill Lanning
- Bob Bell

Newsletter Competition:

- Tom Liggett
- Jill Leisgang

Awards:

- Heidi Nation
- David Rich

Newsletter Editor:

- Jonny Prell
(jonnyprell@gmail.com)

A little about your National Newsletter Editor....

Hello! I have been a member of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland since 2013. I am currently the editor of the club's newsletter, *The Spade*, and the website creator and manager.

My professional career has been in commercial real estate where I have been part of the marketing/graphic design support team, research team, and a brokerage support professional.



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IN REMEMBRANCE

Thinking of our members who have passed away:

- Les Knight, Gardeners of Greater Akron (Ohio)
- Larry Tookers, Gardeners of Greater Youngstown (Ohio)
- Margaret Ford, Gardeners of Green Bay (Wisconsin)

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND PROCEDURE

1. Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a community college, college, or university having either horticulture or floriculture as the major subject leading toward a degree in horticulture, floriculture or other related field of study. Affirmative Action Rules apply with respect to non-discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
2. **THE DEADLINE FOR 2023 is JUNE 1.**
3. Scholarship Applications for 2023 shall be submitted by email, with attached documents, to TGOA.org@gmail.com. (A HARD COPY MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL ADDRESS. IF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION IS NOT POSSIBLE, IT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 1, 2023, P.O. Box 40545, Bay Village, Ohio 44140-0545)
4. Please prepare a Scholarship Application Document which includes the following:
 - a) Name, address, phone and email of Applicant.
 - b) Name of sponsoring club, and name, phone and email of the club member or committee chair preparing and submitting the scholarship application.
 - c) College of Applicant, Major of Applicant and expected graduation date.
 - d) Grade Point Average for each college semester attended (or high school transcript). The club submitting the application shall verify the grade point averages and list them on the application, or a copy of the academic record may be provided by scanning the document and attaching it to the email.
5. Documents to be scanned and included:
 - a.) One letter of recommendation from either a Major Professor, an Employer, or a Club Member is required. A second letter is optional.
 - b) Student statement (no more than two pages) by the Applicant describing the course of study, future career plans and any family, personal or other information which the applicant would like to be considered.

If there are any difficulties transmitting the application or other questions, please call the national phone number at **330.814.0068**.

The scholarship will be awarded and distributed to the school for the Fall 2023 semester.



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Upcoming Dates

- **NATIONAL CONVENTION:** July 20th - the 23rd. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Central Great Lakes Regional** meeting: Saturday, April 22nd at the [Kingwood Gardens](#) in Mansfield.
- **Gardeners of Greater Youngstown:** 2023 Winter Seminar, Saturday, March 11th at the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Click [here](#) for more information.

To all member clubs,

Please send me your newsletter to include any information in the national newsletter, and/or send me an email with any dates or events that you would like to see in the national newsletter.

We want to include all clubs' information and events! If you have any questions regarding the national newsletter or website, please do not hesitate to contact me at jonnyprell@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you about your club!

Thank you!



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2023 PHOTO CONTEST

THE ENTRY DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2023

We plan to have an in-person convention in early Fall to present Certificates to the Class Winners (First through Honorable Mention) and Plaques for Sweepstakes, Best of Show, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up.

Sweepstakes is presented to the entrant with the most First Place Certificates (Best of Show, and runners-up count as two First Place certificates each for computing the Sweepstakes winner). We also hope to have, in lieu of the calendar fundraiser, a silent auction of print copies of the winners at the convention.

1. A print entry shall be submitted, along with a digital copy. (CD, memory stick, etc., anything that can be opened on a computer easily by the committee). Digital copies also may be sent by attachment in an email, or by OneDrive to mafr43@hotmail.com.

2. Print submission guidelines: Attach a print, no larger than 8 x 10 inches, backed by a sheet of cardstock. Place the photo, along with the Photography Award Application Form in a clear plastic sheet protector and mail to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, 1166 Broadview Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278.

3. By entering this contest, the entrant specifically acknowledges that the print copy shall become the property of TGOA and will not be returned. If you wish a return of a CD, memory stick, etc., enclose a padded envelope and adequate postage. The winning entries may be displayed on the website and/or in the newsletter up until the winners of the 2022 contest are announced.

4. A maximum of 20 entries may be submitted by each member. More than one entry may be made in a single class, as long as it is not the same subject or plant.

5. Please identify your photo with the Botanical Name (Genus and Species), if possible, and include the Variety, Cultivar or Common Name. You must

provide at least the variety, cultivar or common name to be eligible for a certificate.

6. In each Class you may enter a photo of the entire plant or any part of that plant, including close-ups.

CLASSES:

A. ROSES

B. ANNUALS

C. HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL AND BIENNIAL FLOWERS, EXCLUDING BULBOUS PLANTS

D. BULBS, CORMS, RHIZOMES OR TUBERS

E. SPECIALTY PLANTS (Cacti, Succulents, Orchids, Fungi, Tropical Plants, etc.)

F. TREES, SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES

G. EDIBLE FRUITS AND NUTS

H. VEGETABLES (Includes flowering cabbage and flowering kale.)

I. BOUQUETS, ARRANGEMENTS, PLANTS GROWN IN CONTAINERS OR HANGING BASKETS

J. WILDFLOWERS

K. LANDSCAPES (Private or Public)

L. CLOSE-UPS (Close-ups of a single horticultural subject with a solid color background – no other flower or plant should be visible in the background)

M. MISCELLANEOUS (Any photo of a subject not previously covered in a prior class, including animals, birds, insects, or other natural or horticultural subjects)

8. DO NOT SUBMIT PHOTOS WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS - EITHER ADULTS OR CHILDREN!!!

9. The APPLICATION (including the license to use) should be printed from the website and included with each submission.

The Scale of Points for Judging Photography Awards also will be available on the website.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!



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DIVIDING PERENNIALS IN THE SPRING

from the newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Akron, The Garden Gabber for February

Most perennials benefit from being divided every few years and in many cases, spring is the perfect time to do so. The photo shows a gardener in the process of dividing a clump of perennials. One thing to keep in mind: perennials that flower in early spring to early June should be divided in early fall. Perennials that flower after mid-June are best divided in the spring.

Why do we divide perennials?

Clumps have started to die out in the middle, giving that donut shape.
Flowering has declined, idle roots are massed.
Nutrients in the soil are depleted.
Weeds have infested the clumps and are impossible to remove.
We want to make more plants to give away or start a new planting.



Here basic steps for dividing perennials.

When your plant starts to show growth in spring, perhaps an inch or two, dig up the entire clump. You can put it on a tarp or a piece of plywood. Try to get a large ball of roots. Find a spot between two shoots and divide the clump in half, then divide it further until you have a section that will fit in your pot with some extra soil. The best sections are usually around the outside. Discard the old and woody roots from the middle.

You don't need to be gentle with the roots when dividing, they will recover nicely. Pot up the roots with some extra soil and water well. Fill in more soil if needed. Place the pots in a protected area preferably in the sun. Don't worry about frost, if they have sprouted from the ground, they will be fine. Label the pots and include any growing information for the person who purchases the plant. Indicate the color if it is a flowering plant and size at maturity.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help man permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Abraham Lincoln



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YOUTH GARDENING

Steve McIntosh, Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

I have had the privilege of being able to incorporate different aspects of horticulture into my classes for the past 10 years or so. It began with some raised beds and our school's greenhouse as a way to teach functional science and job skills to my students with intellectual and multiple disabilities. As the years progressed, the programming expanded and now we are on the cusp of starting our first year as a Career and Technical Education program that is focused on local food production. I have seen first hand the positive impact working with plants can have on students regardless of factors that are often linked to achievement such as cognitive ability and socioeconomic status. It is because of this, that we at the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland set out to provide opportunities for area schools to use the garden as an extension of the classroom with the hopes of not only improving academic achievement, but to inspire a new generation to begin their horticultural journey.

Last year, GoGC provided grow lights, pots, soil, and seeds to an elementary school on Cleveland's west side with funding from a TGOA Gardening from the Heart grant. Students grew a pair of flowers in their science class with one plant being taken by them to enjoy at home and the other to be planted on the school grounds. We believe this will not only help beautify their environment, but also foster a deeper connection the student has to their school. The results of this initial program were mixed as there was a discrepancy over how the flowers were to be cared for over the summer at the school. Unfortunately the flowers planted there did not survive. While this outcome was not ideal, it did help guide further discussion on how we can improve our youth gardening initiatives. Moving forward, we will now require partnering schools to provide a detailed plan with the list of personnel who will be tasked with caring for the plants grown. We believe this will improve the outcome of the projects. GoGC will also be exploring the possibility of setting up grant funding that area schools can apply for to support gardening projects that are specific to their school or program. We are excited about expanding our youth gardening projects and welcome any suggestions from other clubs who have had success in this area. Please feel free to reach out to me directly via email Steven.A.McIntosh1@gmail.com.





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GARDENING FROM THE HEART

Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

The Cleveland club, about 8 years ago, with a Gardening from the Heart grant, created gardens at the local VA hospital near their spinal injury patient area. Home Depot provided initial materials, and labor to create four 6 foot-by-6 foot raised beds at the height of the arms on a wheelchair. After the initial TGOA grant, one of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland members encouraged a local Veteran's group to get involved in supporting this garden. Each year the group has donated \$500.00 to purchase plants and other materials to help sustain the garden.

Until this past year, the garden concentrated on flowering plants. This past Spring the vets suggested that vegetables be incorporated in the garden. This created more interest by the vets, and provided vegetables that the staff could harvest and include in meals prepared for the veterans.

When the spring/summer season came to an end, the gardens were cleaned and replanted. This annual project provides both an activity for the vets and some fruits of their labors.

Included below are some photographs of the garden. The VA garden is a true example of a win-win project.

Please share any community projects that your club has been involved in.

