



THE GARDENERS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of The Gardeners of America

July - August 2023 | www.gardenersofamerica.club

President's Convention Report

The 2023 TGOA convention in Dayton Ohio was an outstanding success. We had attendees from as far away as Mississippi and Wisconsin. Fort Wayne had the greatest number of attendees and the club earned the rebate of one registration fee. For the second year in a row, Gwen Raupfer of Fort Wayne was the first to register and received an early bird discount. The activities began mid-day on Wednesday and concluded mid-day on Friday. John Kessen did his usual excellent task of organizing the many events of the convention.

The Wednesday evening dinner was an informal BBQ dinner which allowed those present to mingle among friends. Before the dinner, there were two seminars conducted by national director Tom Davis and TGOA Treasurer Bob McMahon. Bob called upon his colleagues to present the other six speaker presentations each of which was well received and well attended.

Thursday included business sessions, three site visits to the Cox Arboretum where after a lecture and lunch we toured the grounds, either walking, or riding one of the two carts provided. This was followed by a spoken and power point memorial service at the Woodland cemetery conducted by Steve Maki of Lima, and Heidi Nations of Square County.

Following another very short bus ride we arrived at the Carillon Gardens for a tour of the museum which highlighted Dayton industrial activities, and the grounds which included the Wright Brothers National Museum and their third airplane. The first is in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC.

Dinner took place in the German style bistro restaurant. The menu included German dishes and access to the beverage offerings from their on-site brewery. Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich presented winners of the Photography Contest. Past President Dan Logan won best of show, and other categories as well.

Presidential Citation Awards were presented to those who performed outstanding service to TGOA. Those receiving Citations included Tom Davis, chair of E & I, Bob McMahon, speakers, Nick Calabro, silent auction, Marcia Davies, BBQ dinner, Jeri Kornegay, designing and printing convention materials, Jonny Prell, newsletter.

For his many years as Convention Chair, John Kessen was given a special award of Life Membership in TGOA.

I want to share with you an email I received from one of the members who attended the 2023 convention

"I thought the Dayton convention was excellent. Loved the speakers. Loved the tours and learning about Dayton."

The Silent Auction was a success. There were 33 items in the auction which raised \$284.00.

Newsletter Contents

- President's Report on TGOA 2023 Convention
- TGOA 2023 Officers & Committees
- 2023 E&I Report, Tom Davis
- Ideas to Keep and Build Membership
- 2023 Convention Photos
- Youth Gardening





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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



2023/2024 National Officers

President, Lawrence A. Kell
216.856.0469
larrykell01@gmail.com

Vice President,
Heidi Logan Nations
601.919.7036
heidilogan43@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President,
Carl Christensen
920.606.8807
cchristensen14@new.rr.com

Treasurer, Robert McMahon
216.870.0991
mcmahon.2@osu.edu

Secretary, Ritalyn Arps
920.621.5184
rarps1@icloud.com

Past President,
May Ann Ferguson-Rich
330.630.9625
mafr43@hotmail.com

Reminder to file your 990N e-postcard with the IRS to maintain your active status. Click [here](#) for details.

*If there is a member who has passed away, please email **Larry Kell**. Information will be added to the newsletter.*

To those members who attended the TGoA convention in Dayton and took photos, if you would like to share them, please send to [Jonny Prell](#) and they will be included in a special section on our website with photos.



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2024 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee

	Title	Phone #	Email Address
• Lawrence A. Kell	President, Cleveland	216-856-0469	larrykell01@gmail.com
• Heidi Nations	1st Vice President, Square County, MI	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Carl Christensen	2nd Vice President, Green Bay	920-606-8807	cchristensen14@new.rr.com
• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Past President, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com
• Robert W. McMahon	Treasurer, Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu
• Ritalyn Arps	Secretary, Green Bay	920-621-5184	rarps1@icloud.com
• Thomas S. Davis	E & I Committee, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com

Awards Committee

• John Schinker	Chairman, Youngstown	330-518-4384	johnschinker@gmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MI	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• David Rich	Member, Akron	330-630-9625	birdman035@hotmail.com

Club Expansion Committee

• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MI	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Thomas S. Davis	Member, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com

Convention Committee

• John Kessen	Chairman, Fort Wayne	260-710-7244	lakelover60@yahoo.com
• Lawrence A. Kell	Member, Cleveland	216-856-0469	larrykell01@gmail.com

E & I Committee

• Thomas Davis	Chairman, Cleveland	440-567-1892	tsdavis62@gmail.com
• Lawrence A. Kell	Treasurer, Cleveland	216-856-0469	larrykell01@gmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MI	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• William Lanning	Member, Akron	419-423-1010	bilan2@roadrunner.com
• Robert Bell	Member, Akron	330-673-3553	mrrnbell@hotmail.com

Gardening from the Heart

• Robert W. McMahon	Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu
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Newsletter Committee

• Jonny Prell	Chair, Cleveland	216-904-3087	jonnyprell@gmail.com
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Photography Committee

• Jill Leisgang	Member, Green Bay	920-883-9432	jmlleisgang@gmail.com
• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Member, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com

Scholarship Committee

• Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	Member, Akron	330-715-8866	MAFR43@hotmail.com
• Heidi Nations	Member, Square County, MI	601-919-7036	heidilogan43@yahoo.com
• Nick Calabro	Member, Akron	330-325-0579	nckcalabro@yahoo.com
• Robert W. McMahon	Member, Cleveland	216-870-0991	mcmahon.2@osu.edu

Website

• Jonny Prell	Host, Cleveland	216-904-3087	jonnyprell@gmail.com
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Youth Gardening

• John Schinker	Member, Youngstown	330-518-4384	johnschinker@gmail.com
• Steve McIntosh	Member, Cleveland	216-392-1222	steven.a.mcintosh1@gmail.com
• Ritalyn Arps	Member, Green Bay	920-621-5184	rarps1@icloud.com
• Cheri Kessen	Member, Fort Wayne	260-854-2988	ckessen2001@yahoo.com



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2023 E & I REPORT REPORT ON THE ENDOWMENT

In May 2023 we completed the transfer of all the assets in the Endowment from Morgan Stanley to Peak Wealth Solutions. There were several reasons for this move:

- We will have lower fees at Peak. They charge 0.6% for management vs. 1.6% at Morgan Stanley. That alone will save us about \$4,000 a year.
- Peak has a simpler investment strategy. They concentrate our holdings into fewer accounts. That makes their management and ours more effective.
- They use money market investments as appropriate. We have about a quarter of our money invested in the money market, earning 5%.
- Their reports are much better!
- We will be advised by the Principal at Peak.
- Peak manages \$1 Billion in assets.

The results for the short time that we have been working with Peak have been impressive. In the three years at Morgan Stanley, we gained \$5,000 due to fees, their issues, our withdrawals, and the market downturn. In two and a half months at Peak we have gained almost \$15,000 in a strong market. We are ahead of all the common market indicators.

We are using a “Conservative Growth” investment strategy at Peak.

- 40% in US Stocks
- 32% in Bonds
- 23% in the Money Market
- 5 % in Foreign Stocks.

I want to acknowledge the support from the Endowment and Investments committee members and particularly Larry Kell, treasurer for the endowment.

Thomas S. Davis,
Chairman of the Endowment and Investments committee



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BUILDING & KEEPING MEMBERSHIP

Tom Davis, Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

A. Recruiting New Members:

1. Offer Family, Student and Associate Memberships at a reduced price.
2. The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland gives all speakers a one-year complementary membership. Several speakers have become renewing members and have added a lot to the club.
3. Have an easily accessed website with information on the club and how to join.
4. Have a Facebook page.
5. Have a good newsletter and give it wide distribution.
6. Recruit at your plant sale or other fund raiser.
7. Put up recruiting posters at garden centers, farmers' markets, etc. Use tear-strips with a phone or email contact.
8. Give all members club "business cards" with essential club information on it. Encourage them to hand them out to anyone who is interested.
9. Work to get articles with photos into local newspapers.
10. The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown uses radio and TV to advertise the club.
11. The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown lets local businesses advertise in their newsletter for an annual fee. Those businesses help recruit members.
12. The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown runs an annual seminar that is excellent publicity.
13. Have a Horticulture Show and invite the public.
14. Offer a reward or "spiff" to members who recruit a new member.
15. Publicize service projects and use that publicity to recruit.
16. Have a booth at any Arbor Day, Earth Day, or local fair to recruit.

B. Retaining Members:

1. Have a good place to meet; easy to find, attractive, good parking, etc.
2. Meet in the evening and offer a good meal at an attractive price.
3. Keep any business meeting to a minimum.
4. Have consistently good programs.
5. The Gardeners of Greater Akron has a new member orientation packet with National and Local club information, and a club roster.
6. Put member and new member profiles in the newsletter and on the website.
7. Assign a mentor to all new members. The mentor should encourage participation in projects and attendance at meetings.
8. Have name tags for everyone with a garden interest listed on them. New members struggle with names.
9. Try for a friendly, fun and upbeat atmosphere in the meetings. Keep the difficult stuff in the board meetings.
10. Have at least one meeting a year that is just for fun; a Holiday party or summer outing is ideal.

C. In general, have a reason for the club's existence beyond money and a meal. Service projects, scholarships, youth gardening, community gardens, etc. all show that the club has a place in the community.



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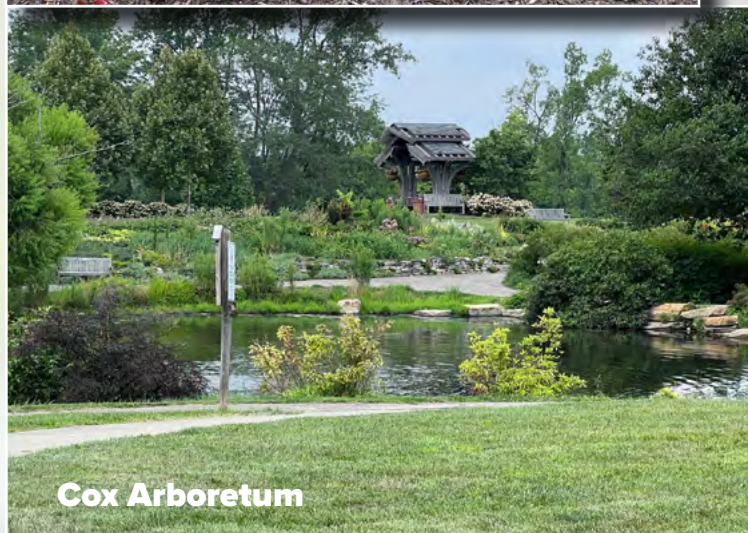
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2023 DAYTON CONVENTION PHOTOS



Dinner at Carillon Park Pavillon



Cox Arboretum



Meet Cheri & John Kessen



Laura Deeter (Speaker) & Deb Kramarz



Dan Loan presented with Best Photography Award



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YOUTH GARDENING

We hope the ideas and information that is available on our [website](http://www.gardenersofamerica.club) will inspire and encourage you to find a youth and start building memories and fun times that will last a lifetime.

If we want a future where gardening is important, where flowers and vegetables are important to our well-being, where the environment is cared for, then we must interest our young people in the joy of gardening.

The future of clubs is in the gardening hands and green thumbs of today's youth. Every affiliated club should have a Youth Gardening Committee with a chair. This committee sets up the Youth Gardening Program and works throughout the year on various activities in Youth Gardening.

We hope that you will share your good ideas and suggestions with the TGOA/MGCA Youth Gardening chair and committee at goaforwayne@gmail.com.

So many books are available that inspire future and newbie gardeners of all ages. They are in your public library and for purchase in stores and online. Some of the books are for adult mentors. Others, teens and young readers will enjoy. Several are for brand-new readers and read-aloud bonding. Many also are available in audio format and some even have free fun YouTube versions. The links are to Amazon books, for descriptions.

Click [here](#) for books to grow young gardeners.

