



The Gardeners of America-Fort Wayne Inc.  
July 2011 Vol. VII No. 7

**From the President:**

I am a little late in getting my letter to Margie this month. We just got back from the TGOA/MGCA National Convention early this morning. We had a national convention that was very interesting. As you are aware, we had two candidates on the ballot for treasurer. The challenger, Ron Haggen, was elected treasurer for next year and will be sworn in at the board meeting on November 5. I did win the election for president and will, also, be sworn in November 5, as the new president of the TGOA/MGCA. We had the opportunity to discuss a number of topics during the various meetings. One discussion revolved around what kinds of communication works between the local clubs and the national. We are striving to make sure that information is placed in the hands of the club members. Some club officers have not shared the information that is sent to them. So, the national office is going to send the same information by e mail to four officers of each club.

The last two years we have had an open forum at the convention that provides an avenue for the membership to speak informally with the executive committee. During the forum we had many items come up for discussion. It has been a great way for the executive committee to get a better feeling of how the membership sees things.

We really want to make sure the membership is heard.

A number of the officers feel strongly that one of the best things that the TGOA/MGCA does for it's members is to hold a national convention each year. The 2012 convention will be June 14-16, 2012 in Youngstown, Ohio and we hope to be able to announce the 2013 and 2014 convention sites in the near future. I cannot emphasize enough that the members of our garden clubs are really nice, caring and sharing individuals. Please try to attend a regional and/or national meeting. You will enjoy it.

The bus trip brochure has been distributed and we already have eight reservations. We need your help in filling the bus trip with fifty-four participants.

Encourage your friends and acquaintances to enter our Flower and Garden Show. We are interested in seeing a much larger number of participants.

Do not forget to put on your calendar the annual club picnic on Sylvan Lake in Rome City, Indiana on Sunday, July 10. We always have a great time rain or shine and great fellowship.

Yours in gardening, John Kessen





**Minutes of June meeting-** substitute secretary, Cheri.

Lynda started the meeting by introducing our own Bob Streeter who gave a very interesting program about a trip he and Donna had taken last year. It was the Michigan Garden Plant Tour. Bob divided his talk into two sections, first with 7 parts and covering 2010. He had a lot of beautiful pictures, tour books and some garden maps. His favorite was #1 – Rakers & Sons just NE of Coldwater where you can find 12 acres, 32 beds and 600 rows of trials. He explained how they set up their trials by taking the same plant and comparing the growth and reaction of it in planters, hanging baskets and in the ground. From this study it is determined the best place to grow this plant. #2 - Michigan State gives you a garden guide book and has many different gardens. We will be seeing most of these on our Sept. bus trip. #3 – Mast Young Plants, NW of Grand Rapids. Bob considered this more of a display garden than a trial garden. #4 – Spring Meadows is the Proven Winners flowering shrubs garden in SW Grand Haven. Bob was trilled here as they were highly mechanized, a guy's dream for sure. #5 – Walters Gardens near Holland is used heavily for marketing and is Lynda's favorite. The MNLA was held there. #6 – Pell Greenhouses in Hudsonville, MI and #7 – 4 Star Greenhouses was another Proven Winners. The second part of his presentation was for this year. Aug. 1 – 12 will be the 2011 tour with Tues., Aug. 9, something special at MSU and Thurs., Aug. 11 being the MNLA at Rakers & Sons.

Lynda then talked a bit about preparing flowers for judging. The flower should stand up very straight. In some shows only natural items are allowed to help support the stem. She said yew works well and small broken pieces of stem stuffed into the opening of the bottle also is good. One way to help cut flowers last longer is to add regular Sprite to your water. Our show will be Sat., July 23 at the 4H Fairgrounds. As many more people will be able to view our show this year, a lot of extra help will be needed.

A snack break was taken so the 17 members present could enjoy the tasty feast provided by James Davidson, Susie Kruse and Lynda Heavrin. Thanks a lot. Cheri then reported that there wouldn't be a treasurer's report as both Sue & John were not present. It will be at our next regular meeting. She passed out the registration forms for our bus trip and encouraged everyone to participate by joining us &/or getting friends, neighbors, relatives or co-workers to come. This is the club's only fund raiser and we need to fill our bus unless you want to sell chickens at a corner lot or run around taking flower orders to raise money.

Youth gardening is going well with many more youth across the country growing pumpkins and sunflowers this year. The July 10, Lake Picnic was discussed. More details are elsewhere in this newsletter. It will happen rain or shine.

Cheri reminded everyone about the regional summer conference in Ohio's Amish Country, July 29 & 30. Jayne Jones didn't have much luck getting people to leave with a club library book to read.

Cheri

## WILLIE WEEDPULLER

I was so happy to be able to attend National Convention this year but 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 the 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 on the tables were outstanding and several gardeners went home with them as prizes. Everyone was given a cactus the first day. Eric Nelson, owner of Family Tree Nursery, donated the plants and gave us a session on Begonias. Did you know there are 13,000 species of begonias and they are found on every continent but Australia? Larry Ryan talked to us about Plant Management and Bill Lanning did his Gourd presentation. Even though I have heard Bill before, I still learned something new. By attending the members meeting I learned that many of the club officers are not carrying out their sworn duties and not keeping up with communications 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? We started out early in the morning to tour Kauffman Gardens, a small but very nice garden spot. They too were behind in their plantings due to weather and volunteers were in the garden working away. It was fun to sit and watch them work. To provide continuing blooms, three different plants are put together. My favorite

was a *allium schubertii* standing tall above lambs ear, the third plant wasn't in bloom yet. While sitting in the garden enjoying the beautiful morning and surroundings, I saw my first Mockingbird giving the resident cat a hard time. Next we visited the home garden of Marvin Snyder. A small yard filled with hostas, conifers and ginko's to name a few. He specializes in dwarfs and my favorite was the munchkin ginko. At the Overland Park Arboretum we had a scavenger hunt. By now the day was quite hot and we really appreciated the neck coolers that our hosts had given us. After convention was over, I wandered off to Topeka and toured a recreated Prairie Town which had a very lovely botanical gardens on the grounds. I took advantage of another opportunity we had to visit the home garden of Honey Barnekoff. Her garden was neatly laid out and quite interesting with many, many hosta varieties and daylilies plus much more. She had recently planted a new tri-colored tree in her back yard but I forgot what kind of tree it was. She said the blooms will be spectacular! The final garden stop was the Missouri Botanical Garden which was very spread out. In the Climatron, I found a beautiful yellow shrimp plant and a salmon colored queen palm which I really liked. Outside the interesting leaf of the downy oak tree caught my attention. The children's garden was laid out like a very physical, adventure experience. A lot of play spots were available. The pollination area was really neat, a very well done display. It is amazing to see how different all the gardens are. Well, refreshed and renewed, I'm ready to get back to work in my garden. Enjoy yours and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

## KATHY'S KIBITZIN'

Warning! Don't breath with your mouth open!

I was a workin' and a sweatin' outside this past week and I guess huffin' and puffin'! First thing you know, I've sucked in a bug! How disgusting is that?!!

I'm so behind on weeding and planting. Hope I'm caught up in time to do some harvesting, before it's time to be thinking about putting things to bed for the winter. Could be you all are in the same boat. Certainly the cool, rainy, long-lasting spring weather contributed to my malfeasance, but, surely I must accept blame for my own dalliance.

At any rate, summer is here now and we can enjoy all of those good things of summer; picnics, boat rides, sitting around and visiting with friends. Hummm. Sounds like our annual summer picnic at the lake doesn't it!

The other event coming up is the Flower and Garden Show on July 23rd. Sorry I missed Lynda's tips on preparing exhibits for the show. I began looking around the yard for what I hope will be blooming or growing by then. Can't begin that too soon. And, if your planning on a design, you might find some interesting containers at a garage sale that you considered passing up.

I'm sorry I didn't have entry tags to hand out ahead of time. It will save you time if you mark on the Show Schedule (that was in last months newsletter) what items you have. Then you can quickly find the information you need to fill out the tags. Remember to bring address la-

bels to put on the tags to save writing your name repeatedly.

You may recall the tags come in 2 parts separated by a perforation. For display, the bottom section of the tag is folded up to conceal the name of the exhibitor. After judging, the bottom section is removed and taken to Mildred Smith for counting and recording of the exhibitors and the number of ribbons of each color they won. Both sections of the tag need to have identical information! Once the bottom section is removed, it is not possible to figure out who the tag belongs to or what the plant and variety is.

Yesterday I sent a couple of paragraphs to our liaison of the Allen County Fair, describing what our club is about and about the Flower and Garden Show. The information will be included in the morning and evening papers prior to the fair.

Keep those 3 R's revvin' in 2011!

With that thought in mind and still thinking about the Flower and Garden Show....you know the club provides the bottles and plates for display of your exhibits. We reuse them year after year.

In some clubs that I belong to, members return their ribbons so that they can be reused. They might keep a rosette if they win one of those, especially if it is their first one, but they turn back in the "place" ribbons.

That's all for now. See you at the picnic or the fair! Or, maybe both!

Kathy Lee, [igarden2@aol.com](mailto:igarden2@aol.com)

## July Moon - the Thunder Moon

The moon's changes - that is, the time of the coming of the New Moon, first quarter, Full Moon and last quarter- are all significant points in predicting the weather - and, of course, have much influence on all gardening operations, moon - sign followers believe.

This is refined even a bit further by those who have studied this believing that the nearer the Moon's change is to midnight the fairer the weather will be for the following seven days. Vice Versa, the nearer the Moon's change is to noontime the more stormy the weather will be for the same period of time.

The equinox is the time of year when the center of the Sun is directly over the equator. The word equinox means "equal night." The word "equidies," or equal day, would have been just as fitting, because during an equinox the days are the same length as the nights all over the world.

The sun crosses the equator twice a year, and so there are two equinoxes. The Spring, or vernal, occurs around March 21, as the sun moves north. The autumn, or autumnal, equinox comes around September 23, as the sun moves south.

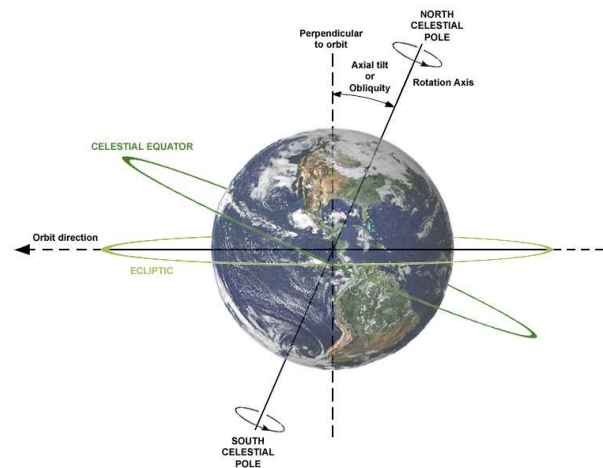
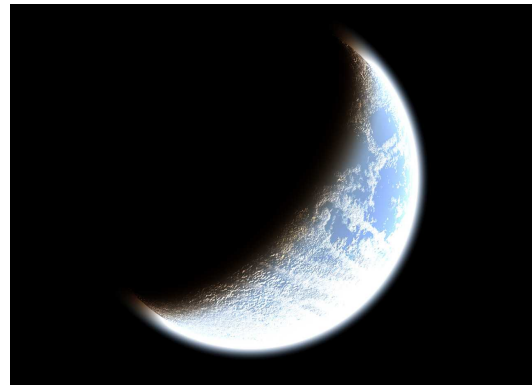
Storms that arise during an equinox are sometimes called *equinoctial gales*. During this period the Sun is traveling north or south faster than at any other time of the year. In a week it moves over 2 ½ degrees, or half the distance between the two pointers in the Big Dipper.

This change in the Sun's position produces such variations in the pattern of

warm and cold air masses that violent storms often result.

Some old-timers believe that if the Full Moon and the equinox meet, violent storms will follow, and spring weather will be unusually dry.

The earth moves faster when it is so nearer the Sun. Around January 1, the earth is nearest the Sun, and about July 1, it is farthest away.



*Sleeping with a Sunflower: A Treasury of Old-Time Garden Lore.* Louise Riott. 1987.

## PLANT PROFILE



*Oswego tea*

Bee Balm or monarda or Oswego Tea.

Oswego tea is named to recognize that too few of our plants are known by Native American names, even though they were used for food or medicine long before Europeans. The Oswego Indians, who came from the region of the Oswego River (which means the “pouring-out place”), drank tea made from the monarda and taught the European settler its uses.

The Boston Tea Party led to a shortage of tea in America, so Oswego tea was used widely as a substitute for imported tea. Its scent is like that of oil of bergamot, one of the ingredients of Earl Grey Tea.

Earl Grey was on a diplomatic mission to China, and he had a special tea mixed

for him with a secret recipe that he gave to Jackson of Piccadilly in 1830. Actually oil of bergamot comes from a kind of citrus called after Bergamo in Italy.

The name “Bee Balm” implies that the plant is attractive to bees. It is, but its long flower makes it less accessible to bees but easily accessible to hummingbirds. Hummingbirds were a source of delight and wonder to early American settlers. Peter Kalm wrote “an inhabitant of the country is sure to have a number of these beautiful and agreeable little birds before his window all summer long, if he takes care to plant a bed of all sorts of fine flowers under them”.

The name “monarda” is after Monardes and is appropriate because he was particularly interested in medicinal plants from the new World. He studied new plants, hoping to find new cures.

The *Monarda fistulosa*, commonly called “wild bergamot,” gets its name from the Latin *fistulosus* (hollow), because of the long pipe-shaped flowers. It is still a monarda.



*Wild Bergamot*

*100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names.*  
Diana Wells. 1997.

**2010- 2011 TGOA FW Inc.  
OFFICERS**

President - John Kessen  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. - Lynda Heavrin  
2<sup>nd</sup> V. P. -Melinda Hammen  
Treasurer - Sue Holm  
Secretary - Kathy Lee  
Directors - Kay Musgrave  
              - Nancy Parker  
Newsletter Staff  
              - Cherri Kessen  
              - Bob Streeter  
              -Marggie Faley  
Calling Committee - Nancy Parker  
Historians - Bernie &Sue Holm  
Flower & Garden Show & Sale -  
Chairpersons: Lynda Heavrin  
                  Kathy Lee  
Assistants: Marggie Faley  
                  Melinda Hammen  
Public Relations: Lynda Heavrin  
                  Assistant: Melinda Hammen  
Librarian - Jayne Jones

**REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETINGS**

July 10 - Club Picnic at Kessens

**JULY PROGRAM**

July 23 -Flower and Garden Show  
September 17- Bus Trip



Central Great Lakes Region Meeting

Central Great Lakes Region meeting at Mansfield Ohio on April 9 was a great meeting. John, Cheri, Jerry, Don, Marsha and Kay attended. They enjoyed meeting new people and a well-run meeting focusing on better communication. A problem was identified and suggestions were offered.

The program was about gourds and focused on gourds as musical instruments. The group played the instruments in unison. What fun.

GLCR Summer Conference: July 29 and 30 in Ohio Amish Country. It includes a meal in an Amish home. Cheri will plan the 2012 Summer Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Plan to join the fun.

**YOUTH GARDENING**

I am excited to tell you that across the nation there are 9,768 seeds in the hands of our youth! Clubs are busy helping, guiding and rewarding these young gardeners as they are learning and having fun growing their pumpkins and sunflowers and preparing for the national contest. Those in our club that are mentoring a child(ren) need to check on their progress and continue to encourage them. We need to decide as a club how and when we are going to judge this contest and what our local prizes will be. Start thinking about this.

*TGOA Newsletter*

*Copyright July 2011 Fort Wayne IN  
Section - The Gardeners of America*

*Permission granted to use unmodified  
full articles without notification.*

*tgoa.fwa10@yahoo.com*

SUMMER LAKE PICNIC  
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2011

**RAIN OR SHINE**

**1:00 P.M. - ?**

**Place: Kessen's**

**Carpool if possible**

1205 Limberlost Trail

Rome City, IN

See mapquest.com for directions on a map

(260) 854-2988 or cell – 710-7244 Bring a guest

---

---

Provided: fixings for sandwiches & condiments

lemonade & ice tea

---

---

Bring: food item(s) to share

yard chair(s)

small to medium size clean tin can with label removed for a cool activity

---

---

**What to do: fish – have your license**

swim – have your swim suit & towel

walk to the house, grounds & gardens of Gene Stratton -

Porter

tour the lake on a pontoon with Captain John

relax in the yard at waters edge with great company

have fun creating a garden keepsake from a tin can

cards and games available

---

---

Picnic potluck supper at 6:00 p.m.

Please let Nancy or John/Cheri know if you are coming by Fri., July 8.

[Lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:Lakelover60@yahoo.com) or ckessen2001@yahoo.com

Directions,

If you will go to mapquest.com you can get the directions to our home.

Put in Washington Center and Lima Roads, Indiana 3 as the starting point. and a destination of 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, Indiana.

Additional details: After you turn onto Limberlost Trail go on down the road until you see a grey house on the left. Just before the house there is a private drive turn left. Straight ahead is a huge rock. Take a sharp right go down the hill and through the gate. At the bottom of the hill you will see a red home. You're there!

This will be easier for you than using hand drawn map.

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR LEARNING AND FUN



The 2011 Annual Bus Trip sponsored by the Gardeners of America - Fort Wayne will be held on Saturday, September 17. Our trip this year will cost \$75 per person. It is open to anyone who would like to attend. We will be visiting Michigan State University and our friend, Dr. Norm Lownds has agreed to personally give us a tour of the gardens. We will visit the Annual Trial Garden, The Rose Garden, The Perennial Display Garden, The 4H Children's Garden and the Landscape Arboretum. At lunch time we will provide a box lunch for our noon meal. After Lunch we will be continuing our tour of the Michigan State Gardens. Our next stop is Win Schuler's Restaurant in Marshall, Michigan for dinner, where we will have a served dinner. Both the cost of the lunch and the dinner are included in the \$75 charge. We will have a great day of enrichment and delicious food. It will be a full day.

SCHEDULE

- 7:00AM Pick up in Fort Wayne
- 7:45AM Pickup in Kendallville
- 10:00AM Arrive Michigan State University
- 3:30PM Leave Michigan State University
- 4:30PM Arrive Win Schulers
- 6:00PM Leave Win Schulers
- 7:15PM Arrive Kendallville
- 8:00PM Arrive Fort Wayne

Send reservations before August 15, 2011  
 After your reservation is received you will receive a confirmation and instructions on where to park your car for the trip, etc. We will provide juices, water, rolls and snacks on the bus, in the morning. There are no refunds after your reservation is confirmed. If you have any questions, please contact John Kessen at (260) 854-2988 or [lakelover60@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelover60@yahoo.com)

-----  
 Registration Form  
 2011 bus Trip - Saturday, September 17

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SELECT YOUR LUNCH & DINNER CHOICES:

- Box Lunch:  Ham & Havarti with Apple Crumb Pie  Grand Traverse Club (turkey) with Cherry Crumb Pie  
 Mediterranean Veggie with Lakeshore Berry Crumb Pie  
 Dinner:  New England Braised Pot Roast  Prosciutto Wrapped /chicken  Grilled Portabella Mushrooms

Make your check payable to the Gardeners of America - Fort Wayne and mail the payment and this registration form to John Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 46784.

Cheri E. Kessen, Newsletter Staff  
Flora Flash  
1205 Limberlost Trail  
Rome City, IN 46784

TGOA- FW JULY 2011 Newsletter

