



**Winter 2006**

**President's Message by Anita Lanning**

I send a belated "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" to all of you. 2005 has been a good year and we are looking forward to a good 2006.

In my position as National Director we have done a lot of traveling and have met with many wonderful people. I installed officers for 2006 at two of our regional clubs. Also we were invited to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown and enjoyed seeing many friends.

The One Day Regional Conference hosted by the Men & Women's Garden Club of Findlay this summer was successful and it is my hope that many of you who attended the conference will mark your calendars to attend our Summer Conference this year on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Wooster.

Our next regional meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> in Mansfield. Frank Mitch will do a presentation on our website at 10 A.M. We will break for lunch and come back for a business meeting followed by a presentation on trees by Bill Jones of the Findlay Men & Women's Garden Club.

The members of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, S. C. urge you to begin making plans to attend the next National Convention in their city April 20-22. The convention will be held at a new Marriott Hotel and Convention Center with reasonable room rates under \$85 per day. The program will include seminars and speakers on interesting topics, as well as tours to places of interest for gardeners. If you have never attended a national convention this is the one to attend. They are working hard to make it the best convention yet. Check the TGOA/MGCA website for more complete information.

After much discussion at the Directors' Meeting in November we arrived at a proposed resolution of our dues structure for 2007. General membership will be cut from \$30 to \$15. Family membership will be \$20 and Life membership will be \$200. Honey Barnekoff is to check with AHS to see if there can be an optional membership with them at a reduced rate for those who would be willing to pay \$15 to \$20 more. We felt this was a good way to go and we hope it will encourage members to continue with TGOA and keep those clubs who are undecided. We have pushed for positive attitudes and better communication among our members.

Have you invited anyone to join your club this year? Are you encouraging your members to attend our regional meetings and national convention in Spartanburg? My goal would be to have more people attend the regional meetings from different clubs and see an increase in attendance at the national meeting from our region.

## A Message from Our National President, Dale Davies

Greetings in the year 2006.

We are planning and hoping for a wonderful new year in the TGOA/MGCA. My wish is to get communications open, but to do that we must first attend meetings, and keep each of our individual clubs active. One club can make a difference as its ideas can be passed on and other clubs may pick up on something that would help them.

Our region has always been at the top but has now dropped down. We may all not be in agreement with decisions made, but we must live with them. My hope is that we all pull together and keep our region strong.

If you are entering the photography contest or applying for any awards at the 2006 convention in Spartanburg you need to get them in early. This convention is being held earlier in the year which brings this deadline even earlier. Check our past and present newsletters from national headquarters for all updates, Frank Mitch keeps all this information on our website.

Always feel free to contact me. My numbers are published in this newsletter as well in the national newsletter.

By now you have received information about the dues decreases for 2007. It was too late to bring those in for 2006. You will be receiving a ballot for your vote on the dues decreases just as you did previously for voting on the increases last year. PLEASE VOTE.

Until we meet in April for the spring regional meeting. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and that your New Year is a great one.

President Dale  
on  
His Computer



## How Old Is That Tree?

(Editor's note -Not only am I the editor of the Johnny Appleseed I am also the historian of the region. The oldest Johnny Appleseed that I have is the January, February, March 1956 issue. This article was in that issue. It was taken from the Davey Tree Trails, the newsletter of the Davey Tree Company of Kent, Ohio. How many of you old timers can remember when Mr. Davey was governor of Ohio?)

A good many years ago some of the forestry people figured out a table to help in determining the ages of a number of the more common kinds of trees. First estimate the diameter of the tree in inches at breast height (4 1/2 feet). To more accurately arrive at the diameter measure the circumference in inches and divide by pi (3.14) Then multiply the diameter by these figures;

Ash x 5	Black Oak x 3 1/2
Beech x 6	Chestnut Oak x 4
Birch x 4	Red Oak x 4
Chestnut x 2 1/2	Scarlet Oak x 4
White Elm x 2 1/2	White Oak x 5
Sour Gum x 6	Sycamore x 4
Sweet Gum x 4	Tulip x 2 1/2
Shagbark Hickory x 8	Black Walnut x 3
Sugar Maple x 6	

The resulting figures are for the full life of the tree from the time it first poked a few leaves out of the earth, not just for the years since the tree was planted. perhaps as a sturdy nursery tree on your lawn.

At best this table is merely a guide for there are many variables that influence tree growth. For one thing, trees in the South grow faster than trees in the North. Even at the same latitude trees of the same kind may vary greatly in growth. For example, in the East trees receive much more rainfall than they do in the same latitude at the edge of the Great Plains. The influencing factors are almost endless. But even with these limitations the table remains an interesting guide.

(Editor's note - come to the April regional meeting and ask the speaker about this; he knows trees.)

### “ITS THE BERRIES!”

Donald S. Brown  
Men's Garden Club of Youngstown

I am writing this the last week of October. What a terrific fall it has been for gardening. How often do we have an autumn in which we can still fill our baskets with juicy ripe tomatoes, peppers, and squash?



Also harvesting and eating red raspberries, and huge juicy blackberries continues. This summer I mentioned to members in attendance of two new named blackberries introduced by the University of Arkansas. These berries named “Primo Jan” and “Primo Jim” are primo cane varieties.

Primo canes? Normally, with bramble fruit the canes that grow the first year are known as primo canes. They winter over and produce fruit the second year.

The previous year canes, now in their second year, are called “floral canes”, these bare fruit as new primo canes form for next year.

After the floral canes are through fruiting cut them off at ground level to make room for this year's new primo canes to grow.

Blackberries are less cold tolerant than raspberries. In our zone a harsh winter season will kill most primo canes causing the following season canes to be bare of fruit.

The introduction of “Primo Jan” and “Primo Jim” makes it possible to plant in the spring and then harvest berries in the fall. That is what I was able to do.

I am very happy to report that my greatest expectations were surprisingly surpassed. Both flourished; “Primo Jan” produced JUMBO size fruit while “Primo Jim” had the highest yield.

When the killing freeze ends fruit production this season, I will have two options; first is to cut the

canes off at ground level and wait for a fall crop on next years' primo canes

Secondly, I can thin this year canes and harvest a summer crop off the remaining floral canes left to over winter. Then in addition a fall harvest from next years' primo canes.

Both plants are *very thorny and aggressive growers*. I feel they could become out of control very easily! However, cutting all the canes to the ground each fall should keep them under control. I plan to do just that by selecting option one outlined above.

Anyone that enjoys a bowl of fresh berries as I do should give these plants a try. Two of each variety will keep two people in fresh berries throughout the summer and early fall. Of course that will depend upon how much you like eating vine-ripened berries.

At this time both varieties are available through “Indiana Berry and Plant Company” 1-800-295-2226 and “Stark Brothers Fruit Tree and Landscaping” 1-800-325-4180. Give them a try.

(From the December issue of the Germinator)

### Come to Wonderful Wooster This June!

The Great Lakes Region Summer Conference will be a fun and learning-filled day on Saturday June 17, 2006. We will be meeting at ATI, an agricultural branch of the Ohio State University, located in Wooster, Ohio. Rooms will be available at an apartment-style residence building, which means we will have living areas and kitchens. I am working on obtaining speakers from Ohio State and we will also have the opportunity to view the fabulous test and research gardens located there. Mark the day off on your calendars now. Full details and registration forms will be sent out in the Spring issue. If you haven't attended a summer conference recently, make this the year.

Any questions can be directed to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

mafr43@hotmail.com  
330-630-9625

## Forcing Early Blooms

From Lowe's Weekend Project Newsletter  
Spring-blooming shrubs or trees are the best candidates for forcing. Here are some especially easy varieties.

Forsythia  
Spirea (some varieties)  
Pussy Willow  
Quince  
Witch Hazel  
Pear and other ornamental and edible fruit trees  
Magnolia (some varieties)  
Cherry  
Japanese Barberry  
Redbud  
Mock Orange  
Dogwood

### To Force Blooms

Remember that in general, the closer to a shrub's normal blooming time, the faster you can force blooms. Dormant shrubs will not force well, so look for branches with lots of buds.

1. When the buds are obviously swelling, cut off the branches you wish to use. Use a sharp pair of bypass pruners and make the cut at an angle. Make sure you cut them on a day when the temperature is above freezing. It's also a good idea to look for branches that need pruning anyway, so you won't spoil the shape of the shrub for its regular spring show.
2. Moisture begins the process, so lay the branches in lukewarm water overnight. A bathtub will work fine.
3. The next day, wrap the branches in moist newspaper and place in a vase filled with lukewarm water. Slit the end of the stem two or three inches so the branch will absorb more water.
4. Keep the branches moist by changing the water regularly and misting the branches. Since central heating causes most homes to be extremely dry, place them in a cooler part of the house. A garage will work as long as the temperature does not go below freezing.
5. When color begins to show, remove the newspaper and place in a bright spot. Avoid direct sunlight, however; it will dry the blossoms and greatly reduce the beautiful display that you have worked so hard to get.

(February 2005 issue of The Back Acre News -  
The Men & Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Ohio)

## Caring for Your Poinsettia

From Dehaven's Home and Garden Showplace

Choose poinsettias that have clean, healthy, dark green leaves and colorful bracts. Avoid plants that have missing, bruised or broken leaves. Plants that are shedding yellow pollen are over mature and should be avoided

On a cold day (below 40 degrees) purchase your poinsettia at the end of your shopping trip. Keep it wrapped for your trip home and make sure your car is warm. Do not transport it in the trunk. Even a slight chill can cause leaves to drop later on. Unwrap your plant when you reach your destination.

Place your poinsettia in a location where it will receive sun at least half the day. If you put it in a sunny window make sure it does not touch the cold window pane. Keep out of drafts. Night temperatures in the 50's or 60's and daytime temperatures in the 70's are ideal.

Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Pierce the foil at the bottom of the pot for drainage. Water when the soil becomes dry to the touch, using lukewarm water. Fertilize monthly with a household fertilizer like 20-20-20.

It is not unusual for poinsettias to remain beautiful well into the summer. When the flowers fade in summer, cut the plant back halfway and water. Give them full light. The pot can be sunk into the ground outdoors in June and kept watered and fed. Bring back indoors at the end of August, place back in a sunny window and give it lots of water. Night temperatures must be around 60 degrees.

In order for an indoor poinsettia to rebloom, it needs a controlled daily pattern of light and darkness. From about September 21 and continuing through the end of October, give it 9 to 10 hours of bright indirect or sunny light and 14 to 15 hours of total darkness, with night temperatures of about 65 degrees. The night spot has to be totally dark, so place the plant in the back of a dark closet or cover with a completely opaque black cloth. Buds will form, so bring your poinsettia back out the first of November and watch it return to its former glory.

(From the December 2005 issue of The Back Acre News)

## Life Before the Computer

Memory was something you lost with age  
An application was for employment  
A program was a TV show  
A cursor used profanity  
A keyboard was a piano  
A web was a spider's home  
A virus was the flu  
A CD was a bank account  
A hard drive was a long trip on the road  
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived  
And if you had a 3 1/2 floppy - you just hoped nobody found out

(From the March 2005 issue of The Manure Spreader  
The Stow Community Garden Club)

## You Are Invited

Members of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, SC urge you to begin making plans for the next convention of TGOA/MGCA in their city April 20-22, 2006.

Spartanburg is known as the "Crossroads of the New South" because of its location at the intersection of Interstate 85 (north-south) and Interstate 26 (east-west) and connecting with I 95, I 77, I 40, and I 81. We also have one of the prettiest airports in the country located just a few miles away. Spartanburg County has the largest concentration of foreign owned businesses in the U.S., including the only BMW plant in the states. Spartanburg is also home to Milliken Inc. which has an outstanding arboretum - one of five in the county.

The convention will be held at a new Marriott Hotel and Convention Center with reasonable room rates under \$85 per day, single, double, or triple, including a continental breakfast. The program will include seminars and speakers on interesting topics, as well as tours to places of interest to gardeners. Registration is expected to be in the \$150 -160 range and will include lunch and dinner for three days,

Spartanburg is also only one to one and a half hours away from three botanical gardens: the largest private residence and gardens ever built in the U.S. (Biltmore House and Gardens near Asheville); the North Carolina Arboretum; three rose nurseries (Ashdown, Bridges, and Roses Unlimited); Parks Seed Company; Wayside Gardens; and Carter and Holmes Orchids. When you register we will send additional information about other places of interest in Spartanburg and South Carolina.

More complete information will be available soon on the TGOA/MGCA website and by request from our convention chair, Don Crowder, 106 Stockton Lane, Moore, SC 29269 or telephone 864-580-1829. In the meantime, begin making your plans to be in Spartanburg in April.

## In Memory Gardeners Gone to Rest

(Editor's note -These names of deceased members were taken from the newsletters I received)

### Men's Garden Club of Akron, Ohio

Dean Weidman, January 29, 2005  
Marjorie Kistler, March 7, 2005  
Milton Freundberg, April 12 2005  
Zenas (Zeke) Cruickshank, May 2, 2005  
Carl Parks, June 27, 2005  
Dr. Elmer Solt, October 7, 2005

### Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area

Albert Flinn, February 23, 2005  
Dale Reichenbach, March 11, 2005  
Paul Hilty, October 17, 2005

### The Men's Garden Club of Erie County none

### Men & Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Ohio none

### Gardeners of America The Fort Wayne, Indiana Chapter Edward Flynn, January 11, 2005

### The Stow Community Garden Club John Hagat, November 24, 2004 Wendall Wallace, December 17, 2004

### Gardeners of Van Wert County none

### The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown, Ohio George Hoover, March 2005 Tony Harding, June 2005

Theses men, and one woman, will be missed by their families and loved ones and by the members of their various garden clubs. Some will be missed by a wider group of gardeners because of their participation in national and regional conventions and meetings and the offices they have held in our organization.

### Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
Message from Dale Davies How Old Is That Tree?	2
It's the Berries Come to Wonderful Wooster	3
Forcing Early Blooms Caring for Your Poinsettia Life Before the Computer	4
You Are Invited In Memory	5

Leroy Hart, editor  
633 Schocalog Rd.  
Akron, OH 44320-1033  
e-mail: gardengabber@neo.rr.com

**Deadline for next issue: March 1**

## 2006 Officers - Central Great Lakes Region, TOGAMGCA

### President

Anita Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, OH 45840-9303  
419-423-1010  
e-mail: bilan@bright.net

### First Vice President

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Bradview Road  
Tallmadge, OH 4278-3310  
330-630-9625  
e-mail: mafr43@hotmail.com

### Second Vice President

Rodney Toth  
5637 W. Liberty Street  
Hubbard OH 44425  
330-759-1993

### Past President

Dale Davies  
P. O. Box 524  
Van Wert, OH 45891-0524  
419-238-9351  
e-mail: lhenney@bright.net

### Secretary

Marcia Davies  
P. O. Box 524  
Van Wert, OH 45891-0524  
419-238-9351  
e-mail: lhenney@bright.net

### Treasurer

Bill Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, OH 45840-9303  
419-423-1010  
e-mail: bilan@bright.net

### National Director

Anita Lanning  
9374 State Route 12W  
Findlay, OH 45840-9303  
419-423-1010  
e-mail: bilan@bright.net

### National Director

Frank Mitch  
2065 Kemery Road  
Akron, OH 44333-1937  
330-666-2327  
e-mail: fmm2065@hotmail.com

### National Director

William Moorehouse  
511 Overwood Drive  
Akron, OH 44313-5329  
330-864-0604  
e-mail: moorehouse511@msn.com

### Alternate National Director

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Bradview Road  
Tallmadge, OH 4278-3310  
330-630-9625  
e-mail: mafr43@hotmail.com

### Alternate National Director

Geraldine Herman  
2139 Maple Road  
Stow, OH 44224-4659  
330-688-5782  
e-mail: ga71herman@sbcglobal.com

### Alternate National Director

John Lloyd  
2055 Venedocia Eastern Road  
Venedocia, OH 45894-9517  
419-667-3946