

## HOW TO JOIN

For membership application and further information contact:

OAGC State Secretary

Marlene Purdy

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Or LOCAL CONTACT:

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## OAGC SPECIAL PROJECTS

The OAGC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity that was formed in 1984 to help carry out educational and charitable activities of the Association. From interest earned on tax-exempt contributions, the Foundation annually awards **OAGC Foundation Scholarships** to select horticulture/floriculture students attending an Ohio college, university or technical school. Scholarship applications may be found at [www.oagc.org](http://www.oagc.org) or by contacting the state secretary. Scholarship deadline is March 15. Additionally, the OAGC Foundation regularly supports two outstanding outdoor educational centers:

**Wahkeena State Nature Preserve**, located five miles south of Lancaster, Ohio, is owned and managed by the Ohio Historical Society ([www.ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c13/](http://www.ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c13/)). Mrs. Carmen Warner, an OAGC member, bought Wahkeena as a rundown hill farm and transformed it into an oasis of natural beauty. Wahkeena serves as an outdoor education area for nature study groups, school groups, garden clubs and natural resource professionals. The preserve is open to the public, and OAGC members are admitted free of charge by showing their membership cards.

**Mohican School in the Out of Doors** ([www.mohicanoutdoorsschool.org](http://www.mohicanoutdoorsschool.org)), located near Butler, OH is an extension of a classroom held outside with teachers taking their classes out for a few days or a whole week where they take their regular classes while also studying subjects such as the environment, waste management, wildlife, and even taking part in hands on experience to daily family extended living.

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## WHAT IS IT?

The Ohio Association of Garden Clubs was formed in March of 1930 and incorporated in 1959. Its stated objectives are - to bring into a relationship of mutual helpfulness garden clubs in the State of Ohio; to promote interest in and knowledge of horticulture, gardening and garden therapy; to encourage home, community and state beautification; to assist, when requested, State and National Parks Services; to promote appreciation and conservation of wildflowers, wild life, forests, wilderness areas and other natural resources and cooperate with other agencies promoting these interests; and to make combined action of its members possible for the accomplishment of all these objectives.

Hundreds of garden clubs throughout the State are members of the Association (known as OAGC), including more than 5,000 garden club members and other individuals who are members-at-large.

Business of the Association is conducted by seven state officers, five counselors, twelve department chairs in charge of various activities - and fifteen Regional Directors, each in charge of a specific area of the State. Each has two regional meetings per year, with speakers on phases of garden club activities. Regional Directors are available to give help to clubs and individuals, plan regional garden tours, horticulture days, etc. OAGC has been closely affiliated with the Ohio State University since 1930. Visit our Website, [www.oagc.org](http://www.oagc.org), for additional information.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Association regularly conducts schools for flower show exhibitors and judges. Six **Exhibitors' and Judges' Schools** are given

over a period of three years - one each spring and fall - until the series of six is completed and a new series begun. Student judges who successfully pass the exams of all six schools and complete a period of student judging may become an Accredited OAGC Flower Show Judge upon the approval of the executive board. Additionally, Design Study workshops are held around the state.

**Educational clinics** are held on the state, regional and county levels. These are designed to promote interest in and knowledge of horticulture, flower, arranging, nature and conservation.

At the **Regional Meetings** and the annual **State Convention**, clinics on horticulture topics are held and outstanding speakers on gardening topics are featured. Another state-wide meeting is held annually - called "**Gardeners' Day Out.**" It is held at various points of interest throughout the State, for furthering knowledge of nature and conservation, horticulture, wildflower identification and preservation.

A five-day meeting held each year in June in an outdoor location is our **Nature Study Camp**. Its aim is to further knowledge of and interest in nature and conservation.

To stimulate interest and promote participation in OAGC aims and activities, annual contests and awards are scheduled. These encourage excellence in club program books, publicity, flower shows, civic beautification, photography, sponsoring of junior gardeners, etc., on both the regional and state levels.

## PUBLICATIONS

"The Garden Path" is the organization's quarterly publication mailed to all members and is also posted on the website. It includes announcements of sponsored activities, reports

of department chairmen, interesting news in the world of gardening, and informative items on a variety of garden related subjects.

OAGC supplies its official "Handbook for Garden Clubs", as a guide on all phases of the Association's activities for member clubs. OAGC's "Exhibitors and Judges Handbook", Revised 2003, is the textbook for its Exhibitors and Judges School and is a comprehensive reference for everyone interested in horticulture as well as flower arranging.



## MEMBERSHIP

OAGC invites YOU to join them through one of several options: Become a member of an OAGC affiliated club (\$5 per year), join as a member-at-large (\$10 per year) or show your commitment and become a Life Member (one-time dues of \$100) or a Life Patron (one-time \$500 dues paid to the OAGC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity). Every member receives the quarterly magazine "The Garden Path", and is encouraged to participate in OAGC's educational activities including its schools, clinics, convention and bus tours. Come GROW with us!



OUR MOTTO:

KNOWING, GROWING, SHOWING, SHARING