

October 2015



# DIGGERS DIRT

Volume 11 Issue 2 2015-2016

[www.diggersgardneclub.com](http://www.diggersgardneclub.com)

**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**  
**Los Angeles Arboretum, Oak Room**  
**Succulent Tapestries with Laura Eubanks**  
**of Design for Serenity**

Laura is one of the most sought after succulent designers in San Diego. Not to be missed!

10:30 AM ~ Gather

11:00 ~ Program followed by sack lunch & meeting

Bring \$ for scrip!

**GUESTS WELCOME!**

**Great Meeting for Prospective Members!**

## December Meeting Holiday Boutique

We will be holding a Holiday Boutique to raise funds for our Club Account to help pay for Diggers to attend GCA Meetings. Bring anything you think other Diggers would like to buy for Holiday gifts. If you just want to be a "buyer", that is fine too! Ideas include:

- Craft- homemade or "found"
- Canned or preserved food
- Holiday decorations, Note cards, Note pads
- Auction Teams can sponsor a themed basket
- Desserts delivered once a month
- Experiences such as garden walk
- Vacation Home
- Gardening books you've already digested



## General Meetings

October 7

November 4

December 2

January 6

February 3

March 2

April 6

**Auction Prep-**

April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**Auction - April 20<sup>th</sup>**

– at Lisa Evan's

May 3

June 1

## Board Meetings

Board Meetings are the Mondays preceding General Meetings. The next one is at noon on November 2nd at Ruth Pasqualetto's home. Please let Carlin know if you would like to attend.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### How to Water Our Trees During the Drought

Reprinted with permission by Tree People

<https://blog.treepeople.org/home/2014/01/water-plants-drought>

We live in a beautiful Mediterranean climate. Southern California is actually one of only five regions in the world with this climate – cool, wet winters and warm to hot, dry summers. But of those five, ours is the driest. Fortunately, our native plants have evolved to thrive here; they expect to get their moisture for the entire year from late fall to early spring.

Except not this year. **This is the driest year on record**, and even our native trees and shrubs are dying in the wild lands.

#### So how do we keep our trees alive?

Water. All plants, from the trees that shade us to the vegetables we grow in our backyards are going to need more water this hot winter to make up for the absence of rain.

But there's a drought, you say! We know, and, yes, all of us can and should be cutting our water consumption. But we should also be sharing some of the water we conserve with our trees. Healthy trees are crucial to maintaining sufficient local water supply in our communities, because when it does rain, a mature tree can capture *thousands* of gallons of rainwater in its canopy and root zone, sinking that rain into the aquifer.

#### But how much water do our trees need and how often should we be watering them?

That will depend on the specific plant and how long it has been in the ground. It also depends on the type of soil (sand, clay, silt, loam) and how well it drains. Soils with higher clay content and compacted soils will take longer to wet and stay wet longer. Sandier soils will drain faster, thus needing more water, more often.

With that in mind, here are some **general watering guidelines**:

– **Trees want a good long drink but *not* every day.** A newly planted tree will need A LOT more water than one that was planted six years ago. New trees need about fifteen to twenty gallons of water once or twice a week their first month in the ground and often all the way through their first summer.



#### GCA DATES

[www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org)

#### Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference

Seattle, WA  
September 21-23, 2015

#### NAL Conservation Conference

Washington, DC  
February 22-25, 2016

#### GCA Annual Meeting

Minneapolis  
May 19-23, 2016

#### Pasadena Garden Club

Flower Show  
April 22- 24, 2016

#### Zone XII Meeting

Broadmoor GC, CO  
June 21-23, 2016

#### GCA Bulletin Submissions

Nov 15 for Winter Issue  
Feb 15 for Spring Issue  
May 15 for Summer Issue  
Aug 15 for Fall Issue

#### GCA eNews Submissions

10<sup>th</sup> or every month except  
June

– To determine whether or not a tree needs water, dig down *at least four inches* and check for moisture. Remember, the surface will dry out much faster. If the soil below ground is still very wet, water less often. Since every soil's composition and drainage can be different (even on the same property), you really need to check the soil before pouring the water.

– Mature trees will need some watering this winter, too, even if they're California natives. But water them less frequently, perhaps just once a month. **Keep in mind that you're only trying to replace the rain water that would have fallen in an average year.** Here in Los Angeles, that's about twelve inches. For mature trees, you should be watering about nine inches from the trunk out to the edge of the farthest branches (the drip line). This is where the majority of the feeder roots are.

– **Mulch till you drop!** Bare soil in southern California really doesn't make any sense. With a four inch layer of wood chips covering the soil, you'll slow the water's evaporation, keep the weeds down, prevent a hard crust from forming on the soil surface, cool the root zone, and create a healthier environment for the beneficial microorganisms in the soil.

Overwhelmed? Let's keep it simple. Just remember this: **during a drought, water more.** When the soil is dry and dusty, water!

**What else can we do to help combat the drought? Visit the TreePeople website for more tips and ideas.**

[www.Treepeople.org](http://www.Treepeople.org)

## OLD MILL UPDATES

The Old Mill is turning 200 in 2016. The Old Mill Foundation Board Member, Mary Sikora, is looking for people to help brainstorm and execute the 200th celebration events. Anyone who is interested should contact Mary at [mksikora1070@gmail.com](mailto:mksikora1070@gmail.com) or 626-240-9260.

Watch for updates on the web page:  
[www.old-mill.org](http://www.old-mill.org)



## OLD MILL WORK DAYS

9-11 AM

October 7 (Digger meeting)

Friday, November 6

Tuesday, January 12

Friday, February 19

Wednesday, March 15

Friday, May 13

## 2014-15 Digger Photo Album

If you are interested in ordering a photo album of the most recent Digger year, please contact Sally Miller.

# HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

CATHY TOSETTI ORGANIZED A PROPOGATION OPPORTUNITY AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING!



(Photos by Sally Miller)

## Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference

Sally Harris and Yvonne Zaro attended the Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference in Seattle from September 19-21, 2015. Here are the minutes of Zone XII Break-out Session:

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The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Zone XII Hort Representative **Sherry Perkins**, Woodside-Atherton GC ("SP"). SP welcomed all of the delegates from the 18 Zone XII Clubs and introduced **Shirley Meneice** (Carmel by the Sea GC) "our beloved conference namesake", **Phyllis Lee** (GC of Honolulu) GCA Executive Vice President, **Iris Wagner** (Seattle GC) Zone XII Director, **Annette Serrurier** (Diggers GC) Zone XII Chairman, **Angela Overy** (GC of Denver) acclaimed botanical artist, and **Barbara Tuffli** (Woodside-Atherton GC) GCA Hort Chairman.

SP began by reminding us that our Zone XII is the largest of the GCA Zones and her job is to bring messages to our clubs and then reports to GCA. We have 6 initiatives in Hort and those are a common bond for all 18,000 members. SP described the contents of our Zone XII packets which contain a chart, bookmark, print-outs of the initiatives, heat chart and Freeman Medal information. SP asked who were SMHC first-timers and noted that the majority of the delegates in our session were here for the first time which is great news for spreading "the word" about SMHC. SP discussed the Seed Share Program and the importance of sharing stories. These stories might be included in The Real Dirt which is published four times a year. SP also discussed the Freeman Medal and urged everyone to think about nominating a herbaceous perennial. The deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup> for this year or to think ahead for the following year.

SP also talked about awards and urged everyone to nominate club members for club and zone awards. Regarding Partners for Plants ("P4P"), we have 10 projects. The Northern CA clubs have a joint project called Bay Visions which will focus efforts on a linked 500 miles of shoreline. SP then asked for reports from each of the clubs:

- 1) Broadmoor GC: **Meredith Donner** reported that they had a pollinator plant sale and sold over 500 plants. Earlier they did a "Fall for the Garden" which was a conversation with a gardener about fall gardening. They also have a holiday program, photography program and a tour of a pueblo.
- 2) Carmel by the Sea GC: **Judith Cunningham** reported that this club was emphasizing drought tolerant planting. They will have a ME EARTH program following an Alice Waters model, P4P, and a trip to Fort Ord to propagate succulents. They are interested in the dunes.
- 3) Columbine GC: **Ann Stanton** reported that there is special interest in cacti as they are having a Flower Show and will a workshop on the propagation of plants. Another big project is on dates from the Middle East which require hand-pollination.
- 4) Diggers GC: **Sally Harris** reported that they are partnering with conservation to educate their members on dirt, natives, and designing with natives. She noted that this is supposed to be an El Nino year.
- 5) Denver GC: **Monty Kugeler** reported that they went to Estes Park and viewed wildflowers, toured the greenhouse. They are encouraging members to share information from McCauley Farms. There will be a flower show in June and also a trip to the steppes where there is a multitude of plants.
- 6) Santa Barbara GC: **Robin Martin** reported that there is a strong connection between hort and conservation. For the fundraiser, they will be propagating succulents which are big sellers. They also prune roses as Casa Del Herrero; will tour San Marcos Growers' facility this year; take trips to LA, SF and have speakers such as Joe O'Donnell on Australian Gardens. For their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they will do a children's maze. Hort's focus is on natives.
- 7) Hancock Park GC: **Liz Gabor** described the club's propagation efforts of native milkweed, successfully raising over 250 plants from seed. This effort is focused on creating pollinator pathways of at least 70 contiguous homes. Also, the club is focusing on native trees and the damage improper care can cause during the drought.
- 8) Hillsborough GC: **Lindsay Terzian** reported that they did a drought workshop; toured Filoli; will have a "Lawn Be Gone" workshop; create a rain garden; study narcissus bulbs; and learn pruning techniques.
- 9) Marin GC: **I'Lee Hooker** said that while they are a new GCA club, they are an old club. Every month, 15-minutes are devoted to Hort topics subjects, one which is "Spices & Spirits". They

make bouquets for Hospice (Christmas and Easter), do field trips, visit each other's gardens, documenting Kay Palmeroy's garden. Their P4P is in Tiburon.

- 10) Orinda GC: **Sue Anderson-Berger** reported that they are having a tomato tasting, tour of a recycling center, bee program, propagation project, local nursery demonstration on edibles, and trip to see the roses at a Sacramento cemetery.
- 11) Pasadena GC: **Leslie Zasa** reported that her club will have a major flower show in April with one-third of the club not having been in one before so; therefore, there will be a full year of programs around this (including Plant Challengers, workshops, speakers, and designers). They also maintain the gardens at La Casita.
- 12) Piedmont GC: **Michelle Winchester** and **Anges Kang** reported that their club will care for a rose garden, hold propagation workshops, take a trip to UC Botanic Gardens to learn about Monarchs and one to Quarry Hill to learn about the roses from China.
- 13) Santa Fe GC: **Carol McDonald** reported that her club is busy with hort projects. They will have programs about the new national park called Via Caldera National Park, bees, and a program with Clayton Bass. They have a successful *Behind Adobe Walls* fundraiser each year that has allowed them to help fund the restoration of the gardens at SAR.
- 14) Seattle GC: **Deborah Cheadle** reported that theirs is a large club with a large active hort committee. Their second year Provisionals must each give a talk. They will have workshops on pruning, winter container planting, and pollinators. Next year is their centennial.
- 15) Tacoma GC: **Christine Anderson** reported that their P4P is the Quaking Aspen. They have a grant from a local foundation to restore a meadow. Their fundraiser will be at the Pacific Bonsai Museum. They will have a program "Slugs and Snails are Pollinators". They are jointly working with other committees and will have programs on tool sharpening, flower arrangements with winter squash, small container planting, hosting/judging workshops, and champion trees.
- 16) GC of Honolulu: **Leslie Almeida** reported that her club does a number of flower shows and a popular topic is "Anyone can Grow". Their programs include, among others, a nursery visit; program on plant care and Blue Ribbon Winners; Plant Distribution; Botanical Christmas Gifts; and a Garden Tour.
- 17) Portland GC: **Robin Costic** reported that their first timers each year adopts a plant family to study and report on it. They do greenhouse tours; workshops on seed planting and propagation; scavenger hunts; 3-week botany basics class; plant fair on natives, weeds, or other topics; December Market Basket fundraising event which supports the club house; and field trips.
- 18) Woodside-Atherton GC: **Ann McPherson** reported that they have 52 members on their hort committee. They did a seed share program and will do a propagation workshop. Their programs will include California Native Seeds and Habitat Restoration; a Bulb Workshop; and Pruning Workshop. They have a hort moment at each meeting so that knowledge can be shared.

**Sherry Perkins** thanked all the presenters and urged everyone to continue their club's horticulture initiatives. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by **Gina Brandt**, Hancock Park GC, Zone XII Rep for Bulletin



## VIEW OF PUGET SOUND FROM BLOEDEL RESERVE ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

*-Taken by Yvonne Zaro while attending the Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference.*

### **Yvonne's favorite thoughts from the Conference:**

\*To consider the word garden to be a verb – 'to garden' rather than as a noun 'a garden' as it is dynamic and always changing.

\* Mike Stevens, Director of the Nature Conservancy in WA talked about the huge green movement in

the NW & its explosive growth. 4M in Puget Sound area now with 1M more on the way – pollution from people is a bigger issue for them these days than factory emissions.

\* The NW is in a coastal temperate rainforest climate zone – the only other places in the world like it are a bit of Canada, Chile, new Zealand, Tasmania & the northern British Isles (now I know where I want to travel!)

\* The Olmsted father & sons are known for starting the landscape architecture movement. They planned part of Central Park and a lot of the parks in Seattle. They loved parks as the lungs of a city – good for the physical as well as the psychological spirit. Parks are a democratic place in which people from all socio economic and ethnic backgrounds can enjoy. The first parks were inspired by cemeteries – a quiet contemplative space.

\* Another speaker at the University of Washington's Horticultural Center talked about how gardens are also slaves to trends and that millennials now want plants that are bigger, better, faster, stronger but organic & suited for a smaller space!

\* We toured the Bellevue Botanical Garden and the Washington Park Arboretum which are both free to the public. We also went to the Center for Urban Horticulture which is the University of Washington's Botanic Garden. My favorite was a bonus – the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island – 180 acres of forested gardens, previously a private estate with views of the sound. It was incredible if anyone ever has the time to get there.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Anyone can submit a photo to the GCA website! Email photos to Eve Barrett, the Zone XII Vice Chair, at [eb161949@gmail.com](mailto:eb161949@gmail.com). She is looking for photos of clubs in action: hikes, work days, special events, workshops. Email the photos as an attachment in a horizontal image in JPEG format with a brief description.



**Annual Meeting 2015: Annette Serrurier, Sally Miller and Kathy Miller**  
Submitted by Sally Miller

## VISITING GARDENS

**If you have an idea of a local garden to visit, contact *Kathy Miller*, our Visiting Gardens Chair.**

The **GCA Visiting Gardens Committee** plans trips both in the United States and abroad to educate members of GCA clubs in garden history and design, horticulture, and the environment. The committee also facilitates club member visits to the gardens of other GCA club members throughout the United States as well as the gardens of GCA international courtesy clubs.

Current Visiting Gardens trips on the GCA Website are listed below. To sign up for a Trip Interest List, send an email to [gcainterestlists@gmail.com](mailto:gcainterestlists@gmail.com) and include your name, email address, GCA club and zone, and the name of the trip. General questions concerning Visiting Gardens or trip suggestions may be sent to: [visitinggardens@gcamerica.org](mailto:visitinggardens@gcamerica.org). (Please do not use this address for Interest Lists requests.)

- **Cuba: The Splendor of Cuba, November 6-13, 2015**
- **Mississippi: Natchez and the Old South, April 10-15, 2016**
- **Enchanting Tuscany: Villas and Gardens, May 3-13, 2016**
- **Portland, Oregon: The City of Roses, July 10-15, 2016.**