



March 2017



DIGGERS DIRT

Volume 12 Issue 7 2016-2017
www.diggersgardenclub.com

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Auction Work Day
The Old Mill

10:30 AM ~ Gather & Coffee
11 to 12 ~ Gardening ~ Bring tools
12 to 1 ~ Sack lunch Meeting
Bring \$ for scrip,
Auction names and payment, and
Post Auction Dinner payment.
Regrets Only to Carlin

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DIGGERS:

CONNIE HARDING

&

JEANETTE MARTIN!

General Meetings

October 5
November 2
Joint Meeting - November 15th
December 7
January 4
February 8
March 1
April 5
Auction Prep - April 24th & 25th
Auction - April 26th
- at The Old Mill
May 3
June 7

Field Trips

October 19
January 18
March 15
May 17

Board Meetings

Generally, Mondays preceding the General Meetings, the next one will be at 10:30 AM on Monday, April 3rd at Carlin's home. Let Carlin know if you want to attend.

DIGGERS FIELD TRIP

WEDNESDAY ~ MARCH 15TH ~ 9:30 TO 2 (Approximately)

Mark your calendar for a field trip to a fabulous private garden in Encino. We'll have lunch there and then stop and shop at California Nursery Specialties. This is the succulent nursery usually only open to the public on Saturdays (cash or check only). Guests welcome!

We will meet at Sally Miller's house to carpool. The garden hostess is providing lunch so you must RSVP to Sally by Sunday, March 12th.

NATIONAL REPORT

Marcia and Yvonne attended the 2017 National Affairs and Legislation meeting in Washington DC last week. There were 300 Representatives from 200 GCA clubs who all share a concern for our environment and advocate for its protection. They heard from scientists, researchers, and scholars on the subject of environmental challenges as they relate to the GCA Position Papers. The week culminated with our delegation from California visiting with the environmental aides for Senators Harris and Feinstein.

Our concerns in the meeting were: we oppose cuts to the budget of the Interior and the EPA; we support full and permanent funding for the Land Water Conservation Fund; we support the funding of our National Parks infrastructure; we do not want WOTUS (Clean Water) rollback; we support the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Agreement.

There was a great deal of discussion about the use of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) and how it may be used to repeal many long-standing rules which protect our environment.



GCA DATES

www.gcamerica.org

Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference; Brooklyn, NY
September 19-21, 2016
Attended by Mary Blodgett and Clare Tayback

NAL Conservation Conference; Washington, DC
February 27 – Mar 2, 2017
Attended by Marcia Albrecht and Yvonne Zaro

2017 GCA Annual Meeting
Baltimore; May 4-6, 2017
Will be attended by Carlin McCarthy and Sara Pelton

2018 GCA Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA
April 26-29, 2018

Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference; Omaha, NB
September 24-26, 2017

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

10th of every month except June



MARCH PROGRAM

Sally Wenzlau, with technical assistance from Cindy Wenzlau, put on a wonderful slide show of past auctions. The pots were all beautiful and the Diggers were too!



OLD MILL WORKDAYS

www.old-mill.org

Eugenie & Yvonne are generally at the Old Mill TUESDAYS from 9-11 AM. New members and their sponsors are asked to come help 1x/month, other members at least twice during the year.

A few Fridays will be added during the year for those who can't come on Tuesdays.

The next Old Mill Workdays are:

Friday, March 17th 
Wednesday, April 5th
(Pre-Auction)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please review the suggested By-law changes which are detailed in the Minutes. We will be voting at the April meeting.

AUCTION UPDATE

Tips for Pots that Sell:

- Pairs or Groups of Three
- Trellises- wooden or metal
- Herb Gardens
- Unique or Old/Patina Containers
- Vacation Home Theme, especially nautical – whale, shell (but not TOO many)

Team Pots- Get together with your team to chip in to find a really special pot, climbing structure or mature plant so we will have 4 fabulous pots for our Auction!

How to prepare a “Perfect” Diggers Pot

1. Begin with an appropriate pot (no chips or cracks).
 - Consider overall design properties with respect to specific plants that you plan to use (shape/color/size etc.).
2. Clean pot with steel wool or wire brush (though some moss may be appropriate).
 - Sandpaper or Goo Gone® to remove price tag
 - Vinegar and water remove mineral marks
3. Place screen over drainage hole (may be secured by glue first).
4. Fill approximately 2/3 of the container with a potting soil containing perlite. Cover with a soil containing *no* perlite (such as Super Soil®).
5. Add Osmocote or similar slow release fertilizer.
6. Place plant in pot leaving 1” lip at top to avoid overflow when watering.
7. Water and fertilize.
8. Fill out tag in pencil or waterproof ink, including *all* the information that you can get and stake into pot.

Botanical names of plants to include for Diggers Pots Do NOT use the Family name, which is always in *italics* in the Sunset Western Garden Book.

always.....*Genus* (capitalized)

always..... *species* (lower case)

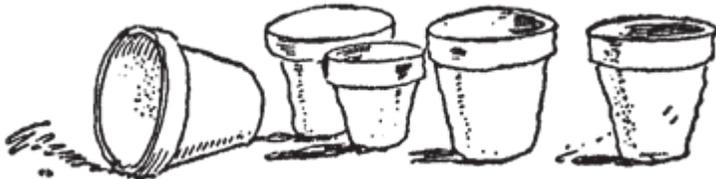
if listed..... variety (single quotes)

if listed..... Common Name

Example: *Hedera canariensis* ‘Variegata’ Variegated Algerian Ivy

Genus species ‘variety’ Common Name

Example container: hand carved wooden bowl, circa 1920 Italian terra cotta, 18” round, fluted edge



CONSERVATION CORNER ~ *Vinegardening*

By Barbara Kuljis, and Lori Eldridge, The Garden Club of Honolulu Conservation Committee Co-Chair's.

A major challenge to chemical and pesticide free gardening is keeping away insects and weeds without using toxic materials. One common non-toxic household substance that can be used for pest control is vinegar.

White and apple cider vinegars can be effective at eliminating certain garden pests. To create a vinegar spray that often works on garden insects:

- Combine three parts water
- One part vinegar
- One teaspoon of dishwashing detergent per mixture
- Shake in a spray bottle to mix the contents thoroughly before using in your garden. Label the bottle before storing

A vinegar spray can ward off slugs, ants and aphids. Spray the vinegar solution once a week on the leaves of your plants, never on the vegetables or flowers. If the solution is not working to get rid of pests do not increase the amount of vinegar, the increased acidity will damage your plants. Just be patient.

Vinegar can also be an effective weed and invasive grass eliminator. To create a weed eliminator:

- Mix a 50-50 vinegar-to-water solution in a spray bottle
- Spray directly on weeds or grass while the sun is shining
- Avoid spraying surrounding plants as this solution will damage neighboring plants. Label the bottle before storing

If the weeds or grass persist repeat the spraying every three days.

Horticultural vinegars are available commercially and have a much higher acid content than household vinegars. They are effective but should be used with caution as they are potent and may cause collateral plant damage.

Vinegar is also great for cleaning garden tools and keeping cut flowers fresh:

- Clean garden tools with a spritz of undiluted white vinegar, dry before storing
- Combine two tablespoons of vinegar and one teaspoon sugar with one quart water in a vessel to keep floral arrangements fresh

Give **Vinegardening** a try and take the pesticides and herbicides off your shelf.