

# DIGGER DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

## General Meeting:

**Cathy Tosetti's Home**  
**1011 Oak Grove Avenue**  
**San Marino**  
**Wednesday, Jan 10th**  
**10:30am**

"Pots et Fleurs" Workshop  
 Cost: \$20

Bring small clippers. \*If you have cuttings of Aeonium 'Kiwi' & Leatherleaf fern - please bring them too!

Workshop followed by sack lunch & meeting.

(\*\*Proposal letters for new members will be read. Guests may attend workshop portion only.)

## Look ahead...

Feb 7

Feb 27 (Joint Club Mtg)

Mar 7

Apr 4

Auction Prep- Apr 16-17

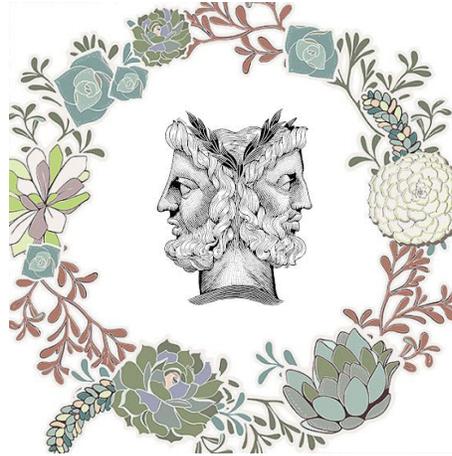
Auction - Apr 18 (Old Mill)

May 2

June 6

## Board Meetings

Monday's preceding the General Meeting at 10:30am. Please let Cathy know if you would like to attend.

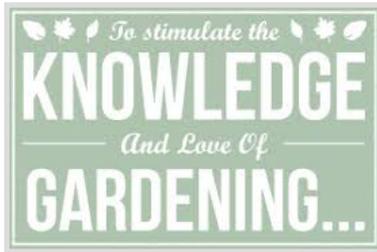


## From the President

*Out, alas!  
 You'd be so lean,  
 that blasts of January  
 would blow you through and through.  
 Now, my fair'st friend,  
 I would I had  
 some flowers o' the spring that might  
 become your time of day...*

*William Shakespeare ~ The Winter's Tale*

Our Diggers "Garden Club" New Year may have started on October 4<sup>th</sup> - but January 1<sup>st</sup> has been the start of the traditional New Year since 151 BC. The Roman God Janus (from the Etruscan word "janua" for door) presided over the gate to the New Year and was therefore Ruler of New Beginnings and Opportunities. Appropriately, this January will bring an exciting new opportunity for the Diggers, with a "Pots et Fleurs" workshop at our meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. January winds may blow, but we will enjoy



## Mark Your Calendar

### Upcoming GCA Dates

#### **NAL Conservation Conference**

Washington, DC  
Feb 26-March 1, 2018

#### **GCA 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

"How the West is One"

Hosted by the 18 Clubs of Zone XII  
San Francisco, CA  
April 26-29, 2018

#### **The GCA Annual Meeting Volunteer Sign-Ups**

See email registration link to sign up.  
Opportunities still available!

#### **The GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show**

"Wonders of the West"

April 26 – April 29, 2018  
(Schedule and entry forms available at [gcamerica.org](http://gcamerica.org))

a touch of Spring while working with flowers - and in a new way. I hope you will all be able to attend this fun floral workshop, where we will each create - and take home - a lovely centerpiece!

As the Old Year draws to a close, may we take the time to reflect on the good things with which we have been blessed. I am grateful for the many talents each Diggers member brings to our club, and the friendships built through our gardening related endeavors. Thank you to everyone who attended our December meeting. We created over 80 beautiful "Holiday Greens" baskets, which we delivered to six local charities. In addition, our "Ways and Means" Holiday Boutique/Bake Sale raised nearly \$2600 to help us send members to GCA conferences and meetings. Together we are an amazing club! Have a joyous Holiday and Christmas!

❁ See you in the garden ❁

*Cathy*



---

## A New Way to Read & Receive GCA Publications

---



The Garden Club of America offers four publications online exclusively for club members. These flip-through digital magazines are full of inspiring content, award-winning photographs, and the very best of what's happening across the GCA. You can now receive one or all of these publications via email as soon as they are available.

To register your preference, either click on the link below and check the "notify me" box for each publication you would like

- OR -

Log on to the GCA website "members only" area, click on "Read, Watch, Shop", then click on "Publications". You will see a green highlighted bar called "Manage my Publication Notifications". Click to be directed to the page where you can check the publications that you would like to receive electronically.

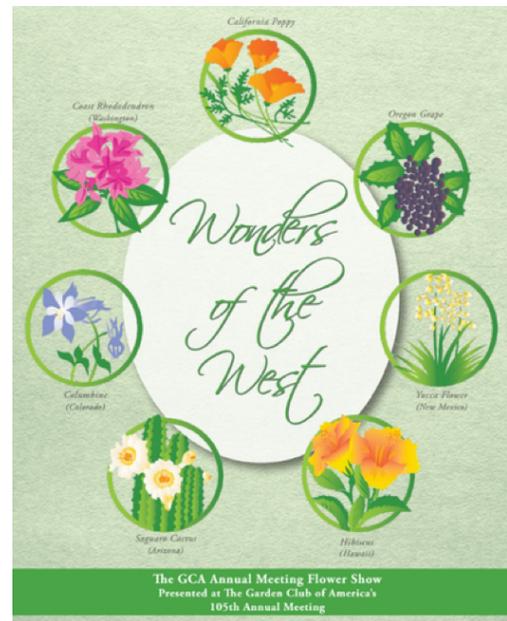
(\*You can change/manage your preferences via your GCA "Profile" link on the welcome landing page.

Coming first will be the Winter Bulletin in January.

<https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:publications/list>

## “Wonders of the West Flower Show”

The Flower Show Committee for the 2018 GCA Annual Meeting in San Francisco is encouraging all Zone XII clubs to participate in the Wonders of the West Flower Show. One goal of this show is to highlight the vast natural beauty of our Western skies, forests, desert, water, flowers, plants and gems. Registration is now open and will close on February 15<sup>th</sup>.



While certain classes are full, there are still the following exciting opportunities to fill:

Botanical Arts	Class 1 & 2
Floral Design	Class 3 & 4
Photography	All classes except class 5
Horticulture	All classes except D, Class 1

Please consider entering! If you have any questions, you may contact Janet Riley, Annual Meeting Flower Show co-chair at:

[bjriley@pacbell.net](mailto:bjriley@pacbell.net)

## How to Time the Rose Bloom Cycle for our Diggers Auction

In general, roses bloom in 6 to 8-week "Bloom Cycles". A cycle is the number of weeks between the time you cut a rose and the time it blooms again. The first bloom cycle in a season begins when you do your annual winter pruning. Its length can be somewhat longer than cycles later in the growing season because cold weather can slow the growth of the plant. However, for planning purposes, in 6 to 8 weeks the bush will go from budded cane to full bloom. (See the Bloom Cycle Chart below for specific types of roses.)

So - when to prune in order to have beautiful blooms on our Auction date of April 18<sup>th</sup>?

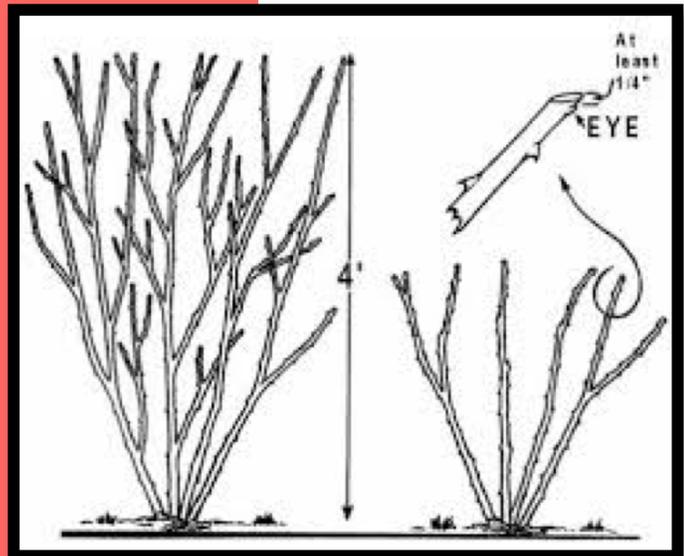
Ideally, you would need to cut your roses back 7 to 8 weeks before April 18<sup>th</sup>. You would need to prune between Feb 22- Mar 1.

The first pruning for your roses would therefore need to be done 7 to 8 weeks prior to this - early (from December 29 to January 11<sup>th</sup>) - in order to give the bush enough time to complete its first bloom cycle.

If your rose bush is near the end of its first bloom cycle during the last week of February, you should prune again to force the rosebush to flower on time for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

For example, according to the Bloom Cycle Chart, Hybrid Teas would need to be cut again around February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>; English roses between February 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. (The 10-day spread is to accommodate the vagaries of weather; roses will grow faster with warmer weather.)

If you aren't sure, then cut 1/3 of your bushes one day, 1/3 a few days later and leave the rest to continue blooming. At least something will have flowers!



**BLOOM CYCLE**

<u>Type of Rose</u>	<u>Number of Days in Bloom Cycle</u>
Miniatures	35-40
Teas	45-50
Hybrid Tea	45-55
Floribundas	50-55
English	They are all different but figure 50-60
Bourbons	55-60
Hybrid Rugosas	55-60
Hybrid Musks	55-60
Hybrid Perpetuals	60-65
Portlands	60-65



\*The above "bloom cycle" days are based on making pruning cuts at the level of the second or third five leaflet group below the bloom or rosebud. The further down you go, the longer it takes for the blooms to come back. A rule of thumb is to add about five more days for each additional leaflet group you go down.

And ~ if you are contemplating planting some new roses, see the following link for ones that do particularly well in our warm Pacific Southwest climate:

<https://www.pswdroses.org/heat-roses>

---

### A Quick and Easy Way to Clean and Sharpen Pruners

---



**STEP 1:** Using Bon Ami, scour pruners with a scouring pad. Bon Ami is a natural cleaning powder that won't scratch. Be sure to clean all parts of the pruners including the handles.

**STEP 2:** Give pruners a good rinse to get all the Bon Ami off.



**STEP 3:** Dry pruners completely with an old t-shirt or soft rag. Sharpen with any pruner sharpening tool. The Zenport Z095 Tungsten Carbide Sharpener, available on Amazon (\$14), works well and is easy to use. Run the sharpener across the blade at an angle, three times. Turn pruners over and do the same on the other side of the blade. Use the polishing side of the sharpener to smooth the blade.



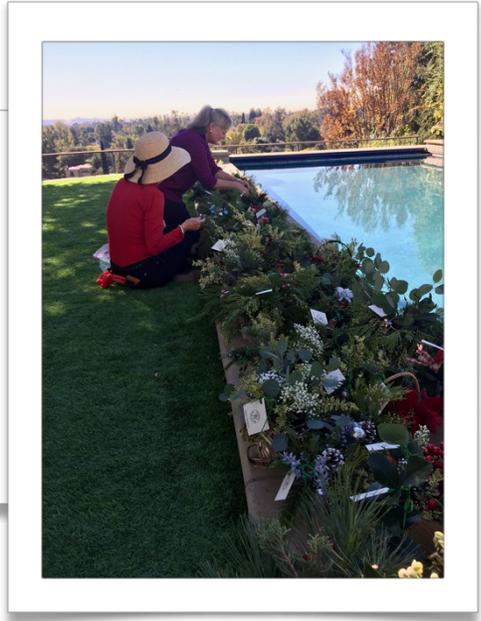
**STEP 4:** Give pruners another rinse and dry.

**STEP 5:** Wipe blade and handles with Grape Seed oil (WD40 works too) and leave to sit for a minute or two.

**STEP 6:** Using an old sock, wipe off the oil. If using WD40 be sure to remove all the residue.

## A December Meeting to Remember!

---



### Making Holiday Greens Baskets



## Gwen's beautiful succulents, newly planted my Mina Villegas (\*see card)



## Boutique & Bake Sale Bonanza!



Wishing you the Happiest of Holidays!