

# DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

## **General Meetings**

**10:30 Program  
(Unless otherwise noted)  
12:00 noon Meeting &  
Brown Bag Lunch**

**Wednesday, January 9th**



Ikebana Floral Design with  
Mariana Plott

**Huntington Botanic Gardens**  
Brody Classrooms  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

**...Look ahead...**

**Wednesday, February 6th**

**Joint Club Meeting**

**Dr Ari Novy**

**Huntington Library**

**Rothenberg Hall**

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino



**\*Please note\***

Club mtg: 9:30am

Speaker: 11:00am

Lunch: 12:15pm



## **From The President**

Whose heart hasn't warmed at the first sighting of a new seedling or bulb breaking through the earth? In many little ways in

the garden, January is the month of new beginnings. Already in our mild USDA Hardiness Zone 10a area, bulbs planted last fall are pushing new growth up through the soil.

The Diggers begin 2019 with something new, too - at least to many of us - as we learn about the Art and History of Ikebana Floral Arrangement. Our January speaker is Marianna Plott, a Sensei or teacher of the Ikebono style of Ikebana and a past President of the San Marino League. Members of the San Marino League, a local philanthropic volunteer group committed to arts education, have been providing floral arrangements for the Japanese Tea House at the Huntington since 1958. (Many of their members are also long-time docents at the Huntington Library/Gardens and at Art Center College of Design.)

Our club calendar is full to the brim as we look forward to so much in the weeks ahead: a February Joint

**Board Meetings**

Monday before the  
General Meeting  
10:30am.

Please let Cathy know if you  
would like to attend.

**Old Mill Workdays**

Tues., Jan 8, 9-10:30am  
Fri., Jan 18, 9-10:30am  
Tues., Jan 22, 9-10:30am  
Mon., Jan 28, 9-10:30am

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Upcoming Club Meetings**

Mar 6  
Apr 3 (Auction)  
May 8 (\*Note Change)  
June 4

**Upcoming GCA Dates**

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

**NAL Conservation  
Conference**

Washington, DC  
Feb 25-28, 2019

**GCA 2019 Annual  
Meeting**

Boston, MA  
May 16, -19, 2019

**Shirley Meneice  
Horticulture Conference**

Denver Botanic Gardens  
Denver, CO  
Sept. 10-12, 2019

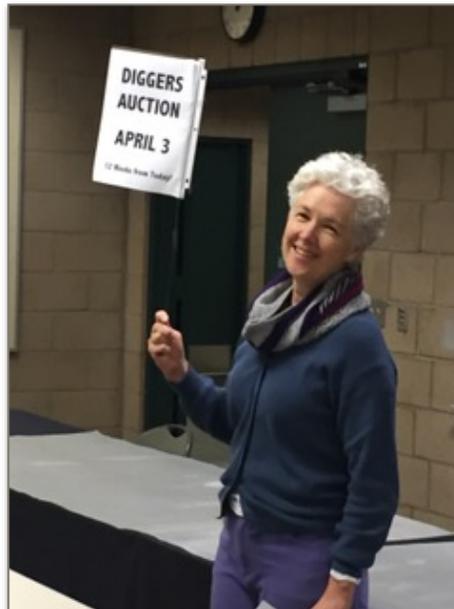
Meeting with the Hancock Park and Pasadena Garden Clubs at the Huntington Library in February, a March Tomato Talk (plants for sale!) with expert gardener Sue Anderson, and our Annual Plant Auction and fundraiser on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Wishing you a joyous New Year!

❁ See you in the garden ❁

*Cathy*

**Diggers Annual Auction**



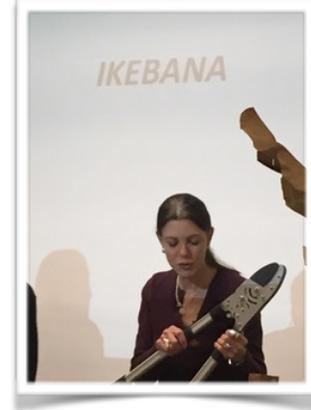
All you need to  
know -  
April 3, 2019



Time to focus on those pots! The Diggers Auction and Plant Sale is less than 12 weeks away! Sally reminded Diggers to look to their Auction Team Leaders for support and advice - and challenged us all to get potting!

## January Meeting

*The spirit of Ikenobo Ikebana-Arranging flowers and finding beauty in flowers*



Our January Speaker, Marianna Plott, captivated the Diggers with her power point presentation on the art and history of Ikenobo, followed by a floral demonstration. Her "tool box" was especially intriguing. We learned that for very large Ikebana one needs a very large branch-cutting tool!

Ikenobo is the first school of the Ikebana floral art form and began over 550 years ago in Kyoto, Japan. There, at the Choho-ji Temple, a priest elevated and refined the Chinese the tradition of floral temple offerings to the Buddha. IKE means "pond" in Japanese and BO means "hut". The Choho-ji temple in Kyoto sits near a pond, and so the priest's family name and temple location gave rise to the name of this art form. This special skill of arranging flowers has continued in one family line ever since and - until this generation - always through the male line.

We learned that Ikebana is a "Line" arrangement: asymmetrical, minimal, architectural and very different from the Western "Modern Mass" floral arrangement style. Diggers came away so inspired that several created spontaneous Ikebana-style creations of their own at home!



San Marino



Pasadena



Seattle

---

## Horticulture

---

### Would you like to honor a plant with an Award?



Since 1995, the GCA has awarded the Montine M. Freeman Medal to recognize outstanding North American native plants that are underutilized but possess superior ornamental and ecological attributes. The goal of the Freeman Medal is to encourage the propagation and planting of these winners in our gardens and landscape. It is the only award that the GCA presents to a plant!

How to Propose a plant for the Montine McDaniel Freeman Award:

a Plant must be an herbaceous plant in the even years, or a woody plant in the odd years. This year, proposals are for woody plants.

a Plant must be an outstanding or unusual species or cultivar of a North American native plant.

a Plant must display attributes that enhance the landscape, are attractive to wildlife, and/or are effective environmental plants, e.g. those that control erosion.

a Plant must not be readily available for landscape use in at least one major portion of the country, but must be in propagation for commercial distribution.

**Nominations are accepted March 1st - December 1st.** It takes about one month to complete a thorough nomination. The application must include accurate information about growing conditions, maintenance, availability, ornamental characteristics and 3-5 high quality images. Select images that highlight: mature habit, close-ups of outstanding features (i.e. bloom, fruit, bark, foliage), and seasonal changes. More information and submission instructions may be found on the Horticulture Committee page under GCA Plant of the Year; ['History of the Medal'](#).

## What are USDA Hardiness Zones?

### *Reading the Numbers - A Review*

As our climate fluctuates and changes, how do you know if a plant will be suitable to grow in your area?



There are two ways to help you figure it out.

The USDA Hardiness Map, first published in 1960 and updated in 1990 and 2012, helps you determine a plant's ability to withstand minimum temperatures. The Hardiness Map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperatures in our country over the most recent 30-year period, divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones. This

system began at the US National Arboretum in Washington. In 1990 the map was revised to take into account new climate data, and further divided each "Zone" by 5-degrees into new "a" and "b" subdivisions.

In the late 1990s, The American Horticultural Society (AHS) developed the Heat Zone Map, which parallels the USDA Hardiness Zone Map. This map is based on the number of heat days experienced in a given area. A heat day is defined as a day in which the temperature climbs to over 86 degrees F. At this temperature, many plants begin to experience physiological damage and start to shut down their functioning. Heat Zones range from 1 (no heat days) to 12 (210 or more heat days).

Heat Zone ratings are relatively new. Not all catalogs, web sites and garden centers currently indicate a plant's Heat Zone, but more and more some plant tags do show two ratings. For example "5-10, 11-1" on a tag indicates a cold hardiness range of 5-10 and a heat tolerance range of 11-1. This plant will survive winter temperatures in zones 5 to 10 and is heat tolerant in zones 11 through 1.

How much hotter is your hometown than when you were born?

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/30/climate/how-much-hotter-is-your-hometown.html>

For a look at the USDA Hardiness Map visit:

<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb>

---

## Floral Design

---

Diggers “challenge” floral arrangement submissions for January. (Member creations using seasonal materials primarily found in their gardens.)



Toyon, Scabiosa, Rose,  
Pineapple Sage & Ivy



Camelia, Rose &  
Scented Pelargonium

Visit the following GCA website link to see a photo library of design styles:  
[https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?common/file/Flower\\_Show/Photo\\_Library\\_Of\\_Design\\_Styles.pdf](https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?common/file/Flower_Show/Photo_Library_Of_Design_Styles.pdf)

### **How will you use the following Elements/Ingredients of Design?**

Line, Form, Color, Texture, Pattern, Size, Space and Light (= Puzzle Pieces)

### **How will you choose to organize those elements using the following properties?**

Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Rhythm and Scale? (= Your creativity)

These are the “Elements” and “Principles” to think about as you build your creation.



---

## Conservation

---

*Looking for a non-hazardous cleaning alternative?*

### Here are 15 practical ways you can use Coke in and around the house!

1. Remove **grease stains** from clothing and fabric: empty a can of Coke into your load of washing along with the usual detergent and run it through a normal cycle.
2. Remove **rust** with a sponge or tinfoil dipped in Coke. It also loosens rusty bolts.
3. Remove **blood stains** from clothing and fabric. (Same method as with grease stains.)
4. Remove **marker stains** from carpet: apply Coke, scrub and then clean with soapy water.
5. Clean **oil stains** from a garage floor: let the stain soak, then hose off.
6. Clean **burnt pans**: pour Coke in the pan or let the pan soak in Coke, then rinse.
7. Descale a **kettle**. (Same method as with burnt pans.)
8. Clean **car battery terminals** by pouring a small amount of Coke over each one, scrubbing with an old toothbrush and rinsing with water.
9. Clean your **car engine**. Let an old towel dipped in Coke sit on engine parts for a while. Remove towel and wipe parts clean with a clean cloth dipped in water.
10. Clean **tile grout**: pour onto kitchen/bathroom floor, leave for a few minutes, then wipe up.
11. Remove stains from **vitreous china** by letting chinaware soak in Coke for a while. The stains should come off easily now.
12. Got a **dirty pool**? Adding two 2-litre bottles of Coke will clear up rust and dirt.
13. Clean your **toilet**: pour Coke around inside of bowl, leave for a while, then flush clean.
14. Polish **chrome**: pour Coke onto the chrome surface/object, crumple up some tinfoil and use it to scrub rust away. Rinse with warm water and wipe dry.
15. Remove **gum** stuck in hair. Dip that part of the hair in a glass of Coke and let it sit for a few minutes. It will be much easier to pick the gum out of the hair now.



---

## Photography & Garden History & Design

---



The 'Glorious Gardens' photography contest resulted from a collaboration between the Garden History & Design and Photography committees. Entries celebrate beautiful gardens and techniques used in garden design as captured through the camera lens.

Photography has become an increasing area of interest within the GCA, and many members from across the country have submitted entries for this contest. Now you can view these photos and vote for your favorites! The deadline for online voting by GCA members is January 21, 2019. Winners will be featured in the March 1 online edition of the GCA Focus magazine.

Go to the READ, WATCH, SHOP tab on the member's area of the GCA website, scroll down to "VOTING FOR THE 'GLORIOUS GARDENS FOCUS CONTEST IS NOW OPEN'" and click on this. Follow prompts to open and view the submissions, and to vote for your favorites.

There are 18 classes with eight images in each class, and you may download a handy score card to help you with your deliberation. When you are ready to vote, pick one image in each class to submit via an online voting form. Don't forget to also make a choice for "most creative" photo entry!



---

## Announcing the GCA's Newest Honorary Members

---



Annually, The Garden Club of America recognizes extraordinary persons who exemplify the GCA's ideals by extending honorary membership to them. Accordingly, with appreciation for their achievements, the GCA welcomes the following new Honorary Members for 2019 (clockwise from top left):

Dr. Richard Olsen (Director of the U.S. National Arboretum),  
William Cullina (President and CEO of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens),  
Gordon Hayward (renowned Garden Designer and Horticulturist),

**AND our own** Dr. Eric Haskell (Professor Emeritus of French Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies, Scripps College).

These four new honorary members will be formally acknowledged and welcomed to the GCA at the Annual Meeting in Boston on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the GCA website to read more about them.