

# DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

## General Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted all meetings will be virtual. General meeting begins at 10:30am. An announcement will be emailed one week prior with specific timing of business and program.

No refreshments will be provided.

## Look ahead...2020/2021

\*denotes in person (optional) with protocol of social distancing and masks. 

**January 6 - GCA On-Demand Program - Revolutionary Gardeners:** The Wisdom of George Washington & Thomas Jefferson, featuring Dean Norton & Peter Hatch

**February 3 - \*Diggers' Gardens -** Tours with Diggers History

**March 3 - Conservation Program -** Speakers: Abby Meyer - Botanic Gardens Int'l; Evan Meyer - Theodore Payne Foundation; & Dr. Ari Novy - San Diego Botanic Garden

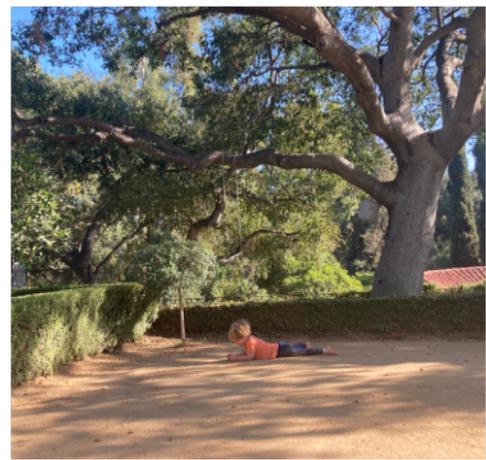
**April 7 - Old Mill Workday - Auction TBD in Jan. 2021**

**April 19/20 - Auction Prep TBD**

**April 21 - Auction TBD**

**May 5 - Floral Design**

**June 2 - Annual Meeting**



## From the President

Hi Diggers!

The Conservation Study Conference webinar hosted by GCA this week was excellent. I was particularly moved by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child In the Woods*. With a prescription of imaginative hope, sustained planning and hard work he envisions cities as botanical gardens and engines of biodiversity. Mary captures the essence of the conference in this DIRT. I'm inspired to learn more about the issues and share. Our passion about nature matters.

## Board Meeting

**Rescheduled -Virtually  
Monday Nov. 23rd,  
at 10:15am**

## Old Mill Workday

Mon, Dec 7th 9-10:30am

## Mark Your Calendar

### Upcoming GCA Dates

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

### Special GCA Virtual Conferences 2020-2021

#### January 21, 2021

Photography Conference

#### February 23-24, 2021

National Affairs and  
Legislation Conference

#### April 8, 2021

Floral  
Design Conference

#### May 11-12, 2021

GCA Annual Meeting



This is indeed a unique window of time. To quell the spread of Covid, once again our community is urging us to dial back our gatherings, especially hard at Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, we commit to the health and well-being of one another by staying close to home among precious few of our own loved ones. And we show our gratitude in new ways.

I'm looking forward to the satellite workshops we have scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. And I can't wait for the online Boutique. Giving and receiving is acknowledgement of our care for others. Abundant thanks to Alfrida, and Athena as always, for adaptive planning. My gratitude extends also to the Diggers who submitted material to make this issue of the DIRT rich with interesting information.

Until our next meeting, I'm sending you a heartfelt wish for a Happy Thanksgiving. Take time to count blessings. It is from this place in our hearts where we move to action to engage in a better relationship with our natural world, step by baby step.

Warmly,

*Liz*



**Bristol Farms Scrip:** Contact Alfrida by the 1st Wednesday of the month in order to receive your Bristol Farms Scrip. Confirm by mailing her a check payable to **Diggers**, by the 10th of the month to:  
Alfrida King  
324 Wigmore Drive  
Pasadena 91105  
She will deliver the scrip to you later the same month.

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## Floral Design

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### Nature Reinvented

Below is a website and an instagram page that is really fun to look at for those interested in wearable flowers and some wonderful small size arrangements and garlands.

[susanmcleary.com](http://susanmcleary.com)

[passionflowersue.com](http://passionflowersue.com)

Her book is:

The Art of Wearable Flowers

Check out this floral frog website where good frogs can be had!

[Floralgenius.com](http://Floralgenius.com)



Mix of season fall flowers in an arrangement by Kristen Cassie of Moon Canyon. On line search can inspire you to mix plant materials in new ways.

kristen caissie (@mooncanyon) instagram photos and videos

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## Membership

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**NEWS FLASH**

NEWS FLASH We are extending the deadline for membership proposal letters till March 1, 2021. Letters are to be sent to Liz and will be read at our March 3 meeting.

Thereafter, each member will need to contact Membership chairmen Tracy Hirrel or Kathy Miller, with comments by April 1, 2021. Voting will take place at either our April or May meetings. Stay safe and enjoy your garden.

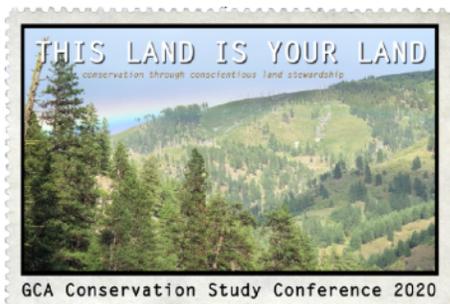
We are eager to meet your guests and show them our Diggers Spirit as best we can during Covid-19. Remember gardening and friendship is the key to good health.

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## Conservation

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### GCA 2020 Conservation Study Conference This Land is Your Land



The GCA held its second annual Conservation Study Conference on November 17th and 18th, its first ever virtual. It lifted this author's spirits tremendously to see so many intelligent, conservation-minded women on-line supporting so many intelligent, conservation-minded women! The conference was an information super-spreader event, so I will focus on just a few

of the highlights. The sessions were recorded for anyone who would like to view the entire program. It's an amazing course in conservation with some of the world's leaders and thinkers on watersheds, national refuges, parks, redwoods, private conservation, "carbon farming" and cooking for the climate.

Three things stood out for me. First, women, and the GCA especially, are and always have been at the forefront of the conservation movement. Please, please, please download the fascinating *A History of Conservation and National Affairs Legislation* on the GCA website for an in depth look at the work that we've done. We prepared for seed shortages during WWI, we saved the redwoods, and we recently helped pass the Great American Outdoors Act, the most important piece of conservation legislation in the last 50 years. Check out Pasadena Garden Club's own Minerva Hoyt, who used planes, trains, and automobiles to ship her flowers, cacti and succulents around the world to foster love and support for Joshua Tree National Park. Dr. Diane Lewis, a Bedford member, spoke on her award-winning Healthy Yard Project (reminder: plant natives and avoid pesticides. What we do matters). A particular engaging presentation involved an all-woman panel of hard-hitting experts: Theresa Pierno, CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association; Diane Regas, CEO of The Trust for Public Land; Gina McCarthy, CEO of The Natural Resources Defense Council; and Jennifer Morris, CEO of The Nature Conservancy.

Secondly, conservation, from its inception and only up until recently, has always been a fiercely bi-partisan concern. Nixon oversaw the passage of the EPA and the Clean Water Act. Sally Jewell, former CEO of REI and Obama's Secretary of the Interior, worked closely and successfully across the aisle with ranchers, oil companies, and conservationists to find common ground. Today, companies are working closely with scientists to lessen their carbon footprint, as carbon becomes a more expensive byproduct of doing business. This land is *our* land and conservation cannot be a political issue.

Finally, conservation must be inclusive. People who get hit "first and worst" are already the most marginalized in our society. Although conservation has its roots in the moneyed classes, Frederick Law Olmsted believed that open space access should be available to the great mass of society...to whom it would be of the greatest benefit. The word "Interconnectedness" (phew!) was used throughout the conference to show how every living thing on our planet is tied together in intricate and beautiful ways. Historically, land use planning and zoning policies have not prioritized everyone. Outdoor spaces should be a fundamental right for all Americans. We must work together for the good of all Americans to keep our open spaces clean and available to all.

Please check out @lanshivephoto on social media to knock your socks off with his beautiful photography of some of our 568 National Wildlife Refuges. His powerful pictures will move you to fight harder to save the beauty we are at risk of losing. Google

BCarbon for an exciting introduction to a new and innovative way to capture carbon in a financially sustainable way. Look for climate friendly recipes on the conservation landing page on the GCA website. And as always, reduce, reuse and recycle!

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## Diggers Challenge Plant Progress

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Here are some of the photos sent in of the Colorful Cauliflower! Our recent heat wave wiped out a number of your seedlings. I have some seeds left if anyone wants some!



Half of Mary Anne Mielke's Crop



The ones Athena Wood saved from the squirrels

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## Diggers Photo Album

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The Diggers Photo Album from last year is available for purchase from Shutterfly. Highlights from last year are: the Propagation Workshop at Cindy's; the Holiday Boutique; Making Kimchee at Annette's; Field Trip to San Diego Botanical Garden; and our first Zoom Meetings!!

If you would like to see a copy before you order it, please contact Cathy Tosetti or Sally Miller to view their copies. If you have questions on how to

order, please contact Sally. The book runs about \$60-\$75 depending on what discount you have. Here is the link:

<https://www.shutterfly.com/share-product/?shareid=b98a2a8a-4253-448d-b27a-d0144ad5f406&cid=SHARPRDWEBMPRLNK>

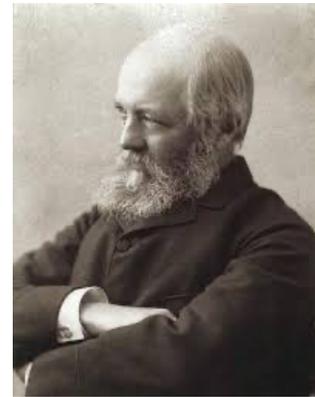
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## Garden History and Design

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The **Olmsted 200 celebration** continues! The third **One Minute Report** on the six major design principles which guided Frederick Law Olmsted's work is available on the GCA website.

One Minute Reports on the first three design principles, including the just-released third OMR, "Orchestration of Movement," can be accessed by logging onto the GCA website, clicking GCA Committee Pages, then clicking Garden History & Design, where you will see the *Parks: Where Nature Meets Community* landing page. Once there, click "AAG - One Minute Reports." You can also get a **complete list of Olmsted-designed projects** by clicking "AAG - Olmsted Designed Projects".



Also, under *Parks: Where Nature Meets Community*, check out the new **PARKS - GCA Membership Showcase** for a look at parks and Olmsted-themed projects around the country.

Consider following GCA and the Smithsonian Gardens on **social media** for educational and fun posts!

**Facebook:** The Garden Club of America / Smithsonian Gardens

**Instagram:** thegardenclubofamerica / smithsoniangardens

**Twitter:** @GCAmerica / @SIGardens

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## Diggers Organic Farming Presentation by Max Jehle

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Max Jehle with MAX Agriculture Consultants, Inc shared with us the various techniques required to commercially grow foods organically. Max has been innovative and creative in developing pest management strategies that fit the current landscape of environmental regulations while developing a systems approach that complies with its philosophy of growing fruit with minimal inputs into the system. "These techniques include the management of biological control species—some are native and some are introduced through our augmentative release programs from our in-house insectary," "In addition, we also use habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and resistant varieties. Our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) staff continually monitors all blocks, and each block is a unique biological system, and different techniques are utilized to keep pests and diseases below established economic thresholds."

(See Max's Power Point Presentation in attached email.)