

DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

General Meetings:

General meeting begins at 10:30am (Unless otherwise noted). 12:00 noon Meeting. Bring sack lunch. Invite guests when appropriate.

Look ahead...

- Oct 4 - Old Mill Clean Up & Hort Challenge Plant @ The Old Mill**
- Nov 1 - LA Green Grounds presentation @ Mary Blodgett's**
- Dec 6 - Holiday Workshop @ Gwen's**
- Jan 10 -Huntington Gardens Desert Garden Tour @ The Huntington Library - Ahmanson**
- Feb 7 - Conservation Workshop @ Sally Miller's Linda Vista Studio**
- Mar 6 - California Botanic Garden Tour In Claremont**
- Apr 3 - Old Mill Clean Up**
- Apr 21- Plant Drop off @ Old Mill**
- Apr 22 -Auction Set-Up**
- Apr 23 -Auction Set-Up**
- Apr 24 -AUCTION @ Old Mill**
- May 1 - No Diggers Meeting (PGC Doorways & Dining)**
- May 8 - Founder's Day Event**
- Jun 5 - Diggers Annual Mtg @ Connie Harding's**



From the President

Dear Diggers,

I hope this issue of the Dirt finds you well-rested and ready for another year of learning and



Pinus strobus, eastern white pines, Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire

adventure with the Diggers. After recently returning from a family vacation in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, our 8-year-old nephew lamented that he had to wait a whole year to smell "that smell" again. I thought he was referring to the musty odor that hits us each year as we enter the 100-year-old Sears kit house. My daughter said he was talking about

Board Meeting

10:30 a.m. Monday's preceding the General Meetings at Athena's home. Please let Athena know if you would like to attend.

Old Mill Workday

Bring your gloves, shovel and clippers...Wed 9/20 & Mon 10/23 both from 9-10:30am

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming GCA Dates

www.gcamerica.org

Oct 18, 2023

Shirley Meneice - Hawaii
- Virtual

Nov 7-10, 2023

Conservation Study
Conference - Georgia

Nov 16, 2023

Garden Hist. & Design -
Virtual

Jan 25, 2024

Photog Conf -Virtual

Feb 6, 2024

Floral Design Conference
- Virtual

Mar 17-20, 2024

NAL - Washington

Apr 16-17, 2024

Zone XII Meeting -
Hancock Park

Apr 27-28, 2024

GCA Annual Mtg -
Connecticut

the smell of the trees, eastern white pine, that surround the home. She fondly remembers running through the woods with her cousins and smelling the same sweet and woody aroma of damp pine needles.

I wonder if that same wholesome appreciation of nature is what motivated seven spirited women in May of 1924 to start a small garden club called the Diggers. A club that would welcome and encourage new ideas and a little rebelliousness, in one founding member's words, "without the assistance from grown-ups". Even the club's name conjures images of children playing in the dirt.

A century later the Diggers Garden Club is thriving with 42 active and associate members with varying interests and talents. Members who, among other things, champion conservation issues, serve in GCA roles at regional and national levels, enter and judge flower shows, inspire us with their horticulture knowledge, and dazzle us with their photography skills. As a club, we make beautiful holiday baskets in December to distribute to various agencies. At our annual plant sale and auction in the spring, we raise funds to maintain the Old Mill garden, now an arboretum, which surrounds a California Historical Landmark. The remainder of these funds, \$19,000 this year, are distributed to several community organizations. We meet each month for excursions and enriching programs, often calling upon our own membership for their expertise. And in our free time, we lovingly tend to our own gardens where we find comfort and enjoyment.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Old Mill on October 4th where Yvonne will present an exciting schedule of programs. Come ready with garden tools and gloves to prune and weed, and stories of summer to share with fellow Diggers. Don't forget to invite guests to these first few meetings! In the meantime, continue to stay well and enjoy these beautiful late summer days and evenings with family and friends.

Cheers to 100 years!

Athena

The Old Mill

The Old Mill had a very successful summer with Happy Hours and wonderful concerts. They hosted three "Music Under the Stars" summer concerts. The first featured the Sgt. Pepper Beatles Tribute Band. Willow Stephens was the performer at the July event. Finally, August wrapped up the summer concert series with the Orchid Quartet.



More fun ahead...October 6th there will be an Annual Member Appreciation Party from 6-9pm catered by Heirloom Los Angeles, and in December there will be a Members Only Holiday Party.

Digger Board Meets for Summer Alfresco Dinner!



Garden Club Of America

Please make sure to check the GCA Website often for an extraordinary range of information, educational videos, Zone information, awards, environmental updates, etc. <https://www.gcamerica.org>



Welcome!

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

Founded in 1913, The Garden Club of America is a volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization comprised of 200 member clubs and approximately 18,000 club members throughout the country.

2023 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

If you didn't have a chance to go on that tropical vacation this summer, watch the virtual GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference on October 18th to learn more about the Historic Gardens of Hawaii.



Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

Historic Gardens of Hawaii

October 18, 2023

Wed Oct 18, 2023

2023 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

Virtual

Registration opens via email in mid-September

Conservation

ConWatch is the triannual online magazine produced by the Conservation Committee. Each issue includes a series of articles drawn from research by members of the committee, conservation news from individual clubs across the country, and a reading list of books, blogs, and other media on various environmental topics. **ConWatch** articles, written by experts in the field of conservation and committee members, inform members on a wide range of topics such as sustainable agriculture, energy innovation, environmental restoration, plastics in the environment, and climate change. GCA members automatically receive **ConWatch** unless they have opted out of receiving it.

The current issue, *Summer 2023: Conservation Heroes*, showcases the work of passionate conservationists. Each hero has unique talents and shares a common love of nature. Discover Carlton Ward Jr. who uses his camera to tell the stories of endangered species. Read how Bob Berkebile pioneered the formation of the U.S. Green Building Council; and how Jack Nicklaus, the famed golfer, brought conservation practices to golf course design. Discover the heroes saving redwoods and sequoias, protecting nature through films, and of restoring hope for the wilderness .

To view the current subscription, go to the GCA website.



Zone XII rep - GCA Scholarship - Liz Gilfillan

The GCA Scholarship committee facilitates the administration and raises awareness of 29 GCA scholarships. As Zone XII representative, I participate in the selection process, evaluating applications during winter, then meeting in New York in March to select the scholarship awardees. The students, from undergraduate to PhD level, are the frontline botanists, horticulturists, landscape architects, educators and public garden administrators of the future. The evaluation and selection are most rewarding.

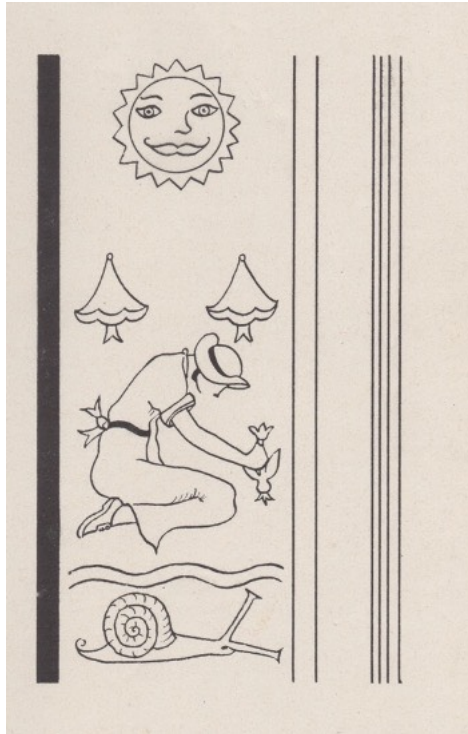


Liz hosts GCA scholarship recipient Sam Fry for tour of OM and dinner at home

In August at the end of his fellowship at Longwood Gardens, GCA 2022 interchange fellow, Sam Fry, chose to travel from Seattle to San Diego to experience the diversity of ecoregions, gardens and landscapes of the West. When I learned his itinerary included camping in Joshua Tree National Park, I invited him to stay overnight instead. Athena and I gave Sam a tour of the Old Mill gardens then spent a delightful evening over dinner in our garden. Sam shared his rich experience working at Longwood Gardens, his travels throughout the US, and his hopes for a career in horticulture and gardening in the UK.

Founder's Corner

We won't let May 8th come and go without recognizing it as the day those seven founding members met in 1924 to start the Diggers Garden Club. Stay tuned to hear more about a Founders' Day event. If you would like to help out on Cindy's centennial committee, please reach out to her!



Diggers Logo, circa 1930

Membership

Do you have a special gardening friend you'd like to propose for Diggers membership? If so, the Fall meetings are the time to bring a guest. Proposals for membership are considered in December and voted on by the membership in January. Please contact Liz with questions.

Of interest is a new initiative, GCA in the City, targeting 25 – 45 year old people living and working in New York. <https://www.gcamerica.org/members/membership#resourceid=8644>

On October 24, John Michelotti of Catskill Fungi, will present *Fungi in the Forest and Garden: A Cultivation Workshop* at GCA headquarters in midtown Manhattan.

Meet our New Member - Cathy Coquillard



I was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts but came to California very early in life.

My first exposure to flowers and gardens was my maternal grandmother who was a member of the Beverly Hills Garden Club. She never came home from anywhere without a slip of a plant wrapped in a wet paper towel. And what magic she could create with those slips! To me, her garden was a wonderland of color, fragrance and beauty.

I attended Mayfield Junior and Senior schools in Pasadena. Upon graduation I went on to Stanford University where I was an Art History major. While studying at Stanford I was fortunate to study for two semesters in Florence. The gardens of the The Pitti

Palace was a favorite spot.

After college I joined the world of retail working for such companies as I. Magnin, Macy's, QVC and Tiffany and Co. I focused on jewelry and accessories at those organizations. This background allowed me to start my own custom jewelry consulting business after retiring from the corporate world. During my working days I moved extensively and lived in six states. I was very happy to return to Pasadena.

I am honored to be a new member of The Diggers. I am very excited to meet the members, make new friends and learn from these talented, accomplished women.

Field Trip - SoFi Stadium

Mark your calendars for November 8th to tour SoFi stadium. The tour will start at 11:15 and should last 90 minutes, they ask that we arrive by 10:45. For those that would like to do lunch after, please feel free to do so on your own. Please bring a check or cash for \$53 to the October meeting (you can Venmo @Ruth-Pasqualetto) to secure your spot!