

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...

- Mar 15- Hahamonga Nursery Tour**
1:30pm (RSVP to Ruth)
- 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,

Our March meeting was held at California Botanic Garden, formerly Rancho Santa Ana

Botanic Garden.

This garden did not disappoint with its immense collection of California natives, the largest in the state. Having seen only a fraction of the 86 acres on the walking tour, I am eager to return to this wild and native landscape. Anyone



else dreaming of planting *Dendromecon harfordii*, Gold Cup Tree Poppy, in their gardens? Our tour guide told us that not a day goes by without a guest requesting to buy this plant at the CBG nursery. Native to the Channel Islands, this shrub blooms most of the year with bright yellow flowers. We need one of these at the Old Mill garden! Many thanks to Alfrida for

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...Mon 3/25 from 9:00-10:30 am
PLEASE COME

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming GCA Dates

www.gcamerica.org

Mar 17-20, 2024

NAL - Washington

Apr 16-17, 2024

Zone XII Meeting - Hancock Park

Apr 27-28, 2024

GCA Annual Mtg - Connecticut

organizing this educational tour, especially since our 2019 visit to CBG was cancelled due to the pandemic.

This time of year, Diggers are fully embracing our mission statement:

To stimulate and share the knowledge and love of gardening.

To foster an interest in conservation and protect native flora.

To encourage active participation in horticulture.

Whether we are learning about native flora at a local garden, weeding in our beautiful civic garden at the Old Mill, or planting our ten perfect pots, we are fulfilling the reason our club came together a century ago. I look forward to seeing all of you at the mill garden in April. With a deeply rooted connection and commitment to the Old Mill Garden, we are so fortunate to have it as a place to gather, learn, and encourage one another.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter!

Cheers to 100 years!

Athena



The Old Mill



Guided Nature Meditation at the Mill

Join us for a special series of four guided Mindful Outdoor Experiences to welcome the four seasons of Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter!

*Gain a deeper sense of connection with the season through mindful breathing, centering, gratitude, engaging the senses, nature meditation (sit spot) and tea ceremony.

*Set an intention for the season.

*Enjoy the beautiful gardens before open hours.

Our first gathering will be "Hello Spring" on

Saturday, March 16th at 8:00am at the Old Mill.

This series will be lead by San Marino resident and Certified Mindful Outdoor Guide, Kelly Brandt. This special series is offered to our current members of the Old Mill.

Members can bring one friend. There is no cost for this series.

Space is limited, please email Kate Sinclair at oldmill1816@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Please RSVP by March 10th.

Old Mill art related Events

New Exhibit, *Moonlight Serenade* - now through May 19, 2024

Plein Air Day: Saturday, February 24, 10am-2pm

Artists will be painting throughout the garden. There will be tables set up with art supplies and paintings for sale on our driveway, and easels will be set up for kids and adults to draw and paint. Several artists from the current exhibit will be onsite to talk about their paintings.

Garden Club Of America



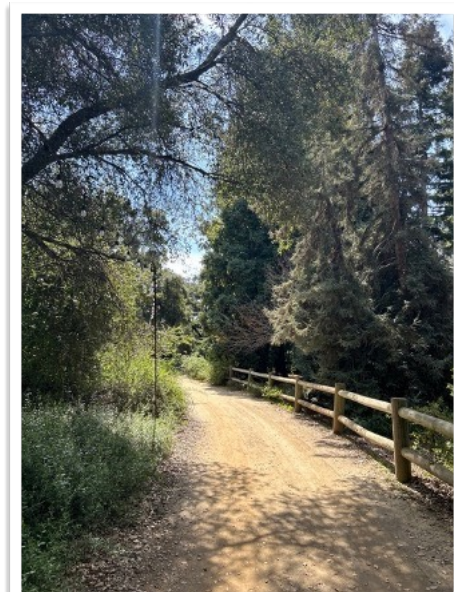
Diggers are encouraged to tune in online for the Education Day portion of the NAL Conference on Monday, March 18th. This marks the 41st annual National Affairs and Legislation Conference and all GCA members have the opportunity to “be in the room” in Washington DC, joining the conference delegates for Education Day, live-streamed via Zoom.



Hear from scientists, non-profit leaders, and members of the Administration about a host of policy issues and legislation that reflect the GCA’s mission “to restore, improve and protect the environment”.

To attend, go to the NAL Conference Event Page under the NAL Committee on the GCA website. Click on the Education Day and there will be a Zoom link. [Click here](#) to access the event page.

March Meeting - California Botanic Garden





Centennial News - Cindy

Mark your calendars for Founder's Day on May 8th!
Our Centennial Celebration of **"A Century of Diggers in Bloom, 1924-2024"** officially kicks off with a garden tour and a GCA Certificate of recognition!
You won't want to miss it!

"10 Perfect Pots" Cookbook

The Fab Four Cookbook Committee (aka ffc) plans to compile 100 recipes in 10 "perfect pot" categories (appetizers to desserts) to distribute to Diggers at our October kick-off meeting. Please send a legendary Diggers recipe, family favorite, or recent to-die-for find to yvonne.zaro@gmail.com and we will include it in the pages. Recipes sent as a word document attachment are ideal, photos emailed will be transcribed by the committee if necessary; most importantly, we would love to get contributions from as many Diggers as possible. Since there are fewer than 100 of us, more than one recipe per Digger is welcome if you're one who is just as comfortable in the kitchen as in your garden. And since there's some computer work involved, a small (edible) token of appreciation will be given to all those that send in a recipe before our kick-off celebration in May. Note that we are compilers, not a test kitchen, so please proofread your recipe before submitting it. Also, anecdotes about the recipe make the whole thing more fun. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Sincerely,

the ffc's: Susan Kranwinkle, Megan Foker, Ruth Pasqualetto and Yvonne Zaro.

Auction



The Digger Luncheon will be here sooner than later. We hope you all have your pots gathered and have begun to plan your plantings for them. We can't wait to see this year's creative energy be unharnessed. We look forward to seeing all the unique pots. Please don't forget to have one of your pots dedicated to a California Native for our ode to GCA's native plant month. If you are unsure about any of your pots, please contact your auction leader.

In terms of the attendance for the event, please get your checks for \$225 (made out to Diggers Garden Club) and your guests names to Page Haralambos. We have some Diggers bringing an extra guest or two, and we need to get an accurate count for our max capacity. Also, if you are a Digger paying your \$225 fee, and you are not bringing your two guests, please let Page know as well since there are other Diggers who might want to bring additional guests.

For our evening celebration, please get your \$75 per person checks to Nancy McGowen asap.

Please contact Kristin or myself for any other auction/luncheon questions.

Happy planting and check writing!

Angela and Kristin

Native Plant Nurseries Resource List, courtesy of our California-native-loving Sally Miller

Hahamonga Native Plant Nursery
4550 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena
Open Wed-Sun 9-3

Contact Ruth if you want to go on the Field Trip to this Nursery on Friday March 15th.

Open Tue-Sat 8:30-4:30

California Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave, Claremont
Open Fri-Sun 10-4

Plant Material
3081 Lincoln Ave, Altadena
Open Tue-Sun 10-4

Other nurseries that may have some natives:
Lincoln Ave Nursery
Armstrongs
Bellefontaine

Theodore Payne Foundation
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley

Founder's Corner - Gwen



Founding Member Renaltje W. Schenck Paxton (1880 – 1947)

Renaltje Schenck was born in Dayton, Ohio, the daughter of Robert Cummins Schenck and Julia Crane Davies Schenck. She married Charles Francis Paxton in 1905, and they moved to Pasadena soon after. They had two daughters Mary Paxton Thacker (1907-1967) (Westridge 1924) and Jean Paxton Peterson (1920-1963) (Westridge 1938).

This is their house at 1150 South Orange Grove in Pasadena.



This is a glass slide from the Library of Congress of the house while still on Orange Grove Blvd.

The house was designed by architect Reginald Johnson. was moved to 255 Hillside Road in South Pasadena. Westridge School owned it when it was purchased and moved by decorator, Cheryl Fremdling, who had lived there and loved it. It was divided into five sections and was moved in 1973 to 255 Hillside Road, South Pasadena. Here is a more recent picture of it at its new address.



255 Hillside Road, South Pasadena, the former home of Renaltje Schenck Paxton.

Charles and Renaltje Paxton are buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena. Their daughters are buried in other states.

On a side note.....

One of the Paxton granddaughters, Jean Paxton Thacker, was a student for several years at Polytechnic School. She was one of the lost alums of my class of 1950. I managed to find her through genealogy sources and help from friends and experts. She studied at the University of Madrid in Spain, married a Spaniard in the Spanish Air Force, Alvaro Melendez, and had two sons, Alvaro Melendez Thacker Jr. and Jaime Melendez Thacker. Thanks to Jaime, I learned about her life in Madrid. She unfortunately died of Alzheimer's two years ago, leaving her husband, two sons, a daughter-in-law and two grandsons.

Conservation - Carlin McCarthy

CALIFORNIA DECLARES APRIL AS NATIVE PLANT MONTH

California's ten Garden Club of America-affiliated clubs are pleased to announce that April has been officially declared "California Native Plant Month." Authored by State Senator Steve Glazer and Assemblyman Mark Berman, the Bill AR-49 was passed into law on May 3, 2023. California will celebrate its native plants in April for years to come.

Native Plant Month is a nationwide initiative of The Garden Club of America (GCA) across all 50 states to increase awareness of the critical role native plants play in supporting a healthy environment, biodiversity, and providing the habitat for pollinators and wildlife to survive.

Our state's vast agricultural lands, and its many varied climate zones, make California's ecosystems most vulnerable. Natives provide food and protection for pollinators such as native bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife, and without pollinators the natives will not survive. Through this Native Plant Month designation, the cycle of biodiversity will thrive. California and its citizens can engage and make a difference.

The California GCA affiliated clubs, with over 1,200 members, are located in Marin, Piedmont, Orinda, Hillsborough, Woodside-Atherton, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Hancock Park, Pasadena (2), and Santa Barbara. Visiting local parks and plant nurseries provide resources and ideas for learning more about incorporating native plants into your own communities and gardens. Please keep an eye out for activities such as native plant sales, field trips, school activities, and more in local media sources.

The Garden Club of America is a nonprofit national organization composed of 200 clubs with nearly 18,000 members who devote energy and expertise to projects in their communities and across the United States. Founded in 1913, the GCA is a leader in horticulture, conservation and civic improvement. Visit the GCA website, www.gcamerica.org, to learn more about the organization.

For more information about the initiative, visit <https://www.gcamerica.org/nnpmi>. To read the GCA's Position Paper on native plants, visit [GCA NNPMI Position Paper](#).

Local visiting gardens for native plant viewing:

Los Angeles County Arboretum (Arcadia)

Descanso Gardens (La Canada)

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens (San Marino)

The Old Mill (San Marino)
Arlington Gardens (Pasadena)
La Casita del Arroyo (Pasadena)
California Botanic Garden (Claremont)

More Conservation - Carlin

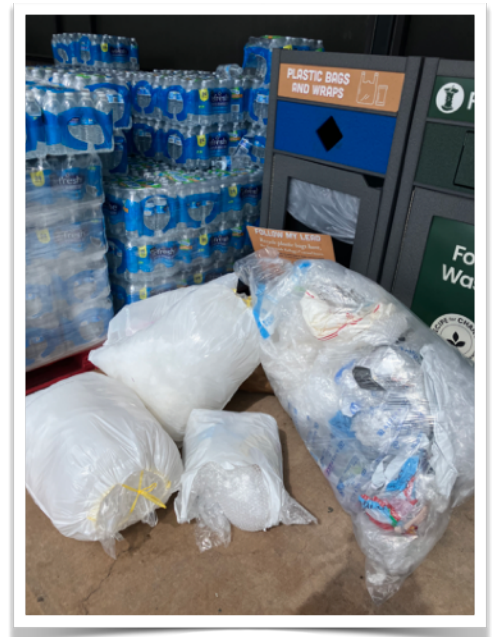
NEXTREX RECYCLING CHALLENGE

We took in a big haul last month. We are now up to 42 lbs. that we have collected! Keep it coming!

Athena will put the collection box out on her front patio the week of our meeting, so please feel free to drop by and drop off! Happy recycling everyone!

Click on the link to see what you CAN recycle: https://nextrex.com/jsfapp/cdocs/w493_q2_sp21_0_trex-recycling-posterpdf.pdf

This link to see what you CANNOT Recycle under the Trex program: https://nextrex.com/jsfapp/cdocs/20220811141301_9_jsfwd_493_q2_1.pdf



Endowment - Debbe Booth

If you have any ideas for Endowment Fund projects, please contact Debbe. We have money to spend!



Membership - Liz

Welcome new Diggers Lisa Weithas, Amy Kessel and Kelly Dunn!

If you see them at the Auction, be sure to welcome them with characteristic Diggers good humor and genuine mentorship. The Membership committee extends a warm thank you to the proposers and seconders for making this process so smooth.

Scholarship - Liz

In early March the Scholarship Committee met at GCA headquarters to review the proposed 2024 GCA scholars whose unique passions align with the GCA's mission to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment. Thanks to the careful management of GCA's endowment funds and the generosity of members, clubs, and friends this is an historic year for scholarship. A record \$459,000 for ninety-nine scholars, twenty percent of whom are from Zone XII in fields including desert studies, native plants, medicinal botany, and urban forestry.



Hattie Moore, GCA Interchange Fellow speaks with great enthusiasm and pride. Slides of Hattie learning new skills (rescue of fallen tree trimmer, sawing tree trunks).

Horticulture - Alfrida King

On March 6th, 22 intrepid Diggers braved the impending rain storm to travel to Claremont to celebrate native plants at the California Botanic Garden. The California Botanic garden is the largest and oldest botanic garden in California. Our guides, Tom, Jennifer and Paul, led us on a colorful and informative tour of the garden. We were able to see many different cultivars of familiar native plants and get a sampling of plants that have medicinal, edible and/or fragrant qualities. Our guides were able to identify some natives that would thrive in pots, in preparation for our Perfect Digger Pots. During our guided tour we were lucky to have sunshine and gorgeous clouds.

Lunch was enjoyed under a California Live Oak on a couple of picnic tables. As the storm approached, we noshed and had our meeting while keeping an eye on the gathering and darkening clouds. Fortunately, the rain held off until we were well on our way home.



Alfrida pictured with what our "challenge" plant potential may be!

Goals...Alfrida with a potted Verbena lilacina 'Paseo Rancho' at California Botanic Garden

Zone XII News

Frank Lloyd Wright Garden Symposium: His Southern California Work and Legacy

As you know, Hancock Park GC is hosting the upcoming Zone XII meeting which will take place April 16-17 and is limited to invited guests only. They have generously made registration for some of the pre-meeting opportunities available to Diggers and PGC as well. **If you would like to attend the April 13th symposium at the special member rate, click on the link below.** This sounds like a wonderful and unique opportunity. I will forward the link to the Sunday Garden tours when they are available later this month. **If you would like to tour the Ennis House on Sunday (limit 20), contact the Zone-meeting chairs, Gina and Flo, directly as soon as possible.**

<https://www.gardenconservancy.org/store/flw-symposium-partner>

Scrip - Clare Tayback



Easter is right around the corner. Please consider buying scrip before the end of the month. Clare is willing to drop off your scrip and pick up checks preferably the week of March 18th. The money we earn helps us send Diggers to conferences! Email Clare!!