

SEPTEMBER 2015



DIGGERS DIRT

Volume 11 Issue 1 2015-2016

www.diggersgardenclub.com



Diggers Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Old Mill Work Day

Propagation Opportunity & Plant Exchange

10:30 Work in the Garden- bring gloves, rakes, clippers,
trash bags and \$ to buy scrip!
12:00 sack lunch & meeting

GUESTS WELCOME!

Great Meeting for Prospective Members!

December Meeting Holiday Boutique

We will be holding a Holiday Boutique to raise funds for our Club Account to help pay for Diggers to attend GCA Meetings. Bring anything you think other Diggers would like to buy for Holiday gifts. If you just want to be a “buyer”, that is fine too! Ideas include:

- Craft- homemade or “found”
- Canned or preserved food
- Holiday decorations
- Note cards, note pads, aprons
- Auction Teams can sponsor a themed basket
- Desserts delivered once a month
- Experiences such as garden advice
- Vacation Homes
- Gardening books you’ve already digested



General Meetings

October 7

November 4

December 2

January 6

February 3

March 2

April 6

Auction Prep

April 18th & 19th

Auction - April 20th

At Lisa Evan's

May 3

June 1

Board Meetings

are the Mondays preceding General Meetings. The next one is at noon on October 5th at Carlin's home. Let Carlin know if you want to attend.

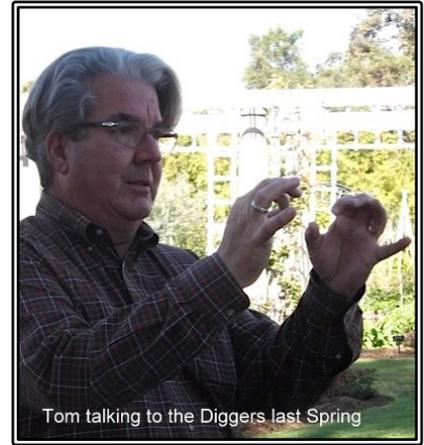
CONSERVATION CORNER

TOM CARRUTH'S ROSE GARDEN WATER SAVING TIPS

1. A thick layer of mulch is absolutely necessary. It helps in many ways by keeping the soil cool, conserving water & diminishing weeds. It also becomes an integral part of your soil's health as it gradually breaks down over the season.
2. Only irrigate in the early morning hours when the water usage is most efficient. And, yes, water your roses overhead. It's actually beneficial in our Southern California climate and keeps the plant better hydrated.
3. Convert your sprinkler heads to lower volume models. Consult with your irrigation supply manager for the best choice. Drip irrigation is problematic because it's hard to spot a clogged emitter until after the plant is already beyond the point of no return.
4. Water less often but more deeply. Plants that are watered too frequently have shallow roots that don't seek water. Deeply watered plants have their roots deeper in the soil where they seek water out.
5. Instead of running full time for a station, break the time into multiple shorter sessions. This allows the water to penetrate deeper and prevents excessive runoff. i.e. Instead of running a station for 25 minutes at the heat of summer, have it come on for 8 minutes in one hour, 8 minutes in the next hour & the final 8 in the third hour.
6. Supplement your younger plantings by hand watering as needed until the roots get more established.
7. How often you water depends on your individual soil. Take a small spade to probe the soil before just making the decision. A soil probe is also useful. Don't just assume it's time to water.
8. It's important to frequently monitor and maintain your sprinkler system to avoid broken pipes, clogged heads, blocked watering patterns and overall efficiency.

Follow my rose garden tweets @TomCarruthRoses

(Thank you to Sally Wenzlau for this submission)



Tom talking to the Diggers last Spring

GCA DATES

www.gcamerica.org

Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference

Seattle, WA
September 21-23, 2015

NAL Conservation Conference

Washington, DC
February 22-25, 2016

GCA Annual Meeting

Minneapolis, MN
May 19-23, 2016

Pasadena Garden Club

Flower Show
April 22- 24, 2016

Zone XII Meeting

Broadmoor GC, CO
June 21-23, 2016

GCA Bulletin Submissions

Nov 15 for Winter Issue
Feb 15 for Spring Issue
May 15 for Summer Issue
Aug 15 for Fall Issue

GCA eNews Submissions

10th or every month except
June

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

DO YOU HAVE SEEDS OR A SEED STORY TO SHARE?

Sally Harris and Yvonne Zaro will be attending the Shirley Meneice Conference. If you have seeds to share, **please deliver them to Yvonne by September 16th**. If you have a seed story, email (or tell it) it to one of them.

You can download a template for 2" x 4" labels (such as Avery 8163) and print the template on label paper. Fill out, print, and apply the labels to #3 (2.5" x 4.25") coin envelopes available at office supply stores or online. To customize these envelopes, choose from these 3 templates available on the GCA Website under Horticulture. Go to Collecting Seeds and click on "package". You will find the following seed templates:

1. **2015 GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference Seed Packet**
2. **2016 GCA Annual Meeting Seed Packet**
3. **Blank templates to be used for club or zone seed exchanges**

GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference Seed Share 2015	
Botanical Name:	Plant Type:
Common Name:	
Hardiness Zone:	
Donor's Name:	Club:
Information:	



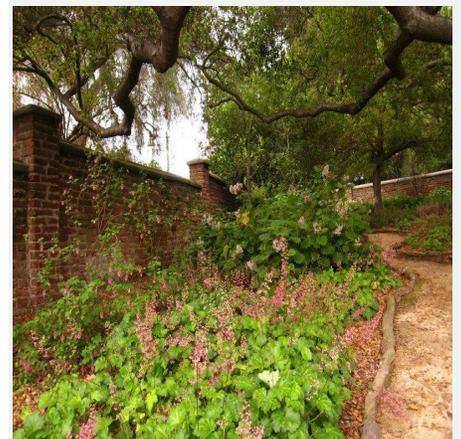
OLD MILL UPDATES

The Old Mill is turning **200** next year in 2016! Watch for upcoming special events. Check out the new web page at www.old-mill.org

OLD MILL WORK DAYS: 9-11 AM

October 7 (Digger meeting)
Friday, November 6
Tuesday, January 12
Friday, February 19
Wednesday, March 15
Friday, May 13

Also most Tuesdays. Check with Eugenie Schlueter or Yvonne Zaro.



AMAZING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Susan Kranwinkle presented Awards at the June 3, 2105 Annual Meeting:

The Club Conservation Award was presented to **Bette Cooper** because she lives it! Bette is the very embodiment of conservation.

The Club Appreciation Award was presented to **Sally Miller** who works tirelessly on our annual beautiful Digger book and made our 90th Birthday Book.



The Club Communications Award was presented to **Sara Pelton** for her beautiful and thoughtful Digger Dirt, a tough act to follow.

*Bette Cooper, Sara Pelton, Sally Miller, Susan Kranwinkle)
(photo-shopped by Sally Miller!)*

AND... **Debby Smith**, an Absentee Member Digger, received a **Seattle Garden Club Award: Commendation of Spirited & Enthusiastic Participation!**

IN MEMORIAM



We are sorry to say good-bye to Polly Ellis who passed away in July. Polly had been a faithful Digger since 1964. She was President from 1988 to 1990 and received the GCA Medal of Merit Award in 2003. Her family is donating a garden bench to the Old Mill in her memory. It will be unveiled in the St. Francis Garden at our October meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: INTRODUCING CLARE TAYBACK, the newest Digger.

We sent her a list of questions and loved all her answers so much, we couldn't edit them down!



1. ***Tell us about your family:*** I have a husband (Chris), two children (Olivia, a graduate of Westridge on her way to Stanford this fall, and Will, a Sophomore at Prep), a golden retriever (Bisquit), a box turtle (Speedy) and countless fish in my fountains!

2. ***Where did you grow up and did you garden growing up?*** I grew up in a small town at 7,000 feet in the middle of nowhere in Wyoming. My mother and maternal grandmother were both huge gardeners and made the most of Wyoming's short gardening season (three months). In her heyday, my grandmother had a vegetable garden that covered an entire acre! My mom had (and has) a pretty cutting garden in summers. So many flowers remind me of them both! Unfortunately, my favorites from the high-altitude, short-summer climate don't grow here: lilacs and peonies. I do have the old-fashioned Scottish roses we all treasured, though! I grew up alongside my mom in the garden and made really excellent and beautiful mud pies with some of her prize flowers!



3. ***Do you have a favorite garden?*** My favorite garden is Chelsea Physic Garden in London. It is swoon-worthy: a small, walled garden established in 1673 along the Thames in Chelsea. In the days when "the sun never set on the Empire", British explorers brought back plants from all over the world to Chelsea Physic, which began as an apothecary garden devoted to the study of the medicinal value of plants. Many of the plants still are used medicinally today, and there are wonderful little educational postings about those plants and other edible and useful plants as well. This is a charming, small, tucked-away spot that always has something

interesting blooming--and you can get a morning coffee or a pre-dinner glass of wine! Heaven.

4. ***Do you have a favorite plant/part/feature in your garden?*** At our house, we have what we call "the drought garden" with a central bubbler fountain and four quadrants anchored by pomegranate trees. Salvias, scented geraniums, and old-fashioned flat-faced roses are intermixed with succulents on DG paths. We have a sycamore-shaded gravel dining area at the edge of this garden. It is our favorite place to wander and to have lunch on

weekends. We have a little vegetable garden with tomatoes, herbs and strawberries that our children have tended since they were babies. My latest quest is a cutting garden of dahlias! And learning the proper names of plants!

5. ***Do you have a good garden story?*** Some years ago, I agreed to a tour of my garden by a local garden club. At the start of the tour, I described the history of our house (built in 1929) and the work we have done on the gardens. From the back of a group, a small voice said, "My cousin grew up in this house!" It turned out to be the 90-something cousin of one of the original children who lived in the house! I invited this lovely lady back for lunch one day and we walked the house and garden together. She was quite pleased that the house retained its original character and loved what we had done with the gardens. She especially loved that the several hundred year old sycamore trees were still the focal point of the gardens. It was magical being taken back in time with her!
6. ***Do you have a favorite gardening book/tool/tip?*** My little Felco pruning shears are always in my pocket when I step out the door. I insist our gardener leave things to grow somewhat wildly, so I have to make several passes a week through the garden to make sure things don't get too out of control! I love having the oils of scented geraniums, lavender, and rosemary on my hands when I finish.

VISITING GARDENS

If you have an idea for a local garden to visit, contact ***Kathy Miller***, our Visiting Gardens Chair.

The **GCA Visiting Gardens Committee** plans trips both in the United States and abroad to educate members of GCA clubs in garden history and design, horticulture, and the environment. The committee also facilitates club member visits to the gardens of other GCA club members throughout the United States as well as the gardens of GCA international courtesy clubs.

Current Visiting Gardens trips on the GCA Website are listed below. To sign up for a Trip Interest List, send an email to gcainterestlists@gmail.com and include your name, email address, GCA club and zone, and the name of the trip. General questions concerning Visiting Gardens or trip suggestions may be sent to: visitinggardens@gcamerica.org. (Please do not use this address for Interest Lists requests.)

- **Cuba:** The Splendor of Cuba, November 6-13, 2015
- **Mississippi:** Natchez and the Old South, April 10-15, 2016
- **Enchanting Tuscany:** Villas and Gardens, May 3-13, 2016
- **Portland, Oregon:** The City of Roses, July 10-15, 2016.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Anyone can submit a photo to the GCA website! Email photos to Eve Barrett, Zone XII Vice Chair, at eb161949@gmail.com. She is looking for photos of clubs in action: hikes, work days, special events, and workshops. Email the photos as an attachment in a horizontal image in JPEG format with a brief description. Did you see the current photo of the Diggers on the Foraging Hike on the Zone XII Landing Page? Annette submitted it!

If you have photos for the **Diggers Dirt**, please email them as an attachment to Carlin. Thanks to Sally Miller and the Diggers Website for this Dirt's photos.

