

November 2016



DIGGERS DIRT

Volume 12 Issue 3 2016-2017
www.diggersgardenclub.com

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Liz Gilfillan's ~ 1290 Hillcrest Avenue

Holiday Baskets & Holiday Bake Sale

10:30 AM ~ Gather

10:30 to 11:45 ~ Assemble Holiday Baskets

Bring small baskets, clippers, scissors, ribbons, bows, special garden cuttings. Greens from the flower mart will be provided; Delivery drivers will be needed

11:45 ~ Holiday Bake Sale followed by sack lunch & meeting. Cash or Checks. Bring \$ for scrip!

GUESTS WELCOME!

Great Meeting for Prospective Members!

Regrets Only to Carlin

BAKE SALE - Bring any sort of homemade food or drink to sell to other Diggers to raise funds for our Club Account!

MEMBERSHIP - Proposal letters for new members are due to the President by December 15th. Please see the Membership Procedures in the Roster for an explanation of the process and the Sponsor Responsibilities. Contact Annie Fraser if you have any questions.



General Meetings

October 5
November 2
Joint Meeting - November 15th
December 7
January 4
February (date change) 8
March 1
April 5
Auction Prep - April 24th & 25th
Auction - April 26th
- at The Old Mill
May 3
June 7

Field Trips

October 19
January 18
March 15
May 17

Board Meetings

Generally, Mondays preceding the General Meetings, the next one will be at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, December 6th at Mary B.'s home. Let Carlin know if you want to attend.

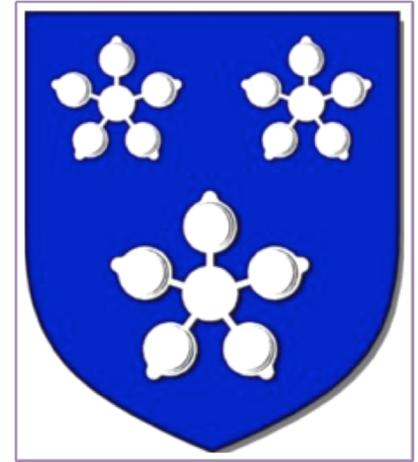
HORTICULTURE

CHALLENGE PLANT: *Fragaria Mara des Bois* ~ hybridized by Jacques Marionnet

At the November meeting, Cathy Tosetti presented each of us with an exciting challenge plant - a very special strawberry, *Fragaria* "Mara des Bois." Hybridized and introduced by Jacques Marionnet in Soings En Sologne France in 1991, it is an ever-bearing intensely sweet and flavorful strawberry. A cross of four different heirloom varieties, it was bred to recapture the flavor of wild strawberries (*fraises des bois*). Smaller than most commercially grown strawberries, it does not ship well due to its soft flesh, but is considered to have the best flavor of any other strawberry currently in cultivation. The plants grow 12-15" tall and spread to 12-24" wide. "Mara des Bois" berries are conical in shape with an unusual red-orange color. Plants produce fruit summer through early fall.

Fragrance, the original quality that gave the strawberry genus its name, *Fragaria*, is what is missing most from modern day commercial berries. Commercial strawberries are bred for large size, firmness, high production, attractive color and pest resistance – not flavor! The Mara Des Bois is also steeped in legend, intrigue and mystery...The story begins centuries ago, when Julius de Berry (!), gifted French King Charles the Simple with a gift of strawberries. He was knighted, took the strawberry flowers as his coat of arms, and changed his name to "Fraser."

Remember that the commercial strawberry is one of the most pesticide ridden. Take good care of your plant, pull off the first green berries, and you will be rolling in sweet, delicious strawberries by our June meeting. Let it grow in the pot for at least a couple of months; then pot it up a bit. It is in a 5" pot now; you could pot up to a 6". Fertilize sparingly until late February, when everything starts to grow. Cathy uses "Sea Grow" from San Gabriel Nursery.



GCA DATES

www.gcamerica.org

Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference; Brooklyn, NY
September 19-21, 2016
Attended by Mary Blodgett and Clare Tayback

NAL Conservation Conference; Washington, DC
February 27 – Mar 2, 2017
Will be attended by Marcia Albrecht and Yvonne Zaro

2017 GCA Annual Meeting
Baltimore
May 4-6, 2017

2018 GCA Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA
April 26-29, 2018

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROSTER CORRECTIONS/UPDATES:

- Mimi Jones' email is happycañon2002@yahoo.com
 - Gretl Mulder's email is gretlmulder@yahoo.com
 - Susan Kranwinkle's email is skranwinkle1@icloud.com
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- February 1st meeting has been changed to February 8th

DIGGER ANNUAL PHOTO BOOK:

Please contact Sally Miller if you would like to order one.



JOINT MEETING WITH PASADENA & HANCOCK PARK GARDEN CLUBS

Thank you to the Pasadena Garden Club for organizing a Joint Meeting with the Diggers, Pasadena and Hancock Park Garden Clubs on Tuesday, November 15th at The Huntington. We were joined by all our Zone XII Leadership!

J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director at *Fresh Energy*, an independent nonprofit working to speed the transition to a clean energy economy in Minnesota, spoke to us about Global Warming in regards to international, state & local issues, with an optimistic approach. She was a featured speaker at last year's NAL Conference. Because of the clean energy policies Fresh Energy helped drive, Minnesota now has over 15,000 clean energy jobs and the number of clean energy businesses has grown by 122% since 2000. She demonstrated how the cost of alternative energies has declined and that many corporations are converting to renewable energy because it is more cost effective. She also showed pictures of her organic peaches, pears and plums which have won blue ribbons at the Minnesota State Fair!

OLD MILL WORKDAYS

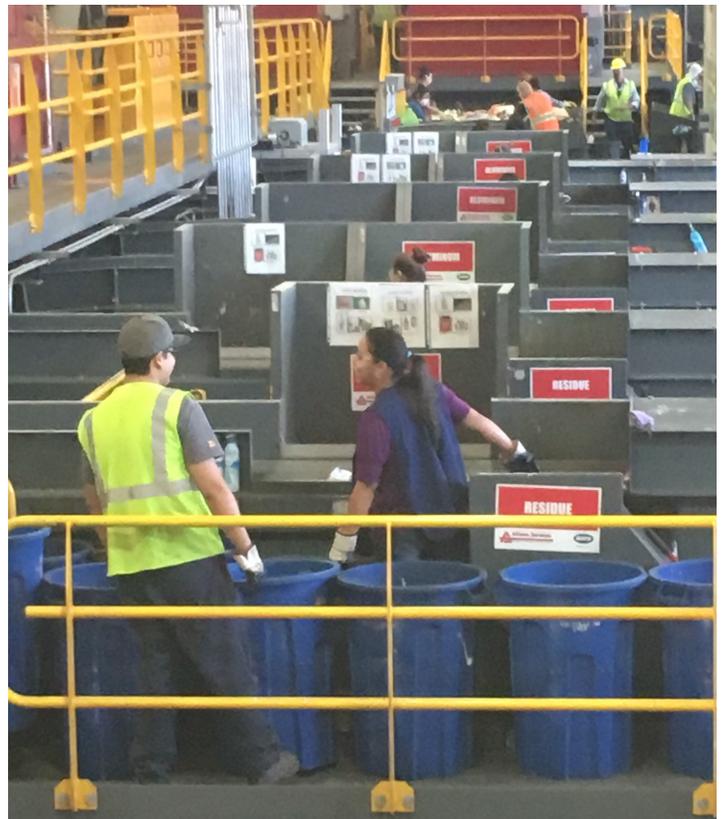
www.old-mill.org

Eugenie & Yvonne are generally at the Old Mill **TUESDAYS** from 9-11 AM. New members and their sponsors are asked to come help 1x/month, other members at least twice during the year. A few Fridays will be added during the year for those who can't come on Tuesdays.

ATHENS SERVICES FIELD TRIP

Sally and Kathy organized a fantastic trip to the Athens Materials Recovery Center in Sun Valley. Athens is the waste collection company for much of Southern California. We carpoled up and were very impressed with the professional crew who gave us a tour. Apparently, they are able to recycle approximately 60 % of their “trash”.

Conveyor lines at the Athens high-tech waste separation facility in Sun Valley opened in 2014. A first of its kind in Los Angeles, this facility is LEED® certified, equipped with a solar power collection system and furnished with the latest energy efficient, environmental controls available in the industry. The operation is fully enclosed and equipped with fast acting doors and a misting system to assist with mitigating odor, dust, and storm water impacts. Athens is continuing to convert its existing truck and mobile fleet to alternative fuel powered vehicles.



Link to video of Athens Plant at: <https://youtu.be/He2hT7HLcfg> .You won't get all the great commentary and stories that we heard on our Field Trip, but it's only 4 minutes and still fun to watch.

Athens Recycling Tips compiled by Sally Miller

You don't need to do anything special for Athens - just throw everything in dumpster or barrel. Having said that - here are a few tips from Johnny, Operations Manager.

- No need to wash out cans and bottles for Athens. Do wash them out if you want to keep bugs, varmints, and smells out of your trash. (I think the City of Pasadena wants containers rinsed out, says Sally M.)
- No need to take lids off containers.
- Throw wet paper towels in trash, not recycling.
- Try to keep newspapers dry. Maybe put in a plastic bag.
- Do not throw away batteries or light bulbs. Take them to an e-waste recycling location. OSH accepts batteries and light bulbs. Put tape on the ends of all old batteries while you're collecting them.

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***The Athens group gathering to carpool from Sally Miller's!
And no, we didn't coordinate our color scheme!***

GCA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, April 27-29, 2018



This Zone XII hosted meeting will be here before we know it! It will be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel on the SF waterfront across from the Ferry Building.

Planning sessions are underway for everything from the nitty gritty of how to get people on buses to the glorious Awards Banquet. The Decorations team from Carmel is dreaming big as well. Plans for all the trips outside the hotel are nearing completion with outings scheduled to the GCA Redwood Grove, Napa, Filoli and various club project sites in the Bay Area, as well as a day in San Francisco itself. Exciting Flower Show plans are well formed and Zone Dinner locations decided. The scarf design is almost complete and will be available for sale June 1, 2017. You can see the poppy logo above. Poppies grow in all 7 Zone XII states!

There will be numerous opportunities to volunteer; volunteer sign up will begin in May.

VISITING GARDENS

If you have an idea of a local garden to visit on a field trip, contact Kathy Miller or Sally Miller.

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.)

- Portugal: Quintas, Gardens and Azulejos, March 27-April 7, 2017
- Nashville: Music City and Spring Gardens, April 23 - 28, 2017
- Sweden: Midsummer Gardens & Castles, July 9-20, 2017
- Scotland, July 21-28, 2018