

**MAY 2016**



## General Meetings

October 7  
November 4  
December 2  
January 6  
February 3  
March 2  
April 6  
Auction Prep-  
April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>  
Auction - April 20<sup>th</sup>  
- at Lisa Evans'  
May 4  
June 1

## Board Meetings

The next Board Meeting is at 10:30 AM on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Ruth's home. Please let Carlin know if you would like to attend.

# DIGGERS DIRT

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[www.diggersgardenclub.com](http://www.diggersgardenclub.com)

**Wednesday ~ June 1, 2016**

**Mary Anne's**

**591 Garden Lane, Pasadena**

**Annual Meeting**

**10:30 AM ~ Gather & Coffee**

**11 to 12 ~ Meeting**

**12 to 1 ~ Lunch hosted by Mary Anne and Carlin**

**Please RSVP to Carlin for headcount if you didn't sign up at May Meeting**

**Bring \$ for scrip**



## Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award



**Mud Baron** of Muir Ranch received The Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull at our May Meeting. For more than five years, Mr. Baron and a dedicated team of volunteer teachers and students have been converting 1.5 acres on the John Muir school campus into an urban farm known as Muir Ranch. Mr. Baron engages children as young as twelve years old who receive community service/internship hours once they become students at Muir high school.

At Muir Ranch CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), orders are filled weekly and delivered to subscribers. Students learn how to run a business by selling fruits and vegetables at the farm stand. In this way, Mr. Baron teaches the students important business and life skills, the Ranch teaching program is supported and the communities of northeast Los Angeles have access to fresh, affordable and locally-grown produce and flowers.

The award process was spearheaded by Diggers Scholarship Chair, Liz Gilfillan, supported by Susan Kranwinkle and Sally Miller. Marilyn Brumder of the Pasadena Garden Club and Mikala Rahn provided the seconding letters needed. All were in attendance when Mud received the award, including Leelee Doughty, the Zone XII Scholarship Chairman who offered much advice through the process.



*Diggers Touring Muir Ranch*



*Muir Ranch at John Muir High School*

## WINERY FIELD TRIP

**COMING UP!!** Cindy Wenzlau graciously invited all Diggers and their husbands to her beautiful vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills near Lompoc for a tour, a tasting and lunch on May 14th. Many Diggers are going up Friday night, some Saturday morning. Please let Cindy know if you have changed your plans.



## DIGGERS GO ON AMAZON SMILE!

For all you Amazon shoppers out there, the Diggers Garden Club is officially part of Amazon Smile. This will send 0.5% of our Amazon purchases toward our little garden club.

The below link will take you to Amazon Smile, and automatically have your purchases send credit to the Diggers. This WILL NOT change your Amazon Prime settings, or any other feature on Amazon.

Please start shopping! Thank you Susan Babcock for setting us up!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3492429>

## OLD MILL

### LET'S GET THE OLD MILL READY FOR SUMMER!

Eugenie or Yvonne are working at the Old Mill most Tuesdays. The last scheduled work day for this year is Friday, May 13th before we start a summer schedule. Please confirm with Yvonne if you are coming.

### GCA DATES- Updated!

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

**Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference**, Brooklyn, NY  
September 19-21, 2016

**NAL Conservation Conference**, Washington, DC  
Feb 27- Mar 2, 2017

**GCA Annual Meeting**  
Minneapolis  
May 19-23, 2016

**Pasadena Garden Club Flower Show**  
Pasadena Public Library  
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**  
10<sup>th</sup> of every month except June

# HORTICULTURE NEWS

## May ~ Like Joseph's Technicolor Coat! By Sally Harris, Horticulture Chair



### *(Joan Banning's garden)*

This is not a month for the faint of heart. It is as if some magic gnome snuck into our garden overnight and transformed it into a blaze of colors. This is a true test of all the choices made over the last few months. Take pictures so Fall editing will be easier.

Don't forget that **GREEN IS A COLOR**. We can easily overload our senses with orange, red and yellow but it takes a brave heart to just think in terms of texture. Lisa's garden was a GREAT example. Also, consider companion plants in lime or chartreuse instead of the usual grey. It can really punch up your color scheme. However, choose one, not both or keep them in separate areas. Greys are good with pastels and lime is good with just about anything as it is a step away from green. In the end, it is YOUR garden and you live with it every day so just use your own common sense.

As if you didn't need to be told, nurseries also have blooming roses now. They may be more expensive but "what you see is what you get". Something I've noticed....some who are redoing their parkway beds are so intent on saving water that the bed looks like the desert and then 3' away ( in their yard) is a lush oasis. There ARE drought tolerants that can mimic the existing yard by color, shape or texture.

### Buy/Plant

- Summer annuals - marigolds, zinnias, coreopsis, petunias, impatiens, zinnias, hardy geraniums, coleus, blooming bearded iris, salvia, verbena and many more.
- Perennials - daylilies, lychnis, lambs ears, convolvulus, artemisia, rudebeckis, pentas, verbena, salvia, gaura.....
- Herbs, vegetables like eggplant, tomatoes, and peppers, and PUMPKINS!
- Citrus - think LIMES for those margaritas. "Semi dwarf" means 10+ feet tall and potted about 4+ feet.

### Maintenance

- Dead head roses
- Tie up tomatoes
- Thin out fruit on fruit trees
- Check roses for labels
- Weed, weed, weed

### Prune

- Spring blooming shrubs - weigelia, viburnum, dogwood, wisteria
- Tropicals - hibiscus, abutilon, brugmansia, brunsfelia, princess flower
- Camellias and azaleas

**Fertilize/Amend** ~ Everything needs help after the first big bloom. Try 1T fish emulsion, 1/2 tsp kelp meal with 1 gal of water. For Azaleas and camellias try cottonseed meal and iron.

**Tip:** Don't train your Wisteria AROUND a pole or it may BECOME your pole.

# VISITING GARDENS- NEW TRIPS ANNOUNCED

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:visitinggardens@gcamerica.org). (Please do not use this address for Interest Lists requests.)

## VISITING GARDENS 2017 TRIPS:

- **Portugal:** Quintas, Gardens and Azulejos, March 27 - April 7, 2017. Gifted guide, Susie Orso, will lead a special trip to Portugal, beginning in Porto in the North and visiting the Douro region, and then traveling southward to Coimbra, Batalha and Obidos, and finally Lisbon and Sintra. This trip is due to be released in early June for registration. IF you have ANY interest at all in going, you should sign up on the interest list NOW!
- **Nashville,** April 23 - 28, 2017: Nashville, an exciting and vibrant city, is the home of country music and fabulous gardens, including many listed in the Smithsonian Institute's Archives of American Gardens. Members of the Garden Club of Nashville will welcome us into their homes and gardens.
- **Hawaii,** May 18 - 25, 2017: Experience the magic of this tropical island paradise: visit the only royal palace in the country; tour and dine in private, kama'aina homes and gardens; learn haku and lei making with GCA award winning floral designers; enjoy docent led tours of Honolulu Museum of Art, long time home of the Garden Club of Honolulu's Major Flower Shows, and Shangri La, Doris Duke's exotic oceanfront estate; and then travel on to Kaua'i, the Garden Isle, where three National Botanical Gardens await you.
- **Sweden:** Midsummer Gardens & Castles, July 9 - 20, 2017: This trip, under the guidance of Antonia Lloyd Owen, a colleague of Susie Orso, will begin in Copenhagen and travel to Lund, Gothenburg, Sodertuna, Stockholm, with visits to both private and public gardens, castles and private homes.

## VISITING GARDENS 2018 TRIPS THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR:

**Scotland,** July 21 - 28, 2018: Julia Fortescue and Anne Chambers, who organized the Visiting Gardens trips to the Cotswolds in 2012 and Ireland in 2015, will lead this trip, beginning in Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland, and then traveling to the Borders Region, Fife, and the Highlands north of Perth. Julia and Anne have extensive connections in Scotland, providing them with unparalleled access to private gardens and homes.