

Volume 8
Issue 2
2012-2013

DIGGER DIRT



Important Dates

General Meetings

- October 3rd
- November 7th
- December 5th
- January 9th
- February 6th
- March 6th
- April 3rd

Auction Prep:

- April 15th & 16th Auction!!!
- April 17th

- April 23rd Joint Mtg. at Huntington with PGC & HPGC

No May Meeting

June 5th

Board Meeting

December 4th,
10:30a.m.
at Tracy's

GCA Dates

Shirley Meneice
Hort. Workshop
Oct. 21-24

NAL/Conservation

Washington D.C.
Feb. 25-27, 2013

2013 Centennial

Annual Meeting
Philadelphia
April 30 - May 2

Centennial

Celebration
Dedication Week
New York City
June 1 - 7, 2013

General Meeting December 5th

10:30a.m. at Debbe Booth's

Holiday Baskets

This is a great meeting to bring a guest!

Every guest will make a basket to take home!



Bring gloves, clippers, cuttings from your garden, spare baskets, holiday ribbons & gee-gaws.

Don't forget your lunch & a check for scrip.

The General Meeting will begin at 12.

*****Please, no guests at the meeting*****
as we will be discussing membership.

Regrets Only to Judy McDonald

Please let Judy know if you are available to deliver the baskets after the meeting!

Excerpt from *little tree* by e.e. cummings

... look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and
allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and
gold the fluffy threads,
put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place
dark or unhappy ...

Letters for potential new members are due to the President by December 15.

Scroll down to page 2 for Partnership for Plants info & cool garden apps!



Partnerships for Plants Mark your calendars!

The Pasadena Garden Club responded enthusiastically to the prospect of a GCA Partners for Plants project and the membership is particularly pleased we'll be working with Diggers & Hancock Park Garden Clubs. We'll be working with botanist(s) at Millard Canyon on three **Thursday mornings**, from **9:30 a.m. to noon followed by lunch** which the Pasadena Garden Club will coordinate with pleasure! Details such as directions, clothing, equipment, etc. will be sent along in early January, but in the meantime, kindly make these notes on your calendars. The project description is included below. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions and/or comments.

January 17 (eupatory identification, mapping, and removal)

February 7 (eupatory identification, mapping, and removal)

May 16 (Humboldt Lily identification and mapping)



"Gardening by the App"

Marianne Sprague, 2011-2012 Zone XII Hort Rep, thoughtfully shared the following list of mobile device applications from a New York Times article.

For the ipad & iphone:

Garden Tracker, Home Outside, IVeggieGarden, Dig My Garden, and Gardening

For iPad, iPhone & Android :

Gardenate & Landscaper's Companion

For iPhone:Leafsnap

For Android :Grow Buddy



Plants have long been used to treat illness and ailments, and today active compounds in plants are extremely important to medical research. Our synthetic over-the-counter medicines began with plant-derived compounds. The cultivation of plants for medicinal purposes has existed for thousands of years, across many civilizations. The medicinal properties of plants were identified by ancient Egyptians, the Romans, Medieval monks, Native Americans, and nearly any civilization you can think of. Knowledge and need of medicinal plants in the late 16th century to teach apprentices of medicine came together to inspire the physic garden.

The Doctor is In: Physic Gardens

Michael Symes's *Glossary of Garden History* defines a physic garden as a garden of medicinal plants, which is historically connected to the development of botany. Physic gardens were closely related to botanical gardens, but the term 'physic' became attached due to the cultivation of herbs with medicinal qualities. While the cultivation of plants for medicine has long been used, some of the earliest documented physic gardens popped up in Italy and England during the late 16th century.



Univ. of Cincinnati's Medicinal Herb Garden, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1977. Elise H. Warrington, photog.



Sheffield Garden's herb garden, Wyndmoor, PA, May 2000. Emilie S. Lapham, photographer.

While intended for medical apprentices, physic gardens can also be credited with influencing the modern herb garden. The *Glossary of Garden History* defines an herb garden as a garden for the cultivation of herbs primarily for medicinal or culinary purposes. Herbs are common to everyday gardens. They add beauty and aromatics, are essential to cooking, and provide relief for a number of common internal and external ailments. Many of today's modern herb garden varieties were also grown in historic physic gardens including lavender, sage, rosemary, garlic, thyme, aloe, and fennel. Growing a garden for medicinal purposes is an opportunity to explore plants and learn about how we can care for ourselves naturally.

DIGGERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2012

Marcia Albrecht, Susan Babcock, Gwen Babcock, **Judy Banning**, Joan Banning, **Debbe Booth**, **Bette Cooper**, **Mary Anne Cunningham**, Lisa Evans, Hannah Farbstein, Annie Fraser, Liz Gilfillan, **Amanda Goodan**, Sally Harris, **Jane Herrmann**, Tracy Hirrel, Debbie Hollingsworth, **Barbara Jameson**, **Mimi Jones**, Susan Kranwinkle, Carlin McCarthy, Judy McDonald, **Liz Merrill**, Kathy Miller, Sally Miller, Louisa Miller, Kate Morphy, Gretl Mulder, **Fran Neumann**, Anne Neville, Kathy O'Kane, Ruth Pasqualetto, Sara Pelton, **Megan Phelps**, Eugenie Schlueter, Dorrie Scully, Annette Serrurier, Cathy Tosetti, Cindy Wenzlau, Sally Wenzlau, **Linda Zinn** (Bold designates absentee members)
Minutes respectfully submitted by Kate Morphy, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting was held at the Old Mill.

Sara started the meeting at 12:00.

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting were moved, seconded and voted unanimously.

Sara thanked Gwen for her work on the **website** ... it is fabulous – we are very appreciative of the time that she has taken with this task.

Thanks to Sally W. who had been handling making our picture books, she has passed this duty on to Sally M. – again, we are very appreciative of the time that she has taken to complete this wonderful history.

Sara passed around a newsletter from the Piedmont G.C. that included some wonderful tips, including some fabulous garden 'apps' for people using smart phones – they will be listed in the next Diggers Dirt.

She passed out the **new rosters** and asked that everyone check to make sure your listing is correct. A separate piece of paper was passed out for members to add their cell phone numbers if they would like them listed.

There are extra rosters if anyone needs one. Let Sara if you would like an extra one. Rosters will be mailed to those members not at this meeting.

DIGGERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2012

Jane H. has been working diligently on our **programs**. We have an additional meeting in April which will be a joint meeting with Pasadena GC and Hancock Park GC at the Huntington focusing on wildflowers.

The **auction** is slated for April 17, 2013.

This year we are doing a study on specific types of plants. There will be four teams split within the club, each one concentrating on a particular group of plants – each team will present their findings at the February meeting.

Tracy gave the **Treasurer's** report.

- She reported that she checked with Temo Arjani about the bookkeeping fee and they found it to be within a normal limit.
- This fee could be absorbed by our dues
- This year's dues were not reflected on the financial reports yet.
- There were no other questions

Hannah reported on **conservation**. Margaret Williams from PGC is working on Partners for Plants which would be a joint project between PGC, HPGC and Diggers. This is a great project aimed at acquiring land so that it can't be developed. The owner of Millard Canyon has offered to sell it to the Santa Monica Conservancy. This is a very small strip of land. If you are looking at La Vina, it is the little strip that comes down on the west side between La Vina and the another older development. They are asking for help in removing invasive plants, identifying the Humboldt lily and mapping. They are looking to schedule dates after the end of the year. Those who are interested should support this group effort.

Annette noted that in 2013 Cathy Tosetti would be spearheading the Documentation of a Garden for **Garden History and Design**.

Membership noted that there are no guests at this meeting and urged members to think about potential new members among their friends and acquaintances. Guests will be welcome at the next three meetings.

Debbie H. was worried about new members. She felt we had to be more flexible. More people are working now. While they may not be a proficient gardener now, they may be interested in learning. The number one priority is a sincere interest in gardening, number two would be that they fit in the group.

DIGGERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2012

Lisa spoke to say she was interested in hosting a lunch so everyone could bring a friend that could be a possible new member. They should also bring them to the December meeting which is always a fun meeting.

Cindy W. asked that everyone think about their friends in this vein. We all have a responsibility to maintain the active membership of our special club.

Three cheers to Sally Miller for volunteering to needlepoint an ornament for the GCA headquarters. She completed the beautiful piece of work this summer which depicts the Diggers Logo. A very generous anonymous member offered to pay for the finishing work. We can all be very proud when we visit the Christmas tree at the headquarters in New York City!

Carlin reported on the **Old Mill**. She presented a list of projects to be done including a sprinkler overhaul. It was suggested by Sally that this project not be undertaken until the oak tree project was completed.

Susan K. also spoke on the Old Mill. She has been on the board for a few meetings and reports that the board is run by a "bunch of old guys." Kathy, Carlin and Barbara are also members and they concur that it is run by a bunch of wonderful guys who love the place, but it is run by the young guy who sits in the back of the room that everyone listens to. He is from the city of San Marino. We could never change it unless we bought it. She suggested that it will never change and that the foundation is losing membership. Every Digger should be a member and we should maintain our board seats, but we probably won't be able to effect significant change there. Annette said PGC has the same problem at La Casita. It is what it is.

Kathy from the Old Mill said that they are again looking for a caretaker. The cottage is one bedroom and one bath with living room, dining room and kitchen. If anyone knows someone who might be interested, please contact them.

New business:

Debbe Booth sent word about the "shot hole borer", which is a tiny insect that destroys trees, mostly oaks and sycamores. We should all be aware of this fast moving and destructive insect that has entered our ecosystem from afar and has no known enemies, except for us!

Gwen said don't use Randy Finch because he is too expensive, but he is the only one that is totally insured. Randy is retiring and Daniel is taking over, but he doesn't know what he is doing. Many jobs are just subbed out. Sally W. said to ask for Simon, he is good. Dorrie has another name as well.

DIGGERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2012

We talked about the plant exchange. Sally H. has society garlic, white iris and clivia if anyone wants some. She also brought limes for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00.