

# DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

## Important Note:

**\$180 auction obligation is due to Page Haralambos by April 29th.**

## Look ahead...

Apr 1- Old Mill  
Apr 27,28 - Auction Set-up  
~~Apr 29 Auction~~  
May 6th -TBD  
Jun 3 - Debbe Booth's

## Bristol Farms Scrip

Contact Alfrida by the 10th of the month in order to receive your Bristol Farms Scrip. Confirm by mailing her a check payable to Diggers. Alfrida will deliver to you later in the month

## Board Meeting

**Monday April 27th via Zoom at 10:00am**



A boy & his dog  
-Liz's grandson

## From the President

During this most unusual time of our lives, I'm seeking ways to connect! On my morning walks, I might call to snap a picture of you leaning out a window, at your front door or in your garden. I just want to see you!

The board met by Zoom this week and we approved the March 2nd board minutes. Oh, how much has changed! I'm spending more time in the garden which is showing signs of spring everywhere. I filled the pint-sized milk bottle labeled "Homemade Egnog" with homemade hand sanitizer. It feels and smells great! <https://www.goingevergreen.org/how-to-make-hand-sanitizer.html>.

In light of the physical distancing Lisa, Gwen and I have taken steps to establish a members-only Instagram account. Instagram is our way of minimizing the isolation and enhancing the joy we have in our gardens, especially now as first blooms of spring open up. Read further for instructions from Lisa.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Upcoming GCA Dates

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

#### NAL Conference

Washington, DC  
Feb 23-26, 2020

#### 2020 Zone XII Meeting

Tacoma, WA  
Mar 25-27, 2020

#### GCA 2020 Annual Meeting

Asheville, NC  
May 3-6, 2020

#### Old Mill Work Days

CANCELED until further notice.



I'm taking this opportunity to urge you to send \$180, auction financial obligation, to Page Haralambos by April 29th. In coming weeks, I will email the list of our civic donations. The Old Mill maintenance and our annual civic donations are precisely the reason your auction donation is so essential. Support from the Diggers is vital for these groups. Sometime, somehow this month we'll also approve the by-law change and monthly minutes, too.

On Feb 23-26 Bette and Mary attended the National Affairs and Legislation conference in Washington DC. The conference agenda included advocacy training, expert speakers on environmental issues, updates from elected officials and time to advocate with our state senators support of issues that impact us on the local and state level. The NAL conference turned out to be the last GCA meeting of the year, as a cascade of canceled events began in March. We had planned to hear their report at our April meeting. Instead, I hope you'll read through their account of the conference (separate attachment.)

The Old Mill was closed the day after we canceled the auction. So, Ruth and I participated in OMF executive committee meeting by Zoom instead. Now that Spring has sprung the gardens need our helping hands, with required physical-distance, of course. It is beautiful!

I will do my best to stay connected during this extended time without a meeting. Don't be surprised if you receive a call saying I'm in front of your house with hopes you are home. If you can, open a door or window to say "Hi"!

Stay safe and be well,

*Liz*



#### INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT



If you have your own Instagram account, request to follow [diggersgardenclub.com](https://www.instagram.com/diggersgardenclub.com) (logo shown). Contact Lisa or Liz for help. Forward your garden photos and they will post your pictures for the club members to see.

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## Diggers Keeping Active During “Safer at Home” Order

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We are all making the most of this unique situation by continuing to enrich our lives while the Diggers Garden Club is on hiatus. Here are some of the ways your fellow Diggers are keeping busy during this “safer at home” time.



- Connie’s family made flower arrangements and cookies on St. Patrick’s Day and delivered them to their neighbors. Brighten up your neighbor’s day by delivering a bouquet of fresh cut flowers from your garden.
- Knit a scrubby dishcloth...remember the alternative to a plastic sponge that Dr. Michael SanClements mentioned in his April talk? Sally Miller found the instructions online and knitted herself one! Click here for instructions-> <http://little-miss-stitcher.blogspot.com/2015/02/scrubby-dishcloth-pattern.html>
- While we are on the topic of purging plastic...take out your sewing machine and make a few produce bags with leftover cotton muslin or other lightweight cotton fabric.
- Gwen is prepared with her crops of spinach, sugar snap peas, arugula and lettuce growing. It’s time to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and herbs. If you don’t have space in your garden, order a raised garden bed from Home depot. Click here-> <https://www.homedepot.com/b/Outdoors-Garden-Center-Raised-Garden-Beds/CITY-PICKERS/N-5yc1vZbx7cZ71j>
- Carlin recently shared with the Diggers that Armstrong Garden Center is providing curbside pick-up and home deliveries of garden merchandise. Thanks for the heads up, Carlin!
- Need face masks? Angela has ordered several yards of elastic and is planning to sew some cotton face masks. These face masks are not intended to block the spread of the Covid-19 virus, but they do serve to remind you not to touch your face...and it’s better than nothing. Click here for instructions -> <https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask>
- Get to know the Members Area of the GCA website. There’s a vast amount of information on the GCA website waiting for you to absorb!
- Rise to the occasion like Connie and Adrienne have using yeast to make home-made pizza dough and breads. Bread is “good for the soul”, says Adrienne.
- Eugenie gathered her Shirley Meneice seed packets and some other seeds she had waiting to be scattered, and sprinkled them in her garden. She made a note what was going where and now she has something to look forward to.

- Map your garden. Use tracing paper to make different overlays, one for shade plants, one for sun plants.
- I made two large containers of cabbage kimchee using Sunhee's recipe. It's good for the gut and lasts weeks in the fridge.
- And finally, Liz is getting acquainted with a teleconferencing software called Zoom that will allow the Diggers board members to meet "virtually" so we can prepare for future meetings and programs.

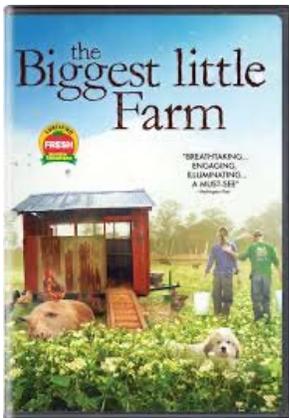
There is so much we can do at home and in our gardens while we are practicing "safer at home" measures. Not one of these activities takes expertise, just time, something we all have a lot of these days. Stay well, Diggers!

Virtual hugs,  
Athena

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## Diggers Movie Night!

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As you know, due to the Covid19 Social Distancing orders, we postponed our Movie Night to watch the "Biggest Little Farm", a documentary about a couple who is followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate land they purchase begins to thrive and is transformed.

Our new plan is this: Watch the movie at home. Then join a Zoom virtual meeting on April 15th at 11:00am to discuss the film. Let Carlin know if you want to join the meeting. She will send you an invitation to join by Zoom. You don't have to have to download the app, you just have to be invited to a meeting.

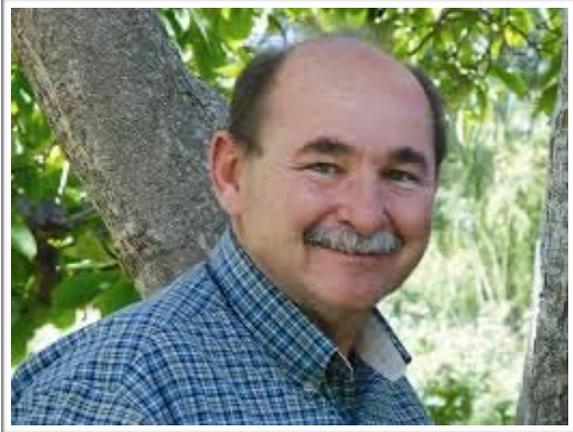
There are several ways you can watch: Rent it from Amazon Prime Video for \$3.99 or buy it from Amazon Prime for \$14.99. Buy the DVD or Blu-ray, new or used, from AmazonSmile (Diggers get the contribution).

Contact Carlin [cwastem@yahoo.com](mailto:cwastem@yahoo.com) with questions.

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## American Horticultural Society Honors Jim Folsom

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**JAMES P. FOLSOM**



**LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD**

Jim Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, and a beloved Honorary Member of the Garden Clubs of America, is this year's winner of the American Horticultural Society's highest honor – The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. This award, named after noted horticulturalist Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954), is given annually to an individual who has made significant lifetime contributions to at least three of the following horticultural fields: teaching, research, communications, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

Jim originally joined the Huntington staff in 1984 in the role of assistant curator, becoming director in 1987. For the past 35 years he has overseen the maintenance, restoration and development of 120 acres on the Huntington's 207-acre grounds consisting of more than a dozen thematic gardens, and has added invaluable botanical material to its collections. Under his visionary leadership, the Huntington constructed a world-class botanical research and education facility, a one-acre Children's Garden, the Rose Hills Conservatory for Botanical Science, the Huntington Ranch Project of 15 acres, expanded the Japanese Garden, and – most notably - built the largest classical-style Chinese gardens outside China. An engaging educator, Jim has dedicated much of his

efforts over the years to programs that increase public interest and understanding of the science, culture and history of plants and gardens. His “Botany Bay” classes are attended by a loyal following of the community, and he has recently created a free eBook, “A Botanical Reader”, available through Apple books.

The award will be presented **June 18, 2020**, during a ceremony and banquet at River Farm, the AHS’s headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

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## The Old Mill Update

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I am certain the Old Mill is missing the wonderful sound of Digger chit chat in the gardens. The garden is bustling, though, even without all of the Digger gibber jabber.

Kate Sinclair, OMF Executive Director, continues to do an outstanding job, even in these difficult circumstances. Working from home, she continues to keep up with the day to day and has some creative ways to stay in touch remotely with members. She’s also working on fun events, hopefully to begin in August. She and John Quinn, OMF President, spoke to San Marino city council about the Mill, why it is so special. They were awarded a special proclamation in celebration of the long-awaited signed agreement with the City!

Evan and Jenny, OM caretakers, are overseeing the property daily, checking for any problems, and helping with much-needed cleaning and organizing inside and outside the Old Mill.

The gardens are bursting with color. A fresh layer of mulch was applied this week to the front and citrus gardens. Will Jameson’s crew also managed to give the “monster” agave a haircut and clean up, and boy does it clean up well!

Angela designed the “forgotten” garden next to the bathrooms and with Manuel’s help, re-planted the bed. It’ll be another focal point for all to admire. Next April when we hold the Diggers Auction, it’s going to be spectacular!

Please walk/drive by and enjoy the flourishing front garden. Hope to see you all in the garden soon!!

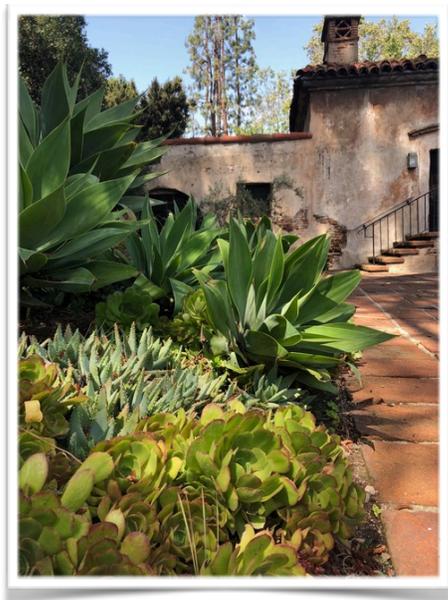
xo Ruth and Angela



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## Current Old Mill Photos

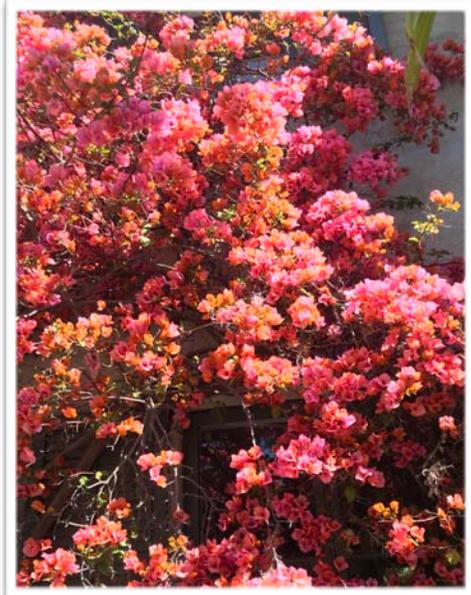
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## Appreciating the Gardens Around Us

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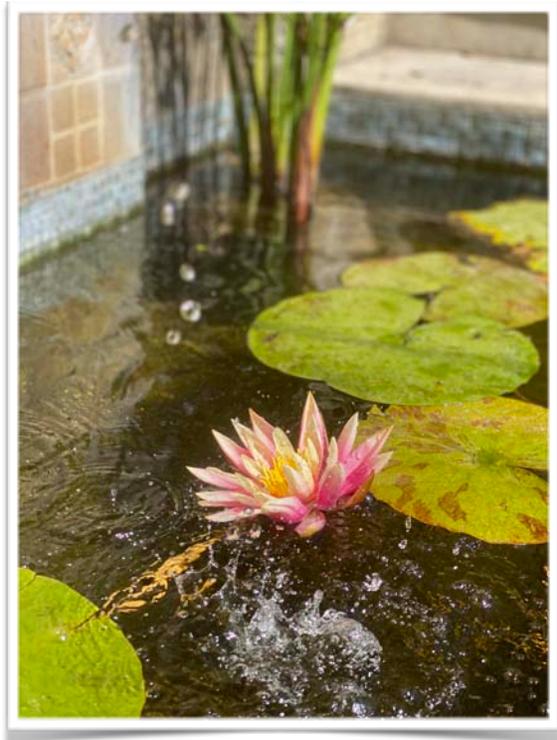
Liz's Bougainville exploding with color



New resident in Liz's garden



Lisa's wisteria peeking through

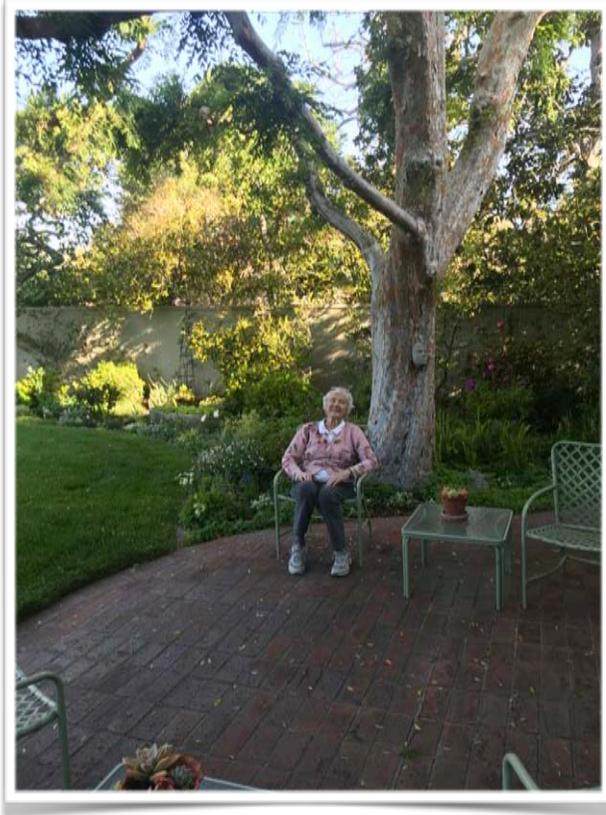


Water lily from Lisa's garden

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the Gardens Around Us

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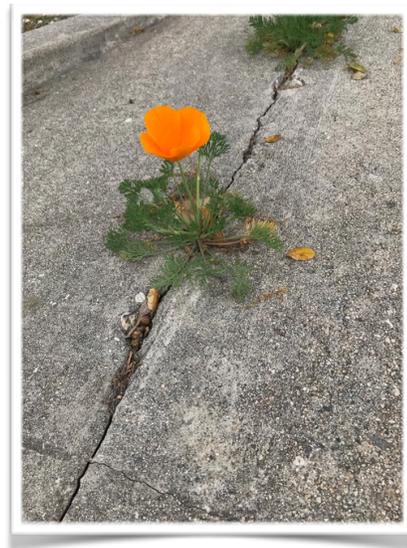
Sally Wenzlau enjoying her garden



Marianne Lynch poking out to say hi



A view from above Sally's garden

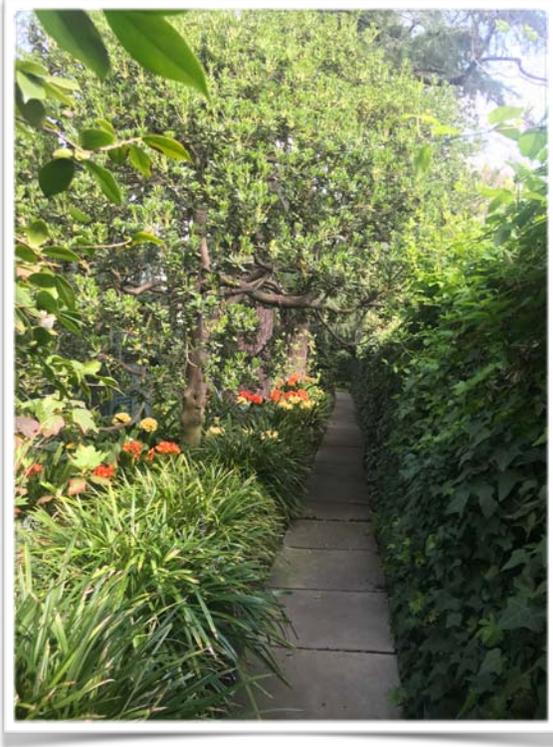


A California Poppy from Yvonne's walk

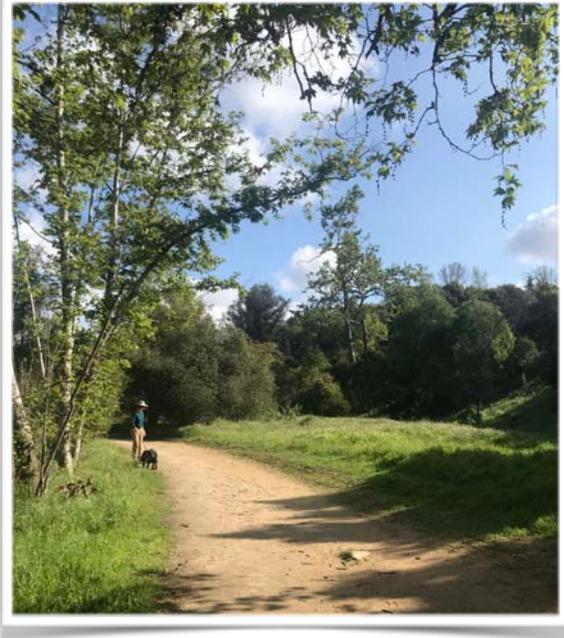
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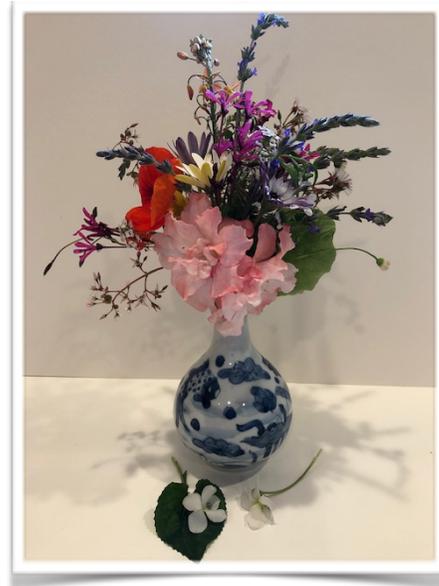


Judy McDonald's garden



Seven a.m.  
Hawk faces east high on deodar, warming  
Baby dogwood flaunts new blossoms  
Old crepe myrtle, wide, starts leafing  
Hope is everywhere, begging to be heard.

-Judy McDonald



Eugenie's cuttings turned into a beautiful arrangement