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August 2018

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Photograph by Jean Matthews, GC of Palm Beach, Zone VIII

GCA Musings _____ Dede Petri



Reading the GCA

Looking for some excellent end-of-summer reading? GCA authors are the answer!

Start with *Heroes of Horticulture* by Washington (CT) Garden Club member Barbara Paul Robinson. Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda listed it among his summer favorites.

Then there's *Listen to the Land* by Little Garden Club of Birmingham member Louise Wrinkle. Louise's book and others are featured in a superb display at GCA HQ that you can [enjoy online](#).

Still want more? Then don't miss *All the Presidents' Gardens* by

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Images from Zone VIII

To see additional images from Zone VIII, [click here](#).



Want more? Then don't miss "The Presidents' Gardens," Garden Club of Madison member Marta McDowell. GCA archivists Edie Loening and Susan Van Tassel get a shout-out.

And no less a figure than Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. makes an appearance, arguing that the White House grounds need improvement so that "an organization like The Garden Club of America would proudly and unhesitatingly point them out to its members...". Now, that's an incentive.

If you are a GCA club member writing about topics related to the GCA's purpose, please [email me](#) so that we can include you in our list of GCA authors!

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Warm regards,



On the Road with the GCA

Register Now - It's Not Too Late!



Sign up now for two terrific programs in America's heartland -- both part of "[On the Road with the GCA](#)." This new educational program invites ALL GCA club members - and spouses may come too!

Windy City Whirlwind

September 20 and 21. Enjoy two days in the Windy City focused on botany, urban farming, citizen science and more. On Thursday, members will visit a thriving urban farming program conducted by the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Shakespeare Garden, part of Northwestern University, lovingly tended by the Garden Club of Evanston. That evening, there is an optional welcome dinner at The Chicago Club. On Friday, it's on to the Chicago Botanic Garden where CEO Jean Francyzk will kick off a day of tours and special programming. Lunch is included. [Register here](#).

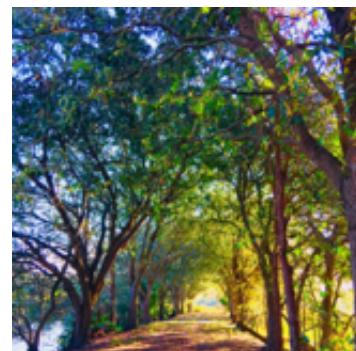
International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold's Shack

On October 26, visit the International Crane Foundation which is preserving endangered cranes of every kind. Then trek just down the road for lunch and to learn more about the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold, the great land ethicist who addressed the GCA Conservation Committee in 1947. Enjoy a tour of the Leopold Center and visit Leopold's famous "shack" memorialized in A Sand County Almanac. Guests may stay from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to watch migrating sandhill cranes along the Wisconsin River. [Register here](#).

Excite Young People about the Power of Plants



Gail Artin, The GC of the Halifax Country



Heidi Lyons, Grass River GC



Lisa Watts, The GC of Halifax Country



Sally Barnett, Late Bloomers GC

Horticulture affects everything, from the air we breathe, to the food we eat, and to the beautiful landscapes and floral arrangements we enjoy. But few youth make this critical connection.



That's why the GCA is part of a coalition of horticulture companies, gardening organizations, schools, and universities, called **Seed Your Future**, to excite young people about the power of plants. GCA clubs literally are on the front lines as they introduce youth to the awe-inspiring potential of the natural world.

Did you know...

- Most schools stop teaching plant-based concepts in third grade?
- Most middle schoolers have never heard of the word "horticulture"?
- University and college horticulture programs are being eliminated or consolidated across the country?
- There are 57,500 annual job openings in food, agriculture, natural resources, or the environment every year that remain unfilled?

Flower [a few steps clubs and club members can take](#) to promote this important campaign.

Strategic Planning

Share your thoughts and ideas now!



Please take ten minutes to respond to the club member survey that the Strategic Planning Committee has provided you. The survey was sent by email to all club members on Tuesday, July 31. Your feedback is crucial to the committee as it prepares to make recommendations for the future of the GCA.

If you need more information, please contact us at strategicplanning@gcamerica.org or visit our page on the [GCA website](#).

Don't miss your chance to help chart The Garden Club of America's path to the future!

Club Leadership

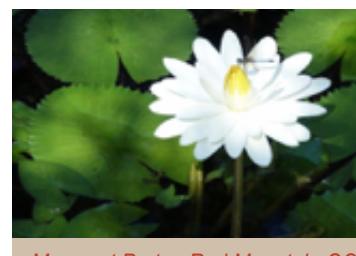
Share your thoughts and ideas now!



Great News! The Club President's Kit is here, highlighting the scope of the GCA's many activities. The kit provides presidents with easy-to-use information to help introduce club members to the many resources and benefits the GCA makes possible.



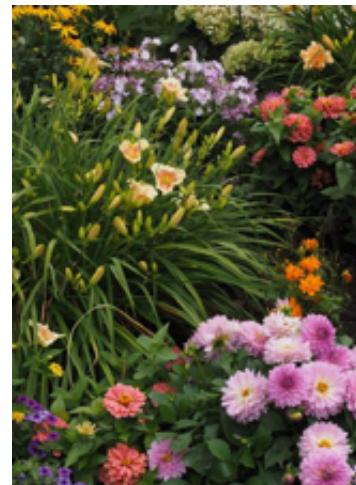
Catherine Dolan, Sand Hills GC



Margaret Porter, Red Mountain GC



Cookie Brown, The GC of the Halifax Country



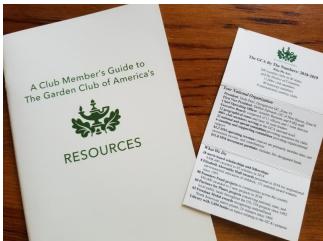
Joan Tilghman, Jupiter Island GC



The President's Kit contains:

- an easy to use month by month timeline to guide the year ahead
- *The GCA by the Numbers* - a wallet sized description of our many activities
- [A Guide to The Garden Club of America's Resources](#) - a concise and fun outline of resources available
- GCA Minutes - one minute introductions to GCA Committees to share at club membership meetings
- *On the Road with GCA* schedule- the educational offerings around the country
- 2018-2019 GCA Directory - a listing of GCA National Leadership

These resources are all available to all club presidents and club members through the online [GCA Shop](#).



Prefer to go green? Access [all components of the President's Kit](#) easily on the [Club Leadership](#) landing page.

They have been created for the enjoyment of all GCA club members. We hope you have fun using them!



Hawley McAuliffe, Grass River GC



Ann B. Mitchell, Sand Hills GC



Pam Baugh, Little GC

Awards

Medalist Awards Presented at Annual Meeting



On the evening of April 29, 2018, the GCA paid tribute to eleven exemplary men, women, and organizations that have significantly influenced our lives over the years. These 2018 medalists are luminaries in their fields and committed to the same goals that our purpose statement defines so clearly.

These passionate medalists reinforce our commitment to restoring, protecting and improving the environment.

[Click here](#) to enjoy video clips of the evening's presentation and acceptance speeches. [Click here](#) to read about their special accomplishments and acceptance speeches.

Photography

Announcing a new GCA Photography Medal!

The Executive Board approved a new Garden Club of America Photography Medal in June to recognize outstanding achievement and creative vision in the field of photography and/or photography education. The medal will recognize work of national scope and significance.

GCA club members and non-members alike will be eligible to receive this national award, which may be awarded annually and will be selected by the Awards Committee.

Information on the national medal proposal process is available on the

2018 National Conferences

September 13-15, 2018

Shirley Meneice
Horticulture Conference
Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square,
Pennsylvania

GCA upDATES

Upcoming dates and

[Instructions for National Medal Proposals](#) page.

Upcoming dates and deadlines

Unique Workshop Opportunity in Death Valley



Sign up on the [interest list](#) now for this exciting workshop with Colleen Miniuk-Sperry in dramatic Death Valley, California. Learn to better tap into your creativity and technically translate what you see and feel into a superb photo.

Two sessions will be available:

February 14-17, 2019 for beginning and intermediate photographers
February 17-20, 2019 for intermediate and advanced photographers

We will visit classic photogenic locations like Badwater Salt Flats, Zabriskie Point, and Dante's View, while also exploring lesser-known locations. Please email PSGtrips@gcamerica.org with any questions.

Garden History & Design

It's a Double Feature Month



The Zone VII Featured Garden, [Mount Sharon Farm](#), submitted by the Dolley Madison Garden Club, was originally part of a land grant made by King George to the Taliaferro family in 1725. Today, the 77-acre estate showcases ten acres of classical style terraced gardens.

The Zone VIII Featured Garden, [The Field Club](#), submitted by the Founders Club of Sarasota, Inc., was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 5, 1986. The original entrance was a long straight driveway under an allée of Calamondin orange trees intended to perfume the air in winter when the owners were in residence.

(Image by permission of Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection)

Annual Meeting Scarf

Which one will you choose?



On the Road with the GCA

September 20-21
Windy City Whirlwind
Chicago Botanic Garden

2018-2019
[Click here](#) to see and register for the full list of On the Road events for all club members.

PUBLICATIONS

Check out our NEW SUMMER publications!

[Click here](#) for archived issues of all GCA publications

To be notified about publications, [click here](#)



Bulletin
Summer 2018



We have the perfect opportunity to add color and charm to your summer wardrobe! Available now - our 2019 Annual Meeting scarf in nautical and/or tropical colors; it will be difficult to pick just one! Add a compass rose charm, a stylish addition to any wardrobe no matter where your true north lies. [Click here](#) to purchase the scarf and/or charm.

Horticulture

A Record 19 Partners for Plants Grants for 2018-2019



GCA P4P grant fund a wide range of activities including the ecological restoration work of Dr. Roger Latham and removing invasive species and planting of 1500 plugs of native Ammophila breviligulata (American Beach Grass) along the shores of Lake Michigan. [Read more](#) about projects in the P4P Projects Database.

Make a difference in your own community by restoring native habitat in beautiful places from seashore to prairie to wetlands to mountain tops. Grab a shovel and dig in to preserve flora and fauna. Contact p4p@gcamerica.org with your ideas to start a project near you. Your vice chairmen Liz Lavezziro (Horticulture) and Allene Nungesser (Conservation) are here to help you.

COME! FOLLOW! US!

The Horticulture Committee is thrilled to announce that it has partnered with the Communications Committee and established the first official GCA Pinterest account showcasing the Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal - GCA Plant of the Year Awards.



Search for the [GCA Freeman Medal on Pinterest](#). The GCA Freeman Medal Pinterest page is available to be viewed by our nearly 18,000 club members, the general gardening public, and horticulture and nursery professionals. "Boards" have been created with images and characteristics, cultivation requirements, and appropriate uses for all winning plants, including perennials, trees, vines and shrubs.

If you have your own Pinterest account, we invite you to "Follow" our Boards and "Pin" your favorite plants. Together we can learn, share, plant, propagate and grow worthy, underutilized, North American native plants that merit attention.

Visiting Gardens

Washington, DC, May 6-11, 2019



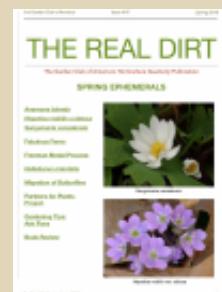
Our national capital is always stunning, but never more so than in spring. The trip begins at the British ambassador's residence gardens, includes a special day in the Virginia hunt country at Bunny Mellon's Oak Spring gardens, and ends with the Georgetown Garden Tour, now in its 91st year.



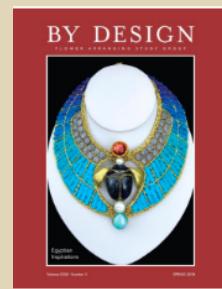
Focus
June 2018



ConWatch
Summer 2018



The Real Dirt
Spring 2018



By Design Spring
2018



Annual Report
2017

To sign up on the Interest List for this trip, please go to the [Visiting Gardens landing page](#) of the GCA website.

Scholarship

Exciting News about 2018 Scholars!



The GCA Class of 2018 Scholars is an exceptional group of dedicated students. Over \$300,000 was awarded to 65 scholars and 8 Hull award recipients.

The 2018 Scholars Report is featured in the Summer *Bulletin*, where you can learn about each scholar and their fields of study. You will also learn about the 28 named scholarships and the institutions with whom the GCA collaborates to select some of the recipients.

Thank you to each individual and member club who contribute to GCA Scholarships. Your gifts and the Scholarship Endowment have helped fund more than 1,500 GCA scholars over the years. [Read more](#) about our new scholars.

Conservation

Shade Grown Coffee & a Bowl of Organic Strawberries



Nothing says "Good Morning" like the aroma of roasted coffee beans or truly flavorful fruit but what lurks behind the brew and the berries?

A shade grown cup of coffee and bowl of the right fruit can make a big impact on our universe and your health. Shifts in agriculture can lead to better outcomes for us and the planet.

[Learn more](#) about starting the day with an intentional brew and a tastier strawberry.

Exciting Update for Save the Redwoods!

Save the Redwoods League (SRL) has just announced the purchase of 738 acres in Northern California. An undisturbed, ancient forest ecosystem of 1,450 old-growth redwood trees (some as large as 19 feet in diameter), the newly named "Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve" is part of the largest remaining unprotected old-growth redwood forest still in private hands.

Once trails are built and public access is established, it will be the largest redwood park in Sonoma County, a third larger than Muir Woods with 47% more old-growth trees.

Sam Hodder, president of SRL and our keynote speaker at the 2018 Annual Meeting said, "This is one of the most extraordinary conservation opportunities that we've seen in generations". A cause for celebration! [Watch a video](#) of his remarks.

[For more information](#), please read the February 2018 report on old growth redwoods.

National Affairs & Legislation

Good News for "Botany Bill"



The GCA urged Senators to sponsor the Senate companion bill to the House of Representatives' "Botany Bill" H.R. 1054. Good news just in: The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act (S. 3240) was just introduced in the Senate.

The bill encourages federal land management agencies to hire botanists, conduct research on native plant materials, and incorporate native plants in projects on federal land when feasible. [Click here](#) for more details.

NAL [Vice Chairman's Report](#) is available on the GCA website.

Flower Show

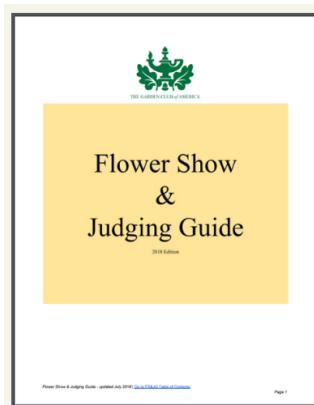
Let Us Help You with Your Flower Shows!

The Flower Show Committee is now devoting all of its time to helping clubs organize their flower shows, and the Floral Design Committee will support all floral design education.

The new Flower Show Committee has six area vice chairman who are ready to help clubs organize their shows, whether it is a club show or a GCA show of any kind. Take a look at the resources for planning, entering, and evaluating flower shows on the [Flower Show Committee landing page](#).

2018 Flower Show & Judging Guide

The 2018 edition of the [Flower Show & Judging Guide](#) is now available on the GCA website. The FS&JG, affectionately called the Yellow Book, sets forth guidelines and requirements for producing flower shows sponsored by member clubs of The Garden Club of America and outlines the procedures for attaining and maintaining approved judge status. Also available are the updated [schedule templates](#) for flower show schedules and [entry cards](#), as well as a new horticulture propagation card.



Photograph by Ann Flinn, Grass River GC, Zone VIII





eNews

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eNEWS

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