



BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA SINCE 1913 WINTER 2017

Troubled Waters
Rivers, Wetlands, Drought

Annual Meeting 2017

Founders Fund

Shirley Meneice
Horticulture Conference

WINTERTHUR



Dig deeper...

BANK TO BEND: CELEBRATING THE YEAR'S FIRST FLOWERS

March 11, 2017

Be inspired with new ideas for your own garden! Join our featured speaker, well-known horticulturist and plantsman Charles Cresson, who will explore the wonder of the winter garden in his lecture, "Winter Flowers: Inspiration for Your Garden." Enjoy guided and self-guided garden tours and a sale of rare and unusual plants. ‡† *Lecture: \$10 per Member. \$20 per nonmember. Registration encouraged.*

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Discover the beauty of the daffodil and enjoy Winterthur's amazing daffodil display! ‡†

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PEONIES AND PRIMROSES • Sunday, May 21, 2017

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Book your group tour! Special rates available. Call 800.448.3883 or visit winterthur.org/groups.

‡ Includd with admission † Members free Photograph by Bob Leitch



The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and actions in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

Submissions and Advertising

The Garden Club of America, a 501(c)(3) organization, publishes the *Bulletin* quarterly. The *Bulletin* accepts advertising from GCA clubs, club members, and relevant companies and individuals. Media kits are available upon request. Additionally, the *Bulletin* welcomes letters, articles with photographs, story ideas, and original artwork from GCA club members.

→ **Advertising:** Reserve by February 1 (spring issue), May 1 (summer issue), August 1 (fall issue), November 1 (winter issue)

→ **Submission Deadlines:** February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1

→ **Contact:** bulletinads@gcamerica.org or visit the Bulletin Committee's landing page on the GCA website www.gcamerica.org for the ad submission form

The Garden Club of America
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On the Cover: Mill Creek in the Mill Creek Historic District, Gladwyne, PA. Photo by Debbie Laverell (The Garden Workers, Zone V)



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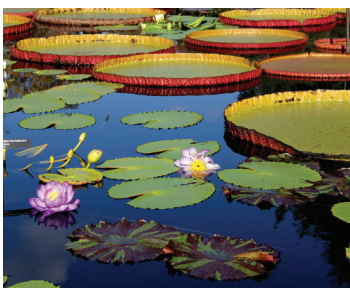
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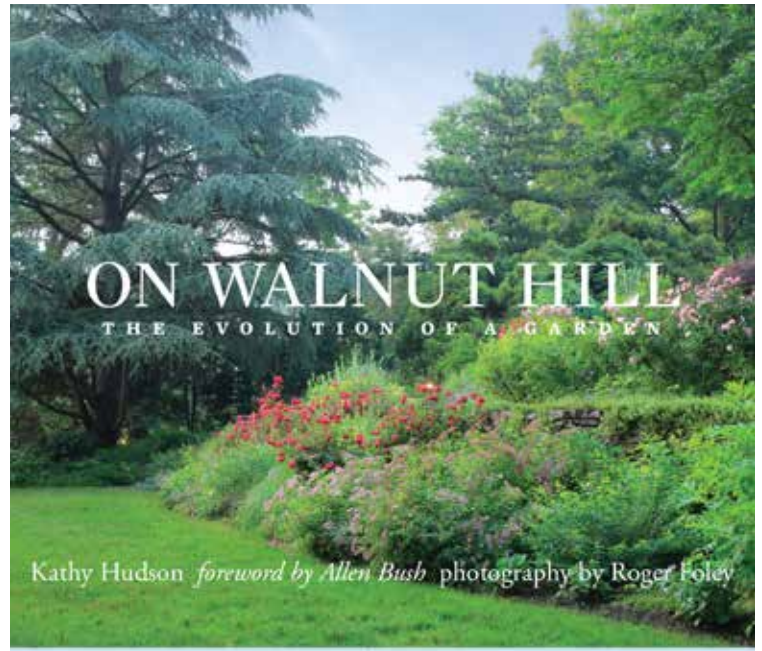
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Kathy Hudson *foreword by Allen Bush* photography by Roger Foley

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THE YEAR 2017, LONG AWAITED, ALREADY SEEMS TO BE PASSING at warp speed, and I want to shout, "Slow down!" After all, the esteemed Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas L. Friedman has concluded that nations and individuals, in addition to learning how to be fast and fair, must also learn to be slow—"adept at shutting out the noise and accessing their deepest values." At this, The Garden Club of America excels as our purpose continues to guide us solidly into our 104th year.

As individuals, let's slow long enough to enjoy the bones and quiet of winter. May I share these words, long in my gathered quotes and more meaningful to me with each advancing season:

. . .each moment of the year has its own beauty, and in the same field, it beholds, every hour, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

As an organization, let's occasionally slow even as we ponder the challenges and anticipate the excitement of the year ahead. Whether this finds you hibernating in the cold or soaking up Vitamin D in a sunny clime, The Garden Club of America stands firm as the tie that binds us. People lead. Plans unfold. Progress is made.

Who can resist dreaming of *Maryland in May*? This issue of the *Bulletin* presents important changes ahead. Future leadership is unveiled with the report of the Nominating Committee. Two votes by the 200 club presidents in attendance at the annual meeting in Baltimore are framed—one, for the slate as presented, and two, for the first place winner of the Founders Fund finalists highlighted in these pages. Fortunate indeed are those club members who will register for Annual Meeting 2017.

Whose thoughts turn to fly fishing the freshwater rivers of our goodly land as you admire the *Bulletin* cover? Who has suffered through the flooding of rivers all over the country? Who will attend the annual National Affairs & Legislation meeting in Washington next month to address threatened natural resources, climate change, endangered species, and so many other crises in the fields of our endeavor? Who will help make a difference?

Who will help secure the financial future of The Garden Club of America? The *Second Century Campaign*, still in its critical quiet stage, is building the platform for success. While each of us will determine our level of contribution, our success as an organization comes from our collective strength and commitment to the values of the GCA—just as it has for the past 104 years. We will continue to be the ones who make a difference in every field of our endeavor.

These are my January thoughts, and I wish you all the happiest New Year.

With warm best regards,

Anne P. Copenhaver

**Executive Board
2016-17**

Anne Copenhaver, *GCA President*
Twin City GC, Zone VII

Dede Petri, *First Vice President*
Georgetown GC, Zone VI

Lloyd Brown, *Corresponding Secretary*
The Weeders, Zone V

Lorill Haynes, *Recording Secretary*
Garden Guild of Winnetka, Zone XI

Cindy Hilson, *Treasurer*
Hancock Park GC, Zone XII

Marguerite Borden, *Vice President*
Cohasset GC, Zone I

Diana Boyce, *Vice President*
St. George's GC, Zone VI

Crissy Cherry, *Vice President*
Lake Forest GC, Zone XI

Gretchen Downs, *Vice President*
Country GC, Zone X

SaSa Panarese, *Vice President*
Milton GC, Zone I

Wendy Serrell, *Vice President*
Hortulus, Zone II

Elizabeth Meyer, *Zone Director Serving
on the Executive Board*
Cambridge Plant & Garden GC, Zone I

Jennifer Barnette, *Chief Operating Officer*

2017-2018 GCA Nominating Slate

This slate of officers and zone directors has been prepared by the GCA Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Board. The slate will be voted on by the member clubs at the 2017 *Maryland in May* Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Gail O’Gorman, *Chairman*
GC of Barrington, Zone XI

Jane Moore, *Vice Chairman*
The Gardeners, Zone V

Tanny Clark, GC of Mount Desert, Zone I

Cynthia Rubin, Sasqua GC, Zone II

Nan Berger, Syracuse GC, Zone III

Darby Scott, GC of Morristown, Zone IV

Abby Gray, St. George’s GC, Zone VI

Kay Spindle Shiflett, The Virginia Beach GC, Zone VII

Tootsie Adams, Junior Ladies’ GC, Zone VIII

Mary Haggerty, Founders GC of Dallas, Zone IX

Anna Warren, GC of Michigan, Zone X

Iris Wagner, Seattle GC, Zone XII

Executive Board 2017-2018

President



Dede Petri
Georgetown Garden Club, Zone VI
Washington, DC

- 2015-2017** First Vice President
- 2013-2015** Chairman, Policy Research
- 2010-2012** Vice President
- 2011** Creative Leadership Award
- 2010** Club Medal of Merit
- 2009-2010** Director Serving on Executive Committee
- 2008-2010** Director
- 2009** Co-chairman, Zone Meeting
- 2006-2008** Zone Rep, Awards
- 2004** Co-chairman, Annual Meeting
- 2004-2006** Vice Chairman, NAL
- 2000-2002** Club President
- 2001** Zone Conservation Award
- 1998-2000** Zone Rep, Conservation

First Vice President



Debbie Edwards
Garden Club of New Haven, Zone II
New Haven, CT

- 2016** Creative Leadership Award
- 2014-2016** Vice President
- 2012-2014** Chairman, Program
- 2010-2012** Zone Rep, Program
- 2007-2009** Club Co-President

Corresponding Secretary



Jessie Shelburne
Founders Garden Club of Dallas, Zone IX
Dallas, TX

- 2011-2013** Chairman, Admissions
- 2010-2013** Zone Rep, Centennial
- 2010** Co-chairman, Zone Meeting
- 2010-2011** Vice Chairman, Nominating
- 2009-2011** Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2007-2009** Director
- 2005-2007** Zone Vice Chairman
- 2003-2005** Zone Rep, Program
- 2001-2003** Vice Chairman, Conservation–Education

- 1999-2001** Zone Rep, Conservation/NAL
- 1989-1991** Club President

Recording Secretary



Lorill Haynes
Garden Guild of Winnetka, Zone XI
Chicago, IL

- 2016-2017** Recording Secretary
- 2013-2015** Chairman, Scholarship
- 2011-2013** Vice Chairman, Scholarship
- 2009-2011** Zone Rep, Scholarship
- 2005-2007** Club President

Treasurer



Cindy Hilson
Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII
Los Angeles, CA

- 2016-2017** Treasurer
- 2014-2016** Member, Finance

Vice Presidents



Marguerite Borden
Cohasset Garden Club, Zone I
Cohasset, MA

- 2016-2017** Vice President
- 2014-2015** Chairman, Nominating
- 2013-2015** Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2015** Zone I Kitty Ferguson Award
- 2011-2013** Director
- 2009-2011** Zone Vice Chairman
- 2008** Club Medal of Merit
- 2007-2009** Zone Rep, Scholarship
- 2004-2006** Club President
- 2003-2004** Vice Chairman, Visiting Gardens
- 2001-2003** Zone Rep, Visiting Gardens



Crissy Cherry
Lake Forest Garden Club, Zone XI
Lake Forest, IL

- 2016-2017** Vice President
- 2014-2016** Chairman, Photography
- 2015-2016** Schedule Reader, Flower Show

- 2013-2014** Area Vice Chairman, Photography, sub-committee Flower Show
- 2012-2014** Editor, *focus*
- 2011** Photography Judge
- 2010-2012** Chairman, Communications
- 2009** Creative Leadership Award
- 2009-2010** Zone Rep, Public Relations
- 2008-2010** Member, Audit
- 2008-2009** Zone Rep, Strategic Planning
- 2007** Club Medal of Merit
- 2004-2008** Treasurer
- 2002-2004** Club President
- 2001** Zone Historic Preservation Award
- 2000-2004** Member, Finance Committee



Gretchen Downs
Country Garden Club, Zone X
Perrysburg, OH

- 2016-2017** Vice President
- 2015** Zone Conservation Award
- 2013-2015** Coordinator, Conservation
- 2012-2014** Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2011-2013** Coordinator, Conservation
- 2007-2011** Vice Chairman, Conservation
- 2006-2008** Club President
- 2004-2006** Zone Rep, Conservation/NAL
- 2002-2004** Zone Rep, Program
- 1999** Club Medal of Merit
- 1998-2000** Zone Rep, Bulletin



Wendy Serrell
Hortulus, Zone II
Greenwich, CT

- 2016-2017** Vice President
- 2014-2016** Chairman, Flower Show
- 2013** Creative Leadership Award
- 2013-2014** Vice Chairman, Nominating
- 2012-2014** Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2010-2012** Director
- 2008-2010** Zone Rep, Flower Show
- 2007** Floral Design Judge
- 2006-2008** Zone Chairman
- 2004-2006** Zone Vice Chairman
- 2001-2003** Club President



Linda Holden
The Augusta Garden Club, Zone VII
Augusta, GA

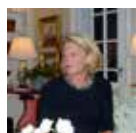
- 2014-2016 Chairman, Judging
- 2014 Chairman, Zone Meeting
- 2013-2014 Zone Rep, Judging
- 2011-2013 Treasurer, Centennial
- 2012 Barbara Spaulding Cramer Zone Floral Design Educational Award
- 2011 Club Medal of Merit
- 2011 Floral Design Judge
- 2010 Creative Leadership Award
- 2009-2011 Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2007-2009 Zone Rep, Flower Show
- 2005-2007 Zone Chairman
- 2003-2005 Zone Rep, Bulletin
- 2001-2003 Club President



Missy Jensen
Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club, Zone XII
Carmel, CA

- 2015-2017 Chairman, Conservation
- 2012-2014 Zone Rep, Conservation/NAL
- 2008-2010 Club President

Zone Directors



Abby Coffin
Chestnut Hill Garden Club, Zone I
Chestnut Hill, MA

- 2016 Zone Conservation Award
- 2013-2015 Zone Rep, Horticulture
- 2013-2014 Member Strategic Planning
- 2011-2013 Zone Chairman
- 2009-2011 Club President



Julie Peet
Fairfield Garden Club, Zone II
Fairfield, CT

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2014-2016 Chairman, Visiting Gardens
- 2012-2014 Vice Chairman, Visiting Gardens
- 2010-2012 Zone Rep, Visiting Gardens



Linda Fraser
Southampton Garden Club, Zone III
Southampton, NY

- 2015-2017 Chairman, NAL
- 2013-2015 Zone Chairman
- 2014 Member, Strategic Planning
- 2014 Member, Search Committee
- 2011-2013 Zone Rep, Conservation/NAL
- 2009-2011 Zone Rep, Awards
- 2006-2008 Club President



Margo Dana
Garden Club of Somerset Hills, Zone IV
Bernardsville, NJ

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2014-2016 Zone Rep, Garden History & Design
- 2012-2014 Zone Rep, Scholarship
- 2012 Club Medal of Merit
- 2010-2012 Vice Chairman, Program
- 2010 Co-chairman, Zone Meeting
- 2008-2010 Zone Rep, Admissions
- 2006-2008 Club President



Jorie Nailor
Philadelphia Garden Club, Zone V
Newtown Square, PA

- 2015-2017 Zone Chairman
- 2014-2015 Zone Rep, Horticulture
- 2012-2014 Chairman, Philadelphia Committee of the GCA
- 2010-2012 Club President



Margaret Costan
Georgetown Garden Club, Zone VI
Washington, DC
Secondary: Garden Club of Mount Desert

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2014-2016 Zone Rep, Awards
- 2012-2014 Zone Rep, Program
- 2010-2012 Club President



Sandra Thomas
Kanawha Garden Club, Zone VII
Charleston, WV

- 2015-2017 Chairman, Audit
- 2015 Member, Finance
- 2013-2015 Member, Audit
- 2013-2015 Zone Rep, Garden History & Design
- 2012 Club Medal of Merit
- 2009-2011 Zone Vice Chairman
- 2006-2008 Club President
- 2003 Co-chairman, Zone Meeting



Malinda Bergen
Trustees' Garden Club, Zone VIII
Savannah, GA

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2014-2016 Zone Rep, Photography
- 2012-2014 Zone Rep, Communications
- 2010-2012 Zone Vice Chairman



Carolyn Ruth Stancill
Laurel Garden Club, Zone IX
Laurel, MS
Secondary: Garden Club of Jackson

- 2011-2013 Zone Rep, Bulletin
- 2009-2011 Zone Rep, Founders Fund
- 2005-2006 Member, Library
- 2003-2005 Chairman, Administrative Publications (Webmaster)
- 2004 Club Medal of Merit
- 2001-2003 Zone Vice Chairman
- 2000-2001 Club President



Mary Harman
Country Garden Club, Zone X
Perrysburg, OH

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2015-2017 Member, Audit
- 2014-2016 Chairman, Program
- 2014 Club Medal of Merit
- 2012-2014 Zone Rep, Program
- 2010-2012 Club President



Barbara Kehoe
Garden Guild of Winnetka, Zone XI
Wilmette, IL

- 2015-2017 Zone Rep, Awards
- 2014 Club Medal of Merit
- 2014-2015 Vice Chairman, Nominating
- 2013-2015 Zone Rep, Nominating
- 2010-2012 Chairman, Garden History & Design
- 2009 Horticulture Judge
- 2008-2010 Vice Chairman, Garden History & Design
- 2005-2007 Zone Rep, Garden History & Design
- 2003-2005 Club President




Annette Serrurier
Diggers Garden Club, Zone XII
Pasadena, CA

- 2016-2017 Zone Director
- 2014-2016 Zone Chairman
- 2012-2014 Vice Chairman, Garden History & Design
- 2010-2012 Zone Rep, Garden History & Design
- 2008 Co-chairman, Zone Meeting
- 2001-2003 Club President

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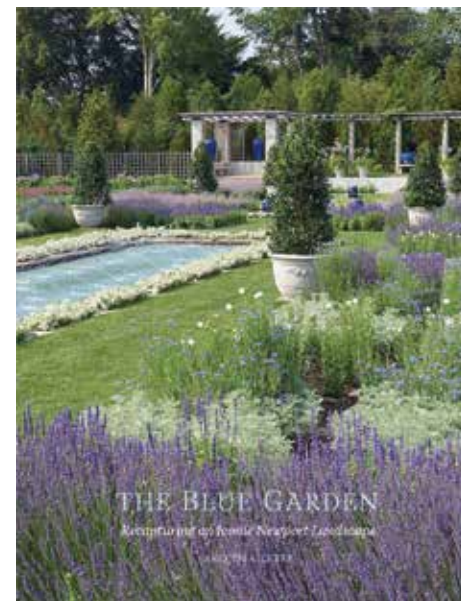
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THE BLUE GARDEN:
Recapturing an Iconic Newport Landscape

This richly illustrated book tells the story of an iconic Newport garden, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and the Olmsted Brothers' firm between 1910 and 1913. The Blue Garden was renowned for its unique monochromatic palette of blues and purples on the estate of Arthur Curtiss and Harriet Parsons James. Landscape historian Arley Levee explores the collaborative design process between the owners and the Olmsted firm, illuminating the story with original photographs, plans and drawings from numerous repositories across the country. She details the garden's near loss after the owners' deaths, and the rediscovery and rehabilitation of this remarkable space. The concluding section examines how historic material was analyzed and interpreted to reconstruct the garden according to 21st century standards, while retaining the integrity of the original Olmsted design intent. A full color photographic essay captures the success of this reconstruction.

Published with the historic Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Newport, the book is a sumptuous 208 pages, cloth-bound, hardcover with dust jacket, fully illustrated in color and in black and white. As an added bonus, included in the volume is a DVD, "Building the Blue Garden."

The book is available online at www.redwoodlibrary.org.



*The Blue Garden is private and open for tours
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Happy New Year from the Committee



AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, many of us tend to hunker down and take time to reflect—reflect on our lives, our families, our work. We make to-do lists that may or may not happen, and we may even fret about unachieved goals. Instead, take a cue from President Anne Copenhaver’s letter—just sit down with a cup of tea or coffee and (we suggest!) read the *Bulletin*. It’s much more

relaxing—and it’s much more fun! And we promise that you will be informed, intrigued, and inspired.

In this issue you’ll find articles about water: America’s rivers, endangered wetlands, and the lack of water in the dry Southwest. There also is the GCA’s just-announced slate of officers for 2017-2018, the important testimony by the GCA opposing the proposal to install jumbo digital billboards in our nation’s capital, the upcoming *Maryland in May* Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, and the always-interesting reports from our clubs in the Zone Meetings, Milestones, and NewsWorthy sections.

You will also read about the Founders Fund Award finalists: Santa Fe GC’s *Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden*; Augusta GC’s *Project Dogwood: Staunton’s Tradition Reborn*; and Kettle Moraine GC’s *Bee Healthy Garden at Boys & Girls Clubs of Milwaukee’s Camp Whitcomb Mason*. Each proposal is incredibly worthwhile, so don’t forget to have your club vote before April 1st!

BTW: just in case you’re wondering about our committee picture—we were not hard at work in Mrs. Claus’s Northpole cookie factory. However, we were taking a very delicious tour of a real, state-of-the-art, 90,000 sq. ft. cookie factory in New Jersey where over 300 million artisanal cookies are made each year. This falls into the category of “just say yes” to any opportunity to serve on a GCA committee—you never know what amazing things you’ll get to do!

Finally, we would like to thank you, our readers, for your enthusiastic response to the *Bulletin*. It truly is a collaborative effort with outstanding support from the GCA’s leadership and staff, national committees, and our clubs. Happy New Year!



—The Bulletin Committee

Bulletin Committee 2016–17

Gina Brandt, *Chairman*
Hancock Park GC, Zone XII

Laura Case, *Vice Chairman*
New Canaan GC, Zone II

Pamela Hirsch, *Vice Chairman*
GC of Morristown, Zone IV

Gay Legg, *Vice Chairman*
St. George’s GC, Zone VI

Penelope Ross, *Copy Editor*
Fairfield GC, Zone II

ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

Ruthie Barker, Fox Hills GC, Zone I

Louise van Tartwijk, Washington GC, Zone II

Lorraine Alexander, *Editor-at-large*
Millbrook GC, Zone III

Kathryne Singleton, Rumson GC, Zone IV

Debbie Laverell, The Garden Workers,
Zone V

Brooke Morton, Perennial GC, Zone VI

Madeline Mayhood, James River GC,
Zone VII

Julie Badger, Sand Hills GC, Zone VIII

Sandy Dansby, The Monroe Garden
Study League, Zone IX

Betsy Bosway, Indianapolis GC, Zone X

Julie Taylor, Cedar Rapids GC, Zone XI

Teri Taylor, GC of Santa Barbara, Zone XII

EXECUTIVE BOARD LIAISON

Crissy Cherry, Lake Forest GC, Zone XI

ZONE DIRECTOR LIAISON

Malinda Bergen, Trustees’ GC, Zone VIII

GCA STAFF ADMINISTRATOR

Paige Trubatch



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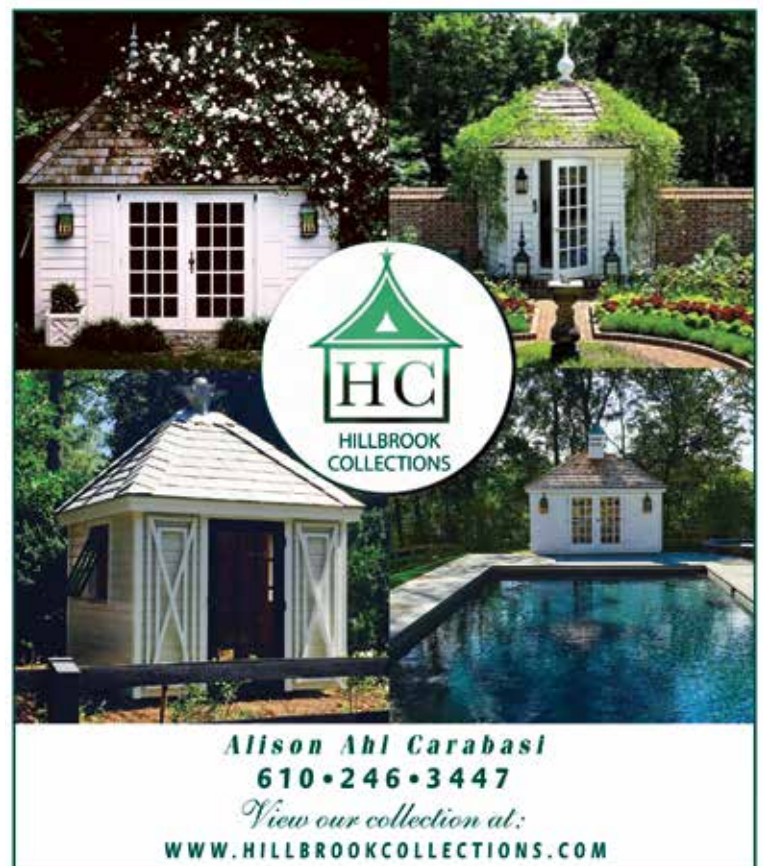
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Putting an End to Billboard Blight—

The GCA Testifies in our Nation's Capital

Since its founding the GCA has been a leading opponent of billboard blight, working locally and nationally to support the Highway Beautification Act and other measures designed to preserve and enhance the scenic character of our communities.

That's why on November 14 last year the GCA Executive Board concluded it was, again, time to act.

The reason?

The DC Council is preparing to adopt a billboard law that will allow the proliferation of jumbo electronic billboards throughout the capital, defacing its beauty and violating its historic control of billboards.

Faced with proposed legislation that could set such a dangerous precedent for cities across the country, the GCA Executive Board voted unanimously on November 10, at the recommendation of the National Affairs & Legislation and Conservation committees, for the GCA to appear publicly and call for the end of billboards in our nation's capital.

The GCA's First Vice President Dede Petri (Georgetown GC), who resides in Washington was on the spot to deliver testimony calling on city leaders to "set a standard for the country as the preeminent green city." She stated, "[Washington] has already been successful in inviting a vast array of green buildings.... As elected officials for this great city, you have the opportunity and responsibility to reinforce Washington's historic beauty, to

strengthen its position as one of the world's greatest cities, and to ensure that it sets an example when it comes to environmentally sensitive urban development and revitalization. That is why you must KILL THIS BILL."

In the old days, so the story goes, GCA club members, in the dead of night, chopped down the unsightly billboards. Today we are not so covert in our efforts—but we are every bit as committed to the challenge.



In the old days, so the story goes, GCA club members, in the dead of night, chopped down the unsightly billboards. Today we are not so covert in our efforts—but we are every bit as committed to the challenge.

But why would the GCA care about signs in the District of Columbia? Washington is not just any community. As outlined in Dede's testimony, it is an historic city with a unique and significant landscape. Citing Pierre L'Enfant, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Lady Bird Johnson, the GCA called on city leaders to take the long view and avoid expediency. "Visitors who come to Washington should be able to appreciate the grandeur of this city, not be assaulted by visual pollution caused by massive signs hawking the latest drink or commercial fad."

The GCA was not alone in its opposition. Also testifying against the bill were the Committee of 100 for the Federal City, an ally in opposing the destruction of the Haupt Garden at the Smithsonian (see *Bulletin*, Fall 2016, page 15); Scenic America; the International Dark-Sky Association; and Brenda Moorman, president of the Georgetown Garden Club. Many other parties raised concerns about the bill, including the National Capital Planning Commission. The bill is now going to markup; a decision is expected very soon. The battle to end visual pollution in the nation's capital promises to be an uphill struggle.

To learn how you can help, go to NAL's landing page on the GCA website. The text of the GCA's testimony is reprinted in full on the following pages.



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TESTIMONY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA IN OPPOSITION TO
THE NATIONALS PARK GRAPHICS AND ENTERTAINMENT REGULATORY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2016
BEFORE THE DC COUNCIL, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Good morning, Madam Chairman, and members of the Council.

My name is Anne Neal Petri. I am the first vice president of The Garden Club of America, a national nonprofit founded in 1913 and based in New York City, dedicated to restoring, improving, and protecting the environment. The Garden Club of America is composed of 200 clubs with more than 18,000 club members nationwide.

The GCA has had a strong interest in conservation, roadway beautification, and the control of outdoor advertising along the nation's highways and byways dating back to its earliest years. From the beginning, we have been an outspoken opponent of billboard blight, working both locally and nationally to support the Highway Beautification Act and other measures designed to preserve and enhance the scenic character of our communities.

Our clubs collaborate with the US National Park Service and local public parks to restore native habitats, remove invasive species, and monitor rare, endangered, and medicinal plants through Partners for Plants projects that span the country. A gift from the GCA in 1992 provided the core images and slides of the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens, a major horticultural collection. Thanks to funding from the GCA and others in 2000, the Smithsonian created the Pollinator Garden adjoining the National Museum of Natural History.

The GCA's Conservation and National Affairs & Legislation committees enjoy a distinguished history presenting congressional testimony, position papers, and an annual conference of 300 club members who meet with members of Congress to address timely environmental issues. In 2016 the GCA was honored by the Open Space Institute with its Land Conservation Award, recognizing more than a century of GCA advocacy for conservation.

I speak today in opposition to The Nationals Park Graphics and Entertainment Regulatory Amendment Act of 2016. While we understand the importance of urban development, installation of massive, flashing video signage on and around Nationals Park would violate the city's long-standing control of billboards and amount

to clear degradation of the city's southern gateway. We respectfully ask that you withdraw this bill and BAN NEW BILLBOARDS in the nation's capital.

Annually, our members join with millions of others to visit the nation's capital, a historic city of broad avenues designed by Pierre L'Enfant and George Washington and reinforced by the McMillan Commission and famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. In his many presentations to the city, Olmsted emphasized the need to "extend the effect of the Capitol as the dominant feature of the city." In advice especially pertinent to the issues today, he urged city planners to take the long view and to avoid expediency: "In any great plan time must develop features which seem under the conditions of the present moment capable of improvement....Once...establish the precedent of seriously altering it to meet the ideas of the moment, and the bars are thrown down for caprice and confusion."

As elected officials for this great city, you have the opportunity and responsibility to reinforce Washington's historic beauty, to strengthen its position as one of the world's greatest cities, and to ensure that it sets an example when it comes to environmentally sensitive urban development and revitalization. That is why you must KILL THIS BILL.

Every city has its own identifying characteristics, and it boggles the mind to understand why, in the very seat of our republic, we would want to borrow from the digital presentation of the Las Vegas "strip."

Visitors who come to Washington should be able to appreciate the grandeur of this city, not be assaulted by visual pollution caused by massive signs hawking the latest drink or commercial fad. Yet that is in fact what this bill proposes to do.

The bill uses nice words like "graphic displays" and "digital signage." But these terms should not obscure the intent of this bill—to permit ten enormous pulsing signs, flashing a continuous array of advertisements on the waterfront.

Frankly, we are distressed to see the Nats—whom we admire—pursue this special exception to the city's historic billboard control. When they built their LEED-certified

stadium, they promised to be environmentally sensitive. But this proposal is anything but. There is a reason that digital billboards have been called “energy hogs”—they use an enormous amount of electricity, far more than any conventional billboard, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

Faced with the prospect of flashing lights in every hotel and home, it’s no wonder that the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission has voted unanimously to oppose this bill. Do they see this as a neighborhood gain? No, they see this as reducing their property values and quality of life.

This proposal is especially troubling since it comes when the District and numerous regional and federal partners are engaged in a visionary effort to transform the shores of the Anacostia River into a world-class waterfront. In *Extending the Legacy: Planning America’s Capital for the 21st Century*, the National Capital Planning Commission (of which the DC Council is a member) described the project as “[u]nifying the city and the Monumental Core...by developing North and South Capitol Streets as civic gateways.”

The document notes that South Capitol Street can “become another Pennsylvania Avenue,” a “beautiful scenic boulevard,” where the Capitol Dome serves as a “stunning backdrop for night life on the new South Capitol Street.” The Project’s master plan states powerfully that the “destiny of the city as the nation’s capital and a premier world city is inextricably linked to...making the long neglected parks, environment, and infrastructure a national priority.”

Please make the environment a national priority. More than 24 percent of our country’s states already prohibit moving or animated signs; shouldn’t we as the nation’s capital be taking the lead in this movement rather than thwarting it?

Rather than continuing to carve out exceptions for so called “special signs” and “entertainment districts,” we ask the Council to embrace its broader public duty: ensure the overall aesthetic integrity of the nation’s capital.

Responsible stewardship is not easy—nor is it of the moment. It requires a willingness to withstand short-term plans—exciting on their face but myopic in their effect—in favor of the longer perspective. That is why we urgently call, at this moment, for you to KILL THE BILL.

Just down the river lies George Washington’s Mount Vernon. The viewshed retains the same grandeur today that our first president treasured more than two centuries ago thanks to courageous and visionary local leaders. Those leaders understood that immediate economic benefits—in 1955, a proposal for an oil tank farm; and just five years later, a sewage treatment plant—were outweighed by the retention of that historic and inspiring view.

Then First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy penned a letter arguing for the protection of the viewshed. Not long after, First Lady Lady Bird Johnson was instrumental in the successful passage of major environmental legislation including the Highway Beautification Act. In a speech to the American Institute of Architects in 1968, Lady Bird outlined a new type of conservation, a “concern for the total environment—not just the individual building, but the entire community.” “Look around you,” she said, “at the littered roadside; at the polluted stream; the decayed city center. We need urgently to restore the beauty of the land.”

It is time for the Council to restore the beauty of the land.

It would be ironic indeed, when so many Americans are focused on a green and sustainable environment, for Washington leaders to promote the proliferation of billboards. In doing so, you would ignore the long-standing good faith agreement between DC and the Federal Highway Administration to prohibit the proliferation of signs along federally funded roads.

It is essential that Washington remain a centerpiece of beauty, not a town laced with jumbotrons and digital ads. An inspiring view of the nation’s Capitol Dome is an essential part of the visitor’s experience and immediately offers both residents and tourists alike a powerful image of our democratic republic.

Washington should set a standard for the country as the preeminent green city. It has already been successful in inviting a vast array of green buildings. On behalf of the American people, we urge you to continue to advance Washington’s green reputation by saying “no” to this bill, resisting the proliferation of billboards, and preserving the scenic character of our nation’s capital. Thank you.



Rivers are among our most precious resources. They add cooling perspectives to our vistas—who hasn't seen a landscape come alive when a river runs through it? They shape our cultures and economies. They provide food and recreational playgrounds. And they put up with an awful lot of abuse: urban trash; poisonous runoff from planted fields and industry; pharmaceutical pollutants; and unintended consequences from the world's most extensive network of dams (90,000 in the US, only a fraction of which generate hydropower). The alpine lake we hike to, the river we navigate, the stream we fish—how seriously do we think about what lies beneath their surfaces? From Montana to Maine, freshwater ecologists are studying this essential gift of nature, the “kidneys of the continent.”

Fish are the most visible wildlife in our freshwaters, and



A brown bear fishing for salmon on the Brooks River in Alaska. Photo by Sarah Salomon

Below: Watershed of the Sebasticook River (ME), the largest tributary to the Kennebec, several months after the removal of the Fort Halifax Dam in 2008. This is a spawning and nursery habitat for alewife, American shad, rainbow smelt, and to a lesser extent Atlantic salmon. Photo by Benjamin Hayes

they have been under siege for a long time. A third of all fish native to North America are listed somewhere on a spectrum between vulnerable and extinct. Kurt Fausch, fish biologist, stream ecologist, and professor at Colorado State University,

has spent his career, first in Japan and now in the American West, studying fish habitats, in particular that of cutthroat (wild) trout. Rampant logging was the early enemy, but in the 1990s he saw loss in the plains of eastern Colorado, where rivers

like the Arikaree were drying up alongside vast fields of corn irrigated by sprinklers that create crop circles a quarter mile in diameter. Google Earth images tell the story of the rivers and streams these massive systems are depleting; only 8-10 miles of flowing river habitat still exist in the Arikaree. Sophisticated scientific modeling of large-scale pumping leads to estimates that by 2045 all the fish there will have disappeared. Says Fausch, “They won't have left the planet, but they will have left the western Great Plains, which supplies 25 percent of the world's grain.”

Another cause of species degradation is our habit of moving native fish—cutthroat and char from Colorado and Montana, brook trout in the Northeast, rainbow trout on the West Coast, and Europe's brown trout—around the world, as if they were mere commodities. We stock streams, confusing nature

Rivers:



Yakima River (WA) westslope cutthroat trout, or black-spotted trout, caught on a small dry fly and quickly released. Photo by Erik Hanson

as invasive species overtake natives.

And then there's the question of those 90,000 dams. Dams temporarily slow the flow of water, holding it in reservoirs, and this slackening creates its own changes in water temperature and oxygen levels. Dams also age in ways that are not that different from our own

aging processes: the concrete deteriorates (osteoporosis), gates become inoperable (arthritis), and pipes corrode (heart disease). Environmental groups like American Rivers, with nine regional US offices, and River Restoration are dams' visiting nurse services, sometimes the medical examiners who sign their death certificates.

There was a time when dam construction was heralded as proof of our mastery over nature. If we couldn't quite part waters, we could certainly divert them. The Tennessee Valley Authority was the standard-bearer for public utilities designed to spread water wealth and spur post-Depression economic development, while Hoover Dam, taming the Colorado River near Las Vegas, was considered a wonder of the world when it was completed, also in the 1930s. Over time, however, and despite certain benefits, fish and plant populations downstream



Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley before it was flooded in 1921 to create a reservoir for San Francisco. Archival photo from 1902

from Hoover Dam (the entire system includes 15 dams on the Colorado's main stem, and hundreds more on its tributaries) have been decimated.

Is there a better way? Or perhaps the question is "Can we learn from the past and bring ourselves into greater harmony with the wet world we inhabit?" Despite their proliferation, dams have almost always been controversial. John Muir's famous fight to save the Hetch

Hetchy Valley's "charming groves and gardens...as stunning as Yosemite Valley" from conversion to a reservoir for San Francisco was lost when President Wilson authorized the building of a dam on the Tuolumne River. In 1921 the San Clemente Dam was built on the Carmel River to bring water to the growing population of the Monterey Peninsula. The downside: riverbanks collapsed from over-pumping coupled with drought, erosion caused

by Lorraine Alexander,
Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III

Going Mainstream





Elwha Dam, constructed in 1913, demolished in 2012. Photo by Elaine Thompson, AP, 2008

excessive silt to accumulate, and fish, including steelhead trout, lost their habitat in side channels and tributaries. The number of trout completing their instinctive annual trek upriver went from tens of thousands in the 19th century to 91 in 1994. Three years later they were listed as endangered.

But this particular story ends well. Early 20th-century dam-construction techniques would not protect against

earthquakes; buttressing the existing San Clemente Dam would not improve its dramatically diminished capacity; and dredging would require the (infeasible) transport of 250,000 truckloads of sediment. After a decade of study, the dam was removed, restoring the river's natural route, in 2015.

Although some rivers can be “retrofitted”—on the lower Hudson River in New York fish ladders allow native eels and

shad to reclaim habitat—the San Clemente is only the latest removal of note. As reported in the *Christian Science Monitor* in 2014, 900 dams have been removed since the 1990s for reasons of safety, cost, and environmental integrity.

After numerous breaches and a failed ladder system, the Edwards Dam, built on Maine's Kennebec River in 1837, was removed in 1999. On the state's Sebasticook River, when two downstream dams were removed and a hydraulic fish elevator was installed on a third, viable dam, silver-backed river herring (alewives) returned in shimmering droves; in 2008 there were none, but with the installation of the six-foot-square elevator lifting them over the 27-foot-high dam every eight

minutes their numbers have risen too—to three million in 2014. “What you are looking at is a change in the mind-set of humanity toward what wealth is,” said biologist Nate Gray, of Maine's Department of Marine Resources, proudly surveying their return. Iowans are getting rid of the state's 177 aging and largely useless low-head dams; the Elkader small dam removal project is making way for whitewater paddling, canoeing, and, upstream, safe passage for fish.

The really big, attention-getting dam removals are in the West, however. When the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams were built a century ago on Washington State's salmon-rich Olympic Peninsula, five species of Pacific salmon suffered drastic losses; removal of the dams in 2011-2014—the largest such project in US history, overseen by the National Park Service—restored 70 miles of habitat. Snorkel surveys, radio telemetry, and sonar imagery, key tools of ever-improving technology, allow biologists to monitor the salmon as they recolonize the Elwha. (Salmon also nourish 130+ species of other wildlife, from insects and eagles to bears and otters.)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the largest freshwater conservation organization in the world. In addition to initiatives like the \$143 million Great Western Checkerboard project to conserve freshwater hubs in

The Missouri River

The Missouri River is the longest river in North America, flowing east and south from Montana for 2,341 miles until joining the Mississippi River north of St. Louis. When Lewis and Clark undertook President Jefferson's mission to trace the river to its headwaters, the Missouri traversed a diverse landscape, revealed in the scientific data collected during their voyage of discovery. Lewis, a pioneering naturalist, reported systematically on the river, its flora, and its fauna; his journals describe at least 120 mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish, as well as 182 plant species.

Throughout the 19th century people followed the river westward. Land was homesteaded, farmed, and logged. Wildlife was hunted and habitat lost. Over time the river itself was altered as technology evolved and dams—15 above Sioux City, Iowa, and hundreds of small ones on the tributaries—were built for irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power.

By 2011 a third of the river had been impounded by dams. On the upper river, six of the biggest dams—Fort Peck, Oahe, Garrison, Big Bend, Fort Randall, and Gavins Point—form the most extensive system of reservoirs in the US. Only two segments, both in South Dakota, are protected under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (1968), and 33 of the 156 native fish species in the Missouri River basin are now considered either rare, threatened, or endangered.

Today Army Corps of Engineers' operations to restore habitat, rebuild sandbars, and plant bottomland forests are coordinated with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Such measures may mitigate the damage done to the river and its watershed by America's progress westward in the two centuries since Lewis and Clark set off into the wilderness.

—Louise Van Tartwijk, Washington Garden Club, Zone II

Montana and Washington State, its overriding goal is “to find ways to conserve healthy rivers and yet promote low-carbon energy,” which hydropower is. The TNC’s definition of calamity, past and future, is poorly planned hydropower dams, and its best solution to date is Hydropower by Design, scaled to individual water basins to ensure connectivity and heal the fragmentation that dams routinely cause.

One threat to the health of rivers that has nothing to do with dams is contamination from toxins that water treatment facilities were never intended to filter. (See *Bulletin*, Fall 2015, page 8.) Emma Rosi-Marshall, an aquatic ecologist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New York, is co-author of a new amphetamine study based on samples taken from six stream sites in and around Baltimore and replicated in 20 artificial streams at her Cary lab. Her goal is not so

much to identify the presence of amphetamines; that, alas, is largely a given, nationwide. It is rather to discover their effect on bacteria, algae, and insects in the aquatic universe under her microscope—which would then be ingested by larger animals and eventually, thanks to the food chain, by us.

Needless and yet important to say, education is key at all levels. Yale’s September 2016 “Sustainability Leadership Forum” focused on coordinating responses—from small communities, countries, and continents—to environmental threats. NBC Learn’s four-part series on water, free for public and classroom use as of this past fall, ensures information reaches children, teachers, and parents. Kurt Fausch reminds us that rivers also teach and speak to us: “Science shows that the sound of flowing water is the most preferred of any human or natural sound tested.” Are we listening?



Crop circles of irrigated land in eastern Colorado. Photo by Norman Gates

The Detroit River



The new Detroit RiverWalk has become a popular downtown destination. Photo by John Martin, courtesy of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

Many of us know about the decline of the once-thriving City of Detroit and the resulting damage to the spirit of its citizens. But few link the city’s struggles to its greatest natural resource: the Detroit River. Thankfully, a renewed energy has led to the restoration of this great waterway and to a renaissance of its namesake city.

The Detroit River, an important transportation route between the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, flows for 24 nautical miles from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. The river was once so busy with commercial traffic that it was declared a public highway by an act of Congress in 1819. But as commerce skyrocketed, the Detroit River suffered unbridled, even wanton exploitation. Air and water pollution and habitat loss seemed the price the river and its namesake city would pay.

In the early 1990s, however, citizens and scientists from the US and Canada came together to restore the river and its environs. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement launched projects to address such threats to people’s health and the environment as harmful algae, toxic chemicals, and ballast-water from shipping vessels. Work continued through the city’s bankruptcy of 2013, and with leadership from the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and other groups, over \$1 billion have been invested in revitalization efforts.

A 2016 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is enabling Friends of the Detroit River to begin restoring shoal and backwater habitats for walleye, northern pike, and lake sturgeon as well as the canvasback duck. The Belle Isle Conservancy is working to preserve Belle Isle Park, 982 acres designed by Frederick Law Olmstead in 1883 that are home to lagoons, lakes, wetlands, and a boreal forest. And the Garden Club of Michigan is pursuing a long-term project that will enhance a nine-acre site on the western tip of the island.

—Kathryne Singleton, Rumson Garden Club, Zone IV

You've Come a Long Way, Baby

The view from our neighborhood, which runs along the southern bank of the James River in Richmond, is idyllic.

We call it our own national park, despite its location in the middle of Virginia's capital city, with a metro population exceeding a million. The river, Virginia's longest and most historic, cuts a rugged seven-mile swath along the city's fall line. We regularly see kayaks and rafts negotiating the rapids and rocks, canoes and inter-tubes bobbing in the calm waters just upstream, bald eagles and osprey riding the vectors overhead. Swimmers jump off boulders and small islands that dot this part of the James; couples with children and dogs in tow picnic on the promontories overlooking the roaring water. The backdrop to this vista? The gleaming downtown cityscape just a few miles away.

This serene scene is a far cry from the realities and black eyes of the past. For a time, and in relatively recent history, a complete lack of environmental stewardship and conservation plagued Richmond. And, sadly, the James River became the primary casualty. In the 1960s and 1970s rusty appliances were being tossed off bridges at night. Duck hunters' devoted retrievers were said to be dropping dead on the riverbanks after returning their master's shot game.

"This was an era when the James was in big trouble," says James River Association board member Andrea Erda, also a member of James River Garden Club. Erda grew up on the James at Westover, one of a handful of colonial-era plantations built around Charles City, just east of Richmond. During her childhood raw sewage blighted the river, and toxic chemical dumps were a regular occurrence. In 1975 Governor Mills E. Godwin Jr. shut down all fishing in the James from Richmond to the Chesapeake Bay after the Kepone disaster in neighboring

Hopewell, among the worst environmental catastrophes of the 20th century. (An insecticide related to DDT, Kepone is now banned worldwide.) The James, one of the country's founding rivers, became known as one of its most polluted waterways.

Meanwhile Newton Ancarrow was busy building speedboats in Richmond, and noticed that his marine paint was sloughing off their hulls by the proverbial boatload—no competition for the river's corrosive sewage. Among the first environmental champions of the James River, he publicly compared it to the Ganges in India. Ancarrow's movement took off; responsible cleanup became fashionable, and "sustainability" and "stewardship" morphed into buzzwords.

Fast forward to the present day. *Outside* magazine named Richmond the "Best River Town Ever" in 2012—beating out more predictable contenders such as Hood River, Oregon, and Missoula, Montana. Fishermen after catfish, sunfish, and smallmouth bass are regularly out with their rods and reels, and great blue herons hunt patiently for unsuspecting insects and frogs, within easy sight of Richmond's financial center. "The James River is arguably the most improved river in the country," says Bill Street, executive director of the James River Association. Andrea Erda has returned to Richmond to raise her family at Westover. The river is, quite literally, their front yard.

Today the Richmond riverfront is bustling. Depending on the season, five classes of whitewater rapids await intrepid paddlers. A slew of festivals throughout the year use the James as their centerpiece; museums, corporate headquarters, restaurants, lofts, and condos dot the

riverbanks. From the Richmond Slave Trail and the Manchester Climbing Wall to the Canal Walk, even a Blue Heron Rookery, Richmond is re-energized.

The health of the James is still threatened by over 1,000 toxic storage sites and billions of gallons of crude oil and coal ash traveling each week along its shores. Nonetheless Richmond's metamorphosis from Confederate capital and "city of cigarettes" to a fine example of sound planning and responsible stewardship seems like a miracle. My husband regularly bikes to work, a six-mile commute downtown that includes a suspension-bridge river crossing built for cyclists and pedestrians. This winter he is plotting a warmer-weather commute by kayak. These are concepts unheard of a generation ago. Remember the Phillip Morris/Virginia Slims slogan from the 1960s? "You've Come a Long Way, Baby," perfectly and ironically, describes this most successful river journey.

—Madeline Mayhood,
James River Garden Club, Zone VII

Facing page, clockwise from top left:

Bald eagles have made a comeback along the James.

Richmond's skyline is reflected in the James River.

Boulders and rocks in the James River just west of Richmond. Photo by Madeline Mayhood

The James has Class I–V rapids.

Smallmouth bass, sunfish, and catfish are plentiful at Richmond's Texas Beach area.

Kayaking on the James can be challenging.

Photos courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism unless otherwise indicated





America's Endangered

More than half of America's coastal wetlands, or approximately 120 million acres, have disappeared since 1900. Why has this happened?

Primary causes stem from human population pressures—development, pollution—as well as neglect and climate change. And the effects? Damaged or destroyed aquatic habitats, depleted commercial fisheries, including shellfish beds, and the general degradation of coastal environments and economies.

Why does any of this matter? Wetlands are some of the most productive habitats on the planet. Constituting only five percent of the US landmass, they secure areas that give us (and our economy) fish and shellfish, blueberries and cranberries, timber, rice, and even plant-based medicines. Acting as sponges, wetlands play an integral, natural role in flood control—out-performing levees and expensive dredging operations—and in groundwater recharge, which replenishes our aquifers through surface water seepage. In effect they are environmentally comparable to rain forests and coral reefs; all three support enormously important ecosystems of interdependent organisms sharing nutrients and the sun's energy. Specifically, our wetlands provide critical habitats to more than one-third of species that are officially listed as either threatened or endangered at federal and state levels. Among the at-risk denizens of wetlands are bog turtles, dwarf wedge mussels, and northeastern bulrushes, federally; tiger salamanders, black rails, and spotted darters in my home state of New York. Finally, of course, many wetlands support exceptional recreational opportunities. According to the Nobel-bestowing Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in a report by Robert Costanza titled “The Value of Coastal Wetlands for Hurricane Protection,” the dollar value of wetlands worldwide is estimated to be \$14.9 trillion.

In urban communities, where more than 60 percent of Americans live, wetlands are particularly valuable. They counteract the greatly increased rate and volume of surface water runoff from such “hardscape” as pavements, asphalt roads, and buildings. In rural areas they ward off the waterlogging of crops. Preserving and restoring wetlands should be a national priority for conservation efforts.

Wetlands and watersheds, distinct but intimately related in many places, are links between land and water. To be clear, watersheds are areas of land that catch rain and snow, which in turn drain into ponds, lakes, rivers, bays, and oceans. Behaving as funnels, watersheds are everywhere around us—parks, farms, forests, residential neighborhoods—and are often named for the place they empty into, such as the Great Lakes watershed. Wetlands are areas that are naturally *saturated* at or near the surface; often referred to as marshes, swamps, bogs, sloughs, fenlands, or bayous, they can support both aquatic and terrestrial life. In our warming world of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, increasingly severe and



Wetlands

by Lisa Ott, GCA Conservation/NAL Vice Chairman—Water/Wetlands, North Country Garden Club of Long Island, Zone III



frequent storms, and new survival-mode migration patterns, coastal and estuarine habitat restoration is a key strategy for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Wetlands vary considerably because of regional and local variations in soil and water chemistry, topography, and climate. They are found from the tundra to the tropics and on every continent except Antarctica. Inland wetlands, or non-tidal marshes, are the most prevalent and widely distributed type in North America. Mostly freshwater, although some are brackish, or alkaline, they frequently occur along streams in poorly drained depressions and in the shallow water along the boundaries of lakes, ponds, and rivers. Water levels in these wetlands range from a few inches to a few feet, and some non-tidal marshes, like prairie potholes, may periodically dry out completely. Little wonder that they are ideal incubators of nutrients, able to sustain a vast array of plant communities that in turn support a wide variety of wildlife. Even small inland marshes can support an extensive diversity of life. Unfortunately, like many other wetland ecosystems, freshwater marshes have lost major acreage to human development.

Coastal wetlands, or tidal marshes, constitute the other broad category of these wet ecosystems. Located at middle and high latitudes worldwide, in the US they are most prevalent on the East Coast from Maine to Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana and Texas. Some are freshwater marshes, others are brackish (somewhat salty), and still others are saline (salty), but they are all influenced by the motion of ocean tides. In saline zones tides regularly cover, then expose, lower marshland. In these conditions the tall form of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) is the predominant vegetation. Higher, in the upper saline marsh, where water only sporadically arrives, short, smooth saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*), and saltmeadow rush (*Juncus gerardii*) abound, along with a specialized suite of other flora species.

Tidal marshes serve many important functions. They buffer shorelines against stormy seas and slow erosion; serve as filters, absorbing excess nitrogen from human waste and fertilizers before it can contaminate oceans and estuaries; provide vital food and habitat for clams, crabs, and juvenile fish; and shelter nesting sites for such migratory waterfowl as black ducks and brants.

Pressure to fill in these wetlands for coastal development has led to significant and continuing loss, especially along the Atlantic coast. Pollution near urban areas also remains a serious threat to these ecosystems. Fortunately most states have enacted laws to protect tidal marshes, but continued diligence is needed to ensure that these measures are vigorously enforced. By acting now we will ensure that our coastal wetlands remain productive habitats for generations to come.

All photos by Phyllis Weekes

What We Can Do

Nationally

New federal regulations could play a critical role in wetland conservation. Finalized in mid-2015, the Clean Water Rule would change the definition of waterways and wetlands that automatically receive federal protections under the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended. Legal challenges to the Clean Water Rule were brought by 27 states as well as industry groups and environmental nonprofits on a variety of grounds—from claims that the regulation infringes on property rights to claims seeking greater pollution protections. Its fate in the courts is, to date, unresolved.

Another federal measure key to wetlands survival is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by Congress in 1965. In spring 2016 the US Senate voted to reauthorize the LWCF *permanently* and at full funding—a decided victory for conservation. The companion measure, pending in the House, is part of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, which also would secure funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The GCA's National Affairs & Legislation Committee (NAL) will continue to urge clubs and club members to support these measures.

Locally

While we advocate for congressional action through the NAL, and armed with the realization that the health of our wetlands is in real jeopardy, we are far from helpless in our everyday lives. Simple efforts, multiplied many times over, can contribute to wetlands survival.

- Keep surface areas that wash into storm drains clean from trash, pet waste, toxic chemicals, fertilizers, and motor oil.
- Use phosphate-free laundry and dishwasher detergents. Phosphates encourage algae growth, which can suffocate aquatic life.
- Turn to the increasing number of nontoxic products, including unbleached paper for cleaning and readily available horticultural vinegar for safe weed-killing.
- Avoid wetlands when expanding your house or business. Many communities have zoning regulations that forbid construction in wetlands.
- If private and public waterfront areas need to be stabilized, follow “living shoreline” techniques by planting native wetland species adapted to different tide levels to stabilize soil.
- Discourage local businesses and governments from deploying heavy equipment in protected areas.

Everyone in your community will benefit from the scenic and recreational opportunities protected areas offer.

ARIZONA: WATERING THE DESERT

by Carol Schilling, Columbine Garden Club, Zone XII

Water is a legacy issue in Arizona. Ownership of water in dry country is a life-or-death matter. Early ranchers and miners fought over it, and today states in the Southwest still struggle over their allotments. Water rights associated with acreage are often more valuable than the land itself and can be sold separately. To guarantee water for future growth, some cities have purchased large ranches specifically to secure the water rights.

The cultural histories of Native Americans in the Southwest have also been influenced by water rights. The thriving agricultural life of the Pimas came to an end in the mid-19th century, when water that irrigated their crops of food and fiber, was diverted, in violation of US Supreme Court rulings. In the 1920s a project to provide water from the Gila River failed, causing famine. After nearly a century of legal battles, water rights for the Gila River Indian Community were signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2005. Today Navajo and Hopi reservations in Arizona also depend on aquifers, some millions of years old, for water. And aquifers, like the Gila and Salt rivers, are drying up.

Arizona has about two dozen rivers, some of which would be called creeks elsewhere, but our biggest, the Colorado River, is also one of North America's major rivers. It forms the drainage basin for most



The Colorado River flows through the Grand Canyon before reaching the Hoover Dam and eventually Mexico. Photo by Debbie Laverell



A low-water-use landscape using mostly native plants connects seamlessly with the Sonoran Desert beyond the garden wall. Photo by Heidi Riggs

of the Southwest. Dams on the Colorado—Glen Canyon Dam to the east and Hoover Dam to the west—bookend Grand Canyon National Park, providing electricity, water, and water storage for Arizona and much of the rest of the Southwest.

Completed in 1936, Hoover Dam impounds the largest reservoir in the US, Lake Mead. Located at the Arizona-Nevada border, the dam was built to control water for irrigation and municipal uses downstream in Arizona, Nevada, and California. Drought is taking a heavy toll, however. Lake Mead's water levels are falling, causing marinas and launch ramps on the lake to relocate or close. But impacts on recreation are not nearly as worrying as concerns over drinking water, irrigation reserves, and hydroelectrical power generation. Changing rainfall patterns and increased evaporation are exacerbating pressures on this resource as the population it serves also increases.

Lake Powell was formed when the Glen Canyon Dam, upriver from the Hoover Dam, was completed in the 1960s. It provides water storage for use by cities and ranches in the Colorado River Basin, which includes Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico in the Upper Basin; and California, Arizona, Nevada, and two Mexican states in the Lower Basin. In addition to

hydroelectricity, it also provides flood control, which may seem an ironic problem to people unfamiliar with arid regions. But aridity is precisely the problem. Rain and snow melt can come suddenly and with great violence into dry-wash areas, where they are not quickly absorbed. The result of such rapidly flowing water is often flash flooding, and it happens in cities like Phoenix and Tucson as well as the flat bottoms of canyons.

Environmentalists fought the creation of Glen Canyon Dam, which submerged beautiful canyons and geological features. The dam and Lake Powell are still blamed for damaging the ecosystems of the Grand Canyon and for huge losses of water due to evaporation and seepage.

Construction on the Central Arizona Project, the largest and most expensive aqueduct system in the US, began in 1973 and took twenty years to complete. It is a 336-mile concrete canal that delivers vital water from the Colorado River to central and southern Arizona. Residents of Phoenix benefit from the Salt River Project, another federally financed source of water. In addition to several dams, four reservoirs east of Phoenix generate electrical power; the lakes the reservoirs create are stocked with fish, making them popular destinations for anglers.

Despite such huge water-related infrastructure investments, Arizona is in its



Hoover Dam and its reservoir, Lake Mead, where “bathtub rings” evidence the area’s prolonged drought. As of December 2016, Department of Interior statistics showed a water level that has reached “Ration Regime” status. Photo by Debbie Laverell



Water-wise Arizona gardeners have learned that native desert species are not only beautiful but thrive in an arid environment. Photo by Heidi Riggs


twenty-first year of drought. Average yearly rainfall in Phoenix for the past three decades has barely reached eight inches, some years fewer than five.

The state’s major reservoirs are half empty. Drainage into the Colorado River is also down by half. Arizonans, accustomed to dry conditions and the need to conserve resources, are using the same amount of water today as they did 60 years ago, although the population is six times larger.

In the beautiful Sonoran Desert, which benefits from two rainy seasons, plants are well adapted to the extremes of dry versus wet. Some, like the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*), absorb water quickly and save it for later use, while those with thorns and hairy growths make their own shade. Others, such as ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*), shed leaves to prevent water loss. *Agaves*, which grow in shapes that capture rainwater and channel it to their own roots, have thick, waxy leaves that store water and decrease evaporation.

Breaking the green lawn habit, Arizona gardeners are adapting to a dry land. They see new beauty in the spare, artful forms of native plants, which grow best in this barren landscape. They prefer the steady drip of irrigation lines that allow water to seep gently into the ground. They embrace xeriscaping. They may dream of rain, but they garden in the real, increasingly dry world.

Water Lilies

A photograph of a pond filled with water lilies. In the foreground, a single white water lily with yellow centers is in full bloom, surrounded by numerous lily pads in various shades of green and yellow. The water is dark, and the overall scene is peaceful and natural.

The Red Indian Fairy Book, written by Frances Jenkins Olcott and published in 1917, is a collection of Native American myths and legends selected from many sources. One story, “The Star and the Water Lilies,” tells the tale of a bright little star who looked down on Earth, saw children playing, and wished to be with them. She decided to live on the surface of the lake so that the children would see her and love her.

Today water lilies (family of flowering plants, *Nymphaeaceae*) are still much loved both in their natural habitat and as cultivated ornamental plants. Sources vary slightly, but the family is comprised of five genera with about 70 species. The plant is an aquatic rhizomatous perennial herb native to tropical zones, although it’s been hybridized for temperate gardens since the 19th century.

Often called “the queen of the garden,” water lilies are found in

quiet, shallow, freshwater ponds, lakes, and swamps. The waxy-looking leaf attaches to a long stalk that arises from stems buried in the mud. Similarly the floating flowers—solitary, fragrant, cuplike, and multi-petal—have long stalks that attach to underground stems. The flowers have a long blooming season, from spring to late fall.

In their natural environment water lilies serve an important purpose in support of the ecosystem of the water in which they live. They provide shade, which keeps the water temperature down and helps prevent the growth of algae, while sheltering fish. Wildlife, such as deer, beavers,

and muskrats, consume the leaves and rhizomes; the seeds are eaten by ducks. Some parts—the young leaves, unopened flower buds, seeds, and, in one species only, *Nymphaea tuberosa*, tubers—are also edible by humans. The seeds, for example, which are high in starch, protein, and oil, may be ground into flour. The downside is the potential for unchecked or invasive growth, which can “shade out” other plants or hinder water sports and boating.

Water lilies come in a very wide variety of colors, leaf shapes, growing patterns, fragrances, and sizes—from miniature flowers with small leaves to giant plants spreading over 25 square feet with leaves up to almost ten feet in diameter (*Victoria amazonica*).

There is a water lily for every pond and every preference. What is yours?

—Debbie Laverell,
The Garden Workers, Zone V



A Powerful Force for Conservation:

Dan Burkhardt



Dan Burkhardt by the Missouri River. Photo by Scott Wolff

Dan Burkhardt, ardent conservationist and author, founded the Katy Land Trust and co-founded Magnificent Missouri, two organizations that protect, preserve, and advance the rich heritage of Missouri. A member of the Garden Club of St. Louis, he is the 2014 recipient of the club's conservation award, and presently serves as its Conservation/NAL Committee chairman. Peter Raven, long-time director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and now its president emeritus, calls Dan a "powerful force for conservation." "We need more people like Dan Burkhardt, who is a steward of the land everywhere he lives," says Raven, "especially here in Missouri, but for the Florida Everglades as well."

The pastures, hayfields, and vineyards of the Burkhardt farm near the Missouri River are protected by a conservation easement. Photo by Curt Dennison



Tell me about yourself. What is your background?

I grew up on the family farm near Ann Arbor, Michigan, and walked to a one-room school. We raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and rabbits and grew corn and wheat. My mother always had a large garden. We moved from the farm when I was ten, but my early impressions of farm life and the land had a permanent influence on me. My family moved to Missouri when I was in high school, and since then I've always lived near the Missouri River. My parents and grandparents used to say, "If you take care of the land it will take care of you," meaning that we needed a good crop every year and the chances of getting that crop depended on how well we cared for the land.

Thirty years ago I bought our first farm, about an hour from St. Louis—an 1860s log house on 40 acres. Today my wife, Connie, and I own a 220-acre cattle farm, with rolling hayfields and vineyards, just north of the Missouri River. Having this place for our children—and now our grandchildren—to experience nature has been a remarkable gift.

You've written two books about the Missouri River: *Missouri River Country: 100 Miles of Stories and Scenery from Hermann to the Confluence* and *Growing Up with the River*. What made you write about the Missouri River?

The Missouri River is one of the country's greatest natural resources and our longest river—200 miles longer than the Mississippi. It supplies water to half of all Missourians. The Missouri—with its interesting, valuable, and historic valley—is often overshadowed by the Mississippi. When we founded the Katy Land Trust in 2010,



Sunset on the Missouri River. Photo by Curt Dennison

I began writing to our supporters and prospective supporters to explain why we were trying to conserve the land along the Katy Trail and the Missouri River. I thought that our namesake river deserved a tribute by Missourians who understand its value—that’s where *Missouri River Country* came from.

What are the issues for the river today?

For more than 120 years the Missouri River has suffered from complex political disputes about its use. Development in the river’s floodplain is the preeminent problem in Missouri. Building levees to protect land from flooding provides space for commercial and residential development but makes flooding worse in other areas. There has been an ongoing tug-of-war between states, business interests, conservationists, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Congress. People often become wrapped up in the “politics” of the river and forget the history and beauty of the river valley. We try to do “conservation by storytelling”—engaging people in the river in ways that circumvent the technical aspects of river issues. We figure if they love it—if they’re proud of it and want to share their own stories of the Big Muddy—they will conserve it and encourage their legislators to make appropriate policy decisions.

Tell me about the Katy Land Trust.

The Katy Trail is a 238-mile-long biking and hiking trail built on the old Katy railroad right-of-way. It’s Missouri’s most popular state park and begins in suburban St. Louis. When the [Missouri-Kansas-Texas] railroad was abandoned in 1986, the late Ted Jones—my boss, good friend, and conservation-mentor—bought the right-of-way, and it became the longest and narrowest state

park in the country. One of the most compelling features of the trail is the bucolic and scenic countryside through which it travels, providing an ideal way for those in the city to relate to the Missouri River and its valley, corn and soybean fields, wildlife, and small towns. The purpose of the Katy Land Trust is to build on [Ted’s gift] by educating landowners about the benefits of conservation agreements. These agreements, created by a land trust, not only preserve land but offer a way to bring individual communities together around common geographic features, unhindered by county lines or city limits. Our common feature is the corridor along the last 100 miles of the Missouri River Valley.

And Magnificent Missouri?

I started Magnificent Missouri in 2012 with my fellow club member John McPheeters, another longtime farm owner and conservationist. Our goal was to better connect Missourians with the countryside around them. We hold events featuring our top St. Louis chefs, who help us show the critical connection between healthy soil and water and the local farmers who grow produce and livestock for restaurants. MagMO also works with the myriad conservation organizations here—water, wildlife, prairie—to collaborate for a more powerful message. For the last three years we have sponsored “Commerce and Conservation” symposia in the Missouri River Valley communities. These efforts focus on the potential of this area to be a true regional asset. We also work with our local PBS affiliate on many of these projects, creating programming that connects St. Louis viewers with the countryside.

Cycling along the Katy Trail, west of St. Louis, near Peers, MO. Photo by Clearly Video





Conservation easements preserve land like this, north of the Missouri River, for forestry and agricultural uses. Photo by Steve Schulte



New Haven, on the south bank of the Missouri River. The entire downtown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Steve Schulte

Why does conservation matter?

People conserve things that they think have value. As fewer people make a living from the land and more of us become urbanized, it's easy to forget that the land and what it provides matters to us all. By connecting people to the land and rivers, conservation becomes relevant for all of us—local food advocates, bird watchers, history buffs, and those who simply enjoy a weekend drive in the country. We try to find a variety of ways—music, food, cultural history, river outings, biking events, invasive species removal, and book publishing—to engage people in conservation. We hope they will come for the music or food, but stay for the conservation.

And garden clubs?

Gardening is a gateway to conservation causes of all sorts, and a garden club is a perfect way to connect members' love of gardening to the bigger issues in conservation. Collaborating with local conservation groups offers us a way to bring much needed support to organizations that often don't have access to people with the ability, networks, and energy of our members. All conservation is local, and garden clubs are the most local of organizations.

What advice do you have for us?

Everyone, especially those who are retired, has something to contribute to causes important to them. I had never created a book

until I asked twenty friends and acquaintances to write essays for *Missouri River Country*. If you care about conservation, you can do something with your organizational, legal, gardening, artistic, photographic, or other skills.

There is nothing more helpful to conservation than introducing children to nature—getting them comfortable outdoors with trees, birds, flowers, bugs, and all that comes with nature. We all want our children and grandchildren to be more connected to the natural world, and less connected to the virtual world. Engaging children in nature is the best investment we can make in the future of gardening and conservation.

What do you see as your legacy?

We placed a conservation easement on our farm. That means that it will forever be in agricultural use. We've raised four children and five grandchildren who have experienced first-hand why the clear water in our creek is good habitat for crawdads, why bluebirds need to have nest boxes, why monarch butterflies need us to protect the milkweeds growing in ditches, and why barn swallows swoop and dive for mosquitos over the hayfields. They planted tree seedlings from the Missouri Department of Conservation every spring once they were old enough to walk and shared them with their classmates at school. That is a pretty great legacy.

—Gina Brandt, Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII



Shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay



Detail of John Smith's map of Chesapeake Bay

Full page: Low-lying marshes meet the Bay.
Photos by Gay Legg

The Chesapeake Bay

That perfect covenant between heaven and earth begins with the water meeting the land in a gentle edge of marshes bordered with old growth trees. The pronouncement by John Smith in 1607, as he sailed up the Chesapeake Bay, presages a popular moniker for Maryland—the “land of pleasant living.” Before the Europeans arrived and admired that beautiful landscape, the Algonquin tribes of Powhatan lived and fished and farmed on its lowland shores. Its high cliffs overlooked beaches scattered with the shells of blue crabs and oysters. The Algonquin called it *Chesepiooc*—“village by the big river.”

Over 150 streams and runs feed the Chesapeake, one of the largest estuaries in the world, where fresh water meets the salt water of the Atlantic. The Bay is also fed by twelve main rivers including the Potomac; the largest is the Susquehanna. A 64,000 square mile watershed, the Chesapeake Bay covers six states and the District of Columbia. Over 200 miles long from Havre de Grace, Maryland to Norfolk, Virginia, its shoreline—all 11,684 miles—is longer than the entire West Coast of the US. And, it is home to 17 million people—a testament to John Smith’s appraisal of it as the best place for “habitation.”

In 1607 when Smith left Jamestown to explore the Chesapeake, he was still looking for a route to China. He drew extraordinarily detailed maps showing the tributaries and shores where he likely saw herons and egrets wading—a landscape still seen today. His journals described the lush resources he discovered, as well as his encounters with the Algonquin, and his meticulous documentation attracted much attention to the region. King Charles was especially impressed and named the “new” land in honor of his Queen, Henrietta Maria, known as Mary—thus, Maryland. Over 400 years later, the GCA helped support the designation of Smith’s route as the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Administered by the National Park Service, it is the first-ever national water trail.

Today the Bay is protected by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, formed in 1967. For over 30 years it has been led by William Baker, a GCA Honorary Member since 1998. The foundation works with stakeholders, including multiple state legislatures, industrial and agricultural interests, and area watermen using a multi-pronged approach that combines education, advocacy, litigation, and restoration. Following the John Smith Trail today allows us all to appreciate the beauty that was first described by the early explorer and the need to preserve this vast, critical watershed.

—Gay Legg, *St. George’s Garden Club, Zone VI*

“Heaven and earth have never agreed better to frame a place for man’s habitation.”

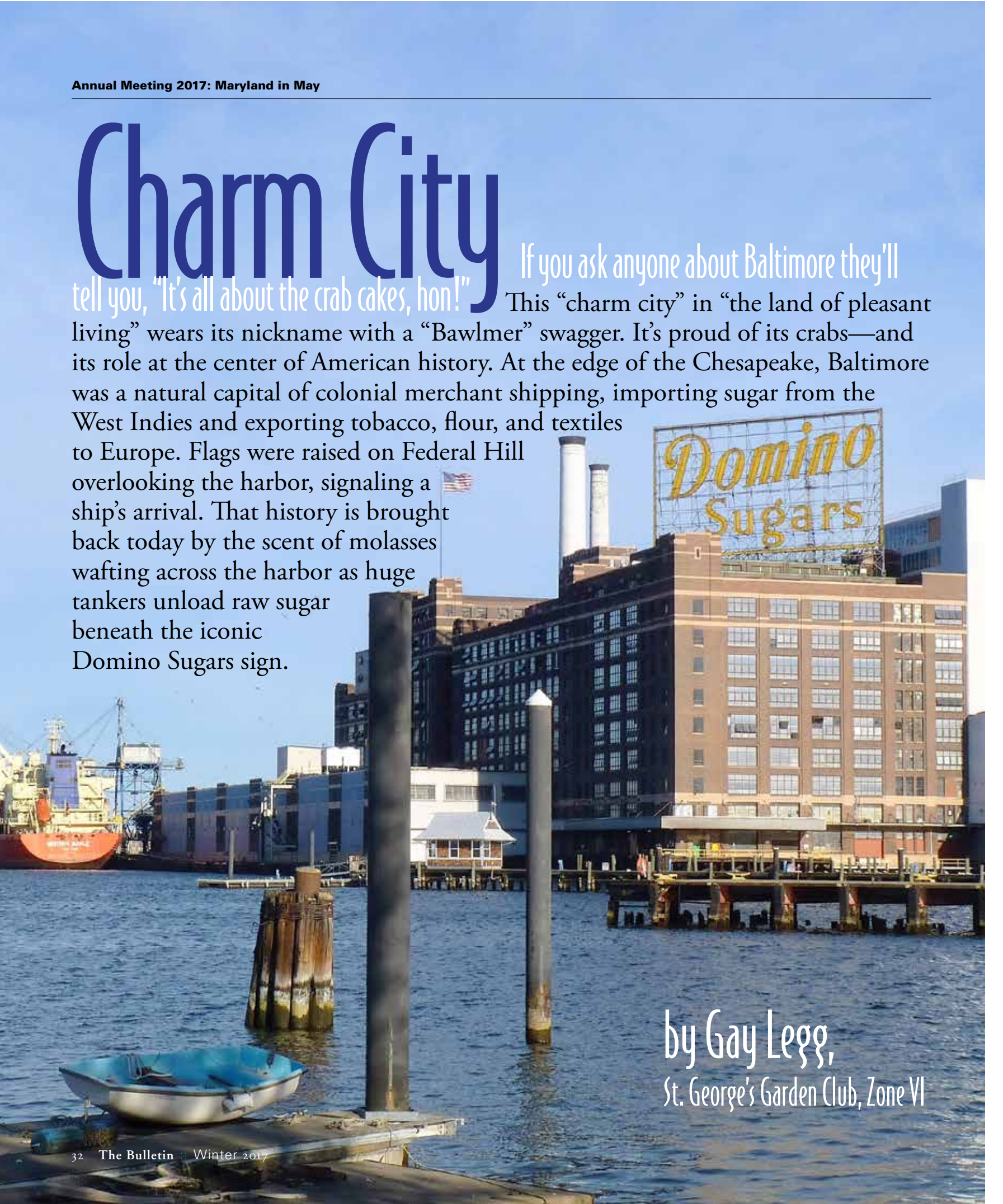
—*Captain John Smith, 1607*

Charm City

tell you, "It's all about the crab cakes, hon!"

This "charm city" in "the land of pleasant living" wears its nickname with a "Bawlmer" swagger. It's proud of its crabs—and its role at the center of American history. At the edge of the Chesapeake, Baltimore was a natural capital of colonial merchant shipping, importing sugar from the West Indies and exporting tobacco, flour, and textiles to Europe. Flags were raised on Federal Hill overlooking the harbor, signaling a ship's arrival. That history is brought back today by the scent of molasses wafting across the harbor as huge tankers unload raw sugar beneath the iconic Domino Sugars sign.

If you ask anyone about Baltimore they'll



by Gay Legg,
St. George's Garden Club, Zone VI



Today, as the *Pride of Baltimore* sails past Fort McHenry, with its topsails billowing, the history of the “Star Spangled Banner” comes to life. As this replica Baltimore clipper ship cruises past gleaming glass towers, it’s apparent that Baltimore’s future is still under construction. Docked at the Inner Harbor, alongside the *USS Constellation*, its masts rise in front of Harbor Place at the center of Baltimore’s revitalized waterfront, which, into the 1960s, was defined by rotting piers and abandoned warehouses. Downtown had problems too, as retail migrated to suburban malls and inner-city businesses suffered. Leaders realized the need to turn the face of the city toward the waterfront. They blocked a highway from crossing the harbor, cleared the shoreline, and redeveloped historic neighborhoods with a homesteading program. Now over 24.5 million tourists annually visit Baltimore, strolling the seven mile promenade, bound for the National Aquarium, Power Plant Live!, the Maryland Science Center, Port Discovery,



and the American Visionary Art Museum. Baltimore has rebuilt itself many times starting with the great fire of 1904, which destroyed most of downtown. It’s doing so again—at Harbor East old railyards now boast great retail, restaurants, and high-rise towers. The dome of world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital rises from a hill overlooking Fells Point, Baltimore’s historic waterfront with pubs and shops lining quaint streets paved with Belgian block cobblestones originally brought as ships’ ballast. Now, water taxis crisscross the harbor to Under Armour’s world headquarters at Tide Point, the restored Proctor & Gamble’s soap plant, and back across the water to Canton where old can factories have been converted into cool apartments. On Brewer’s Hill, the giant neon eye of “Natty Boh” blinks like a lighthouse above the harbor. This commemorative icon for the National Bohemian Brewery is a reminder that Baltimore was once the second largest immigration port in the US. Neighborhoods like Greektown and Little Italy reflect the city’s



evolving history. In Hampden, along the Jones Falls Valley, immigrants once worked the looms in textile mills now transformed into condos with “foodie” favorite restaurants, quirky retail, and a giant pink flamingo hanging two stories high—a kitschy homage to “native son” movie director John Waters. Historic Charles Street, one of the oldest thoroughfares in America, proceeds uphill to the Washington Monument in Mount Vernon Square surrounded by brownstone mansions, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Walters Art Museum. It continues past the Baltimore Museum of Art, with its famous Matisse collection, to leafy neighborhoods and parks—including the Olmsted-planned Roland Park (1890-1920), historic Druid Hill Park with its glass conservatory (1888), and Cylburn Arboretum (1863). Visitors to Baltimore who venture further outside the city discover beautiful rolling hills, horse farms, and historic houses including the celebrated Ladew Topiary Gardens and Hampton Mansion (1790), once the largest private home in



America, now a National Park Service site. Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, the location of the GCA’s annual meeting in May 2017, is known for its lively promenade, historic ships, shops, and world-class restaurants that feature the perfect crab cake. But, Baltimore is not resting on its latest “renaissance.” Defined by its waterfront history, the city is preparing for its future with a new Inner Harbor Master Plan, which will update infrastructure and provide more open space. Baltimore is a great place to visit—“Charm City”—but you may just want to live here!

First column: *The Pride of Baltimore* under sail in the Harbor

Second column: Marinas at Canton with the gold onion domes of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church

Third column: American Visionary Art Museum

Fourth column: Inner Harbor Promenade

Facing page: Baltimore’s iconic neon Domino Sugars sign. All photos by Gay Legg

A Baltimore Garden

Picture any color that exists in nature. Layers of green—avocado, chartreuse, lime, teal; petals of magenta, raspberry, blush, pink, and fuchsia; the browns and grays of bark; the endless hues of yellows, oranges and reds; varying degrees of violets and blues. Whatever color imaginable prevails during some time of the year at Walnut Hill, the Baltimore garden of Penney (Green Spring Valley GC) and A.C. Hubbard.

The Hubbards' signature is on every morsel of their landscape. Layers and textures and drifts and colors reveal nearly five decades of a garden journey in this two-acre Eden. There are boulders and rocks and trees and shrubs; stone paths and rock walls add structure to the garden's foundation. Plant selections and combinations, carefully placed and composed, reveal the Hubbards' profound knowledge of how to grow a garden—all the more remarkable since they are not design professionals. Their landscape has been a family affair: A.C. built a rock garden with son Crawford in the 1970s. Thanks to "digging privileges" at a nursery going out of business around the same time, A.C. found homes for taxus, rhododendrons, and azaleas, all of which are big and sturdy now.

Top: Early spring garden. All photos by Roger Foley

Bottom: Late spring garden



Conifers and *Acers* are anchors at Walnut Hill. They add form and shape and interest year round. Penney's love affair with Japanese maples (*A. palmatum*) is evident throughout the landscape. Its leaf and bark color depend on the species, as do the shape and color of the leaves. One particular specimen, 'Koto No Ito,' stands outside her bedroom window and provides visual interest in all seasons. Its delicate, needle-like leaves turn a spectacular yellow in the fall. *Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez' figures prominently near the house, too. Penney believes the most unusual tree in their garden is the Japanese umbrella pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), many of which were anniversary and birthday gifts from A.C.'s father who worked in a nursery after retirement. Although initially slow-growing, the umbrella pines at Walnut Hill are now large and a much-loved mainstay of the property.

In the mid 1990s, after many years of gardening on their own, the Hubbards hired the late Kurt Bluemel (1933-2014), a European plantsman who emigrated to the US from Switzerland. Fundamentally, Bluemel was an artist. His dream of becoming a painter was cut short by World War II, but he managed to



Winter garden



Late spring garden



Late summer garden



Fall garden

transfer his passion to plants; through horticulture and design, he used gardens as his canvas.

The Hubbards were intrigued by Bluemel's artistic approach, and they looked to him to design a master plan for their garden. They worked on their own for some 20 years—with results that many would envy—but they felt their plantings lacked “order.” Bluemel arrived at Walnut Hill, not armed with elaborate drawings and plant lists, but with a feel for the land. Once he started moving the dirt, his artistic sensibilities came into play. Bluemel, who came to be known as the “King of Grasses” for the hundreds he cultivated, quietly upended traditional American garden design, which he considered dull. He had a fondness for tall grasses and wildflowers, and for planting not by the threes and fives as planting norms dictated, but by the hundreds to achieve the effect in color and texture he envisioned. By doing so, he transformed garden design into fine art.

Succession planting is at its best at Walnut Hill where seven seasons are identified—winter, early spring, late spring, early summer, mid-summer, late summer, and autumn—too much going on to relegate to just four. In early spring,



Top: Late spring garden



Bottom: Mid-summer garden

trilliums emerge as do coiled fern fronds and scrolled hosta leaves, followed by gamboling daffodils and tulips and muscari. As spring marches into summer, lewisia arrives, then Russian sage, rudebekia, and roses...ligularia, dahlia, cleome, clematis...sedum, perennial begonia, and hydrangea. All the while, textures and colors change and morph as the seasons pass.

Although the garden looked like a war zone during the master plan installation, the result is a work of epic proportion that has propelled this lovely landscape into one of the finest gardens on the East Coast. Documented in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens, Walnut Hill is a regular on tour itineraries and has been featured in regional and national magazines as well as in a book by Kathy Hudson, *On Walnut Hill*. Not that the Hubbards had all this in mind when they began their garden journey in 1969. Forty-eight years later, thanks to their determination and Bluemel's vision and lasting inspiration, A.C. and Penney are still at it, working in the garden and adding plants to this breathtakingly beautiful work in progress.

—Julie Badger, Sand Hills Garden Club, Zone VIII

for All Seasons

P4P FRESHWATER PROJECTS

*Water, water everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.*

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge,
“The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

This oft-quoted line from Coleridge refers to a sailor’s lack of drinking water even though the ocean surrounds him. Its salt water can’t quench his thirst. Freshwater is necessary for all life on earth and yet there isn’t that much to go around. According to the US Geological Survey, more than 97 percent of the world’s total water supply is saline. The remaining three percent is freshwater, much of it unavailable for our use; it’s locked up in glaciers and ice caps or deep beneath earth’s surface. That leaves very little freshwater available—only about 1/150th of one percent of the total. No wonder it’s critical for all of us to do our

part in conserving and keeping fresh the water we use every day.

Through the GCA Partners for Plants (P4P) initiative of the Conservation and Horticulture committees, 45 clubs have developed projects that help to restore native plants and habitats on public lands of 150 acres or more. Many of these projects also help to conserve freshwater. Protecting these interdependent, often fragile wetland and aquatic ecosystems is a significant part of P4P’s mission.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park-Raven Fork Wetlands Restoration has been a multi-zone focal point. Cherokee Garden Club (Zone VIII) along with a half dozen clubs in Zones VII and IX worked with the National Park Service and the Southern Highlands Reserve (SHR), a native-plant arboretum research center, to collect seeds from Raven Fork in fall 2015, and then propagated them over the winter and spring. Plants included swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus strigosus*), and a variety of rush (*Juncus dudleyi*). The Eastern Band of Cherokees joined the other

groups when seedlings were transplanted in June 2016, accompanied by a program about foraging plants and a delicious foraging feast—a great culmination of many months of work. The project also celebrated the National Park Service’s centennial. In the words of Project Coordinator Mary Palmer Dargan (Cherokee GC), “One never knows where a P4P project will lead in terms of knowledge base and new friendships. Everything, including the weather, fell into place beautifully.” It’s always exciting to see wetlands habitat restored in such a successful way.

The Palmetto Garden Club of South Carolina (Zone VIII) has a long-standing relationship with Congaree National Park, the only national park in the state, located near Columbia. Club members have worked with the park to help restore the longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) ecosystem. Longleaf pine was once one of the most common trees in the Southeast, but its numbers are greatly diminished. Congaree National Park also contains the largest tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood in the US, and the



Lake Forest GC members collecting seeds of the common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and yellow lady’s slipper orchid (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) in the McCormick Ravine. Photo by Marni Wilson



Lake Forest GC members clean up the McCormick Ravine where it enters Lake Michigan. Photo Marni Wilson



Stabilization and revegetation with native plants along the shores of Lake Michigan is one way to help conserve our fresh water supply. Photo by Marni Wilson

park's swamp area functions as a floodplain and filtering system for three major rivers. Another goal pursued by club members is the removal of invasives and understory trees to create suitable habitat for the longleaf pines as well as grasses and other native species. Unfortunately devastating floods and Hurricane Matthew have caused great damage to the park, and the club has had to curtail its activities for the time being.

In Virginia, members of Albemarle Garden Club (Zone VII) have been working for the past several years to establish, manage (with the help of the City of Charlottesville), and add native plants to Booker T. Washington Park's Bog Garden. This has been a true labor of love for many of the club's members, and they recently installed a pollinator station, which is fondly referred to as "the bee hotel." The station's terra-cotta tiles are stuffed with native plant material, and there is already apian activity in the structure, which sits amid native plants that thrive in a wet environment. By installing the Plantsnapp

app on a mobile phone, one can receive information about each native Bog Garden plant with photos of the plant in various seasons.

McCormick Ravine Natural Area is the focus of a new P4P project for the Lake Forest Garden Club (Zone XI). The club is working with its many partners, including the Army Corps of Engineers, to stabilize coastal communities and restore historical native plant communities along Lake Michigan. They have removed invasives and planted native seeds and plugs. This fall they gathered seeds of common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and the yellow lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens*), neither of which is found anywhere else locally, with the goal of propagating and then reestablishing these plants in the ravine.

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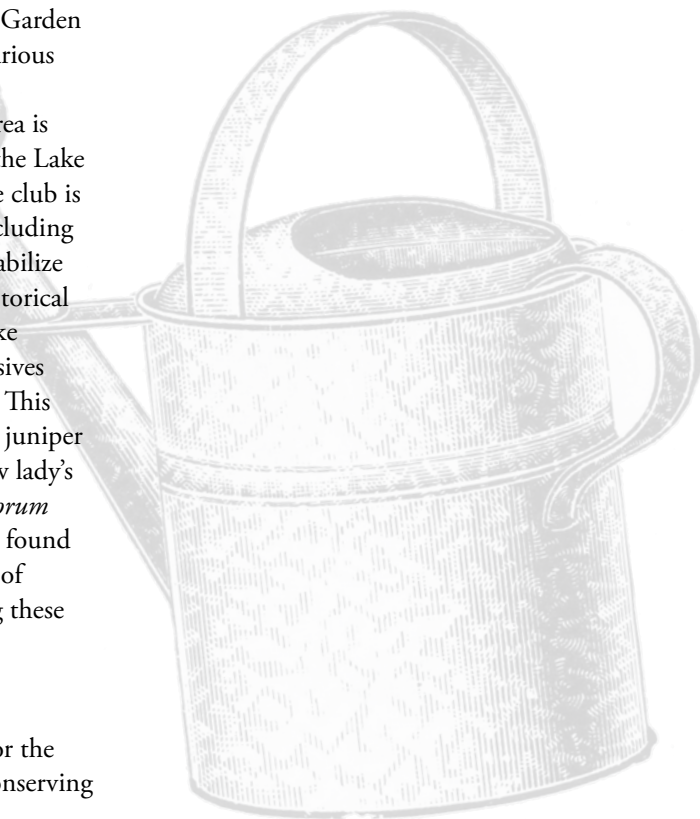
Projects profiled in this article honor the GCA's mission of protecting and conserving freshwater.



The "bee hotel" at the Booker T. Washington Bog Garden, a project of Albemarle GC. Photo by Dana Harris



Kelly Holdbrook, SHR founder, Betty Balentine (Peachtree GC), executive director, and Mary Palmer Dargan (Cherokee GC) hold seedlings propagated for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Project.



by Janet Manning,
*Garden Club of
Denver, Zone XII*

Burning River Ignites Advocacy:

Garden Clubs of Cleveland, Shaker Lakes, and Akron, Zone X



The river at the navigation channel showcases Cleveland's skyline. Today's Cuyahoga River is the product of advocacy from the community, legislature, and environmental partners.

Photo by Elaine Marsh, courtesy of Summit Metro Parks



Cleveland Air Show delights visitors from the observation deck on Lake Erie. The lakeside deck was a gift from the GC of Cleveland. Photo by David Fulton



Autumn splendor of the Upper Gorge of the Cuyahoga near Akron. Photo by Elaine Marsh, courtesy of Summit Metro Parks

Throughout much of the Cuyahoga River's history, water pollution was viewed as a necessary consequence from the prosperous industries surrounding the waterways. But the Cuyahoga River Fire in 1969—when sparks from a passing train set fire to oil-soaked debris—turned Cleveland into a symbol of environmental degradation, and the blazing Cuyahoga became the poster child for the country's mounting environmental movement. Despite the horrors, the fire spawned a series of wide ranging reforms including the creation of the EPA, Earth Day, and the passage of the Clean Water Act.

Through the years, the garden clubs of Cleveland, Shaker Lakes, and Akron have participated in clean water initiatives, creating a viable habitat for nearly 60 species of fish and hundreds of varieties of migratory birds. Each club has taken a role in helping to restore the waterways; they have initiated programs to raise public awareness and have partnered with community organizations for wide-ranging benefits.

The Garden Club of Cleveland funded an observation platform at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve as part of its

centennial project. Once the depository of the Cuyahoga's dredge, the preserve is now a wildlife haven and birder's paradise. Attracting over 35,000 people per year, it has become a true asset to the community. The club's educational programs—a recent public panel discussion on "Asian Carp," an aggressive non-native fish species, for example, and "Algal Blooms," which highlighted the hazards of unchecked phosphorous runoff from agricultural fertilizer—advocate for the health of this lakeside environment.

Shaker Lakes Garden Club, also in Cleveland, demonstrated its commitment to conservation by awarding scholarships to 26 low-income students from Cleveland. Recipients attended the "All the Rivers Run" four-day residential camp at the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park to learn about environmental and conservation issues. The club also donated community project funds to the Doan Brook Watershed to help find a sustainable solution to storm water run-off and donated \$100,000 for the *Sky Blossoms* wind sculpture installed along the lakeshore by the Cleveland Mall in

celebration of its 2015 centennial (see this issue's Milestones).

The Akron Garden Club's environmental advocacy often extends beyond the local level; it consistently echoes the GCA's big-picture conservation positions. The club partnered with Summit County Metro Parks and other civic and environmental groups to successfully stop the efforts of a private company attempting to develop a hydroelectric plant at the sight of a local dam. They have also sent scholarship students to the four-day conservation camp at the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

What lies ahead for these three busy Ohio clubs? Their tireless efforts to educate and advocate for clean water, ban open water lake dumping, address river dam removal, increase awareness of water contaminants, initiate community improvements along the waterways, and support legislative action will continue thanks to their determination and dedication. While the fire on the Cuyahoga is a long ago memory, it served as a rallying cry for greater awareness and action.

—Betsy Bosway, Indianapolis Garden Club, Zone X

Angela Overy *Our Native Plants and Pollinators*

Everyone knows that the GCA has an overabundance of talent. We see it in flower arranging, in garden design, in fact in every field of our endeavor. Angela Overy (GC of Denver)—author, speaker, illustrator, and artist—is right up there with the best the GCA has to offer. Angela grew up in England and, after an advertising career in London, New York, and San Francisco, she and her husband settled in Colorado. Her botanical illustrations, usually in watercolor, are truly works of art.

Angela is also a teacher. Her stunning projects for the GCA are, at their core, about educating. In 2013, she created the Centennial Tree Map for the Horticulture Committee as part of the GCA's Centennial Tree Project. The following year, she set her sites on the Freeman Medal and, in a riotously organized collage, she captured all the medal winners in its nearly 20-year history.

Fundamentally inspired by nature, Angela looked toward her garden for her next and most recent project. Native plants and pollinators became her focus. Her idea was welcomed by the Horticulture Committee, who tapped zone reps to query all 200 GCA clubs. "Each club was asked to identify three to five plants that support pollinators in their gardens," she explains.



Hundreds were submitted, and ultimately about five per zone were chosen. "The flowers," Angela says, "are in a clock design, with each hour representing a GCA zone." The result is a watercolor of striking proportion. It is complicated, organized, rich, and detailed—a stunning piece of art with butterflies, wasps, bees, moths,

and beetles circulating among the many natives she captures.

To share Angela's relevant and beautiful work with the broader GCA audience, the Horticulture Committee turned this painting into note cards, which were offered at this year's Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference. Not surprisingly, they sold out! Look for more

at the annual meeting in Baltimore and on the GCA website!

—Madeline Mayhood, James River Garden Club, Zone VII

Key to the illustration:
Angela Overy
Our Native Plants and Pollinators (see page 45)

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn



Iconic Brooklyn crossroads at one of Prospect Park's main entrances. Photo by Linder Suthers

Magic at the Meneice The GCA's 2016 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

September 18-21, 2016

To the self-proclaimed “plant geeks” of the GCA, the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference is the pinnacle of plants, the height of horticulture, and an unparalleled opportunity for like-minded folks to gather in the name of The Garden. The “Shirley Meneice,” or, simply, “the Meneice,” is held yearly at major arboretums and botanicals gardens across the country. The locations are deliberately chosen to expose attendees to different climates, plants, and horticulture. This year the Meneice was held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) at the end of September. “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn...and much more!” was, appropriately, the conference theme. Sadly, this year was the first that the actual Shirley, for whom the conference was named, was unable to attend in its 15-year history. Despite her absence, however, the Meneice is “truly an incredible opportunity,” says Sue Thompson (Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton). “It’s a great highlight of GCA’s horticulture activities for the year,” she explains. “Between the extraordinary speakers, outstanding topics, and magnificent venues, this is one of America’s premier horticulture conferences.”

The challenge of organizing a major conference in a major metropolis is epic, but execution of the 2016 Meneice appeared to be seamless. Under the leadership of Horticulture Committee Chairman



A sunset dinner at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s Palm House. Photo by Linder Suthers

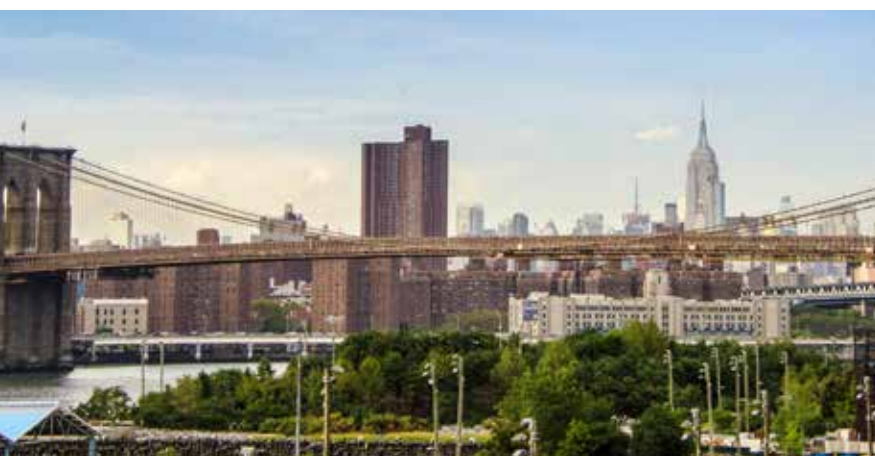
Barbara Tuffli (Woodside-Atherton GC) and Vice-chairman Donna Ganson (GC of Lawrence), who also chaired the conference itself, every detail was deftly handled—from registration to bus transportation to meals, hotels, field trips, gift bags, graphic design/printing, pre- and post-conference tours, Seed Share, and the many, many details in between. Without a local club to help, committee members and club volunteers descended on Brooklyn *en masse* in advance of the conference to help set up and continued to work throughout the week.

One of the hallmarks of the Meneice is, of course, the opportunity to learn; the lineup of speakers, workshops, and breakout sessions offered at this year’s conference did not disappoint. Ellen Peterson (Millbrook GC) was senior advisor and speaker chairman; she explains the procurement process was 15 months in the making. “We wanted

professionals with a connection to GCA, but we also wanted to emphasize urban gardening, seeds, Brooklyn, and New York,” Ellen explains. “I also attended many horticulture conferences and heard them all speak.” She and Donna Ganson made a point of educating the speakers on the dynamics of the GCA and the conference attendees so they would understand their audience. While typically Meneice committee members take ownership of the breakout



Although unable to attend, this life-size cut-out of Shirley Meneice proves she was there in spirit! Photo by Linder Suthers



The Manhattan skyline from Brooklyn Bridge Park. Photo by Linder Suthers



Luise Strauss, Donna Ganson, GCA President Anne Copenhaver, and Barbara Tuffli at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens' Palm House. Photo by Linder Suthers



The Japanese Hill and Pond Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is one of the oldest and most visited Japanese gardens outside of Japan. Photo by Linder Suthers

sessions and workshops, this year they were lead by BBG staff members with a volunteer assistant. And, non-BBG speakers were assigned volunteer liaisons. From the practical—a workshop on tool maintenance, for example—to a thought-provoking lecture on the role of public spaces in the urban environment, topics spanned the horticulture gamut. Other offerings included Japanese pruning, compost tea, introduction to orchids, propagating from cuttings, and rose care. BBG-centric breakout sessions included tours of their native flora collection, heritage gardens, and herb garden. Landscape architect Darrel Morrison, author Amy Goldman-Fowler, BBG President Scot Medbury, garden writer Page Dickey, public garden designer Lynden Miller,

and Stephen Byrnes, founder of the Untermyer Gardens Conservatory were featured speakers. Tours of nearby Prospect Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and various highlights of the BBG were also on the packed agenda.

Part of “Meneice magic” is the opportunity to return to our clubs with enthusiasm, ready to share knowledge gained. “Being able to attend Shirley Meneice was a gift,” says Sue Thompson. “I was inspired by the plants and plant combinations I saw, challenged to plant more pollinators, mesmerized by the exquisite perfection of perfectly pruned Japanese maples, and awed by the majesty of stately trees. I left fulfilled and filled with a desire to share what I saw.”

—*Madeline Mayhood, James River Garden Club, Zone VII*

Gardens Galore



Dahlias explode in September at Old Westbury Gardens. Photo by Madeline Mayhood

Opportunities to take trips further afield are part of most GCA experiences and this year’s Meneice offered two stellar post-conference options: “Gardens of the North Shore of Long Island” and “Gardens of the Hudson River Valley” were both sold out. Optional tours, says Carol Large (North Country GC of Long Island), chairman of the post-conference tours, “is one of the great advantages of GCA membership—the ability to visit many parts of the country with the people who live there and love to showcase their area.” Carol wore many hats at this year’s conference: she also served as tour guide on the Long Island garden tour and is chairman of the board of trustees of Old Westbury Gardens, one of the properties included on the itinerary.

Carol explains that the post-conference garden tour procurement process began by planning the amount of time each tour would take (including bus travel and meals). Private gardens and special experiences were particularly sought after. For the Long Island tour, she says, “a small group of us from our club selected gardens that were relatively close together, were unique and interesting, as well as a reflection of the local community.” That tour included stops at several private estates and Old Westbury Gardens, once a Phipps family property and now a public garden and house. For the Hudson River Valley tour, Martha Stewart’s garden at Cantitoe Corners was a definite destination; the itinerary also included a tour of a private garden nearby. The Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers rounded out the tour. The property was developed by Samuel Untermyer in the early 20th century and, in its day, was considered one was one of the finest gardens in the country.



Long Island’s Old Westbury Gardens, once owned by the Phipps family, includes a magnificent Charles II mansion set amid 200 acres of formal gardens, landscaped grounds, woodlands, ponds, and lakes. Photo by Madeline Mayhood

Interview with Rebecca McMackin

Director of Horticulture, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn, NY



Rebecca McMackin, Director of Horticulture, Brooklyn Bridge Park. Photo by R. McMackin

Gardening is in Rebecca McMackin's blood but for a long time it wasn't something she considered a legitimate career. Growing up in rural Connecticut, McMackin was digging in the dirt at age six, and, after "bouncing around" in a variety of different fields and professions—all, curiously, connected to the earth—she was appointed director of horticulture at Brooklyn Bridge Park soon after the park's opening in 2010. McMackin not only maintains its landscape, but she helped build it as well. She got there by way of stints in Europe and in the US, collecting a number of different degrees—including a master's in biology from the University of Victoria in British Columbia and in landscape design at Columbia University—along the way.

At the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in September, McMackin was a featured speaker. Her presentation—compelling, dynamic, and thoroughly interesting—was in the BBG's historic Palm House. The Bulletin's Madeline Mayhood spoke with McMackin about public horticulture, the trend toward ecological gardening, and her favorite parts of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Why is public horticulture important?

It's a way for people to connect with nature. There are plenty of studies that suggest how beneficial green spaces are. And for each subsequent generation, making that connection becomes more and more critical. It's important to show people that horticulture exists. And as far as public green spaces, the average person is probably not going to visit an arboretum or a botanical garden, but they will go to a public park. We have an opportunity to enchant them with all the wonderful elements of horticulture that maybe don't exist in private landscapes. In urban areas, public green spaces are even more important, especially in densely populated areas. Cities are where our effect on the planet is most intense *and* where we can make the most difference. As urban spaces expand, the need to figure out how to incorporate green spaces into those urban landscapes is critical.

In your presentation you spoke about organic gardening and ecological gardening. What is the distinction?

Organic gardening is wonderful—composting, planting pollinators and natives for example. But it's not always the best method, nor is it always beneficial for plants, wildlife, and for building biodiversity. Ecological gardening is all about encouraging ecology and biodiversity. It's also all about the plants—you want the plants to run the show. Take composting. We rake

up leaves in the fall and add them to a compost pile; then we recirculate them in the garden the next spring. This is typical of what we call “organic” gardening. But, there is a reason why trees drop their leaves. They accumulate at a tree’s base and decompose. In that process, nutrients are added back into the soil and, subsequently, back into the tree. So the leaves actually have a very significant purpose just where they fall. When we rake them up, even if it is to compost, that purpose is lost. “Ecological” gardening is a broader, more comprehensive and holistic stroke.

What do you see as trends in horticulture?

Pollinators are really hot right now. From Home Depot to your local garden center, planting to attract bees is everywhere. Of course everyone is in to the native plant trend. And from a design perspective, the “New American Garden” phenomenon has taken hold. In the past, people would merely copy European gardens, but now we’re coming up with our own American garden. We’re paying attention to how plants work together, we’re addressing the right plant for the right place, and we’re talking about soil health.

What’s your favorite area of Brooklyn Bridge Park?

Definitely the flower fields. It’s a half-acre of native wildflowers; this fall it was an explosion of purple and yellow—just a massive area of all natives. The backdrop is the iconic New York City skyline. It’s incredibly ornamental and very ecologically robust. So many monarchs, so many nesting species—it’s a wonderfully biodiverse area and illustrates that in this pretty tough environment, you don’t have to pick beauty over natives. You can have both. It’s all possible.



The Manhattan skyline amidst a sea of dwarf Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium*) and milkweed (*Asclepias*). Photo by Julienne Schaer, courtesy of Brooklyn Bridge Park

Brooklyn Bridge Park



Turning leaves signal fall at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Photo by Julienne Schaer, courtesy of Brooklyn Bridge Park

Brooklyn Bridge Park is a modern cousin to its venerable neighbor, Prospect Park, the stately 19th century Olmsted-Vaux design just several borough blocks away. Designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh, BBP was a project 30 years in the making and opened in 2010. It is wholly unique as a landscape—an uber-urban 85-acre reclaimed industrial waterfront site, now a multi-use esplanade over a mile long. Formerly part of the Port Authority of New York, it was in its heyday an epicenter of cargo operations, a super skinny swath of piers and concrete spanning parts of Brooklyn’s East River shoreline. It is dramatically positioned directly across the river from downtown Manhattan; the view is at once spectacular and arresting. Its six reclaimed piers are now home to lawns, greenways, playing fields and courts, dogs runs, rotating art installations, and concessions, all of which have replaced the container ships once moored along its wharves. BBP’s gardens and meadows not only beautify the landscape but the many berries and beds offer homes and a plethora of food for native bees, butterflies, and migratory birds. Thanks to creative, visionary stewardship, BBP is now one of the most celebrated urban parks in the country.

—Madeline Mayhood,
James River Garden Club, Zone VII



Porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*). Photo by Lynda Forse

With its dazzling fall berry display—in greens, teals, aquas, blues, and purples—it's a shame that porcelain-berry vine, introduced in the USA over 100 years ago as a landscape and filler plant, has been declared so invasive. *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, and its variegated form 'Elegans,' is found in many places because it is so appealing and easy to grow. Like many, I was not aware of its darker side and was among those who thought it pretty, especially in the middle of September when I was looking for a vine to submit to the Milton Garden Club's GCA Flower Show. Even my local nursery was unable to identify it.

When I saw the berries, complete with polka dots, *Ampelopsis* appeared to be an excellent choice. My intention was to enter it in the horticulture division at the flower show, however, Carrie Waterman (Noanett GC) and Mary Ann Streeter (North Shore GC of MA), both GCA horticulture judges, immediately recognized it shortly after my arrival. Not only was it invasive, they said, but it was also on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List and that it could not be considered for the show. Of course I was disappointed but appreciated the important information.

Because *Ampelopsis* is pretty and easy to grow, it is still used here in the Northeast. I saw the exact same porcelain-berry vine at well-known Post Office Square Park in downtown Boston—truly a jewel of green space in the Financial District. I walked by it repeatedly on my way to work and long-assumed it had a rightful place in such a meticulously maintained public park.

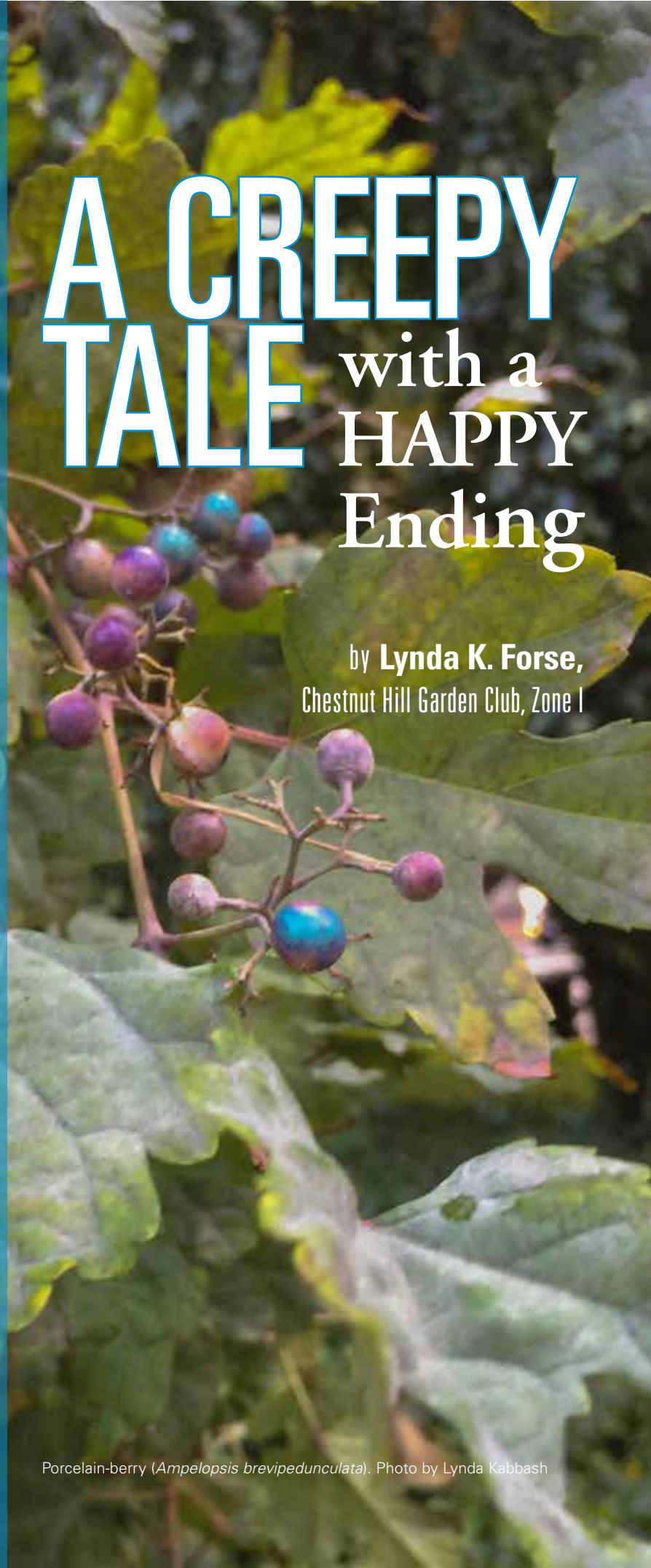
When I discovered that it was invasive, however, I decided to take action. I spoke to Pam Messenger, the park's general manager, at an event where she accepted the award of the GCA's Boston Committee on behalf of Post Office Square Park. I persuaded Carrie to join the conversation, and we shared our concerns. At first Pam was reluctant to take any action. She explained that the park horticulturist was not concerned, adding that the berries were beautiful and good for the birds. However, Carrie provided the knowledgeable and measured voice of reason, and by the end of our friendly conversation, Pam promised she would follow up and attempt to take steps to remove the vine.

Weeks passed and the porcelain-berry vine persisted, still very much a presence in Post Office Square Park. I began to have my doubts that they would remove it. On the morning following Thanksgiving, however, I was happy to see it was gone!

If you know of a specific vine or any other invasive species in a public space or being sold at a local nursery, please try speaking to the folks in charge. Your determination just might work, and you will be helping in the effort to weed out interlopers in our public spaces!

A CREEPY TALE with a HAPPY Ending

by **Lynda K. Forse**,
Chestnut Hill Garden Club, Zone I



Porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*). Photo by Lynda Kabbash

The Committee at Work

Each fall the Founders Fund Committee selects three finalists from civic projects proposed by clubs across the country. The 2017 winning entry will be awarded \$30,000, with \$10,000 going to each of the two runners-up. Each of the GCA's 200 member clubs casts a single vote, which is due by April 1, 2017. The projects are judged by the standard set forth in The Garden Club of America's purpose statement: "to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement." The announcement of the 2017 Founders Fund Award will be made at the Annual Meeting in May.

The Founders Fund was established in 1934 in memory of Elizabeth Price Martin, the first president of The Garden Club of America (1913-20). Today, the fund for this prestigious award continues to grow through generous donations and gifts from member clubs and individuals.



From left (standing): Beverley Young (Zone VI), Nancy Lee Kemper (Zone XI), Marité Robinson (Zone IV), Pat Clarke (Zone III), Ann Franzen (Zone II), Janet Zovickian (Zone XII), Mary Anne Paul (Zone V), Karen Hull (Zone VIII), Mary Anne Burke (Zone VII), Anne Butler (Staff Administrator); (seated) Anne French (Zone IX), Mary Reynolds (Zone X), Betsy Huffman (Vice Chairman, Zone VII), Tempe Thompson (Chairman, Zone IX), Lulu Lubbers (Director Liaison, Zone XI), Anne-Marie Woodhouse (Zone I); (not pictured) Gretchen Downs (Executive Board Liaison, Zone X). Photo by Jennifer Barnette

Angela Overy: *Our Native Plants and Pollinators* (see page 39)



Zone I

- 1 *Echinacea purpurea*
- 2 *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*
- 3 *Solidago* sp.
- 4 *Asclepias syriaca*
- 5 *Monarda didyma*

Zone II

- 6 *Agastache foeniculum*
- 7 *Cercis canadensis*
- 8 *Phlox* sp.
- 9 *Aquilegia canadensis*
- 10 *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- 11 *Hylotelephium telephoides*

Zone III

- 12 *Chelone glabra*
- 13 *Hypericum frondosum*
- 14 *Vaccinium angustifolium*
- 15 *Diervilla lonicera*
- 16 *Eutrochium maculatum*
- 17 *Salvia* sp.

Zone IV

- 18 *Baptisia australis*
- 19 *Coreopsis verticillata*
- 20 *Lobelia cardinalis*
- 21 *Clethra alnifolia*
- 22 *Cornus florida*
- 23 *Penstemon digitalis*

Zone V

- 24 *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- 25 *Campsis radicans*
- 26 *Aquilegia canadensis* 'Corbett'
- 27 *Trillium grandiflorum*
- 28 *Viburnum prunifolium*

Zone VI

- 29 *Magnolia grandiflora*
- 30 *Dicentra eximia*
- 31 *Viola pedata*
- 32 *Ilex opaca*
- 33 *Helianthus angustifolius*
- 34 *Clematis virginiana*

Zone VII

- 35 *Pycnanthemum muticum*
- 36 *Magnolia virginiana*
- 37 *Mertensia virginica*
- 38 *Rhododendron canescens*
- 39 *Stokesia laevis*

Zone VIII

- 40 *Passiflora incarnata*
- 41 *Amorpha fruticosa*
- 42 *Salvia coccinea*
- 43 *Canna flaccida*
- 44 *Symphotrichum patens*

Zone IX

- 45 *Crinum americanum*
- 46 *Asclepias tuberosa*
- 47 *Oenothera speciosa*
- 48 *Sarracenia flava*
- 49 *Iris versicolor*

Zone X

- 50 *Tradescantia ohioensis*
- 51 *Rudbeckia hirta*
- 52 *Gaillardia pulchella*
- 53 *Physotegia virginiana*
- 54 *Asclepias incarnata*

Zone XI

- 55 *Helianthus maximiliani*
- 56 *Penstemon eatonii*
- 57 *Asclepias verticillata*
- 58 *Geum triflorum*
- 59 *Liatrix pycnostachya*

Zone XII

- 60 *Carnegiea gigantea*
- 61 *Hibiscus Arnottianus*
- 62 *Eschscholzia californica*
- 63 *Mahonia aquifolium*
- 64 *Aquilegia caerulea*

MOON TERRACE LEARNING LABORATORY at the SANTA FE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Proposed by **Santa Fe Garden Club, Zone XII** ■ Seconded by **The Portland Garden Club, Zone XII**

The Santa Fe Garden Club proposes the creation of the ethnobotanical *Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden*. The laboratory will be a working “canvas” and part of a larger master plan known as “*Ojos y Manos: Eyes and Hands*.” Designed to emphasize educational hands-on experiential learning, students of all ages will see, touch, and learn about nature’s bounty and the interdependence of plants and people.

Educational goals of this project align with the GCA’s purpose to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening through educational programs and action in horticulture, conservation, and civic improvement. Visitors will experience the genius of indigenous agriculture: “The Three Sisters.” Together these plants—beans, corn and squash—offer complete nutrition. They feed the people, the land, the spirit, and they teach lessons of reciprocity. The garden utilizes indigenous water catchment practices known as “Zuni bowls” and Italian gabions, ancient water control systems that effectively manage limited water resources. Workshops with trained docents will guide schoolchildren and adults in hands-on projects, planting, nurturing, and harvesting plants for food, medicinal use, and dyes while addressing topics in science, cooking, natural fibers, geology, and art in open classrooms within the gardens.

As a bilingual ethnobotanical hands-on learning environment, local, national, and international visitors will experience the importance and beauty of the plants and



Experiential hands-on learning projects for the “garden sprouts” —young children, ages 3-5. Photo by Mollie Parsons

culture of our region. Children will climb on stone boulders that showcase minerals found in New Mexico when exploring the outdoor amphitheater and classrooms. On-site immersive experiences will include grinding corn, making and baking bread in Native American ovens called *hornos*, and weaving utilitarian baskets from plant fibers grown and harvested on site.

Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in North America, settled by European colonists in 1607 but inhabited from 1050 by indigenous people. Tri-cultural inhabitants (Anglos, Hispanics, and Native Americans) have lived and thrived for 400 years at its 7,100 foot elevation by employing the effective water and crop management techniques visitors will experience.

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden celebrates, cultivates, and conserves the rich botanical heritage and biodiversity of our region. Phase One of the Botanical Garden, established in 2012, focuses on the Southwest with its native, xeric,

and adapted plants and incorporates the “borrowed landscape” of vast blue skies and snow-covered mountain ranges. The Founders Fund Award would be used to support the *Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory* within the greater “*Ojos y Manos: Eyes and Hands*” Phase Two project. Basic design work is completed and construction is underway.

The Santa Fe GC, an early supporter, boasts 100% membership at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, donates generously with club and personal gifts, and underwrote the Comprehensive Botanical Collections Management System. Funding for Phase Two is a combination of grants and individual donations. Staff and volunteers will maintain the garden.

The Founders Fund Award will assure the completion of the ethnobotanical *Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory* and help realize an education jewel—permitting people to see, touch, and experience our deep connection to the plants that nourish us, nutritionally and spiritually, in a high desert environment.



The “Three Sisters” —beans, corn, squash—symbolize the genius of native agriculture that is evident in the complete nutrition provided by these staples of the Southwest diet. Photo by Robert Gomez-Hernandez



By utilizing slope and natural stone to slow down and manage water, traditional “Zuni bowls” and gabions are used throughout the garden. Photo by Clayton Bass



“Moon Terrace,” the high terrace situated adjacent to an outdoor classroom, will be planted with indigenous crops demonstrating reciprocity and nutritional benefits. The boulders represent the variety of geological resources found in New Mexico. Photo by Clayton Bass



Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory borrows the vast blue skies and mountain range that make up the surrounding landscape. Photo by Barbara Templeman



Planted terraces, outdoor classrooms, and an amphitheater will emphasize experiential learning and our deep connection to plants in the high desert environment. Photo by Clayton Bass



Families will experience the traditional outdoor oven, known as a *horno*, that has been used for baking by the people of the Southwest for generations. Photo by Robert Gomez-Hernandez

Far left: Rendering of the *Moon Terrace Learning Laboratory* at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden

PROJECT DOGWOOD: STAUNTON'S TRADITION REBORN

Proposed by **The Augusta Garden Club, Zone VII** ■ Seconded by **Albermarle Garden Club, Zone VII**

Staunton, Virginia is a

destination city brimming with history, arts, restaurants, educational institutions, and parks. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named it a "Great American Main Street" and it is "Tree City USA" to the Arbor Day Foundation. With *Project Dogwood: Staunton's Tradition Reborn*, The Augusta Garden Club will enhance our dynamic city by promoting the restoration of Virginia's disappearing state tree, while working with the city to provide new connections to nature. We will create a template for the restoration of dogwoods by planting hybrid cultivars in our parks and schools. This project will beautify the city, promote continued upkeep of parks, educate about trees, and restore the dogwood's valuable role in the ecosystem.

The historical precedent for our project dates to 1935 when city manager James Ruff dreamed of making Staunton the dogwood capital of Virginia by planting numerous trees throughout the city. It was an appropriate goal, as the dogwood is Virginia's state flower and tree. While the Depression and WWII ended his effort, it was resumed after the war when The Augusta GC planted hundreds of trees on public properties. Anthracnose killed this endeavor.

In 2012 The Augusta GC rallied to revive dogwoods. In collaboration with Staunton's horticulturist, we committed \$7,500 and added 67 trees to Gypsy Hill Park, a 214-acre recreational area enjoyed and loved by our community. We installed a "teaching arboretum"



Marker at Montgomery Hall Park. Dogwoods would complement the new children's Natural Play Area and other areas of the park.

of seven hybrid cultivars to determine varieties that thrive. The city monitors the trees and is committed to their long-range maintenance and our continued partnership. Enthusiastic support for the project is noted in the community's response.

David Nowak, a lead researcher at the US Forest Service, states that "trees offer cities some of the best bang for their buck. Trees remove carbon dioxide, filter air pollution, and produce oxygen. They absorb rainwater, UV radiation, and noise. They slow down traffic, improve property values, and reduce human stress and mental fatigue."

Our appeal is three pronged:

Planting at Parks and Schools

- Montgomery Hall Park—one of Virginia's first African American parks now being restored after long-deferred maintenance; home to Staunton-Augusta African American Heritage Center

- Woodrow Park—a neglected natural green space overlooking the city surrounded by working-class homes
- Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) sensory garden
- Three elementary schools
- City pocket park

Education

- Permanent illustrated signs with teaching arboretums at two parks
- Braille signs at VSDB
- Curricular teaching module aligned with state standards
- Shared knowledge with other localities

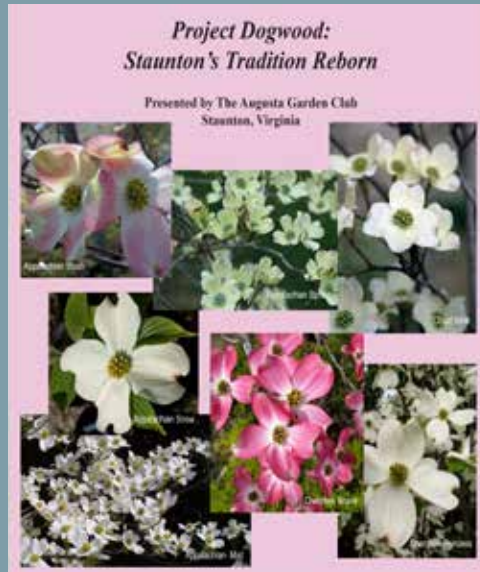
Quality of Life

- Beautifying underserved neighborhoods, thus improving inclusivity
- Providing food for wildlife and calcium for birds' eggshells
- Expanding nature experiences for VSDB students

Building on a rich history beginning with Thomas Jefferson's decision to plant dogwoods at Monticello, *Project Dogwood* will continue into the future supported by an Augusta GC/City of Staunton collaboration, with our intention to seek further grants. A Founder's Fund Award would allow us to assure the restoration of Virginia's disappearing state tree and serve as a model for other cities. The GCA has empowered us to have community dreams since 1927. Please propel us forward again!



City of Staunton Horticulturist Matt Sensabaugh prepares dogwood trees for planting at Gypsy Hill Park during The Augusta GC's first phase of *Project Dogwood*. All photos by The Augusta GC



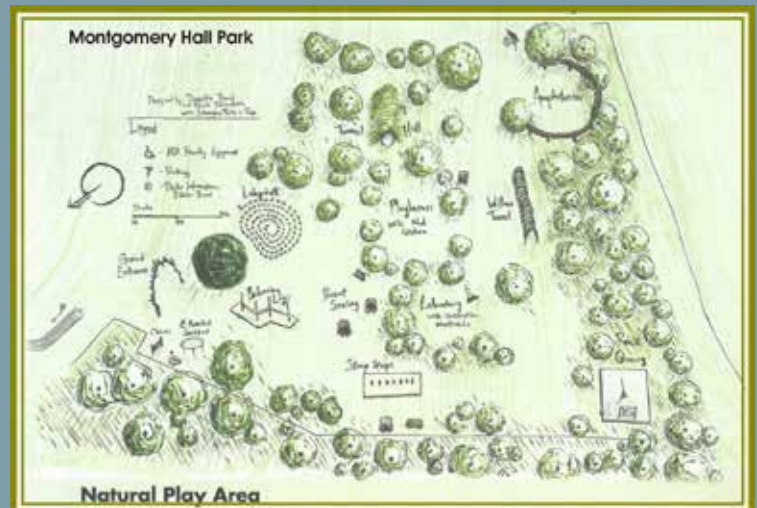
The Augusta GC launched *Project Dogwood* to reestablish the state tree/flower throughout the City of Staunton. These seven hardy cultivars were selected and planted in Gypsy Hill Park in coordination with the city's horticulturist. Additional plantings throughout the city will be possible with a GCA Founders Fund award.



Overlooking Staunton's historic downtown, Woodrow Park offers visitors, as well as residents of the late 19th century working class Sears Hill neighborhood, a relaxing place to gather and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Proposed new dogwood trees through *Project Dogwood* would enhance the ongoing efforts to improve this site.



Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind serves children in preschool through age 22 from across the state. Dogwoods near their Sensory Garden will provide hands-on educational benefits to students and beautification of the school grounds.



One of the sites to benefit from planting of dogwood trees through a GCA Founders Fund award will be a new children's Natural Play Area to be established at Staunton's Montgomery Hall Park. The park is one of the oldest African American parks in the state, and was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rendering by City of Staunton



The addition of bees to the garden allows for successful pollination of our many garden plants, provides delicious honey for our campers, and gives youth a glimpse of bee teamwork and steady work ethic.



Camp Whitcomb Mason, located on over 300 acres of rolling hills, forests, and wetlands along the shore of Lake Keesus, is home to the *Bee Healthy Garden*.



Keeping a journal is part of the camp's SEL curriculum. Pages prompt the participants to recognize their feelings, express their emotions on paper, and connect with nature.



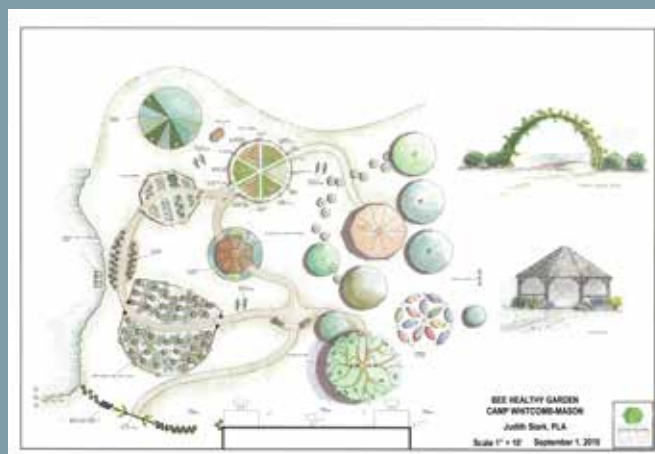
Plenty of fresh, delicious, and nutritious veggies come straight from the garden. Salsa is one of the campers' favorites; it gives them the pleasure of growing, making, and eating their own food.



Volunteers from Charter Communications constructed raised beds in the shape of individual slices of pizza for our Pizza Garden! Our first vegetable garden is filled with many of the toppings you would find on a pizza: tomatoes, onions, peppers, oregano, basil, and Italian parsley. All photos by Molly Modrzynski



Kohl's volunteers help beautify our garden as they weave twigs into the fencing, resulting in a beautiful, natural-looking safeguard for our precious plants.



Garden Rendering by Judith Stark

Zone Meetings



Michele Hanss, Christina Paxhia, Libby Moore, Tanny Clark enjoying The Mount. Photo by Kathy Tremblay

Zone I

18 clubs in Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire

Bee Involved

September 26-27, 2016

Cranwell Resort

Hosted by **The Lenox Garden Club**, Lenox, MA

Chaired by **Ellen Greendale, MaryEllen O'Brien**

Flower Show chaired by **MaryEllen O'Brien**

Speakers

Elisabeth Cary, Director of Education, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, MA, “The Education of a Gardener”

Professor Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, “Building Pollinator Populations at Home”

Samantha Alger, GCA Scholar, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Biology, University of Vermont, “Virus Transmission in Bumble Bees”

Awards

Creative Leadership Award: **Vicki Saltonstall**, Chestnut Hill GC

Zone Conservation Award: **Abby Coffin**, Chestnut Hill GC

Barbara Spaulding Cramer Zone Floral Design Education Award:

Mary Huntoon, North Shore GC of Massachusetts

Zone Historic Preservation Commendation: **Trustees of Reservation**, proposed by North Shore GC of Massachusetts

Zone Judging Award: **Pat Michaud**, Cohasset GC/Fox Hill GC

Nell Schwartz Mentoring Award: **Arabella Dane**, North Shore GC of MA

Kitty Ferguson Award: **Anne Almy**, GC of Buzzards Bay

Flower Show Awards

GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award: **Cynthia Hosmer**, Piscataqua GC

GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts: **Margaret Pokorny**, Monadnock GC

Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Award in Conservation: **Lynn**

Edelstein, The Lenox GC

Ann Lyon Crammond Award: **Debbie Detwiller Smith**, The Lenox GC

Dorothy Vietor Munger Award: **Kim Cutler**, Worcester GC

Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award: **MaryEllen O'Brien**, The Lenox GC

Best in Show—Floral Design: **Kaye Vosburgh**, Noanett GC

GCA Novice Award in Horticulture: **Lisa Huntington**, Worcester GC

Catherine Beattie Medal: **Carrie Waterman**, Noanett GC

Rosie Jones Horticulture Award: **Sarah Ribeiro**, Worcester GC

Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award: **The Lenox GC**

Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award: **Laurel McKenzie**, Monadnock GC

Best in Show—Horticulture: **Debbie Douglas**, The Lenox GC

GCA Novice Award in Photography: **Martha Gangemi**, Cohasset GC

Photography Creativity Award: **Ellen Dawson**, Piscataqua GC

Best in Show—Photography: **Martha Gangemi**, Cohasset GC

The Lenox Garden Club Gertrude Burdsall Floral Design Award: **Susan Barry, Cindy Morton**, North Shore GC of MA

The Lenox Garden Club Gertrude Burdsall Horticulture Award:

Mary Liz Lewis, GC of Dublin
The Busy Bee Award is presented to those exhibitors who achieve the highest number of points

within each Division. In Division I, three entrants achieved equal scores and each received an award:

The Lenox Garden Club Busy Bee Awards—Floral Design:

Kim Cultler, Worcester GC;
Kaye Vosburgh, Noanett GC;
MaryEllen O'Brien, Lenox GC

The Lenox Garden Club Busy Bee Award—Horticulture: **Carrie Waterman**, Noanett GC

The Lenox Garden Club Busy Bee Award—Photography: **Martha Gangemi**, Cohasset GC

The Lenox Garden Club Busy Bee Award Botanic Arts: **Cynthia Hosmer**, Piscataqua GC

Highlights

- Cranwell Resort
- Tour of The Mount, the home of Edith Wharton
- Beautiful and creative flower show: *A Beehive of Activity*
- Gracious hospitality of The Lenox GC



Carrie Waterman receiving The LGC Busy Bee—Horticulture Award from Kathy Michie. Photo by Kathy Tremblay

Zone V

14 clubs in Delaware and Pennsylvania

Right On Track: This Stop.... Main Line 21st Century Preservation, Transformation, and Repurposing of its Past

October 19-20, 2016

Philadelphia Country Club

Hosted by **The Garden Workers**, Gladwyne, PA

Chaired by **Susan Ayres, Sallie Greenough**

Flower Show Chaired by **Mary Jo Strawbridge**

Speakers

Jeff Groff, Director of Interpretation, Estate Historian, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, “Lost Gardens of the Main Line”

Matt Rader, President, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia, PA, “Community Involvement across Pennsylvania”

Ethan Kauffman, Director, Stoneleigh, a Natural Lands Trust property, Villanova, PA, “Stoneleigh: Formation of the Natural Lands Trust’s Newest Public Garden”

Taylor Patterson, Floral Designer/Creative Director, Fox Fodder Farm, Brooklyn, NY, “Contemporary and Naturalistic Large Arrangement that Dances”

Awards

Zone Civic Improvement Commendation: **The Chestnut Hill Garden District**, Emily Daeschler, Director, proposed by Wissahickon GC



The Barbara Spaulding Cramer Zone Floral Design Education Award presented by Cynthia Hosmer to Mary Jo Strawbridge. Photo by Debbie Laverell

Zone Conservation Award: **Lloyd Brown**, The Weeders

Zone Conservation Commendation: **Bonnie Van Alen**, Founder and President, Williston Conservation Trust, proposed by The Weeders

Barbara Spaulding Cramer Zone Floral Design Education Award: **Mary Jo Strawbridge**, The Garden Workers

Zone Floral Design Achievement Award: **Sally Yow**, The Providence GC of PA

Zone Horticulture Commendation: **Dr. John Frett**, Director, University of Delaware Botanic Gardens;

Dr. Janine Sherrier, Chairman, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware, proposed by GC of Wilmington

Zone Historic Preservation Commendation: **The McCausland Family**, Erdenheim Farm, Flourtown, PA, proposed by Wissahickon GC

Zone V Director’s Award: **Debbie Nute**, Village GC of Sewickley

Flower Show Awards

Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Award in Conservation: **Martha Lombardo, Patsy Walls**, The Garden Workers

Dorothy Vietor Munger Award: **Gretchen Riley, Michele Jameson**, The Gardeners

Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award: **Suzanne Ciongoli**, The Garden Workers

Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award: **Wendy Russell**, GC of Wilmington

Best in Show—Floral Design: **Wendy Russell**, GC of Wilmington

Catherine Beattie Medal: **Lorraine Wallace**, The Weeders
Rosie Jones Horticulture Award: **Margaret Bowditch**, Wissahickon GC

Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award: **Wissahickon GC**

Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award: **Alice Farley**, Wissahickon GC

Best in Show—Horticulture: **Deb Donaldson**, The Gardeners

GCA Novice Award in Photography: **Sally Foster**, GC of Allegheny County

Photography Creativity Award: **Debbie Laverell**, The Garden Workers

Best in Show—Photography: **Kate Fahey**, Four Counties GC

Highlights

- Garden tour of Linden Hill, the legendary 50-acre estate in the heart of Philadelphia’s Main Line designed and built between 1928 and 1931 by Edmund B. Gilchrist
- Conservation Exhibit: “Where Does Your Water Shed?”
- Conservation donations by The Garden Workers to Lake Erie Region Conservancy, Erie, PA, and Natural Lands Trust, Stoneleigh, Villanova, PA to offset the environmental impact of the meeting in some small way



Entrance of Linden Hill, the 50-acre estate once owned by the Dorrance family, and the start of the walking tour. Photo by Missy Kathol

Zone VII

18 clubs in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky

Views from the Mountaintop

October 11-14, 2016

Boars Head Inn

Hosted by **Albemarle Garden Club**, Charlottesville, VA

Chaired by **Brooke Spencer, Robbie Mascotte, Nora Seilheimer**

Flower Show chaired by **Kim Cory, Carol Roberts**

Speakers

Andrea Wulf, author, “The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World”

Thomas Woltz, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, “An Overview of Past, Present and Future Projects”

Sarah Francisco, Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center, “The Collaborative Power of the Law”

Robert Saunders, Saunders Brothers Nursery, “A Hundred Years of Boxwood”

Peter Hatch, former Head Gardener, Monticello, “The GCA and GCV—Impact on Monticello”

Leslie Greene Bowman, President, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, “Current and Future Restoration of the Mountaintop Landscape at Monticello”

Awards

Creative Leadership Award:
Ann Price Davis, Glenview GC

Zone Civic Improvement Commendation: **City Schoolyard Garden**, proposed by Albemarle GC

Zone Communications Award:
Missy Janes, Fauquier and Loudoun GC

Zone Conservation Award: **Fayetta Weaver**, Mill Mountain GC

Zone Horticulture Commendation:
Peggy Cornett, Curator of Plants, Monticello, proposed by Albemarle GC

Zone Historic Preservation Award:
Melinda Frierson, Albemarle GC

Zone Photography Award: **Blair Matthews Louis**, Glenview GC

Zone VII Director’s Award:
DeLane Porter, Dolley Madison GC

Centennial Certificate: **GC of Lexington**

Flower Show Awards

GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award: **Fox Ritchay**, Glenview GC

GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts: **Jane Booth**, Virginia Beach GC

Best in Show—Botanical Arts:
Diane Hopper, Winchester-Clarke GC

Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Award in Conservation: **Albemarle GC**

Ann Lyon Crammond Award:
Kim Cory, Melinda Frierson, Albemarle GC

Dorothy Vietor Munger Award:
Jane Maddox, Warrenton GC

Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award: **Aline Day**, Fauquier and Loudoun GC

Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award: **Jana Dowds**, Glenview GC

Best in Show—Floral Design: **Aline Day**, Fauquier and Loudoun GC

GCA Novice Award in Horticulture: **Jill Mountcastle**, The Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton

Catherine Beattie Medal: **Dianne Pfizenmayer**, The Augusta GC

Rosie Jones Horticulture Award:
Dana Harris, Albemarle GC

Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award: **Albemarle GC**

Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award: **Dede Hamilton**, The Augusta GC

Best in Show—Horticulture: **Susan Lankenau**, Albemarle GC

GCA Novice Award in Photography: **Forrest Moore**, Mill Mountain GC

Photography Creativity Award:
Barbra Love, The French Broad River GC Foundation



Roundtable discussion at Montalto featuring a “view from the mountaintop.” Photo by Claire Mellinger

Best in Show—Photography: **Missy Janes**, Fauquier and Loudoun GC

Faulconer-Minor Award: **Dede Hamilton**, Augusta GC

Highlights

- Excellent speakers
- Conservation exhibit featuring Bee Hotel
- Farm-to-table movement theme for decor and meals
- Private docent-led tours of Monticello’s house and gardens
- Business meeting held at Montalto with fabulous mountaintop views of Charlottesville
- Beautiful flower show
- Spectacular fall weather



A chorus line of award winners! Photo by Claire Mellinger

Club Milestones: *Celebrations*

Zone IV

Summit Garden Club

Summit, NJ

Founded in 1916

Joined the GCA in 1920

The Summit Garden Club kicked off its yearlong centennial celebration with a reenactment of its April 16, 1916 inaugural meeting. Several members assumed the roles of the club's founders, and all other members dressed in "appropriate attire" for a traditional tea. Glass slides of local gardens from the early 1900s, which the club donated to the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens in 2015, were digitized, properly archived, and made available to GCA club members and the public through the Smithsonian's on-line catalogue. They were also included in a presentation of excerpts from a 1990s club program, "Glimpses into the Past of the Summit Garden Club."

The historic slides provided inspiration for our centennial flower show, *Along the Garden Path*, in April 2016. The show's schedule emphasized historic Summit gardens and landscapes,



SGC members in 1916 attire. Photo by Joan Gambro

and numerous classes were titled accordingly—"Reflections from the Bridge," "Along the Boarders," and "A Century Through a Lens." After judging during the day, members, spouses, and friends gathered for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and inspiring awards.

In October 2016 the club toasted 100 years during a farm-to-table luncheon at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, once the home of two former club members. Eleven past presidents were on hand for the festive fall occasion. The SGC's close relationship with the arboretum was recognized in June 2016, when the club received an award at the arboretum's annual fundraiser. In January two large display cases at the Summit Public Library will feature our club's history and past community.

—Sally Solmssen

Zone VI

Halten Garden Club

Timonium, MD

Founded in 1916

Joined the GCA in 1927

In September of last year, Halten Garden Club celebrated its 100th anniversary with a luncheon at the Baltimore Country Club at Five Farms. We invited special guests from Federated Garden Clubs and The Garden Club of America. HGC was founded in 1916 when Mrs. Harry Fahnestock invited several women to her home, Halten Farm, in Sparks, Maryland, to form a garden club. HGC



First members of Halten Garden Club. Halten Farm was the site of their first meeting and the origin of the club's name.

co-founded the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland in 1924, and joined the GCA in 1927.

Over the past century HGC has assisted in many community service activities. It played a large part in the creation of the Maryland Daffodil Society and was the first club in Zone VI to establish a junior garden club over 90 years ago. In its early years, during WWI, the junior garden club encouraged youth to plant vegetables for Victory Gardens. HGC members also planted expansive landscape gardens on the grounds at Franklin Square Hospital and created and maintained a butterfly garden at Irvine Nature Center, north of Baltimore. HGC helped restore the formal gardens at historic Hampton Mansion and added plantings to the Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway, the Triangle at Towson, and Towson Library.

During the winter holidays HGC members participate in

the decorating of Ladew and Hampton mansions; actively maintain gardens at Sherwood House, Stella Maris Hospice, and Sparks Elementary School; and work with the students in the after-school Green Club at Reisterstown Elementary.

As a result of HGC's 100 years of community involvement, members have reaped the benefits of sharing knowledge while establishing many great friendships. English writer Vita Sackville-West, whose gardens in Kent are considered a national treasure, said, "The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before." This is a sentiment our membership embodied in our first century and will build on in our next.

—Kathy Offutt

Zone X

Shaker Lakes Garden Club Cleveland, OH Founded in 1915 Joined the GCA in 1920

In celebration of its 2015 centennial the Shaker Lakes Garden Club commissioned *Sky Blossoms*, a public art installation on the historic Cleveland Mall. The mall, an original 1903 Daniel Burnham plan, is a series of public spaces flanked by the city's major civic and government buildings. Cleveland has undergone a renaissance in recent years, with a new convention center and redesigned Public Square in advance of the 2016 Republican National Convention.

A committee of seven former SLGC presidents worked closely with LAND Studio, a nonprofit focused on enhancing public

spaces through public/private partnerships. After a rigorous process, Stacy Levy, a sculptor and environmental artist from Spring Mills, PA, was selected to design and create the first major art installation on the renovated mall, setting a high standard for public art.

Sky Blossoms mimics the twists and turns of the Cuyahoga River with a flowing path of beds planted with native grasses. The sculpture is a collection of stainless steel poles dotted with colorful moving fins, which reference the tall ships that sailed Lake Erie. They are designed to vibrate in the strong winds coming off the lake, just to the north of the site. In committing \$100,000 to this centennial project, SLGC continues a long tradition of major gifts designed to enhance our region.

—Leslie Marting



Sky Blossoms. Photo by Dickson L. Whitney Jr.

Zone XI

Garden Club of Evanston Evanston, IL Founded in 1915 Joined the GCA in 1921

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.” The Bard of Avon said it best. For 100 years the Garden Club of Evanston has been a faithful steward of a historic haven of peace and fellowship in the midst of Northwestern University’s bustling lakefront campus, just north of Chicago. The Jens Jensen-designed Shakespeare Garden (on the National Register of Historic Places since 1988) was the club’s first project; since 1915 club members have cared for the garden. But even legendary beauties can use a nip and tuck—in this case an upgraded irrigation system and evening lighting as well as routine repairs—especially after a century of service as a romantic venue for countless weddings, photo shoots, and simple moments of reflection or quiet conversation stolen from a busy day.

Northwestern generously funded this work. It was, in fact, the university that donated the plot for the garden in 1915. Combined with the original gift and recent funding, the expertise of the university’s landscape designer, Ann Ziegelmaier, was crucial. A GCE honorary member, Ann managed the project. She hired the finest artists and craftspeople



The Shakespeare Garden today. Photo by Erica Granchalek

and oversaw the installation of a new irrigation system. Special care was required to save the garden’s original hawthorn trees (*Crataegus*), whose century-old roots sprang from seeds germinated in France. Two new stone benches replaced the worn wooden ones at the garden’s entrance. Paths were leveled and repaired. Next year clematis will festoon four new wooden obelisks designed to recall Elizabethan-era leaded glass windows.

Aglow with its new dramatic lighting, the garden was a lovely setting for last September’s reopening, when Northwestern students staged their rendition of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The club’s founding members, who established the garden so long ago to honor their sisters in war-torn England and mark the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare’s passing, would certainly have been proud.

—Ceil Bond, Ceil Bouchet, and Erica Granchalek

The Garden Club of St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

Founded in 1916

Joined the GCA in 1921

The Garden Club of St. Louis celebrated its centennial with a gala in October at the architecturally stunning Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, an acclaimed research center focusing on the sustainability of agriculture. The gala, chaired by club members Becky Fouke and Mimi Carnal and attended by more than 160 members and guests, fêted the club's origins, activities, and achievements.

The GCSL was founded in 1916 by six couples who shared a deep commitment to gardening. The first meeting was at the home of Eugene H. Angert, a prominent St. Louis business leader and lawyer, who became the club's first president.

The club's lead centennial project, dedicated to former club



Future view of Gateway Arch in St. Louis. Photo Courtesy of CityArchRiver Foundation

president Patty Bush, aided in the construction of a special garden on the grounds of the St. Louis Gateway Arch. Boosted by a generous challenge grant from two members, donations totaled nearly \$250,000. The arch, located near the gateway of the Lewis and Clark expedition, is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and is managed by the National Park Service. Its current transformation will see the addition of biking and running trails, space for outdoor concerts, and a museum commemorating the Louisiana Purchase and subsequent westward expansion.

Although hardworking, the GCSL is also a very social club. Most meetings take place in the evening with wine, cocktails, and dinner. Our club's motto, "Rooted in Tradition, Growing into the Future," accurately expresses our pleasure in association and serious purpose.

—Diane Wyse Jackson

Zone XII

Garden Club of Denver

Denver, CO

Founded in 1916

Joined the GCA in 1920

On a cool, crisp Colorado evening last fall, members of the Garden Club of Denver gathered to celebrate the club's 100th year and the completion of our anniversary gift to Denver and Colorado—our Centennial Celebration Project.



GCD's centennial project committee at History Colorado. Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin

The project also commemorated the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service.

First envisioned in 2014, the project was designed to create a significant, lasting educational program to teach elementary schoolchildren about Colorado's national parks, foster a sense of stewardship, and encourage them to visit the parks with their families.

Partnering with History Colorado, the state's history museum, GCD developed an educational outreach program geared to Colorado's 50,000 third and fourth graders and their 3,400 classroom teachers. The result was an in-depth, highly interactive exhibit at History Colorado featuring the state's four national parks: Mesa Verde, Rocky Mountain, Great Sand Dunes, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison. The completed project, "Explore, Learn, and Protect," has three parts:

- Four professionally produced videos emphasizing the iconic aspects of each national park, its role in Colorado history, and the

environment it protects. GCD members researched each park, developed narrative outlines, and created the storyboards.

- A large classroom map of Colorado showing its four national parks and eight national monuments.

- An educator's resource website (with links to the videos, classroom map, and other content including lesson plans) for Colorado's national parks and monuments, developed with the education department of History Colorado.

GCD raised \$40,000 and amassed 1,200 total volunteer hours over two years to complete our Centennial Celebration Project, which could not have been accomplished without the talents and invaluable staff resources of our inter-mountain regional partners. The project demonstrates the lasting benefit of leveraging limited resources to accomplish significant results.

—Carol Griesemer

NewsWorthy

Zone I

Milton Garden Club

Milton, MA



Members of the Milton Garden Club are dedicated to preserving and maintaining several gardens around town including those at the Milton Public Library, Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum, and the 1811 Powder House. Fall cleanup crew at the historic Fletcher Steele designed garden. From left (back row): Mary Riffe Hiss, Tucker Smith, Lucinda Larson, Cat Malone, Linda Maclean; (front row) Katy Burke, Georgia Lee, Christine Paxhia, and Sharon Hackett. Photo by Georgia Lee

Zone II

Greenwich Garden Club

Green Fingers Garden Club

Hortulus

Greenwich, CT



Noticing a decline in crocus blossoms at the Civil War monument in Greenwich, 50 members of the three GCA clubs there gathered last October to plant 10,000 bulbs and bring Crocus Hill back to its previous glory. Club presidents Martha Heard (Green Fingers GC), Libby King (Greenwich GC), and Kathryn Payne (Hortulus) flank the monument. Photo by Rinda Bishop

New Canaan Garden Club

New Canaan, CT

Over the Columbus Day weekend last year, shops on the main commercial street of New Canaan showcased fabulous fall floral arrangements designed by members of the New Canaan Garden Club. Then in its fourth year, "New Canaan in Bloom" was, according to NCGC President Jane Gamber, "our gift to the town, and a big thank you to our wonderful community." The event was staged by members of the club's provisional classes and began with a kick-off party and silent auction. In the end it was NCGC's most successful fundraising effort to date.

Proceeds will be used for ongoing civic beautification programs and restoration of the Boxwood Parterre Gardens at Waveny House in partnership with the newly established Waveny Park Conservancy.

—Ellen McMahon



Arrangement by Muffy Lewis and Elizabeth Zea. Photo by Jane Gamber

Newport Garden Club

Newport, RI



Newport Garden Club members wear their newly created fascinators, designed and made with fresh flowers and greenery, following an August 17, 2016, demonstration led by NGC member Candace Morgenstern. Photo by Betsy West

Zone III

Adirondack Garden Club Essex County, NY

A stunning member-designed poster, widespread publicity, and a site close to the Village of Lake Placid drew hundreds of visitors to the Adirondack Garden Club's July flower show, *Mountains & Valleys*. Held at Heaven Hill Farm, a private home turned educational foundation nestled in the Adirondack High Peaks, the show (AGC's first in ten years) featured entries in floral design, horticulture, and conservation.

Chairman Grace Cray and Co-chairman Renee Lewis encouraged participation by arranging instructional sessions and adding club awards to already-established GCA awards. They also emphasized the importance of making both preparation and participation instructional and fun, while advising members to devote real energy to welcoming guests.

Another key component of the show's success was the decision to invite two very experienced members from the Fort Orange Garden Club, who generously helped with registration forms, data input, and staging. They also provided the GCA judges with necessary information and offered suggestions for future partnerships with respect to shared workshops, trips, and guest speakers.

In reviewing our immensely satisfying effort, we acknowledged the numerous novices who participated—a clear majority of the total. This wasn't entirely surprising, as three-quarters of our membership joined within the last five years. Equally satisfying and even more surprising was the high attendance—in a region where some guests traveled up to 100 miles—from Albany to the south and Montreal to the north. The gloriously sunny summer weather in this beautiful wilderness area didn't hurt either!

—Alison Hain

Millbrook Garden Club Millbrook, NY

For 50 years Millbrook Garden Club maintained an herb garden at the Audubon center in Sharon, CT. That garden helped educate generations about the beauty and uses of herbs, but by 2015 public and club interest had waned. After consulting Sharon-Audubon's board, MGC set about replacing the herbs with plants that will

provide a nearly nonstop source of pollen and nectar for pollinators.

Good design was essential. A talented local landscape designer drew a plan *pro bono* that was implemented by MGC hort mavens Jane Keiter, who contributed plants from her own garden, and Kathy Metz, who donated mulch, compost, and more plants. Many of them were recommended in *The Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners*. Showcasing seductive colors, shapes, and scents, the garden's menu of plants—from lungwort, hollyhock, and Russian sage, to lavender, bee balm, hyssop, and sunflower—appeals to a diverse insect and bird population. Bees, whose state-wide numbers have dropped by half, prefer landing on tubular surfaces; butterflies and moths on flat ones. Effective lures are milkweed, a must for monarchs, and numerous "nativars"—popularized by Dr. Allan Armitage to mitigate the inherent vulnerabilities of certain ecologically beneficial natives. MGC will contribute annually to the care of this community asset.

By late summer the new Habitat for Pollinators was buzzing with human, bee, and butterfly energy, as only a healthy garden can. MGC members and Audubon-Sharon's directors celebrated the garden's coming-out, and watched Sean Grace introduce the center's raptors-in-residence. Afterward, a garden party and tour for 200 at Kathy and Jay Metz's Cobble Pond Farm cemented anew the half-century connection enjoyed by MGC and Audubon-Sharon.

—Kathy Metz

North Suffolk Garden Club Stony Brook, NY

On one of the hottest dog days last summer, North Suffolk Garden Club members were relieved of all worldly cares as they followed Dr. Richard Iversen on a tour of the magnificent teaching gardens at Farmingdale State College on Long Island (FSG), part of the State University of New York system. From the moment we stepped on the long grass pathway at the entry, we were mesmerized. The spectacle of perennials, annuals, shrubs, and trees—all leading to a sundial focal point—immediately transported us into a world of horticulture at its finest.

FSC's teaching gardens, a four-acre outdoor classroom maintained by students in the Department of Ornamental Horticulture, began their evolution in



Garden at Audubon-Sharon. Photo by Sean Grace



Dr. Richard Iversen leads a tour of the teaching gardens at FSC. Photo by Jennifer Lawrence

the 1930s. Dr. Iversen discussed his love of vertical plantings to break up sight lines, his use of mirror images to create balance, and his discreet melding of color variations when designing gardens. Freely admitting that these gardens are high-maintenance, Dr. Iversen is proud of his students, who work two full days each week pruning, weeding, and learning firsthand what works where. In a circular herb garden, students integrated hardscape elements by redoing brick paths to form spokes around a raised replica of a 19th-century urn. In another garden at FSC created by Dr. Iversen, all the plants he selected—from lavender to dusty miller—have a silver hue.

The crowning glory of the tour was the circa-1914 conservatory, recently renovated thanks to the generosity of a former student. NSGC participated in the renovation by funding the

acquisition of four Gothic-style cast-iron benches for the interior of the conservatory in memory of Betty Howind, a former NSGC member.

Dr. Iversen will retire in January 2017, but he will not stop learning and teaching; he will instead enter the prestigious one-year training program for official guides at NYC's Metropolitan Museum of Art. His legacy at FSC will long be remembered by the thousands of students who were taught and touched by his love of horticulture.

—Christa Amato

Zone IV

Rumson Garden Club

Rumson, NJ

Cindy Zipf, a GCA honorary member and executive director of Clean Ocean Action (COA), a nonprofit based in Highlands, NJ, gave a special lecture at the Rumson Garden Club's October meeting. Open to the public, the lecture was titled "Watershed Mindfulness: We are All Connected to the Sea."

Serial dumping of waste into the rivers and coastal waters of New Jersey and New York in the 1970s and 1980s led to the formation of the Ocean Dumping Task Force in 1983, a group that included RGC. The next year RGC became a founding member of COA. "The ocean provides 70 percent of our oxygen...and

it only asks that we take care of it," Zipf stated. COA's most recent focus is its "Rally for the Navesink" campaign, a grassroots find-it-fix-it program to address pollution in the Navesink River. It is a response to the state's decision to downgrade over 560 acres of shellfish habitat and a year-long water quality study, which found pathogen pollution from urban and agricultural stormwater runoff and failing infrastructure.

Zipf encouraged us to know our "water address"—what flows from our homes flows to our waterways. Increased awareness will help us do a better job keeping our water safe and clean. "Nature is an incredible



Rumson GC President Liz Card and COA Executive Director Cindy Zipf. Photo by Kathryn Singleton

healer," said Zipf, "but she needs the chance to do her work."

—Kathryne Singleton

Garden Club of Somerset Hills

Far Hills, NJ



The Garden Club of Somerset Hills celebrated its 25th Anniversary House and Garden Tour on June 2, 2016. More than 250 visitors enjoyed the four gardens on tour, beautiful weather, and boutique shopping. Proceeds from the tour fund the club's Community Grants program. Among the 17 recipients in 2016 were the Great Swamp Watershed Association, Mendham Township Environmental Commission, Tewksbury Land Trust, and Morris County Park Commission's Willowood Arboretum. Photo by Julie Aronson



CTWGC President Kathy Orlando, Peggy Hetz, Mollie King, Gordon Hayward, Louise Downey, and Diane Ziegler. Photo by Michael Orlando



The Gardeners' members at Rushton Farms. Photo by Sarah Hutchin

Zone V

Carrie T. Watson Garden Club

Erie, PA

“Your House, Your Garden” was the aptly named title of guest speaker Gordon Hayward’s garden design lecture given last September to a full house of 200 appreciative members of the Erie, PA, community. The lecture and book signing were presented as a free program offered by the Carrie T. Watson Garden Club at the Erie Insurance Group auditorium. Hayward, a Vermont native, is the author of over 70 articles in *Horticulture* magazine and 11 garden design books, two of which have won national awards. He is also a past contributing editor of *Fine Gardening* magazine.

His PowerPoint presentation of beautiful houses and their gardens illustrated how one can seamlessly link the two. Reclaiming a narrow shady side yard, for example, can create a new smaller focal point in a landscape. Inspired attendees went home eager to apply the practical design concepts they learned from Hayward.

Every three years CTWGC sponsors an educational lecture series on gardens to honor the deceased members of the 90-year-old club. The series fulfills the club’s mission by promoting gardening and conservation to the general public as well as club members. Louise Downey, Laura Semple, Peggy Hetz, Diane Ziegler, Pat Thomas, and Lynette Hughes assisted Mollie King, chairperson of the lecture committee.

—Peggy Hetz

The Gardeners Villanova, PA

This past fall a group of members from The Gardeners worked in the community gardens at Rushton Farms, part of Rushton Woods Preserve in Newtown Square, PA. The 86-acre preserve, a primary stopover for migratory birds, is one of several areas acquired and maintained by the Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT), an organization dedicated to protecting 28,000 acres in the Willistown area. Rushton Woods Preserve has an educational center and bird-monitoring station as well as miles of public walking and riding trails. It is also the permanent home for WCT’s Community Farm Program.

Since 2009 WCT has been contributing pesticide- and herbicide-free produce to the Chester County Food Bank and the West Chester County Cupboard from its six-acre farm. Approximately 3,500 pounds of food were donated last year alone.

The Gardeners has partnered with WCT in the past, designing and building a rain garden at its educational center and planting a wildflower garden. So when farm staff needed assistance, a small, dedicated band of Gardeners stepped in. What could be more worthwhile than harvesting the abundance at Rushton Farm’s community garden and distributing it to those in need?

—Barbara Geltosky

Zone VI

Amateur Gardeners Club

Baltimore, MD



In anticipation of the 2017 GCA *Maryland in May* Annual Meeting, Amateur Gardeners Club members scheduled a day last fall to raise the flag over Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Best known for its strategic role in the War of 1812, the fort was made a National Park in 1925; in 1939 it was redesignated as a National Monument and Historic Shrine. The valiant defense of the fort and the city's harbor inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Photo by Joanne Althoff

Zone IX

Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club

San Antonio, TX

Last fall, in the midst of turning leaves and the hope of cooler weather in Texas, Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club hosted its 18th annual Fall Harvest Tour. This year the tour featured Rancho Blanco and Gallagher Ranch, both near San Antonio and exceptional for their rustic

beauty, stunning settings, and historical significance.

Rancho Blanco's Lake Pavilion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was inspired by 1920s architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood who designed many of the historic rustic lodges in Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks, and the Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim. The Lake Pavilion impressed guests with its oversized fireplaces, hand-hewn staircases, elaborate wrought-iron fixtures, soaring

ceilings, and timbered trusses. Wrap-around porches allowed guests to view the lake, large live oak trees, and expansive hill country views.

The tour's outdoor luncheon and country market took place at Gallagher Ranch, a former military supply depot built in 1883 by Irish engineer Peter Gallagher for Mexico's president, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana. Timeless limestone structures define the ranch headquarters. With further expansion, it served as a fortification against Indian forays, a dude ranch, and even a celebrity hideaway. In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, current owner Chris Hill designated over 700 acres of ranch

property to the Elizabeth Hill Preserve, named after his mother. The preserve provides refuge and protection for endangered birds, native plants, and the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

The Fall Harvest Tour funds the club's community projects in the San Antonio area. Members worked diligently researching ranch sites, printing, catering, selling raffle tickets, and making centerpieces of succulents. Guests enthusiastically shopped at the country market, which featured local meats, cheeses, jewelry, pottery, plants, vegetables, and other local products. The tour owes its continued success to the dedication of these hardworking members.

—Barbara Sullivan



Great room at Gallagher Ranch, Helotes, TX. Photo by Barbara Sullivan

Zone X

Akron Garden Club Akron, OH

The Akron Garden Club celebrated the centennial of the National Park Service last fall with a juried photography show *Amazing Places!* featuring 23 spectacular photos from 19 locations within our National Park System. The images, submitted by GCA club members from across the country, filled gallery walls with breathtaking landscapes from our national parks including Bryce Canyon, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Yosemite.

Club member Sue Klein organized the exhibit, and our entire Conservation Committee hosted the opening and helped with registration, installation, and breakdown. The photographs were on view in the John F. Seiberling Gallery at the headquarters of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park and may be enjoyed by all in the winter issue of *focus*.

—Beth Brumbaugh



Amazing Places photography exhibit. Photo by Sue Klein

Garden Club of Dayton

Dayton, OH

The Garden Club of Dayton's 2016 Flower Show's surprising success grew out of our Founder's Fund runner-up award in 2011. GCD received \$7,500 for our project: "It Kame Alive." Our work began with the creation of a tribute garden at the base of the kame, a mound formed by glacial ice melt, at Carillon Historical Park. We aimed to educate the public about this geological presence and the prehistoric glacier that formed it. Missing out on the big prize, however, compelled us to slow down to raise more money. And slowing down gave us time to rethink.

Not surprisingly, our project grew bigger and better with a broader vision. As charming and lovable as our pile of glacial debris was, we began to understand that the glacier had left us the far more valuable gift of an underground aquifer—the sole source of drinking water for the 1.6 million people of the Miami Valley watershed region. We envisioned a display at Carillon Historical Park of a replica glacier and a short educational film explaining the glacier's role. Our educational signage would focus on the aquifer and its vital role in our region.

Three years and \$45,000 later, we were ready to dedicate our exhibit when the project blossomed into a GCA flower show. All class designations were



Dayton Garden Club's glacial conservation exhibit. Photo by Sandy Bergsten

related to glaciers. A glacier motif was created for our signage and schedule cover, and the show was titled *Sedimental Journey: The Gifts of the Glacier*.

The GCA judges felt the glacier terminology invited creative interpretation, especially among

floral design and photography entries. Twelve commendations were awarded and seven club members received national awards. *Our Sedimental Journey*, which attracted over 220 visitors, became a sensational journey of growth for our club.

—Debbie Corpus

Zone XI

Ladue Garden Club

St. Louis, MO



What do Ladue Garden Club members do when their gardens are suddenly a forest of daffodils, a riot of roses, or an autumnal glow of dahlias? Quick! Host a "pop up" garden party, and send an email inviting members for drinks (critical component) and hors d'oeuvres (optional) in the garden! That's what happened on September 27, 2016, when LGC members (and neighbors) Frances Gay and Julie Glotzbach graciously offered their gardens as pop-ups. Photo by LaVanna Wrobley

Lake Forest Garden Club

Lake Forest, IL

In April 2016, a 140-volume collection of rare books, originally owned by members of Lake Forest Garden Club and maintained in their private libraries, was transferred to the Chicago Botanic Garden's Lenhardt Library, in Glencoe, IL. Between the 1930s and 1950s, club members—including Kate Lancaster Brewster (one of the 24 women who founded the GCA in 1913) and Clarice Walther Hamill (wife of library president Alfred E. Hamill)—gifted their rare books to Lake Forest's public library to be used as a garden resource for the community. Last year the Lake Forest Library Board and its retiring director, Kaye Grabbe, enlisted our club's help to find a new home for the collection. After collaboration with Lenhardt Library's Senior Director Leora Sigel, the books were relocated and are in the process of restoration, preservation, and incorporation

into the Chicago Botanic Garden's existing collection.

The climate-controlled room at the Lenhardt Library was originally built in 2002 to accommodate valuable volumes from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Since then the botanic garden, which opened in 1972, has enjoyed remarkable growth and development as an internationally significant scientific, educational, horticultural, and garden design institution.

At LFGC's September 2016 meeting, Sigel showed slides of many of the newly acquired books, including unusual, specialized Japanese, English, and European volumes on plants and gardens. One highly artful Japanese title donated in the 1930s survives in only three other libraries worldwide. The library and its collections have long been a key interest of LFGC, and members will continue to participate actively and share leadership on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Woman's Board of the Chicago Horticultural Society.

—Annie Downes Whelan
and Arthur Miller



Japanese botanical print. Photo by Annie Whelan



Wayzata Depot Garden. Photo by Holly Adam

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club

Wayzata, MN

Since 1990 Lake Minnetonka Garden Club has maintained the historic Depot Garden in Wayzata. Recently inspired by GCA's effort to promote sustainability and biodiversity in our gardens, several LMGC club members decided to renovate the garden using native plants.

At our August 2016 meeting, LMGC members met at the newly restored garden for a presentation about plant choices and their attributes by Roxanne Stuhr, lead designer of the project from True Nature Design. The new garden has a range of native plants ensuring blooms throughout the entire season; flowering shrubs benefit pollinators, which produce berries for birds later in

the season and provide structure in the winter months. Pollinator-friendly perennials, many donated by members, include coneflower, goldenrod, liatris, milkweed, lobelia, and rudbeckia. Annuals such as pentas, verbena, and lantana were chosen for their color and small blooms, which remain open, making it easy for pollinators to get to the nectar. Spring bulbs were added to the landscape with bees in mind, and grasses were planted to give a "sweeping flow" on the windy lakeshore.

The Wayzata Depot Garden is now an excellent "educational display garden," attracting not only many beautiful birds and other pollinators but many human visitors as well!

—Holly Adams

Town and Country Garden Club

Milwaukee WI

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Sheboygan Indian Mound Park, Town and Country Garden Club invited the community to visit this sacred burial ground. Distinguished speakers described the site's historical significance, and club docents led tours of the grounds.

Early inhabitants of Wisconsin were nomadic hunter-gatherers who buried their dead in earthen mounds—often in shapes of animals and known as effigy mounds. About 90 percent of the effigy mounds in the world are in Wisconsin. In the early 1950s, the mounds, which were constructed over 1,000 years earlier, were in danger of destruction due to development. With the combined efforts of nine area garden clubs, the local newspaper, and hundreds of other concerned citizens, 15 acres were purchased and donated to the city for an archaeological park.

Guided by professionals, several club members were instrumental in advancing the restoration of the site and laying trails for public use. Over the last half century, TCGC has maintained a partnership with Indian Mound Park. We have assisted with the annual spring cleanup, developed and distributed a “History and Nature Trail Guide,” provided educational signage with ethnobotanical notations, produced a video, and provided docents for tours.

When the public celebration finally took place on June 25, 2016, city officials welcomed one and all. Boy Scout Troop #801 opened the event with a flag ceremony and “Pledge of Allegiance.” Among other venues celebrating local Native American culture included Mead Public Library, Kohler Arts Center, Maywood Environmental Park, and the Sheboygan County Historical Museum.

—Pat Schutt

Zone XII

Diggers Garden Club *Pasadena, CA*

Diggers Garden Club has had a deep and long connection with *El Molino Viejo* in San Marino, CA. Completed about 1816 as a gristmill for Mission San Gabriel, the mill is Southern California's

oldest commercial building. To honor its 200th anniversary, banners were hung throughout the city, and during the year celebratory events were planned at the historic site: concerts on the Pomegranate Patio, an adaption of Zane Gray's play “The Light of Western Stars,” and a party with 170 in attendance on September 30.

El Molino Viejo had been a private residence during the first half of the 20th century. It was in fact home to three Diggers: Carol Connell, Harriet Huntington Doerr, and Elizabeth Washburn. *El Molino Viejo* was bequeathed to the City of San Marino by its last owners, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Brehm, who both died in 1962. Five years later, members of the Diggers started gardening in what is now known as the St. Francis Garden. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Diggers really dug in,

restoring the north garden patio and south garden, and even engaging in a brick-making project in Mexico to accurately restore the mill's patio and walkways. Eventually an arbor, teak benches, and a drip watering system were installed, and a more comprehensive landscape plan was developed. More recently grants were secured to support continued garden restoration.

In 1992 The Old Mill Foundation was formed to maintain, preserve, and operate the site. The front of the building was redesigned and planted by talented club members; the interior has become a gallery for the California Art Club to show and sell its artwork. The historic adobe and gardens are a true California treasure.

—Tracy Hirrel



A group of Diggers at *El Molino Viejo*. Photo by Mary Sikora

Hillsborough Garden Club

Hillsborough, CA

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

Woodside, CA

Piedmont Garden Club

Piedmont, CA

Have you ever wondered about the botanical history of your prized roses or climbing ivy? Or maybe questioned how certain species of plants, such as an orchid, begin life growing wildly in rain forests and now are commonly found in homes? Or perhaps pondered what was the most valued spice?

Luckily for the provisional garden club members of the Hillsborough, Woodside-Atherton, and Piedmont garden clubs in the San Francisco Bay area we have an expert who revealed the answers to these and many other questions. Sherry Perkins (Wood-

side-Atherton GC) shared her vast knowledge by way of her engaging class, "Latin and Lore." Using wall-sized maps, she traced the shipping routes used to carry exotic plants and spices through Europe and the Far East. These maritime routes, also known as Spice Roads, supplied cinnamon, turmeric, ginger, cloves, and nutmeg to the far corners of the globe. We were all surprised to learn that pepper was the most valued of the spices. Sherry discussed the use of various plants, including their nutritional and medicinal properties, and covered the history and identification of plants through their Latin names—a crucial component for identification across various languages.

This fascinating presentation, enjoyed with hot coffee and homemade treats, gave our members the chance to learn and know each other better. Sherry's knowledge provided a wonderful way to pass a fact-filled and fun morning.

—Amy Conn and Chick Runkel,
Hillsborough GC

Seattle Garden Club

Seattle, WA

Rain gardens are low impact, low cost, and a very effective method to filter impurities from stormwater runoff. Due to poor soil, steep slopes, lack of open ground, or close proximity to buildings, not all locations are conducive to in-ground rain gardens.

On October 5, 2016, Seattle Garden Club Conservation Chair Barbie Snapp teamed up with Dr. Aaron Clark of 12,000 Rain Gardens. A cooperative effort led by Stewardship Partners and Washington State University Extension, 12,000 Rain Gardens is also a clearinghouse for information and resources, including in-person events and trainings. Our goal was to create a prototype for a residential container rain garden using a large galvanized watering trough. The idea for a trough was based on a rain garden at the industrial site of TOTE Industries using

shipping containers to create rain gardens for filtering impurities.

The trough workshop, held at club member Suzy Titcomb's home, was well-attended by members and guests. Within days of the workshop, Seattle was hit with heavy rains, and our troughs were put to the test. SGC was thrilled to report tremendous success using this simple, viable alternative to in-ground rain gardens. Information on how to create container rain gardens will be on our SGC website/public page under Conservation.

— Barbie Snapp



Suzy Titcomb, Dr. Aaron Clark, and Barbie Snapp with a container rain garden. Photo by Shelley Rolfe



Piedmont GC President June Smith Brugger, Valerie Matzger, Amy Conn, Sherry Perkins, Nancy Huseby, Katie Korotzer, and Chick Runkel. Photo by Janet Buncke



Late Bloomers and Sage Advice

—Betsy Bosway, Indianapolis Garden Club, Zone X



The freshness of cut flowers can be extended for many days by **misting the center of each blossom** with tap water. Do this in addition to keeping the vase filled with fresh water.

—Estelle S. Weinert,
Magnolia GC, Zone IX
March 1992

When used to water African violets, **a bucket of snow** that has been allowed to melt, strained through cheesecloth to remove impurities, then left to reach room temperature will provide a shimmery velvet effect on the leaves. (Or so it seems to me, unless this is the year for glasses.)

—Nancy R. Pogue,
GC of Cincinnati, Zone X
May 1983

Pollen stains (especially from lilies) on clothes and linens were a total tragedy until a friend gave me a great solution. Without touching the pollen stain, place plastic adhesive tape (clear or masking) over the pollen and lift it right off. You may have to dab the pollen with clean tape several times, but this really works.

—Martha Lee Parker,
Hillsborough GC, Zone XII
February/March 2007

When using **camellia blooms in an arrangement**, take a straight pin and secure the base of the bloom to the stem. The flower will stay in place for a couple of days rather than a couple of hours.

—Fran Neumann,
Diggers GC, Zone XII
February/March 2008

To **clean and dust** your dried or preserved flowers, use a hair dryer.

—Cinder Dowling,
GC of Barrington, Zone XI
February 1999

My new **Vanda orchid arrived in full bloom** and grew well over the next year—but failed to bloom again. At the Philadelphia Flower Show, the owner of Waldor Orchids in New Jersey advised Epsom Salt then turned away. I had no idea how much to use but tried the standard 1 tbsp. in a gallon of water and drenched the plant. Sure enough, eight weeks later my orchid bloomed. Since then I have repeated the drench with success. I don't know if it works on other species of orchid.

—Mary Liz Lewis,
GC of Dublin, Zone I
April/May 2008

My mother, a most successful houseplant grower, insisted that **leftover tea** (not leaves) **poured on the plants** was most beneficial, and her geranium plants proved it. I do the same, and with plenty of sunshine my plants flourish through the winter. I apply my brew three times a week.

—Mildred Matthew,
Cohasset GC, Zone I
October 1984

When you want to **root a cutting**, place it in a water-filled disposable jar. As roots develop, start to add soil to the water. Gradually the soil will replace the water. Then break the jar and transplant.

—Patty McComb,
Pasadena GC, Zone XII
May 1979

“The Old Guard”

The Old Guard never dies, nor even fades away,
We hang around to give advice
that's hopelessly passé.

We talk about the days that were
and how things used to be.
We sleep through all the
speeches, then have a cup of tea.

We'd like a touch of youth again,
to be a sprightly fifty.
But, girls, in spite of envy's
blight, we think you're rather
nifty.

And so we say good luck,
God Bless, and have things
your own way,
We never saw the club we
love go better than today!

—Mrs. Arthur B. Collins,
The Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton, Zone VII
October 1966

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Head to the web to be inspired by GCA publications

Founders Fund

Did you know that black rot would have decimated delphinium, perhaps on global level, were it not for Dr. Thomas Laskaris's research? And that research may very well not have happened were it not for the GCA Founders Fund? South County Garden Club of Rhode Island (Zone II) received the award in 1941 to support Dr. Laskaris's work at the New York Botanical Garden in cooperation with the American Delphinium Society. Two years later he successfully isolated the pathogen. The GCA's online book *A Centennial Commemoration: In Celebration of the Founders Fund* chronicles all the Founders Fund Awards from 1936-2013, including the 1941 award, with detailed descriptions and exquisite photographs of each award-winning civic project. If you're curious about past Founder Fund Award winners or if you're thinking about a project for your own club, take a look and be inspired by projects that may just make that critical difference. (Photo by Gay Legg)



eNews

How does one stay on top of late-breaking GCA news? *eNews*, the GCA's monthly e-newsletter, published by the Communications Committee, brings timely information directly to GCA club members by email. From brief, important announcements from national committees to headlines and deadlines, it also includes relevant links, photos, and information on conferences and workshops. "*eNews* replaces broad distributions from GCA so that club members can

expect all pertinent information in one location at one time," says Beth Brumbaugh (Akron GC), the committee's chairman. Photography from the zones is a key visual feature. "Each zone is assigned a month, and individual club members submit seasonal photos," says Beth. These photos are included in *eNews* or posted on the committee's landing page. So take a look and don't miss opening your *eNews* email each month! (Photo by Janet Scales)

Photo captions for Water Lilies, pages 26 and 27:

Page 26: *Nymphaea* 'Daubenyana.' Photo by Polly Beal

Page 27 from left to right:

Top row: *Nymphaea* 'Purple Zanzibar.' Photo by Debbie Ross

Nymphaea 'Haunting Beauty.' Photo by Laura Simpson

Nymphaea 'Blue Smoke.' Photo by Melissa Clark

Top, middle: *Nymphaea* 'Perry's Fire Opal.' Photo by Loan Tran

Nymphaea chromatella. Photo by Ann Franzen

Nymphaea 'Blink.' Photo by Joanne Walstrom

Bottom, middle: *Nymphaea* 'Foxfire.' Photo by Sarah Salomon

Nymphaea odorata. Photo by Debbie Laverell

Nymphaea 'Antares.' Photo by Ann Franzen

Bottom: *Nymphaea* 'Mrs. Martin E. Randig.' Photo by Suzette de Turenne

Nymphaea gigantea 'Blue Cloud.' Photo by Debbie Laverell

Nymphaea bachyceras 'White Fleck.' Photo by Alison Ward

Dig Deeper: Resources

Rivers: Going Mainstream

pages 16-19

For more information about rivers and dams in the US, visit the website of American Rivers (www.americanrivers.org), a watchdog organization founded to protect American waterways. On its website you'll find information about threats, conservation, and restoration as well as an interactive map, which identifies all known dam removals in the US since 1916.

American Rivers' annual report, "America's Most Endangered Rivers," highlights the ten most at-risk rivers. The organization encourages decision-makers to be advocates for rivers and the communities they support, and presents alternatives to proposals that would damage rivers. Since 1984, grassroots conservationists have teamed up each year with American Rivers to save local rivers and have consistently scored policy successes to benefit these rivers and their communities.

Endangered Wetlands

pages 22-23

May is American Wetlands Month. Created in 1991 by the EPA, it celebrates the vital importance of wetlands to our ecological, economic, and social health and educates people about the value of wetlands as a natural resource. Check out American Wetlands Month events on the EPA website.

Arizona: Watering the Desert

pages 24-25

Golf courses are booming, and Arizona is prime territory for this sport. How to maintain all that's green in golf? Information is available from the US Golf Association's Water Resources Center (www.usga.org/course-care/water-resource-center.html).

NewsWorthy: Seattle Garden Club

page 66

To learn about the container rain garden that Seattle Garden Club developed, go to the SGC website (seattlegardenclub.org). SGC encourages you to visit the website for 12,000 Rain Gardens (www.12000raingardens.org) and view the YouTube video "Low-Impact Development: Why it's Working in the Northwest." Container rain gardens can be used universally by adjusting plantings for your zone.



SGC's container rain garden. Photo by Shelley Rolfe

Correction: Nancy Ladd, winner of the Dorothy Victor Munger Award at the Zone III meeting in June 2016, is a Rye GC member.

In Memoriam

Lucia Woods

(Mrs. Edward F. Woods),
Cohasset Garden Club,
Zone I

Lucia Woods (94) died on January 25, 2016. She was the wife of Dr. Edward Woods for 62 years and had four children. One of her famous quotes was "same house, same spouse." Her property was filled with beautiful trees always planted "in very large holes so as to have enough room for the water and the fertilizer," her husband said, and this was difficult due to the rocky, clay soil.

Lucia joined the Cohasset Garden Club in 1964. She was a horticulture judge, receiving many awards for her exceptional talents. When she was Cohasset GC's president in 1977, she encouraged members to get involved in fighting the town's attempt to change zoning laws and "ruin our town." She received the Medal of Merit (1985) and the Club Appreciation Award (2010). She was a Zone I representative for the Flower Show Committee (1980-82), a member of the Interchange Fellowship Committee (1982-1984), and Zone I director (1988-90).

She was recognized in 2014 for 50 years of service to the Cohasset GC, and was honored by the dedication of the Lucia R. Woods Bowl awarded annually within the club. Her husband remembers that she always gave wise counsel and made new members feel welcome. She is missed.

Francisca Paine

Irwin (Mrs. David Irwin),
Adirondack Garden Club,
Zone III

The Adirondacks lost a special woman when Francisca Paine Irwin, 88, known as Frisky, died on April 5, 2016. She blessed the region with her friendship, leadership, advocacy, and generosity.

Frisky held almost every position in the Adirondack Garden Club, serving twice as president and chairing both a zone meeting and a GCA Flower Show. She served as Zone III director and representative to the Endowment, Conservation, and Publications Committees. She received the Horticulture Achievement Award in 1991, the Medal of Merit in 1995, the Zone III Conservation Award in 1996, and the Creative Leadership Award in 2006.

The Colonial Garden, her club's civic project for almost 50 years, had Frisky's strong support. Both the Colonial Garden and the Paine family's gardens at Flat Rock Camp in Willsboro, NY, are included in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens.

A warm and caring friend, Frisky freely shared her knowledge of plants and gardening, protected the fragile Adirondack environment, worked tirelessly for the causes she loved, and inspired others to do the same.

BookReview

Gloria Callen Jones
(Mrs. Herbert Jones)
Kanawha Garden Club,
Zone VII

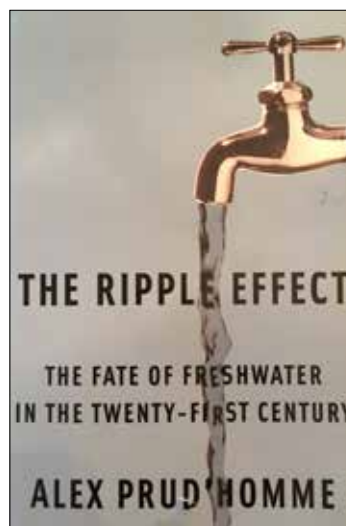
Gloria Callen Jones, of Charleston, WV, died peacefully at home on September 2, 2016. Born in Freeport, Long Island, in 1923, “Glorious Gloria” was an award-winning swimmer who was voted the USA’s Outstanding Woman Athlete of 1942. She set 35 American records, won 13 national titles, set one world record, and won a place on the US Olympic Team in 1940. Two years later, at age 19, the New York Fashion Academy named her one of America’s thirteen best-dressed women. In 1943 she entered Barnard College where she met her future husband Herbert Jones Jr.

In addition to many civic activities in Charleston, Gloria joined Kanawha Garden Club in 1967, and was president in 1978-79, when the club worked to preserve historic Ruffner Park. She was chairman of Zone VII in 1981, co-chairman of the Archives of American Gardens in 1985, and later an advisor. She served on the GCA’s Executive Board as a vice president and on the Policy Committee as its chairman. She won the Creative Leadership Award for Zone VII in 1995. She is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many Kanawha GC and GCA friends.

**The Ripple Effect:
The Fate of
Freshwater in the
Twenty-first Century**
by Alex Prud’homme
Scribner 2011

Water is big business today, and, as in the past, control of it leads to controversy, even social unrest and violence. In spite of the fact that water is the basis for life, underlying all other resources, here in America we often take it for granted because of our generally successful management and distribution of it. Recent events and weather, however, have pushed water to the forefront of our consciousness. Alex Prud’homme’s *The Ripple Effect* is a dense, investigative work that addresses current concerns in America about freshwater and puts these concerns into historical context. His subjects include quality, quantity, ownership, regulation, conveyance, and infrastructure, and his gritty and insightful details touch on science, economics, and politics, often delving into the particulars of how these issues affect individuals.

Early on, Prud’homme gives the usual facts about water: 71 percent of the earth is covered by water; it is heavy and therefore costly to move; 97 percent of it is too salty for human consumption; just 0.3 percent of the earth’s water is accessible (*e.g.*, not trapped in ice) and clean enough for practical use. Water-contamination horror stories abound, such as the 1950



polluting of Newtown Creek in Brooklyn after an explosion caused by the buildup of petroleum and other industrial pollutants from leaking storage facilities. Prud’homme cites studies showing that in 2010 the area under Greenport, Brooklyn, was still contaminated by somewhere between 17 and 30 million gallons of hydrocarbons and other toxic compounds, in concentrations up to 25 feet deep. (The lower number, 17, is six million gallons more than the amount of oil released by the *Exxon Valdez* spill of 1989.) Prud’homme also notes that there is a higher incidence of childhood leukemia and adult stomach cancer in Greenport than anywhere else in New York City, as well as anecdotal evidence of unusual cancer clusters.

After such accounts of event-caused pollution, Prud’homme tackles the “nonpoint-source” variety: water pollution caused by runoff from land (watershed) and from rain, snowmelt, and

mist, which are the biggest sources of water pollution today. Under the federal Clean Water Act, which became law in 1972 (two years after the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency), point-source pollution dropped from 85 percent to 15 percent, but nonpoint-source contamination is harder to stop. Country- and urban-dwellers are both affected by this lack of regulation. Ninety-six percent of all health violations occur in small water systems, particularly private wells, and 15 percent of Americans’ drinking water is self-supplied. But the Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) does not regulate wells that serve 25 or fewer people. Nor has regulation kept pace with “emerging contaminants”—antihistamines, antibiotics, synthetic estrogens, narcotics, antimicrobial soaps, and health-care products—which exacerbate the problem.

The role of freshwater in producing energy, the mutual influences of weather and water; the fragility of our water-related infrastructure, and current technological innovations in areas as diverse as desalination, sewage treatment, irrigation, and low-flow showerheads—all these are also addressed by Prud’Homme. The book’s abundance of detail serves to show both the limitations and possibilities in managing our water supply.

—Maria Elena Rooney,
Millbrook GC, Zone III

BulletinBoard: *Cuttings from the Calendar*

February

1-27 National Affairs &
2-3 Legislation Conference,
Washington DC. *Info:* Linda Fraser (lindafrasergca@gmail.com)

26-28 Judging Workshop (IX),
in Nashville, TN. *Info:* Lisa Snowden (eosnowden@comcast.net)

March

11-19 Non-GCA Major Flower Show (V), *Holland: Flowering the World*, PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA

21-23 GCA Flower/Zone Meeting (IX), *Riverside Reflections* at Natchez Convention Center, Garden Lovers of Natchez, Natchez, MS. *Info:* Pam Harriss (psharriss@bellsouth.net)

22-26 Non-GCA Major Flower Show (I), *Superheroes of the Garden*, Boston Flower and Garden Show at Boston, MA. *Info:* Chris Wood (cdwood624@gmail.com)

3-27 Visiting Gardens Trip:
to
4-7 Portugal. *Info:* Betty Snellings (bettysnellings@gmail.com)

28 Judging Workshop (II),
Hartford, CT. *Info:* Frankie Hollister (frankiehollister@msn.com)

28-29 GCA Flower Show (IX),
Greenville GC, Greenville,
MS. *Info:* Hebe Splane (hebesmythe@hotmail.com)

3-29 GCA Flower Show (XII),
to
4-1 *The Arts of the Garden* at
Allied Arts Guild, Menlo
Park, CA, Woodside-
Atherton GC, Woodside,
CA. *Info:* Heidi Johnson
(heidi@apr.com)

April

2-3 GCA Zone Flower Show &
Zone Meeting (VIII),
The Hills Are Alive at Westin
Poinsett Hotel, Carolina
Foothills GC, Greenville, SC.
Info: Cokey Cory

3-5 GCA Flower Show (IX),
Art, Angels, and Academics at
Coates Chapel, Southwest
School of Art, Alamo
Heights-Terrell Hills GC,
San Antonio, TX. *Info:* Alicia
Brusenhan (apbrusenhan@aol.com)

7-9 GCA Flower Show (VIII),
L'orangerie at The Society of
Four Arts, Palm Beach GC,
Palm Beach, FL. *Info:* Nancy
Murray (nancymmurray@comcast.net)

18 Spring Symposium/Boutique
(VI), *Putting on the Glitz*,
Talbot County GC,
Easton, MD. *Info:* Dorothy
Hoopes (dorothyhoopes@gmail.com)

18-20 GCA Flower Show (IX),
*Through the Keyhole—
Magnifico!!!* at the Meadows
Museum, Southern
Methodist University,
Founders GC of Dallas,
Dallas, TX. *Info:* Joan Smith
(jsmith12@charter.net)

18-20 GCA Flower Show (VIII),
Amazing! at Piedmont
Driving Club, Cherokee GC,
Atlanta, GA. *Info:* Fluffy
McDuffie

19 Judging Workshop (III),
Floral Design and Horticulture
at Bedford Golf & Tennis
Club, Bedford, NY. *Info:*
Chris Murray (crissykm@optonline.net)

19-21 GCA Flower Show (XII),
Star Power, GC of Santa
Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
Info: Barbara Kinnear
(bek300@aol.com)

23-26 GCA Major Flower Show
(IX), *Florescence Waves* at the
Museum of Fine Arts, River
Oaks GC/GC of Houston,
Houston, TX. *Info:* Carole
Bailey (cbaileybmt@aol.com;
flohouston.org)

28-30 GCA Flower Show (X),
Indianapolis GC, *Les Belles
Fleurs—Through the Looking
Glass* at Indianapolis Museum
of Art, Indianapolis GC,
Indianapolis, IN. *Info:*
Amy Cooke (amywooke@comcast.net)

23-28 Visiting Gardens Trip:
Nashville, TN. *Info:* Betty
Snellings (bettysnellings@gmail.com)

May

4-6 Annual Meeting & Flower
Show (VI), *Maryland in May*,
Baltimore, MD. *Info:*
Kathy Phillips (kathy@kphillipsdesign.com)

9-11 GCA Flower Show (III),
*On the Sunny Side of the
Hudson* at Lyndhurst
Carriage House, GC of
Irvington-on-Hudson,
Tarrytown, NY. *Info:* Barbara
Defino (famcelen@gmail.com)

11-14 GCA Major Flower Show
(XII), *Inspirations 2017:
Opus for Spring* at the World
Forestry Center, Portland
GC, Portland, OR. *Info:* Liza
Lilley (ejlilley15@gmail.com)

13 Garden Tour (VI),
*Georgetown Garden
Tour*, Georgetown GC,
Washington, DC. *Info:*
georgetowngardentour.com





PartingShot: *Garden to Palette*

Photo by Vicki Saltonstall, Chestnut Hill GC, Zone I

Competition: *Garden to Palette*, GC of Dublin Flower Show, Dublin, NH, September 2014

Awards: First Place; GCA Photography Creativity Award

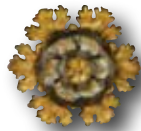
Class: "Spring Awakening" Color

Judges' Comments: "Excellent use of all elements of design; Icy masterpiece."

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Andy Sell, GCA 2016 Hope Goddard Iselin Fellow in Public Horticulture, *Feeling of Expanse*, 2015. Mixed media on wood panel (24" x 48").
Matthaei Botanical Garden, Ann Arbor, MI