A Conversation with Fritz Haeg on Edible Estates

Visiting Gardens
Then and Now

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

Fall 2014
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 action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

Submissions
The Bulletin welcomes letters, articles, photographs, story ideas and original artwork from members of GCA clubs. Email: bulletin@gcamerica.org for more information or visit the Bulletin Committee page in the members area of the GCA website: www.gcamerica.org for submission forms.

Submission deadlines are November 15 (Winter), February 15 (Spring), May 15 (Summer), and August 15 (Fall).

The Garden Club of America is a 501(c)(3) organization. The GCA Bulletin is published four times a year for club members by The Garden Club of America, 14 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022.

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From the President

The GCA’s Core Values

This issue of the Bulletin heralds a dramatic change with a new look and approach for this beloved publication. It has changed in format and content several times through the past 100 years, but its purpose remains the same, because it is rooted in core values that have been a part of The Garden Club of America since 1913.

An organization’s core values differ from personal core values such as respect, truthfulness, kindness, tolerance, and forgiveness that are developed through life. These are the credos that shape the way we live our everyday lives and define our personal relationships; they provide our moral compass. It is essential to know the difference between personal core values and those of the organization. Personal core values must remain the basis of all that we do, both in life and in our efforts to adapt our work in a new era to the core values of the GCA. We are fortunate to belong to an organization where we can implement both sets of values and to have many opportunities to pursue growth while remaining firmly rooted in ethics and civility.

The 2013 - 18 Strategic Planning Committee identified some of the core values that The Garden Club of America embraces, and I would like to share them with you.

Communication:
Carry out useful dialogue among those engaged at the national GCA level in order to encourage innovative responses to the needs of our member clubs and their communities. 

Camaraderie:
Promote fellowship throughout the organization, recognizing members of our member clubs as our most valuable asset.

Cooperation:
Embrace the richness inherent in our diversity, and work together to explore and develop new ideas and better ways of accomplishing our mission.

Collaboration:
Partner with outside like-minded groups in a common purpose to build upon our accomplishments and tradition of excellence and to strengthen our organization.

Commendation:
Continue to award members of our clubs and distinguished men and women who embody the mission of the GCA.

The GCA’s core values are embraced not only by the Bulletin but at every level of the national organization. I suggest that all the national committees and the 200 clubs assess their current responses to each of these values and determine how to better recognize the opportunities they represent for future growth and vitality. It has been shown that over time, repeated engagement of values will strengthen them. This has been validated through the years by the work of the GCA, but it is essential to remember the importance of continually examining ways of doing business. Just because a certain way of doing things “is the way it has always been done” should not preclude the consideration of a fresh and perhaps revitalizing approach for a committee or a club. This issue of the Bulletin is a prime example of taking a fresh approach. It demonstrates that while it has a new look, the Bulletin is still is firmly rooted and shares the values of the GCA’s history.

Strategic Plan: By the Numbers

3,140 responded online

401 responded on paper

19.4% survey return rate

Only 25% of respondents have held a national leadership position

For 93.6% involvement with the GCA is important in their lives

61% said “Very important!”

94.7% at least skim the Bulletin

33% use the website often

17,723 Bulletin print run
Welcome to the Bulletin. My name is Ann Price Davis. I belong to the Glenview Garden Club in Zone VII and live in Louisville, KY. I am the new Chairman of the Bulletin Committee—a hard-working group of 14 volunteers whose task it will be to produce the Bulletin four times a year. This is a daunting proposition, as this magazine, more than a century old, is the GCA’s only print publication — its only communication directly reaching every one of our 18,000 members. And this is our first revised issue (more pages, different cover stock, new design, and more).

I will save cheering for another time. Right now I want to point out a few things that might otherwise go unnoticed. First, look at the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) logo inside the front cover. That logo represents one of the first decisions we faced: what paper to use. We weighed the pros and cons of numerous options, then weighed, literally, what we liked. (The cost of postage is a significant line item on our expense sheet.) The paper we chose is not the cheapest available; its appeal lies in its being responsibly obtained and manufactured. The FSC logo can only be used when a whole “chain of custody” protocol is followed, and we are proud to begin this endeavor as mindful custodians.

Another aspect of the Bulletin, one not quite unnoticed but certainly behind-the-scenes, is the actual running of the magazine, which we hope will be “sustainable” in its own way. Our aim is to create an editorial plan with each issue focused on a handful of major topics (informed by the GCA’s roster of committees) in addition to regular columns. We are also developing a submissions procedure that will help us track inventory. None of this will be feasible without collaboration by email and Google Drive between members and our Bulletin Committee. We have a two-month production schedule, that is, two months from the submissions deadline to the issue’s arrival in your mailboxes. The final weeks are a mash of designing, editing, copy editing (which includes consistent styling of everything from captions to dates and names), proofreading—and not forgetting anything. For this Fall issue, articles big and small were submitted by more than 60 individuals, along with 135+ images. We work within necessary limits of time and space (pages), and encourage you to work closely with your Bulletin zone reps. Some photos not selected will be posted on the GCA website, where resolution is not as critical as it is for print. Our apologies, too, for shortened texts; we came late to serious discussion of word count, and will clarify this for each category of article on a revised submission form.

Finally, none of this happens without funding. Please support our advertisers, and help us find new ones! Do you know of an advertiser we should pursue? Are you interested in joining our ad coordinator, Amy Dilatush in drumming up business? If so, email us at bulletin@gcamerica.org for an updated media kit.

This summer I criss-crossed the country by air, traveling to Maine (photo workshop) in July and Washington State (hiking) in August. While the view from 33,000 feet was awesome, to get my bearings I needed the airline’s route map, which brought to mind the map of our 200 far-flung GCA clubs. Where are our connections, our hubs of activity? Where do club activities intersect with National Committee initiatives? Who are the people associated with the GCA and our concerns who are making a difference? That’s what this issue is about: traveling together, planting edible landscapes, honoring a horticulture icon, celebrating milestones, doing meaningful work in our communities, and having fun. We are learning as we go, and with you, will plot a “route map” for a magazine that reflects and stimulates your interests.
The 2013 - 2018 Strategic Planning Committee completed its work in early June, forwarding its final report to President Katie Heins at that time.

Composed of a representative from each zone and the GCA’s Chief Operating Officer, the committee’s charge was to determine how volunteers and staff can best serve the interests of the GCA’s almost 18,000 members, its 200 clubs, and the countless and diverse communities that are enhanced by the work of the club members.

Almost immediately it became clear that the membership would be the best source to inform its work: A survey was created and sent to every GCA member, a first for the organization. There were 3,140 web respondents and 401 paper responses (the survey was included in the February/March Bulletin). This was a 19.4% return, far surpassing the norm for survey responses. As one member of the committee phrased it: “We always knew that GCA members were above average, but five times above average! What a wonderful group!”

Who we are...
Only 25% of the respondents have held a national leadership position in the organization. This data told us how interested the members are in being heard and involved in both their clubs and on a national level. 61% indicate involvement with the GCA is very important.

One third of the responders have been members for 1-10 years; one third have been members for 10-20 years, and one third have been members for over twenty years. A balanced membership, it seems.

48% are between 36 and 50 years of age; 42% are 51 to 65 years old.

Why we belong to our GCA clubs?
Friendships, Gardening, and Educational Opportunities

Is the GCA as an organization relevant to us?
93.6% ranked involvement with the GCA important in their lives (61.6% said very important), listing Friendships (82.6%), Educational Opportunities (76%), and Civic Participation (59%) as the top three benefits of GCA association.

24% reported that the GCA exceeds their expectations of the national organization while 63% said the GCA meets their expectations.

Which are the top three activities of the national organization that are most important to us?
Conservation, Environmental Efforts, and Horticulture

And which GCA resources are most valued by the membership?
33% use the GCA website often; 57% occasionally. The top five reasons for accessing the website are: for educational materials, publications, to locate a member, to check the calendar, and for zone information.

94.7% read or at least skim the Bulletin; 76.6% read or skim eNews; 59.7% read or skim The Real Dirt.
Might we want to participate in another organization-wide project similar to the Centennial Tree Project?

70% reported that they were interested in participating in a similar project. Collaboration certainly seems to be a grace note among our two hundred clubs.

Club members like joint meetings or workshops; newsletters; zone pages on the GCA website; club websites. On the other hand, they have little interest in full club reports at zone and annual meetings.

The importance of the survey cannot be overstated. It invited comments of any length from the respondents, and the membership took advantage of this tool in great numbers, providing valuable directions for the work of the committee. Reaching out to the membership to gauge their perceptions as well as realities is integral to planning for the future. The demographics—age, geographic distribution, club interests, and participation levels—all influence how the GCA can adapt to its constituency while remaining constant in its purpose:

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 action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.
Vicki Saltonstall is a member of Chestnut Hill Garden Club. She is Director of Zone I — the 19 clubs in Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. This year Vicki represents the Board of Directors on the GCA’s Executive Committee. She is a Horticulture and Photography Judge. Vicki lives and gardens outside of Boston.

**How would you describe your leadership style?**
Gentle, listening, fairly businesslike, intolerant of pettiness

**What do you like best about your own club?**
Our special members, of course!

**What is your passion?**
Tennis, gardening, photography in changing order depending on the day

**How would you describe your style?**
I am very visual. I try to incorporate creativity and attention to detail in what I do.

**What is your favorite season and why?**
Fall, because of the dramatic colors and that special feel of the air.

**What is your favorite plant combination?**
Too many to list, and I change my mind too often.

**What is your go-to garden or plant reference?**
UConn Plant Database and A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants

**What is your favorite catalog or nursery?**
Too many — I look everywhere.

**What is your favorite garden tool?**
A.M. Leonard’s Gardeners Edge “Hot Bed Weeder” — it is the best!

**Which tool do you consider useless?**
None ... I’ll try anything.

**What is your favorite garden in the US?**
My own ... not because it is the best, but it is my favorite.

**Bucket list garden?**
Any I have not seen

**What is your travel essential?**
Comfortable shoes

**To totally relax I ...**
play with my grandchildren and my dog.

**What books are on your bedside table?**
Biographies and non-fiction. I like reading about people.

**Who or what inspires you?**
So many and so much

**The single “quintessential” GCA moment at annual meeting?**
Walking into the business meeting the first time to see so many wonderful ladies dedicating so much to the GCA

**People would be surprised to know this about me:**
Wouldn’t know where to begin

**Motto?**
Be patient
Fall is the perfect time to collect seeds, as well as the perfect time to update your notes on how you have propagated and grown plants over the summer.

Resources:

The Seed Share and Propagation (SS&P) pages of the Horticulture Committee web page hold a wealth of information. There’s so much to be discovered:

- how to collect and store seeds
- on-line seed sharing
- pollinator-friendly plants
- SS&P overview video
- heat and hardiness zones
- invasive species and noxious weeds
- printable label templates for seed envelopes
- starting a seed library in your community
- Seed Share and Propagation stories—a SS&P story can be as simple as one sentence and one photo, or it can follow a longer, step-by-step approach.

Barbara Tuffli, Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Zone XII, Horticulture Committee Vice Chairman for Seed Share and Propagation
Spotlight on Louise Wrinkle

Louise Wrinkle is an honored voice in horticultural circles, and a source of pride for her home club, The Little Garden Club of Birmingham, Zone VIII. She has a solid knowledge of the Birmingham area and its culture. Mitchell grew up in this area, where he is studying horticulture at Auburn University, and has a solid knowledge of the area’s native plants.

“I am a sucker for anything in bloom, and I do seem to go in for plant families rather than specific plants. I am a sucker for anything in the Ranunculaceae (buttercup), Ericaceae (rhododendron), and Aquifoliaceae (holly) families. Most of the Ranunculus are non-invasive flowering perennials, including vines, like clematis. Many of the Ericaceae are choice native trees or shrubs, such as sourwood, blueberries, and azaleas. Hollies do yeoman’s work for landscape plants and even include deciduous varieties. Generally speaking, I would call myself a minimalist. I believe strongly that we should listen to the land rather than imposing a particular garden style. Each parcel has a unique message. We just need to slow down to hear it.

As for plants, I tend to engage with whatever I am working on at any given time, but I do seem to go in for plant families rather than specific plants. I am a sucker for anything in the Ranunculaceae (buttercup), Ericaceae (rhododendron), and Aquifoliaceae (holly) families. Most of the Ranunculus are non-invasive flowering perennials, including vines, like clematis. Many of the Ericaceae are choice native trees or shrubs, such as sourwood, blueberries, and azaleas. Hollies do yeoman’s work for landscape plants and even include deciduous varieties. Generally speaking, I would call myself a minimalist. I believe strongly that we should listen to the land rather than imposing a particular garden style. Each parcel has a unique message. We just need to slow down to hear it.

As for resources, beginning with magazines, the Brits publish some beauties—Gardens Illustrated and The English Garden—but for American consumption, I think Horticulture does a good job. We need to learn what we can do here in the various areas of the U.S. rather than be frustrated by impressively beautiful gardens elsewhere. Remember, the best education is obtained by doing it yourself. A book I turn to constantly is Michael Dirr’s Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, 6th edition. He has gardened in many areas of the country and seems to have remembered every plant he’s ever seen. The subtitle, Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses, says it all. For plants themselves I regularly turn to Plant Delights Nursery catalog in Raleigh, NC, and Woodlanders in Aiken, SC. They actually propagate and grow the majority of their own plants, whereas the big, well-known mail order companies often act only as brokers. And I do want to mention a favorite gardening tool, because I think many GCA gardeners would like this, if they don’t already own one. It’s the swoe, an English tool that looks like a golf club, which allows you to stand (important for those of us who can’t squat anymore) and weed by chopping. Wilkinson Sword sells them, I know.

Q: To begin, I’m going to ask you to tell us about the basics of gardening as you see them: your preferences when it comes to everything from plants themselves to the resources you turn to with confidence.

A: Speaking broadly first, I am a big fan of winter, when the air is crisp and clean and you can see and appreciate the bones of the landscape without the distractions of colors and flowers.

As for plants, I tend to engage with whatever I am working on at any given time, but I do seem to go in for plant families rather than specific plants. I am a sucker for anything in the Ranunculaceae (buttercup), Ericaceae (rhododendron), and Aquifoliaceae (holly) families. Most of the Ranunculus are non-invasive flowering perennials, including vines, like clematis. Many of the Ericaceae are choice native trees or shrubs, such as sourwood, blueberries, and azaleas. Hollies do yeoman’s work for landscape plants and even include deciduous varieties. Generally speaking, I would call myself a minimalist. I believe strongly that we should listen to the land rather than imposing a particular garden style. Each parcel has a unique message. We just need to slow down to hear it.

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Q: You have a deep knowledge of gardens and Visiting Gardens—among the very earliest of GCA committees. What are some of the outstanding domestic and foreign gardens you have visited, and do you have a Bucket List of those you haven’t yet seen?

A: In this country I would have to say Bloedel Reserve, on Bainbridge Island, a ferry ride from Seattle. Its 150 acres include formal and informal areas, towering trees and wildflower walks, a Japanese Garden, a Moss Garden, and a bird refuge. It was created, ironically, by an executive of a lumber company, who was influenced by the conservation movement and Asian philosophy.

Overseas the Jardin du Vasterival, in Normandy, is magnificent in a natural style. It covers 7 hectares of acidic soil only one kilometer from the sea. The mastermind owner, Princess Greta Sturdza, studies the needs of each plant, so that it can perform to its greatest potential. And I must mention Giverny, Monet’s garden north of Paris. I couldn’t believe that it would be kept up to a high standard, but
it blew me away. I came to scoff and stayed to pray.

Q: Monet and Princess Sturdza bring us to the role of personality in any garden’s development. Who are the garden personages you think of first in terms of great gardens and gardening?

A: I’ll begin with my friend Rosemary Verey, such an important gardener and writer. On her two U.S. trips she stayed with me and we became close. But in this country I would have to begin with Thomas Jefferson, whom I think of as the father of gardening here. In our own time there is Rick Darke, whose sensitivity to the changing seasons stamps him as a careful, talented steward of our land. And Beverley Nichols’ infectious writing will entrance anyone with the least interest in gardening. I highly recommend, too, Ken Druse’s Making More Plants, which speaks to my passion for propagation; he makes the subject come alive. You see, I favor gardeners who write, who share their knowledge and inspire us. On my bedside table I have, among others, Russell Page’s The Education of a Gardener, Henry David Thoreau’s Faith in a Seed, and of course...my daughter Margaret’s novel Wash, which is not about gardening.

Q: Speaking of inspiration—

A: I am most inspired by the incredible force of nature. When I see a seed sprout, wonder at a Solomon’s Seal piercing through an asphalt path, or admire the perfect symmetry of a flower, I know that there is a God in this world. But if you mean something more like a mentor, I would say Betty Corning, a past president [1962-1965] of the GCA. She was a fine horticulturist, and I was only one of many who benefited from her knowledge and experience. I was a late bloomer to horticulture; only in middle age did I come to the exciting world of plants.

Q: This has been wonderful, listening to your thoughts on gardening and so much more. Any final pearls of wisdom?

A: I’ll cite my mother: Stand up straight. Count your blessings.
Visiting Gardens Near and Far

by Julie Peet
Fairfield Garden Club, Zone II
Visiting Gardens Chairman
Visiting Gardens

The past year has been very busy for the Visiting Gardens Committee, with two international trips, two domestic trips, and more than 100 travelers from every zone, many of them joining a Visiting Gardens trip for the first time. In September, 2013, travels began in Chicago with a trip coordinated and hosted by vice chairman Gail O’Gorman. By boat, the GCA group enjoyed an overview of the city’s historic and contemporary architectural styles, and on foot they visited buildings designed by the great architects of the 19th - 21st centuries, including the Museum of Science and Industry, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Rounding out the tour was a tapestry of gardens, including Piet Oudolf’s Lurie Garden at Millennium Park and the Garden Club of Evanston’s Shakespeare Garden on the campus of Northwestern University. The trip combined the best of the city’s hustle and bustle and serene gardens.

The February 2014 trip, hosted by chairman Wickie Plant, introduced 28 GCA travelers to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. An elegant opening dinner at American entrepreneur and collector Jim Thompson’s house and gardens in Bangkok set the tone. Later highlights included visiting an experimental organic farm outside Bangkok, riding elephants at the Elephant Project in Laos, and watching the sun rise over the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia. The travelers also explored flower and produce markets, sailed among the rocky karsts of Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay, and learned about Vietnam’s characteristic form of bonsai, set in landscaped scenes with figures. After three weeks of travel, the group toasted their goodbyes over dinner at Hanoi’s Temple of Literature, watching red lanterns dangle over the rain-glazed terraces as a private string quartet played on.

In May, 2014, Stanya Owen, Visiting Gardens Committee advisor, designed and hosted a memorable trip to Louisville and Lexington, KY. From the exquisite private gardens, many belonging to GCA members, to the Thoroughbred world of Churchill Downs, the National Historic Landmark Keeneland Racecourse, and the fascinating production of bourbon at Woodford Reserve Distillery, the 31 travelers enjoyed Kentucky’s hospitality.

“My husband, who cannot tell a dandelion from a daffodil, was so inspired by the knot garden at Ashland, that he spent a week creating a design for a knot garden for our property. If this doesn’t show how gardens change lives, nothing will.”
— Marty Jones, Late Bloomers Garden Club, Zone VIII

Top left: GCA travelers enjoy a cruise of the canals in Bruges. Photo by Lucy Day, Hortulus
Above: Vegetable vendors in Hoi An. Photo by Crissy Cherry, Lake Forest GC
The 2014 year of travel ended in June, when chairman Wickie Plant and Susie Orso, Visiting Gardens’s longtime guide, led a group of 33 to Belgium and the Netherlands, where they discovered private chateaux and gardens, among which the private garden of Piet and Anya Oudolf. Highlights were an early morning visit to the world’s largest flower auction in Aalsmeer, an annual flower festival, and a guided tour of the newly renovated Rijksmuseum. On these trips, travelers encountered unfamiliar plants, novel garden designs and innovative environmental practices. Visiting Gardens offers travel that fascinates, delights, and educates.
In 1923, during the GCA's 10th anniversary, botanist Charles Sprague Sargent, Director of Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum for more than half a century, applauded the GCA as “the most active society in America for increasing the love of gardening” and encouraged its men and women to explore “distant and little known parts of the earth’s surface in search of new and valuable plants.” Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne (Millbrook GC) had already proposed the idea of Garden Visits in 1920, and GCA President Mrs. J. Willis Martin (The GC of Philadelphia) had agreed to this as an experiment. Soon, reluctant garden owners became willing to open their garden gates to strangers, and Garden Visits flourished. Under Mrs. Thorne’s eighteen-year leadership, the Visiting Gardens Committee blossomed and remains one of the GCA’s oldest committees.

In the 1920s and 1930s, GCA membership was ripe for this experiment. Smart and talented women, primarily focused on home and family, cherished the opportunities GCA trips afforded. As the country transitioned from urban to suburban living, the GCA provided education to the public about designing gardens for newly emerging, smaller suburban estates and homes, particularly through the International Flower Show’s miniature model competition. (A 1925 model block of houses was exhibited at the Smithsonian until 1946.) Members sought to expand their knowledge of plant materials and garden design, which Garden Visits offered.

Mrs. Thorne envisioned listing gardens by clubs, owners, descriptions, etc. Titled The Locater, the list was updated periodically and eventually included foreign, member-at-large, and botanical gardens, arboreta, historic restorations, and similar sites. According to Mrs. Thorne, the only shortcoming of The Locater was that it was not attached “inseparably [to its owner] when … touring in her own country or … abroad.” Nonetheless, The Locater and a card of introduction from the GCA’s Central Office (now Headquarters) opened new worlds of gardens, temples, and palaces to members.

In the 1920s Garden Visits became integral to annual meetings. Tours encompassed creations of well-known landscape architects as well as gardens designed and planted by their owners. Rockledge, a garden of Mrs. Silas B. Waters (GC of Cincinnati), was featured as “a one-woman garden.” Beginning in 1922, annual meetings also extended garden tours to nearby cities. Delegates to the 1928 annual meeting in Cincinnati were invited to visit gardens in Dayton, Ohio, and Charleston, KY.

The list of foreign gardens in The Locater expanded as the GCA nurtured overseas connections following World War I. A developing relationship with the American Academy in Rome, where the GCA endowed its first scholarship in 1928, allowed members to visit prestigious Italian gardens. The GCA’s first Fellow at the AAR, Richard K. Webel, authored a Guide to the Villas of Italy that was printed for the Visiting Gardens Committee 1930.
Also during this period, friendship with the English-Speaking Union provided opportunities for the GCA to showcase America’s private and public gardens and inspired the GCA’s first official foreign trip. Invited by the ESU, GCA President Mrs. William Lockwood and Mrs. Samuel Seabury (both of East Hampton GC) led a two-week “English Pilgrimage” of ninety delegates to England in 1929. GCA “pilgrims” explored Old World gardens and furthered bonds between the two countries through their shared appreciation and love of gardens. In Mrs. Lockwood’s words:

“Many of our earliest remembrances are of walking with our grandmothers in boxwood-bordered gardens. We were told that it was English boxwood...and today we still find our best seed comes from English growers and our wildflowers return to us so improved and hybridized that we scarcely know them... Great things are done when men and gardens meet...”

In May 1935, ninety GCA members traveled to Honolulu and Japan, with an optional leg to China, on the M.S. Chichibu Maru. Led by GCA President Mrs. Jonathan Bulkley (Ridgefield GC) and incoming President Mrs. Robert Fife (Middletown GC), delegates came at the invitation of Princes Tokogawa and Konoye of Japan. GCA representatives were entertained in homes of the most prominent Japanese leaders. Mrs. Yoneo Arai (Greenwich GC) inspired the unusual opening of famous Japanese gardens and sites never before seen by foreigners.

The Garden Visit “experiment” led to tours on almost every continent. The GCA’s original vision behind Garden Visits remains timeless: “…that through the love of gardens and beauty of nature, a greater understanding and friendship would follow.” For nearly a century, GCA travelers have cherished the rich education and personal relationships nurtured by these explorations.
Visiting Gardens

Club to Club Trips

Wilmington to Princeton

On a beautiful day in May, Stony Brook Garden Club members Elizabeth Wislar, Barbie Cole, and Linda Gecha, along with Emily Firmenich, Dorothy Shepard and Tracy Sipprelle of The Garden Club of Princeton, welcomed the Garden Club of Wilmington from neighboring Zone V to tour their six uniquely different gardens.

At Elizabeth Wislar’s “Boxwood Cottage,” several varieties of boxwood take a starring role and help define the key garden areas. Strong lines of ‘Green Mountain’ boxwood hedges and defining stone walls at the Cole Farm link gardens filled with Fritillaria meleagris, alliums, salvias, peonies, and iris. Linda Gecha’s historic home in Princeton, built in 1911, retains much of the original formal gardens. Box lunches were served on the sweeping back porch at “Eastbrook,” the home of Emily Firmenich. Dorothy Shepherd’s great (and successful) experiment has been growing camellias outside using warm microclimates. Tracy Sipprelle’s historic “Westland” was the residence of President Grover Cleveland.

— Nora Decker and Sue Plambeck

Texas goes to Maine!

Thirteen members of the Gertrude Windsor Garden Club and one member of Cambridge Plant & Garden Club, both in Zone IX, traveled to Bar Harbor, ME for the Garden Club of Mount Desert’s Open Garden Day. In addition to the six gardens on tour we visited Thuya Garden, Asticou Azalea Garden, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden and two other private gardens, Kenardin and Old Farm. We shared some of these tours with a group from the Garden Club of Wilmington! We were on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park the same day that Good Morning America aired from there.

— Chesley Walters

Is there travel in your future?

Itineraries of upcoming trips (Indochina, Ireland, Newport, RI and Tuscany) are on the Visiting Gardens Committee page of the GCA website. Make sure you don’t miss out — email gcaintereinterestlists@gmail.com to express your interest in a trip!

Traveling on your own?

As a member of a GCA club, individual club members also have the opportunity to visit gardens in cities where there is another club. Check out the sidebar on the Visiting Gardens webpage.
Fritz Haeg speaks out on Edible Estates, the Rome Prize and being an Artist in the Garden

FRITZ HAEG is an artist and teacher whose passion for gardening is often at the core in the Garden of his work. His Edible Estates Project (2005–2013) is an international series of fifteen commissioned domestic edible landscapes in the United States, Italy, Turkey, Hungary, Israel, and Denmark — all documented in photos, videos, printed materials, and exhibitions. The first eight gardens in the series are shown in Mr. Haeg’s book Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn, with photographs and stories from the garden owners, and essays by renowned garden writers.

Mr. Haeg studied architecture in Italy at the Instituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia and at Carnegie Mellon University, where he received his B. Arch. Among numerous other honors, he was a MacDowell Colony fellow in 2007, 2009, and 2010, and a Rome Prize fellow in 2010–2011.

By Gina Brandt, Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII
How do you describe yourself—as an artist or as a landscaper?
I certainly don’t use the term landscaper. I’m more of a gardener, and an amateur one in the literal sense, as I garden out of love. I’m an artist who does projects that involve gardens, but my work is all over the place, so I suppose I am primarily an artist.

What is your background training?
My background is in architecture, both professionally and academically, and a lot of the basic principles of architecture influence my work—ideas about how we make places for ourselves, how we self-organize in communities, and how we respond to the environment and the land. But I’m very squarely rooted in the art world now.

When did this transformation begin, moving away from architecture?
It’s been very, very gradual. From early childhood and throughout my youth I was really focused on buildings and architecture. In college I was focused more on art, and as a matter of fact my first installation involved edible plants. Still, it wasn’t really until I moved to Los Angeles fifteen years ago that I became deeply interested in gardening. That was when it became the focus of my work and my daily life.

You live in a rather amazing geodesic dome in the Los Angeles foothills. Did that purchase impact your work as an artist and gardener?
Definitely. My first year in L.A., I was renting the lower level of a house that had an abandoned piece of land next to it, a kind of neglected garden, and I gradually poured all of my energy into transforming it. I was planting a lot of things that have no place in Los Angeles at all, but I was experimenting, trying a bit of everything. Then I bought my house, with about a quarter of an acre, and began to get serious about gardening, and very interested in edibles in particular.

Do you design your own hardscape?
There isn’t really much hardscape. I try very consciously to have as little hardscape as possible. It’s a very anti-architectural position in a way, which is ironic. In my work, everything is very permeable and organic and recycled and scavenged. It’s very designed, very highly considered in terms of design, but the actual physical material is minimal.

How would you describe your Edible Estates project? How did you come to that? What does it mean to you?
I had been interested in gardening at home, growing food. The project really just grew out of a desire to move out in the world, to be engaged with how people were really living. And to go literally to the streets, to people’s front yards, to some critical space that has some meaning. In American culture the front lawn is wrapped up in ideas of success, comfort, and independence — and even in the feeling of an English estate, a manor estate, where you have your own land, your own house, and you are separated from everyone else. The original intention of the lawn, if you go back to the notion of the common green, is a very democratic one of being all together, and of tending this green space together.

What does your garden look like now?
I think as we’ve become more serious about water in southern California, with the drought, I’ve become much more sensitive to that issue, so I’m planting natives, succulents, edibles that are watered very strategically. I have gray water that drains directly into my vegetable garden. I have fruit trees and vines that I planted years ago, on a north-facing slope, which is fortunate because I don’t get that hot afternoon L.A. sun. There’s actually a fair amount of shade, which I’ve really grown to appreciate.

“The original intention of the lawn, if you go back to the notion of the common green, is a very democratic one of being all together, and of tending this green space together.”
along with it—which are waste, isolation, domination, and a monoculture that isn’t very healthy, and not just environmentally. There’s a dubious value system in what the lawn represents. When we put down a lawn, we are actually repressing a whole native landscape. To have those blades of grass, you have to kill everything else.

So anyway, I made one [Edible Estate], very symbolically, in Salina, Kansas, the geographic center of the country. I didn’t think I’d be doing any others, but then it became clear that this needs to continue. These gardens are all different. They may be experienced by very few people, just neighbors, but their story is told in a big way, to the general public, to the art audience, to the mainstream press. The gardens were meant to be symbolic, but also pragmatic and functional. They are in reality very provocative gestures, asking, “What happens when someone rips out a lawn and plants food?”

Something I noticed, too, is that kids have played a big part in this project. Whenever we announced planting weekends, the kids were always there, ready to help. We didn’t even have to invite them. In every neighborhood, whether in Austin, Texas, or in Istanbul, Turkey—and definitely in Tel Aviv—the kids just showed up. They wanted to do it.

Putting the gardens in front and not in back has begged the question of what happens when you plant in front, where everyone sees the garden. Suddenly, the garden isn’t just for you. It’s for everyone. And the kids get to see what food looks like growing on plants.

Can you tell me about winning the Rome Prize and what that experience has meant to you?

That really was an honor, and a huge opportunity to clear away obligations that would be distracting so that I could take advantage of that residential year as a real retreat. I had a studio on the top floor that is always given to people with landscape fellowships, and it came with a large terrace and a view of Rome, from one of the highest points in the city, that was remarkable. Over that year I created an edible garden on the


Fritz Haeg at home.

At right: The rooftop garden at the American Academy in Rome, 2010

What is the Rome Prize?

The Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture provides American landscape architects with a one-year fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, a special opportunity for advanced study, travel, and association with other fellows on the campus located on the Janiculum hill in Rome, Italy. A GCA member tour of Italian gardens hosted by American landscape architect and AAR Board member Ferricchio Vitale provided the genesis of this prestigious GCA-sponsored fellowship. The first $50,000 Fellowship was established in 1928 with enthusiastic contributions from GCA clubs. Additional money was raised in 1976, and individual GCA members continued to contribute over the years. By October 1989, through the efforts of Mrs. Niels W. Johnsen (GCA President, 1983-1985), various donors had committed $500,000, the amount needed to fund a permanent, fully-endowed fellowship. Names you may know among previous winners include:

1929 Richard Webel founded the firm of Innocenti and Webel in 1931 with Umberto Innocenti. He designed landscaping for museums (Frick Collection and the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art), colleges (Wellesley and Sweet Briar), Blair House, Washington DC; the Governor’s Mansion, Albany, NY; and golf courses. He served as landscape design consultant for the Washington Mall and the Lincoln Memorial.

1936 Alden Hopkins is best known for his work on the garden restorations at the University of Virginia and Colonial Williamsburg, where he was the first resident landscape architect.

1976 Leonard Azeo “Ace” Torre, President of Torre Design Consortium, New Orleans, LA is renowned for many projects including Woldenberg Riverfront Park (1991) which revitalized the New Orleans riverfront. He is now famous for his natural habitat-filled design projects at zoos in Memphis, Oklahoma City, Atlanta and Evansville.

1980 E. Michael Ferguson’s notable professional accomplishments include the Petra (Jordan) Archaeological Park, the American Cemetery in Normandy, France, the National Cathedral, Washington D.C., and the Monticello Visitor Center. Michael Ferguson Landscape Architects, LTD. is currently working on projects on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

1991 Peter Lindsay Schaudt is responsible for the Illinois Institute of Technology Campus and N. Burnham Park at Soldiers Field and the Gary Comer Youth Center Green Roof. Schaudt is a partner in the Chicago firm Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects.

2009 Robert Hammond is the visionary and co-founder of the repurposed NYC High Line. He served as executive director of Friends of the High Line until February, 2013.
A Focus of Daily Life

roof with scavenged cuttings, seeds, and plantings from the Academy garden. I had a worm-composting bin on the roof as well. It was a great chance to live with one of my gardens for the entire year, rather than traveling so much as I’d been doing. I could just take walks every day, and gather and harvest things. I also developed a project, without recognizing it as such at the time, called Domestic Integrities, which is about that daily connection to the landscape around us and how we use what we find to make ourselves feel at home.

During the second part of the year, I worked with some Italian friends who are publishers, and we visited about thirty families in Rome, conducting interviews with them about food, how they eat, how their daily lives are related to meals and food, and the politics and social nature of that. As you can imagine, once you start an interview with Italians about food, you kind of touch on everything.

I thought the Edible Estates would have come before Domestic Integrities. Am I missing something?

Edible Estates started in 2004-2005 and concluded last year in Minneapolis with the fifteenth garden. I believe it was garden number eleven that I did in Rome, which was around the same time I was working on those in Budapest and Istanbul. And Domestic Integrities didn’t start until the year after I left Rome—so 2012. Really, I didn’t realize that my time in Rome directly inspired the Domestic Integrities project.

“Who or what inspires you?

A lot of artists I was exposed to at a young age were very inspiring to me. Artists who work very closely with gardens, such as Meg Webster, the British artist Nils Norman, and an artist from the 1970s named Gordon Matta Clark. Agnes Denes, who did the wheat field in Lower Manhattan, was really incredible.

“This interview will be published in the Bulletin, which will be mailed to all 18,000 members of the GCA, most of whom are connected to gardening through a love of flowers and of gardening generally, and environmental issues. People are affiliated with the GCA for a whole range of reasons....

I'm actually very familiar with them. Apart from the American Academy in Rome and the GCAs connection to it, my aunt in
Jane McQueen-Mason’s Zucchini Pancakes

Jane McQueen-Mason of Wight Fox Food is our caterer at GCA Headquarters. “I grew up on the Isle of Wight in the 1970s surrounded by farms, and it was hard to eat anything but local. Now that I live and work here, I look for farmstands piled high with produce: in summer the yellow and greens of the squashes, plus corn, beans, peaches, apricots, and berries. Whether I’m buying from a farmstand or at Union Square’s Greenmarket, I am not as focused on ‘organic’ as I am on ‘local and fresh.’ If you can look at the farmer and he is happy and healthy, you know his food must be healthy too.”

1 1/2 pounds zucchini, coarsely grated
salt for sprinkling
2 large eggs, beaten
1 bunch of scallions, including some of the green parts, chopped
1/4 – 1/2 cup chopped mixed fresh herbs such as parsley, basil, and thyme
6 oz. feta cheese, crumbled
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
salt and pepper to taste
olive oil for coating the skillet

Place the grated zucchini in a colander, sprinkle it with salt, and let it sit for an hour. Squeeze out the liquid in a kitchen towel and in a bowl mix the zucchini with the eggs, scallions, herbs, and feta. Add the flour and salt and pepper, mixing well. In a large skillet heat a film of the oil over moderate heat and into it drop the zucchini batter by tablespoons. Cook the mounds, pressing them slightly with the back of a spoon and turning them, until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Note: “I make small pancakes for a nice summer hors d’oeuvre, and larger ones to go with lamb or chicken.”

— Carolyn Schoonmaker, GC of Darien, Zone II, Hospitality Committee Co-Chairman

Omaha is a very involved member in her garden club. You can give a shout-out to her, Mary Ochsner [Loveland Garden Club].

Is there a final thought that you would like to share with our GCA community?

Definitely. We need urban landscapes that are more diverse, more wild, and more productive. Diversity always makes an ecosystem healthier. That’s obvious. When I say “more wild,” I mean that we need spaces that are less tended, less manicured, because in that kind of environment there is no room for wildlife. And then by “productive,” well, obviously these landscapes that we’re taking care of can also feed us instead of just being ornamental. And then we come to “organic.” I don’t often say the word, because I think it’s implied, but getting ourselves off these ridiculous chemicals in our gardens, chemicals that we are poisoning ourselves with, is really an urgent need.

Finally, I’d like to say thank you again to all of you, especially for my experience in Rome, but also for all the good work that you do everywhere.
Partners for Plants

One Year: **Fourteen New Projects**

by Alice Fraser  
Trustees Garden Club, Zone VIII  
Horticulture Vice-Chair, Partners for Plants

**AFTER A PERIOD OF SLOW BUT STEADY INCREASES** since 1992, the past fiscal year marked an explosive and exciting 25% growth, to a high of 41 Partners for Plants (P4P) projects. At the June meeting, the Executive Committee approved the full budget requested for the current fiscal year.

Each zone now boasts at least two projects, with Zone XII still on top with ten. Forty-five GCA clubs undertake a P4P initiative. At the current rate of increase, we expect to reach 50 partnerships by 2016—our 25th year.

While unique to the local environmental concerns on the various public lands, each of the fourteen new projects has as a common goal: to improve the habitat by eliminating what is unhealthy and restoring the land to a healthy ecosystem for humans, flora, and fauna. In keeping with recent trends, nine of the new projects are located in city or municipal parks, three in state parks and two on federal land.

With a focus on native plants, some of the laudable catchwords in the project proposals contain “count,” “grow,” “identify,” “monitor,” “plant,” “propagate,” “protect,” “replant,” “reintroduce,” “recommend,” and “restore.” On the flip side, “control,” “eliminate,” “eradicate,” “remove” and “replace” address the problem of exotic, non-native, worn-out and invasive species that have overwhelmed the native plants.

Several rare plants, including two orchids in Florida and Kentucky—Florida Cowhorn (*Cyrtopodium punetatum*), Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata*), and the Tiburon (CA) Jewel flower (*Streptanthus glandulosa sp. niger*) will be monitored.

Many projects call for the replanting of native shrubs, trees, perennial grasses and wildflowers to restore the land to its original habitat. Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), Gray and Red Osier Dogwood (*C. racemosa, C. sericea*), Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Black Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*), Steeplebush (*S. tomentosa*), Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), Sedge (*Carex conjuncta*), Steeplebush (*S. tomentosa*), Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), Sedge (*Carex conjuncta*), and Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*) were some of the plants listed to protect or add to the designated land.

The wicked words in the plant world, and specifically in these projects, are Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*), and Chinese and Japanese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense, L. japonicum*). The first phase of most projects requires the dirty work of removing these species before the productive stage of replanting may begin.

P4P is now listed as a “giving option” on the contribution envelope included in this issue. Support new projects!
Where can you find our P4P projects?

Keney Park, Hartford Department of Public Works, Hartford, CT—Garden Club of Hartford, Zone II

Suffolk County Environmental Center at the Scully Estate, NY—South Side Garden Club of Long Island, Zone III

Bear Mountain State Park, NY—Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties, Zone III

Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary, NJ—Short Hills Garden Club, Zone IV

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Elverson, PA—The Garden Club of Philadelphia and The Gardeners, Zone V

Dumbarton Oaks Park, Rock Creek Park (NPS), Washington, D.C.—Georgetown Garden Club, Zone VI

Booker T. Washington Bog Garden, Charlottesville, VA—Albemarle Garden Club, Zone VII

Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Cherokee Park, KY—Glenview Garden Club, Zone VII

Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden, Roanoke, VA—Mill Mountain Garden Club, Zone VII

Pine Jog Environmental Center, FL—Garden Club of Palm Beach, Zone VIII

Hogg Bird Sanctuary Restoration, Memorial Park, Houston, TX—The Garden Club of Houston, Zone IX

Warner Parks, Nashville, TN—Garden Club of Nashville, Zone IX

Old St. Hilary’s Open Space, Tiburon, CA—Marin Garden Club, Zone XII

Adopt-a-Shoreline Leadership Program at the Palo Alto Baylands, CA—Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Zone XII

The Good:

Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia), New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus), Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia), Gray and Red Osier Dogwood (C. racemosa, C. sericea), Winterberry (Ilex verticillata), Choke Cherry (Prunus virginiana), Black Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis), Meadowsweet (Spiraea alba), Steeplebush (S. tomentosa), Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum), Shadbush (Amelanchier canadensis), Sedge (Carex conjuncta), Shellbark Hickory (Carya laciniosa)

Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata), Japanese Barberry (Berberis thunbergii), Amur Honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii), Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus), Winged Burning Bush (Euonymus alatus), Chinese and Japanese Privet (Ligustrum sinense, L. japonicum).

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Sticky Fingers Garden Club
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Present(s)

Jailhouse Rocks
A GCA Flower Show Celebrating
GREAT CRIMES OF ALL TIME

April 15-16, 2012
Dayroom at the State Correctional Facility
Open to the public

Visiting Hours
April 15, 2012 from 2:30–4:30 p.m.
April 16, 2012 from 9:30–4:30 p.m.
Cover Charge, Free by Admission

Don’t be intimidated by the lauded ancestry of GCA flower shows! Not all flower show schedules involve expensive prized blooms or heirloom seeds. Cuttings purloined from public gardens or neighbors can be rooted and grown to show. ¶ And of course, not all uniforms donned by garden club members include scarves and pins—jumpsuits are sometimes worn, in solid colors or stripes; some even believe orange is the new black. ¶ If writing a flower show schedule has you flummoxed, steal this schedule! Or take a glance at shows presented throughout other zones. We guarantee you won’t land behind bars or need visitation rights to borrow ideas from other clubs, just don’t leave any fingerprints behind. ¶ Let a sense of fun lighten the scene of the crime, remove the shackles of overly serious flower shows and begin planning your next heist.

Steal This Schedule
by Laura Haley, The Little Garden Club of Rye, with the criminal creative collaboration of Rev. Richard McKeon, Millbrook Garden Club, and Cathy Westerfeld, Allyn’s Creek Garden Club (all in Zone III.)
PREFACE

What fun we have had planning our GCA Flower Show, Jailhouse Rocks. We wracked our brains searching for a suitable theme which proved to be difficult since all the good ideas have been used, such as Happy Days are Here Again, a Tribute to the Great Depression and a personal favorite, Hot Flashes, a Celebration of Global Warming. Fortunately, we were struck with the idea of Jailhouse Rocks while we were weeding along the highway for our community service hours.

Sticky Fingers Garden Club was founded in 1985. We don’t need to rehash the unpleasantness about the legalities we incurred in the process. Fortunately the situation was settled in our favor and our independence from the other GCA club in town is recognized. Our small club has a mighty spirit which infected our planning of Jailhouse Rocks. Alkie Traz swears she was not trying to run down our club president in her Cadillac—the brakes really failed!! At least we can visit her in the State Correctional facility while we’re at the flower show.

Many heartfelt thanks are sent to the Department of Corrections for the loan of the orange jumpsuits. It makes it so easy for the public to identify our club members. Thank you to the Preview Party caterers of Let Them Eat Cake, Inc. who have been so patient with our frequent menu changes. The final choice of bread and water will, of course, enhance our theme. And finally, the members of Sticky Fingers Garden Club who have worked in chain gang unity under my inspired leadership — you have truly soared. I now know why the caged bird sings. It is because she is just so proud of all her inmates. Enjoy the show and remember to leave the jumpsuit at the gate when exiting.

Ali Bye, Flower Show Chairman, aka, Chief of Police

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Chief of Police (Chairman)           Ali Bye
Assistant Chief (Vice Chairman)     Shirley Knott
Enforcer (Club President)           Emma N. D. Bighouse

Wardens (Division Chairman)         Robin Banks
Division I: Floral Design
Division II: Horticulture
Division III: Photography
Division I: Botanical Arts
Division V: Conservation and Education Exhibits
The Judge (Awards)

Defense Attorneys (Class Consultants)
Floral Design
Horticulture
Photography
Botanical Arts

Jury (Judges and Clerks Chairman)    Maud O’Lynn & Shanda Lear
KP Duty (Hospitality)
Correction Officers (Passers)
(Finger) Printing
Stool Pigeon (Publicity)
Booking Officer (Registration)
Rap Sheet (Schedule)
Tattoo Artist (Signage/Graphics)
The Godfather (Staging)
Bail Bondsman (Treasurer)

How to Win in a GCA Flower Show
Pat and Marty’s 5 Top Tips
1. Read the schedule and then read it again, and again. Repeat.
2. Except in the case of abstract, do not overpractice, as your design will lose freshness and spontaneity.
3. Be prepared to improvise. Have extra oasis, containers, and all plant material.
4. Keep your design clean. Accessories are usually just clutter.
5. After placing your design, give it several turns to determine if another side might be better.
Most of all have fun!

Floral Design Judges Pat Lazor, GC of Morristown, and Marty Van Allen, Summit GC, (both in Zone IV) traveled to Savannah, GA, last February. They were in town to prepare Trustees’ Garden Club, Zone VIII, for GLORIOSA - Art in Bloom, their GCA Flower Show. Held March 12-13 in the Telfair Art Museum’s beautiful Jepson Center, the show drew a crowd of over 400 on opening day.
DIVISION I: Floral Design Classes

Class 1  Up the River  4 Entries
An underwater design staged on a black pedestal 42”h x 14” square. Design may not exceed 20” from the center of the pedestal on any side. No height restriction. Accessories not permitted. Viewed from three sides.
  Class Consultant: Ophelia Paine

Class 2  Concealed Weapon  4 Entries
A miniature design staged on a black shelf 8”d x 52”h against a grey background. Viewed from three sides.
  Class Consultant: Maud O’Lynn

Class 3  Behind Bars  4 Entries
A design staged on a black pedestal 40”h x 20”w x 8”d. Design may not extend beyond the pedestal top on any side. Height is restricted to 96” from the floor. Viewed on all sides.
  Class Consultant: Ophelia Paine

Class 4  Bernie Madoff  4 Entries
A design staged in a black pyramid-shaped niche 30”h x 24”w x 16”d at the widest points, at a height of 42” from the floor and lit from above. Viewed from the front.
  Class Consultant: Maud O’Lynn

Class 5  Visitation  4 Entries
An exhibition table staged on a table 42”h x 24” in diameter covered with a floor-length white cloth supplied by the committee. No sharp instruments allowed. Chair not required. Viewed from all sides.
  Class Consultant: Ophelia Paine

Class 6  Solitary Confinement  4 Entries
A design staged in a contained space 8”h x 4”w x 3”d against a black background. Design may not exceed stated dimensions. Viewed from three sides.
  Class Consultant: Maud O’Lynn

Educational notes:
Underwater design: a contemporary design style where all or part of the design must be visible underwater.
Exhibition table: a display using the components of dining in an artistic presentation in a coordinated design. The practical service of food should not be implied.

DIVISION II: Horticulture Classes

Section A. The Lineup, Cut Specimens
Classes 1–4 Usual Suspects: Annuals and Non-hardy Perennials
One blooming stem—Any foliage must be attached to the stem
  Class Consultant: Sue Render
Classes 5–8 Repeat Offender Perennials
  Class Consultant: Sue Render

Section B. Incarcerated, Container grown plants (Classes 9-17)
Container may include one plant of the same species or cultivar except where noted.
  Class Consultant: Barb Dwyer

Class 9-10 Lizzie Borden  8 Entries
A standard topiary displaying skill at pruning with an ax or other blunt instrument in a container not to exceed 8” in diameter.
  Class Consultant: Barb Dwyer

Classes 11-12 Pinched  8 Entries
One plant per container grown from a cutting purloined with or without permission while visiting another member’s garden.
  Class Consultant: Sue Render

Class 13 Solitary Confinement  12 Entries
A glass enclosure with lid for a natural planting provided by the exhibitor, planted with one species or cultivar, not to exceed 12” in any dimension.
  Class Consultant: Barb Dwyer

Class 14 Bad Seed  10 Entries
One plant of Pelargonium crispum ‘Freedom’ grown from seeds available from Burpee at 1800 000 0000 item # XXX, in a container not to exceed 8” in diameter.
  Class Consultant: Sue Render

Class 15 Son of Sam  6 Entries
A single plant exhibited along with the parent plant from which it was propagated, each in a separate but compatible container. Propagation information required.
  Class Consultant: Barb Dwyer

Class 16 Arrested Development  8 Entries
A miniature plant in a container not to exceed 4” in diameter.
  Class Consultant: Sue Render
Section C. Par-ole
Class 17 Par-ole Unlimited entries
An exhibit of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticulture Division. Entries in the Par classes must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year. Cut specimens, orchids or hanging baskets are not permitted. Containers may not exceed 12” diameter/diagonal.
Class Consultant: Barb Dwyer

DIVISION III: Photography Classes
Class 1 Mug Shot 6 Entries
Monochrome
Class 2 Fingerprints 6 Entries
Macro
Class 3 Scene of the Crime 6 Entries
Creative Techniques
Class 4 Root of all 6 Entries
Color
Division III Class Consultant: Dusty Rhodes

DIVISION IV: Botanical Arts Classes
Section A. The Heist, Botanical Jewelry
Class 1 Cuffs 4 Entries
A bracelet displayed on black velvet mount 12”w x 16”d x 42”h. Entry may not exceed size of mount. Viewed from three sides and above.
Class Consultant: Anita Brayke

Class 2 Shackles 4 Entries
An ankle bracelet displayed on black velvet mount 12”w x 16”d x 42”h. Entry may not exceed size of mount. Viewed from three sides and above.
Class Consultant: Anita Brayke

Section B. Incognito, Botanical Embellishment
Class 3 Shoe Bomber 4 Entries
A shoe with a hidden compartment displayed on a black pedestal 40”h x 14” square. All mechanics must be concealed. Viewed from all sides.
Class Consultant: Illyey Confeste

Section C. Government Regulations, Botanical Couture
Class 4 Jumpsuit 4 Entries
An inmate’s jumpsuit created entirely from dried plant material hung from a wire coat hanger suspended from a pole at 72” high. Coat hanger supplied by committee upon registration. Viewed from all sides.
Class Consultant: Illyey Confeste

DIVISION V: Conservation and Education Exhibits
A. Conservation: Recycled License Plates
Watch members of Sticky Fingers Garden Club steal the license plates off the judges’ cars and hold them for ransom.

B. Horticulture: Growing Medicinal Weed
Experience the benefits of growing your own. There will be free samples of brownies and other healthful recipes. This is a smoke-free venue.

C. Garden History and Design
Tour the grounds of the correctional facility and see the hidden tunnels to freedom.

Sponsoring Club Awards
The Al Capone Award may be awarded to exhibitors in recognition of a design that breaks all the rules of a GCA Flower Show but still looks great. The award may be presented in absentia.
What’s the buzz about...?

Lloyd Brown is a member of The Weeders and serves as Director of Zone V — the 14 clubs in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Most of Lloyd’s GCA experience is on the Conservation Committee. This year she serves as liaison to the Horticulture and House Committees. She lives and gardens in suburban Philadelphia.

How would you describe your leadership style?
Collaborative

Have you had a GCA mentor?
Phoebe Driscoll and Lois Renthal were my first conservation mentors, followed by Carol Stoddard and Ann Coburn.

What do you like best about your own club?
Friendship and learning about nature, design and gardening

How would you describe your style?
I am trying to go native in my garden and most appreciate contrasting foliage.

What is your passion?
Land preservation

What is your favorite season and why?
Fall for its intensity and I know I must embrace it before it has slipped away

What is your favorite plant combination?
Various hosta, heuchera, ferns, alchemilla

What is your favorite catalog or nursery?
Google search!

What is your favorite garden blog, website, magazine, or garden writer?
Green Scene (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society)

What is your favorite garden in the US?
Mount Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE

What garden has made the biggest impression on you?
David Culp’s “Layered Garden,” Downingtown, PA

Pet peeve?
Weeds

To totally relax I ...
Leave the gardening chores and sail!

What book is on your bedside table?
The Wild Trees by Richard Preston

What inspires you?
Nature
**2014 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference**

“Growing a Legacy”
Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2014
The Seelbach Hotel
Louisville, KY
Chair: Caroline Borgman, Glenview Garden Club

**Speakers**

Bob Hill, owner of Hidden Hill Nursery, Utica, IN, “Growing a Legacy”

Scott Martin, Parks Director of the Parklands at Floyds Fork, “Crazy People and Cool Plants - the Secret of Yew Dell’s Success”

Dr. Paul Cappiello, Executive Director of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, “Crazy People and Cool Plants - the Secret of Yew Dell’s Success”

Allen Bush, Director of Special Projects, Jelitto Perennial Seeds and Garden Rant writer, “In the Company of Plantsmen”

Wae Nelson, Florida Gardening Magazine, “Biochar”

Blair Leano-Helvey, owner of Entomology Solutions, “Bugs Behaving Beautifully, Biological Pest Control for a Healthier Garden”

Maggie Keith, owner of Fox hollow Farm, Crestwood, KY, “The Future of Food and Farming, Inspiration from Family Roots”

Major Waltman, Project Director, Olmsted Parks Conservancy, “Get out the Riff Raff — Woodlands Restoration in the Olmsted Parks”

Joseph Hillenmeyer, Garden Designer, “Seeking Inspiration from Historic Gardens”

**Tracey Williams**, Garden Designer, “The Unexpected Garden, Bringing Natural Elements into the City”


High Tunnel, “Extend the Growing Season with Winter Veggies”

Green Roof, “Painting with Sedums”

Sunken Garden, “Rock Gardening – Kentucky Style”

Greenhouse Terrace, “Succulents in the Garden”

Greenhouse, “Solar + Geothermal = Green!”

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Clermont, KY, stations: Visitor Center, LEED Platinum Design, “A Building built like a Tree”

Edible Garden Project, “Whimsy and Education”

Holly Collection and Earth Measure, “Historical Collections in Nature and Art”

Garden Pavilion and Lake Neevin, “Vistas of Bernheim”

**Highlights**

Conversation with garden designer Jon Carloftis

Dinner at 21c Art Hotel

Tour of Woodland Farm, Goshen, KY

Dinner at the Kentucky Derby Museum

“Bluegrass to Ryegrass” Post meeting trip

**Zone II**

20 clubs in CT & RI

“Grown in Rhode Island and Providence Plantation”
May 20 & 21, 2014
The Hope Club, Providence, Rhode Island

Hosted by the Perennial Planters Garden Club

Chaired by Dorothy Davison

Zone Chairman: Betty Snellings, Ridgefield Garden Club

**Speakers**

Kenneth D. Ayers, Division of Agriculture, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, “Sustainable Farming in Rhode Island”

**Awards**

Zone II Gavel Award: Hope Farell, South County GC of Rhode Island

Katherine B. Pinney Award: Whitney Vose, Fairfield GC

Zone Historic Preservation Commendation: Ron Fleming, F.A.I.C.P., Principal at the Townscape Institute, Proposed by Newport GC

Zone Horticulture Commendation: Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis, Proposed by Fairfield GC

Zone Conservation Award: Martha Phillips, Litchfield GC

Zone Civic Improvement Award: Leslie Lee, Greenwich GC

Zone Director’s Award: Peggy Sharpe, Perennial Planters GC

**Highlights**

Beth Herod, Stamford GC, and Sara O’Connell, Connecticut Valley GC, co-chaired the Second Annual Zone II Photography Show for which they created awards since there were no GCA photography awards.

* Dinners in members’ homes the night before the meeting.

**Zone III**

22 clubs in NY

“Harbors on the Sound”
June 10 & 11, 2014
Fox Hollow Inn

Hosted by Three Harbors Garden Club, Woodbury, NY

Chaired by Daphne Hagan and Barbara Peyser

**Speakers**

Ken & Sue Feustel, Caumsett State Historic Park

“Caumsett State Historic Park, Natural History and Grassland Restoration”

**Awards**

Zone Conservation Commendation: Sandy Morrissey, Proposed by Little Garden Club of Rye

Zone Conservation Commendation: Sue Feustal, Proposed by Three Harbors Garden Club

Zone Horticulture Commendation: Amy Goldman, Proposed by Millbrook Garden Club

Zone Floral Design Award: Cathy Westerfield, Allyn’s Creek Garden Club

Zone Photography Award: Kathy de las Heras, Millbrook Garden Club
Director’s Award:
Edie Loening, Millbrook GC
Sandra Baylor Novice Award:
Leslie Wortmann, Bedford Garden Club
Dorothy Victor Munger Award: Lisa Fallon and Lynn Capstich-Dale, Rye Garden Club
Best In Show - Floral Design:
Amy Cilmi and Kerry Wilson, Rusticus Garden Club
GCA Novice Award - Horticulture:
Virginia Maybank, Bedford Garden Club
Clarissa Willemsen Propagation Award:
Rose Marie Maresca, Ulster Garden Club
Rosie Jones Horticulture Award:
Cheryl Pufahl, Three Harbors Garden Club
Corliss Knapp Engel Horticulture Sweepstakes: Bedford Garden Club, Little Garden Club of Rye, Three Harbors Garden Club (three-way tie)
Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award: Three Harbors Garden Club
The Ann Lyon Crammond Education Award: Three Harbors Garden Club

Zone IV
12 clubs in NJ

“Highlands Lowlands”
June 17-18, 2014
Knickerbocker Country Club
Hosted by the Garden Club of Englewood, Tenafly, NJ
Chaired by Judy Tucci and Diane Majeski
Zone Chairman: Anne Bigliani

Flower Show Chairmen: Katie Downes and Jane Majeski

Speakers
Abree Murch, Recipient of the Caroline Thorn Kissel Summer Environmental Scholarship, “Experiences as a Research Assistant in South Africa and Mozambique”

Awards
Zone Creative Leadership Award:
Tucker Trimble, Plainfield Garden Club
Zone Civic Improvement Commendation:
Linda Mead, President and CEO of the D&R Greenway Land Trust
Zone Conservation Award:
Elizabeth Lilleston, Garden Club of Rumson
Zone Conservation Award:
Betty Merck, Garden Club of Somerset Hills
Zone Historic Preservation Award:
Marta McDowell, GC of Madison
Zone Horticulture Award: Diane Guidone, Rumson Garden Club
Zone Judging Award: Pat Lazor, Garden Club of Morristown

From top to bottom: Shirley Meneice, Carmel-by-the-Sea GC, Zone XII; Anne Bigliani, Zone IV Chairman, GG of Englewood, and Anne Copenhaver, GCA 1st Vice-President, Twin City GC, Zone VII, at the garden party in Englewood, NJ; Penny Collins, GC of Englewood, and Krista Moshier, GC of the Oranges tend to a horticulture entry.

At left: Laura Hardin, Zone IV Awards Representative, GC of Madison, with Tucker Trimble, Plainfield GC, after receiving the Creative Leadership Award. Zone IV photos by Patricia Fromm, GC of Englewood
Flower Show Awards

Dorothy Victor Munger Award: Betsy Griffith and Vicki Trainer, The Garden Club of Princeton
Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award: Lisa Gadsden, Short Hills Garden Club
Catherine Beattie Medal: Diane Majeski, Garden Club of Englewood
Clarisa Willemens Horticulture Propagation Award: Judy McKee, Garden Club of Englewood
Rosie Jones Horticulture Award: Penelope Collins, Garden Club of Englewood
Photography Creativity Award: Cathie Coultas, Garden Club of Madison
GCA Novice Award in Horticulture: Maria Schultz, Rumson Garden Club
GCA Novice Award in Photography: Diane Majeski, Garden Club of Englewood
Best in Show - Floral Design: Pat Lazor, Garden Club of Morristown
Best in Show - Horticulture: Grania Allport and Terrie Reid, Garden Club of Somerset Hills
Best in Show - Photography: Pat Lazor, Garden Club of Morristown
The Zone IV Gavel Award: Garden Club of Englewood
Corliss Knapp Engle Zone Horticulture Sweepstakes Award: Garden Club of Englewood

Highlights

"The 3 R’S" —  
Reclamation: The New Jersey Meadowlands  
Rediscovery: Tour of Skylands, New Jersey Botanical Garden; Reinvogoration: Education
* Full Flower Show featuring Floral Design, Horticulture, Botanical Arts, Photography, Challenge Class, all-club Plant Exchange, and Conservation
* Renewal of friendships
* Maintaining Zone IV traditions.

Zone XII
18 clubs in AZ, CA, CO, HI, NM, OR, & WA

“The Evolution of the Garden”  
April 27-30, 2014
Pasadena Westin Hotel  
Hosted by Pasadena Garden Club, Pasadena, CA  
Chaired by Joan Cathcart and Char Vert
Zone Chairman: Pat Wall, The Portland Garden Club

Speakers

Sam Hodder, CEO, Save the Redwoods League, “GCA Redwoods Grove”
Sam Water, Author of Gardens for a Beautiful America, 1895-1935, “California’s Classic, Historic Gardens”
Panel discussion: “The Changing California Landscape”
Jim Folsom, Director of Huntington Botanical Gardens
Richard Schulhof, CEO of the LA County Arboretum
Mia Lehrer, ASLA
Jess Adkins, CalTech Professor, “Tomorrow’s Garden”

From the top: A friendly dinosaur joins Char Vert, Joan Cathcart, and Pat Wall in greeting guests to the Zone XII awards dinner at the museum. The winners! A gourmet picnic by Mia and Pascal of Transitional Gastronomy followed a plant foraging outing. Mia Lehrer and Georgie Erskine, Pasadena GC. Mia designed the urban wilderness nature gardens at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County.
Awards

Creative Leadership Award:
Sally Broughton, Portland Garden Club

Historic Preservation Award:
Geneva Thornton, Pasadena Garden Club

Mary Drake Freer Award:
BJ Dyer
Floral Design Achievement Award:
Bertie Lee, The Garden Club of Honolulu

Civic Improvement Award:
Diana Kennedy and Joan Andrews, both of Orinda Garden Club

Conservation Award:
Elva Busch, Santa Fe GC

Conservation Commendation:
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Communications Award:
Leelee Doughty, Pasadena Garden Club and Becky Stirn, Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

Horticultural Arts Award:
Lennie Gotcher, Hillsborough Garden Club

Horticulture Award:
Phyllis Lee, The Garden Club of Honolulu

Highlights
Dinner at the Pacific Asia Museum
Lunch and education at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden
Mexican Fiesta dinners
Lunch at Historic Boddy House, Descanso Gardens
Awards Dinner at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

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1. Type into your browser bar or Google:
   www.gcamerica.org
2. In the upper right hand corner, click on Members Area

3. If you never knew your password, or it has been lost to the mists of time, skip the Username and Password fields and go directly to:
   Forgot your password?

   Websupport@gcamerica.org will automatically email the address that the GCA has associated with you.

4. Check your inbox and follow the directions included.
   (Look in your spam if an email does not appear.)

5. If there is still a problem, call:
   (212) 753-8287 or email:
   websupport@gcamerica.org during regular office hours. A real person will assist you.

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Zone I

Garden Club of Dublin
Dublin, NH

What is a small New England town without the cheer of its community planters? It would indeed be a dreary place. That’s why in 2002, to commemorate the 250th founding of their town, the Garden Club of Dublin, the Dublin Women’s Club, and town volunteers banded together to brighten up the municipal buildings and library in Dublin’s Town Center. The Garden Club of Dublin supplied urns and hayrack planters and filled them with annuals. Ever since that summer, the garden club underwrites the purchase of annuals which are planted in the spring and tended throughout the summer. The flowers bring cheer to Dublin’s residents as well as to drivers just passing through.

— Nancy Rierson


The Garden Club of Mount Desert
Northeast Harbor, ME

In July, Noelle and Dick Wolf hosted the launch of the Garden Club of Mt. Desert’s Open Garden Day Tour at their Seal Harbor home. The party honored tour patrons and the generous garden owners whose gardens gave great pleasure to over 1,000 garden enthusiasts, many who come from afar for this biannual event.

Chair Isabel Anthony, Margaret Hamner, Noelle Wolf, and GCMT President Elly Andrews

100% of the tour’s net proceeds support non-profit organizations such as Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve, Wild Gardens of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Seacoast Missions, Northeast Harbor Library, Seal Harbor Village Improvement Society, and Nature Conservancy of Maine.

The Garden Club of Mount Desert was founded in 1923, after Beatrix Farrand, an original member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, gathered a group of Bar Harbor residents together to discuss gardening. Open Garden Day was started during the 1930s.

— Cammie Disston

Nantucket Garden Club
Nantucket, MA

“Celebrating the 40th” was the eponymous title of the Nantucket Garden Club’s Daffodil Show. The show, accredited by the American Daffodil Society, is a milestone event in the history of the NGC. Forty years ago our goal was to plant one million bulbs along the roads throughout the island. Throughout the years, various sections have been planted — the most recent of 15,500 bulbs along a newly-installed bike path. Island-wide, it’s estimated that the bulbs have naturalized to 4 million.

This year the show featured 700 general entries, 23 youth entries, 26 arrangements and 18 photography entries. 1,100 visitors attended this year’s event in the greenhouses of Bartlett’s Oceanview Farm.

The goal of the show is to raise awareness of beauty, variety, and ease of cultivation of daffodils. Given their resistance to the extensive deer population, daffodils are particularly attractive for naturalization on Nantucket. Hosting the show is a community event with early-spring workshops held to assist potential entrants with the finer points of exhibiting. NGC partners with the local elementary school to distribute bulbs for planting in the fall. Wherever one travels on Nantucket, the daffodil is a constant reminder that spring is on its way.

— Maryann Wasik

An arrangement by Heidi Drew, Nantucket GC. Photo by Mary Jo Beck, GC of Cincinnati.

Art and flowers are a perfect combination. This July the Nantucket Garden Club brought a festival of flowers to Nantucket art galleries. The enthusiastic support of local galleries enabled NGC to present the second Art With Blooms Gallery Walk. The Walk featured twenty-six club floral arrangers who interpreted artworks on display at 18 art galleries throughout Nantucket. This event is not a judged flower show. Participating members of the club take the opportunity to develop and enhance their floral design skills. Open to the community and free of charge, the Walk is a popular attraction enjoyed by the Nantucket community and visitors to the island.

— Pat McGill
Zone II

Garden Club of Darien
Darien, CT

Over 1,600 people from Connecticut, other New England states and New York attended last fall’s Birdsong Flower Show, hosted by the Garden Club of Darien. In addition to the exhibits displayed throughout Darien Community Association’s historic mansion, hundreds of children and adults enjoyed strolling through the renovated woodland bird sanctuary and were delighted by the whimsical fairy houses that dotted the path.

Newport Garden Club
Newport, RI

At last year’s annual meeting, the Newport Garden Club presented six very special women with Certificates of Recognition from the GCA, honoring them for their many accomplishments. Collectively they have given 322 years of service to NGC and The Garden Club of America. Their myriad positions include president, judge and committee chairmanships. Their dedication and talents in horticulture and design have been vital to the growth and success that NGC membership enjoys to this day.

— Debbie Grant

Zone III

Rye Garden Club
Rye, NY

This summer the Rye Garden Club marked its sixth year writing “Green Space,” a conservation article that appears regularly in the Rye Record, a biweekly newspaper for the city of Rye, New York. In June of 2008, members of RGC’s Conservation Committee approached the editors of the paper about contributing a column that addressed conservation topics of note in the area. The mission would be to educate the public about the small steps that can be taken at home to make an impact on environmental protection. Rye Record editors were game, and the writing began.

Writing each article is a cooperative effort, with club members suggesting topics and taking turns writing. Over the years, Green Space has answered questions from residents about recycling, the effects of pesticides and conserving water. Other columns have explained the value of the city’s vehicle idling law and its seasonal leaf blower ban. When a tree ordinance was being considered for the city, a number of Green Space articles discussed the importance of trees. Rye Garden Club invites you to visit www.ryegardenclub.org for a sampling of articles.

— Sarah Barringer

Zone IV

Garden Club of Somerset Hills
Far Hills, NJ

In March, The Borough Council of High Bridge, NJ, awarded the “Friend of High Bridge Award” to the Garden Club of Somerset Hills. The award recognized five monetary grants GCSH gave to the High Bridge Environmental Commission between 2006 and 2013. The money helped establish gardens in Commons Park, Union Forge Park, and the High Bridge police station. President Grania Allport and Carolyn von Meister, former Chair of Community Grants, accepted the award.

GCSH allocates approximately 16 grants each year for education, conservation and civic improvement. The program is funded by the club’s biannual house and garden tour.

— Alison Villa
In the Lake Erie watershed, water drains into rivers and streams leading into Lake Erie, and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean. Protecting this watershed provides clean water, and supports the environment for wildlife. “Fish, Feathers, and Frogs” was an event held by Carrie T. Watson Garden Club to teach children and parents about this watershed, the importance of keeping it clean, and the problems caused by pollution. The program took place June 25, 2014, at Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park. Activities included crafts, a scavenger hunt, an obstacle course, fishing games, and a display of live amphibians. The free event was open to the public. Carrie T. hosts a yearly event at the park, which features a labyrinth built by the club in 2005. This year’s project featured a children’s coloring book written by Linda McGarvey and illustrated by Laurie Strandwitz. “Wally’s Water World” tells the story of a young fish called Wally Walleye, who makes his way from Walnut Creek to Lake Erie, encountering other creatures, obstacles and items carelessly discarded into the water. It emphasizes the importance of keeping the watershed clean. Each child received a copy with crayons. Co-chair Maria Blakeslee noted the event was “…both fun and educational for the children. They learn through play.” The goal was to create awareness to discard trash properly, and to protect the watershed from pollution, maintaining a source of clean water, and supporting habitat for fish, birds, frogs and other creatures.

— Kathy Orlando

Michael Gray, president and co-founder of the Chester, PA, “I Can, I Will” gardening program was thrilled to receive GCA’s Elizabeth Abernathy Hull award. He teaches basic gardening skills to young neighborhood children who plant seeds and nurture the plants for harvesting to sell at their own farmer’s market.

“We’ve supported “I Can, I Will” by providing solar panels atop a truck for growing seedlings and by paying for a hard, cement surface where the children’s activities and retail sales take place. Children are learning to respect the environment and developing a love of nature from their mini agribusiness.

— Linda Butler

Who would have thought that when The Weeders expressed interest in “following the trash,” a group of gardeners would find themselves atop a 150-foot high pile of trash in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania! Club Conservation Chair Nancy Evans organized a trip to Pioneer Crossing, owned and operated by J. P. Mascaro and Sons, and one of fifty-four landfills operating in Pennsylvania. Our state’s sites are considered advanced in design and operate under strict codes. Due to the lack of regulation until the 1980s, many landfills existed before application of standards, liner systems, and gas and odor control systems. Since that time, regulations have improved conditions for the water, air and soil in areas near the landfills. New areas to be converted for landfill use must prove that they will do more to benefit the area than harm it; thus there are many plans in place for future

— Linda Butler
use and for keeping current conditions in control for the neighborhoods surrounding the landfill.

The trip was a result of a club survey to determine what conservation cause most interested members. Recycling and trash clearly won the vote. Nancy compiled a comprehensive list of where to recycle everything from tires to batteries and old bicycles. Weeds are kept apprised of special pickups and collections of hazardous materials and recyclables. The survey found that most of us compost and many tote reusable bags to the grocery, but many members suffer from guilt about not doing more to control waste. Education efforts will continue. We are indeed quite taken with trash.

— Nancy Evans

**Wissahickon Garden Club**
Philadelphia, PA

Each year the Wissahickon Garden Club makes a commitment to training and educating its members. Recycling and trash clearly won the vote. Nancy compiled a comprehensive list of where to recycle everything from tires to batteries and old bicycles. Weeds are kept apprised of special pickups and collections of hazardous materials and recyclables. The survey found that most of us compost and many tote reusable bags to the grocery, but many members suffer from guilt about not doing more to control waste. Education efforts will continue. We are indeed quite taken with trash.

The workshop was held at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the assignment was to take a photograph for an upcoming club show with a theme of “Celebrate our History.”

The workshop was run by Wendy Concannon, a club member and freelance photographer. Wendy, a native of Philadelphia, also owns a gallery in Chestnut Hill that showcases her collection of works ranging from bold, graphic, and often abstract to more traditional. Wendy’s contagious passion for photography and her extensive experience make her a true asset to the local community and the Wissahickon Garden Club. Her workshop was a great success.

— Gail Detweiler

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Wissahickon photographers from l to r: Lauren Taylor, Mary Jane Greenwood, Jennifer Nagle, Chris Henry, Emilie Lapham. Photo by Wendy Concannon

Historic Garden Week

Historic Garden Week in Virginia, known as “America’s largest open house,” held from April 26 to May 3, was a huge success: 31 separate tours of 191 private homes and gardens located all over the state. This stunning achievement is undertaken annually by the 47 member clubs of The Garden Club of Virginia, 12 of which are also Garden Club of America member clubs. 3,400 volunteers are involved in the year of planning and preparation for an event that brings over 30,000 visitors from all over the world to relish the very best of Virginia gardens, homes and hospitality. Besides the amazing interiors and gardens on display, GCV volunteers create over 2,000 individual floral arrangements. Incredibly, most of the flowers are gathered from club members’ own gardens.

The event dates from 1927 when a flower show organized by GCV volunteers raised $7,000 to save trees planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Since Historic Garden Week began in earnest in 1929, it has raised millions of dollars for the restoration and preservation of the state’s significant historic public gardens. Currently, there are 48 active restoration projects statewide, including Mount Vernon, the Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. Why not plan now for a taste of springtime in Virginia? April 18 – 25, 2015. Information can be found at www.vagardenweek.org. — Clare Osdene Schapiro, James River Garden Club

Above from left: A welcoming hammock in a Richmond, VA garden. Margaret Reynolds and Inge Sen, James River Garden Club, put the finishing touches on their arrangement. At left: One of the more than 2,000 arrangements. Azaleas and boxwood surround a wonderfully-carved column. Photos by Betsy Trow, James River Garden Club
Sand Hills Garden Club
Augusta, GA

Sand Hills Garden Club has provided their community a delightful respite from the fast-paced world. In the fall of 2013, Bonnie Thurmond and Tina Boswell led the Garden History and Design committee in evaluating the condition of SHGC’s Touch and Smell Garden in Augusta’s Pendleton King Park. The park is a 64-acre piece of land which was formed by a trust and leased to the city. In 1976, SHGC developed the Touch and Smell Garden on a smaller tract within the park and has maintained it ever since. The “touch and smell” concept was developed to appeal to the visually impaired and was designed with the idea that the garden could function as an outdoor classroom.

The garden and hardscape were in need of refurbishing and repair. The existing fountain, brick wall marking the perimeter, and a beautiful iron gate welcoming the entry needed renovation. Bonnie and Tina enlisted the help of Jenks Farmer, author of Deep-Rooted Wisdom (Timber Press, 2014). Together they added plants with brilliant aromas and textures along with plants chosen for their abilities to “sound” in the wind. Despite a harsh winter season, the garden was ready for the Sacred Heart Garden Festival in April, 2014.

When visiting Augusta, please take the time to enjoy the sensory delights of our Touch and Smell Garden.

— Julie Badger

Memphis Garden Club
Memphis, TN

Last fall, the Memphis Garden Club, with the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, invited Bruno Duarte from Toronto, to speak at the 25th anniversary Phoebe Cook Lecture Series.

The series was started and endowed by the late Phoebe Cook Welsh in memory of her mother, Phoebe Cook. Originally from Madeira, Bruno Duarte entertained us with witty conversation, his easy manner, creative approach and innovative sculptural designs.

— Buff Adams

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Canoes, conservation, camaraderie and a little healthy competition — nothing like it to get the adrenalin flowing in a garden clubber’s veins! Sounds like the perfect garden club conservation project: hands-on and fun. Early November 2014 marks the seventh year the Garden Club of Jackson will head 40 miles south to Strong River Farm in Pinola, MS for a fun outing with a purpose. Actually several purposes: enjoying the sunshine, fall colors and cool temperature; camaraderie with GCA members; fun exercise by canoeing; and competition among teams to gather the most trash from the river banks. And I haven’t even mentioned the food! All I can say is “Wow!” Arriving at the farm, we look around while waiting for the canoes to be loaded. Dr. Guy Gillespie fortifies us with a cup of his secret recipe vegetable stew, an unexpected treat. The stew brings welcome warmth to take the edge off the cool morning. Then we pile in the back of a pickup truck to head to our 10 a.m. launch point at The Big Rock.

Paddling in several canoes on the Strong River, we take in the beautiful and serene landscape, cameras in hand to capture Fall at its finest. Canoeing this six mile section would definitely be labeled as easy tracking, with shallow water, low waves, and small rapids ... although their names — Skeleton Rapids and Mile-Long Rapids — sound scarier than they are in reality.

But our eyes also remain on sharp lookout for trash along the river’s edge. We find tires, an old computer chair, plastic soda bottles, deflated rafts, and a soccer ball caught among the lower branches. It baffles the mind how some of this stuff ends up in the river. A computer chair?

Sarah Dabney Gillespie, our host, said her mother, Tay Gillespie, and the late Mary Adams, both founding members of the GCJ, hatched the original idea to bring the city folks to the country for some fun. The event expanded two years later to include invitations to neighboring GCA clubs in Natchez, Greenville, and Laurel, MS and Monroe, LA to share in the fun. Participants range in age from the young to the young-at-heart and from seasoned canoeists to first timers, like me. As we pulled up at the sandbar just past Watermelon Rapids to exit our canoes, tallies are made of trash collections and the winners declared. Who even remembers what the prize was? We spent a glorious morning experiencing the best of nature, removed unsightly trash from the Strong River, and worked up a big appetite for lunch. As we head up to the farm kitchen for an old fashioned country lunch, we all declare ourselves winners.

— Ouida Drinkwater

Garden Club of Jackson
Jackson, MS

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— Ouida Drinkwater

But our eyes also remain on sharp lookout for trash along the river’s edge. We find tires, an old computer chair, plastic soda bottles, deflated rafts, and a soccer ball caught among the lower branches. It baffles the mind how some of this stuff ends up in the river. A computer chair?

Sarah Dabney Gillespie, our host, said her mother, Tay Gillespie, and the late Mary Adams, both founding members of the GCJ, hatched the original idea to bring the city folks to the country for some fun. The event expanded two years later to include invitations to neighboring GCA clubs in Natchez, Greenville, and Laurel, MS and Monroe, LA to share in the fun. Participants range in age from the young to the young-at-heart and from seasoned canoeists to first timers, like me. As we pulled up at the sandbar just past Watermelon Rapids to exit our canoes, tallies are made of trash collections and the winners declared. Who even remembers what the prize was? We spent a glorious morning experiencing the best of nature, removed unsightly trash from the Strong River, and worked up a big appetite for lunch. As we head up to the farm kitchen for an old fashioned country lunch, we all declare ourselves winners.

— Ouida Drinkwater

Paddling south on the Strong River are Emily Dunbar-Smith and Lee Threadgill

Conservation winners Cecile Wardlaw and Miriam Ethridge collected the most trash from the Strong River banks.

Maneuvering through the low rapids are Hollidae Morrison, Emily Dunbar-Smith, June Stone, and Nan Goodman

GC Jackson club members from left: Sarah Dabney Gillespie, Ouida Drinkwater, Cecile Wardlaw, Frances Morse, Miriam Ethridge, Paula James, President Lee Threadgill, Libby Kendall, Karen Lee (Greenville GC), Cheryl Welch, Hollidae Morrison, Emily Dunbar-Smith, June Stone, and Nan Goodman
Members of the Cincinnati Town and Country Garden Club gathered last fall at the Findlay Market for “A Harvest Dinner” — an open-air evening chaired by Dulany Anning, Helen Heekin, Vallie Geier and Diane Rosenberg. A jazz ensemble and the clear, radiant air of autumn and a stream of colorful flower arrangements reaching from one end of the long table to the other created a festive ambiance. Nearly 100 people feasted on fresh, imaginative food prepared by the caterer Fresh Table, with beverages supplied by Market Wines. Since 1855 this “Over-the-Rhine” marketplace has been a place that brings people together to shop and share. Today, the architecture in the surrounding neighborhood still bears witness to the talent of those early citizens. As Ohio’s oldest, continuously operated public market, it is a cherished institution. The money raised will help support Findlay Market and its neighboring urban gardens. Findlay Market’s sustainability initiatives to compost or recycle its solid waste, plant trees and flowers, manage litter and graffiti, promote green-historic renovation practices, reduce atmospheric carbon, embrace conservation, incorporate alternative energy sources, support urban agriculture and strengthen local food sources are models for public markets and urban redevelopment around the country.

— Marian Leibold

Photos by Fleming Ackermann

Until Columbine Garden Club visited a local medical marijuana growing facility, most members’ knowledge of commercial horticulture was limited to the business of growing feed for cattle, melons for market, or flowers for cutting. This agricultural operation — housed in an unsigned, windowless building offered us a tinge of excitement, poised as it was on the edge of controversy created by an industry that until recently was illegal.

The enterprise, however, turned out to be all business. Cultivating marijuana as medicine is a scientific undertaking — one that continues to evolve as growers develop new strains and identify improved methods of raising them for particular pharmaceutical purposes: one variety relieves pain, another alleviates seizures, a third serves as a muscle relaxant. We viewed hybrid varieties with names like “Mother’s Helper,” “Pineapple Express,” and some less appealing titles assigned to them according to their unique traits. Chemists are involved, testing strains to determine, for example, whether they can affect symptoms without creating a “buzz.” Medical marijuana growers and their “grow techs” form a tight-knit group like winemakers, carefully protecting their proprietary horticultural creations. As in our gardens, soils, light exposure, temperature, pest control, and watering constitute key elements in the development of effective plant materials. Ground coconut husks and peat from North Dakota form good soil. Nutrients are added selectively through controlled irrigation systems. Clippings from mother plants root in the propagation room in flood tables, then move on to flower rooms, production rooms, curing rooms and other areas carefully controlled to create specialized conditions.

The idea is to grow female plants that create healthy buds. Male plants are hustled out of the room as soon as they can be identified, since they obstruct the budding process. In addition, growers look for the white hairs on females’ upper leaves, which contain millions of little cannibinoids.

In this business, observing regulations is essential to success. Every seed is tracked. The Department of Health Services inspects each aspect of production and distribution. Taxes are paid. Prices are intentionally set higher than those on the street in order to create no incentive for illegal buyers to try to deal with a professional facility.

This adventurous field trip armed Columbine GC members with an expanded vocabulary and a look at a horticultural operation at the cutting edge of a new industry.

— Anne O’Brien
At the end of March 80% of the world’s cranes converge on one 80-mile stretch of land, the Central Platte River in Nebraska. This is one of the earth’s greatest migrations — of the 500,000 cranes that travel through the narrow migratory path to the Platte River, most are the prolific sandhill cranes but some are the endangered whooping cranes. Westport Garden Club members went to the Rowe Sanctuary & Ian Nicolson Audubon Center in Gibbon, NE in late March to view this spectacular sight. There they saw the birds arrive by the thousands at dusk to spend the night on the Platte. After watching the cranes come in from blinds along the river, members enjoyed dinner and special presentations by the Rowe staff and Nebraska Audubon personnel. They returned before dawn the following morning to witness the cranes awakening and taking off for the fields where they feed during the day on insects, snails, and grain left over from the fall harvest. The cranes entertained everyone with more than landings and lift offs. Cranes’ dances have captivated people and have been imitated by human observers since Neolithic times. The dances establish social relationships, announce territorial claims, cement decades-long pair bonding and hasten the education of the young. These majestic birds are 3-4 feet tall with a 6-foot wing span. They mate for life. The cranes travel as many as 5,000 miles from southern wintering spots in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico, to Alaska, Siberia, Alberta, northern Canada, and the NW Territories, where they breed. They fly 170-500 miles per day at speeds of 38-47 mph. Great Plains naturalist photographer Michael Forsberg’s presentations inspired the trip. The many sounds of the migration, and learning that cranes have been around for 40 million years, added to the awe of the epic experience.

— Kathy Gates

“One of the Greatest Migrations on Earth!”

Top: Morning gathering of Westport Garden Club members after a bald eagle scattered the cranes. Above left: The early morning take-off. At right: Cranes at sunset, Central Platte River, NE. Photos by Lyndon Chamberlin, Westport GC

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As war in Europe clouded the world in 1915, lovers of Shakespeare's works were commemorating the 300th anniversary of his death the world over. Jens Jensen, the talented Danish-American landscape architect and member of the Chicago chapter of the Drama League of America, came up with an idea not only to celebrate Shakespeare, but also to show solidarity with England during the dark days of World War I. In 1915, he commiserated with Alice Houston, a member of both the Drama League and the newly formed Garden Club of Evanston. His idea culminated in the planning and implementation of the Shakespeare Garden on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. The twenty-five original members of the fledgling GCE decided to take on the garden as the club's first major project. It remains the most important project for the club today.

Like a garden from another time, the Garden lies on a 70' x 100' plot of land nestled among stately Northwestern University buildings near Sheridan Road in Evanston. It is a spectacular garden for the community due to the hard work by members of the Garden Club of Evanston, which is preparing to celebrate its Centennial in 2015. The club has maintained and made all major decisions regarding the Garden since its inception in 1916 and dedication in 1930. The Shakespeare Garden was constructed according to Jensen's original plan to include eight flower beds, a narrow lawn of grass, and flagstone walks surrounded by a double row of hawthorne hedges. In recent years the four original "knot gardens" bordering the central lawn have been opened up and a sundial moved to the center of the garden. The Garden also has two wooden benches, a semicircular stone bench on one end and a stone memorial fountain with a bronze relief of Shakespeare's head at the entrance. Currently, two club members share a two-year term to oversee the maintenance of the Garden. The co-chairs work together to create new plant lists and planting and maintenance schedules. They must be sensitive to the types of plants grown in Shakespearean England which will grow in our climate. They supplement these with harder varieties of herbs, plants and shrubs that are appropriate.

The co-chairs purchase perennials, annuals, shrubs and herbs for planting throughout the season. As the season progresses, there is much work to do regarding planting, weeding, deadheading and cleaning the garden. In the fall, large numbers of bulbs are planted so the garden will be a mass of color in early spring. All club members are expected to help or work in the Garden.

The Shakespeare Garden is a calming refuge for college students facing exams, people needing a break from frenetic life, or just a quiet meeting spot for friends and families. It is available for weddings and photo shoots – the money earned by the club is put toward maintenance of the garden. We are fortunate to have the history and tradition of past visionaries who were so dedicated to starting this stunning community garden. [Editor's note: GC of Evanston's Garden History & Design Exhibit at the "Show of Summer" won the Anne Lyon Crammond Award.]

— Joannie Ter Molen

**Hot lavender, mints, savoury, marjoram;**

*The marigold, that goes to bed wi' the sun And with him rises weeping: these are flowers Of middle summer, and I think they are given To men of middle age.*

— The Winter's Tale (4.4.122-7)
Honolulu Garden Club
Honolulu, HI

The Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theater was the setting last winter when Shirley Meneice and Barbara Tuffli shared their knowledge of horticulture and camellias with the Garden Club of Honolulu. The presentation was part of the GCH’s program series, “The Garden: What Is It to You?” For Shirley and Barbara, the garden is “inspiration.” Shirley Meneice recalled that, when growing up as a young lady, she did not like the smell of gardenias, so for her dance dates she would request a corsage of camellias instead. When living in Sacramento, she learned that it was too hot on the southwest side of the house to grow camellias. From there, she continued to learn more about the art of raising camellias, and has become a recognized master. She currently gardens at her residence in Pebble Beach, CA, where her garden collections of specialty plants also include water-wise succulents. While Shirley is a master horticulturist, her real love is to share her knowledge. “People are the reason I garden,” Shirley told us.

Barbara Tuffli’s photography talents captured us from the first splash of color, camellias fading in and out from vivid minute detail to abstract lush color. Her garden inspiration starts with the wonderful home that she inherited in 1984, her extensive camellia collection (now up to 500 varieties) and a treasure trove of gardening opportunities. Her garden is documented in the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Gardens.

The following day Shirley and Barbara led a camellia grafting workshop at the Waialae Nui Recreational Center. We all learned a lot while enjoying the wit, good nature (plus patience!) and horticultural expertise shared by these two lovely ladies!

— Kelly Steiner

The Portland Garden Club
Portland, OR

In 1936 the Portland Garden Club, together with Mrs. Mark Matheissen, donated a lilac garden to the city of Portland. It was a gift meant to beautify a gulch in Duniway Park that was surrounded by steep hillsides studded with fir and cedar. The green surroundings offered a breathtaking backdrop for 225 lilac specimens that included more than 125 varieties, mostly hybrids of *Syringa vulgaris*.

Following a five-year study in the spring of 2013, the PGC selected the 77-year-old Lilac Garden as an official all-club project. The ongoing restoration entails pruning, maintenance, redesign, cataloging and lilac replacement.

— Linda Kaplan
Tempe Thompson is Director of Zone IX — the 20 clubs in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. A member of the Little Garden Club of Memphis, Tempe was previously Chairman of Zone IX. She is the liaison to the Program and Photography Committees. She lives and gardens in Memphis.

How would you describe your leadership style? According to one of my Club members, I am authoritative with a velvet hammer.

Have you had a GCA mentor? Marilyn Gregg

What do you like best about your own club? Our wonderful members

What is your passion? Photography

How would you describe your style? House-keeping

What is your favorite season and why? Fall — I love the crisp, cool air and fall foliage.

What is your favorite plant, bloom, shrub, vine or tree? Hydrangeas

What is your favorite plant combination? Anything all white

What is your favorite garden blog, website, magazine, or garden writer? The GCA’s focus

What is your favorite garden in the US? Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, MD, and Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

What garden personage has made the biggest impression on you? Photographer Bill Eggleston

What is your travel essential? My Kindle

Do you have an airport vice? Solitaire

Pet peeve? Loud cell phone conversations in public places

Motto? A person who feels appreciated will always do more than expected.

To totally relax I … Read a murder mystery.

What books are on your bedside table? Natchez Burning by Greg Iles and The Southerner’s Handbook

Who or what inspires you? The photography judging program

In your opinion, what is the single “quintessential” GCA moment at annual meeting? The arrival of the Medalists at the Awards Dinner

People would be surprised to know this about me: I am terrified of public speaking.
“Celebrating LCGC’s 90th Anniversary” was the theme of Little Compton’s annual meeting club flower show held at the home of Widgie and Peter Aldrich. When Libby Moore snapped her Presidential whip and encouraged everyone to participate, she anticipated maybe 12 to 16 entries. She was pleasantly surprised when 25 members presented their arrangements before the judges! Most of the participants were novice flower arrangers, but that was not obvious to the untrained eye. Three GCA judges from Zone I critiqued and praised the arrangements in four classes: pave, parallel, mass, and an arrangement in a hat.

Lucy O'Connor’s blue ribbon arrangement

It was a wonderful way to celebrate our 90th.
— Nancy Clark

On June 9, 2014 members of the Ridgefield Garden Club gathered exactly 100 years from the date of its first meeting to celebrate the club’s history and achievements. The meeting took place in the garden house of founding member Mrs. Cass Gilbert, part of the historic Keeler Tavern, where many of the club’s earliest meetings were held and one of the few remaining gardens of the original members that remains. Many past presidents were in attendance and members having achieved milestones of 25 through 45 years of service were celebrated.

The June meeting was the culmination of a number of events to commemorate the centennial. The mission of the club, as stated in that first meeting one hundred years ago, was to “promote the art of gardening, give practical suggestions to members and to encourage experimentation.” Shortly after, goals of community improvement and conservation were added to the fold. Throughout the history of the club and to the present day, members have been vital in beautification and conservation projects at local, regional and national levels.

The donation of a greenhouse and parcel of land from Mrs. Ballard, a founding member, is now Ballard Park, an important green space in the center of Ridgefield and site of a formal garden, fully restored in 1976 and maintained by club members to the present day. RGC’s annual plant sale, hosted since 1923, promotes gardening and conservation in the community. The work of our members to promote and protect Weir Farm, the artists’ colony and land preserve founded by 19th century artist Julian Alden Weir, helped lead to its designation as a National Historic Site. From early days planting trees along roadsides or sponsoring a man to light the gas lamps along Main Street, to current projects to renovate an historic schoolhouse in town, and helping to control invasive plant species, members have worked to fulfill and enrich the club’s original objectives.

— Martha Ward
On July 14, 1914, a group of women met at the Manor House in Kingston, NY, to form a club devoted to gardens, education and civic improvement. These women may have been wearing elegant hats and white gloves; they may have been sipping tea and nibbling politely on tiny, trimmed sandwiches; but there was nothing “delicate” about them. They were early environmental activists who formed the Ulster Garden Club and declared that the club’s mission should be to “stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and creative flower arranging; to share in the advantages of association by means of educational meetings; and to restore, improve, and protect the environment through programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.”

For the past 100 years programs have emphasized education and civic projects. As far back as 1916, UGC agreed to be involved in creating and caring for the garden at the Senate House Historical Site, once a ruin with a gas station and now the centerpiece of the historic district, a joy and a visitor magnet. In the 1950’s Herbert Cutler, landscape designer and club member, designed the formal boxwood garden that we enjoy to this day. 1964 brought a very special honor when the Ulster Garden Club received the coveted Founders Fund Award. Over the years, the garden has slowly evolved into a show garden. In 2014, in honor of the Centennial, surrounding hemlocks were trimmed; a pair of traditional “tuteurs” installed; and a variety of perennials and annuals were planted. Most Tuesday mornings members can be found on their hands and knees, digging, trimming, planting and weeding.

The 1950’s and 1960’s were not kind to street trees: the fast-spreading chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease, the pressures of road widening, and electric line installation signaled a dire need for action. We responded by creating the Memorial Tree Fund, Inc. Since 1963 the Fund has planted well over 1,000 street trees throughout the city and has provided tree maintenance in many public parks.

As the 20th century rolled on, many historic buildings and sites were lost, pushed aside in the interests of “progress.” But in 1974, UGC was able to create a charming park on the property surrounding the Louw-Bogardus ruin on Frog Alley as a Bicentennial project. Red, white, and blue bulbs heralded the opening of the park in 1976.

A variety of club projects has been accomplished at Academy Green since the early 1920’s. The largest occurred in 1980 when UGC joined with Kingston Trust, Friends of Historic Kingston and the Board of Trustees of Academy Green on a two-year endeavor to create the classic appearance that the park has today.

In 2005 UGC co-sponsored a delightful show of Kingston-born artist Julia Dillon’s lush paintings of flower arrangements at the Friends of Historic Kingston’s museum. One of the founding members and Honorary President, Julia Dillon was trained in the ateliers of Paris but also ran a foundry and was a diligent community activist. In 2011 the club donated a beautiful canvas of chrysanthemums to the museum.

Times and styles have changed remarkably since 1914. However, the focus of the club has remained steadfast: gardening, education, civic improvement and the environment.

— Brenda Reiss
Millbrook Garden Club
Millbrook, NY
Founded in 1914
Joined the GCA in 1915

On September 22nd, Millbrook Garden Club hosted a luncheon to celebrate and review this year’s centennial activities. Members, nearby GCA friends, and leaders of community organizations gathered at the historic Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. With a nod to our founders, some members wore hats festooned with flowers.

Our guest speaker Amy Freitag’s address was “Resilience: A Challenge for the Next Century.” She is Executive Director of the JM Kaplan Fund. MGC took this opportunity to express our gratitude to local groups that, in exchange for member support, turn our dollars into accomplishments. Among these were the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, the Sharon Land Trust, and the Dutchess Land Conservancy. Guests were able to view the Conservation Committee exhibit, held over from our 2014 Flower Show, about the campaign to save California’s Coast Redwood.

The Garden History and Design Committee organized memorabilia from our archives, including a 1935 report by member Marion M. Davison about a GCA visit to Hawaii, Japan, and China.

Over dessert and coffee, we toasted the next hundred years with heartfelt cheers.

— Kathy de las Heras

Philipstown Garden Club
Garrison, NY
Founded in 1914
Joined the GCA in 1918

The Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring, NY, was the site of “As Time Goes By,” a GCA Flower Show, which honored Philipstown Garden Club’s Centennial. The show including fabulous floral displays, horticulture and photography entries reflected styles and themes from the last hundred years. A special Conservation and Education Exhibit featured the 50-year partnership between PGC and Boscobel House and Garden. The show attracted nearly 200 visitors. A brief rain shower during the Friday night reception was hardly noticed due to the outstanding food and libation and general sense of relief after the completion of judging and granting of awards.

— Donna Doyle

Albemarle Garden Club
Charlottesville, VA
Founded in 1913
Joined the GCA in 1915

The Albemarle Garden Club celebrated its centennial year with great fanfare at the Morven Estate, considered to be the birthplace of the Club. Morven was purchased in 1906 by Samuel and Josephine Marshall. Mrs. Marshall was instrumental in founding our club in 1913, served as our first president from 1913-1919, and again as our third president in 1923. Convening at Morven lent the occasion an air of historical significance and a sense of proud heritage.

At subsequent meetings members provided skits and remembrances to honor our history and those AGC ladies who have served our community during the past hundred years. We determined that an emphasis on our efforts in the community was to be an essential part of our centennial celebration. We raised $15,000 to allocate to civic projects. We made contributions to the Albemarle Botanical Garden at Morea and the Bog Garden at Washington Park, both of which are cared for year-round by AGC, and to the new and growing City Schoolyard Garden program. We initiated the AGC Graduate Student Research Grant at the University of Virginia School of Architecture, with the first $5,000 gift granted to Gwen McGinn, whose research is on a greater understanding of...
The Garden Club of Houston
Houston, TX
Founded in 1924
 Joined the GCA in 1934

In 1924, seven enthusiastic friends in Houston, TX, gathered to discuss a “mutual interest in plants” and dedicated themselves to horticulture, conservation, and civic beautification. Ninety years later, The Garden Club of Houston honors its founders in the best possible way. We continue to be a vibrant and respected influence in Houston. In 1931 GCH sponsored the first House and Garden Pilgrimage, opening two gardens to the public for a fee of twenty-five cents. The club used the proceeds from these pilgrimages to design and plant the grounds of Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The garden tours continued for ten years until 1942. At the height of WWII a pilgrimage was out of the question. Determined to continue the maintenance of the grounds at the Museum, the Club held its first Bulb & Plant Mart directly on the steps of the Museum. In 2014, GCH hosted the 72nd Bulb & Plant Mart with the proceeds continuing to support the museum, Lost Lake, a focal point of Buffalo Bayou Park, and other community projects.

Highlights of our year:

“That’s So Last Century”, a lecture by Jim Johnson, author and former Director of the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M preceded a workshop featuring the most current floral arrangement trends. William Cullina’s lecture, “Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera” captivated the large audience at the biennial Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture. Cullina is Executive Director of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

Linda and George Kelly opened their 1926 French Breton-style manor house and breathtaking modern art collection for our final cocktail celebration and club flower show “This Side of Paradise.”

The GCH nurtures friendships as carefully and intentionally as we nurture seedlings into strong plants.

Throughout the year, The Garden Club of Houston hosted events including a festive awards dinner at the Boars Head Inn concluding our centennial year. Candy Crosby, past president of AGC and Chairman of our Centennial Committee, composed this toast for the occasion:

“In the year of 1913, in this green and pleasant land, a Garden Club was founded by nine GRANDE DAMES. Embracing the study and culture of flowers, through the years we have discovered how preservation and conservation empowers. From Goshen Pass to the California redwoods, from Morea to Central Park, we have cast our net wide. The gifts of nature serve as our guide as we contribute to our community’s civic pride. We host flower shows, Garden Week, and meetings, and encounter a few travails. But not all is hard work — for fellowship, laughter and close friendships prevail. Alnemarle Garden Club, now near 100 ladies strong, is in our hundredth year. We revere the ladies who went before us and we hold our future dear. To celebrate our founding and the commencement of our glorious Centennial Year, please raise your glass to cheer the ladies — past, present, and future – of the Alnemarle Garden Club.”

— Claire Mellinger

Every time we plant bulbs or trees, pull weeds, arrange flowers, travel down the rivers and bayous or walk through forests and prairies — every time we meet together, organize the Bulb & Plant Mart or a flower show — every time we give money to worthy organizations, improve the environment of our city study, restore, celebrate — we are gardeners making souls blossom through friendship and accomplishment. Therefore, while The GCH began with seven members, today it is an engaged group with more than three hundred fifty members.

Congratulations!
— Alison Tennant
On June 8th, the Garden Club of Somerset Hills celebrated its Centennial with a cocktail party and fundraising auction in the gardens of member Mary Ellen Hawn. Over 200 members and friends attended the party, where festive hats and a life-sized cutout of our founding President, Mrs. Francis Lloyd, (below) were on display.

In 1965 Helen Woodman donated her farm to headquarter the Raritan Headwaters Association. We support five public gardens previously owned by former members: The Cross Estate, Leonard J. Buck Garden, Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, Willowwood Arboretum, and the Elizabeth D. Kay Environmental Center. We’ve received two Founders Fund Awards: the Great Swamp Observation Center and the renovation of the Newark Museum garden. Former President Nancy Strong was instrumental in creating the New Jersey Committee, which funds scholarships and civic projects in Zone IV. Members of our club endowed both the Kissel Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship and the Hull Award for Early Environmental Education. These are only a few of the initiatives and achievements of a club that has matured through strong leadership and a roster of forward-looking members. Cheers to the next 100 years!

— Alison Villa

At top: Garden Club of Somerset Hills, Willowwood Arboretum. Photo by Erin Kiernan Frigerio.
In May, Kettle Moraine Garden Club celebrated 60 years at the Chenequa Country Club at a dinner hosted by members Anne Foster and Grace Friend.

Piano and guitar accompanied a trio composed of Ray Foster, Colleen Mortonson, and Dick Barkow (pictured above), who got the party started. New words set to familiar melodies (with member Leslie Barkow instructing her husband) entertained the crowd of 100. A video set to catchy tunes featured over 100 pictures from KMGC’s past and present. Members enjoyed mingling with each other following a delicious dinner and a glass of champagne. Fifty years after joining The Garden Club of America our club is thriving, and we continue to grow.

— Gretchen U. Stevens

The Essential Earthman: Henry Mitchell on Gardening
by Henry Clay Mitchell
Indiana University Press, 2013

Combine the powers of a gifted writer with the charm of a Southern gentleman, stir in lively wit and original style peppered with fresh opinion, and you have Henry Mitchell. Readers of The Washington Post were treated to his weekly gardening columns. The Essential Earthman allows us who missed out to catch up.

Mitchell’s prose is so compact, it is a sound idea to space his essays, to give them breathing room. A good approach is to dive into an area of interest. “Thinking about Roses” (Chapter 16), you may want to reconsider adding ‘Peace’ to your collection. This so-called “Rose of the Century” has no fragrance, but its “huge flowers may please anybody who has longed to grow the largest turnip in the world.”

If you would like to become an immediate fan, start with “Marigold Madness — Or, Color in a Garden” to enjoy all his talent in full display.

“In colors, as in humans, we learn there is much to be said for the modest, the pure, and (God save us all) in the relatively dull.”

If you love bold opinion, begin with “Bad Trees and Good Trees.” “Flowering trees are usually a snare and a delusion, like those people you meet at cocktail parties who seem so glamorous and exciting and whom, after the third time, you hope never to see again.”

If you are eager to meet the author, drop in at Chapters 17 and 18 to encounter the gentleman in his garden, then skip to the last Earthman column where he observes “one is always annoyed that plants behave as one knew they would.” This dear man read emotion in the eyes of toads, resuscitated bees found floating in the lily pool, adored irises....

Mitchell’s talent was well suited to the requirements of the essay form—strong “voice” and mastery of subject.

— Reviewed by Barbara Kirk, Nantucket Garden Club, Zone I

Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life
by Marta McDowell
Timber Press, 2013

If any English majors in the Class of 2014 among my acquaintance had thought to ask me for career advice, for once in my life I had a ready answer: “Write books about gardeners, especially gardeners who wrote books!” The reasons for this advice are many, but chief among them are: gardeners are fascinating people; garden writers have interesting ideas that you can quote; you will get to travel to look at their gardens on someone else’s dime; and if you are lucky, those writers will already have created many of the illustrations. A stellar case in point is Marta McDowell, author of Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life, who seems to have read my mind. While Ms. McDowell is obviously a talented and insightful author, it must be said that she could not have picked a more delightful author to prove my thesis. For those who remember mere fragments of the charming Peter Rabbit story from their youth, this superbly-illustrated biography fleshes out a woman who steered a Victorian upper-middle-class childhood in an astonishing direction. Beatrix Potter, daughter of a wealthy Londoner who dabbled in photography, developed an insatiable curiosity about the natural world at an early age. With a winter home close to major public gardens in London, and summers spent rambling near the Scottish border, Potter burnished her talent for botanical illustration through close observation of the plants and animals around her. Long after her death, her illustrations of fungal fruiting bodies appeared in a scholarly book, Wayside and Woodland Fungi, by W.P.K. Findlay.
The great surprise of this biography, however, is in reading about Potter’s investment of her earnings from her children’s books in a farm in the north of England. Hill Top, the farm on which she bred champion sheep, later became one of the seminal properties of the National Trust. Although Potter did eventually marry, she purchased the farm on her own, and was already making a name for herself in sheep-breeding when she married her solicitor. With spectacular illustrations — both photographs of Beatrix Potter’s homes and reproductions of her artwork, as well as lists of plants she grew and plants mentioned in her published work, this is a highly focused look at the author as one who immersed herself in work of which she clearly loved every facet. Marta McDowell writes beautifully, and clearly appreciates the richness of Beatrix Potter’s life.

— Reviewed by Jane Harris, Library Committee Chairman, Middletown Garden Club, Zone II

**Mayo Atkinson McIntosh Bryan**  
**Mrs. Joseph Bryan III**  
*Amateur Gardeners Club, Zone VI*

Mayo McIntosh Bryan, died August 2, 2014, at age 93, after a long illness. She was past president and historian of the Amateur Gardeners Club. Mrs. Bryan served as Chairman and Director of Zone VI and of the 1966 GCA Annual Meeting in Baltimore. She served on the Admissions and Nominating Committees and as Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Handbook Committee.

In the community, Mayo was active at Ladew Topiary Gardens and in the Colonial Dames, Chapter I. She was a passionate archivist and kept innumerable files on projects in which she was interested. She loved her gardens and was always willing to share tips on plants and ways to grow them. Mayo was tiny, with a sharp, quick mind and a delightful sense of humor. She could relate a story like no one else!

**Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor**  
*Garden Club of Nashville, Zone IX*

Mrs. Proctor served as President of The Garden Club of Nashville from 1967 to 1969. She was most proud of the 1968 creation of the Howe Garden at Cheekwood. Her foundation led the 2010 renovation of the garden.

She served on the Nominating, Literary, and Founders Fund committees and chaired Public Relations and Visiting Garden Committees. She was a Director and served on the Executive Committee.

In 1982 she received the Zone IX Creative Leadership Award and, in 1991, the GCA Amy Angell Collier Montague Award for outstanding civic achievement. Mrs. Proctor donated the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal to The Garden Club of America.

Mrs. Proctor told her members that the best years of her life were spent working on projects for the GCA. She inspired each of them to say “yes!” when called upon to serve.

“Piggyback” by  
**Evelyn Lorentzen-Bell,**  
Green Fingers Garden Club, Zone II

56th Annual Connecticut Daffodil Show and New England Regional Show  
April 2014, Greenwich, CT

First and Best in Show  
Class: “Show Me!”—color  
Plant Material: Narcissus  
‘Pink charm’

Judges’ Comments: “Exquisite photo. Color and simplicity pop!”
October 2014

14-18  Zone V Meeting hosted by Huntingdon Valley GC, Huntingdon Valley, PA. “North by Northeast,” Zone Flower Show Huntingdon Valley Country Club Open Oct. 15, 1-5 p.m. and Oct. 16, 8:30-3 p.m. Contact Kelly Asplundh kelly.asplundh@comcast.net

14-16  Ladue GC, St. Louis, MO, Zone XI, presents “Le Marche d’Automne,” 5th biannual boutique fundraiser. Vendors from Maine to Arizona selling clothing, jewelry, home accessories and gifts. Oct. 14, Preview Party Contact: Mimi Baer mimib93@att.net

22-23  GCA Flower Show, “Silver Service” presented by Greenville GC, Greenville, MS, Zone IX Saint James Episcopal Church Oct. 22, 2-4 p.m. Oct. 23, 9-11 a.m. Contact: Martha Weissinger douglas@tecinfo.com

27-30  Zone VII Meeting hosted by “Silver Service” Staunton, VA. Zone Flower Show, “Treasurers of the Shenandoah Valley”, Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center. Oct. 28 3-7 p.m. and Oct. 29, 9-3:00 p.m. Contact: Linda Holden fashion@ntelos.net

November 2014

3-9  FASG Fall Workshop, The Peabody, Memphis, TN

12  The Founders Garden Club of Sarasota, Zone VIII “Flower Talk/Gems in Bloom,” an annual fundraiser, cocktail reception and luncheon featuring Dianne Lewis Batista, senior consultant for Christie’s jewelry auctions. Tickets $100. Contact Barbara Dubitsky barabarabled@comcast.net or Beth Gourlay legourlay@comcast.net.

14-15  Connecticut Valley Garden Club, West Hartford, CT, Zone II, “Set to Celebrate” Tablescape Show at Town and Country Club, 22 Woodland Street, 10-5pm $25 in advance, $30 day of event. Contact Barbara Kiefer (860) 559-4478 or www.Set2Celebrate.net

December 2015

2-5  National Committee Quarterly Meetings at HQ

6  Portland GC, Portland, OR, Zone XII, “O Tannenbaum” annual boutique. Portland Garden Club, 1132 SW Vista Ave. 10-2 p.m. Contact Portland Garden Club (503) 222-2845

11  Peachtree Garden Club Christmas Home Tour of 4 homes in Buckhead. 11-3 p.m. $25 in advance, $30 day of event. Contact: Anita Strickler (404) 313-8516 or astricklr@comcast.net www.peachtreegardenclub.org
February 2015

23-26 Annual National Affairs & Legislation Conference, Washington, DC

26-28 Major GCA Flower Show, “Preview of Spring” hosted by Green Fingers GC, Greenwich, CT, Zone II

26-3/9 Philadelphia Flower Show, Non-GCA Major Flower Show

March 2015

2/26-9 Philadelphia Flower Show, Non-GCA Major Flower Show

2-6 National Committee Quarterly Meetings at HQ

6-8 River Oaks Garden Club, TX, Zone IX, 80th Annual Azalea Trail, one of Houston’s oldest home and garden tours. www.riveroaksgardenclub.org

24-26 GCA Flower Show, Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills GC, San Antonio, TX, Zone IX.

April 2015

8-10 GCA Flower Show, The Founders GC of Dallas, TX, Zone IX

11-12 GCA Flower Show, The GC of Palm Beach, FL, Zone IX.

14-16 Zone Flower Show, Memphis GC and The Little GC of Memphis, TN, Zone IX

14-19 GCA Flower Show, Akron Garden Club, OH, Zone X. Contact: Robin Hardman robinhardman@gmail.com

17-19 GCA Flower Show, Fairfield Garden Club, CT, Zone II. Contact: Fleur Rueckert fleur.rueckert@gmail.com

20-22 Zone Flower Show, “Columns, Rivers and Roses,” The Palmetto GC of South Carolina, Zone VIII. Contact: Francis Robinson ferii@aol.com

21 Club Flower Show, The Planters, Bryn Mawr, PA, Zone V Horticulture and Photography held at the Jenkins Arboretum, Devon PA. Contact: Janice Legg devonn913@aol.com

23 Club Flower Show, Westport GC, Kansas City, MO, Zone XI Contact: Laura Powell lkp0123@aol.com

23-25 GCA Flower Show, Hillsborough GC, CA, Zone XII Contact: Susan Grau SusanLGrau@gmail.com

24-26 GCA Flower Show, Indianapolis GC, IN, Zone X

28-29 GCA Major Flower Show, “Florescense” River Oaks GC and Houston GC, TX, Zone IX Contact: Anne French afrench454@aol.com

May 2015

17-20 GCA Annual Meeting Rochester, NY

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Scholarships
The Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture is only one of the GCA's 27 scholarships, fellowships, and awards. In 2014, the GCA awarded over $300,000 to 86 deserving recipients. Profiles of the scholars and their projects, and descriptions of each scholarship and its history can be found on the front page of the GCA website.

Fritz Haeg
To learn more about Fritz Haeg, his installations and future plans, please visit his website: www.fritzhaeg.com. Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn (Metropolis Books, 2010) is available in the US from Amazon.

Who are the GCA’s Directors?
Directors comprise one band in the GCA hierarchy. A director is invited by the president, on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, to serve a two-year stint representing her zone. Among their duties: 1) serve as liaison to one or more national committees, 2) travel around the GCA — to the annual meeting and their own zone meetings, to quarterly meetings in NYC and to the clubs in their zone, 3) communicate — with the zone chairman club presidents, honorary members, and members of the Board of Associates in their zone.

GCA Policies are posted in the Members Area of the website and explain the infrastructure of The Garden Club of America.

The Flower Show and Judging Guide
is affectionately known as the “Yellow Book.” The “green” digital edition, found on the Flower Show Committee page, can be downloaded onto your computer, iPad, or mobile device. It covers every detail needed for planning and executing a flower show — templates for writing the schedule and creating entry cards, timelines, and additional resources.

Partners for Plants
P4P is a collaboration between the GCA’s Conservation and Horticulture Committees. The goal is to protect native habitats which may hold rare or endangered plants or are at risk of being overwhelmed by invasive plants. Volunteers from GCA clubs work with professional botanists and land managers who supervise the work and share their knowledge and expertise. Find out more in the Members Area of the website.

GCA History & Archives
We at the Bulletin call on GCA Historian Anne Myers to place topical subject matter into the GCA’s historical context. She works closely with the Archives Committee in researching relevant material.

Back issues of the Bulletin make fine cold weather reading. You can delve into the archive from the Bulletin Committee web page in the Members Area. Every issue since 1913 has been scanned and saved as a PDF. Click on grid view (the 4 square icon) to peruse the covers. Until 1977 the Bulletin was a compact 5-1/2” x 8-1/2.” Photography was introduced in the 60s.

Corrections: Special Edition Bulletin
On page 7: GCA Scholar Rachel Guy works at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, not the Center for Coastal Resources Management.

The caption on page 8 should have read: Carolyn Fuller, Twin City Garden Club, and Staci Catron, 2014 Honorary Member, enjoy the experimental vegetable gardens at City Park.
Readers! Has disaster befallen your garden?

Has abusive, extreme weather wreaked havoc on your landscape? Have utilities crews, construction, or roadwork caused unintended upheaval? Tell us your stories—how you coped, succumbed, or succeeded. Email them to bulletin@gcamerica.org by November 15, 2014. Save the photos until we get in touch with you.

To urge you on, here is an excerpt from a 1915 Bulletin, written by a distraught Miss Florence L. Pond, whose initiation into the rocky world of gardening began with the hiring of “destructive swindlers calling themselves gardeners.”

“...Finally a really good gardener appeared, [but] by that time it was too late to start perennials, and local florists were short of annuals, so kind neighbors and Garden Club friends contributed seeds, cuttings and advice.

In desperate haste and without regard to color or symmetry every growing thing available was thrown into the zealously fertilized earth. The June sunshine being propitious, vegetation started into activity with a vengeance. Castor beans sprung up in a night, overshadowing Sweet Alyssum and Mignonette. Tall red Cannas fought for ground with pale pink Cosmos and Shasta Daisies. Sweet Williams tried to strangle yellow Marguerites. Blue Ageratums were lost in a border of Coleus. Rose-colored Zinnias resented the neighborhood of Scarlet Salvia, which, in turn, blushed at the proximity of Bachelor Buttons... There were August days when all the flowers in the garden fairly screamed at one another, and were only quieted by being taken into the house where, segregated in cool comers, they gradually regained their equanimity. Eventually the garden riot was quelled by the arrival of some orderly platoons of Dahlias, Gladioli and Asters, but the great success of the season proved to be the fact that one garden ignoramus had acquired by experience a few of the rudimentary principles of planting a garden.”

~ Miss Florence L. Pond, Garden Club of Michigan

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Governor’s Horse Guard Barn
Newtown, CT
by Ann Franzen
Fairfield Garden Club, Zone II
“This Land is Your Land”
GCA Photography Show on exhibit at the United States Botanic Garden, Washington D.C.
July 1 - October 13, 2014

“As barns disappear from Connecticut, I have been drawn to the Governor’s Horse Guard Barn, which was established in 1808. Just one mile from Sandy Hook, I find peace in the bucolic scene with a freshly mown field in the setting sun. I’ve captured this scene with my iPhone, my Nikon, my Olympus, and my Leica in every season of the year, for the last two years.” ~ Ann Franzen
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