



# BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA SINCE 1913 SUMMER 2017

*Maryland in May*  
2017 Annual Meeting  
Scholars Report  
Blue Gardens

WINTERTHUR



Photo by Bob Leitch

# Dig deeper...

*be* ENCHANTED. *be* DELIGHTED. *be* INSPIRED.

## 60 Acres of Blooming Beauty

Summer is the perfect time to savor the beauty and tranquility of our Quarry Garden, Glade Garden, and Reflecting Pool, as well as the rolling hills and meadows of one of America's great country estates. Narrated tram tours available. Enjoy our new Scenic Tram Tour (\$5 upgrade). †‡

## New Garden Programs

Discover new and revitalized garden walks, talks, demonstrations, and family-focused programs, including: Director's Garden Walks, Garden Insider Series, Story Time in Enchanted Woods, and Family Nature Walks (Members only). For details, visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org). †‡

For more information, call 800.448.3883 or visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org).

Book a group tour! Special rates available. Visit [winterthur.org/groups](http://winterthur.org/groups).

† Included with admission. ‡ Members free.

Winterthur is nestled in Delaware's beautiful Brandywine Valley on Route 52, midway between New York City and Washington, D.C.

GCA Bulletin Summer 2017



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

### Advertising and Submissions

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

■ **Advertising:** Reserve by July 15 (fall issue); October 15 (winter issue); January 15, 2018 (spring issue); and April 15, 2018 (summer issue)

■ **Submission Deadlines:** August 1; November 1; February 1, 2018; and May 1, 2018

■ **Contact:** [bulletinads@gcamerica.org](mailto:bulletinads@gcamerica.org) or visit the Bulletin Committee's landing page on the GCA website ([www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org)) for the ad submission form

*The Garden Club of America*

14 East 60th Street • New York, NY 10022 • (212) 753-8287

[bulletin@gcamerica.org](mailto:bulletin@gcamerica.org)

### On the Cover:

A view of the pond and rowboat on the grounds of Harleigh, the historic home of Sally (Talbot County Garden Club, Zone VI) and John "Chip" Akridge, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore—showing the red, white, and blues of the 2017 Annual Meeting. Photo by Lynn Shiverick, Garden Club of Cleveland, Zone X, using a Sony NEX 6 camera



MIX

Paper from  
responsible sources

FSC® C006849

©2017 Benjamin Moore & Co. Benjamin Moore, MoorGard, Paint like no other, Regal and the triangle "M" symbol are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co.

IF IT CAN TRANSFORM  
THE AGE-OLD INTO  
THE AGELESS...

IS IT STILL PAINT?

 **Benjamin Moore**  
Paint like no other.

**Regal**® Select Exterior  
Gives any time-worn surface stunning  
new life. Only at independently owned  
paint and hardware stores.





Since 1850

SINGHVI®

JEWELS

*A century old family tradition*

*presents Sudi™ Collection*

CALL / E-MAIL TO HOST A 'SUDI SHOW' IN YOUR CITY



18K Hand-Crafted Fine Jewelry by  
*Sudi Singhvi*

S-37A Main Market, Green Park, New Delhi - 110016 (India)

**Toll free (USA)**

Call : 1.888.783.4872  
Fax : 1.888.784.0395

**Website**

[www.singhvijewels.com](http://www.singhvijewels.com)

**E-mail**

[info@singhvijewels.com](mailto:info@singhvijewels.com)

Branch: 433 Plaza Real, Suite 275, Boca Raton, FL 33432

# Features

SUMMER 2017



## 17 Maryland in May: Annual Meeting

*Including* Front and Center, Behind the Scenes, Out and About, Passing the Gavel, Keynote Speakers, Treasurer's Report, Honorary Members, Awards, Medalists

## 33 Blue Gardens

*Including* Dorrance Hill Hamilton, The Blue Garden, True Blue

## 41 2017 Scholars Report

*Including* Profiles of 86 Garden Club of America Scholars from Across the Nation

- 5 | From the President**
- 6 | President's Address**
- 10 | From the Bulletin Committee**
- 12 | GCA Spotlight**  
Victory in Washington



- Profiles**
- 37 |** Anne Copenhaver
- 55 |** Paul Alan Cox
- 57 |** John Sonnier



- 38 | Trees in America**  
Crapemyrtles
- 58 | GCA Historian**



- 62 | Library**  
The GCA's Book Collections

## In Every Issue

- 63 | Zone Meetings**
- 65 | NewsWorthy**
- 72 | Late Bloomers**

- 73 | Head to the Web**
- 73 | Dig Deeper**
- 74 | Book Review**
- 75 | Bulletin Board**  
Cuttings from the Calendar
- 76 | Parting Shot**





consummate  
multi-tasker

LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

**CWC**

clara williams

Beautifully crafted jewelry with a fine disposition and a magnetic personality.

Carlson's Fine Jewelry, Naples, FL | Charles Mayer, Indianapolis, IN | Croghan's Jewel Box, Charleston, SC  
Donald Haack Diamonds, Charlotte, NC | Haven & Co., Los Angeles, CA | Las Finezas Fine Gifts, Boerne, TX  
Material Possessions, Winnetka, IL | Mildred Hoyt, Palm Beach, FL | Planters Exchange, St. Simons Island, GA  
Rodes, Louisville, KY | Veranda, Vero Beach, FL | Underwood's Jewelers, Jacksonville, FL

clarawilliams.com | Call 312.280.7300 to request a CWC Look Book





THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA is a storied organization. It is the people of The Garden Club of America who make it so. Our written histories, most recently William Seale's *The Garden Club of America, 100 Years of a Growing Legacy*, tell of our achievements toward our purpose. That purpose exists inside each of us. I hope it feels essential to your life.

At every annual meeting and quarterly business meeting of the past two years, you have heard me introduce our national leadership, saying that it is they and their committees or constituencies who continue to write and tell the story of our 104-year-old organization. To all who said *yes* to my multitude of appointments,

thank you. At least half of you will continue your leadership positions one more year. That rotation of volunteers is the heartbeat of this vital organization.

Anything that endures also evolves. Evolving may mean reimagining the organization within its historic and valued framework. The incoming leadership has the privilege of carrying out a strategic planning process structured to occur every four to five years. Deliberate decision making, a mantra from me to the outgoing Executive Board, will serve us well.

As we conclude this GCA year, let us move forward with energetic support of the new leadership. And let us say with pride in the years 2015-17 that, on behalf of The Garden Club of America, we did this well, and we did it together. You have given the gift of leadership and stewardship to the GCA and beyond and, to both me and to each other, the gift of friendship. These will endure.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president and for allowing me to be a part of the story.

With gratitude,

**Executive Board  
2016-17**

**Anne Copenhaver**, *GCA President*  
Twin City Garden Club, Zone VII

**Dede Petri**, *First Vice President*  
Georgetown Garden Club, Zone VI

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

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

**Cindy Hilson**, *Treasurer*  
Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII

**Marguerite Borden**, *Vice President*  
Cohasset Garden Club, Zone I

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

**Crissy Cherry**, *Vice President*  
Lake Forest Garden Club, Zone XI

**Gretchen Downs**, *Vice President*  
Country Garden Club, Zone X

**SaSa Panarese**, *Vice President*  
Milton Garden Club, Zone I

**Wendy Serrell**, *Vice President*  
Hortulus, Zone II

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

**Jennifer Barnette**, *Chief Operating Officer*



The 2016-17 Executive Board. Photo by Linder Suthers

## THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT ANNE COPENHAVER

*Presidents, Officers and Zone Directors, Club Presidents, Delegates, Area Chairmen, Zone Chairmen, Committee Chairmen, and all in attendance today:*

Whatever our current position, we are all volunteers for The Garden Club of America. What indeed brings us together these few spectacular days for *Maryland in May*? We are here as colleagues and friends in the fertile environment we know as The Garden Club of America. I hope you believe it to be an essential part of your life. This time together can be powerful. Together we make important things happen!

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

My purpose this morning is to reflect upon this stellar year for The Garden Club of America, a year guided by an ethical stance toward organizational integrity and deliberate decision making. We arrive from across the country, grounded in horticulture, exalted by flowers, uplifted by the beauty and bounty in our parks and gardens, inspired by the natural world around us—yet challenged by realities: the climate crisis; deeply threatened profusion of plant life and endangered wildlife; an aggressive anti-environmental onslaught; organizational change; a seismic shift in technology; an evolving landscape in the world of volunteerism; children in need of nature; and nature in need of children—the next generation of leaders.

We arrive with a determination to respond with action, to continue to impact positive change, and to celebrate the accomplishments of this 104th year of The Garden Club of America. All advancements have been achieved through stewardship, leadership, and friendship—aspects of the GCA experience I addressed in May 2015 and May 2016 and worthy of reference today.

**Stewardship.** We must grasp the capacity of our resources so that all we do supports the GCA purpose. To this point, three topics will be of interest to you and are hallmarks of my term:

*The Second Century Campaign.* Now in its primary stage, the Second Century Campaign is designed to secure

the financial future of our organization. The chairman and committee are appointed, the zone leadership teams are in place and at work, the goal is set, and we are underway! Tomorrow we will hear much more from Chairman Hilary Salatich as she elaborates on building a platform for success—success that will be achieved by participation at every level.

*HQ Renovation.* What a difference a year makes—14 East 60th Street in New York City is your headquarters for our quarterly business meetings and for your visits as individuals or as clubs. A careful and conservative renovation was carried out from June-October 2016 with final “trimmings” ready for December Meeting Week. It is beautiful! The House Committee, overflowing with talent *extraordinaire*, made both practical and décor decisions while the Renovations Committee itself ensured a 21st-century “eye to doing business,” maintaining respect for GCA tradition and history. The expenditures were borne by careful advance budgeting from the General Fund as well as a hefty reimbursement of expenses by the building owner as negotiated in our renewed 15-year lease.

*The GCA Rare Book Collection.* Formerly housed in a tiny room at Headquarters, our multi-million-dollar collection amassed over generations through generous donations of members now resides in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Garden, the culmination of deliberate decision making over the course of years. Students, writers, and scholars from all over the world—as well as the GCA—now have safe access to the invaluable treasures that make up the GCA Rare Book Collection. The books also will be accessible online through the NYBG library database.

**Leadership.** Let's speak of three levels of leadership: the zone and committee chairmen, whose reports you will hear today and tomorrow, personify those ABC qualities of leadership, including—but not limited to!—being assertive, confident, engaging, loyal, inspirational, judicious, and optimistic. They are outstanding. Indulge me in my pride, but I believe you know that the president fills these positions with her appointments. My admiration and respect for each of these individuals are front and center this week. Their forthcoming reports will tell the continuing story of the GCA as written by these amazing chairmen and their constituencies. Read the publications their committees produce. And read the GCA Annual Report.



The Executive Board. Behind the scenes is the Executive Board. Each member is a liaison to at least two committees, and, yes, we make it our business “to know everything!” The educated expertise based on the experience of each member of the Executive Board serves you well and supports the president well. In addition to our internal leadership role within the organizational web of the GCA, the Executive Board is asked to think in broad terms—to seek common ground, to effectively expand our associations with like-minded organizations, often facing escalating challenges within a finite time frame as in the case of our stated opposition to the destruction of the Enid A. Haupt Garden at the Smithsonian. Additionally, MOUs and MOAs with, for example, the National Park Service and the Royal Horticultural Society have been renewed and others such as that with the National Audubon Society are ongoing.

You. Out front is each of you! You are the face of The Garden Club of America—in your families, in your clubs, in your communities, in your zones, and in our country. Stewardship and leadership are embodied in each of us.

And girding us all is our outstanding staff at Headquarters! We simply must applaud exceptional service to the GCA, led by Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Barnette Cohen, who sets the pace and raises the standard!

Leadership honors, your honors! In recognition of GCA leadership, I am pleased to share news of honors received by The Garden Club of America since Annual Meeting last year:

The *Open Space Institute* honored the GCA for its 100+ years of work in the field of conservation. At this June 2016 event at the Metropolitan Club in NYC, I was joined by former presidents Katie Heins, Jan Pratt, and Gina Bissell and was presented as a token of appreciation an exquisite engraved crystal sculpture from Tiffany, which now resides in the President's Office at Headquarters. Yes, please step in and admire it!

Representing thanks from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the many years of GCA volunteer support and participation in the Philadelphia Flower Show, it was my honor to be asked to serve as an honorary chairman of the Philadelphia Flower Show Preview Party on March 10, 2017. A perfectly beautiful painting of daffodils was gifted to The Garden Club of America, and you can see this in our foyer just as you step off the elevator.

And, one other note. Through our GCA Scholarship Committee, the GCA and the Royal Horticultural Society in London enjoy a long relationship through its Interchange Fellowship. I will be representing you in London later this month as I attend the RHS annual meeting and sign a renewed three-year memorandum of agreement. I also will attend the Chelsea Flower Show luncheon at the invitation of RHS President Sir Nicholas Bacon—the unexpected privileges of being a volunteer!

**Friendship.** Writing these remarks has sent me on a journey of personal reflection. Into our second century, we all will continue the journey of organizational discovery—the range of possibility and responsibility. Quite literally, we can shape the future, impacting regional, national, and global issues in the process. We are a family of friends—you know what that means: working together to ensure a rich heritage for the next generation; sharing personal grandbaby announcements with glee; initiating a telephone call that starts out on one topic, skips to dozens of others, and ends with an inspiration for a successful medalist proposal; beaming at a friend's success in her first flower show; hiking and digging and pruning and weeding and planting together; hoping the loss of a loved one will be made more bearable by email embraces and flowers across the miles; sharing endless highs and lows; and, together, making important things happen.

I look at this audience, or a zone meeting audience, or an NAL audience, or a Meneice audience, and realize that every face and name stands for someone whose path I have crossed sometime. While you may not be aware of any special link, just meeting you has shaped my GCA years much more than you might think. I hope you feel as richly blessed.

So stewardship, leadership, friendship—I will repeat my closing words of May 2015, when you gave me the gavel. I encourage you not only to give to the GCA but also to use the GCA to engage the mind, elevate the spirit, and stimulate the best effort of all who are associated with The Garden Club of America. Thank you for the great privilege of serving as your president.



**Appoint Your Outdoor Spaces**

A Destination To Shop From  
Over 5,000 Items  
From Around The World  
Service | Guidance  
Resources

Open Year Round  
Tues - Sat 10 am - 5 pm  
Closed Sun & Mon

ELIZABETH SCHUMACHER'S  
**GARDEN ACCENTS**  
*Find The Schumacher Garden In The Archives of American Gardens*

4 Union Hill Road  
West Conshohocken, PA  
610.825.5525  
[gardenaccents.com](http://gardenaccents.com)

WATCH GARDEN SHOWS YOU LOVE

Monty Don

Alan Titchmarsh

**Hortus tv**  
Television for Gardeners

Kathy Renwald

STREAM TO YOUR TABLET, COMPUTER OR SMARTTV

ONLY 6.<sup>99</sup>/MONTH, NO LONG TERM COMMITMENT

**FREE TRIAL** at [www.hortustv.com](http://www.hortustv.com)

**THE NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW**

**COTTAGES**  
*Smart & Small*

June 22, 23 & 24, 2018

ROSECLIFF  
NEWPORT, RI

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

# HALSBROOK

HALSBROOK.COM

SAINT JAMES SWEATER, FABRIZIO GIANNI  
PANTS, KENNETH JAY LANE EARRINGS,  
BAGATELLE NECKLACE WORN AS BRACELET



# The Committee Blues

2016-17 Committee



EACH JUNE A SADNESS comes over our committee. It's not a surprise, because this is the way that the national committees are sustained—new members come on and others go off. But in the course of our time together, we become a family. This Bulletin Committee started with a leader, Ann Price Davis, who, with former GCA President Katie Heins (2013-15), determined that it was time for another revamping of the *Bulletin*. That effort—forging ahead with something new—created an unbroken bond among us.

Now we are in our third year, with members once again departing, and the June sadness is in full swing. How do we thank the brilliant Debbie Laverell, our incredible photographer, extreme organizer, and all around fun-to-hang-with party girl? Or Ruthie Barker, our club news editor—a super detail-oriented job—who kept us on track with her keen focus, organizational skills, and good humor?

2014-15 Committee



Or Julie Taylor, who always said “yes” and always got it done on time? Or Sandy Dansby, with her Southern charm and enthusiasm, sharing her can-do attitude?

Each member of our committee has left an indelible mark on our committee and on our lives. That's the best part of being in the GCA—the bonds we develop while working together for a common purpose. Yes, stewardship, leadership, and friendship ring true on this committee. That brings us to our debt to Anne Copenhaver, who said in her first *Bulletin* interview “to just say *yes* to any opportunity to serve on a GCA committee.” We all said *yes*, and now it's our turn say *thank you* to Anne for leading us, sharing her wisdom, and responding to our emails with lightning speed.

Finally, thank you to our liaisons, Crissy Cherry and Malinda Bergen, for their guidance, and to the GCA staff, particularly to Paige Trubatch, for making our work easier. It is much appreciated.

2015-16 Committee



—The Bulletin Committee

## Bulletin Committee 2016-17

**Gina Brandt**, *Chairman*  
Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII

**Laura Case**, *Vice Chairman*  
New Canaan Garden Club, Zone II

**Pamela Hirsch**, *Vice Chairman*  
Garden Club of Morristown, Zone IV

**Gay Legg**, *Vice Chairman*  
St. George's Garden Club, Zone VI

### ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

**Ruthie Barker**, Fox Hill Garden Club, Zone I

**Louise van Tartwijk**, Washington Garden Club, Zone II

**Lorraine Alexander**, *Editor-at-large*  
Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III

**Kathryne Singleton**, Rumson Garden Club, Zone IV

**Debbie Laverell**, The Garden Workers, Zone V

**Brooke Morton**, Perennial Garden Club, Zone VI

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

**Julie Badger**, Sand Hills Garden Club, Zone VIII

**Sandy Dansby**, The Monroe Garden Study League, Zone IX

**Betsy Bosway**, Indianapolis Garden Club, Zone X

**Julie Taylor**, Cedar Rapids Garden Club, Zone XI

**Teri Taylor**, Garden Club of Santa Barbara, Zone XII

### EXECUTIVE BOARD LIAISON

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

### ZONE DIRECTOR LIAISON

**Malinda Bergen**, Trustees' Garden Club, Zone VIII

### GCA STAFF ADMINISTRATOR

**Paige Trubatch**

GCA  
MEMBER  
OWNED

custom knit golf headcovers  
**fore ewe**  
www.foreewe.com



knit to order • hand made in Minnesota

## Designer Separates for DAY, EVENING & TRAVEL

Made in New York  
Sizes 00 – 18

New York, Aspen, Atlanta,  
Chevy Chase, MD, Houston,  
Palm Desert, San Francisco,  
Scottsdale, Seattle, Vail,  
Birmingham, MI, Cleveland &  
Chestertown, MD

For additional show locations:  
212.319.7700  
www.ninamclemore.com

Sales Consultant  
Positions Available

**NINA·MCLEMORE**



VOTED BEST NEW VOICE  
IN NONFICTION!

## *A Garden for the President*

A History of the White House Grounds

JONATHAN PLISKA

THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Published by *THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION*  
TO ORDER VISIT: SHOP.WHITEHOUSEHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 1.800.555.2451  
320 PAGES | 12 X 9 INCHES | \$49.95

*“A Beautiful Spot  
Capable of Every  
Improvement”*

Situated at President George Washington’s direction in “A beautiful spot capable of every improvement,” the White House, the official residence of the president of the United States is also seen as the people’s house, its grounds, the people’s grounds. Heavily illustrated with historical images and newly commissioned photography, *A Garden for the President* explores not only the relationship between the White House and its landscape, but also the evolution of its design; the public and private uses of the grounds in peace and wartime; and the cultivation of the grounds with a focus on the trees, vegetable and flower gardens, and conservatories.

**Victory in  
Washington—  
Haupt Garden  
Included in DC  
Historic District  
Designation, but  
Demolition is Still  
on the Table**



## The GCA's campaign to protect the

beloved Enid A. Haupt Garden, part of the Smithsonian Institution, continues—with good news coming from the nation's capital. On April 27 the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Review Board unanimously approved an application to name the Smithsonian Quadrangle (which includes the Haupt Garden) a DC Historic District, eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Leading the charge was Richard Longstreth, George Washington University professor and architectural historian, who submitted the application on behalf of the Committee of 100. Also front and center was Alexandra Graubert, member of the Georgetown Garden Club and great-niece of the donor, Enid A. Haupt. Appearing in person, Graubert noted the GCA's previous opposition to the Smithsonian's South Campus Master Plan (*Bulletin*, Fall 2016) and went on to outline her great-aunt's vision in funding the garden:

*...The essence of a garden is change—it must be, as plants grow and change, and so must gardens. But the ideas and essential designs*

*of the gardens can remain the same, even as the choice of bedding plants change. My aunt believed in the educational mission of the Smithsonian and helped make a garden that reflected it, in harmony with the buildings that surround it. Unfortunately, in the Smithsonian's current Master Plan, the proposed replacement of the Haupt garden is a monoculture of grass in a disconcertingly tipped arrangement with no provision for shade at all. These are currently popular design ideas emanating from the "deconstruction" style in art and design, which have nothing to do with these museums, these visitors, this history, the Smithsonian, or my aunt's wishes.*

*Please preserve the historic style of the Haupt garden for future generations to enjoy, as she envisioned when she gave the funds to Secretary Ripley for the construction and an endowment for the garden's upkeep.*

*The Washington Post* characterized the Review Board's decision as "Preservation Board Swats at Smithsonian over Development Plans," noting that "civic organizations, garden enthusiasts, and historic preservation groups have spent more than two years fighting the Smithsonian's plan

to redevelop the area around its historic administration building, known as the Castle."

In addition to Longstreth and Graubert, the Review Board had a rich set of viewpoints before it, including the GCA's prior Comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in Opposition to the Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan, as well as submissions from the DC Preservation League; National Trust for Historic Preservation; former Smithsonian Castle Curator James Goode; the family of Dillon Ripley, the Smithsonian Secretary at the time the Haupt Garden was built; the Garden Conservancy; the Association of Oldest (Washington) Inhabitants; and Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History, UVA.

Despite recent positive developments, the Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan continues to move forward in the review process. The Smithsonian released its sixth plan, Plan F, which would, like the others before it, demolish the Quadrangle Historic District including the Haupt Garden and the Carlhian-designed pavilions. Additional hearings are expected before any final decision is made.



**COMING THIS FALL!**

**A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR GCA CLUBS AND CLUB MEMBERS**  
**ON THE ROAD WITH GCA**

In 2017-2018 the GCA is offering the following special educational opportunities to all 200 clubs and their members. We are pleased to expand opportunities to visit GCA Headquarters in NYC and provide an array of educational programs related to our purpose.

Watch for an email in August, announcing that registrations have opened. The GCA will take care of all of the details concerning the specific event and you'll handle your travel arrangements. Make it a day trip, or more! We hope to see you "On the Road with GCA."

**GCA HEADQUARTERS - NYC**

- 10/19/17 - Starting an Environmental Film Festival
- 10/31/17 - Central Park Celebration
- 6/08/18 - Exploring the High Line
- 6/15/18 - For the Birds: Audubon on Display

**WASHINGTON, DC**

- 3/19/18 - Advocating for Trees at Casey Trees Headquarters
- 5/11/18 - Cultivating America's Gardens, Smithsonian Tour

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

- 3/08/18 - Longwood Gardens Tour

**BOSTON, MA**

- 5/18/18 - Botany Boot Camp at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum

**CHICAGO, IL**

- 9/20/18 - Windy City Whirlwind in Downtown Chicago
- 9/21/18 - Urban Harvest, Shakespeare Garden, and Chicago Botanic Garden

**AUSTIN, TX**

- 4/04/18 - Lady Bird's Legacy and GCA's Native Plants Programs

**Learn more about the GCA, and have fun doing it!**

**2017**  **2018**



## Timeless Forms Inspired By Nature



**Stephen Procter Ceramics**  
stephenprocter.com • Brattleboro, Vermont

TRAVEL WITH  PHS



### Visit the Gardens of Devon and Cornwall

April 29 – May 6, 2018

Devon and Cornwall are often mentioned in one breath. Visit private and public gardens to see the vast array of what fills England's "West Country," famous for its rugged coastline and milder weather, with a wealth of beautiful gardens, rare plants and trees. Learn about the history and culture of the land from those who love and care for it.

**Gardens of Provence, France**  
June 2018

**Gardens of South Africa**  
November 2018

Contact Suzanne Betts at  
sbetts@pennhort.org or  
call 215.988.8819.

# BEAUTIFUL TREES MAKE A HOUSE A HOME.

We're Bartlett Tree Experts, a 100+ year old tree and shrub care company with global reach and local roots. We provide expert, attentive service, a safety-first record and a range of services that includes:

- Tree & Shrub Pruning
- Fertilization & Soil Care
- Cabling & Bracing
- Insect & Disease Management



Call 877.BARTLETT (877.227.8538) or visit [BARTLETT.COM](http://BARTLETT.COM)  

Charleston (2)  
Delray Beach  
Martha's Vineyard  
Nantucket  
Naples  
New Orleans (2)

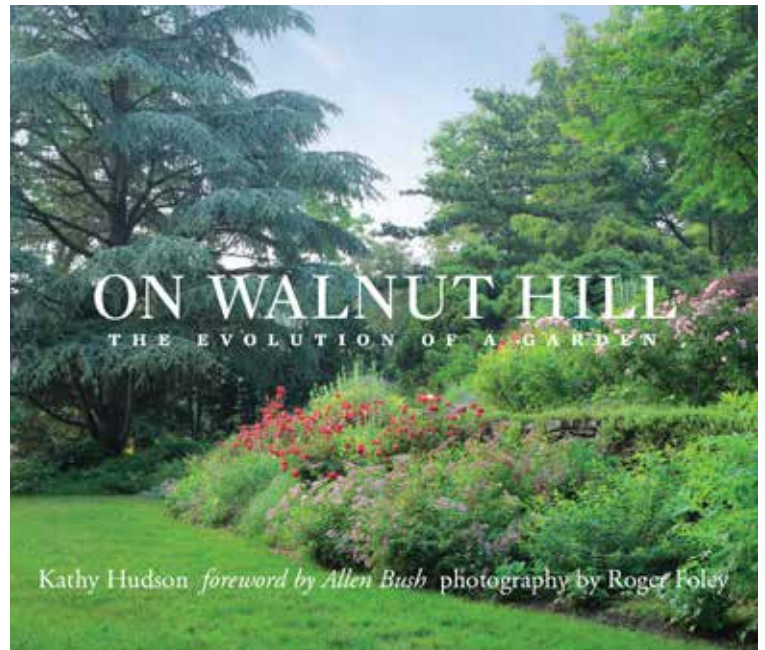
  
**CHARLESTON  
SHOE CO.**

St. Petersburg  
San Sebastian, Spain  
Sarasota  
Savannah  
Spring Lakes, NJ  
The Villages  
Vero Beach

*We loved being with you  
in Baltimore at the  
2017 GCA  
Annual Meeting!!*

Visit us year round  
at any one of our  
15 locations!

Call us at 855.996.7463  
or visit  
[charlestonshoeco.com!](http://charlestonshoeco.com)

**ON WALNUT HILL**  
THE EVOLUTION OF A GARDEN

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

Featuring the Baltimore garden of A.C. and Penney Hubbard

*Congratulations, Baltimore, for hosting the  
2017 GCA Annual Meeting*

[onwalnuthill.com](http://onwalnuthill.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

*Florentine Gloves*


COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA


Direct importers of fine Italian  
formal kidskin gloves for ladies and gentlemen.  
Affordable prices and highest quality.



Serving Debutantes & their families since 2002

[www.florentinegloves.com](http://www.florentinegloves.com)  
803.790.7221



**PENNOYER  NEWMAN**  
DISTINCTIVE GARDEN POTS CAST FROM ESTATE ORIGINALS

200 LEXINGTON AVENUE (AT 32ND STREET) • FOURTH FLOOR, SUITE 416 • NEW YORK, NY 10016  
TO ORDER CALL 212/839-0500 • FAX 212/839-0501 • [WWW.PENNOYERNEWMAN.COM](http://WWW.PENNOYERNEWMAN.COM)

# Maryland in May

ANNUAL MEETING 2017

Photo by Loan Tran



# Front and Center

If someone were to tell you you'd be spending three days at a meeting, in a large hotel ballroom with 600 (mostly) women, in, say, Baltimore, or Rochester, or Minneapolis, how many of you would sign up in a heartbeat? The thought may not sound appealing, but *only* if you've never attended a GCA Annual Meeting.

Annual meetings, on the whole, provide fascinating glimpses into the GCA. What's more, every meticulously orchestrated nanosecond of any given annual meeting is deliberately planned and seamlessly executed. The thousands of moving parts and pieces—from signage to scarves and trips to workshops—translate into a positively infectious experience. Each step of the way for this year's meeting in Baltimore was guided by Zone VI Annual Meeting chairs (pictured on the following page, bottom, left) Catherine Lawson, St. George's Garden Club; Alexandra Secor, Garden Club of Twenty; and Lisa Frulla, Perennial Garden Club, and the hundreds of volunteers who attended to every detail.

Business meetings, in particular, are designed to provide an overview of the GCA, introducing club delegates to the breadth and reach of the GCA through reports by GCA leaders. Business meetings are also an opportunity to hear some of the country's most fascinating game-changers. GCA Honorary Member Will Baker, CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the official welcome speaker, discussed the very real threats not only to this vital watershed but also to clean water everywhere. The mere presence of GCA scholarship speaker, Dr. Ari Novy, executive director of the US Botanic Garden, reinforced the significance of this important initiative. Keynote speakers Adam Gross, architect and champion of a revitalized Baltimore, and ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox brought fascinating perspectives to some of our biggest challenges. The GCA's four new honorary members were also inducted.

The culmination of an annual meeting is the Awards Dinner. This year ten recipients were presented GCA medals for their important work throughout the world. New friends and old, steeped in the spirit of the GCA, filled the hotel's grand ballroom for this memorable event.

Ultimately, annual meetings are about camaraderie, friendship, and the power of association—and the energy and excitement that only happen when 600+ like-minded people gather with a shared purpose—in this case the noble purpose of the GCA.



Caroline Moser



Eloise Carson



Eloise Carson



Sarah Salomon



# Behind the Scenes

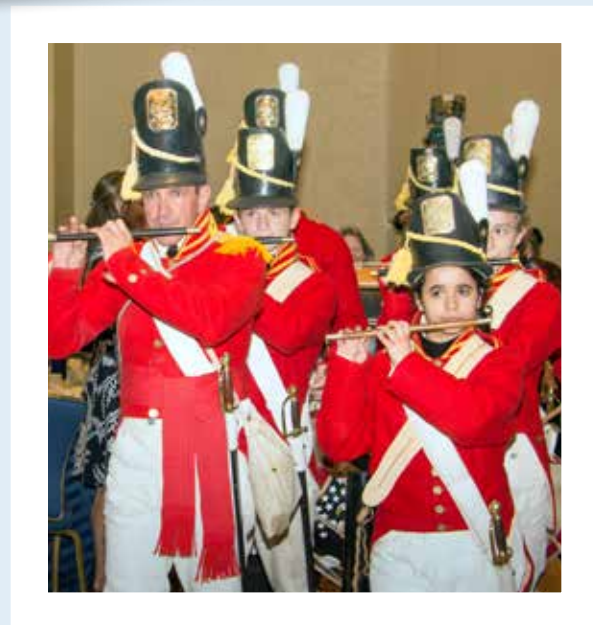


*by Gay Legg, St. George's Garden Club,  
AM 2017 Staging Co-chair*

We thought everything was under control—after six years of planning, thousands of emails, and scores of meetings, all the pieces had come together. It was Day Two, Friday night, of the 2017 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, *Maryland in May*. It had already rained.

Two days earlier, as the Baltimore waterfront sparkled in the sun, we had checked the final plan at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel: 92 pages of “BEOs” (banquet event orders—who knew?) documenting every table, every napkin noted with a specific fold, every water station, and easel. More than 300 volunteers knew their assignments. Committee exhibits showcasing the vital work of the GCA were in place. Boutique vendors were eager to sell. Over a thousand alliums had been grown, dried, and painted for “star-spangled” decorations. Buses knew their routes and chase cars were set. Gardens had been mulched. Six hundred tote bags were stuffed, ready for delegates from across the country who had traveled to “Charm City” in the “Land of Pleasant Living.”

Our pre-trips went off without a hitch, along with a welcome reception on Thursday evening. Friday events began with GCA President Anne Copenhaver issuing a warm welcome and introducing our impressive speakers. Luncheon and GCA-centric workshops came next. Delegates also learned iPhone photography, sustainable flower arranging, and bonsai pruning, followed by dinner at private clubs. We hadn't lost anyone. We were halfway through!



Why, then, was a volunteer with a horrified expression on her face standing at the door of our meeting room at 8:00 Friday evening, waving a piece of paper in her hand? “Guess what’s happening tomorrow morning that we didn’t know about?” She announced, “There is a 5K running race taking place, and at 6:00 a.m. the police are shutting down the streets in front of the hotel!”

Moments of frantic figuring took place: how long would it take the slowest participants to walk 3.2 miles? Volunteers for the 6:30 a.m. shift would be delayed. Our speakers were scheduled to arrive—was there a back route to the hotel? We re-grouped. We sent out emails. We made arrangements. We had become a team in blue aprons. *We could handle it.*

We still had the Star-Spangled Awards Dinner to go! The dried allium fireworks centerpieces were resplendent. The Fife and Drum Corps had marched perfectly. Dessert was on the way. Was that smoke rising from Table 26? Were the fireworks on fire? A votive too close? GCA ladies just emptied their water glasses! *They handled it!*

GCA annual meetings reinforce the benefit of community and showcase the talent needed to pull it all off. Every job requires a different skill set: some excel as project managers, others are the ones who follow through. Some are the creative forces, others are good at tracking details. And someone has to remember the corkscrew at the end of the day to celebrate a job well done!

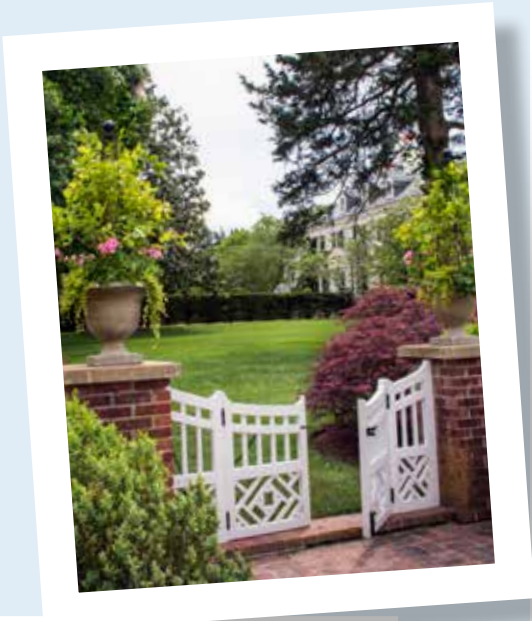
The real rewards are the friendships that form at annual meetings. Reinforced over the years, they knit together a national network of GCA club members who “can do!” At the end of the meeting, one delegate said, “I don’t ever want to miss an annual meeting! We’ve got to work for a committee—we’ve got to go national!” See you in San Francisco for AM 2018, and in Boston for AM 2019. Their team members were in Baltimore shadowing us—they’ll be ready!



Loan Tran



# Out and About



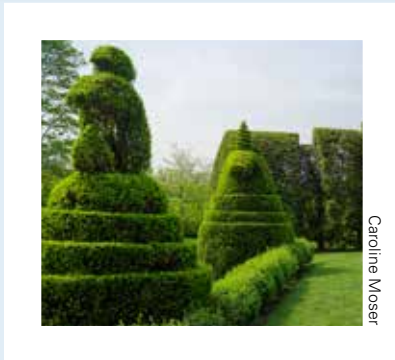
Deborah Fitzgerald



Deborah Fitzgerald



Deborah Fitzgerald



Caroline Moser

All photos on pages 18–22 and pages 24–25 by Linder Suthers unless otherwise indicated



# Passing the Gavel



The official GCA gavel, passed by President Anne Copenhaver to Dede Petri at the 2017 Annual Meeting, was first given by former GCA President Natalie Wells Peters (Mrs. Harry T. Peters) during her term, 1944-1947. Photo by Linder Suthers



Five champions of the GCA were at the 2017 Annual Meeting. From left, former GCA presidents: Jan Pratt (1995-97); Joan George (2009-11); Katie Heins (2013-15); Ann Frierson (2001-03); and Marian Hill (2011-13). Photo by Linder Suthers

Passing the gavel, according to *Roberts Rules of Order*, is a time-honored tradition. With its roots in medieval England, it is speculated that the “gavel” refers to a mason’s tool, a setting maul that came into use as a way to maintain order.

Throughout her presidency Anne Copenhaver led the GCA with wisdom, unerring vision, and her signature steel magnolia style. Not one to shy away from a problem that needed solving or a challenge waiting for a champion, Anne reminded us that “together we make important things happen.” Stewardship, leadership, and friendship are the ideas and ideals that characterized her tenure. At the conclusion of the business portion of the Annual Meeting, with her Southern elegance and grace, Anne passed the GCA gavel, adorned with allium, wax flower, and rosemary, to her friend and successor, Dede Petri, signifying that a new administration begins this July. As the gavel was passed, five former presidents watched from the audience, each a vital part of the GCA’s continuing 104-year story.

“Dede is generous of spirit, fun, always has a smile at the ready, and has the intellect and energy to lead the GCA forward in paths yet uncharted,” observed Anne, noting that their “friendship goes back 20 years and knows no bounds.” Dede, who has worked closely with Anne, promises equally compelling leadership as she takes the helm as the GCA’s 42nd president.

“Those doughty GCA founders knew what they were doing,” Dede observed in her acceptance speech. “Can we keep up with them? Can we have the same impact in our times as they did in theirs? Can the GCA remain significant and important in an age when tweeting has nothing to do with those birds in our backyard?” Her answer? A resounding *YES!*

“Those doughty GCA founders knew what they were doing. Can we keep up with them? Can we have the same impact in our times as they did in theirs? Can the GCA remain significant and important in an age when tweeting has nothing to do with those birds in our backyard?”

Keynote Speaker: Adam Gross, FAIA

# “Designs that Enrich Our World”



Adam Gross is an architect noted for designing public spaces in major cities, planning universities around the world, and working on famous historic facilities. But he's also working in areas where architects are rarely seen. Gross related his experiences in his keynote address, explaining that when he was asked by Ronald Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University (JHU), to visit the pastor of a small church in East Baltimore, an area under scrutiny after the unrest in the city in April 2015, he of course agreed. Arriving with the impression

that the church needed renovation, Gross was told by the pastor, Dr. Donté Hickman Sr., that the project he had in mind was bigger than the building—he was looking for an architect and planner to take on the whole neighborhood.

Although the city and JHU have been working for more than 15 years to redevelop an 88-acre area in East Baltimore anchored by the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Pastor Hickman wanted that redevelopment effort to spread closer to his church. JHU's president had a vision too—to connect the hospital campus with JHU's Homewood campus, a few miles across town but a world away. Gross described seeing the aerial perspective and realizing the connection could flow through Pastor Hickman's neighborhood, creating new access for jobs and commerce.

As a principal of Ayers Saint Gross (ASG), headquartered in Baltimore, with offices in Washington, DC, and Arizona, Gross approached this project

as he would any other—by listening to what people want. ASG organized meetings, and what they heard was that people in this impoverished area wanted what everyone wants in a community—a market, a school, a green space.

*“Successful master planning is about creating a long-term vision to inform short-term decisions—and not the other way around.”*

Gross used this analogy, “Every house is a small city, and every city is a large house,” to suggest we think about “systems”—infrastructure with green spaces—as the HVAC system for cities. He also spoke about detrimental consequences that, for example, result from diverting rainwater from “earth catch” into pipes and sewers, and made worse by increased hard surface construction. His point: “No single use can be considered in isolation.”

## “Good architects are practical dreamers, balancing the visionary with the realistic.”

ASG is working on three interrelated projects in Baltimore: the Inner Harbor 2.0 Master Plan, the National Aquarium's Waterfront Campus Plan, and Pratt Street redevelopment. Waterfront revitalization began in the 1970s, which turned abandoned piers and neglected warehouses into a showplace for retail, restaurants, and attractions with a seven-mile promenade. This revival continues to evolve, expanding to Harbor East—the Annual Meeting site.

These projects all create better connections between the waterfront and the city: a walled cement fountain was dismantled and berms were removed between the sidewalk and Pratt Street, creating bioswales with street trees. ASG's design adds new retail to commercial buildings for a mixed-use environment, which enlivens the pedestrian edge and adds practical tax income to help finance redevelopment. At the National Aquarium, ASG's plan includes innovative floating wetlands and the reintroduction of tidal marsh species to the waterfront's edge—even encouraging oyster beds that filter the water.

Whether their projects are envisioning public spaces, building university innovation centers, redeveloping waterfronts, or creating sustainable landscapes, Gross and ASG hold to their mission: “to engage people and places to create designs that enrich our world.” Gross's presentation filled delegates with ideas, enthusiasm, and inspiration to enrich *their* world.

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

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Alan Cox

# “Ethnobotany and the Search for Cures”

“How many of you are touched by ALS? By Alzheimer’s?” ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox asked the packed audience at the beginning of his keynote address. Nearly every hand shot up, indicating that almost all 600+ delegates in the room were in some way touched by one of these dreaded diseases.

At the top of his field, Cox is on a mission to unlock hidden secrets from plants. He has assembled some of the world’s finest scientific minds to research treatments for the neurodegenerative diseases of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson’s, and Alzheimer’s at the Brain Chemistry Labs—part of the Institute for EthnoMedicine in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he and his team study patterns of wellness and disease from indigenous people. The Brain Chemistry Labs, a unique nonprofit, is a 28-institution collaborative and research consortium with one common goal: to search for cures.

...

In the 1980s Cox found what would eventually be a promising new approach to the treatment of HIV. Traditional healers on the island of Samoa taught him to use the bark of a mamala tree (*Homalanthus nutans*) to treat patients with hepatitis. Through collaboration with the National Cancer Institute, Prostratin was eventually discovered from the Samoan potion, which has been effective in protecting human cells against the AIDS virus. Cox ensured that the Samoans would receive profits from Prostratin in a benefit-sharing agreement.

Since 2006 Cox’s energy has focused on neurodegenerative diseases, particularly a puzzling paralytic disease found on the island of Guam—Guamanian ALS/PDC (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/parkinsonism-dementia complex). Its symptoms resemble those of ALS, Alzheimer’s, and Parkinson’s, and Cox thought the disease might be a



The room grew silent when one of the most poignant questions was asked: “How can I get into one of your studies?” With warmth, hope, and promise, he answered, simply, “See me later.”

type of neurological Rosetta Stone. “If we could figure how [it] kills up to 25 percent of adults in some villages,” he theorized, “we might gain insights into brain diseases, especially those with a common link: protein accumulation in the brain.” He discovered that a neurotoxin in the seeds of the cycad tree (*Cycas micronesica*), the amino acid BMAA, is produced by cyanobacteria in the plant’s roots. Guam’s Chamorro people make flour tortillas and dumplings from cycad seeds, which exposes them to the toxin. Furthermore, a delicacy in their diet is the flying fox (giant bats). The flying foxes eat the cycad seeds and accumulate the toxin; the Chamorro eat the flying foxes, and the toxic cycle continues.

Cyanobacteria, Cox explains, have been around for billions of years and are believed to have created earth’s oxygen atmosphere. Once known as blue-green algae, they grow in deserts, reservoirs, oceans, and lakes. Consumption in large quantities can be deadly, and BMAA exposure over time causes insidious effects. The Chamorro call it *Lytico-bodig*, or “listless paralysis”; it occurs at a rate of up to 100 times higher than the rate of ALS elsewhere. “What we found was very illuminating,” he explains. “This particular neurotoxin appeared in the brain tissue of the Chamorro people who died of Guamanian ALS/PDC, but not in the brain tissue of healthy control patients.”

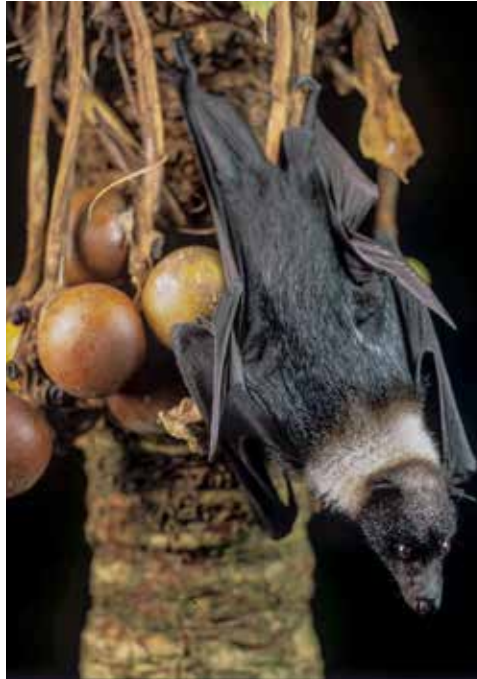
Until recently the search for Alzheimer’s drugs has focused on amyloid protein accumulation in the brain, which manifests as plaque buildup; it is a well-established hallmark of Alzheimer’s. Over 400 clinical trials in the last decade have centered around ways to prevent or attack amyloid deposits in an effort to slow the disease’s progression. But Cox says that as recently as February of this year the 413th clinical trial failed, a devastating blow to the research community.

“At Brain Chemistry Labs,” explains Cox, “our focus has been on the molecular mechanisms that cause proteins to tangle.” Think of a transport system within nerve cells organized like railroad tracks—food molecules, cell parts, and other vital material travel along the tracks in an orderly fashion. But, in patients with Alzheimer’s and several other neurodegenerative diseases, the proteins collapse into twisted strands called tangles. Eventually these tangles cause neuronal transport highways to fall apart; nutrients and other key supplies can no longer move through cells. But a surprise discovery by Cox’s Australian collaborators found that the naturally occurring amino acid L-serine, when added to cell culture, can stop neurons from dying.

• • •

Ethnobotany requires several disciplines of study: botany, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. By definition, ethnobotanists respect the traditional plant lore of cultures who have lived off the land for centuries. To continue connecting the dots in the mystery, Cox found that in a remote Japanese village on the island of Okinawa, brain diseases like ALS and Alzheimer’s are largely absent. In Ogimi, known as “longevity village” for its high number of centenarians, Cox’s team discovered that the population’s consumption of tofu and seaweed contains up to four times the amount of L-serine than in a typical American diet. Think tofu, sweet potatoes, and bacon—all foods high in L-serine.

Now they were getting somewhere. To see if they could confirm BMAA as the culprit, Cox’s team, and colleagues at the Miami Brain Bank, conducted experiments at the Behavioural Science Foundation in St. Kitts, in the Caribbean, where exotic vervet monkeys are prolific. In addition to their regular diet, the monkeys were fed spiked fruit: some received bananas laced with the neurotoxin BMAA, others received fruit with only L-serine, others got fruit containing both, and a control group received bananas with only rice flour. After nearly five months, the tissue samples of the vervets’ brains and central nervous systems revealed brain tangles and beta-amyloid plaques in those who were given BMAA,



Flying foxes, the world’s largest bats and a culinary delicacy among the Chamorro people of Guam, accumulate the neurotoxin BMAA when they forage on cycad seeds. Photo courtesy of Paul Alan Cox

but vervets who were given both BMAA and L-serine showed just half the symptoms of those given BMAA alone. This discovery was a potentially gigantic leap in their search for new drugs for neurodegenerative diseases.

Because of the potential impact of what Cox and his team have found, their clinical trials have been fast-tracked by the FDA. A Phase I clinical trial demonstrated that ALS patients generally tolerated well up to 30 grams daily of L-serine. In early 2017 the Brain Chemistry Labs received FDA approval for two advanced clinical trials of L-serine. They are currently collaborating with Dartmouth’s Geisel School of Medicine on early-stage Alzheimer’s research. A second advanced clinical study of L-serine for ALS patients will soon follow.

Particularly worrisome in the possible connection between cyanobacteria and brain disease is climate change; an uptick in certain neurodegenerative diseases has been noted where cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in size. Researchers have reported that disproportionate clusters of their ALS patients live near cyanobacteria algae blooms—around the cyanobacterially contaminated lakes in New England and around a compromised estuary in southern France.

• • •

The GCA is unique in the bonds that tie us. We are, fundamentally, a group defined by fellowship and compassion. Cox’s presentation resonated and emotion filled the room; he received two standing ovations, and during a brief Q&A delegates lined both aisles waiting their turn. The room grew silent when one of the most poignant questions was asked: “How can I get into one of your studies?” Fellowship and compassion also define Paul Alan Cox. With warmth, hope, and promise, he answered, simply, “See me later.”

—Madeline Mayhood,  
James River Garden Club, Zone VII

# 2017 Treasurer's Report

Adapted from the presentation by GCA Treasurer Cindy Hilson



Treasurer Cindy Hilson reporting on the financial well-being of the GCA. Photo by Linder Suthers

We are all here today because the GCA matters. Safeguarding our heritage involves securing our financial future, and stewardship is the foremost objective of the Finance Committee.

For the fiscal year ending 2016 we had operating revenue of \$2,200,352, including portfolio distributions of \$1,015,945. The primary sources of revenue were \$1,067,040 in membership dues; \$57,074 in contributions to the General Fund; and \$50,123 from *Bulletin* advertising and miscellaneous income.

Our operating expenses for the year were \$1,948,830 and represent the functional costs of running GCA Headquarters. These operating costs are allocated among supporting services such as management and general operations; and program services, including scholarship, medals, civic projects, and community education.

Total organizational revenues, including operating revenues, contributions, decline in the value of our investments, annual meeting registration fees, committee event registrations, and the portfolio payout of

\$1,318,582 tallied just over \$3.8 million. Total organizational expenses, including operating costs, committee expenses, scholarships, and education programs aggregated \$3.7 million, for a net surplus of \$140,251.

The GCA received a clean opinion from our auditors. The 990 is available on the website, and a copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request.

For the fiscal year 2016 our investment portfolio was valued at just over \$28 million, a \$1.4 million decline from the prior year, consistent with the fluctuation in the overall US market. Our investment philosophy reflects a conservative and diversified strategy and a long-term approach. As of March 31, 2017, the portfolio improved to \$31.6 million, consistent with the rally in the overall market.

Based on our Investment Policy, we may draw 4.75 percent annually from our portfolio: \$1,318,582 for fiscal year 2016, the majority of which was transferred to the General Fund with the balance credited to funds that benefit scholarships, awards, and other special programs. Aside from funding general operations, the performance of the portfolio is key to funding the GCA's philanthropic programs. Last year \$300,000 was available from our scholarship endowment of nearly \$6 million. Augmented by current gifts, we awarded a record \$335,500 in scholarships. Other awards include \$50,000 to the three Founders Fund community projects and nearly \$5,000 to Scenic America to fight billboard blight.

In closing, please be assured that the GCA is financially fit and in a stable position to continue its commitments to conservation and education, share our knowledge of gardening and horticulture, and support the inspiring work of its membership.

## The Second Century Campaign

Reminding the audience that healthy finances are as critical to the future of organizations as they are to families, Hilary Salatich, chairman of the Second Century Campaign (SCC) ad hoc committee, said, "The GCA relies on income generated primarily from member dues and a draw on the return of the investment portfolio." The SCC is in the initial phase of the campaign and beginning to reach out to major donors. She described the funds that will benefit from the campaign:

- **GCA Endowment Fund.** Growing this fund, which already supplies about half of our revenue, will ensure that volunteers, our lifeblood, have the resources to make a real impact in their communities.
- **Blackburn Conservation & National Affairs Fund.** This fund covers activities of the Conservation and NAL committees. Increasing funding will allow the GCA to remain at the forefront of advocacy for clean air and water, native plants, and sustainable agriculture.
- **Cudahy Education Fund.** This fund ensures that annual meetings continue to offer compelling speakers and programs.
- **Partners for Plants Fund.** Now 25 years old, with 50 projects nationwide, growing this fund will allow these club projects to flourish.

The SCC ad hoc committee members are Katie Heins, GCA president (2013-15), Stony Brook GC; Crissy Cherry, GCA vice president, Lake Forest GC; Katie Downes, GC of Englewood; Kay Klunder, Broadmoor GC; Debby Melnyk, Late Bloomers GC; and Kathy Metz, Millbrook GC. In thanking the delegates for "all you have already done and will continue to do," Hilary said, "ideas for advancing the success of the campaign are welcome. Let us hear from you!"

One of the GCA's highest accolades, honorary GCA membership, is awarded on the national level to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments in fields such as horticulture, botany, conservation, education, design, and gardening. Candidates are nominated by GCA clubs, and membership is limited; a maximum of four is selected each year. The process of evaluating and selecting honorary members is the responsibility of the Admissions Committee.



## Daniel J. Nadenicek

*Proposed by Peachtree Garden Club, Zone VIII*

Daniel Nadenicek, dean of the College of Environment & Design (CED) at the University of Georgia, has been a professional educator in landscape architecture for more than 25 years; his particular focus is on landscape architectural history and historic practice. In honoring Nadenicek, the GCA praised him for “dedicating his life to expanding the knowledge base of the landscape architecture profession.”

A fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Nadenicek has been dean of the CED and its Constance Knowles Draper Chair in Landscape Architecture since 2005. His recent achievements there include expanding study abroad opportunities; preparing students to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation; and identifying landscape solutions to “nature-deficit disorder” in children. Nadenicek has written extensively on garden history and the origins of landscape architecture.

“Dean Nadenicek is driven to know and understand the work of garden designers from the past and how the people of different cultures have interacted with their environments,” stated the GCA. “He is passionately concerned about incorporating these factors into projects today that reflect the best of design while protecting the landscape for succeeding generations.”



## Bruce Crawford

*Proposed by Stony Brook Garden Club, Zone IV*

In his 12-year tenure as director of the century-old, 180-acre Rutgers Gardens, Bruce Crawford has used his diverse talents to transform the official botanic garden of Rutgers University into a center that educates students, intrigues the community, and engages children in nature. Under his leadership Rutgers Gardens has become a hub of learning and a resource center for gardeners of all abilities with programs for home gardeners and professionals alike. He opened the gardens to the broader community with a weekly farmers market, an annual plant sale, and a children’s gardening program. Additionally, he initiated both a volunteer sustainable agriculture program and a plant-breeding internship program. His master plan for Rutgers Gardens is centered around the study of plant development and their responses to geologic and geographic changes in the earth.

“Crawford understands the importance of collaboration and works with a broad range of organizations to spread the love of nature and make gardening attainable for all,” observed the GCA. “He has the ability to make even the most mundane plant utterly fascinating and speaks of plants with an easy familiarity, as if they were old friends.”

2017 GCA

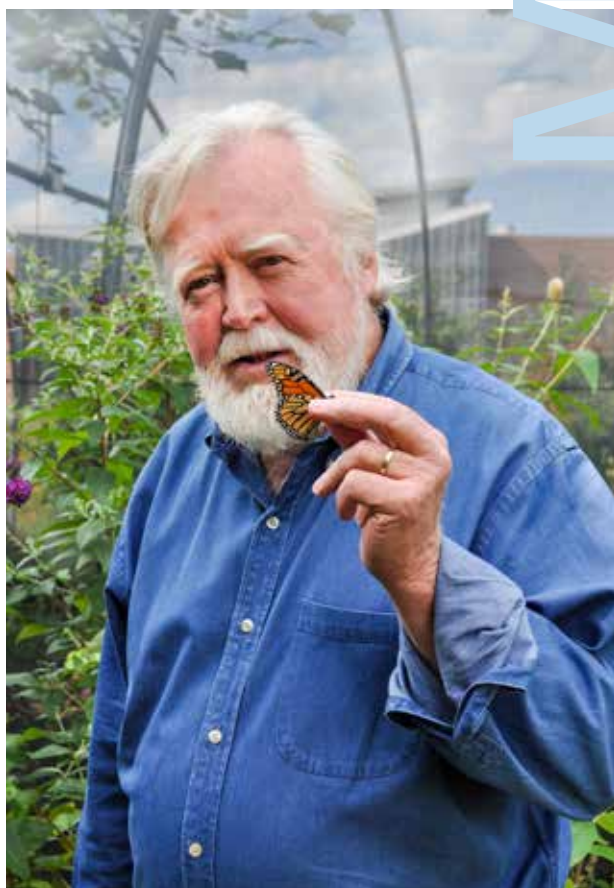
## Chip Taylor

*Proposed by Perennial Garden Club, Zone VI*

Orley “Chip” Taylor, long-time University of Kansas professor, founded Monarch Watch in 1992 as a network dedicated to the study and conservation of the monarch butterfly. Since then more than 1.3 million monarchs have been tagged by volunteers.

Taylor’s Monarch Watch has expanded. Because monarch habitats are declining at a rate of 6,000 acres per day in the US, the Monarch Waystation program was launched, which helps generate awareness and create habitats for this critically endangered butterfly; to date over 15,000 Monarch Waystations have been registered across the country. “Bring Back the Monarchs,” an outgrowth of the Monarch Waystation program, is a larger nationwide landscape restoration initiative that advocates restoring milkweed species, the monarch caterpillars’ major food source.

“Taylor was among the first to recognize the alarming decline of the monarch. His response was to mobilize the American public to meaningful action in one of the most successful citizen science efforts,” observed the GCA. “[He] has placed conservation and the survival of the monarch in the hands of every North American who owns or tends to a plot of land. This compelling conservation initiative has redefined gardening as essential to the survival of an iconic butterfly,” said the GCA.



Honorary

Members



## Susan Rademacher

*Proposed by Village Garden Club of Sewickley, Zone V*

Susan Rademacher, “a pioneer in parks conservancy,” is one of the country’s most highly regarded leaders in landscape history, parks planning, and restoration. In her position as parks curator for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the first of its kind in her field, Rademacher interprets and safeguards the landscape design of Pittsburgh’s historic parks through master planning and project design, as well as preserving, enhancing, and promoting their cultural significance. With some 1,700 acres to steward, Rademacher helped raise more than \$92 million to complete 17 major capital projects in an updated master plan for the city’s park system. Among those projects is the new cutting-edge Frick Environmental Center, a “living building,” educational hub, and gateway to the largest of Pittsburgh’s historic regional parks. Another undertaking has been the restoration of the modernist urban park Mellon Square in downtown Pittsburgh, the first garden plaza atop a parking structure.

Rademacher, observed the GCA, “balances respect for historic landscape design, best environmental practices, and the needs of today’s park users.”



**Floral Design Awards**  
**Dorothy Vietor Munger Award**  
Alexandra Secor  
Garden Club of Twenty,  
Zone VI, Class 4: Maryland  
Preakness Hats

**Harriet DeWaele Puckett  
Creativity Award**  
Eugenie Pavelic  
Greenwich Garden Club,  
Zone II, Class 2: Maryland  
on Screen and in Film

**Sandra Baylor Novice Floral  
Design Award**  
**Best in Show—Floral Design**  
Anne May  
Santa Fe Garden Club,  
Zone XII, Class 1: Maryland  
Writers and Musicians

**Photos from left to right:**  
Alexandra Secor and her  
award. Photo by Linder  
Suthers

Dedee O'Neil's awards.  
Photo by Loan Tran

At work at the Flower  
Show. Photo by Loan Tran

Carol Warner's Best in  
Show—Horticulture. Photo  
by Linder Suthers

**Horticulture Awards**  
**Catherine Beattie Medal**  
Freddy Shaw  
Garden Club of Twenty,  
Zone VI, Class 28:  
Container Collection

**Clarissa Willemssen  
Horticulture Propagation  
Award**  
Dedee O'Neil  
Akron Garden Club, Zone  
X, Class 29: Succulent  
Collection

**Rosie Jones Horticulture  
Award**  
Dedee O'Neil  
Akron Garden Club, Zone X,  
Class 30: Mother & Child  
Collection

**GCA Novice Award in  
Horticulture**  
Nancy Freeman  
The Virginia Beach Garden  
Club, Zone VII, Class 28:  
Container Collection

**Best in Show—Horticulture**  
Carol Warner  
Hardy Garden Club, Zone  
VI, Class 6: Perennials-  
Peony

**2017 Zone VI Annual Meeting  
Horticulture Sweepstakes  
Award**  
Garden Club of Twenty,  
Zone VI

**Photography Awards**  
**Photography Creativity Award**  
Deborah Fitzgerald  
Garden Club of Cleveland,  
Zone X, Class 4: Bright  
Stars

**Best in Show—Photography**  
Kate Fahey  
Four Counties Garden Club,  
Zone V, Class 1: Dawn's  
Early Light

**Botanical Arts Awards**  
**Botanical Arts Creativity  
Award**  
**Best in Show—Botanical Arts**  
Diane Hopper  
Winchester-Clarke Garden  
Club, Zone VII, Class 2: Bay  
Bird

**Conservation and  
Education Awards**  
**Marion Thompson Fuller  
Brown Conservation Award**  
Chesapeake Conservancy  
and National Park Service  
Chesapeake Bay Office

**Founders Fund Award**  
**Bee Healthy Garden at  
Boys & Girls Clubs of  
Greater Milwaukee's Camp  
Whitcomb/Mason**, proposed  
by Kettle Moraine Garden  
Club, Zone XI, seconded by  
Lake Geneva Garden Club,  
Zone XI

**Runners-up**  
**Moon Terrace Learning  
Laboratory at the Santa Fe  
Botanical Garden**, proposed  
by Santa Fe Garden Club,  
Zone XII, seconded by  
The Portland Garden Club,  
Zone XII

**Project Dogwood: Staunton's  
Tradition Reborn**, proposed  
by The Augusta Garden  
Club, Zone VII, seconded  
by Albemarle Garden Club,  
Zone VII





# The 2017 GCA Medalists

*The Garden Club of America's national medals are awarded to those individuals who have distinguished themselves through their work in the fields of horticulture, botany, conservation, historic preservation, environmental protection, flower arrangement, landscape design, and literature. About the ten medalists for 2017, Awards Committee Chairman Laura Gregg says, "These are passionately determined and generous people with stories that will inspire you. They work hard, making the world quite literally a better place."*

*The Bulletin and ConWatch feature profiles of 2017 medalists in their current issues; additional profiles will be in upcoming Bulletin issues.*



**The 2017 Medalists at the Annual Meeting.** From left, back: Gilbert Grosvenor; Wendy Judge Paulson; Barbara Erickson on behalf of The Trustees of Reservations; Peter S. Wyse Jackson. Front: Amy Freitag; Jane Godshalk; Alice Walton; Margize Howell, co-president, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, on behalf of Richard Jenrette; and Andrea Wulf. Photo by Linder Suthers

## ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

**Amy Freitag**, *Upper Montclair, NJ*  
Member, *The Weeders, Zone V*

"For her inspiring leadership, expertise, and creative vision in landscape conservation design, civic improvement, and historic preservation that have given life to environmentally challenged areas."

*Proposed by The Weeders, Zone V*

## KATHARINE THOMAS CARY MEDAL

**Jane Godshalk**, *Haverford, PA*  
Member, *Four Counties Garden Club, Zone V*

"For an enthusiastic, passionate, and generous teacher who continuously expands her own creative expertise, shares her knowledge, and inspires everyone in the world of floral design."

*Proposed by Four Counties Garden Club, Zone V*

## FRANCES K. HUTCHINSON MEDAL

**Gilbert M. Grosvenor**, *Hume, VA*

"For his distinguished service to conservation, education, and journalism through the *National Geographic* magazine, *Kids* magazine, and the Geographic Educational Program; and for his lifetime advocacy for planet Earth."

*Proposed by Garden Club of Chevy Chase, Zone VI*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEDAL

**Richard Hampton Jenrette**, *New York, NY*

"In recognition of unequaled contributions to historic preservation through leadership, scholarship, and impeccable restorations of historically significant properties and their surrounding landscapes and gardens; and for exceptional vision in establishing Classical American Homes Preservation Trust."

*Proposed by Green Spring Valley Garden Club, Zone VI*

## MARGARET DOUGLAS MEDAL

**Wendy Judge Paulson**, *Chicago, IL*

"In grateful recognition of a lifetime of service to conservation through education and preservation projects that celebrate our fragile and beautiful natural world."

*Proposed by Ridgefield Garden Club, Zone II*

## ELIZABETH CRAIG WEAVER PROCTOR MEDAL

**The Trustees of Reservations**, *Beverly, MA*

"In recognition of 125 years of preservation, stewardship, and conservation of historic and natural landscapes; and for educational conservation and preservation projects that inspire initiatives worldwide."

*Proposed by North Shore Garden Club of Massachusetts, Zone I*

## CYNTHIA PRATT LAUGHLIN MEDAL

**Kristine McDivitt Tompkins**, *San Francisco, CA*

"For unparalleled work in protecting and restoring millions of acres of Patagonian wildness and creating parklands where nature, scientific research, and human enterprise exist in harmony."

*Proposed by Corbin Harwood, Garden Club of Chevy Chase, Zone VI*

## MEDAL OF HONOR

**Alice Walton**, *Bentonville, AK*

"In recognition of her vision to celebrate the American spirit at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, uniting the power of art with the beauty of nature in the Ozark woodlands."

*Proposed by Little Rock Garden Club, Zone IX*

## SARAH CHAPMAN FRANCIS MEDAL

**Andrea Wulf**, *London, England*

"For meticulous historical research revealing the gardening lives of the Founding Fathers and early environmentalist explorers, for a willingness to follow in their footsteps, and for writing widely appealing books that educate scores of readers on gardening history and our ecosystem."

*Proposed by Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, Zone VII*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

**Peter S. Wyse Jackson**, *St. Louis, MO*

Member, *The Garden Club of St. Louis, Zone XI*

"For lifelong leadership in plant discovery and conservation, world-renowned advancement of horticulture, and guidance of major botanical gardens to prominence locally and internationally."

*Proposed by Ladue Garden Club, Zone XI*

# Amy Freitag

## A Medalist for Today—2017 Achievement Medal



Mother and daughter recipients of the GCA Achievement Medal: Amy and her mother, Christine Freitag, who received the award in 2007.

*Amy Freitag has devoted her professional and volunteer life to conservation projects, historic restoration, preservation of green spaces, environmental mitigation, and award-winning architecture and landscape design projects. She is the executive director of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a New York City-based philanthropic foundation that supports social, environmental, and cultural causes across the globe. Concurrently, she launched the Gotham Project to address open space issues in the city's boroughs and started a campaign to rehabilitate its most neglected areas.*

*Amy's GCA roots run deep. Her mother, Christine Freitag, served as GCA president (1993-1995), and both her mother and grandmother are from the Akron Garden Club; Amy is a member of The Weeders. "I was honored beyond measure to receive this incredible award," Amy told the Bulletin in a recent conversation.*

### **Tell us a little about your background.**

I grew up in Akron surrounded by gorgeous farmland and magnificent protected parkland. This shaped my appreciation for conservation, preservation, and civic participation. But my passion for conservation is most attributable to my parents, especially my mom. She was deeply engaged in the preservation of the scenic, historic, and ecological assets of our community, and my dad was her partner in crime. As soon as I was old enough, I was encouraged to volunteer. My parents were wildly enthusiastic and encouraged my involvement with nature.

### **How has the GCA shaped your life?**

Akron Garden Club was baked into this equation—how I was raised, what became important—from both my mother and grandmother. My mom found a voice in national affairs and conservation through the GCA. Would she have been as ardent and well informed on issues like strip mining and PCBs had she not been on the NAL and Conservation committees? I don't think so. Like generations of women before her, she found an ideal outlet for her leadership skills with the GCA.

When Mom called me to tell me she had been asked to take on the multi-year commitment culminating in the GCA presidency, I had no idea what her journey would mean. Over the next six years I became keenly aware of the vast scope of the GCA's activities. I met amazing women who were her close colleagues and mentors. I came to understand the power and influence of the GCA. It was fantastic to see the opportunity it afforded my mom to gain a national voice on a wide range of environmental issues.

### **Was your career trajectory connected to your exposure to the GCA?**

Yes. Without a doubt. I finished my graduate work at UPenn in landscape architecture and historic preservation and began my open space and parks career in Fairmount Park [in Philadelphia]. I was surrounded by many of the women and clubs that had been a huge part of Mom's GCA network. I was invited to join The Weeders and suddenly I was surrounded by remarkable horticulturists and conservationists—super-smart women with an intense passion for plants and the planet. I learned something new at every meeting.

The chance to work in and around the Central Park Conservancy and the Prospect Park Alliance made a move to New York highly enticing. I now live in a wonderful town 12 miles from Manhattan with enough room to raise chickens and bees. I miss being close to my wonderful Weeders, but I manage an occasional propagation workshop and have enjoyed hosting them on tours of some of my projects such as the High Line, various community gardens, and Fort Tryon Park. I look forward to life being less busy, with more time to garden and attend club meetings. Until then, my family and I cherish frequent trips to Ohio and spending time with family in a landscape we love.

A lush garden scene featuring rows of tall purple flowers, likely Salvia, in the foreground. The background is filled with various green plants and smaller blue and white flowers, creating a vibrant and detailed garden setting.

*Dorrance Hill  
Hamilton*



A GCA Medalist  
Who Saved a Garden



View to the North Pergola, 2014. Photo by Millicent Harvey Photography, courtesy of the Blue Garden

**Previous page:** The restored garden filled with salvia, lavender, bachelor buttons, balloon flowers, and artemisia. Photo by Millicent Harvey Photography, courtesy of the Blue Garden

For her sustained commitment to the preservation of American landscapes and gardens, passionate support to the field of horticulture, and visionary leadership in conservation, Dorrance Hamilton (1928-2017) was awarded the GCA Medal of Honor in 2015. In addition to being an ardent preservationist, she was an avid and accomplished gardener as well as a keen competitor at the Philadelphia Flower Show for nearly 30 years, racking up a staggering 2,000 blue ribbons for her various entries.

Recognizing the significance of Newport's

Blue Garden in the vernacular of American landscape design, Hamilton purchased the property in 2012 and set about restoring this significant New England garden. Her acquisition of this former Gilded Age property demonstrated her commitment to the historic and cultural restoration and preservation of unique American landscapes; the rebirth of the Blue Garden remains a testament to her prescience and forethought.

Hamilton assembled a who's who of landscape design for this ambitious project; historian Arleyn Levee and landscape architects from the



Restored pool with arcing fountain jets. Photo by Millicent Harvey Photography, courtesy of the Blue Garden

Cambridge, Massachusetts-based firm Reed Hilderbrand evaluated the site with their client fully engaged in the process. Using copies and photographs of the Olmsted

Brothers's original plans, along with a construction team, they set to work to restore the garden. A major challenge was evaluating the Olmsteds' original intent

and reconstructing it using 21st-century standards. Planting plans, dating from the early 1900s and housed at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, were involved and intricate; maintenance issues and the pressures of environmental responsibilities were also considered. The decision was made to create a sustainable and maintainable garden that recaptured the Olmsteds' vision—with a simplified palette. Dependability, drought tolerance, low maintenance, and length of bloom time became the new model for plant selection thanks to Reed Hilderbrand's reinterpretation.

At the completion of the Blue Garden's restoration in 2014, friends, dignitaries, and preservation and horticultural leaders gathered to celebrate the resurrection of this important landscape. They paid tribute to Hamilton's commitment, generosity, and vision in recapturing this significant part of Newport and the retrieval of this noteworthy piece of America's cultural history. With her sound aptitude for preservation, love of gardens, and powerful understanding of the impact her resources could have on communities, Hamilton recognized that the Blue Garden of the past could significantly impact generations of the future.

## The Blue Garden

Newport, Rhode Island, is famous for the magnificent homes built during the late 19th century's "Gilded Age." Many of these grand homes were accompanied by equally glorious gardens that were the result of imagination and craftsmanship rivaling the architectural designs of the homes they decorated. In 1908 Harriet and Arthur Curtiss James, whose fortune was made in copper mines and railroads, commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., of the nation's leading landscape firm, Olmsted Brothers, to develop the gardens of their 125-acre Newport property, Beacon Hill.

Similar to other Newport estates, Beacon Hill included a stately home, roads, walkways, a carriage house, and stables. Once installed, its formal garden became known as the Blue Garden—because of Harriet James's preference for a monochromatic horticultural palette of blues and purples. Designed in a cruciform shape with planting beds, strolling paths, and a square pool at the center of the cross, the Blue Garden had a theatrical quality to it. At the southwest end, an elevated pergola offered expansive views across the long pool, decorated with Persian-inspired blue tiles, and over the open lawn—the "plaisance"—to another elevated pergola. Set in a hollow and hidden behind a dense border of trees and shrubs, the exotic Blue Garden was a secret garden, a *hortus conclusus*. On August 15, 1913, it was officially opened with an extravagant society gala.

Harriet James, a member of the Newport Garden Club, hosted numerous meetings over the years in the Blue Garden, including a lecture in 1920 about native and foreign lilies. In 1929 the garden was a part of the Newport Flower Show. A fragrant, large-flowered yellow climbing rose was named "Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James" in her honor in 1932.

After the deaths of both Harriet and Arthur James in 1941, Beacon Hill, a labor-intensive responsibility, fell into disrepair. Eventually the mansion, devastated by fire in May 1967, was demolished and portions of the property were sold for residential development. As time passed, Harriet James's extraordinary sapphire-colored garden became lost under a thick covering of invasive trees and vines—awaiting rescue that did not come until 2012.

—Louise van Tartwijk,  
Washington Garden Club,  
Zone II



The sky reflected in the restored lily pond. Photo by Millicent Harvey Photography, courtesy of the Blue Garden



*Throughout her life, "Dodo," granddaughter of John Dorrance, who invented the process of condensing soup and became president of the Campbell Soup Company, used her considerable wealth to significantly transform organizations in whose missions she passionately believed. Among the many she supported were the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Hamilton Horticult, which houses plant competitions for the Philadelphia Flower Show. Following its restoration, the Blue Garden was documented in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens.*

# True Blue

The color of the sky and sea, blue is Mother Nature's way of celebrating her strength and power. Baby blue, cobalt, sapphire, periwinkle, and navy signal just the beginning of blue's gigantic range. In its various incarnations, blue is said to symbolize loyalty, strength, wisdom, and trust. Often associated with depth and stability, blue also is known to slow metabolism and have a calming effect on the psyche. It's no wonder that blue is the color most chosen to integrate into a design.

Blue flowers—in celestial hues of the forget-me-not, the deepest indigo of a climbing clematis, electric azures of delphiniums, and a sea holly's dusty gray-blue—suggest an almost limitless range. Whether annuals or perennials, grasses, trees, shrubs, or vines, blue is one of nature's strongest statements.

• • •

My mother missed the lilacs, lavender, and lupine—always in blues—from the landscapes of her New England childhood that she could never quite master in her Southern garden. But she was happy to discover new friends in agapanthus, nigella, and amsonia, who didn't mind the hot sun. She loved landscaping with blue in her garden. Her containers were always stuffed with purple and blue pansies and Johnny jump-ups in spring that gave way to great chunks of blue petunias, salvia, and ageratum when summer arrived. Her beds and borders were full of blue hydrangeas, allium, and bachelor buttons; blue morning glory scampered up an arbor; and she always had a healthy hedge of butterfly bushes, which she would be dismayed to learn are invasive. She drew the line at wisteria, though, which she claimed would "take down the house."

When I painted a bench blue 30 years ago in the garden of my first house, I watched eyes roll. But I knew I was on to something when I met Rosemary Verey and toured her glorious gardens in the Cotswolds. An electric blue Lutyens bench, blue pots, a blue gate, blue tuteurs, obelisks, and watering cans . . . it was heaven! This was at the end of her life, and as we sat in her library and chatted over tea, I was awestruck. The great Mrs. Verey half apologized, telling me she'd run out of time for niceties. "There are no rules in the garden!" she declared. "Remember that!" Her advice continues to inspire me daily.

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

Grown for their intense fragrance and prolific blooms—often in blues and purples—lilacs define the old-fashioned garden plant. Photo by Angie Moore





Anne Copenhaver, GCA president (2015-2017):

*Steward, Leader, and Friend*

Board, and that is very satisfying. *Together* we make important things happen.

*Are there goals that you'd like the GCA to focus on?*

Increasing interaction with other like-minded organizations is a way to further impact the “fields of our endeavor,” and that is a continuing challenge. When leveraging our purpose and our people, let’s not underestimate our power.

*What will you miss about being president?*

Certainly the years 2013-2017 have been filled with travel and experiences one could not fathom or forget. When else might I have visited the beautiful gardens and homes in Sheboygan, Little Rock, Dublin, Syracuse, Natchez, and the list goes on.... Attending every zone meeting seemed such a challenge until it became the greatest reward.

*What made you want to become president?*

Not to shock, but I never had the goal to become president! However, especially with completion of this term imminent, I realize it was an overwhelming gift of a lifetime offered—a gift from all of you to me—and I am so humbled and grateful. The responsibility is huge, the opportunity grand, the experience unique on so many levels. Thanks go to my husband for his support and his

encouragement almost five years ago to “say *yes*, of course!”

*What advice do you have for members who aren't on the national scene?*

Some of the most rewarding GCA years through the past decades were when I was “simply” a member of my garden club. However, when asked to serve as a zone rep or anything else, I always said *yes* and absolutely encourage anyone to do the same. My husband used to ask each of our children every night at supper to share something new they had learned that day. We must all keep learning, and there are myriad ways to do that through the GCA.

*How can clubs and club members best support the GCA?*

The GCA asks very little of its clubs—every club pays its members’ dues, attends the annual meeting, and takes a

turn hosting a zone meeting. Supporting the GCA scholarship program is enriching for many clubs. The GCA offers much in return—in the fields of horticulture, conservation, flower arranging, or photography—there are so many ways for our clubs and their members to capitalize on resources that are “benefits of association.” And, speaking of “capitalizing,” we must all be prepared to play our role and support the Second Century Campaign!

*What's next?*

We shall see! Camp Copenhaver will unfold over the course of a month this summer with groups of grandchildren arriving weekly. Suffice it to say, I will work in the garden. I plan to read and write. Two books have been germinating for a while, each family related. I guess my days at the computer aren't really numbered after all!

—Gina Brandt, Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII

*What aspect of being president means the most to you?*

Working behind the scenes to move things forward has been the most fulfilling aspect of the presidency to me—daily emails and phone calls with staff, volunteers, and fellow Executive Board members, editing publications, and on it goes. I most cherish the unfolding of friendships and making connections between people or organizations, which can take off in so many wonderful directions!

*Is there a project that makes you particularly proud?*

Three accomplishments we achieved together are the renovation of GCA Headquarters, the Rare Book Collection loan, and the establishment of the Second Century Campaign. Along the way, I believe there has been a diminishment of a “we/they” perception between the club membership and the Executive



The Copenhaver family. Photo by Crissy Cherry



This showy stand of crapemyrtle in full bloom is at the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

# Crapemyrtles

by Julie Badger, Sand Hills Garden Club, Zone VIII

**Crapemyrtles are a delight to the senses.** From their sculptural branches, sinewy bark on muscular trunks, spectacular fall foliage, and spikes of flowers in bodacious colors—from white to purple, lavender, pinks of all kinds, and reds—they have long been a staple in the Southern garden. And thanks to their significant aesthetic landscape value and superior practical attributes—disease resistance and heat and drought tolerance—crapemyrtles are legitimately popular far and wide.

*Lagerstroemia indica* is native to southeastern China. It is speculated that they have been in cultivation for over 2,000 years. First introduced into British gardens in the 1700s, the crapemyrtle's performance there was hampered by the rain and mild summers endemic to England; their blooms were lackluster, and they despised all that damp weather. Andre Michaux, plant adventurer and botanist to King Louis XVI, spotted an almost-dead specimen on a Chinese freighter in the 1780s and transported it to his greenhouses in Charleston, South Carolina. Settling into a much more favorable climate, thanks to all that Southern heat and humidity, crapemyrtles were in their element. Fame spread from there, eventually creeping up the East and West coasts, finding its way to the milder parts of the Mid-Atlantic states, across the South, and into California and Oregon. Today breeding programs, which began in the 1950s, seek to identify and enhance desirable traits such





## Crape Murder



Pruning crape myrtles is a hot topic. “Crape murder”—aggressive pruning—is often the chosen option. However, it not only looks unsightly, but it can also cause distress. Because this method is easy and the plant usually recovers, many homeowners opt for the more murderous route, removing up to half of the plant. But often the new branches produced are so weak that they are unable to support its flowers. A better solution and one that appeals to true crape myrtle aficionados is to decide on the chosen form, and prune to achieve the desired structure. All side and crossing branches should be removed as well as higher branches that grow toward the center of the tree. Suckers can be removed from the base of the trunk or left for a natural look. The goal of pruning a crape myrtle is well-spaced main trunks, which are thin enough to allow penetration of light and air. Some say proper spacing allows for nimble birds to fly through branches.

—Julie Badger, Sand Hills GC,  
Zone VIII

as disease resistance, cold-tolerance (Zones 5-10, depending on the variety), bloom time, bark characteristics, and the depth and range of flower color. Thanks to their considerable landscape value and the plethora of cultivars available, this darling of the South has had no trouble making its mark.

Crape myrtles make showy specimens, majestic allées, and stately stands. They’re used as hedges and screens and can be trees or shrubs. They’re grown in beds and borders and in containers for the space-challenged. In addition to being popular in residential gardens, crape myrtles are now equally prevalent in roadside plantings, corporate landscapes, and public parks. While azaleas and camellias pine for acidic soil, crape myrtles aren’t particularly fussy. They adore full sun, tolerate neglect and drought, are happy in most soils (as long as they drain), and are fast growers. While crape myrtles are drought *tolerant*, it’s a good idea to get them established first in a healthy environment; drought *stress* is to be avoided. Tending to their habit and sucker control is the only maintenance required. They can be shaped for nearly any space with careful pruning and should be chosen for the ultimate size desired. Crape myrtles are relatively healthy and hardy, but powdery mildew and aphids are its two main enemies. Aphids can be controlled by a strong blast of water from the garden hose. A horticultural oil eliminates the need for harsh fungicides and usually controls powdery mildew. A third nemesis—sooty mold—can be a problem, but will usually disappear if the aphids are kept at bay. With little fanfare, and barring deep shade, most crape myrtles thrive in almost any landscape.



**Top:** The crape myrtle gets its name in part from the crêpe-like texture of its blossoms.



**Bottom:** ‘Natchez’ has a profusion of long-blooming, white flowers.

# Copious Crapemyrtle Cultivars



'Natchez' grows to 30 feet. Its warm, cinnamon brown exfoliating bark, lovely white flowers, tolerance to powdery mildew, and stately tree-like stature make it the queen of crapemyrtles. Photo courtesy of Lacebark, Inc.

Crapemyrtle breeding programs have been responsible for an impressive release of increasingly interesting and superior varieties. The National Arboretum (USNA) in Washington, DC, which has worked for over 50 years to produce disease-resistant and cold-hardy varieties, introduced six *Lagerstroemia indica* cultivars in the late 1960s, all named after Native American tribes. But even greater strides occurred the following decade, when the USNA crossed *L. indica* with *L. fauriei*. A long-forgotten species of crapemyrtle, *L. fauriei*, was discovered in the 1950s on the Japanese island of Yakushima; it was found to have superior powdery mildew resistance. 'Natchez,' one of the resulting hybrids, has a profusion of white flowers and cinnamon bark. It was introduced by the USNA in 1978 and remains one of the most superior crapemyrtles available.

While the USNA's breeding program,

pioneered by the late Dr. Donald Egolf, made revolutionary strides by focusing on hybrids, Dr. Carl Whitcomb of Lacebark, Inc., a horticultural research company near Stillwater, Oklahoma, has employed a slightly different crapemyrtle breeding strategy. During his 30 years of research, he stuck to *L. indica* and kept sorting generation after generation, slowly shifting to plants that were more disease resistant with better and more vivid flowers that don't fade. He estimates that, in his 32 years of horticultural research, he has grown somewhere in the range of 750,000 crapemyrtle seedlings; yet, he says, "only ten have made the final evaluation cut"—only those ten were patented and introduced to the market. Through his work at Lacebark, he is producing crapemyrtles with brighter and sharper colors and exceptionally extended blooming seasons—true reds, for example that bloom for well over three consecutive months. 'Double Dynamite,' which will

be commercially available in limited numbers this year, "starts out with dark wine new growth, then by the time of the first flowers, the foliage is near black, the flowers are sterile, and flowers for at least one hundred days," says Whitcomb. "Save a space for this one when you can find it. It is spectacular. The best yet." Breeding for cold-hardiness is also one of Whitcomb's signature achievements, and some of his cultivars can tolerate the plunging temperatures of USDA Zone 5 but must be treated as hardy perennials. His 'Whit' cultivars, especially 'Pink Velour' ('Whit III'), are some of the most cold-hardy crapemyrtles available.

Whitcomb is a bit of a purist: "We do not do hybrids or use seeds from any other source," he says, "but rather we keep sorting and selecting from the original gene pool, which I feel still has more secrets to share."

# 2017 Scholars

*The Garden Club of America*



# Leadership and Discovery



Julie Johnson, GCA Scholarship Committee Chairman. Photo Judy Chester

“The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible.”

— Albert Einstein

The GCA Class of 2017 represents yet another wonderful group of talented scholars eager to comprehend and motivated to improve our environment. Each recipient represents the promise of tomorrow as they pursue discovery and grow to leadership. Please join the Scholarship Committee in celebrating this class by reading about their work.

Discovery has been on the Scholarship Committee's own agenda, too. Delving into the ongoing stories of former scholarship recipients, we have uncovered a wealth of talent and leadership. Leadership is exemplified in the careers of former scholars like Stephanie Julita, CEO of the Des Moines Botanic Garden; Grace Elton Chapman, CEO of Tower Hill Botanic Garden; Dr. Ari Novy, executive director of the US Botanic Garden; and Scot Medbury, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to name a few.

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we introduce two more leaders: former GCA scholars Matt Wasson and Rebecca Vidra, both important voices in the environmental arena. Working with Appalachian Voices, Matt is a national expert on mountaintop-removal coal mining and coal ash contamination. His work today is an outgrowth of his study of the effects of acid rain on birds when he was a 1997 Frances M. Peacock Scholar. Rebecca Vidra, a 2003 Garden Club of America Fellow in Ecological Restoration, now serves as Faculty Director of Environmental Leadership at Duke University, where her focus is the ethical challenges of ecological restoration.

We think it is important for you to know about our former scholars, and we also want them to know about each other. Would Rebecca benefit from knowing Matt? We think so. In the coming year we intend to establish a virtual community facilitating such contacts and the “cross pollination” of ideas. Not only will we enhance the value of being a GCA scholar but we will add depth and accessibility to the resource they represent. A new way of thinking about the “benefits of association” that the GCA offers!

Finally, the Scholarship Committee is very pleased to announce the establishment of The Garden Club of America Montine M. Freeman Scholarship in Native Plant Studies to encourage the understanding, development, and use of underutilized native plants. This important addition to GCA Scholarship owes much to the efforts of the Horticulture Committee and its chairman, Barbara Tuffli. Made possible through the generosity of the Freeman family and by reprogramming surplus medal account funds, as well as the sale of many, many wonderful notecards, this new scholarship will enrich us all, open a new field of discovery, and provide a new avenue to leadership.

## Scholarship Committee 2016-17

**Julie Johnson**, *Chairman*  
Little Garden Club of Columbus, Zone X

### VICE CHAIRMEN:

**Catherine Gussler**, *First Vice Chairman*  
Trustees' Garden Club, Zone VIII

**Kathy Keller**, Akron Garden Club, Zone X

**Cammie Furber**, James River Garden Club,  
Zone VII

**Susan Strayer**, Carrie T. Watson Garden Club,  
Zone V

**Carolyn Batcheller**, Garden Club of  
Cleveland, Zone X

**Celine Lillie**, Lake Geneva Garden Club,  
Zone XI

**Mary Schubert**, Garden Club of Buzzards  
Bay, Zone I

**Jane Chapman**, Rochester Garden Club,  
Zone III

**Andrea Stewart**, The Little Garden Club of  
Rye, Zone III

### ZONE REPRESENTATIVES:

**Laura Nash**, Cambridge Plant & Garden  
Club, Zone I

**Jane Ghazarossian**, Hortulus, Zone II

**Cindy Mullin**, South Side Garden Club of  
Long Island, Zone III

**Debra Russell Chambliss**, Garden Club of  
Morristown, Zone IV

**Sandy Greenwood**, Wissahickon Garden  
Club, Zone V

**Sherry Locke**, Amateur Gardeners Club,  
Zone VI

**Margaret Reynolds**, James River Garden  
Club, Zone VII

**Courtenay Wilson**, Late Bloomers Garden  
Club, Zone VIII

**Cayce McAlister**, Garden Club of Nashville,  
Zone IX

**Leslie Marting**, Shaker Lakes Garden Club,  
Zone X

**Jane Whitesides**, Winnetka Garden Club,  
Zone XI

**Sherry Perkins**, Woodside-Atherton Garden  
Club, Zone XII

## The Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany

*Established in 1997 to protect and preserve knowledge about medicinal use of plants by providing research support in the field of ethnobotany for recent PhDs or PhD candidates, this fellowship is administered by the Missouri Botanical Garden.*

For 2017, funds were awarded directly to the Missouri Botanical Garden to support the work of three fellows.

## The Garden Club of America Summer Scholarship in Field Botany

*Established in 2000, this scholarship is for students interested in furthering their studies in field botany and gaining knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.*

**Rachel Renne** is a master's student in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. She will serve as a field botanist for a study investigating the impacts of livestock grazing on plant diversity in Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) communities, as well as the influence of local and regional patterns of soil and water disturbances of sagebrush in the western US. As she becomes more proficient in plant identification skills and plant collection, she will mentor two undergraduate students in field botany and contribute to the collection of western plants in the Yale and Rocky Mountain herbariums.

**Colette Berg** is a master's student at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau. She is studying the evolution of inbreeding and outcrossing flowers in Venus' looking glass genus *Triodanis*. This summer she will collect samples of *Triodanis perfoliata* from meadows located in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, record the ratio of inbreeding to outcrossing flowers, and study the differences in genetic diversity between populations. Her goal is to provide more information about the evolution of unique mating systems of *Triodanis*.



**Catherine Hu** is a master's student in environmental conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She interns at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Shaw Nature Reserve, and her project focuses on a 60-acre woodland restoration. She will assist with invasive species control, seed collection, volunteer workdays, and prescribed burns. She will establish and monitor plots to document vegetation response to different invasive species control techniques and native seed addition. She will also create a website to interpret the objectives and progress of this restoration project for the public. Her work will provide insight for future restorations of Ozark woodlands.



**Lauren Audi** is a master's student studying plant biology and conservation at Northwestern University and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Her project is titled "Genetic Characterization of Caribbean Breadfruit: Advancing Food Security and Local Sustainable Agriculture via Germplasm Conservation and Collaboration with Local Growers." She will study the unique diversity of breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*) in the Caribbean, using genetic approaches, as well as establish a germplasm collection at the St. Vincent Botanic Gardens in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to conserve this economical and environmentally important and underutilized tropical food crop species.

## The Zeller Summer Scholarship in Medicinal Botany

*Established in 2003, the Zeller Summer Scholarship encourages undergraduate students to expand their knowledge of medicinal botany by pursuing summer study through course work or internships.*

**Zoe Jeka** is a senior in the American Studies program at Tufts University in Massachusetts. She will apprentice with Muddy River Herbals, a medicinal herb business, where organic and sustainable growing practices are used for over 100 medicinal herbs. She will assist with daily fieldwork, including the drying and storing of large quantities of harvested herbs, and help manage an herb CSA, learning how to make tinctures, salves, and lip balms. She will also help organize on-site events to share knowledge about medicinal

botany with the community. The apprenticeship will provide crucial knowledge about herbal growth cycles, healing properties, and the transformation of harvest into medicine. Her goal is to become a holistic medicine practitioner.

## The Joan K. Hunt and Rachel M. Hunt Summer Scholarship in Field Botany

*Established in 2003, this scholarship encourages the study of field botany beyond the regular course of study, thus promoting the importance of botany to horticulture.*



**Mary Elizabeth Patterson** is a master's student in plant biology and conservation at Northwestern University and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Her project is titled "Monitoring Protocol for *Packeria layneae*: a Federally Threatened Species." Her fieldwork will focus on developing a long-term monitoring protocol for *Packeria layneae*, also known as Layne's ragwort or Layne's butterweed, a threatened species endemic to California. Creating a monitoring protocol is the first step to stabilizing threatened and endangered species populations. Tahoe National Forest botanists and other managers of *P. layneae* will use the protocol to monitor the species' long-term demographics.

*Funded by Friends of Nishi Rajakaruna in honor of Nishanta Rajakaruna*

## The Garden Club of America Awards in Tropical Botany

*Established in 1983 and administered by the World Wildlife Fund's Education for Nature Division, the awards are to support the fieldwork in tropical forests of doctoral candidates in botany.*



**Alexander Linan** is a PhD candidate at St. Louis University in affiliation with the Missouri Botanical Garden. His research combines population genomics, phylogenomics, and taxonomy in order to describe species, their evolutionary relationships, and species boundaries in members of the ebony and persimmon tree genus, *Diospyros*. He will focus on currently undescribed species of *Diospyros* endemic to Madagascar, and his research will provide insight into their extraordinary diversity in Madagascar. By naming and describing species, strategies can be developed to protect against, and properly control, illegal logging in this group of trees that are sought after for heartwood.

*Funded by the Arundel Scholarship*



**Benton Taylor** is a PhD candidate in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology at Columbia University. His project is titled "Understanding the Ecological Drivers of Nitrogen Fixation in Regenerating Tropical Forests." He will focus on the ecology of nitrogen-fixing trees in regenerating rainforests in Costa Rica. Regenerating tropical forests is critical to global conservation and climate change mitigation efforts; the nitrogen-fixing trees studied naturally fertilize the regrowth of these tropical forests following disturbance. His research investigates how changes in light and soil-nutrient availability during forest regeneration influences the success and the nitrogen inputs of nitrogen-fixing trees.

*Funded by the GCA Visiting Gardens Committee*

**Meredith Martin** is a PhD candidate in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, and holds a Cullman Fellowship with the New York Botanical Garden. Her project is titled "Stand Dynamics of Subtropical Pine-Oak Forests in Sierra Norte, Oaxaca, Mexico, and Implications for Firewood Management." Her research focuses on the ecology of montane pine-oak forests in Oaxaca, Mexico, and specifically on the growth and regeneration dynamics of oaks (*Quercus*) harvested for firewood and charcoal. While Mexico is a center of diversity for oaks, little is known about the majority of these species or forest types. Her research collaborates with a union of three Zapotec communities, and her results will be used to inform others about sustainable management techniques for firewood.

*Funded by the GCA Visiting Gardens Committee*

**Natalie Christian** is a PhD candidate in the Evolution, Ecology and Behavior Graduate Program at Indiana University Bloomington. Her project is titled "Understanding How Plant-endophyte Symbiotic Communities Assemble in Tropical Forests and Identifying the Genetic Mechanisms by which Endophytes Affect Host Well-being." Her dissertation research takes place in Panama, where she will study the fungal microbiome of plant leaves. She will combine field collections with manipulative studies and total RNA (ribonucleic acid) sequencing to study how fungal communities are transmitted and assembled in nature to interact within their host and affect plant health.

*Funded by the GCA Visiting Gardens Committee*

## The Garden Club of America Award in Coastal Wetlands Studies

*Established in 1999 to promote wetland conservation through the support of young scientists in their field work and research, this award is administered by the Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William & Mary.*



**Janet Walker** is a PhD candidate in the Joint Doctoral Program in Ecology at the University of California, Davis, and San Diego State University. Her research will focus on the role of burrowing crabs and how they structure California salt marsh plant communities. Crabs can burrow into soils surrounding

marsh vegetation and thereby alleviate submergence and hypoxic stress for plants. The impacts of crabs may shape the distribution and abundance of plant species, which may be especially pronounced at lower latitudes where temperature-related stress is already high. Identifying factors that mitigate this environmental stress (e.g., the activities of burrowing crabs) will contribute to conservation strategies and acknowledge the resilience of these ecosystems in the face of climate change.

**Samantha Apgar** is a PhD candidate in Dr. Chris Elphick's laboratory at the University of Connecticut. She is studying the extinction risk of specialist tidal marsh birds in coastal Connecticut. As sea levels rise, ground nesting tidal marsh birds will be more vulnerable to nest failure due to increased flooding. She will evaluate how different aspects of the nesting ecology of the seaside sparrow, willet, and clapper rail make each species more or less likely to fledge chicks over time. Specifically, she will study how the nest sites, nest structures, egg qualities, and chick and adult behaviors in response to flooding vary among species. She wants to better understand how specialist species in tidal marshes will fare as large-scale change occurs.

**Elisabeth B. Powell** is a master's student in the Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science Department (BEES) at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She studies gas flux in salt marshes to reveal the potential for climate change mitigation from vegetated coastal habitats. Her master's thesis will examine the effect of open marsh water management practices (OMWM) on the carbon balance of tidal marshes in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. OMWM is a mosquito control technique that is widely used along the Atlantic Coast. She will examine the gas flux from the open water systems as well as intact marsh and dead plant areas to determine if the carbon balance has been altered by this management practice.

**Nate Stott** is a master's student at Bowling Green University in Ohio. His project is titled "Use of Reconnected Lake Erie Wetlands by Fishes: Comparing Native Pike and Invasive Common Carp Spawning Migrations." His research aims to estimate northern pike (*Esox lucius*) populations in various Lake Erie coastal wetlands and determine if a more active management strategy is needed to ensure their success. By quantifying fish movement into coastal wetlands, a more robust management strategy may be needed to allow native northern pike into coastal wetlands while denying access to invasive common carp. Carp are known to degrade Laurentian Great Lakes coastal wetland habitats.

## The Garden Club of America Fellowship in Ecological Restoration

*Established in 2000 and administered by the University of Wisconsin, Madison Arboretum, this fellowship supports specialized graduate studies and research in ecological restoration, the active healing of land.*



**Joan Dudney** is a PhD candidate in the Environmental Science Department at the University of California, Berkeley. She is studying the current spread and severity of white pine blister rust (WPBR) in California. She aims to develop science-based management for climate change and invasive rust. An exotic fungus from China, *Cronortium ribicola*, causes WPBR, which is attributed to precipitous population declines in several white pine species.

She plans to incorporate drought impacts on the WPBR pathosystem to develop a more accurate habitat refugia map that will establish the baseline for white pine management in the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range.

**Melissa Booher** is a master's ecology student in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Her project is titled "*Carex scopulorum*'s Role in Restoration of the Carbon Storing Ecosystem in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park." Her research will assess the fate and contribution of introducing thousands of *Carex scopulorum* (also known as mountain sedge) seedlings to areas of Tuolumne Meadows, a subalpine Sierra Nevada meadow, with high bare soil cover. This sedge species is native, highly productive, and predicted to contribute to organic soil building. Understanding how *Carex scopulorum* contributes to the recovery of this meadow will help land managers effectively restore similarly degraded areas throughout the Sierra Nevada.



**Katya Jay** is a PhD candidate in the Integrative Biology Department at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She studies relationships between beach grasses, dune geomorphology, and extreme storm events. She is investigating the recovery of coastal dune systems following Hurricane Matthew by comparing natural and managed dunes along the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Cape Lookout National Seashore. The dunes of the barrier island provide the coastline with critical protection against flooding and storm surges for nearby communities. She will conduct field surveys every four months over the next two years, and the results of

her research will be used to inform coastal ecosystem management about dune restoration techniques.



**Tomasz Falkowski** is a PhD candidate in the Environmental and Forest Biology Department at the State University of New York in Syracuse. He studies the application of traditional ecological knowledge in ecosystem restoration management. His research empirically assesses whether Lacandon Maya agroforestry can effectively and sustainably restore ecosystem services in degraded and deforested tropical rainforests in the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve region of Chiapas, Mexico. His work demonstrates how Lacandon Maya agroforestry can restore forest cover and fulfill the socioeconomic needs of rural communities. His research will be performed in collaboration with traditional farmers in the Lacandon Maya community of Lacañja Chansayab, Chiapas, Mexico.

## The Sara Shallenberger Brown Garden Club of America National Parks Conservation Scholarship

*Established in 2010 and administered by the Student Conservation Association (SCA), this scholarship encourages college undergraduates, ages 19-20, to pursue careers in conservation by experiencing field training while protecting the treasured resources of America's national parks through the SCA's apprentice crew leader program.*

**Henry Fanning**, an undergraduate majoring in environmental and ecosystem sciences at Washington State University in Pullman, enjoys studying plant identification, greenhouse management, and water quality monitoring. A multi-year alumnus, he has served on six national and community SCA crews and was an apprentice crew leader with two community crews. He has participated in plant propagation in the Northern Cascades, heavy stone work in New Jersey, and trail building in Grand Teton National Park. He would like to be an SCA crew leader to inspire others to love the outdoors. This summer he will be serving at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

**Sara (Sadie) Hennen**, a 2016 high school graduate with honors from Cretin-Durham Hall High School, St. Paul, Minnesota, plans to start college this fall. She is a two-time alumna of SCA's National Crew Program and has completed an SCA internship as well as one SCA trail corps. She has participated on crews for trail maintenance on the Blue Ridge Parkway and at Zion National Park; spent a summer as an interpretive park guide at Mammoth Cave National Park; and constructed more than ten miles of new trail on Catalina Island. She is dedicated to SCA's mission and wants to influence others about the importance of conservation. This summer she will be serving in Olympic National Park.

**Luisa McGarvey** is an undergraduate in environmental studies and biology at Oberlin College in Ohio. She is a two-time alumna of SCA's National Crew Program and has participated on crews at the Big South Fork National Park and Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park, where she built bridges and performed trail work. Her volunteer activities include work with after school programs for disadvantaged children; and serving as a tour guide at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. This summer she will be serving in Denali National Park.

## The Garden Club of America Award in Desert Studies

*Established in 2006 and administered by the Desert Botanical Garden, this award enables graduate or advanced undergraduate students studying horticulture, conservation, botany, environmental science, and landscape design relating to the arid landscape to further their studies pertaining to the arid environment, with preference given to projects that generate scientifically sound water and plant management.*

**John Miller** is a sophomore studying sustainable horticulture and business at Arizona State University in Phoenix. As an intern at the Desert Botanical Garden, he will develop his knowledge about desert plants, their use in different landscapes, and arid environments. He will learn about rainwater harvesting and its essential benefits in arid landscapes.



### Cole Larson-Whittaker

is a master's student in plant biology and conservation at Arizona State University in Phoenix. He will collaborate with the Desert Botanical Garden to determine the genetic origins of *Agave murpheyi*, one of the major agricultural crops of the pre-Columbian Southwest. His research will use spatial models, state-of-the-art genetic analysis, and fieldwork to reanalyze *A. angustifolia*, taxonomically and molecularly, so that

the genetic connection between the newly reclassified *A. angustifolia* and *A. murpheyi* can be tested to expand the phylogenetic understanding of the genus *Agave*.

### Dominic M. Gentilcore

is a PhD candidate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He studies in the Soil-Plant-Water Stress Interactions Lab under the direction of Dr. Scott Abella. His project is a floristic inventory of the newly designated Gold Butte National Monument (GOBU) in Clark County, Nevada. GOBU is a triple transition zone between the Mojave Desert, Great Basin Desert, and Colorado Plateau. He will produce a comprehensive checklist of all vascular plants within GOBU as well as establish a set of ecological plot maps for the area to allow better protections for rare plant habitats.

## The Garden Club of America Internship in Garden History and Design

*Established in 2001, the GCA Internship in Garden History and Design supports independent study in the field of landscape history and design. Preference is given to students planning to intern at the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.*



**Laura Elizabeth Bell** is a master's student in Archives and Records Management Specialization for the Master of Library Science

Program at Indiana University Bloomington. Her interest in archives and digital preservation aligns well with her goals for the internship at the Smithsonian Institute Archives of American Gardens (AAG). As an intern in garden history and design, she will help increase accessibility of the AAG materials by processing archival collections and digitizing items, creating online search aids, cataloging, applying metadata to digital assets, and promoting collection materials on social media.

## The Douglas Dockery Thomas Fellowship in Garden History and Design

*Established in 2000 to further the study of history and design in the American garden and also look to the future of gardens and their place in the environment, this fellowship is administered by the Landscape Architecture Foundation.*

**Kevin Jeffery** is a master's student in landscape architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. His objective is to develop a "blue index" project in the City of Austin, which will rank and categorize water areas of all types for the amount of relaxation they induce as well as their perceived human value. He will install 25 photo stations throughout the city for participants to rank an area for how much it contributes to their level of calmness as well as submit a photograph capturing the water scene with their smart device.

## The Catherine H. Beattie Fellowship in Conservation Horticulture

*Established in 1983 and administered by the Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Gardens, this fellowship promotes the conservation of rare and endangered flora in the Southeastern United States by supporting field research by graduate students.*



**Jordan T. Wood** is a master's student in the Program in Plant Biology and Conservation at Northwestern University and the Chicago Botanic Garden, where he studies conservation biology, population genetics, and living collections management. He will research threatened North American oak species to characterize and compare the genetic diversity of wild populations and living collections held in botanic gardens. The resulting genetic data may be used by botanic gardens to increase their capacity to meet conservation goals of threatened plants.

**Yasmin A. Khan** is a master's student in biology at Halmos College of Natural Science and Oceanography at Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Her project is titled "A Comparative Metagenomic Study of the Microbiome of an Endangered Florida Lupine Species



(*Lupinus aridorum*).” Her research will compare the soil, root nodule, and flower microbiomes of the endangered *L. aridorum* species to the commonly found species *L. diffusus*. She aims to provide significant insight into the complex dynamics that contribute to the species’ growth and development. Her project serves as a contribution to the plant conservation initiative at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida.

## The Katharine M. Grosscup Scholarships in Horticulture

*Established in 1981 as a regional scholarship, this scholarship is designed to encourage undergraduate and master’s level students in the study of horticulture and related fields.*



**Christian Moore** is an undergraduate landscape architecture student at the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University in Columbus. His research explores planting design as a means to improve polluted runoff, prevent erosion, and establish habitat in agricultural contexts. This summer he will conduct independent research in the Netherlands, studying Dutch polder design and the current Room for the River project for the Rhine delta. Upon completing his fieldwork, he will study under Cassian Schmidt, Director of Hermannshof Botanical Garden in Weinheim, Germany.

### Kristie Lane Anderson

is a master’s student in landscape architecture at Temple University in Philadelphia. She is currently employed by the architecture firm Fielding Nair International, where she specializes in learning spaces and peaceful and reflective outdoor environments for early childhood education. Her research will focus on ecological restoration and educational landscapes. Her thesis will examine the restoration of wetland ecosystems and design for interpretation of ecology and conservation for students and visitors.

### Josh VanderWeide

is a master’s student studying viticulture in the Horticulture Department at Michigan State University in East Lansing. He aims to improve the wine grape quality in Midwest growing regions. His research involves mechanizing the viticulture practice of leaf removal, which will help vineyard managers to improve growing conditions, yield, and fruit quality.

**Helen Andrews** is a master’s student of plant health management in the Department of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University in Columbus. Through the interdisciplinary degree program, she is studying topics such as disease diagnosis, biological control, and soil fertility. This program will enable her to offer a well-rounded skill set in plant health management to those who seek professional guidance.

**Megan Bender** is a sophomore studying sustainable landscape design and urban agriculture at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. She is interested in garden design and the historical preservation of gardens and will intern at The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens in Newbury, New Hampshire, where she will learn more about historic gardens and the maintenance required to preserve them.



**Pete Grantham** is a junior studying sustainable plant systems focusing in landscape design and management at The Ohio State University in Columbus. He owns and operates a landscaping company in northeastern Ohio and plans to incorporate his knowledge of sustainable landscape practices into his business as well as educate others within the landscape industry to promote environmentally friendly methods to care for commercial and residential properties.



**Stephani Milette** is a junior studying horticulture production and marketing at Purdue University in Indiana. She is a ten-year Air Force veteran who served as a logisticians in Iraq and Afghanistan. As an intern in floral design and plant propagation, her focus is on greenhouse management and viticulture. She aims to discover sustainable growing conditions to produce grapes.

## The Corliss Knapp Engle Scholarship in Horticulture

*Established in 2010 to encourage the development of research, documentation, and teaching skills in the field of horticulture, this*

*scholarship honors the memory of the exceptional and inspiring Corliss Knapp Engle, a long-time member of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club. This scholarship is open to undergraduate and graduate students, advanced-degree candidates, or non-degree seeking applicants above the high school level.*

**Nathan Jahnke** is a master’s student in floriculture post-harvest handling at North Carolina State University. His research aims to improve the commercial viability of un-rooted *Pelargonium* cuttings (commonly known as geraniums) during shipment from Central and South America. He is studying the sensitivity of the cuttings to stresses such as temperature, disease, and ethylene. The fungus *Botrytis cinerea* (a necrotrophic fungus also known as gray mold) is capable of damaging hundreds of plant species. Ethylene gas and ethylene inhibitors are being tested as screening techniques for *Botrytis* susceptibility and prevention during shipping and storage of *Pelargonium* cuttings to help growers reduce losses and find new technology that will be more effective and safer for the environment.

**Natalie McMann** is a master’s student in the Integrated Biosciences Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Her project is titled “Vascular Transport Capacity and Floral Water Use.” She aims to understand how physiological limitations may influence flowering time in woody species. Her research will examine trees and shrubs such as red maple and forsythia that flower before they leaf out to determine how the timing of plant emergence from winter dormancy affects water supply to the flowers and the relationship between floral water use and floral size.

**John Dindia** is a master’s student in the Environmental Studies Graduate Program at the University of Montana with a focus on sustainable food and farming systems. He

is working with Michigan State University to develop and convey IPM (integrated pest management) strategies to the rapidly expanding US hop industry. His research will focus on evaluating, identifying, and promoting best IPM strategies for major pests in emerging hop production regions in Michigan. He aims to develop phenology-based arthropod and disease decision aids to assist growers in hop-growing regions with pest management timing decisions.



**Jennifer Lauer** is a master's student in landscape architecture in the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York in Syracuse. Her research focuses on the cultural landscape of Rose Hill Farm in Geneva, New York. The site is notable for the development of field-drainage technology, which became a driving force in the economic transition from subsistence to merchant farming in mid-19th-century America. The Geneva Historical Society manages 27 acres of the original 350-acre property, including a Greek Revival mansion built in 1839, which is considered among the finest examples of its style in the nation. She will provide a cultural landscape report to help restore and preserve the site's important horticultural heritage.

**Melinda J. Knuth** is a PhD candidate in horticulture economics at Texas A&M University. Her research will focus on consumer preferences and economic trends in the floriculture industry as well as consumers' perception of water conservation activities and their willingness to pay for a series of water-conserving plant attributes. She also has developed independent observation studies for floriculture companies, analyzing the cut flower value chain and movement efficiency. She plans to use eye tracking and neurological technology to analyze consumer preference of cut flower attributes to provide consumer data to growers, wholesalers, and retail firms.

### The Garden Club of America Hope Goddard Iselin Fellowship in Public Horticulture

*Established in 2013 and administered by the American Public Gardens Association, this fellowship furthers the study of public horticulture through experiential learning that takes place at a recognized public garden, botanic garden, or arboretum within the United States.*

**Leslie Touzeau** is a master's student in rural sociology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Her research examines the life experiences of African-Americans in agriculture. In collaboration with the Mizzou Botanic Garden, she is developing several on-campus gardens to honor native Missourian George Washington Carver. The gardens will serve as community growing areas on campus as well as educate students about the roles of marginalized groups in agriculture. Through signage, demonstration plots, and lectures, her project intends to teach the public about the forgotten contributions of minorities and women in building and maintaining our current food system.

### The Garden Club of America and the Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellowships

*Established in 1948, the fellowships provide for a reciprocal exchange of British and American students interested in horticulture, landscape architecture, and related fields to study and intern in each other's country for one year.*

### The Garden Club of America Interchange Fellow



**Polly Stevens** will receive her diploma in horticultural practice from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) based at RHS Garden, Wisley. This fall, she will be a master's student in landscape architecture at Cornell University. Interested in urban horticultural design and park redevelopment, she envisions cities of the future as lush, green environments where plants grow in every possible space. Her career path was inspired by her background in interactive art, along with internships at Kew Gardens and a year-long placement at Audley End House and Gardens and various horticultural volunteer activities. She is excited to return to the US, and fondly remembers a childhood vacation to the West Coast, where she was awed by the redwood forests and golden beaches. In 2014 she interned at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

### The Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellow

**Eva Steinberg**, a graduate in anthropology, biology, and environmental studies from Wesleyan University, is passionate about sustainable agricultural practices and the role that seeds can play in preserving biodiversity. She is interested in collecting and sharing native seeds and in biodiversity cultivation, eventually working with the Millennium Seed Bank in England. Her most recent research examined modes of seed preservation among farmers in the South, including seed saving as a mode of cultural and biodiversity preservation.

### The Garden Club of America Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture

*Established in 1928, this fellowship provides American landscape architects special opportunity for advanced study at the American Academy in Rome.*



**Rosetta Elkin** is an assistant professor at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and an associate at the Arnold Arboretum. Her project is titled "Shorelines: The Case of Italian Stone Pine." Her study will explore the varied ages, adaptive forms, and changing behaviors along the Ostia shorelines in order to help articulate a broader role for plants when characterizing future coastal development in the context of changing climates.

## The Frances M. Peacock Scholarship for Native Bird Habitat

*Established in 1994 and administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, the scholarship is awarded to college seniors and graduate students for the study of habitat-related issues that will benefit threatened or endangered bird species and inform land management decisions.*

**Megan S. Jones** is a PhD candidate at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Her project is titled “Identifying Gardeners’ Barriers and Motivations to Improve Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Native Birds.” She will interview residents along the Colorado Front Range to understand what factors motivate them to adopt new bird-friendly gardening behaviors, such as planting native plants, and what challenges may be preventing them from doing more. Her research will draw on an innovative model of behavior change and will generate recommendations for how to improve bird-friendly gardening programs across the US.



**Emily Graves** is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Davis. Her project is titled “Risks and Mechanisms of Tricolored Blackbird Exposure to Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Wetland and Grassland Habitats.” Her research will utilize radio telemetry

to investigate tricolored blackbird foraging movements in relation to different habitat types. She will evaluate pesticide exposure, bird body condition, stress hormone levels, and insect abundance to determine habitat characteristics that affect reproductive success in this species of conservation concern. Her study provides awareness about the role agricultural pesticides play in population decline of insectivorous wetland and grassland species.



**Anna Tucker** is a PhD candidate at Auburn University in Alabama. Her project is titled “A Network Theory Approach to Evaluate Drivers of Stopover Site Use by Migratory Shorebirds.” Her research provides a better understanding of the ecological factors that influence movement patterns and space use during spring migration in Delaware Bay, a globally important stopover site for Arctic-breeding migratory shorebirds. By using a network theory approach to quantify dynamic movement patterns, she will evaluate the effect of factors, including habitat characteristics, food abundance, and predation pressure on those patterns over the past 12 years.

## The Garden Club of America Board of Associates Centennial Pollinator Fellowship

*Established in the spring of 2013 and administered by the Pollinator Partnership, this fellowship supports one or more graduate students to advance the knowledge of pollinator science and was made possible by generous gifts given in honor of the GCA Centennial by members of the Board of Associates.*

**Michelle L. Fearon** is a PhD candidate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at the University of Michigan. Her project is titled “Tracking Virus Strains Spillover: Pollinator Community Interaction Networks Impact Honeybee and Native Bee Virus Prevalence and Viral Load.” Her research will focus on tracking pathogen transmission in a network of interactions between honeybee and native bee species in different pollinator communities. This research will incorporate realistic community interactions into the study of bee pathogens to broaden the understanding of how pollinator species are infected and how different pathogens are transmitted between pollinator species in a community.

**Kelsey E. Fisher** is a PhD candidate in the Entomology Department at Iowa State University. Her project, “Tracking Monarch Butterflies Through the Iowa Landscape Utilizing an Automated Radio Telemetry System,” researches how monarch butterflies are utilizing the fragmented landscape to support the establishment of biological guidelines for habitat restoration. In order for monarchs to utilize small gardens and newly planted habitat, they must be able to detect their presence. She will track monarchs with active radio telemetry technology to understand their perception of distance and navigational patterns.

This will help determine how far apart habitat patches should be planted to increase overall connectivity and provide essential resources. Results from the study will inform conservation and restoration efforts.



**Jonathan Giacomini** is a PhD candidate in the Zoology Program at North Carolina State University. His project is titled “Can Helianthus Heal Bees? Management of Bumblebee Parasites with Sunflower Pollen Supplements.” His research investigates the role of floral resources in shaping the ecology and evolution of pollinator diseases. Pollen plays an important role in bee health by providing essential nutrients, but varies tremendously in chemical content between plant species. His preliminary lab results suggest that certain pollen species may have disproportional effects on bee diseases. His field study will examine the impact of medicinal floral resources on the management of bee parasites using techniques that can be adapted for conservation and management.

**Rachael E. Bonoan** is a PhD candidate at Tufts University in Massachusetts, and is president of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association. Her project is titled “The Effect of Dietary Essential Amino Acids on Immunocompetence in Immune-Challenged Honeybees.” She studies pollinator nutrition and is particularly interested in how honeybees get the right nutrients in the right amounts from their ever-changing environment. This summer she will investigate how dietary protein diversity affects honeybee immunity. In addition to her studies, she enjoys sharing her research and the importance of pollinator health with beekeepers, garden clubs, and the general public.

## The Clara Carter Higgins Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

*Established in 1964 to encourage college students to further their studies and careers in the field of ecology, this scholarship offers opportunities to gain knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.*

**Johnny Buck** is a junior studying native environmental science at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Washington. A second-year Higgins scholar, he will participate in the Harvard Forest Summer Research Program in Ecology at Harvard University. His research is titled “Explaining Variation in the Seasonal Changes of Trees.” He will study the effects of natural and human disturbances on forest ecosystems including global climate change, hurricanes, forest harvest, wildlife dynamics, and species diversity.



**Nathaniel Kiel** is a junior at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, majoring in conservation biology with a minor in native peoples and the environment at the State University of New York, Syracuse. His research will observe the ability of flowering understory plants to reestablish in post-agricultural woodlands across central New York. He will observe and quantify ant dispersal of forest understory herb seeds. He aims to learn about plant ecology, particularly in plant-animal interactions and their roles in habitat succession and organismal evolution.

## The Garden Club of America Awards for Summer Environmental Studies Scholarships

*Established in 1993, this scholarship encourages undergraduate summer studies doing fieldwork, research, or classroom work in the environmental field beyond the regular course of study.*

**Matt Wersebe** is a junior majoring in biology with a minor in environmental studies at the State University of New York, Binghamton. His project is titled “Independent Research of the Long-term Impacts of Antimicrobials on Wetland Communities.” As an assistant to Dr. Jessica Hua of The Hua Lab, he will study the impacts of agricultural contaminants on wetland communities. He will use field research and laboratory techniques to understand the effect of changing patterns of food resource quality elicited by antimicrobials on amphibian-parasite interactions in degraded habitats.

*Funded by Piscataqua Garden Club, Zone I*

**Sage Max** is a junior studying environmental policy at Barnard College in New York. This summer, her research will take place in Jordan with Columbia’s Summer Ecosystem Experience program to study the effects of animal agriculture across the country. Focusing on the habits of goat herders, she will study the impact of goats in national parks as well as the environmental footprint for eating meat in a nation where water resources are scarce. She will use her research about farming and the environment to understand how environmental questions can help shape environmental policy. She also plans to use this research to complete her senior thesis.

*Funded by Amateur Gardeners Club, Zone VI*

**Sarah Hossain** is a junior at the University of Connecticut majoring in environmental science with a minor in ecology and evolutionary biology. Her research, in the Cape Floristic region of South Africa, will focus on the *Protea* genus. She will collect samples of *Protea* to create CO<sub>2</sub> curves and study the growth of juvenile plants in greenhouse experiments under various controlled CO<sub>2</sub> levels and soil moistures. Her experiments will simulate the increased drought conditions of the region to determine the viability of *Protea* in a changing climate.



**Ella Matsuda** is a sophomore studying ecology and environmental science at Rice University in Texas. Her research in Madagascar investigates the interactions between lemurs, birds, trees, and mistletoe in tropical forests. Her research will illuminate the complex interactions in Malagasy seed dispersal networks, emphasizing the importance of studying the ecological significance of smaller plant and animal species. She will also study the dispersal of small-seeded mistletoe seeds by small mouse lemurs, thereby enabling the survival of mistletoe, which in turn enables the survival of large lemurs who disperse large seeded tree species. Mistletoe, often considered a parasitic plant, may benefit its host plant.



**Quentin Hubbard**, a freshman at Rhodes College in Tennessee, is participating in the Rocky Mountain Ecology Field Research summer program in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He will observe the grazing effects of aquatic and riparian foraging by resident ungulate species and their effects on water quality as well as the diversity, abundance, and distribution of aquatic plant species, all of which support life cycle stages of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. His research and analysis will be compiled into a final report.

**Hannah Gibbs** is a Bonner Scholar sophomore at Centre College in Kentucky. Last summer as a member of a research team she studied the deep-rooted social and cultural ramifications of coal mining. This summer, the research team will focus on the environmental ramifications of coal extraction. Through intensive interviews with eastern Kentucky residents, her research will study its effect on the culture, livelihood, and the economic future of those who live in the Appalachian Mountains.



**Ayla Allen** is a junior in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Program for Environmental Studies at Princeton University. She was accepted to Operation Wallacea, a conservation organization made up of academics conducting environmentally-oriented research. She will study habitat preferences of different primate species in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in Peru. During the rainy season, the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve experiences heavy flooding that affects food availability for primates. Her research will focus on primate responses to extreme variations in rainfall and compare the results with past data to make predictions for the future.

### The Caroline Thorn Kissel Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

*Established in 2004, this scholarship promotes environmental studies for residents of New Jersey or persons studying in the state.*

**Tyler Coverdale** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. His project is titled “Plant Defenses in African Savannas: Does Herbivory Drive Epigenetic Variation?” He studies African savanna plant defenses at Mpala Research Center and Wildlife Foundation in Laikipia, Kenya, with a focus on how interactions between

plants shape plant defense strategies. He will use a combination of field experiments and genetic analysis to investigate how the proximity of well-defended neighbors, which shelter palatable plants from large savanna herbivores (e.g., elephants, zebra, impala), impacts the defensive strategy and epigenetic signature of a common savanna shrub.



**Tony Cullen** is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University in New Jersey. His project is titled “The Great Garden Escape: the Role of Evolution in the Invasion for Two Ornamental Viburnums.” His research explores how small populations of non-native shrubs become larger naturalized populations. He uses a landscape genetics study to determine how environmental and geographic features influence gene flow and local adaptation. Gaining insight into the potential rapid microevolutionary change in invasive species will allow ecologists to understand the factors involved in colonization and spread. This knowledge will help land managers make more informed decisions about management strategies and restoration practices.

### The Mary T. Carothers Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

*Established in 2005, this scholarship is for undergraduate students who are doing summer fieldwork, research, or classroom*

*work in the field beyond their regular course of study.*

**Soren Struckman** is a sophomore biology major with a minor in computational and applied math and statistics at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. He will participate in a summer research program in plant ecology where he will collect field data on common milkweed demographics and leaf chemistry at various sites across the state. He will use the data to create a computational/mathematical model of milkweed population dynamics to determine the affect of leaf chemistry on population growth. This area of research has strong implications for monarch butterfly conservation.

**Colleen Smith** is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Her project is titled “Threats to the Forest-Associated Bees of New Jersey.” Her research investigates how past and current forest habitat loss affects native bee species that require forest habitat for floral and nesting resources. She will collect bees and measure floral resources at 36 forests in New Jersey that vary in forest age and fragmentation.

**Joni Baumgarten** is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is interested in learning how plant and soil communities interact. Her project investigates how soil nutrients and the surrounding plant community influence the association of the rare plant, Knieskern’s beaksedge (*Rhynchospora knieskernii*) with beneficial mycorrhizae. She will study numerous populations in wetlands throughout New Jersey’s Pine Barrens. The results of this project will add to the knowledge of the soil conditions favorable to Knieskern’s beaksedge, which can be used to help conservation and restoration efforts.

### The Elizabeth Gardner Norweb Environmental Studies Scholarship

*Established in 2005, this scholarship encourages undergraduate summer studies doing fieldwork, research, or classroom work in the environmental field beyond their regular course of study.*



**Camille DeSisto** is a sophomore studying integrative biology at Harvard. Her conservation biology fieldwork will be conducted at Madagascar’s Ranomafana National Park, where she will study how lemurs and birds facilitate the spread of invasive plant species, particularly the strawberry guava, in the rainforests. She will collect data on the eating and defecation patterns of lemurs and birds, gather samples of plant tissues for DNA analysis, record the size and extent of flora, and conduct germination experiments.

**Clara Guillem**, a junior studying molecular biology at Eckerd College in Florida, was a 2016 Summer Environmental Studies (SES) scholar. This summer she will continue her research to find causes of “citrus greening,” also known as HLB, a vector-transmitted pathogen that poses a major threat to citrus crops. She will compare the bacterial root microbiomes of asymptomatic and HLB-symptomatic grapefruit trees. She will focus on the further characterization of fungal species present near the roots of citrus trees to provide a greater understanding of citrus health and how it may be affected by citrus greening.

## The Garden Club of America Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry

*Established in 2005 for advanced undergraduate or graduate students to study urban forestry and related subjects, this fellowship is administered by the GCA in collaboration with Casey Trees, Washington, DC.*

**Benjamin Breger** is a master's student in landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His project is titled "Tree Survival in the Urban Landscape: Nursery Treatment, Site Conditions, and Stewardship." Interested in the functionality and aesthetics of urban vegetation, he will examine the socio-ecological factors that impact the survival of urban trees such as nursery treatment, site conditions, and level of human stewardship. His field study will take place in Holyoke, Massachusetts, where thousands of trees have been planted over the past three years as part of a statewide urban greening initiative. Providing more accurate and localized data on urban tree survival will allow forestry professionals to better plan greening initiatives and assess the benefits of large scale urban tree planting campaigns.



**Nancy Falxa Sonti** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland in College Park. Her project is titled "Socio-Cultural Ecosystem Services of Urban Forests." She will conduct interviews with Baltimore residents to compare the perception

and use of forest patches on vacant land with those of city parkland in neighborhoods with varying levels of income. Her research will assess qualitatively whether these factors affect the socio-cultural ecosystem services of Baltimore's urban forests and the degree to which these urban green spaces are viewed by nearby residents as amenities or disamenities.

**David Bañuelas** is a master's student at the Center for Regenerative Studies at California Polytechnic University in Pomona. In 2016 he started the Southern California Allelopathic Flora for Eradication (SAFE) project to study allelopathic trees that occur in the urban forests of Los Angeles. Allelopathic plants emit phytotoxins that inhibit the growth of weedy plant species. His research will test how mulch from various trees can reduce the growth of invasive plant species to aid in habitat restoration. The results of his research may encourage the development of allelopathic-based pesticides and further our understanding of weedy species that are susceptible to allelopathy.

**John Roberts** is a PhD candidate in environmental horticulture at the University of Florida in Gainesville. His project is titled "Semi-automatic Street Tree Inventory and Assessment from Mobile Terrestrial Remote Sensing." As laser scanning and photogrammetric data become more common, these datasets have been applied to monitoring urban forests. Using data collected from ground-based and unmanned aerial vehicles, Roberts creates three-dimensional models of urban streetscapes. These models are being tested for semi-automatic mapping and measurement of street trees, potentially leading to partial updates to existing urban tree inventories. Techniques to detect structural stem defects (i.e., lean status, low taper, etc.) from these datasets are also being developed.

## The Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Awards

*In addition to announcing its scholarships, The Garden Club of America, through its Hull Awards, "recognizes an individual who, through working with children under 16 years of age in horticulture and the environment, has inspired their appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet." Awardees are proposed by a GCA club or club member.*



### Byrna Bass

Cincinnati, OH  
*Proposed by Debbie Oliver, Cincinnati Town & Garden Club, Zone X*

Byrna Bass is an outdoor classroom educator for inner city elementary students at the Rothenberg Rooftop Garden in Cincinnati. She teaches environmentally friendly garden practices and is developing a pollinator garden. In her limited space, she uses beneficial insects, a tumble composter, and rain barrel to instill sustainable growing practices and encourage respect for the environment. She has dedicated most of her life and work to fostering a love of the environment in children.  
*Funded by Jane Chapman, Rochester Garden Club, Zone III*

### Christine Dietz

Dallas, TX  
*Proposed by Catherine Corrigan, Founders Garden Club, Zone IX*

Christine Dietz has worked in youth education in Dallas for more than ten years, and currently works as the Children's Program Specialist at the Dallas Arboretum. She is the lead wetlands educator in their children's adventure garden. More than half of the 5,000-6,000 students who attend her program each year are only familiar with a city biome, and she opens the doors of the natural world for them.

*Funded by South Side Garden Club of LI, Zone III*

### Kathy Gooch

Dayton, OH  
*Proposed by Tracy Bieser, Garden Club of Dayton, Zone X*

Kathy Gooch has been an occupational therapy assistant in the Dayton public school system for 20 years. She currently works at an urban at-risk school and developed a garden so that her students can connect with nature and enjoy the space. The garden includes a bed of pollinator perennials, native plants, a prairie, raised tables for herbs and vegetables, a compost area, stump stools, and blackboards.

*Funded by Kilduff Family Foundation in memory of Jane Kilduff, Zone V*



### Kathryn Kocarnik

Los Angeles, CA  
*Proposed by Edith Frère, Hancock Park Garden Club, Zone XII*

Kathryn Kocarnik is a beloved garden teacher and cooking instructor at the Garden School Foundation, an outdoor experiential school for Title I students in Los Angeles. Described as "a

rock star on our campus,” she teaches the value of composting and worms, the importance of bees, concepts of germination and photosynthesis, and the science of gardening. Her seed-to-table curriculum helps students learn about the environment, sustainability, and nutrition.

*Funded by Kilduff Family Foundation in memory of Jane Kilduff, Zone V*



**Pat Marks**

Houston, TX

*Proposed by Ruth Flournoy, River Oaks Garden Club, Zone IX*

Pat Marks, the associate director of the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, has been an educator for over 40 years. She created the original curriculum at the center for most of their programming and has devoted her life to educating students about the wonders of native flora and fauna. Whether hiking through the woods in search of armadillos or hawks, dipping in the ponds for crawfish and tadpoles, or planting pollinator gardens full of wildflowers, she encourages a love for the environment in young children.

**James McCarron**

Bernardsville, NJ

*Proposed by Dorcas Cochran, Garden Club of Somerset Hills, Zone IV*

James McCarron has taught art in Bernardsville, New Jersey, for 25 years and has incorporated a love of nature, gardening, and conservation into his art classes. He turned an unused courtyard into a vegetable garden and greenhouse, creating a micro-eco-system that incorporates New Jersey native plants and trees in this oasis for the community. A high-school senior who came back to work in the garden said, “he brings art, nature, conservation, environmental awareness, and respect into his classroom.”

**Jack McWilliams**

Baltimore, MD

*Proposed by Lindsay Hardesty, Amateur Gardeners Club, Zone VI*

Jack McWilliams has been a volunteer at the William S. Baer School, a public school for profoundly disabled students in Baltimore, for 20 years. He turned an unused greenhouse into a garden and gazebo where children in wheelchairs can plant and pick the fruit and vegetables in the raised beds he created, making nature approachable for a population that too often is neglected when it comes to environmental education.

**Catherine Pierson**

New Orleans, LA

*Proposed by Karin Eustis, New Orleans Town Gardeners, Inc., Zone IX*

Catherine Pierson serves as a volunteer environmental educator in the New Orleans School District. After Hurricane Katrina, she helped to create “Edible Schoolyard New Orleans,” which changed the way children eat, learn, and live. This program has created acres of organic gardens that are used by five FirstLine schools—where over 4,000 garden and culinary classes are taught, and 70 food education events occur each year. One supporter said, “Cathy knew that engaging children through their senses was a magical and transformative experience that many of the urban children never experienced.”

**Aaron Schomburg**

Princeton, NJ

*Proposed by Bonnie Higgins, Stony Brook Garden Club, Zone IV*

Aaron Schomburg has been a science teacher at Princeton Day School for 25 years. His interactive approach to teaching through outdoor classes and experiential learning sparks creativity and engagement within his students. His pond study and wetlands education, beehives, “Earth-Walks” curriculum, canal clean-up days, composting program, rain garden, and Green Team Summer Camp focus on sustainability and love of the environment.

**Sean Sheppard**

Richmond, VA

*Proposed by Cameron Furber, James River Garden Club, Zone VII*

Sean Sheppard founded Backyard Farmer in Richmond, Virginia. The program builds and runs learning gardens in schools, community centers, and afterschool programs. This past year, he ran gardens in 19 different public schools. Students care for the soil, plant, weed, compost, harvest, and taste. The yearlong program teaches garden planning, photosynthesis, pollination, plant structure, seed-germination, weather, and nutrition. The program has cultivated awe and respect for the natural world through teaching the life cycle of plants and giving students the gift of working in the garden. Sean has “cultivated young students’ minds and his exuberance is infectious.”



**Sally Shwartz**

Providence, RI

*Proposed by Kathleen Leddy, Perennial Planters, Zone II*

Sally Shwartz, a volunteer coordinator at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center in Providence, conducts botany tours for elementary students and created a program “to help people look more closely at horticulture and the environment, to be inspired, connect people with plants, and to foster a sense of stewardship for nature.” The goals are accomplished at the center through experiential learning and classes. She created “Fairy Garden Days,” held for two weeks each spring, which attract more than 5,000 visitors to the center. Fairy “homes” are created from natural materials and supplied by volunteers.

This whimsical event promotes imagination and observation of the natural world.

*Funded by Sasqua Garden Club, Zone II*

**Damian Thompson**

Little Rock, AR

*Proposed by Katherine Ann Trotter, Little Rock Garden Club, Zone IX*

Damian Thompson has been a garden educator at the Dunbar Garden Project in Little Rock for 14 years and its director for 12 years. He manages the three-acre urban garden and teaching farm, providing curriculum development, fundraising leadership, animal husbandry, and educational programming. The purpose of the garden project is to teach sustainable urban agriculture to the nearly 800 students it hosts each month. One supporter wrote, “Damian and the garden are the most powerful assets to ensure my kids WANT to become stewards of the environment.”



**Cesar Zuniga**

Atherton, CA

*Proposed by Sara Jorgensen, Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Zone XII*

Cesar Zuniga has developed school community gardens in Redwood City and Atherton since 2000. He most recently developed The Selby Lane School Garden serving as its coordinator. With 85 percent of his students at or below the poverty line, he believes that planting, caring for, and harvesting healthy fruits and vegetables will help these children develop a special relationship with the earth, and have a new appreciation for what it provides.

## Former Scholars Making a Difference



Matt Wasson. Photo by Erin Savage, courtesy of Appalachian Voices

**Matt Wasson** is director of programs for Appalachian Voices (AV), an environmental nonprofit protecting the land, air, and water of central and southern Appalachia. Wasson holds a BS in zoology from the University of Washington and a PhD in ecology from Cornell University. As a 1997 recipient of the GCA's Frances M. Peacock Scholarship for Native Bird Habitat, Wasson did research on acid rain effects on birds in remote areas of the Adirondack Mountains. With Wasson at the helm, AV collaborated with 12 North Carolina groups to address air pollution; their campaign resulted in the 2002 passage of the Clean Smokestacks Act, one of the nation's strongest air pollution laws at the time. Several years later Wasson helped create a

website and online campaign named *iLoveMountains.org*, aimed at increasing awareness of mountaintop-removal coal mining, an effort that turned what had been primarily an issue of concern in Appalachia into a national one. Recently Wasson has been involved in a movement in Virginia to encourage solar-sourced energy as an alternative to coal. A series of community meetings led to formation of the Southwest Virginia Solar Workgroup made up of state agencies, colleges, planning commissions, and interested citizens and businesses. This May the workgroup hosted an open-to-the-public Solar Fair, where a 5,000-watt mobile solar system built by students demonstrated how solar energy systems work. The Solar Fair also kicked off the Solarize Wise program, making it easier and less expensive for homeowners, small businesses, and farmers to install solar power in Wise County, Virginia. This fall AV will award two \$500 grants to teams of students for developing "Solar in Your School" projects. Earlier this year, Wasson testified before Congress on the impacts of the proposed Stream Protection Rule as it relates to the Endangered Species and Clean Water acts. Throughout his career Wasson is making a difference for our environment.

**Rebecca L. Vidra**, currently with the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, earned her BS from The Ohio State University's School of Natural Resources. After graduation she was a naturalist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and later an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Nature Conservancy in the Florida Keys, training volunteers to monitor coral reefs, fish populations, and water quality. This experience fueled her interest in restoration ecology and, in 2000, led to an MS in ecology from the University of North Carolina. By 2003 the invasion of exotic species throughout the forests of the North Carolina Piedmont region spurred Vidra to obtain a PhD in forestry. That same year Vidra received The Garden Club of America Fellowship in Ecological Restoration to research the control of exotic plants in urban forest corridors.

Today Vidra teaches courses in ecology and ethics at Duke University and is a respected storyteller of restoration projects that heal not only nature but also communities. This summer, in an ecological diversity program based in Kaua'i called DukeEngage, Vidra is leading ten undergraduate students in collaborative work with local organizations. Informed by principles of native Hawaiian traditions blended with tenets of land management, their goal will be sustainable food production, specifically restoration of ancient fishponds, taro fields, coral reefs, and tropical forests. Vidra will lead weekly sessions bringing together students and local residents to create opportunities to share ideas and experiences.



Rebecca L. Vidra. Photo by Carlhey Bolz

Scholars pictured on page 41. Top row from left: Kevin Jeffery, Luisa McGarvey, Tyler Coverdale, Rachel R. Renne. Middle row: Elizabeth B. Powell, Johnny Buck, Meredith Martin, Soren Struckman. Bottom row: Nathan Jahnke, Leslie Touzeau, David Bañuelas, Samantha Apgar



## Paul Alan Cox: A Life in Botany

by Lorraine Alexander, Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III

“Destroying a rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal.”

—E.O. Wilson

*Professor Paul Alan Cox began the work that would lead to his career as an eminent ethnobotanist when he was nineteen, on a Mormon mission to help Pacific islanders. Eventually he helped them save an entire rainforest. His love of plants was evident in childhood and encouraged by his parents, particularly his mother, who was a scientist. He may be the only person you've met—if you attended this May's Annual Meeting in Baltimore—who's created a national park (in American Samoa). Keenly engaged with Earth's myriad, interconnected forms of life, he's found a link between a bat, a seed, and certain neurodegenerative diseases (see Keynote Speech, page 25); pioneered the protection of tropical plants; and impersonated a bee at a Harvard lecture on pollination.*



Paul Cox studying cordyline in 2002 at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Kaua'i. Photo by John Fong, Nu Skin Enterprises

### Professor Cox, tell us please about the beginnings of your profound interest in the natural world?

My mother researched treatments for diseases in fish, and later became a western regional administrator for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. My father was a National Parks ranger, and spent many years as a conservation officer, also for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. My grandfather was hired by John D. Rockefeller Jr. to help turn large private ranches into today's Grand Teton National Park; he finished his career caring for wild fowl along the Great Salt Lake. My great-grandfather was an early advocate of Arbor Day. There was an expectation that I would continue the tradition.

When I was ten I received a permit from the National

Forest Service to collect cobra lilies (*Darlingtonia californica*) near Gasquet, California. My parents drove me two days to get there, but when we arrived a road project was being bulldozed right through the plants. I carried four or five of these rescued little

lilies home in our car, carefully watering them with distilled water, to a greenhouse I'd built. I gently misted them each night to try to simulate Pacific coastal fog.

### Your connection to plants reached a new level when you lived in a village in the Samoan island chain. Would you describe the importance of your experience for you and the islanders?

I lived for two years with villagers who treated me with great kindness and patiently helped me learn their language. I felt a debt to them and was enthralled by the beauty of their lowland rainforests. Returning years later, I discovered that village chiefs had sold logging rights to fund a school. My wife, Barbara, agreed to mortgage our house to help



Paul Cox with a Samoan healer learning about traditional medicine. Photo courtesy of Paul Alan Cox



Professor Paul Cox seated in a re-creation of Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus's study. Photo courtesy of Paul Alan Cox

save the Samoan forest. Together with students and friends, we paid for the school ourselves. The villagers in return promised to protect their rainforest.

### **What might an aspiring botanist today learn from your globetrotting navigation of academia?**

I was very fortunate, first, to get an undergraduate scholarship to Brigham Young University, where I studied botany and philosophy. Going forward, I sought out the people I wanted most to learn from, some of the world's most eminent botanists, at the University of Wales, Harvard, and Berkeley. I was E.O. Wilson's teaching fellow at Harvard for four years. When I started out I thought it would be impossible to make a living as a botanist. I pinch myself every time I realize I've been able to spend my life studying plants.

### **Much of your own career has been devoted to teaching, from Utah to Uppsala, in Sweden, where you were appointed the first King Carl XVI Gustaf professor of environmental science. What was it like to teach and live where Linnaeus did?**

Life-changing. I realized how intrepid Linnaeus was for one thing. I carried with me a copy of *Iter Lapponicum*, his personal diary, as I retraced his steps through Lapland north of the Arctic Circle. There in 1732 he interviewed a Sami healer about her use of medicinal plants. To my knowledge this represents the very first time a trained botanist studied with traditional healers. I was thrilled to interview another Sami healer, near the same place, who was still using plants Linnaeus had recorded.

When Linnaeus returned to Uppsala he was greeted like a rock star. Hundreds of people crowded into his lectures on plants, to which he wore a traditional Sami costume. I've followed his example in spirit, having our greenhouse people at BYU simulate a rainforest, complete with smoke machines, in the lecture hall. Linnaeus is a hard act to follow, however. Preceded by trumpeters, he would lead botanical field trips into a forest preserve and stage beautiful luncheons for

his students. As director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG), I arranged for elegant meals in our Allerton Garden on Kaua'i. I think we should celebrate the beauty of plants in more joyful, deliberate ways.

### **What do you see as the most significant role of botanical gardens?**

Botanical gardens are plant archives that often provide platforms for research. The NTBG, which consists of four gardens in Hawaii and one in Florida, was chartered by the US Congress in 1964 to be a domestic resource for tropical plants. An example of its work is Dr. Diane Ragone's development, through the NTBG's Breadfruit Institute, of a gluten-free starch that promises to feed millions of people in places facing famine. [Ragone received the 2016 GCA Medal of Honor.] Another organization, San Diego's Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) and its 42 member botanical gardens and arboreta, protects wild plants nationwide. Although my personal efforts focus on plants *in situ*, many endangered species must rely on botanical gardens, which grow them from collected wild seeds, as their only defense against extinction—and their only hope for reintroduction into the wild.

### **Your commitment to tropical flora led to the founding of Seacology at Berkeley in 1991. What does Seacology do?**

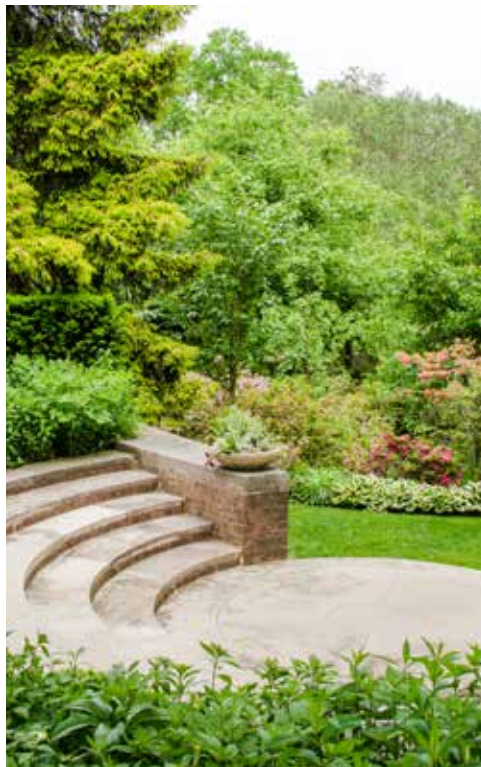
Seacology is a nonprofit that grew out of my rainforest experience in Samoa. It has now saved more than 1.5 million acres of island rainforests and coral reefs in 58 countries in return for conservation covenants. Last July we reached an agreement with the Sri Lankan government for the protection of *all* of that country's coastal mangrove forests; in return Seacology provided small-business microloans to 15,000 impoverished coastal women. I knew the project would succeed when the Sri Lankan naval commander tasked with enforcing the agreement showed me photos of *Rhizophora mucronata* seedlings he had planted himself.

### **Tell us about the connection between your faith and life in science.**

Indigenous people everywhere seem to agree on one thing: Our planet is sacred. I too agree. We are blessed to live on an extraordinarily species-diverse planet alongside life-supporting plants. We tend to forget that plants are fundamental; without them we would soon perish. My personal view is that if you love the Creator you shouldn't slash His painting.

## John Sonnier: A Gardener's Story

by Betsy Bosway, Indianapolis Garden Club, Zone X



*Spending time with John Sonnier, head gardener/horticulturist at the British Embassy in DC, was one of the highlights of the 2017 Annual Meeting. He gave delegates a private tour, sharing the history of the residence, gardens, and greenhouse as well as explanations of modern-day practices that keep the estate in regal condition.*

*Beds, borders, paths, and terraces are features of this beautiful and well-tended property, originally designed in 1930 by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.*

### How did you get into gardening as a profession?

I've had my hands in dirt my whole life! I was raised in Houston, where we had gardens, and my extended family had farms in Louisiana. I started studying civil engineering in college but switched to landscape design when a fraternity brother invited me to join his new firm. I've worked at Dumbarton Oaks, then Hillwood, and now the embassy.

### What led you to become a "greener" gardener?

The first week I worked here a man showed up in a white HAZMAT suit to spray the roses. I thought there had to be a better way! I had an early awareness of the hazards of pesticides from my uncles, who were exposed to high levels of pesticides—mostly from crop dusting. With the blessing of the ambassador's wife, we stepped away from chemicals. We stopped planting finicky tea roses, for example, and replaced many with *Rosa rugosa*, which are very hardy, disease resistant, fragrant roses that require far less intervention. Through experimentation we've developed beautiful gardens teeming with gorgeous flowers and abundant vegetables. Gardening is all about time. It's an everyday job to keep on top of it but well worth the effort.

Photos by Linder Suthers

### What advice can you give to everyday gardeners?

Plant the right plants in the right places! Every area of the country has great plants that are well suited for the soil and growing conditions. Walk around your neighborhood and your arboretum to see what's thriving, and then you won't need to use chemicals. And stay away from mulch! It is an afterthought of the lumber industry that can introduce diseased trees into our gardens. Buy a shredder and use composted leaves for your gardens. It is liquid gold! Think of the forest floor: the leaves break down and fertilize the soil.

### Any parting wisdom?

My coffee mug quotes Thomas Jefferson: "I am an old man but a young gardener." The older I get the more these words mean to me. Gardening changes. We need to adapt and learn from our successes.

# The GCA's Headquarters:



**Above:** Detail of needlepoint of state flowers designed by Dorothy Falcon Platt, based on a 1937 gouache painting by Cornelia Platt that was given to the GCA in 1943. Photos by Gay Legg

**Right:** A view of the living room showing the 1946 watercolor and gouache painting by Lee Adams, *Passion Flowers with Two Yellow Birds*. Adams was known as the "Audubon of the South," painting birds and native plants for the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The 1938 Wedgwood GCA commemorative plates are displayed.

**Following page, left to right:** Detail of the 19th-century screen presented to the GCA in 1961 by the Japanese government.

Detail of the Gracie wallpaper designed for the GCA.

Detail of one of the set of four early-19th-century Chinese watercolors of mandarins in a landscape that hangs in the hallway.



## Then and Now

In the spring of 1913 twelve garden clubs from the Philadelphia area joined forces to form what would soon become The Garden Club of America. The draw of this new affiliation among garden clubs was strong, and it quickly became a thriving and very

influential organization. Surprisingly, perhaps, but within seven years of the organization's founding, the headquarters moved from Philadelphia, where it all began, to New York City, which had no GCA-affiliated club. How did the headquarters of the GCA end up in the middle of Manhattan?

In the early days Elizabeth Price Martin, our founder and president until 1920, held meetings at her Philadelphia home and her summer home in Chestnut Hill. When the reins of power were transferred to a Boston-based president and with five of the eight executive members situated in or near New York City, some might see the move to New York as inevitable. Indeed, space on the east side of Manhattan was offered in the home of first one and then another club member, at no cost, and off went the files to New York City. While donated space worked for a bit, the GCA's leadership soon began planning for a move to a true, official location. In 1921 our headquarters were in a room leased from the American Horticultural Society at 598 Madison Avenue, expanding to two rooms by 1924 to accommodate the library and exhibits. With a three-year lease in hand, GCA club members decorated the space with the help of an interior decorator—a sign, perhaps, of a long-term commitment.

Roots were now firmly established in New York City. In 1947 we moved to a residential penthouse on 58th Street to save rental costs, but the space proved inadequate. Our previous 598 Madison Avenue location drew us back in 1958, and there we remained for the next four decades, growing to occupy an entire floor by 1968. A combined House and Gifts Committee was created to design an inviting environment for visiting club members and an appropriate space to conduct official business. Gifts from clubs and individual members were used to tastefully, but never lavishly, furnish the space.

In 1998 we moved to our current location at 14 East 60th Street, constructed in 1905 as a residential hotel, and at one point the home of the famous Copacabana nightclub. The building currently houses

a number of organizations, including the Central Park Conservancy. With the move, a volunteer committee carefully reinstalled much of the décor and fine art that had been donated through the years by club members. The new space included the main meeting room, known as the Crowninshield Room, which was a replica of the same room on Madison Avenue and dedicated as a tribute to Louise du Pont Crowninshield (1877–1958) for her 38 years of service on the Executive Board and as chairman of several national committees. The room was decorated in the early-19th-century New England style with oriental influences—her favorite period in American art—with contributions from her friends from all over the country. The Crowninshield Room still contains many of these beloved artifacts, including the paneling and furnishings that were moved from Madison Avenue.

Although much of the recent renovation at Headquarters was behind-the-scenes—upgrades to the plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and technology systems that were long overdue and necessary to meet 21st-century standards (thanks to skillful negotiations, the building owner absorbed certain of these line items)—when you next visit our spruced up headquarters, you'll see some new additions, but mostly repurposed favorites and old friends: the hand-painted Gracie wallpaper still hangs in the dining room; the carved wooden figures from the Crowninshield garden in Marblehead, Massachusetts, preside in the room bearing her name as well as in the reception area. The 1938 GCA Wedgwood collector plates, "Types of Gardens Throughout the Ages," are on display, along with the beautiful GCA 50th Anniversary Bowl. Ever the wise steward of our resources, the Renovation and House committees conducted a purposeful, measured, and responsible restoration while meeting modern-day needs. Today every corner of GCA Headquarters continues to reflect the beauty and legacy of headquarters locations throughout our history.

—Donna Ganson, *GCA Historian*, *Garden Club of Lawrence, Zone III*





# About that GCA Scarf You're Wearing

**GCA Scarves, some in detail, from top left:** 1993 Chicago, 1998 Williamsburg, 1999 Parsippany, 2001 Orlando (three of the four designs, courtesy Dorothy Draper & Co.), 2002 Dallas, 2004 Washington, 2005 Kansas City, 2006 Denver, 2007 Boston, 2008 Norfolk, 2009 Providence, 2010 East Brunswick, 2011 Indianapolis, 2012 Savannah, 2013 GCA Centennial (in four color schemes), 2014 New Orleans, 2015 Rochester, 2016 Minneapolis, 2017 Baltimore, 2018 San Francisco

I recently attended a GCA meeting in New York City. When I approached the building's security guard, he waved me up to the correct floor. This stopped me in my tracks. "How do you know where I'm going?" The answer: "The scarf." We are all familiar with our tradition of an annual meeting scarf; most of us probably own one or more. We know that they are an important source of funds used to offset annual meeting costs not covered by registration fees. They are beautiful pieces of art, made of silk and reflecting the theme or meeting location. But whose idea was this? How did the tradition start?

You might be surprised to learn that the first GCA scarf was not made specifically for an annual meeting at all, although it had a GCA pedigree and was sold at the 1993 meeting in Chicago. In 1986 the late Cherie Sutton Pettit, botanical artist and member of the Piedmont Garden Club, had painted a beautiful watercolor map of endangered plants and flowers from across the US for the GCA Conservation Committee. It was hanging at Headquarters in New York when the idea was hatched to sell a GCA scarf incorporating the design both to raise awareness of endangered plants and to raise funds. The proceeds from that first scarf were donated to the GCA Scholarship Fund.

The first scarf created specifically for an annual meeting was designed by Frankie Welch for the 1998 meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. Welch was one of America's preeminent designers of the day, fashioning scarves for many organizations as well as fabrics worn by some of America's most photographed women, notably first ladies Lady

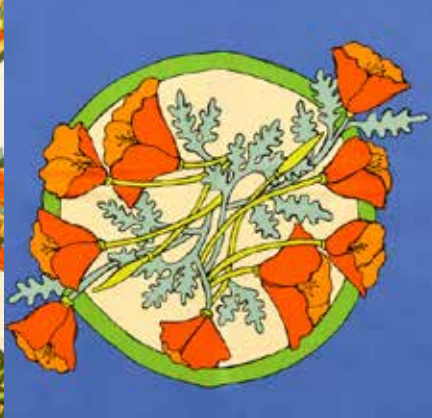
Bird Johnson and Betty Ford. The scarf depicted flora of the four states in host Zone VII. In 1999 the GCA returned to Cherie Pettit for the annual meeting scarf design. There was no scarf for the 2000 meeting. Making up for lost time, the 2001 meeting in Orlando, Florida, featured not one but four scarves, with themes that varied from sailboats to fox hunts, all designed by Carleton Varney of Dorothy Draper & Co., said to be the first professional decorating firm in the US.

Most scarves have been designed by artistic members of clubs in the hosting zone. Both Cherie Pettit and the Garden Club of Denver's Angela Overy, who designed the 2006 scarf, received the Eloise Payne Luquer Medal, named for the esteemed botanical artist and member of Bedford Garden Club. Our club members' talents are also reflected in the popularity of our annual meeting scarves. Sally Hough, from New Canaan Garden Club, designed the scarf for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, and all 650 scarves were sold out before the meeting took place. At the 2010 meeting, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, a tie for men was offered, an idea suggested by GCA Honorary Member M. Chris Giftos, floral designer and retired special events director at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The tradition continues with the 2017 Annual Meeting scarf, adorned with May blooms typical of the Baltimore area entwined on a white trellis with a light blue background. We all have our favorites and wear them with pride.

—Donna Ganson, *GCA Historian, Garden Club of Lawrence, Zone III*







## The GCA's Book Collections

Gardening and books have been friends for most of recorded history. Cicero wrote, “If you have a garden and a library, you will want for nothing.” Even the most ardent gardener comes in from the garden to read, whether to find out how to scarify a seed or feed peonies, or simply for surcease from kneeling on hard ground, weeding out garlic mustard.

The founders of the GCA were no different. Shortly after creating this organization, they turned to outfitting a library devoted to gardening, horticulture, botany, flower arranging, and garden history and design, as well as to many publications by its clubs’ members. The first reference to the library in the *Bulletin* is from April 1915. Generous donations quickly followed. More than a third of the books in the GCA’s Rare Book Collection contain donor information, and nearly a third of the main collection, at Headquarters, is also the result of donations by club members as well as by the authors or publishers. Since no database is ever perfect, a sleuth with time on her hands would undoubtedly turn up more such gifts by paging through each book, looking for lost bookplates, inscriptions, and hand-written notes.

Over the past year virtually every book at HQ—over 3,000—has been catalogued according to the Library of Congress system, labeled, dusted, and re-shelved. At the same time, the GCA’s Rare Book Collection of more than 700 volumes has been placed on deposit at the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Garden. The driving motivation for the move was to find a safe place for the collection to reside—the NYBG repository offered state-of-the-art climate controls and a 24/7 security system—while making the books available to scholars, writers, and other professionals as well as members of the GCA community. Currently the GCA’s Rare Book Collection is going through the final processes of being evaluated, catalogued, and shelved. Books requiring special care are handled in the conservation lab at NYBG, where conservators use proven techniques to stabilize them. In March, Executive Director Susan Fraser and Head of Special Collections Stephen Sinon conducted a tour for the GCA, which assured us that the GCA’s Rare Book Collection is in the best possible hands.

The Library Committee looks forward to your next visit to New York to see our books.

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

The GCA’s Rare Book Collection at NYBG. Photo by Jennifer Barnette



# Zone Meetings



A view of the Reedy River Falls.

## Zone VIII

15 clubs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

*"The Hills Are Alive"*

April 2-4, 2017

Westin Poinsett Hotel

Hosted by **Carolina Foothills GC**, Greenville, SC

Chaired by **Murray McCissick, Mary Holt Murphy**

Flower Show chaired by **Cokey Cory**

*Greenville has rightly been named the most livable city in America due to the restoration of its once-derelect downtown area—now breathtakingly beautiful with its setting by the redesigned Falls Park on the Reedy. Bringing back the Reedy River Falls, covered by an overpass built in the 1960s, began in 1967 when the Carolina Foothills Garden Club bought the land below the falls with a vision to create a park. With the club's foresight and unrelenting effort, and a mayor willing to champion the project, the revitalization of Greenville began. Now filled with art, people, shops, restaurants, and beauty everywhere, downtown Greenville has it all. Kudos to CFGC! Delegates were treated*

*to spectacular dinners, inspiring presentations, and the warm welcome that gives Greenville its stellar reputation.*

### Speakers

**Mayor Knox H. White**, City of Greenville, "Making Greenville the Most Beautiful and Livable City in America"

**Gillaine Warne**, CFGC, "Agriculture Program in Cange, Haiti"

### Awards

*Creative Leadership Award:* **Amy Nowell**, The GC of the Halifax Country

*Zone Civic Improvement Commendation:* **Mayor Knox White**, City of Greenville, proposed by CFGC

*Zone Conservation Award:* **Mary Palmer Dargan**, Cherokee GC

*Zone Conservation Commendation:* **Brad Wyche**, Upstate Forever, proposed by CFGC

*Barbara Spaulding Cramer Zone, Floral Design Education Award:* **Mary Webster**, GC of Palm Beach

*Zone Horticulture Commendation:* **Joelle Teachey**, Trees Greenville, proposed by CFGC

*Zone Historic Preservation Award:* **Anna Kate Hipp, Betty Stall**, CFGC, proposed by CFGC

*Weesie Smith, Horticulture Award:* **Vicki Denton**, GC of Palm Beach

*Katherine Eaton Cobb Floral Design Award:* **Susan Doherty**, Late Bloomers GC

### Flower Show Awards

*Ann Lyon Crammond Award:* **Alex Whitley**, CFGC

*Dorothy Vietor Munger Award:* **Mary Katherine Greene, Amy Smith**, Peachtree GC

*Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award:* **Lisa Bertles**, GC of Palm Beach

*Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award:* **Laura Haley**, Late Bloomers GC

*Best in Show—Floral Design:* **Lee Easterly**, GC of Lookout Mountain, Zone IX

*GCA Novice Award in Horticulture:* **Libby Kehl**, CFGC

*Catherine Beattie Medal:* **Helen Couch**, The Palmetto GC of SC  
*Rosie Jones Horticulture Award:* **Libby Kehl**, CFGC

*Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award:* **CFGC**

*Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award:* **Marian St. Clair**, CFGC

*Best in Show—Horticulture:* **Kelly Hagler**, Sand Hills GC

*GCA Novice Award in Photography:* **Dorothy Nutant**, Late Bloomers GC

*Photography Creativity Award:* **Hawley McAuliffe**, Grass River GC

*Best in Show—Photography:* **Christina Kramer**, GC of Palm Beach

*Floral Design Class 1:* **Laura Haley**, Late Bloomers GC; *Class 2:* **Cameron Garrard**, Junior Ladies GC; *Class 3:* **Mary Katherine Greene, Amy Smith**, Peachtree GC; *Class 4:* **Martha Pellett**, CFGC; *Class 5:* **Sharel Hooper**, GC of Lookout Mountain, Zone IX

*Botanical Art Class 1: Embellished Brooch:* **Lee Easterly, Sharel Hooper**, GC of Lookout Mountain, Zone IX; *Class 2 Natural Brooch:* **Cathy Mebane**, CFGC

*Photography Class 1:* **Christina Kramer**, GC of Palm Beach; *Class 2:* **Jane Perry McFadden**, The Palmetto GC of SC; *Class 3:* **Catherine Dolan**, Sand Hills GC; *Class 4:* **Dorothy Nutant**, Late Bloomers GC

### Highlights

- Dinner at Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp's Paris Mountain home
- Mayor Knox White on the revitalization of Greenville
- Tour of the Andrew Wyeth exhibit and lunch at Greenville's Museum of Art
- Gillaine Warne's impassioned presentation on her mission work in Haiti



The committee had fun planning the fabulous awards banquet at Genevieve's. From left: Nora Shore, Katherine Hughes, Georgea Greaves, Stephanie Norris, Anna Pressly, Lisa Ashmore, and Ann Bull.

## Zone IX

*20 clubs in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas*

### *“Riverside Reflections”*

March 20-23, 2017

Natchez Convention Center

Hosted by **Garden Lovers of Natchez**, Natchez, MS

Chaired by **Sherry Jones, Stephanie Punches**

Flower Show chaired by **Pam Harriss**

*Natchez, founded in 1716, is a community filled with history and defined by Southern charm. Once the most important port on the Mississippi River, its stunning antebellum mansions bear witness to the wealth of its early days. Beautiful homes and gardens were on every street, and delegates were treated to private tours, elegant candlelit dinners in historic homes, and presentations that were informative and fascinating. Coinciding with the “Natchez Pilgrimage,” delegates experienced “old” Natchez and enjoyed the graciousness and hospitality that characterizes the South.*



Dodie Jackson tearfully receiving the Alice Kain Stout Mentoring Award. Photo by Nancy Keely

## Speakers

**Mimi Miller**, executive director, Historic Natchez Foundation, “Natchez History”

**Donna Ganson**, GCA Historian, GC of Lawrence, Zone III, “Speaking of History: Sherry Jones and Elsie Dunklin Share their Memories”

**Tom Johnson**, executive director, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston, SC, “Searching the World for Ancient Camellias”

**Barbara Faust**, director; **Cindy Brown**, manager, Horticulture Collections Management and Education, Smithsonian Gardens, “Archives of American Gardens: Capturing Garden History”

## Awards

*Zone Civic Improvement Award:*

**Carlton Long**, Knoxville GC

*Zone Civic Improvement Commendation:* **Jennifer Carson**, proposed by Gertrude Windsor GC

*Zone Communications Award:*

**Tootsie Crutchfield**, Magnolia GC

*Zone Conservation Award:* **Gloria Walker**, The GC of Jackson

*Zone Conservation Commendation:*

**George Dunklin**, proposed by Little Rock GC

*Zone Floral Design Achievement Award:*

**Audrey Curl**, Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills GC, **Carole Bailey**, River Oaks GC

*Zone Horticulture Award:*

**Kingslea Von Helms**, The GC of Houston

*Zone Historic Preservation Award:*

**Susan Hardtner**, Shreveport Garden Study Club

*Zone Historic Preservation Commendation:*

**Natchez City Cemetery**, proposed by Garden Lovers of Natchez

*Zone Photography Award:* **Mary Haggerty**, Founders GC of Dallas

*Zone Judging Award:* **Ashley Higginbotham**, The Monroe Garden Study League

*Zone IX Garden History and Design Award:* **Elsie Dunklin**, Founders GC of Dallas

*Alice Kain Stout Mentoring Award:*

**Dodie Jackson**, The GC of Houston

*Zone IX Appreciation Award:*

**Caroline Brown**, The Monroe Garden Study League

## Flower Show Awards

*GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award; Novice Award in Botanical Arts:* **Lori French**, The Monroe Garden Study League

*Best in Show—Botanical Arts:*

**Debbie Robinson**, The GC of Houston

*Ann Lyon Crammond Award:*

**Garden Lovers of Natchez**

*Dorothy Vietor Munger Award:*

**Kathy Rasberry, Marti Lepow**, Shreveport Garden Study Club

*Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award; Best in Show—Floral Design:*

**Ashley Bright**, New Orleans Town Gardeners

*Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award:* **JoEllyn Jowers**, Magnolia GC

*GCA Novice Award in Horticulture; Best in Show—*

*Horticulture:* **Kathy Rasberry**, The Monroe Garden Study League

*Catherine Beattie Medal:* **Betsy Ellis**, Shreveport Garden Study Club

*Rosie Jones Horticulture Award:*

**Ann Ledoux**, The Monroe Garden Study League

*Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award:* **Stacey Wilson**, Knoxville GC

*GCA Novice Award in Photography:*

**Charlotte Brown**, Little Rock GC

*Photography Creativity Award:*

**Laura Zachry**, Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills GC

*Best in Show—Photography:*

**Maryan Mercer**, Memphis GC

## Highlights

- Awards dinner at the Natchez Community Center—the 1946 Service Motor Company auto showroom and garage
- Natchez-style hospitality
- Our guests, of course!



Anne Copenhaver, GCA president; Camilla Burbank, Zone IX director; and Nancy Thomas, former GCA president (1991-93). Photo by Nancy Keely

# NewsWorthy



CGC President Susan Pile with Stacy Sturdy, Debbie Shadd, Margaret Cotter, and DPW consultants and planters. Photo by Georgia Carroll

## Zone I

### Cohasset Garden Club

Cohasset, MA

As part of its community outreach program, Cohasset Garden Club donated five new trees to replace dying and diseased ones on Cohasset Common. Concerned residents approached the club for help in obtaining new trees to beautify and revitalize the Common. The request was a perfect catalyst for using CGC's outreach funds, which had been earmarked for new tree plantings as part of the 2013 GCA Centennial Tree Project. With a local landscape designer's input, CGC members Debbie Shadd, Susan Pile, and Susie Davis helped purchase the trees, which were planted in April by Cohasset Department of Public Works. The tree installation was supervised

by Cohasset's tree warden in consultation with Bartlett Tree Experts.

Three autumn cherry trees (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') with their lovely pink spring flowers were placed around the Common's pond. As part of CGC's commitment to native trees, a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and an 'October Glory' red maple (*Acer rubum*) were added in prominent spaces. The tulip tree's blossoms give way to lovely yellow foliage in the fall. The red maple's spectacular crimson foliage lasts weeks after other trees have shed their colorful mantles. Identification tags will soon be added to the new and already existing trees on Cohasset Common. We hope these trees will be enjoyed by all who live here or visit for many years to come.

—Georgia Carroll

### Milton Garden Club

Milton, MA

Every March, the Boston Flower Show transforms the concrete walls of the Seaport World Trade Center's exhibit hall into garden and amateur competitions featuring floral design, horticulture, and photography. The smell of newly spread mulch and forced bulbs gives everyone who walks through the doors spring fever. The show's photography committee included GCA club members Chris Wood, Noanett GC; Helen Glaenger, North Shore GC; and Christine Paxhia, Milton GC.

—Christine Paxhia



Taking a rest between setup and judging are Chris Wood, Helen Glaenger, and Christine Paxhia. Photo by Christine Paxhia

## Zone II

### New Canaan Garden Club

New Canaan, CT

In keeping with the GCA's commitment to conservation and en-

vironmental protection, the New Canaan Garden Club has made a financial contribution to the New Canaan Land Trust (NCLT) for future stewardship of its recent acquisition, the Silvermine Fowler Preserve—a 6.35-acre parcel along a migratory bird route with meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. The property, which includes Still Pond, hosts abundant wildlife such as the eastern wood peewee, red-eyed vireo, and northern flicker. NCLT, dedicated to permanently protecting diverse natural environments, now owns or has conservation easements over 380 acres of land. The Fowler Preserve is named after Betsey and Jim Fowler, who lived in New Canaan for many years and reached an agreement with NCLT to preserve the property. Upon completion of the purchase, NCLT will begin additional work to improve appropriate public access.

—Ellen McMahon



NCLT Executive Director Mike Johnson, NCGC President Jane Gamber, NCGC Conservation Co-chair Lisa Kaine-Dunn, The Trust for Public Land's Acting Connecticut State Director Walker Holmes, and NCLT President Art Berry. Photo by Ellen McMahon

## Zone III

### North Suffolk Garden Club Stonybrook, NY

One week after the GCA's 2017 National Affairs & Legislation (NAL) Conference concluded, North Suffolk Garden Club's Program Chair Barbara Gray organized a lecture with conservation advocate Adrienne Esposito, a founder of Citizens for the Environment. Members were inspired by Esposito's passionate dedication and tireless work for clean water as well as her ideas about how to advocate more effectively. (She explained that one email to a US congressman equates to 300 constituent voices, motivating members to send emails.)

NSGC members had already learned from their two NAL delegates, President Jennifer Lawrence and Conservation Co-chair Kathleen Mich, about the importance of airing environmental concerns with legislators, and about the specific pledge of Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY,

1st District), a speaker at the NAL conference, to fight for funding to restore the Long Island Sound and Natural Estuary—a resource enjoyed by residents across Long Island. The expanded dumping of dredging debris has known and unknown pollution risks. NSGC members applaud NAL, Congressman Zeldin's commitment to the restoration of the Long Island Sound, and Esposito's Citizens for the Environment campaign. Members feel better equipped to lobby for conservation issues as a result of attending NAL and by being inspired by individuals like Esposito, who is a past recipient of the Environmentalist of the Year award by the *Times Beacon Record*.

Sending members to NAL, followed up by a stimulating conservation program the next week, formed a perfect storm of awareness and activism. NSGC is committed to sending two delegates to NAL annually—pairing a new delegate with an experienced one. NSGC is pleased to have another educational opportunity provided by the GCA. NAL spurs action!

—Christa Amato



Long Island Sound. Photo by Jennifer Lawrence



Members of The Gardeners, from left: Cathy Decker, Sarah Collier, Deb Donaldson, Lyn Marinchak, and Gail Gillespie. Photo by Lyn Marinchak

## Zone V

### The Gardeners Villanova, PA

Founded in 1827, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society held the nation's first flower show in 1829. Today the Philadelphia Flower Show is the world's largest indoor flower show, attracting 250,000 people annually. It is held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center each March with amazing floral displays, impressive botanical jewelry, and a profusion of horticulture.

Entering and volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show are time-honored traditions for The Gardeners. In addition to volunteers among our members, four are on the Philadelphia Flower Show Committee, working on documents and signage, and serving as competitive class chairs. Numerous Gardeners enter both Horticulture and Artistic classes. For the third year in a row The Gardeners won the Margaret Buckley Zantzing Award for

accumulating the greatest number of points in all competitive classes. The club's star exhibitor is Deb Donaldson, who amassed 3,625 points, which was instrumental in winning this prestigious award. Other important awards went to a total of ten talented club members. The efforts made by many Gardeners to support this spectacular show were tremendous. Already decisions are being made for 2018's show, *Wonders of Water*.

—Wyn Coghlan



Winning entry by mother-daughter team Sue Hansen and Elizabeth Buckley Zantzing Award for  
Gross. Photo by Wyn Coghlan

## Wissahickon Garden Club

Philadelphia, PA

Wissahickon Garden Club members Lisa Walker and Jennifer Fiss's "Queen Bee-atrrix's Bonnet" won numerous accolades at 2017's Philadelphia Flower Show. Clocking a total of 75 hours' preparation, the pair used 27 different materials—including live flowers, from ground moss to gilded coriander seeds and kiwi vine. Surrounding the bonnet are buzzing bees created from black beans, cannellini beans, lentils, sesame seeds, cumin seeds, pine seeds and skeletonized rubber tree leaves. Copper beech leaves became parrot tulips with centers fashioned from rose of Sharon and sensitive, or bead, fern. Hats off to Lisa and Jennifer!

—Carolyn Adams



Queen Bee-atrrix's Bonnet. Photo by Lisa Walker

## Zone VII

### Dolley Madison Garden Club

Orange, VA

Dolley Madison Garden Club held a much-anticipated "Flowers Chopped" competition for the club's May meeting. Flower Show Committee chairs Annie Vanderwarker and Pat Filer crafted a fun and spirited contest modeled after the popular Food Network show *Chopped*. There were three rounds with three competitors in each. Judges Tasha Tobin and Vibeke Ober selected the winners. Each competitor received a basket containing identical flowers and a surprise element. The type of arrangement was announced before the participants were permitted to open their baskets.

Containers, mechanics, additional flowers, and greens were available in the "kitchen" nearby. Everyone had ten minutes to produce a completed arrangement using all of the "ingredients" in their baskets, plus chosen items from the kitchen.

The assignment for round one was a small mass arrangement for a side table using peonies, roses, hellebore, and red licorice. Carla Passarello's placed first. Round two arrangers were assigned a line design using ferns, Siberian and bearded iris, baptista, and striped straws, which was won by Joanne Davies. In round three, won by Gail Babnew, Victorian-era Tussie Mussies were created with roses, carnations, and lollipops. This



Gail Babnew's Tussie Mussie winner. Photo by Gale Martin

exciting competition left members anticipating the next "Flowers Chopped" event.

—Mary Stroh Queitzsch and Gale Martin

## Zone VIII

### Founders Garden Club of Sarasota, Inc.

Sarasota, FL



FGC members Marybeth Goddard, Beth Gourlay, Mimi Hernandez, Jeannie Russell, Carrie Lee Major, and Gina Gregoria, creating centerpieces. Photo by Sara Bagley

On April 22 members of the Founders Garden Club of Sarasota, Inc., enjoyed "Blossoms and Brunch," a celebration of the Sarasota Ringling Museum's Mable Ringling Rose Garden. Mabel Ringling, wife of circus magnate John Ringling, designed the Italian-style formal garden on their estate in 1913. Over 1,000 roses and garden statuary were laid out in a circular wagon wheel pattern. Before brunch on a beautiful spring day, guests had the opportunity to sip mimosas as they explored Mabel's beloved garden. There is a special affiliation between the FGC and the Ringling Museum—Mabel was one of our founding members and first president (1927-1929). Under the guidance of club member Sara Bagley, ten members created the centerpieces for the occasion—20 gilded birdcages filled with a profusion of roses in shades of gold and coral.

—Jeannie Russell

## Zone IX

### New Orleans Town Gardeners, Inc.

New Orleans, LA



New Orleans Town Gardeners launched Weed Wrangle® New Orleans, Louisiana's first P4P project. Club members were joined by Tulane University volunteers along with Linda Walker and Cathy Pierson, committee co-chairs. Sarah Howard, land manager and supervisor of Grow Dat Youth Farm in City Park, provided instruction on eradicating invasives from the property along the birding corridor. This effort cleared the way for the NOTG to introduce native plants on the trail. By Pamela Bryan; photo by Sarah Howard



Ladue GC members in Sue McKinley's Santa Barbara garden. Photo by Sue McKinley

## Zone XI

### Ladue Garden Club

St. Louis, MO

In April, fourteen members of the Ladue Garden Club traveled to Santa Barbara, CA, to tour seven private and five public gardens. "The Garden Club of Santa Barbara outdid itself," said LGC Visiting Gardens Chair Frances Gay. "Members opened their private gardens and welcomed us into their homes, making a memorable time for all." Each garden had its own unique twist. One garden had no flowers but showcased foliage and plant structure combining textures, colors, and shapes to create a stunning effect. Another garden's design, which was dictated by a limited water supply, relied on small rocks and architectural hardscape. Another home had been rebuilt with amazing results after a fire.

A hallmark of the GCSB is its active presence in the local community. GCSB members were guides at all the public gardens we visited. Our group felt honored to be welcomed by the director of the notable Santa Barbara Botanic Garden at the start of our tour. Danielle Hahn, GCSB member and owner of Rose Story Farm, guided us through her 15-acre garden with over 25,000 rose bushes, which was followed by a picnic lunch. Casa del Herrero, Lotusland, and the Old Mission were other public gardens on our trip.

—Louise Gazzoli

### Saint Paul Garden Club

Saint Paul, MN

Saint Paul Garden Club members have found an effective and deeply satisfying way to help achieve their goals by funding gardening and conservation projects of small, local nonprofit organizations. "People want a heart connection in their volunteer work today," says club member Deb Venker. "What's so wonderful is the diversity of what we fund. They tug at our heartstrings." The garden club has disbursed proceeds and donations from its annual Holiday Tea Dance and other fundraisers totaling more than \$700,000 for projects, mostly on public land.

Many grants from SPGC's Community Fund, typically \$2,000 to \$4,000, engage children and youth from diverse neighborhoods. SPGC's projects include: Green Plant Therapy Program where every child at the local children's hospital, no matter how sick, receives a plant to care



SPGC members Penny Rendall and Rita Parenteau at Saint Paul's Rice Park. Photo by Sarah Meek

for and take home; Urban Roots where children learn to grow, cook, and market vegetables; a new pollinator garden that educates visitors at the Minnesota Governor's Residence; Gardens-in-a-Box, which helps families learn to grow vegetables through a state Horticultural Society program; a turtle-shaped garden planted with 19th-century medicinal plants that educates schoolchildren at Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life; and a program where college students plant a community vegetable garden on campus and donate produce to a local food shelf.

"It's a compelling story," Deb says. "Although it takes more effort on our club's part to review proposals for grants and visit projects, we're spreading our seed wider. In terms of diversity and numbers, it's really quite astonishing what we've been able to do."

—Marge Hols

## The Garden Club of St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

The Garden Club of St. Louis was well-represented at the Saint Louis Art Museum's annual festival of fine art and fresh flowers known as *Art in Bloom*. Celebrating the museum's works of art, displays throughout the galleries featured 38 imaginative floral designs created by talented garden club members and florists from the region. The February event attracted about 22,000 visitors



GCSL members Carrie Polk and Jeana Reisinger with Jeff Leatham, *Art in Bloom* 2017 guest designer. Photo by Meredith Holbrook

over three days and was co-chaired by GCSTL members Carrie Polk and Jeana Reisinger with other club members on the planning committee. The weekend was kicked off with a cocktails and dinner preview party. Club members Mark Critchfield and Laura Streett received the People's Choice for Traditional Design award for their interpretation of *The Annunciation* by Italian artist Paolo de Matteis, marking the third year in a row that GCSTL members have earned a ribbon at this prestigious event. Jeff Leatham, artistic director of the Four Seasons Hotel George V in Paris and known for his breathtaking floral installations, was the featured guest designer. Leatham attended the preview dinner, gave an entertaining lecture and stunning visual floral demonstration, and signed copies of his latest book, *Visionary Floral Art and Design*.

—Carrie Polk

## The Westport Garden Club

Kansas City, MO

The plants and pollinators in Angela Overy's beautiful pollinator illustration for the GCA's Horticulture Committee are just a few of the hundreds found on the prairie in Zone XI. In February 2014, The Westport Garden Club formed the WGC Native Plant Task Force following an inspirational program about the prairie by Doug Ladd, director of conservation science at the Nature Conservancy, and a challenge from Bob Berkebile, environmental architect and WGC honorary member, to become pollinator advocates for native plants. The mission of WGC's task force is to educate members and the community about native plant usage in the Greater Kansas City area. In partnership with Powell Gardens two experts and outstanding speakers on native plants were invited to a community event: Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware professor, author, and

2013 GCA Margaret Douglas Medal recipient and Honorary Member; and Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm in Wisconsin. A subsequent field trip for WGC members to Dunn Ranch Prairie and a conservation workshop inspired the club to take a leadership role in the formation of the Kansas City Native Plant Initiative. Now a community-wide nonprofit, this partnership brings together over 60 organizations working collaboratively across city, county, and state lines in an effort to promote the use of native plants and pollinators in the Greater Kansas City region. The current president of the organization is WGC member Kathy Gates. Additionally, club members oversee the maintenance of the KCNPI demonstration garden at Loose Park, which was designed by Alan Branhagen, former head of horticulture for Powell Gardens, and now head of horticulture operations at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A second garden will soon be added to further showcase the use of native plants.

—Wendy Powell



The Westport GC members at Loose Park in Kansas City, MO. Photo by Laura Sutherland

## Zone XII

### Hillsborough Garden Club Hillsborough, CA



Point Reyes Lighthouse, built in 1870. Photo by Mary McGee

Do you have a visual image of Point Reyes National Seashore? Thanks to an overnight trip, 17 members of the Hillsborough Garden Club now have vivid images of this spectacular coastal preserve. Club members were awestruck by the windswept bluffs, emerald green hills, and quiet bays of this 71,000-acre national treasure.

On the brink of being sold for development, the Point Reyes area became part of the US National Park Service in 1969 after conservationists fought to

preserve it. In 1980 rancher Ellen Straus and biologist Phyllis Faber founded the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), the first land trust of its kind—a model that has been replicated throughout the US to preserve family farms. Point Reyes is one of the few NPS properties with working landscapes.

HGC conservation and photography committee chairs organized the trip to explore, photograph, and, of course, enjoy the local food! Starting with two short hikes, we saw wild flowers that decorated open fields and viewed the Point Reyes lighthouse with the crashing surf below. Our next stop was to Cowgirl Creamery, known for ethically and environmentally sound practices, followed by a tour of Hog Island Oyster Farm, where sustainable shellfish are hand-raised on Tomales Bay. Our two-day stay also included delicious meals at restaurants known for locally sourced ingredients and sticky buns that are rumored to be coveted by Martha Stewart. We heard that her request for the recipe was politely declined!

—Elizabeth Lewis



HGC members before their hike. Photo by Lennie Gotcher

### The Portland Garden Club Portland, OR

In 1936 Alice Agnes Hutchins Matthiessen, a member of The Portland Garden Club, on the club's behalf purchased an important collection of lilac plants from the estate of B.O. Case, a nurseryman in southeastern Washington. The Lilac Garden was built in 1938 at Duniway Park. According to an original planting plan, the Case lilacs were placed in 16 beds. Portland Parks & Recreation assumed care and maintenance, but over the years the Lilac Garden's connection to PGC was lost.

In 2012 a PGC member found an obscure article about the garden's origin and its link to PGC while doing research on the park's website. The Lilac Garden at Duniway Park would be a perfect

community outreach project for the 350 members of the club! In March 2014 PGC approved the project proposal and created a vision document with the goal of making the Lilac Garden at Duniway Park “one of Portland's special exhibit gardens and a premier garden in the Northwest.” The project offered a broad range of activities appealing to the diverse talents of its members. By partnering with Portland Parks & Recreation, PGC could offer a range of assistance having greater community impact. Members have been working tirelessly to bring the garden back. Documenting the type and color of the lilacs and maintaining the beds are just the beginning. A well-known landscape architect who specializes in urban restoration projects and sustainability was recently hired to redesign the garden for the benefit of the lilacs, the community, and the club.

—Nancy Herpers



The Lilac Garden at Portland's Duniway Park. Photo by Nancy Herpers





Santa Fe GC members breaking ground to renovate the New Mexico Museum of Art Courtyard Garden. From left: Jackie McFeeley, Dora Horn, Enid Tidwell, Carol MacDonald, Shelly Green, and Barbara Asarch.

## Santa Fe Garden Club

*Sante Fe, NM*

Gardening at an altitude of 7,000 feet is an endurance event. Extreme temperatures, wind, hail, and blistering sun can destroy an untended garden in a few days and the sturdiest of structures in a few decades. A beloved space exists in Santa Fe that welcomes visitors to a tranquil retreat featuring green grass, splashing water, three seasons of flowers, and masterpieces of art. Founded in 1917 the New Mexico Museum of Art was built around a courtyard garden, and for over 65 years the Santa Fe Garden Club has been dedicated to this special place, first tending the garden in 1951. Through the years an enduring partnership between the museum's staff and SFGC members has flourished.

Entering its centennial year, the museum recognized that time had taken a toll on its infrastructure. Sadly, the extensive repair work meant the total destruction of the garden. Under the leadership of two SFGC presidents, Carol McDonald (2015-17) and Cyndie Gullickson (2017-19), the club saw the opportunity to create an even more beautiful garden space. SFGC members rallied, formed a committee, established a budget, retained the expertise of a landscape designer, and dedicated funds for the garden's redesign and installation. The Museum's director and project architect collaborated on the plans for the renovation of the garden, which include a modern irrigation system, plants indigenous to New Mexico, hardy perennials, and small evergreens. The lawn and enlarged walkway that border the garden will ensure the redesigned space continues to be the center of many museum

events. The Courtyard Garden will be a cornerstone of the museum's centennial celebrations, which begin in November. To mark the completion of the garden's renovation, SFGC held a special celebration in June.

—Anne May

## Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

*Woodside, CA*

They arrived by the busload, in cars, and on foot to admire *The Arts of the Garden* at the Allied Arts Guild, a 1929 Spanish Colonial arts complex in Menlo Park, CA; they left surprised that a flower show could entail so much more than flowers. Between the hundreds of people who attended; the dozens of participants, judges, and clerks from as far away as New Jersey and Hawaii; and the months of planning and workshops, Woodside-Atherton Garden Club's event created a sense of community and celebrated beauty, excellence, and education in floral design, horticulture, photography, and conservation.

The schedule of classes included Floral Design's "Que Seurat, Seurat," Horticulture's "Spanish Tile," and Photography's "Celebrating Early California Architecture." The conservation and education exhibit, winning the Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award, contained 500 plants from WAGC's Partners 4 Plants site along the San Francisco Bay, a boardwalk, and pictures illustrating restoration work being done to revive the fragile ecosystem. Signage and video provided explanations, while birdsongs and a table with postcards and pens created a contemplative corner. Several WAGC members earned Best in Show. Sandy Patterson was awarded the Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award for her contemporary floral design. Barbara Tuffli's *Arisaema ringens* 'Cobra Lilly' won the Catherine Beattie Medal, and novice Wendy Rohn picked up a ribbon for her haunting photo of a diving board on a lake enshrouded in fog.

—Kate Daly



Woodside-Atherton GC's conservation exhibit. Photo by Gail Morey

# Late Bloomers and Sage Advice

—Betsy Bosway, Indianapolis Garden Club, Zone X



Many years ago, after “melting” an untold number of **Heuchera plants growing** in my Memphis garden, I tried planting one in a large urn. Fifteen years later it is still thriving along with its many relatives in well-drained pots.

—Lynn Fulton

*The Little GC of Memphis, Zone IX  
June/July 2009,*

To relieve itching, rub the inside of a banana peel on **poison ivy rashes.**

—Margaret Hall

*The Westport GC, Zone XI  
December 2010*

**In the event of watering restrictions** try this tip. Drill holes in the bottom of a large (5-gallon) bucket, place it near the base of a tree or shrub, and fill with water. If necessary, use wooden golf tees to control water flow. This slow-flow method is preferable to surface watering, as it allows water to go deep into the soil and roots rather than spreading across the surface of the dry ground.

—Joan Sadler

*Catonsville GC, Zone VI  
Feb/March 2003*

**Most established gardens** do not require a lot of care; they require regular care. Timely weeding, watering, deadheading, and staking will improve the looks of your garden. Treat problems immediately. Most insect/disease problems will not disappear by themselves. Identify offenders and treat them specifically. Use the least toxic remedy first: **Don't go after a flea with an elephant gun!**

—Mary Ann McGourty

*GCA Honorary Member, Zone II  
April/May 2009*

**Osmocote (and other timed-release fertilizers)** may be labeled as a 90-day fertilizer, but that assumes a temperature of 70 degrees and watering twice a week. With cooler temperatures and less frequent watering, it may last four months. During a hot summer Osmocote may provide nutrients for fewer than six weeks with twice-weekly watering, and for only one month with daily watering.

—Dedee O'Neil

*Akron GC, Zone X  
Oct/Nov 2003*

**Dragonflies are addicted to mosquitos.** Attract these colorful winged creatures to your garden by using upright stakes as perches—for example, bamboo poles, 3'-4' tall and set 4'-5' apart, in full midday sun. Dragonflies will not sting people and are a natural remedy.

—Donna Eure

*Virginia Beach GC, Zone VII  
Aug/Sept 2001*

**Plant garlic** next to vegetables to repel aphids. Nasturtiums attract good insects that prey on bad bugs. Marigolds are a great way to deter certain beetles.

—Susie Wilson

*Knoxville GC, Zone IX  
Feb/March 2003*

Once **Siberian iris** forms a circle it is time to divide. The plants grow away from the center, which has died, and will not regenerate.

—Sue Welch

*Indianapolis GC, Zone X  
Feb/March 2008*

## “Hummingbird in My Garden”

The hummingbird will pause and hover  
Over a flower to discover  
Its depth, and then will sharply dip  
Into the flower's scarlet lip.  
Intoxicated by such wine  
It rockets from the trumpet vine  
Into the morning's golden light  
And prismaticizes into flight.

—Barbara Avirett

*Amateur Gardeners Club, Zone VI  
May 1957*

*Watercolor Painting*  
Your pet or your home - from a photo

**Diana Swoyer**  
203.266.7472 (h) • 917.847.2879 (c)  
www.mypetbyds.com

# www.gcamerica.org

*Head to the web to be informed and inspired*

## 2017 Medalists

Don't miss reading the profiles of the 2017 medalists in the summer issue of *ConWatch* and in the *Bulletin*. Gil Grosvenor, Wendy Paulson, The Trustees of Reservations, and Kristine McDivitt Tompkins—all ardent conservationists—are featured in *ConWatch*. On page 32 of this issue of the *Bulletin*, Amy Freitag, 2017 Achievement Medal recipient, is profiled. In upcoming issues, watch for profiles and interviews of additional medalists and the organizations and initiatives that enable them to make a difference in our world. The Awards Committee landing page also contains a wealth of information about each of the 2017 medalists as well as past GCA medalists.



Photo by Farrah Brensinger



Photo by Missy James

events and meetings coming up in your zone or for your committee.

If you've not yet experienced all the Members Area of the GCA website has to offer, logon with your email address as the username and your password—and explore. And don't worry, if you forgot your password, just click the green "Forgot your password" and follow the instructions to reset your password. If you need to update your email address or would like to have personalized assistance, please send a message to [websupport@gcamerica.org](mailto:websupport@gcamerica.org). The team at Headquarters is available and happy to help you. Don't forget that you also can add the GCA website to your smart phone and you will never be far away from the GCA!

## Web Redesign

If you're a pro on the GCA website, you've no doubt noticed the design on the homepage was refreshed this past June. The same, friendly green GCA Resources box and familiar drop-down menus remain prominently featured, and a scrolling banner showcases the talent of the GCA's many photographers. What's new is "What's Happening" in the center of the page, which highlights news from across the GCA. Three easily read columns spotlight the GCA's national news, committee news, and zone news. Click on any given graphic or photo and more information magically appears, along with additional links and photos.

Individual landing pages for committees and zones now have resources organized at your fingertips. These committee resources, with all the best of what the GCA has to offer clubs on topics related to the GCA's purpose, are now searchable. Search results will be highlighted in yellow right on the screen. GCA publications—all 16 of them—are now featured on their respective landing pages. Micro-calendars show

# Dig Deeper: Resources

## Chip Taylor

page 29

For information about Taylor's Monarch Watch, visit: [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). Monarch Waystations encourage habitat restoration for these endangered butterflies. The website provides guidelines for establishing habitats as well as Monarch Waystation kits.

## Susan Rademacher

page 29

This consummate steward of public parks and spaces is also a widely published author. Her recent book is *Mellon Square: Discovering a Modern Masterpiece* (2014).

## Paul Alan Cox

pages 25-26; 55-56

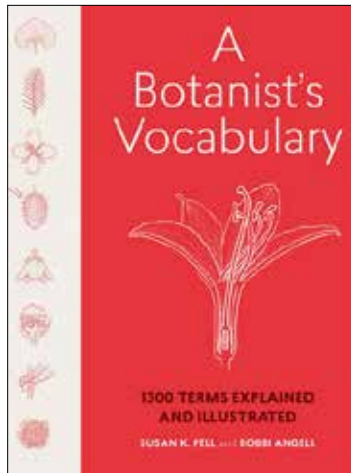
To learn more about ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox, visit [www.ethnomedicine.org](http://www.ethnomedicine.org). The newly released film, *Toxic Puzzle*, follows Cox and his team on their search for cures for neurodegenerative diseases. Cox's book, *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rainforest*, traces his journey to find indigenous pharmaceutical possibilities from endemic plants and traditional healers. Watch his TEDx Talk, "Secrets to ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," available on YouTube.

## The Blue Garden

pages 33-35

The Blue Garden, in Newport, RI, is open June-October by appointment ([www.thebluegarden.org](http://www.thebluegarden.org)). Arleyn Levee's book *The Blue Garden: Capturing an Iconic Newport Landscape* chronicles this extensive restoration.

# BookReview



**A Botanist's Vocabulary: 1300 Terms Explained and Illustrated**  
by Susan K. Pell and Bobbi Angel  
*Timber Press 2016*

This collaboration between an esteemed botanist, Susan Pell, and a renowned botanical illustrator, Bobbi Angel, has resulted in a delightful book, albeit with a rather dry sounding title. It is an illustrated dictionary of the terms you read in plant descriptions and, for me anyway, so often do not understand. Almost every one of the 1300 definitions has a beautiful pen and ink drawing to further clarify it.

For a plant nerd like me, looking into it is like eating peanuts. Every time I look up one definition, I am compelled to go find another. It belongs on the working desk of anyone who loves plants. Yet the exquisite clarity of both prose and illustrations would appeal to all who have an

interest in nature. The book itself, beautifully designed by Timber Press, has the look of a textbook, which it is. There is not even a dust jacket. And yet, somehow, it is pretty enough for any coffee table or guest bedside table.

—Ellen Petersen  
*Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III*

**Plant: Exploring the Botanical World**  
by Phaidon Editors  
*Phaidon Press, Inc. 2016*

A visually stunning book, *Plant: Exploring the Botanical World* celebrates the astonishing beauty and diversity of plants and surveys their complex world, their explorers, and illustrators. Arranged in a uniquely structured way, *Plant* includes over 3,000 years of botanical art. Three hundred illustrations—from photographs to watercolors and oils, black-and-white sketches, early printing and engraving methods, as well as more modern-day inventions of electron microscopy and scanners and printers—bring to life this spectacular tribute to botanical art.

Each photograph contained in this engrossing book is captioned with a discussion of the plant and its culture, as well as the artist's intent and artistic process. In addition to a fascinating history of botanical illustration, the volume includes a timeline of plant-human interaction, a plant taxonomy and glossary,



and brief biographies of dozens of significant artists, illustrators, writers, photographers, explorers, and botanists.

We quickly learn that botanical illustration likely began as a way to safeguard hungry or ailing people from plants that might poison them or fail to cure. Only the most careful illustrations, after all, can distinguish between the flowers of the wholesome carrot and the dangerous poison hemlock. Renaissance artist David Kandel (1520-1592), one of the best-known pioneers of botanical art and science, contributed

hundreds of engravings to German botanist Hieronymus Bock's *Kreuterbuch* (literally “plant book”) of 1546. *Plant* reveals a fascinating juxtaposition: Kandel's original engravings of two lavender species are paired with a brilliant color-enhanced scanning electron micrograph of a cannabis plant. While the Kandel engraving shows the differences in root, foliage, and flower between two lavenders, the cannabis plant photo reveals the psychoactive resin globules that cannot be identified without extreme magnification.

Whether for a botanist, an art-lover, gardener, illustrator, plantsman, or collector of fine art books, it would be difficult to think of a more perfect gift than *Plant: Exploring the Botanical World*.

—Jane Harris  
*GCA Library Committee Chairman  
Middletown Garden Club, Zone II*



# BulletinBoard: *Cuttings from the Calendar*

## July

- 9-21** Visiting Gardens Trip: Sweden. *Info:* Elizabeth Snellings (bettysnellings@gmail.com)
- 15** Garden Tour (I), *Exclusive House and Garden Tour*, Lenox GC, Lenox, MA. *Info:* Anne Fredericks (mermaid@bcn.net), lenoxgardenclub.net
- 18-25** Home and Garden Tour (XII), *Behind Adobe Walls*, Santa Fe GC, Santa Fe, NM. *Info:* Enid Tidwell (etidwell01@comcast.net); tickets: 1-800-283-0122 (Terry@westwindtravel.net)
- 19-20** GCA Flower Show (I), *Meet Me on Nantucket*, Nantucket GC, Nantucket, MA. *Info:* Kathy Cruice (kathycruice@gmail.com)
- 27** Floral Display (I), *Main Street Blooms*, GC of Mount Desert, Northeast Harbor, ME. *Info:* Meredith Moriarty (meredithkmoriarty@gmail.com) (630) 654-1879

## August

- 9** Annual House Tour (I), *A Cliff Walk*, Nantucket GC, Nantucket, MA. *Info:* Barb Jones (jones.barbara.e@gmail.com)

## September

- 10-14** Conservation Study Trip, Cleveland, OH. *Info:* Jane Ellison (janee1123@yahoo.com)
- 19-20** GCA Flower Show/Zone Meeting (I), *Where Stone Walls Meet the Sea* at Little Compton Community Center, Little Compton GC, Little Compton, RI. *Info:* Heather Steers (heathersteers@gmail.com)
- 19-21** Zone Judging Workshop (XII), Honolulu, HI. *Info:* Emmy Seymour (emmy.seymour@gmail.com)
- 20-22** GCA Flower Show (XI), *Floral, Flora and Flash*, Ladue GC, St. Louis, MO. *Info:* Margot Bean (5beans@sbcglobal.net)
- 25-27** Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, NE. *Info:* Linda Grieve (linda@lindagrieve.com)

## October

- 10-12** GCA Flower Show/Zone Meeting (XI), *Glaciers to Gardens*, Garden Guild of Winnetka, Winnetka, IL. *Info:* Gail Hodges (gailhodges@gmail.com)

- 13-14** GCA Flower Show (IV), *The Rose City: Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future*, GC of Madison, Madison, NJ. *Info:* Janet Baker (bakerjan@optonline.net)
- 16-18** GCA Flower Show (IX), *Echoes* at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Magnolia GC, Beaumont, TX. *Info:* Karen McCormick (macstop@aol.com)
- 17-19** GCA Flower Show (X), GC of Michigan, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. *Info:* Carol Whitehead (jccw424@aol.com)
- 10-19** On the Road with GCA, *Environmental Film Festival*, GCA HQ. *Info:* gca@gcamerica.org
- 18-20** Photography Study Group Workshop, Shaker Village, Harrodsburg, KY. *Info:* Eloise Carson (eloisecarson@me.com)
- 18-20** Zone Judging Workshop (X), Somerset Inn, Troy, MI. *Info:* Mary Smart (marysmart@gmail.com)
- 18-20** Boutique Fundraiser (V), *Pizzazz*, GC of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA. *Info:* www.gcacpgh.org/pizzazz

- 24-26** GCA Flower Show/Zone Meeting (VII), *Cultivating a Lasting Legacy*, Twin City GC, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 10-31** On the Road with GCA, *Central Park Celebration*, GCA HQ. *Info:* gca@gcamerica.org
- 10-29 to 11-4** FASG Workshop, La Jolla, CA. *Info:* Fleur Rueckert (fleur.rueckert@gmail.com)

## November

- 8** Zone Mini-Meeting (V), Wissahickon GC, Philadelphia, PA. *Info:* Joan Biddle (jksbiddle@comcast.net)
- 11-13** Zone Judging Workshop (VIII), *Floral Design, Horticulture, & Photography*, Augusta, GA. *Info:* Amy Nowell (bamynowell@gmail.com)
- 29** Zone Judging Workshop (IV), *Floral Design, Horticulture, & Photography*, Springfield, NJ. *Info:* Lynn Filipksi (lynn.filipksi@gmail.com)





*Dedicated to Anne Copenhaver, GCA president (2015-2017)  
With appreciation from the Bulletin Committee*

## **PartingShot:** *Peony Reflection*

Photo by Debbie Laverell, The Garden Workers, Zone V

**Competition:** *The Garden Workers Photography Show*

**Awards:** First Place and Best in Show; Class: Reflection—A photo depicting the reflection of plant material in water

**Statement:** A magical moment for this peony

**Judges' Comments:** "Excellent use of creative technique to make a successful, dynamic image. Sophisticated manipulation of scale."

**Camera used:** Canon EOS 70D

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING SCARVES ~ HOW THE WEST IS ONE!

*Zone XII presents a glorious selection of scarves featuring these State Flowers:*

*Arizona-Saguaro Cactus, California-California*

*Poppy, Oregon-Oregon Grape, Hawaii-Hibiscus,*

*Colorado-Columbine, New Mexico-Yucca*

*Flower, and Washington-Coast Rhododendron.*

*Choose a 35" square in silk twill in cream, pink or periwinkle*

*at \$125 or the 21" x 65"*

*shawl in aubergine*

*silk georgette*

*at \$140.*

To order, please  
mail your check &  
color selection to:

Ms. Pokey Richardson  
Post Office Box 11840  
Honolulu, HI 96828

Please add \$5 to each order  
for shipping and handling.

Make your check payable to:  
GCA 2018 Annual Meeting.



Or order online at the GCA website: [READ, WATCH, SHOP](#) link in Members Area. See full renderings of all the colors. Questions? [am2018scarf@gcamerica.org](mailto:am2018scarf@gcamerica.org)

# MAIK

NYC

MODERN TAKES ON TRADITIONAL  
AFRICAN JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES

HANDMADE BY PROMINENT  
AFRICAN DESIGNERS

SHOP ONLINE, TRUNK SHOWS, AND  
PERSONAL GIFT SHOPPING VIA EMAIL

[MAIKNYC.COM](http://MAIKNYC.COM)





THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

*14 East 60th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 753-8287  
gca@gcamerica.org  
www.gcamerica.org*



Gardens  
open  
April–Nov



**Mt. CUBA  
CENTER**

Gardening on a higher level

3120 Barley Mill Road | Hockessin, DE  
302.239.4244 | [mtcubacenter.org](http://mtcubacenter.org)