



April 2018 Forget me Nots

April President's Message

After the wonderful rain, I am enjoying the gorgeous green hillsides and the beautiful bright blossoms everywhere – Happy Spring! April is here and that means the Annual Meeting is here. After years of planning and literally thousands of volunteer hours, we are sure to shine April 28th – 30th. I am so proud of our members and I know you will be too. Even if you only have time to jump on BART and run thru the flower show on one of those days, I promise it will be worth it. Not to mention the amazing boutique shopping!

There is no general meeting in April, so I hope you will take advantage of the fun and interesting activities planned for you, flower arranging from your own garden, Bouquets, Partners for Plants, Rose pruning at Heather Farms, it's always fun to be together and work together. We will gather again in May at DD Felton's home in Piedmont for our May meeting and picnic – another venue you won't want to miss!

Warmly, Cathleen

Home Stretch for Flower Show, Janet Riley

Only 25 days left before we load Shari's truck with the hand painted pedestals, risers, music stands, boxes of vases, display cushions, etc. Gail will be thrilled to get all this stuff out of her garage. We're on the home stretch finalizing signage, staging requests, judges' menus, lighting, entry cards and volunteer trainings. We have a great flower show committee. They have a ton expertise but they also know how to keep everything in perspective. With this combination, we know everything will be fantastic! Tell your friends, take BART and come see the Wonders of the West, GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show, on April 28 and 29.

What to Wear as a Flower Show Volunteer

At any GCA Annual Meeting, you can easily identify the volunteers by the aprons they wear. This year volunteers are wearing bright orange aprons. The orange aprons will really stand out when accompanied with the required pants (light or white pants) and shirts (white or the color of a rainbow) and optional GCA scarf. You can order a scarf at <https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members/shop>.

GCA General Meeting Volunteer Fun

Volunteers are invited to the Wonders of the West Welcome Party Flower Show Preview Party on Friday evening April 27.

Sign up soon for the following optional **Volunteer-only activities** during the Annual Meeting.

- **The Wonders of the West Welcome Party and Flower Show Preview** is a festive event and a great opportunity to admire all of the Flower Show entries, while enjoying the company of GCA friends from around the country. Husbands may attend this event only. \$30 per person.
- **Walking tour of Chinatown** on Friday or Saturday afternoon 1:30-3:30 PM
- **Visit to The Exploratorium**, a hands-on museum of art, science and human perception on the waterfront; Friday or Saturday afternoon 1:30-3:30 PM
- **Special Volunteer-only three course dinner** at One Market Restaurant, during the delegates' Zone dinners, Meet at Hyatt Regency at 6:30 PM Sat evening.

These activities are not only fun things to do in SF, they are also a great way to get to meet other volunteers from around Zone XII, which covers the Western US including Hawaii! And the dinner on Sat. night, especially, is a "don't miss" event for all volunteers. (Registration space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon!) If you're already a volunteer, simply **log in to GCA website and "Edit" your Volunteer registration.**

Spring 2018 ConWatch

The Spring ConWatch covers the complex topic of waste with specific focus on the most common form, plastic products. Learn more about the immense pollution from our throw-away society and find hope in innovative solutions and alternatives to a plastics culture. Please take a moment to read the GCA Conwatch Spring 2018 online.

Beautification Committee

In conjunction with Orinda Action Day we will be working on the Triangle garden and the Pots in downtown Orinda

Please join us for one or the other of our Orinda projects.

Saturday, April 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Triangle: Bring gloves, clippers, trowel, small shovel, small bucket. Nita Roethe

Pots: meet in front of Morrisons Jewelers, bring gloves, clippers. Bobbie Wilson

Sign up on Virtual Clipboard available on Weekly Updates or contact Nita or Bobbie.

Library Flowers

Please sign up on the Virtual Clipboard to help with Library Flowers this Summer. We need 2 arrangements every Monday during the Summer. Flowers should be brought Monday morning when the Library opens at 10am and removed Sunday during Library hours 1-5. One arrangement is placed at the reference desk just as you enter and the second is placed at the reference desk in the center of the Library.

Please make sure the arrangements look fresh for the duration of the week as the staff does not attend to our flowers or plants.

Thank you for signing up through the Virtual Clipboard on the Weekly Updates.

Or contact Mary Read.

The Flower Arranger's Garden

Please come to enjoy the presentation by two PGC members, Bryn Rowe, a landscape designer, and Jennie White, whose love is bee-friendly plants, who will show us plants that can thrive in our gardens, when to plant them and how to create beautiful arrangements from our own gardens. Some favorite specimens will be available for purchase.

Our own Suanne Inman will be there to give us hints on how to prepare prize worthy slips for the GCA garden show.

Sue Berger's, April 17th 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Please sign up via the Virtual Clipboard on the Weekly Updates or contact Lisa Jorgens or Linda Thompson.

Quarryhill Botanical Garden Tour Glen Ellen

May 15, 2018

Carpool from OCC lower lot at 8:45 am

Tour will be an hour and a half followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

We are eternally grateful that the Quarryhill gardens were miraculously spared from the wine country fires. Quarryhill is a world famous garden, planted from seeds gathered in more than 20 expeditions to Asia and comprising one of the world's largest collections of Asian plants. These include Maples, Magnolias, Dogwoods, Lilies and Roses, many rare and endangered.

Quarryhill was founded 30 years ago on the site of two abandoned quarries, which have created ponds and streams among the gardens. The site has some hilly areas, so carts will be available for those who'd like to ride, ala OCC golf! To get a sneak peak, visit <http://www.quarryhillbg.org>. The plants in bloom are ever changing.

Tour fee is \$15. It should be fun and unique! Sign up on the Virtual Clipboard on the Weekly Updates or contact Lisa Jorgens or Linda Thompson.

Ann Cinderey and Jane Wiser represent OGC at the NAL Conference in Washington DC

We were honored to represent the Orinda Garden Club at the annual NAL Conference in Washington DC the last week of February. There were more than 300 delegates in attendance, of which 27 delegates were from California and 47 from our Zone XII.

Over the 2 1/2 days, there were more than 30 compelling speakers ranging from leaders of conservation organizations, individuals who are working tirelessly on an environmental concern, and congressmen and women from both sides of the aisle.

Each year the GCA identifies key topics that are of importance to our organization, particularly topics that are timely due to pending legislation or proposed budgets. Certainly the current climate in Washington gives GCA good reason for concern and call to action on a number of issues, from climate change to National Parks funding to Teddy Roosevelt's Antiquities Act. It was not only re-assuring but empowering to be members of an organization that is taking a position on so many critical environmental issues.

So as delegates, our roles were to learn about the legislative priorities of the GCA; hear from specialists about these environmental challenges and how we can best address them; and meet with our respective Senators and Congressman about these GCA's legislative priorities.

The GCA website offers a wealth of information about all of these issues and we encourage you to visit it frequently. Just go to the GCA Committee Pages tab and drop down to the National Affairs and Legislation tab. You will be impressed by how thoroughly our organization is attending to the critical issues of conservation and climate change. We hope to focus on specific topics of concern in the future meetings.

We couldn't possibly report on the entire Conference, but we've shared a brief glimpse in the following photographs:

The NAL delegation of GCA is powerful and respected in Washington D.C. Women united by dedication to the environment, conservation and ensuring that policies reflect our concerns.



The G-Change Conversation



The Conference started with Princeton Garden Club member Kathleen Biggins presenting “C-Change Conversations” a climate change project developed by Kathleen and Stony Brook Garden Club member Katy Kinsolving.

Kathleen gave us a primer on Climate Change and she emphasized that there are three major issues:

- 1) the current seven billion population;
- 2) fossil fuels, which have benefited human kind for so long, have reached a point they are decreasing the GDP and our quality of life;
- 3) the difficulty of discussing this topic in a hyper-partisan world.

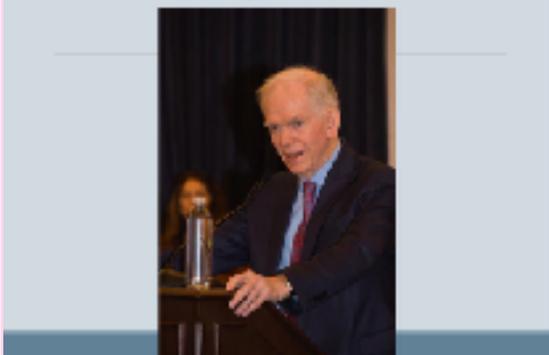
The hope is that now the cost of inaction has become greater around the world than the cost of action. Kathleen finished by saying that climate change is not a “green issue” or a political issue, but a human issue that we need to address.

Dominique Browning, Moms Clean Air Force



Dominique Browning, former editor of *House and Garden* magazine, co-founded Moms Clean Air Force. She says that we need to change the conversation about climate change from polar bears to people and focus on the health effects for us and our children. Moms Clean Air Force now has over a million members.

Jeremy Grantham



One of the highlights of the conference was hearing from world-renowned economist Jeremy Grantham who applies his economic and statistical experience to the problem of climate change. He said that it is vital to decarbonize our economy as quickly as we can and change to wind and solar energy sources which are becoming more and more cost efficient.



Accompanied by more than 20 members of the California delegation, we met with staff of both Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris. The two of us also met with our congressman Mark DeSaulnier's staff member on environmental issues. All three meetings were informative and we were received warmly.



Armed with these talking points we presented NAL and GCA issues in our congressional meetings. California stands at the forefront on environmental issues so our concerns were understood and supported.

2018 The Garden Club of America Legislative Priorities

Topic	GCA Supports	Requests for Legislators
Botanical Sciences and Native Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting our native plants with emphasis on those at risk. Increased funding for plant protection and restoration on public lands including adequate funding for more botanists. Cost-effective, practical efforts to restore flora and preserve key pollinator habitats on federal lands. The Fiscal Year 2017 Interior Appropriations bill provided about \$14 million for plant conservation activities, including the National Seed Strategy. 	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House: Co-sponsor HR 7054, "Botany Bill" Senate: Sponsor the proposed companion bill, The Native Plant Materials Promotion Act, that would create demand for native plant species by requiring the Department of Agriculture to use native plants "where practicable." Insist Department of Interior release \$14 million already appropriated by Congress to promote the Plant Conservation Program
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965 and use the federal portion of the funds for its intended purpose: the purchase of public lands. 	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House: HR 500 which would permanently authorize this bedrock conservation program and guarantee full annual funding of \$900 million, as promised in the 1965 law creating the fund. Senate: S 668 introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Sen. Richard Blumenth (R-NC), which would permanently reauthorize LWCF and provide dedicated annual funding of \$900 million from offshore oil and gas leases, as promised in the 1965 law creating the fund.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions Funding to protect biodiversity, clean air, sustainable forests, wilderness, and oceans. Continued research on climate change and the use of peer-reviewed science as a basis for public policy. Funding EPA sufficiently to carry out its statutory responsibilities. 	<p>Support:</p> <p>House and Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve permitting for car used trucks. Legislation to promote programs that address climate change and greenhouse gas reduction, including energy efficiency, renewable energy programs, clean air programs, federal efforts to prepare for extreme weather events, and sea level rise, etc.
National Parks and Public Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizing National Park Service conservation, education, and preservation. Continued use of the Antiquities Act, which grants the President the authority to create national monuments from federal lands to protect significant natural and cultural areas. 	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased funding for NPS and InGA infrastructure to address record visitation, with more than 20 million more visits in 2016 than 2015 (NPS had 10% fewer staff in 2015) Funding of national parks to address \$11.4 billion maintenance backlog. Preservation of existing national monuments with a priority on conservation. Continued protection of national parks from commercial development. <p>Oppose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals which undermine the Antiquities Act, such as HR 3993. The Antiquities Act was utilized by T. Roosevelt to protect the Grand Canyon, and used subsequently by presidents to protect national treasures. Diminishing Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante and other national monuments
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In any infrastructure package, assurance that "green" infrastructure be used, including use of native plants, as a cost-effective way to offset the impacts of climate change 	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost-effective natural "green" infrastructure, such as wetlands, forests, grasslands, etc. These should be incorporated into any infrastructure package to minimize flood damage, and stormwater runoff along with traditional "gray" infrastructure. Proposals strengthening natural environmental systems. This approach can offset the impacts of climate change, and can provide natural alternatives to the often more expensive built infrastructure.

Spring General Meeting and Picnic

Thursday, May 24, 2018

DD Felton's Garden, 9 Requa Place, Piedmont

10:00am Social
10:30am Meeting
11:45am Picnic

To make your Reservation for a Box Lunch: [CLICK HERE](#)

NOTE: To order your lunch online you will need to be logged into the Members Only Area. If you do not have your login information

please contact Jean Rowe (jeanrowe@comcast.net)

Or

Fill out & send the card below along with your check BY MAY 14th

RESPONSE CARD FOR MAY MEETING

_____ will attend the May 24th Meeting
(name)

I would like a Box Lunch for \$23.00 _____

Send Card & Check (BY MAY 14TH) made out to: Dona Snow- 10 Heather Lane- Orinda 94563

Please email Sugar (sugarf@comcast.net) with the following response:

I'll help with the Set-up the day before at DD's: time to be determined:

Yes _____

I'll arrive at DD's by 9:00am the Morning of the Meeting to help:

Yes _____



OGC Calendar is now available on our website.
[Click here](#) to view the Orinda Garden Club Calendar