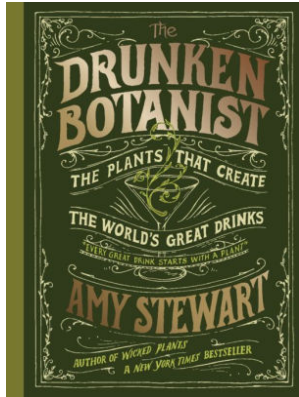




March 2018 Forget me Nots



## March General Meeting

Wednesday, March 22nd

3:30 Social, 4:00 Meeting, 5:00 Speaker

At Orinda Country Club

Every great drink starts with a plant!

Author and veteran Orinda Garden Club Speaker Amy Stewart will share the botanical roots of your favorite cocktails and her book "The Drunken Botanist." You are welcome to invite your spouse or another guest and enjoy a signature cocktail after the presentation. Keep the party going by staying for Orinda Nights dinner on the Terrace. Reservations can be made with Jennifer at the front desk ([\(925\) 254-4314](tel:9252544314)); space is limited so please plan ahead. Non country club members can pay by check the night of the dinner. Jackets required for gentlemen.

## The Flower Arranger's Garden

The April Hort program will feature two PGC members Jennie White & Bryn Rowe who will share expertise & plants that will up our game in creating arrangements that are possible from our gardens.

With a focus on compelling arrangements, Jennie, who is passionate about bee friendly plants, will guide us in her choices and the appropriate time of year to plant by seasons. Bryn, a landscape designer, will bring several of her favorite specimens & offer them for sale after the talk.

Sue Berger's beautiful garden will be ideal for this inspiring program Tues., April 17 10:00 am - 11:30 am.





## Welcome Party

April 27, 2018 5 pm to 7 pm

Dear Orinda Garden Club Members,

The Welcome Party for the GCA Annual Meeting is Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM to 7 PM in the Atrium of the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. While the party is restricted to GCA members, for the first time ever spouses are invited (Welcome Party only). The cost is \$30 per person. Your ticket allows you to be among the first to preview the Flower Show, enjoy live music, have a cocktail, meet old and make new friends and shop in the Boutique by the Bay.

To sign up for the Welcome Party:

- Members who are volunteers for the Annual Meeting: Sign up and pay for the Welcome Party in the Volunteer Registration section on the GCA web site starting February 21, 2018. Tickets will be in name tags, which will be distributed when volunteers register in the Volunteer Hub upon arrival at the Hyatt. Saturday, Sunday and offsite volunteers can pick up their name tags and tickets on their way into the hotel Friday evening.
- Members who are NOT volunteers for the Annual Meeting: Sign up with their club no later than April 5, 2018. Tickets will be at Will Call at the entrance to the party in Atrium of the hotel.

Margie Murphy will be in charge of “non-volunteer” sign-up’s for the Welcome Party. Send your check made out to Garden Club of America, to Margie Murphy, 11 El Sereno, Orinda, CA 94563 no later than April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Include with the check a list with the following information:

- Name of GCA member and name of spouse if spouse is attending
- Email address and phone number of GCA member

Thank you for your help reaching out to all Northern California GCA members who would like to attend the Wonders of the West Welcome Party.

Margie Murphy  
Welcome Party Chairman, Orinda Garden Club

## **Garden Club of America (GCA) Annual Meeting Flower Show Hyatt Embarcadero San Francisco, April 28 – 29**

After five years of planning, the Wonders of the West flower show is just eight weeks away! Free and open to the public, the event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in the Atrium on the third floor. Hours are Saturday, April 28, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 29, 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Wonders of the West flower show is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the GCA leadership. The GCA annual meeting rotates among the 200 clubs across the country. The last time San Francisco hosted the GCA Annual Meeting was 1985. Cathleen Sodos, as our President, and Deb Stephenson, as our delegate, will be among the 600 or more attendees.

### Flower Show Highlights

- An invitation-only class of highly artistic floral designs utilizing identical plant material
- Seasonal cut specimens from local gardens
- Containers of plants grown as hosts to pollinators as well as plants grown primarily for their foliage
- Succulents native to the New World and Old World and miniature landscapes
- Pieces of jewelry hand-crafted entirely from dried plant material
- Photographs of fine art quality
- Our Western watersheds, emphasizing environmental concerns and demonstrating conservation practices

Over 150 entries will be judged by 30 accredited GCA judges who will award ribbons and over 10 special awards. A Welcome Party for all GCA members, headed up by Margie Murphy, will be held Friday, April 27 at 5 p.m. in the Atrium.

The show captures the vast beauty of the West. You don't want to miss it!

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Riley or Gail Emmons.

## Calling All Flower Show Hostesses

Did you sign up to be a flower show hostess? We have set up two Volunteer Trainings for hostesses: Monday, April 16 at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, April 17 at 2 p.m at Janet Riley's. Please RSVP to Catherine Dunne at [catherinedunne@mac.com](mailto:catherinedunne@mac.com) and tell her which date you can attend. The flower show hostess training will include basic hotel information as well as specialized show information. We want our hostesses to be helpful and knowledgeable! If you did not pick up your apron at the February General Meeting, you can get it at the training or make other arrangements.

If you signed up to help in the computer room or with awards, we are still in the process of planning a training session for you. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Dunne at [catherinedunne@mac.com](mailto:catherinedunne@mac.com).



### 2018 ANNUAL MEETING LOGO NEEDLEPOINT CANVAS

THE COLORFUL POPPY LOGO OF THE 2018 GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING, CREATED BY GRAPHIC DESIGNER GIA RIDEAU WORKING WITH THE PORTLAND GARDEN CLUB, HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO NEEDLEPOINT!

INTENDED FOR FINISHING AS A PILLOW INSERT, CLUTCH, ZIPPERED POUCH, OR SHOULDER BAG, KITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$110.00.

THEY INCLUDE NEEDLEPOINT CANVAS, STITCH GUIDE, AND ALL FIBERS. EACH 5 1/4" x 7" CANVAS IS HAND PAINTED AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. FINISHING IS AVAILABLE AT AN ADDITIONAL COST THROUGH A STITCH IN TIME IN SAN MARINO OR YOUR FAVORITE FINISHER.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ZONE XII SPONSORSHIP OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING.

CHECKS MAY BE MADE OUT TO THE PASADENA GARDEN CLUB AND MAILED TO:

MARGARET WILLIAMS  
LOGO NEEDLEPOINT  
1420 PARK PLACE  
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA 91108  
MAWILLIAMS712@GMAIL.COM

## Founders Fund

Each fall the GCA Founders Fund committee, which is made up of Founders Fund reps from each zone, selects 3 finalists from civic projects proposed by clubs across the country. Each of the GCA's 200 clubs casts a single vote and the winner is announced at the GCA annual meeting. We will vote for our club's selection at the March general meeting. Here are descriptions of the finalists:



### 2018 FOUNDERS FUND AWARD FINALISTS Proposal Summaries

#### **Roots Rising: A Food Truck and Financial Stability**

Proposed by: The Lenox Garden Club, Zone I  
Seconded by: The Worcester Garden Club, Zone I

Roots Rising seeks to launch a non-profit food truck that will be a mobile classroom, a work site, a business incubator and our flagship enterprise. At-risk teens who work on farms, in community gardens and in food pantries will source ingredients from local farms and prepare nutritious meals that will be sold to the community while they learn entrepreneurial, horticultural, and culinary skills.

#### **Dunbar Garden Kitchen-Classroom**

Proposed by: The Little Rock Garden Club, Zone IX  
Seconded by: The Memphis Garden Club, Zone IX

For 25 years Dunbar Garden has provided educational opportunities to students and adults. The proposed kitchen-classroom will facilitate cross-curriculum knowledge to over 800 children via workshops in the neighboring community.

Visualize children cooking and eating eggs gathered from their chickens; honey on bread ground from wheat they have grown; marketing locally their herbs and vegetables, if the children have not eaten them first!?!

**Dunbar's current primitive facilities limit the programs sowed and excitement reaped!**

#### **A Therapeutic Garden: Nurturing Plants and Lifting Spirits**

Proposed by: The Kenilworth Garden Club, Zone XI  
Seconded by: The Evanston Garden Club, Zone XI

Misericordia provides care to over 600 children and adults with wide ranging developmental disabilities. The installation of a garden that will include walker/wheelchair accessible paths and raised work spaces will allow the staff to implement horticultural therapy techniques, gardening activities and vocational training. In addition to these everyday activities, the tangible benefits are beyond measure: increasing awareness and enjoyment of the outdoor world, facilitating communication and socialization, improving focus and reducing stress and anxiety.

## Philanthropic Report

Beautification co-chair Nita Roethe learned at the mayor's meeting that Miramonte High School has a new horticulture class. It is the first horticulture class in the district and gives students the opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture among many other topics. The teacher, Christina Orangio (Chrissy), previously worked for Global Student Embassy, a local non-profit that encourages youth to build and help maintain school gardens.

Nita toured the Miramonte garden site which consist of a food forest and raised beds. Each group of students is assigned their own bed with the goal of producing the most food in the least amount of space. The food grown will be used to create Blue Apron style boxes with fresh vegetables and recipe kits to be donated to community organizations who feed the hungry. They donated their first box last Friday to Afghanistan refugees now living in Danville.

The garden will be maintained over the summer by Horticulture students with help from the coordinator from Global Student Embassy.

To enhance the experience for the students, Chrissy is hoping to raise money for a greenhouse and a tool shed. They bought new tools from grant money awarded by Chevron and need somewhere to store them. Chrissy was involved with securing Campolinda and Acalanes greenhouses. Her experience, she says, will make it easier to get one for Miramonte. She has the full support of administration but no funding. We hope the membership will support contributing to the program.

At the February board meeting we reviewed our Non-Profit Organizations Contribution list from 2017 (Green book page 42). Board members have volunteered to contact the organizations we gave to last year to make sure they are still on task and in need of contributions. The board will propose a contributions list to the general membership at the March meeting.

## **CONWATCH: Fourth policy area**

### **Proposed 80% Cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Last summer, CONWATCH, the GCA publication, reported on four policy areas to watch. We have covered the first three. Today, I'll report on the fourth and an additional area suggested by GCA.

The fourth policy area is a proposed 80% reduction in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This Fund has broad and bipartisan support and is slated for a drastic spending cut. The President's proposed budget affects America's National Parks, forests and other public lands. Also targeted are state grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat and other community conservation priorities.

Since it was created in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has served as the primary funding source for federal land acquisitions for conservation and recreation. The program is authorized for \$900 million annually from royalties paid by oil and gas companies for offshore drilling; when companies deplete one natural resource, they dedicate a small portion of their revenues to fund the acquisition of another natural resource.

This program is set to expire in September 2018 unless Congress reauthorizes it.

**ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME:** Although standalone measures would be much less likely to see floor time, LWCF measures may once again be included in larger bills, such as the omnibus appropriations bill or a future energy bill.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Contact your representative asking him to cosponsor H.R. 502, which would permanently reauthorize LWCF, and the "Land and National Park Deferred Maintenance Act" (bill not yet numbered), which would provide \$450 million in funding for the program.
- Ask for a minimum of \$450 million in FY2018 appropriations from both House and Senate.
- Contact your senators asking them to Cosponsor Senate bills 896 and 569. These bills would permanently reauthorize LWCF and provide permanent funding at the fully authorized level of \$900 million a year.

## CONWATCH (cont.d)

The additional area of concern is the repeal of the Clean Water Rule.

GCA has a position paper on Clean Water which I encourage you to read. GCA supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy that addresses the following:

Water Pollution Reduction

Ecosystem Protection

Safeguarding Human Health

The Clean Water Rule is a 2015 regulation published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to clarify water resource management under a provision of the Clean Water Act of 1972.

It more clearly defines the tributaries and adjacent waters that are under federal jurisdiction and explains how they are covered

- It carries over existing exclusions from the Clean Water Act

- It reduces categories of waters which are subject to case-by-case analysis

- Protects US "regional water treasures"

In February of last year, the President signed a resolution that HAD been passed by Congress, to immediately rescind the "[Stream Protection Rule](#)" which was intended to protect water quality at [mining](#) sites near the mountaintops.

The President signed an executive order directing EPA to review the Clean Water Rule for conflicts with his economic growth agenda.

The House and Senate voted to repeal the "[stream protection rule](#)" — using a tool known as the [Congressional Review Act](#)

The President [signed the bill](#), allowing coal companies to have a freer hand in dumping mining debris into streams.

The rule has been contested in litigation. In 2017 the [Trump administration](#) announced its intent to review and rescind or revise the rule.<sup>[3]</sup> Following a Supreme Court ruling on January 22, 2018 that lifted a nationwide stay on the rule, the Trump administration formally suspended the rule until February 6, 2020, thereby giving EPA administrator [Scott Pruitt](#) more time to issue a draft proposal of replacement water regulations with looser regulatory requirements.<sup>[4]</sup>



## **CONWATCH (cont.d)**

### Points of discussion:

The administration is struggling to save the US coal industry stating the endorsement of “clean” coal but it’s unlikely to reverse the long downward trend of mining jobs in Appalachia.

Many think these protections go too far in undermining the coal industry.

Some say although we are grateful for the energy provided by mining coal, it is time to switch to renewables.

Scientists agree that decreasing coal consumption will decrease emissions, and improve public health, reducing environmental impacts. Some experts believe this will lead to a cleaner and stronger US economy.

### Facts:

A byproduct of mining coal is “coal ash” also referred to as “coal combustion residuals”. This is a particulate residue that remains from burning coal and this ash and sludge is often disposed of in unmonitored landfills, lakes, and reservoirs.

When coal ash waste is NOT properly controlled, the toxic substances can affect drinking water, food, and air.

Breathing the particles in the air poses an occupational health risk.

Coal ash can harm local ecosystems affecting fish and wildlife.

This waste can contaminate drinking water supplies.

Heavy metals and toxic substances are found in coal ash and include arsenic, lead, mercury, uranium, and others.

The EPA shows that those who live near coal ash dumps face elevated cancer risks or as much as a “1 in 50 chance” of getting cancer from drinking water contaminated by arsenic.

Children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. Those living near these mining sites were found to have up to nine times the federal standard for lead, a deadly neurotoxin that can damage the central nervous system.

## **CONWATCH (cont.d)**

EPA data, at least 36 states have high-risk coal ash dump sites.

21 states have five or more such sites: North Carolina (17); Indiana (15); Illinois (14); Ohio (12); Georgia (11); Kentucky (11); Tennessee (11); Texas (10); Alabama (9); Iowa (7); Michigan (7); South Carolina (7); West Virginia (7); Wisconsin (7); Wyoming (6); Kansas (5); Louisiana (5); Maryland (5); North Dakota (5); Oklahoma (5); and Pennsylvania.

In 2016, more than half of all the coal produced in the United States came from just three states—Kentucky, West Virginia, and Wyoming—with each contributing 6, 11, and 40 percent of US coal production, respectively.

Although there are no mines in California, it should be remembered that all waterways intersect. <https://mytapscore.com/pages/the-coal-ash-map>

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment.

If you have concerns, contact Administrator Pruitt stating that you are concerned about the health and safety of the public and oppose favoring fossil fuel industry profits.

Please take the time to read the CONWATCH information on the GCA website or contact me if you would like more detailed information.



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

Orinda Garden Club Calendar		
<b>Bouquets</b> @ Tina Locke's Driver: Sheila Wendt	<b>10:30am - 11:30am</b>	<b>March 12, 2018</b> 31 Orinda View
<b>Partners for Plants (P4P)</b> carpool	<b>12noon - 2:30pm</b>	<b>March 13, 2018</b> Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
<b>Board Meeting</b> @ Laura Sawczuk's	<b>3:15pm - 4:45pm</b>	<b>March 15, 2018</b> 93 El Toyonal, Orinda
<b>General Meeting: Author Amy Stewart on "The Drunken Botanist"</b> 3:30 Social, 4:00 Meeting, 5:00 Speaker	<b>3:30pm - 6pm</b>	<b>March 21, 2018</b> Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
<b>Bouquets</b> @ Lisa Kovolik's Driver: Sheila Wendt	<b>10:30am - 11:30am</b>	<b>March 12, 2018</b> 10 Lombardy Lane
<b>Partners for Plants (P4P)</b> carpool	<b>12noon - 2:30pm</b>	<b>April 10, 2018</b> Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
<b>Hort: The Flower Arrangers Garden with Jennie White and Bryn Bettelheim</b> @Sue Berger's Piedmont Garden Club Members will demonstrate making floral arrangements using the flowers and greenery from our gardens.	<b>10:30am - 11:30am</b>	<b>April 17, 2018</b> 76 Charles Hill Rd, Orinda
<b>Rose Pruning</b> Heather Farm Park, 301 N San Carlos Dr, Walnut Creek	<b>10:30am - 11:30am</b>	<b>April 18, 2018</b> Heather Farm Park, 301 N San Carlos Dr, Walnut Creek
<b>Board Meeting</b> @ Marlene Hallenberger's	<b>3:15pm - 4:45pm</b>	<b>April 19, 2018</b> 9 Donald Drive, Orinda
<b>GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show - "Wonders of the West"</b>		<b>April 26-29, 2018</b> Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco