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GCA Conservation Project Spotlight & News to Know Summer 2020

Greetings to GCA Conservation and National Affairs and Legislation chairs!

Thank you for taking on this important role in your club to help restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment in your communities. This newsletter is meant to provide a small taste of recent projects in each zone and helpful education for our committees. Some projects happened before the pandemic and included gatherings and some are great examples of conservation while isolating. Hopefully, it will inspire ideas for other zones and clubs.

For a complete list of recent projects in each zone click on the link to the [zone compilation report](#) listed on the Conservation Landing page.

Please consider uploading your projects to the showcase to help:

- Inspire Action
- Record achievements
- Fulfill the mission of the GCA



Here are some simple steps to include your project:

1. Log in to gcamerica.org. Go to the Members Area in the top right corner and sign in.
2. Head on over to the [GCA Conservation Landing Page](#) and scroll to the "Conservation Projects - Browse Ideas and share" section.
3. Click on Share an Experience.
4. Most entries will fall within the Conservation Projects heading. Be sure to include pictures and keep it short and sweet. Include your contact information so that others who like to try your good idea will be able to contact you with questions.

What can we do at home and encourage our club members to do too?



During this time of staying at home, The Healthy Yard Initiative is something we can all do! Take the pledge and learn about the best healthy yard practices. There is a wealth of information on the conservation landing page under the Healthy Yard Resource block. We can all make a difference with our own corner of the earth. Healthy Yard buttons for your members are available for a small fee.



Pick an invasive plant in your yard and get rid of it!
If you need help identifying those Invasives-at-Home,
contact us on our website: weedwrangle.org



Or what about a stay at home Weed Wrangle??

National Affairs Need To Know!



The National Affairs and Legislation Committee keeps the GCA membership current on federal policy initiatives. Be in the know on:

- [What We Are Watching](#)
- [Legislative Updates](#)
- [Latest Calls to Action](#)

Sign up for Calls to Action by going to your GCA profile and clicking the green button "Edit Publication Notifications"

Take some time to peruse the [National Affairs and Legislative Landing Page](#) for the latest on our GCA Position Papers and Current Vice Chair Reports

Advocacy in Action



Woo Hoo!

The U. S. House of Representatives passed the Great American Outdoors Act by a landslide vote of 310 to 107 on Wednesday, July 22nd. Since the Senate already approved identical legislation in mid-June, the next step is the White House. The President has 10 days (minus Sundays) to sign the Act into law.

This historic vote would not have been possible without many years of committed efforts from GCA advocates. Thank you for writing letters, sending emails, making calls and organizing visits to bring a voice to the importance of America's national parks and public lands. As we celebrate, please be sure to reach out one more time to your members of Congress to thank them for voting in favor of this legacy legislation.

If you would like to see how your Member of Congress voted, [paste this link](#) to the Roll Call vote and check.

About the GAOA

The GAOA is a combination of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act and the Restore our Parks and Public Lands bill. Our national parks and public lands preserve some of our nation's most valuable natural resources, helping us see our unique American heritage and history. They offer unparalleled recreation opportunities for hundreds of millions of visitors each year and define and unite us as a nation.

The Great American Outdoors Act:

- Makes \$1.9 billion available annually, for five years (\$9.5 billion total) for maintenance projects with 70% allocated for National Park Service projects, 10% for the U.S. Forest Service, 10% for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5% for Bureau of Land

Management, and 5% for Bureau of Indian Education.

- Provides permanent, mandatory LWCF funding at the fully authorized annual amount of \$900 million to help communities conserve land, improve local parks and recreation areas, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks, create new parks in places that have none, and develop and expand trail systems that link communities to each other.
- Funding for both bills comes from the *revenues from offshore drilling in federal waters*
- Creates over *100,000+ jobs* across our Nation's parks and public lands

The New Virtual Conservation Study Conference



America the Beautiful:
Conservation through conscientious stewardship working for a beautiful healthy planet

Mark your calendars for November 17 and 18 for the Virtual Conservation Study Conference open to all members free of charge.

Join the conservation committee for a virtual Conservation Study Conference and learn why conserving our natural spaces matter. Become an informed steward and understand how taking care of our land, both private and public, is critical to a healthy environment, community and a healthy you.

Stay tuned for exciting speakers and virtual learning opportunities!

God Bless America. Let's save some of it
– Edward Abbey

Zone I



Recycling in Rhode Island

On June 12, 2020, Little Compton Garden Club members Debby King, Ginny Greenwood and Heather Steers, delivered 33 bags of rigid foam ("polystyrene material"), half of which are pictured here. Club members had been saving foam the past couple of years for the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's (RIRRC) "Small Vehicle Area" drop - off center area in Johnston. The Small Vehicle Area (SVA) lets Rhode Islanders go beyond their recycling bin or cart, offering easy access to special/bulky item recycling, as well as to disposal. The program, whereby the foam is collected and then picked up by one of the world's leading manufacturers of polystyrene foam, "is restricted to individuals collecting small amounts of foam at home."

Conservation Project

Garden Centers

- We spoke with a variety of local garden centers to find out about the types of products they sell and if they have environmentally friendly options.

Questions?

- What native plants do you sell and do you promote them
- Would you consider conducting a native plant workshop
- Are you aware of suppliers using neonicotinoids, which are harmful to pollinators?
- Do you sell fossil fuel-based pesticides and herbicides?
- Do you sell organic fertilizers?

Bring Native Plants into Your Landscape

What is a Native Plant?

- Native refers to plants growing in New England before European settlement, and includes woody plants (trees, shrubs, and vines) and non-woody, or herbaceous plants (flowering perennials, ferns, grasses).

Why grow native plants?

- Native plants are the most sustainable choice for home gardeners: Beautiful, hardy, and varied, they provide essential food and shelter for our region's wildlife and help to maintain New England's unique sense of place.

Choosing the Right Plant for Your Place

Check out these key resources from New England Wildflower Society to help identify plants for your home garden:

- [Go Botany](#) - Learn about native species in New England and check other common garden plants to see which are native.
- [Native Plants from the Society](#) - When you buy their plants, you not only get systemic-pesticide-free, locally grown plants from sustainably harvested seed, you support native plant [conservation and research](#). See their ample selection of native plants on sale at Garden in the Woods and Nassau Farm Nursery, and browse their [CSA and Plant Collections](#).
- [Invasive plants brochure](#) - Be sure not to plant invasive species, one of the chief threats to native plants. Some commercial nurseries still sell invasive species, so the responsibility falls to consumers to check your state's list of invasive plant species.

<https://www.newenglandwild.org/>

Healthy Yard Goal: Getting 100% Involvement for Noanette GC

The Noanette Garden Club has been working towards getting 100% of our members to sign the GCA Healthy Yard Pledge. They have spoken with a variety of local garden centers to find out about the types of products they sell and if they have environmentally friendly options. They educate about bringing native plants to your garden and the harmful effects of Neonicotinoids.

Zone II



Goats Are The Answer!

Goats could be the answer in Zone II as we struggle to manage invasive plants while encouraging our members to sustain agriculture for food security; sign healthy yard pledges; plant and protect native species; start Partner 4 Plant and Weed Wrangle projects; protect and restore natural habitats; establish pollinator pathways; preserve seed diversity and propagate pollinator plots. This successful project was launched by The Garden Club of New Canaan but stay tuned for other Zone II clubs to join in!



Zone II hosted and partnered with many local organizations to promote pollinators and healthy yards

Garden Club of Darien and Darien Pollinator Pathway (GCD is a collaborator in DPP) hosted the launch of the “Ecotype” project (promoting locally sourced seeds and native plants) at a local nursery. Speakers included the Executive Director of CT NOFA (National Organic Farmers Association) and raffled off Town compost bins! Darien also showed *Biggest Little Farm* and *The Devil We Know*, highlighting the issues with PFAS chemicals. and *Ground War* which showcases the dangers of pesticides.



The Pollinator Pathway Is Going Strong!

The purpose of the Pollinator Pathway is to expand wildlife corridors for establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for pollinating insects and wildlife...making it necessary to connect these participating public lands with private properties!

Zone II Pollinator Pathway has garnered well over 60 towns in just a few short years which makes it an interesting study as Garden Club of America launches into its third year of Healthy Yard pledges...with most towns being led by garden clubs that collaborate with land trusts

and other local conservation organizations, our Zone II Pollinator Pathway models many attributes from all of our GCA native pollinating plant programs. Since Zone II has the highest number of GCA Healthy Yard pledges, one might draw conclusions that these synergistic movements are benefitting from each other!

Check it out for a more in-depth description on the [Conservation Showcase Page](#)

Zone III



Weeding for Wildlife Webinar..... a collaborative effort in Zone III with Weed Wrangle®, New York State Parks, Audubon-New York and The Native Plant Center

Under the leadership of Cayce McAlister several Weed Wrangle® events were scheduled in Zone III this past spring. Many of the Weed Wrangles were new events in partnership with the New York State Parks... then COVID happened.

Falon Neske, Invasive Species expert from the New York State Parks came to the Weed Wrangle®-New York coordinators, Chris Duncan and Conservation Zone Rep Andrea Stewart to present this *silver*

lining of an idea; a webinar. Andrea knew fellow GCA member, Karen Thomas who also serves as Audubon New York-Chair would be interested in partnering with us. Andrea also spoke to Diane Lewis who introduced Carol Capobianco, Director of the Native Plant Center in Westchester County NY and Carolyn Summer, a native plant expert and author of 'Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East'. During a joint call to figure out what exactly we should say and do, the concept was born: *Weeding for Wildlife: Pull Invasives. Plant Natives*. New York State Parks provided all the technical abilities and hosted the webinar along with Audubon-New York, The Native Plant Center, GCA, and Weed Wrangle®. We had 834 registrants, and a real opportunity to educate collaboratively the complete picture of invasive plants, native plants and why it matters in our ecosystem.

It's all about connections and following through! Each member of this collaboration brought different perspectives and audiences, which helped make the webinar more successful than if it was done singularly.

* Click on the above photo or link and scroll down on the web page for the webinar.

Zone IV



Zone IV has supported two state-wide legislative initiatives this year

Clubs unanimously supported the Great Healthy Yard resolution that was recently introduced as NJ Assembly Joint Resolution 173 by Assemblywoman Huttel. In addition, several clubs have endorsed legislation that limits unnecessary outdoor use of neonicotinoid insecticides by signing on to a letter of support for “Safeguarding New Jersey’s Pollinators, Water, Agricultural Economy, and People” (A2070/S1016).



Composting and Conversation through Zoom!

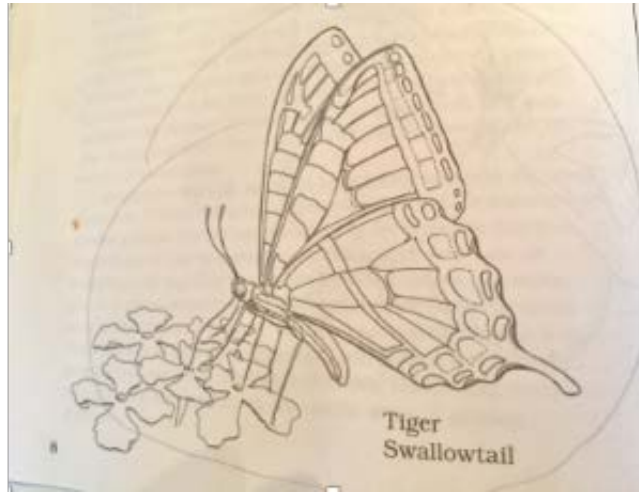
Princeton held a zoom program by Carrie Dyckman of Stony Brook GC called “Composting and Conversation”. Carrie thoroughly explained composting and showed physical examples of the various levels of completion. The convenience of Zoom (in your PJs) may have contributed to good attendance. Perhaps, all the home cooking and time at home boosted interest in the topic also.



Weeds Don't Stop During a Pandemic

Members of the Garden Club of Madison conservation committee enjoyed socially distant gardening at a stormwater management swale that the club maintains at Madison's Gibbons Pines Park. The *Packera aurea* are in full bloom, but the weeds needed wrangling. Members brought divisions of *Pycnanthemum muticum* and *Monarda didyma* from their gardens to fill in some empty spaces between the four thriving river birches.

Zone V



The Planters Garden Club Embarking on Butterfly Survey and Coloring Book

The Planters Garden Club is embarking on a first-ever butterfly survey at Stoneleigh in Villanova, PA. Stoneleigh is a public garden devoted to biodiversity and ecological horticulture and was opened to the public in the past year. It is closed now due to Coronavirus and so our survey, which was to begin in April, has been postponed. The Planters Club is ecstatic to have this unique opportunity to measure the impacts of plantings and horticultural practices on wildlife diversity. Collecting data about the wildlife on property over time can demonstrate the importance of native plantings and plant diversity to creating habitat for birds, mammals, and insects in suburban Philadelphia.

Augmenting the butterfly survey is the creation of a butterfly coloring book with drawings of some of the various species of butterflies done by Leora Natan, Zone V rep.



Everyday Conservation at Home Tips from The Garden Club of Wilmington

Leora Natan reached out to the conservation chairmen and asked each one of them to report on conservation strategies that individuals used in their personal lives.

The Garden Club of Wilmington sent a long list of interesting ideas:

- **Replace paper towels with reusable towels. They come on a roll, so they fit where regular paper towels do and they get softer with every wash, they are super absorbent.**
- **Use a raised compost bin, paired with an under-counter stainless steel compost bucket. Also keep a compost leaf pile and use the proceeds for plants so as not to use much potting soil.**
- **Cut up paper bags and add them to the food composter.**
- **Use cotton or linen napkins in lieu of paper.**
- **Switch to renewable energy from the grid. Go to your local provider and explore your choices.**
- **Return Styrofoam packing material to UPS.**
- **Use an old plastic gift card to scrap and clean pans. It doesn't scratch**
- **Use shredded leaves for mulch.**
- **Remove the wax paper liner from packages of cereal or crackers, etc. trim it, and use it to store cheese, lemon, or anything that you would use plastic wrap for.**
- **Reduce the use of plastic by using substitutions such as reusable covers and beeswax wrappers.**
- **Embrace a less than "perfect" lawn, allowing plants that support pollinators to thrive.**
- **One truly original idea came from a members' daughter. She**

made a kitchen rug out of about 200 used plastic bags (see photo above). She recommends it as a garden kneeler as well. The process is shown on youtube.

- While walking, one member pulls garlic mustard weed and substitutes it in her pesto recipe.
- The Carrie T. Watson Club members volunteer to run errands, shopping, medications, etc. for quarantined members.



[Read Now](#)

Zone VI



Advocating to ban chlorpyrifos (a toxic pesticide known to harm human health and wildlife) on the state level

An exciting collaboration this year has been a joint effort by the tireless Amateur and St. George's clubs, specifically their presidents, Hannah Byron and Sherry Locke, to encourage members to advocate on conservation/environment issues at the state level. Programs in November and January, with the Baltimore County Executive and State Delegate Dana Stein, addressed county and district environmental plans.

In February, Sherry Locke testified before the Maryland House and Senate in favor of the Chlorpyrifos ban. Sherry spent two days in Annapolis, one day in front of the Senate and the other in front of the House committees.

She reported, "The House passed the bill without amendments. In a workout session, the House agreed to the amendments and the bill went to both chambers for a vote. It was passed. The bill is now awaiting Governor Hogan's decision. He can either sign, ignore, or veto the bill. If he signs or ignores the bill, it becomes law. Usually, he has 90 days to make a decision. This year the process may be delayed because of the COVID-19 outbreak."

Read her full journey of advocating on the state level [HERE](#)



Guilford Garden Club helps Friends School of Baltimore Gardens

Eight ailing 50+-year-old white and red oak trees had to be taken down for safety reasons. Instead of removing the trunks, they were saved on site, cut into various lengths, and artfully arranged in the bowl-shaped landform in a pattern suggesting treefall in a forest. Heavy rainfall immediately after the arrangement was complete created surface patterns that helped guide adjustments to the logs that help capture and slow even more water. Plans to plant the uphill side of each log arrangement have been put on hold due to COVID19, but GGC looks forward to planting understory trees, shrubs, and herbaceous layers as well as next-generation canopy trees with the school community as soon as everyone can be on campus together!

Zone VII

Flower Show History Made! The First Virtual Conservation Exhibit



Click the above image to view the first virtual conservative exhibit which premiered at the virtual annual meeting. Step into the Appalachian Mountains and learn about the most biodiverse region in North America from the Annual Meeting virtual conservation exhibit. Created by Jana Dowds, Missy Janes, Carol Carter and Janet Frantz



Advocating for Healthy Yards

Dr. Diane Lewis of the Great Healthy Yard Project and Vice-Chairman of Air Quality/Toxic Substances was the guest speaker at the Mill

Mountain Garden Club. She is pictured in front of the star that symbolizes the city of Roanoke and a photo of the public wildflower area which is part of the land where no pesticides are used.

In addition and before the pandemic, Diane was very busy speaking to other clubs such as the Cooperstown Garden Club, The Ridgefield Garden Club, The Sasqua Garden Club, The Norwalk GC, and the Worcester Garden Club. Many more were scheduled and had to be canceled. We can keep up the good work by promoting the pledge and healthy yard practices.



Magnolia 'Butterflies' MAGNOLIA BUTTERFLIES
Grows to be 15' to 20' tall and 10' to 15' wide
Planted in Spring 2019
Located at 860 Lone Oak Road



Liriodendron tulipifera TULIP TREE
Grows 70'-90' high, 35'-50' wide
Planted in Spring 2012
Located near front fence 635 Woodland Drive

A Virtual Arboretum for the Community

The Virtual Arboretum (a joint project with the Conservation and Horticulture committees) is located on The Paducah Garden Club website. It features trees that merit attention and inspired the community to:

- **save trees from demolition**
- **encourage the planting of new trees**
- **answer the question “what tree should I plant?”**

So many books to read...Why not have a zoom / socially distant conservation book club?



Many clubs are using this time for conservation book clubs. For ideas click [here](#) for a list of recommended books on the conservation landing page under Education Resources.

Zone VIII

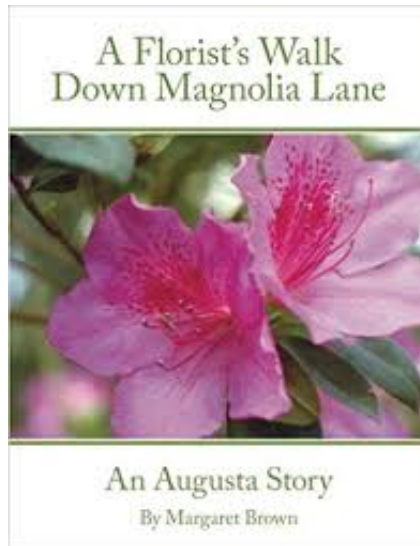


Watch Now

Zone VIII Meeting Conservation Presentation for All to See

The Zone VIII Meeting promised great speakers, programs on Conservation, along with dinners, site visits, and a fantastic flower show. Producing a Zone Meeting takes several years to plan and coordinate, and Sarasota is to be commended for its advance work and then its willingness to respond to the pandemic by canceling the meeting. Capturing the keynote speaker, above, all attendees were in for a time of great learning and collaboration.

Select "Videos" underneath the "Read, Watch, and Shop" header on the main GCA website, and then select "Club and Zone Meeting Speakers to hear *Coral Restoration: A Beacon of Hope to Save Florida's Coral Reef*. Presented by Erinn Muller, Ph.D., Science Director at the Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration and Senior Scientist, Mote Marine Laboratory.



As a newly minted GCA club, GC of Aiken hosted a public meeting attended by over 100 people held at the Aiken County Historic Museum

It was March 10th, and with the pandemic threatening to displace plans, GC of Aiken members hosted notable Conservation and Floral Designer Margaret Brown who authored the book *A Florist's Walk Down Magnolia Lane*, recording and illustrating her years of arranging at the Augusta National Golf Club – home to the iconic Masters Golf Tournament. Margaret was the primary flower designer for the club for twenty-eight years and has won distinctive awards for the conservation of the Augusta canal systems.

Zone IX



Free Community Environmental Movie Night Attracted Big Crowd

The Magnolia Garden Club collaborated with Bee City USA - Beaumont to host a free community movie night featuring the movie Wings of Life. Conservation community groups were invited to display and educate in the lobby before the movie. Over 200 people attended! The Bee City USA program is an initiative of the Xerces Society for pollinator education.



C-Change Conversations Presents in Zone IX

Clubs in Zone IX hosted Kathleen Biggins from C-Change Conversations.

(Left) Some 400 students and another 200 members of the community — including Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins and LSUS Chancellor Larry Clark — attended the hour-long event co-sponsored by the Shreveport Garden Study Club, Shreveport Green, and LSUS.

(Right) The Garden Club of Houston hosted Kathleen and invited other surrounding clubs to join.

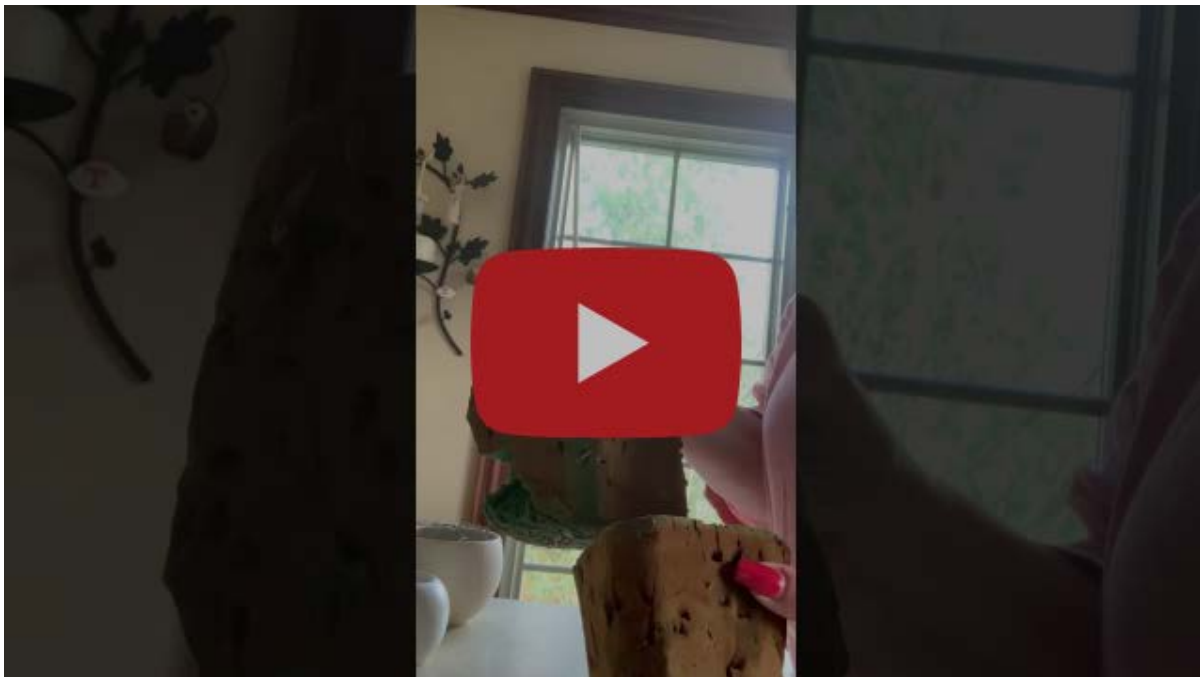


Recycling Flower Show Bandanas

Elizabeth Stone and Patty Shepherd Chaired River Oaks Garden Club's 2018 Flower Show "Farm to Forum". The Forum is the historic building ROGC owns. As part of the Flower Show, ROGC Board Member, Betty Newton, designed bandanas that were purchased by members to wear during the show, were gifted to judges for the show and were used as napkins during a seated farm to market dinner held in connection with the show.

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation to wear a cloth face covering to help slow the spread of COVID-19, Elizabeth recognized the opportunity to Recycle/Upcycle the bandanas as masks to help slow the spread and flatten the curve.

Environmentally Conscience Flower Arranging



Lee Easterly from The Garden Club of Lookout Mountain has starred in her own youtube video on the optional resources for floral foam in making floral arrangements. She explains the harmful effects of floral foam on the environment and gives a demonstration of how to use a grid, frogs, chicken wire balls, wood stems, and a plastic nest instead of the foam.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

The Garden Club of Knoxville created a conservation trivia challenge. You can find it on the conservation landing page [HERE](#). Use this or create your own trivia challenge and offer prizes for the winners.

Zone X



These Fourth Grade Students are the BEE'S KNEES - especially their Hull Award teacher Mrs. Miller

In March of 2019, a few members of Shaker Lakes Garden Club met with Lauren Miller's fourth-grade class at the Birchwood School in Cleveland, OH. Her class wanted to plan a Native Plant Pollinator garden at their school. Shaker Lakes helped the school site the garden and give advice on how to construct and fill raised beds. This project was instructional in both Conservation and Horticulture. In May, the students planted the garden, dodging a line of thunderstorms!

It is with great delight that we helped nominate Lauren Miller for an Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award in 2020. And, it is with further joy that we celebrate her being awarded a Hull Award scholarship.

See the video below of Lauren's class invited the anchor (Dave Chudowsky) to their classroom for a lesson on the benefits of bees and pollinators. A few days later, Mr. Chudowsky apologized to the bee population and mentioned he had been "schooled by some local 4th graders". "Lauren is one of those remarkable teachers who will seize any and every teachable moment, and she does it in such a creative and fun manner!" says MaryBruce Rae-Grant of the Shaker Lakes Garden Club



Local anchor gets schooled by Mrs. Millers Class about bees



Country Garden Club goes on a Plastic Diet

In January the Country Garden Club was encouraged to go on a “plastic diet” for a New Year’s resolution. At the March membership meeting, the Conservation Committee invited members to take a pledge to reduce their plastic footprint with simple changes – reusable shopping bags, carrying their own water bottles and coffee cups,

saying no to plastic straws. The pledge that was introduced at the meeting and adopted was *“I pledge to refuse, whenever possible, single-use plastic items and use environmentally friendly alternatives in their place.”* Each member who took the pledge received an engraved CGC metal straw, complete with a carrying case. Forty-six members attended the meeting and all pledged (100%) to make conservation a part of their daily lives.

The Connection with Conservation and Photography



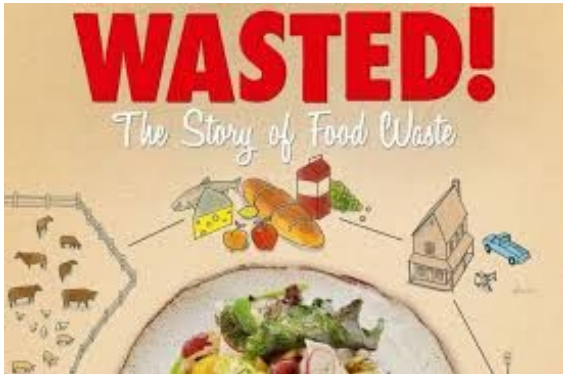
Check out the podcast:

[Finding Conservation Stories In Your Backyard: An Interview With Mike Forsberg](#)

Michael Forsberg was the 2020 recipient of The GCA's J. Sherwood

Chalmers Medal that is awarded for outstanding achievement in the field of photography and/or photography education as it relates to the purpose of The Garden Club of America. A Nebraska native Michael has devoted 25 years to photographing America's Great Plains, covering 100,000 miles across twelve states and three Canadian provinces. His meticulous research and patience lead to the "perfect shot," and his work and voice call for conservation action and bring the magic of nature to the minds and souls of all who see them.

Zone XI




Learning About Food Waste

About 60 members from both the Kenilworth Garden Club and the Garden Guild of Winnetka gathered on February 19, 2020 to watch the film *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste*. Anthony Bourdain prior to his death in 2018 produced this movie to spread the word about world food waste in a dark but impactful way. Forty percent of the food produced for human consumption ends up as food waste. Of this amount, ninety percent ends up in a landfill creating methane which is one of the most potent greenhouse gases.

Following the movie, Spirit Elephant Chef Renin Lopes joined us for a short presentation and question and answer session. This new Hubbard Woods restaurant in Winnetka, Illinois is 100 percent vegan

and waste-free. Chef Renin inspired us to consider composting food waste and being more mindful in our food preparation



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

One of the basic tenets of the Garden Club of America mission charges the clubs to improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement. Here are some examples of programs that can be used "as is" or modified to fit your club and community.

► **Conservation Presentations**

- Short Environmental Videos to Educate Members
- Stream Environmental Films
- Bedford 2020
- Have Your Club Team Up With Audubon
- Conservation Exhibits for Flower Shows
- C-Change Conversations

- Websites & Blogs List
- Books List
- Videos List
- Meeting Sustainability Guidelines
- Current VC Report Compilation
- Division V Education and Conservation Video
- Knoxville GC Trivia Challenge

Learn about the connection between food waste and climate change from a presentation by Sophie Glovier, VC of Waste Management by clicking conservation presentations on the Conservation landing page.



Composting and Zooming

The Conservation Committee of The St. Louis Garden Club hosted two zoom webinars in May.

Daria McKelvey, Supervisor of the Kemper Home Garden Center, provided a Zoom seminar and discussion on Composting for 15 of our members. She discussed the science and how-tos of composting, as well as the types of composting bins and enclosures to consider.

The options for equipment range from simple DIY (Do It Yourself) options to bigger, ready-made ones. Liz de Laperouse (see left) spent under \$100 for the wire, stakes and clasp, and it took her less than an hour to set up.

For more information on how to compost and other types of enclosures, see the attached PDF of Daria's presentation. https://missouribotanicalgarden-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/dmckelvey_mobot_org/EbPsn-gB5PBOtlc3pBol-ccBcnbst53V5eW_55Q3xNBmcA

Zone XII



Be sustainable at home and reduce trips the store

Hancock Park Garden Club had planned a sustainable cooking event in February that had to be postponed, but they followed up quickly in March with a home DIY project of bulk food storage. This is one of the best ways for everyone to minimize plastic usage, save money and buy products that are not always available in small quantities. There is no need to buy special containers; many people have a collection of Mason or Ball jars in various sizes as well as holiday cookie tins and decorative bottles. Purchasing an assortment of dried beans, seeds, rice and pasta is now the perfect way to reduce trips to the grocery store and fill jars with beautiful food choices. Decorative bottles can also be used for herb-infused vinegars. Best of all, these simple containers look great on open shelves and they can easily keep pantries organized without using plastic bags, rubber bands, and twist-ties

LUSCHER FARM PGC VOLUNTEER DAY RECAP

Heldi Schlimmer and Carole Connell, Conservation Chairs

Through GCA Partners for Plants (P4P), PGC granted Luscher Farms \$2000 to purchase trees for Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) restoration.

On a chilly Saturday morning, February 29, a hearty cadre of PGC conservationists gathered across a remnant farm field to help plant 150 oak trees. Luckily, the hailstorm poured down well after all the trees were in the ground and volunteers were gone!



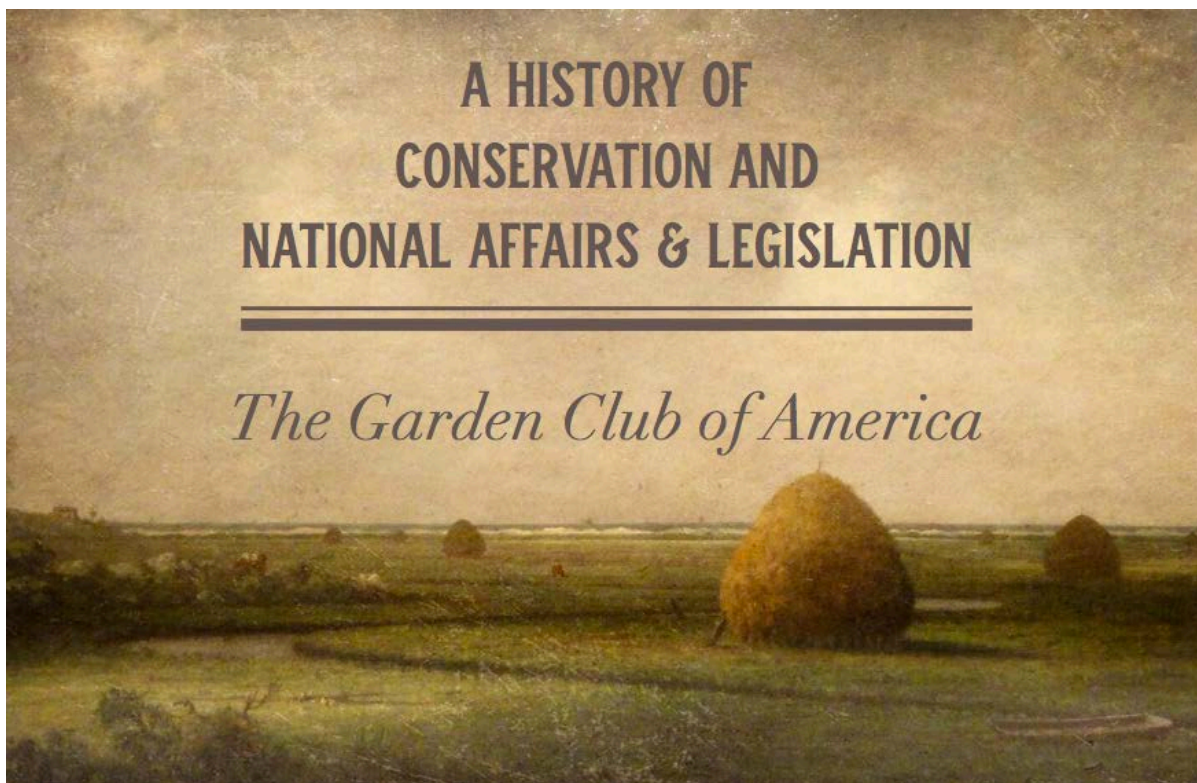
This 3-year grant will ensure success because next year and the year after there will be more planting of native shrubs and wildflowers to support the oak savannah habitat.

An established oak woodland grove is a gift to future generations who will benefit from its many positive health and environmental impacts for years to come.

**P4P Grant at work**

The Portland Garden Club is planning for the future by working with Luscher Farms to plant an oak savannah habitat. This P4P project is well-funded with the club's grant money to purchase young Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) trees and members took a field trip to help plant 150 saplings. This grant will be used for the next three years to add native shrubs and wildflowers to the area. An established oak woodland grove is the club's gift to future generations and it will provide many positive health and environmental benefits. Once a dairy operation, Luscher Farms is now owned by the City of Lake Oswego and it is used to demonstrate organic and sustainable farming methods. In addition, there are flower gardens and community gardens on the property for people to enjoy.

The GCA History of Conservation and National Affairs & Legislation



Read all about The Garden Club of America's rich history by clicking the above image or find it under Read, Watch, Shop under publications.



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