

A Northern Spotted Owl is perched on a moss-covered branch in a forest. The owl has brown and white mottled feathers and large, dark eyes. The background is a dark, dense forest with tree trunks and foliage.

ConWatch

The Garden Club of America • Summer 2018

The Awards Issue

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Northern Spotted Owl

Photo: Alan Justice, *wildlife paparazzi website*



From the Editor

By Molly Jones

This was a very satisfying issue of ConWatch to put together because it celebrates people and organizations that have done such great work and given so much to the cause of conservation. Our in-depth work on serious conservation issues and the impact our members have made and continue to make on legislation at the local and national levels make me so proud to be part

of the GCA. It is a living testament to the GCA mission statement which asks us to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment... We are indeed tending our gardens, on so many levels.

Molly Jones, Portland Garden Club, Zone XII, is the current Editor of ConWatch



News—From the Conservation & NAL Committees *By Hollidae Morrison and SaSa Panarese*

How has it been a full year since our first edition of ConWatch as chairmen of these committees? During this time we approved a new Waste Management Position Paper, added the ***What We Are Watching chart*** in the Legislative Section of the NAL landing page, revamped the Legislative Updates to an easier-to-read format, updated ***The History of Conservation*** in digital format, revised the Partners For Plants guidelines, added a conservation liaison to the Flower Show Committee and sent multiple advocacy letters aligned with our position papers to Congressmen and women. What a year it was, and we are ready to go for another.

One goal we will continue to hone is attracting more readers for our various publications. Take our Subject Vice Chairman Reports, for example. Several

times a year, the vice chairmen produce extensively researched reports on a myriad of topics pertinent to our nine Position Papers. These reports begin with a summary statement and conclude with ideas for how members can help. With this issue of ConWatch focusing on our ever-deserving ***GCA award recipients***, our vice chairmen also deserve kudos for the extensive research that goes into their reports. It's interesting to note how many of our current Vice Chairman Reports (***See links in sidebar, Page 5***) connect with the interests of our award winners.

As our most recent Vice Chairman Report on Agriculture and Food verifies, when we drink bird-friendly coffee, we are building and maintaining bird habitat, and when we eat organic berries, we sustain better soil and human

health. GCA Medal of Honor winner **Chipper Wichman**, an internationally recognized voice for conservation and sustainability issues, won this medal for his life-long dedication to pursuing the discovery and conservation of tropical plants and their habitats.

The Vice Chairman Report on Water and Wetlands asks if our current laws and programs are protecting rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries. The Elvira Broome Doolan Medal winner for landscape architecture, **Thomas Woltz**, advocates for wetland protection as he works with conservation biologists and landscape ecologists to reforest land, reconstruct wetlands and native meadows and reduce **nonpoint source pollution**. Woltz won this award for the cultivation and the ecological restoration of farmland and sustainable land management. In New Zealand, his firm recently planted 600,000 trees to help deal with land erosion and created a 75-acre wetland with both freshwater and salt marsh lagoons to increase biodiversity. The current Land Use and Sustainability Report touches on the topic of “green infrastructure” which is precisely what Woltz embraces in certain aspects of his landscape design by using native plant materials to mitigate the effects of ever-increasingly strong hurricanes and more prolonged droughts.

The Climate Change Report shines a spotlight on the positive happenings in climate change news and the Energy Report asks what would it take to keep the global temperature rise under 2° Celsius? **Diana and Craig Barrow**, the Margaret Douglas Medal winners for notable service to the cause of conservation education, are directly addressing these climate change related problems through environmental education programs and partnerships at their historic home, Wormsloe.

Our Oceans Report connects with the **Save the Bay** organization, winner of the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal for outstanding achievement in environmental protection. Because the report addresses the impact of ocean warming on the



Gulf Stream, Save the Bay also has a vested interest because all bodies of water are affected by the ocean's role in the management of the Earth's heating and cooling system.

The current Forests and Redwoods Report addresses the future of forests, noting as we move into a new geological epoch characterized by humanity's influence on the planet, we may soon come to be known officially as the Anthropocene. Our forests will increasingly rely on man's intervention to protect them. The **Save the Redwoods League**, winner of the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal, is known as just such an example of man's intervention in the service of nature. **Polly Pierce**, the Natalie Peters Webster Medal winner was awarded the medal for her work protecting, finding and assuring unusual plant material availability.

Other reports contain fascinating facts about current environmental issues. The Air Quality and Toxic Substances Report addresses levels of pollution and their effect on the quality of air and public health. The Transportation and Infrastructure Report deals with electric vehicles and a primer on the ins and outs of recycling are covered in the latest Waste Management Report. Lastly, our National Parks Report reminds us that it's summer vacation time and America's National Parks await us—go and enjoy! ■

Hollidæ Morrison, *Garden Club of Jackson, Zone IX*

Chairman of the NAL Committee

SaSa Panarese, *Garden Club of Milton, Zone I*

Chairman of the Conservation Committee



Links to the Vice Chairman Reports June 2018

Log in to the GCA website, then click on the titles below to use these links

- **Agriculture and Food: *Shade Grown Coffee and a Bowl of Organic Strawberries***
- **Air Quality and Toxic Substances: *No Level of Air Pollution Leaves Humans Unaffected***
- **Climate Change: *Not All News on Climate Change is Bad***
- **Energy Sources: *What Would It Take to Keep Global Temperature Rise Under 2 Degrees Celsius?***
- **Forests and Redwoods: *The Future of Forests***
- **Land Use and Sustainable Development: *Green Infrastructure***
- **National Parks and Public Lands: *It's Summer Vacation Time; America's National Parks Await You***
- **Oceans: *Ocean Warming Impacts on the Gulf Stream***
- **Transportation and Infrastructure: *Clean Cars, Clean Air—Where Are We Now?***
- **Water and Wetlands: *Protecting Endangered Wetlands: Are Conservation Laws & Programs Working?***
- **Waste Management: *Beyond Recycling***



Photo courtesy of the Humboldt County Historical Society Photo Collection

Save the Redwoods League

By Julia Burke

The Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal

Save the Redwoods League, this year's well-deserved recipient of the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal, is celebrating its 100th year of preservation efforts and has been an extraordinary partner with the GCA along the way. This story starts a century ago when Redwoods *Sequoia sempervirens* (coast redwood) and *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (giant sequoia), which had survived environmental changes spanning 200 million years, were threatened by

aggressive logging. The loss of Redwood giants ***first alarmed locals in Humboldt County***, who witnessed firsthand destruction of their forests. It also caught the attention of ***Save the Redwoods League***, which was founded in 1918. Inaugural donors included National Park Service Director Stephen Mather and leading scientists of the day who had visited the redwood forests and were also alarmed at the environmental devastation caused by the cutting of these

ancient giants. Newton Drury became the first Executive Secretary for The League and provided leadership to the League for the next 58 years, working with the National Park Service and California State Parks.

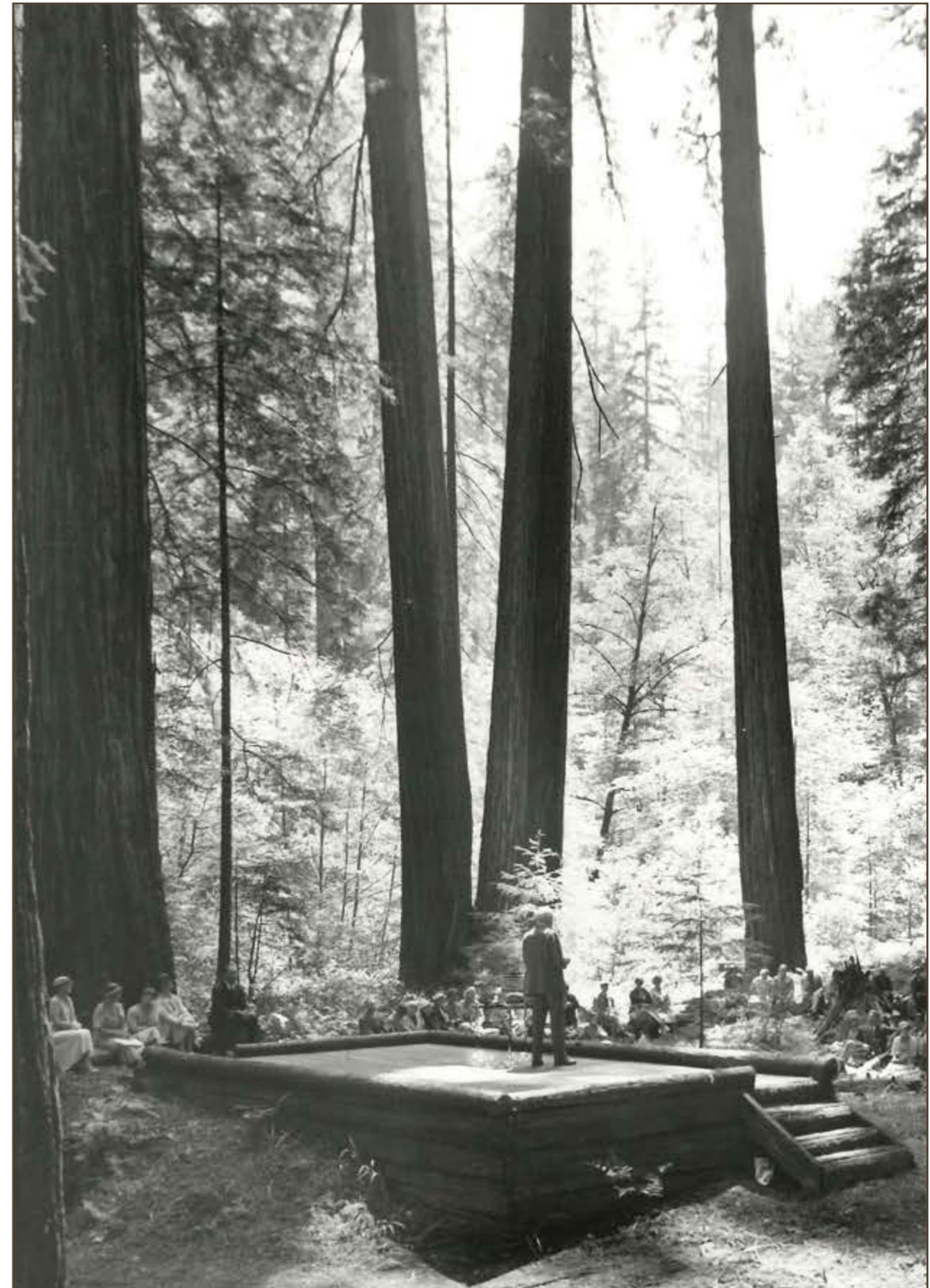
Enter the GCA

Articles about the devastating results of logging and the need to preserve natural parks and monuments had appeared in the press since the mid 1800s. Upon hearing of the destruction of these magnificent giant trees, ladies of the Garden Club of America, educated in the arts, literature, and history

became concerned. On a special train traveling west to the 1930 GCA Annual Meeting in Seattle, members from the east were impassioned and mobilized about saving the redwoods by Mrs. John A. Stewart, the former GCA President, who proposed that GCA purchase a grove of redwoods. Having agreed to the purchase at the meeting, GCA fundraising commenced on the return train trip under the leadership of Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne. Every member club and many

individuals contributed to the initial \$100,000 raised. These funds were matched by the State of California, enabling the purchase of the initial stand of Redwoods on the South Fork of the Eel River in Humboldt County.

The Garden Club of America Grove, GCA's greatest conservation project, was dedicated in 1934. Joining garden club luminaries were many members of the Save the Redwoods League and the California State Parks Board. In the years that followed, GCA continued to add to the grove by partnering with Save The Redwoods League, who advanced funds for the land purchases until the



holding grew to more than 5,000 acres. This is currently the second largest grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Only the Rockefeller Forest Grove is larger. The GCA Grove covers almost the entire Canoe Creek watershed, protecting not just the trees but the entire ecosystem dependent on them. Canoe Creek runs into the Eel River, so named after the large number of Pacific lampreys, an eel-like keystone species that used to thrive in the river ecosystem and provided food for native Americans. The GCA Grove is also known for the variety and abundance of flowering and native understory plants like trillium, oxalis, yellow violets, ginger and ferns, which were noted by members on a 1952 trip following the GCA's general meeting in San Francisco.

In 1993, Fran Wolfe as Zone XII Rep, led a trip by the GCA Conservation and NAL Committees to attend the dedication of the Elvira Broome Doolan Grove, named for the former GCA President who had visited the Grove in 1970. Her family donated the grove adjacent to the GCA Grove as a memorial. Their visit also included the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Save The Redwoods League.

Shortly afterwards, members of the Piedmont Garden Club were targeted as 'tree huggers' and maced by a protester supporting logging.

During the next 25 years while the Conservation and NAL Committees focused on an array of environmental issues around the country, Fran kept a focus on the Redwood Grove. In addition to leading tours of the grove, she has traveled around the country sharing her *'Historical and Hysterical Look at the GCA's Redwood Grove'* slide presentation with numerous clubs. With the help



of her husband, Cameron Wolfe, Jr., they have maintained the GCA connection with Save The Redwoods League and the visibility of the Grove with the GCA.

In 2014, after the "Bridge the Gap" fundraiser led by Katie Heins, GCA President at the time, GCA finally paid off the remainder of the money fronted by the League for the purchase of the grove. The money enabled Save The Redwoods League to fund repairs to the bridge and River Trail, which had been damaged by a lightning fire in 2003 that burned through the entire GCA grove. Labor from the Student Conservation Association was instrumental in this trail restoration.

This remarkable partnership between the GCA and The League in saving so many redwood trees for future generations is something we are all proud of. But there is more work to do in the next century. The GCA Grove, as part of the 200,000 acres of redwood forests protected through the efforts of Save The Redwoods League, provides an opportunity to regenerate the old growth forest ecosystem. Using scientific research, the League is spearheading forest restoration efforts to provide the ecological resilience for native flora and fauna that old growth forests generate, including more carbon sequestration. As Sam Hodder, President and CEO of Save The Redwoods League said in his acceptance speech for this award, *"Our generation has the opportunity to fulfill our ultimate goal as conservationists, as gardeners, as philanthropists, and citizens—the goal of leaving the world better than we found it."* That is what Garden Club of America members have been doing throughout their history. ■

Julia Burke *Piedmont Garden Club, Zone XII*
Current Conservation and NAL Chairman of Piedmont GC,
NAL Vice-Chairman for Forests and Redwoods 2013–15



Save the Bay

By Karen Gilhuly

The Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

In the early 1960s, three women who were fed up with the relentless filling in and pollution of the San Francisco Bay decided to take matters into their own hands. The largest estuary on the entire western coast of North America was being destroyed at a rapid clip. 90% of the tidal marsh along the Bay’s shoreline had been filled, leaving 400 species of wildlife severely threatened. Something needed to be done about it—and fast! They rallied a group of concerned citizens and created Save the Bay. It quickly became a model for others fighting to protect natural habitats in urban environments. Up until this time, conservation efforts had largely focused on protecting remote areas of wilderness and creating our national parks. Citizens now began to rally and advocate for nature preservation in their metropolitan areas, using the grassroots model of Save the Bay to organize their efforts.

San Francisco’s Save The Bay was founded in 1961 on \$1 per year memberships —just enough to print and mail regular newsletters and break even. All the rest of the research, organizing and advocacy was done by volunteers, including



the founders and other members of the board, and small local groups of citizens who were fighting against particular shoreline developments in their cities.

Save the Bay’s early signature achievement was getting the California State Legislature to establish the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (**BCDC**) in 1965. A non-partisan coastal management agency made up of representatives from private, public and non-profit sectors, the BCDC regulates activity in the water and along a 100-foot shoreline band. This Commission became the model for every coastal zone management agency in the country and across the globe. In today’s world where protective legislation and monitoring agencies are under threat, it’s easy to skim over how ground-breaking and prescient this contribution was so many years ago.

Save the Bay’s success inspired other organizations to spring up across the United States to protect critical bodies of water, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson River, Puget Sound and Boston Harbor. All were facing the dire issue



Marbled Murrelet



of pollution and several were also battling the filling in of shorelines. Though funding and volunteer recruitment varied, these groups were all aligned around a common goal; stopping the

shrinking and degradation of these urban water bodies. Other organizations working on similar projects include **Save the Bay** in Narragansett, Rhode Island, **Tampa Baywatch** in Florida, and the **Littoral Society** in New Jersey.

In 2016, Save the Bay's unceasing efforts to eliminate plastic bags came to fruition as Californians voted a complete ban into law. Also in 2016, working with the **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority**, Save the Bay's many years of work helped to finally pass a parcel tax across all nine SF Bay Area counties. Measure AA is a \$12 per parcel tax (a flat fee assessed on each real estate parcel) that adds up to \$25 million per year dedicated solely to the restoration and protection of the Bay. Both of these unprecedented achievements serve as examples of what a group of people, with strong leadership and commitment, can accomplish to protect their bay.

But Save the Bay does not keep all these good ideas and strategies to themselves! In 1995, they formed an alliance with eight "Bay" organizations, **Restore America's Estuaries** (RAE), dedicated to shaping national policies



Founders of Save the Bay:
Catherine 'Kay' Kerr, top,
Sylvia McLaughlin, left and Esther
Gulick

and encouraging federal funding to promote habitat restoration. RAE brings over 1,000 scientists, activists and citizens together every other year to share best practices, scientific breakthroughs and legislative strategies.

It was a sincere pleasure to see David Lewis (Save the Bay's Executive Director for the last twenty years) presented with the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal "for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life" at the GCA's Annual Meeting in April, 2018. Whether working locally with Northern California GCA clubs on our various Partners for Plants projects along the San Francisco Bay's now-sparkling shoreline or inspiring similar conservation efforts and leadership across the country, we are grateful to Save the Bay for their vision, many decades of dedication and hard work. And it all began with three women who cared! ■

Karen Gilhuly

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Zone XII

Current Conservation and NAL Chairman for Forests and Redwoods



Wormsloe, a Plantation Transformed

By Malinda Bergen

The Margaret Douglas Medal: Diana & Craig Barrow

Diana and Craig Barrow's family estate, Wormsloe, has a rich and unique history. It was originally the plantation of Noble Jones, an early colonist and contemporary of James Edward Oglethorpe, who established Georgia as the 13th Colony, and who also planned the city of Savannah. Craig Barrow, a direct descendant of Noble Jones, is the ninth generation of his family to live at Wormsloe. He and his wife, Diana, a member of Trustees' Garden Club and former Zone VIII Chairman, Director and GCA Vice President, moved into the historic family home in 1986, where they entertain beautifully and often. Each generation has added something special to the property and has resisted encroachment from nearby Savannah. Most of its land has been virtually undisturbed, making it unique and valuable from an educational perspective. In 1972, the family donated most of the acreage to create a state park.



After exhaustive research on how to preserve Wormsloe's heritage, yet make it viable for the 21st century, in 2007 Diana and Craig founded the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History (WIEH) (CREW), making research its clear focus. The next step was to align with the University of Georgia. The family has had a long relationship with UGA; Craig is the ninth generation in his family to be a student at the university, and that is where he met Diana. In 2013, they arranged for the trustees of the Wormsloe

Foundation to donate 15 acres to the University of Georgia to create the University of Georgia Center for Research and Education (CREW) at Wormsloe. With the unparalleled asset of more than 10,000 historic records documenting the landscape, researchers also have access to 1,400 acres, including the state historic site, the Barrows' private property, and a recently purchased island that was part of the original plantation.



According to the [UGA CREW website](#), “The Wormsloe Institute seeks to examine the interwoven layers of ecology, cultural history, and historical land practices through the lens of environmental history. Merging anthropological, historical and ecological studies of the progression of land use enriches both data collection and analysis, and results in the most comprehensive representation of time and place. The emerging paradigm of environmental history relies on innovative and interdisciplinary scholarship to investigate the link between critical social transitions and ecological responses, and it supports the application of historical insights to conservation.”

Historical archaeology began at the nineteenth century slave settlement in 2014 during the planning of CREW at Wormsloe. At the request of the Wormsloe Institute, archaeologists Andrew Agha and Nicole Isenbarger of the Archaeological Research Collective performed an intensive archaeological survey around the last remaining slave cabin at Wormsloe Plantation. The results of that survey allowed for the safe construction of the two dormitory cabins now at CREW. Additional archaeological surveys and excavations between 2014 and 2016 revealed the chimney foundations of two former slave cabins north

of the standing cabin and artifacts that help to detail the unwritten lives of the enslaved and later freed African Americans who labored at Wormsloe from the late 1840s until the early twentieth century.

In 2017, further archaeology west of the standing slave cabin discovered brick foundations for yet another cabin. What makes this new discovery so exciting is that this cabin may date to 1849, the year George Wimberly Jones moved the slave settlement from its former location near the tabby fort so that it was closer to the main house and the center of plantation activities. This cabin was one of five single-room houses, while the other cabins constructed in 1856 were duplexes, which included the currently still standing cabin. Historic plats and correlating archaeology show that the newly discovered single-room cabin was absent from the landscape by 1890. Intact soil deposits at this cabin site are revealing evidence of the first time enslaved Africans lived at this area of Wormsloe Plantation.

The Director’s Residence, where Sarah Ross stays, is next door to the cabin dorms. The next project will be the Experiential Learning Center, followed

by more replica cabins. Current and ongoing projects at the Wormsloe Institute include Longleaf pine restoration, pollinator research gardens specializing in monarch butterfly migration studies, and inland rice cultivation.



One of the most exciting new projects is the Heritage Gardens. Sarah Ross shares this, "In honor of nearly 300 years of agricultural production at Wormsloe, we are planting close to 400 heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits and flowers in our research gardens onsite. This massive undertaking commemorates and in-part reproduces the agroecological paradigm which shaped Georgia into the state we know today. Plants have been cultivated on the coast for thousands of years punctuated by the arrival of a succession of foreigners bringing seeds and cooking techniques. Among the first group of agroecologists in Georgia, Noble and Sarah Jones, experimented with many potentially valuable plants. Some of the seeds cultivated at Wormsloe, such as rice and Chinese tallow, were gifts from founding father Benjamin Franklin. Seeds, expertise and culture also arrived with the enslaved West Africans contributing okra, melon and benne seeds as well as the skills for rice cultivation and cooking techniques integral to the Southern diet today. Through these heritage gardens, UGA-CREW, with the support of the Wormsloe Foundation, is contributing to the renewal of Georgia's rich and biologically diverse agricultural heritage."

Craig and Diana recently invited my husband and me to dinner at Wormsloe along with Sarah Ross and Dan Nadenicek, Dean of the College of Environment and

Design at UGA and GCA Zone VIII Honorary Member. We were treated to a tour of the heritage gardens accompanied by Noble, the family dog. Afterwards, Sarah prepared a bountiful feast using local fish and vegetables from the gardens. The topic of conversation turned to the GCA medal that Craig and Diana received for their vision in creating and furthering the Wormsloe Institute. It is no small thing to either of them. As Craig said, "Diana and I were overwhelmed to receive the Margaret Douglas Medal. This recognition and endorsement by the GCA is vital in encouraging other to support our work here at the Wormsloe Institute." ■

Malinda Bergen

Trustee's Garden Club, Savannah, Georgia, Zone VIII

Past Director, Zone VIII and Liason to Conservation Committee





A Watershed Moment, the GCA Conservation Exhibit

By Julie Grist

How the West Was One and How it Got Done

Eight states, seven women, three objectives, two years, one venue. How did the Conservation and Education exhibit actually come about for the 2018 GCA Annual Meeting? With a bit of persuasion, a whole lot of inspiration and some hearty determination, seven GCA club members from across Zone XII connected monthly by conference call to dream up the concept and forge a plan for the exhibit: A Watershed Moment. Under the spirited leadership of KC Vincelette of the Hillsborough Garden Club, the team became fast, far-flung friends in conversation via emails and in a Dropbox account, without ever having met one another.

The group quickly determined that water was the key conservation issue in Zone XII. Lots of brainstorming led to the title, "Protect Our Watersheds From Source to Sea" and then eventually evolved into "Watershed Moment." Given the

range of challenges facing our western watersheds, the committee focused on presenting information about one critical watershed in each Zone XII state.

An interactive exhibit was created in the hotel lobby, which evoked the feeling of a redwood forest with actual potted redwoods and understory plants, and large "tree trunks" and greens surrounding the convention hall pillars. A forest restoration group loaned native plants to the exhibit, which would soon be planted in a nearby forest re-vegetation project. This illustrated the importance of forests in maintaining clean river systems and set a natural stage for the exhibit.

As delegates walked through this forested setting they were lured in further by a backdrop of large banners with photos from each western state and messages

representing the challenges and different elements of watersheds. Beginning with Colorado's headwaters and the hydrologic cycle in Hawaii, the exhibit moved through the west illustrating salmon runs, dam removals, irrigation ditch systems, removal of concrete in urban river settings, recreation, and the importance of estuary habitat.

A colorful map of all watersheds in the country, without state borders, was also printed and displayed so visitors could put a pushpin into the area where they live, and thus identify their own watershed. Upon placing a pin, each delegate was given a "Source to Sea" lapel pin with a QR code linked to our digital pamphlet. Delegates enjoyed learning how to load this digital brochure onto their smartphones and were able to read much more about the watersheds of each state at their convenience. This added an exciting and interactive aspect to the exhibit and eliminated the need for paper brochures.

The end result was a forest of real redwoods replete with understory of native plants, a room full of spectacular large-scale imagery and an online brochure with in-depth information. **The full brochure** was created by Julie Grist and the exhibit team. The exhibit told the stories of the beauty, history and challenges facing watersheds in the western United States and was presented with four awards at the GCA Annual Meeting. ■

Julie Grist

Hancock Park Garden Club, Los Angeles,

Zone XII

Currently First Vice President, Hancock

Park Garden Club



Watershed Moment Wins Awards

Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award

For an outstanding conservation exhibit at a GCA Flower Show.

Judges' Citation *"An extraordinary timely, yet timeless, exhibit which emphasizes the importance of watershed preservation throughout the nation. The message integrates GCA's conservation goals. User-friendly educational tools dynamically link the public to informative videos. The visual impact of the watershed map of the U.S as well as the photography is phenomenal."*

Ann Lyon Crammond Award For an outstanding education exhibit at a GCA Flower Show which best demonstrates a particular aspect of horticulture, gardening or landscape design thereby increasing the knowledge and appreciation of plants and their importance.

Judges' Citation *"Highlighting the world's largest continuous old growth redwood forest and its history, this exhibit educates the public to appreciate the importance of this native plant. The display of native plants demonstrates what may be included in public and private landscapes".*

Judges' Commendation *"The innovative and amazingly effective conservation exhibit for its technological sophistication."*

Award of Appreciation *"We applaud the magnanimous efforts of the 18 clubs in Zone XII."*



NAL Issues to Watch

By Hannah Sistare-Clark

Now is the time to be strong for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

For 52 years, LWCF has been of critical help in conserving and protecting land, water and treasured natural resources across our country. Now the fund faces challenges to its funding, how the funding will be used, and alarmingly, to its very existence.

The LWCF was first authorized in 1965 for 25 years. It was reauthorized in 1990 for another 25 years, and then in 2015 for three more years until September 2018. Many have credited GCA for being a critical force in educating and advocating in support of LWCF. After the NAL February 2017 Washington meeting, members

responded to GCA's call to action and rallied 200 Members of Congress to sign in support of full funding for the LWCF.

The LWCF Federal program supports the protection of federal public lands and waters including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas. It also includes support for voluntary conservation on private land. LWCF investments secure public access, improve recreational opportunities, and preserve ecosystem benefits for local communities.

At the state level, the LWCF State Grants program provides matching grants to state and tribal governments for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites. \$3.9 billion in grants have funded over



40,000 projects since 1965 affecting every county in the country. Now, LWCF's authorization is set to expire on September 30, 2018.

Keys to allowing LWCF to continue its important work

- Permanent reauthorization
- Full funding
- Restrict LWCF spending to original purposes

The original purposes of the LWCF are, “...to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations and visitors...such quantity and quality of outdoor recreation resources as are available and may be necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States.”

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

Support for LWCF has helped fend off efforts to decrease its appropriations. A parallel challenge is a concerted effort to use these funds for other purposes, such as maintenance of public lands. For example, our national parks have a

significant amount of unfunded maintenance. That need must be met through the regular legislative process, not by siphoning funds from LWCF.

Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate to permanently reauthorize LWCF:

- H.R. 502, introduced in the House by Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) to permanently reauthorize LWCF. This bill has 208 bi-partisan cosponsors
- S. 896, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) to permanently reauthorize LWCF
- S. 569, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) to permanently reauthorize LWCF and provide for full, dedicated and permanent funding. This legislation includes a requirement that the president submit a list of intended LWCF spending to the Congress, thus requiring transparency in the use of LWCF monies

Hannah Sistare-Clark

Garden Club of Mount Desert, Zone I

*Current Assistant Vice Chairman of Legislation and Policy,
National Affairs and Legislation Committee*

What you can do

If you call or write your Senators and House Members it will make a difference in the outcome of this legislation.

These are the important things to ask for:

- Permanent authorization for LWCF
- Full funding now and going forward
- Dedication of funds for intended purposes of LWCF
- Transparency in the allocation of LWCF money

How to email your legislators:

To send e-mail to your senator, click here

Then scroll to the senator's name. There you will see a "web form" address in red. Click on it and follow the directions for sending e-mail.

If a member of Congress has a public email address, it can be found on the member's website. ***To find your representative, click here***

How to telephone any legislator:

Call the Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121. Ask for your legislator's office by name. When the phone is answered, say that you want to leave a message about an issue. An aide will take the message or send you to the legislator's voice mail. This seems impersonal, but is nevertheless effective—legislators keep track of how many calls come in on different issues and the direction in which sentiment is running. Even a relatively small number of calls is enough to warrant serious consideration of the views expressed.



NAL reports serve in an advisory capacity, based on committee research. Individual clubs and members may act on any issue as they choose. Editors: Mary Kelberg, Vice Chairman of Legislation and Policy, National Affairs and Legislation Committee, contact: marykelberg11@gmail.com and Hannah Sistare Clark, , contact: hannah.sistare@gmail.com