



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

January 2022

Presidents Message



Dear all,

Greetings for the new year!

Even as I write, we are revving up for the turn of the calendar page. Margaret and her crew are moving our equipment and supplies back into the greenhouse, and the first plants arrive today — what a happy thing indeed. The greenhouse is looking smashing, and our new computerized “environmental controller” stands ready to make everything work to keep our little charges not too hot and not too cold—but just right.

Throughout the club, we continue to figure out how to manage changing circumstances so that we can keep intact, as much as possible, our activities and traditions and camaraderie. Much credit goes to the many of you who are working so

creatively on that. There are many committee projects underway, and we have a distinguished program for our January 20 members meeting—James Brayton-Hall, President and CEO of The Garden Conservancy, speaking on “Celebrating and Preserving Beautiful Gardens in America.” 2022 should be interesting. As we adapt to the new reality, yet to be revealed, one thing we do know is that we can continue to enjoy our gardens and the beautiful natural world around us here on the south coast—what a gift that is. I’ll close with a link to something beautiful to remind us:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/summer-2021/the-2021-audubon-photography-awards-winners-and>

These are images from the 2021 Audubon Photo Awards—gorgeous and extraordinary photos and videos of birds made by both amateurs and professionals. I am in awe of both the makers and the birds!

Take care,
Janet

Table of Contents:

President's Message	1
Changing of the Seasons	2
Committee News	
Conservation Committee	3-4
Greenhouse Committee	4-5
Plant Sale	5
Features	6-11
Accolades	12
GCA Website & Info	12-13
View from My Window	14-15
Tips & Tasks in the Garden	16
In Memoriam	16-17
Link (s) of Interest	17-18
Fun Facts	18
Just for Fun	19
A Gentle Reminder	20
January Calendar	21
Until Next Time	22

Celebrating the passing of the Winter Solstice, the days getting longer,



and the arrival of 2022!

Happy New Year!!



"They who sing through the summer must dance in the winter."

- *Italian Proverb*

Committee News

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Ruth Furman and Ellen Christie

BUTTONWOOD PARK POLLINATOR TEST PLOT

The saga of this project began in 2019 when GCBB Conservation Committee was given approval to establish a native plant “meadow” for pollinators in New Bedford. An outline of the steps to site preparation, weed eradication, seeding and initial maintenance were submitted.

A location in the park was selected by a lively group: New Bedford Parks Department (NBPD) head, Friends of Buttonwood Park members, GCBB conservation committee and Prof. Bob Gegear from UMass Dartmouth. A spot nestled near an old warming house and pond. The Parks Department tilled it and laid green matting instead of the recommended plastic.



Freshly tilled site (undergoing careful inspection by a four legged friend):

Eventually, the green mat was replaced by black plastic which was subsequently stolen just about the time of major rains. Since there are homeless people living in the wooded area of the park, it is assumed the black plastic was taken to use as shelter. GCBB then purchased weed mat and laid it; a few weeks later a nor'easter hit lifting and twisting the mat and pegs completely off! By then it was too late to begin the process and it was agreed by all parties involved to start again in Spring 2022. 'Til then we remain calm and will carry on next spring when we will eradicate weeds and plant the plot!

The "green cloth" installed



and later replaced with the recommended weed mat:



Greenhouse Committee

Submitted by Margaret Forbush, Caroline Wehner and Barbara Brown

The greenhouse looks great! The wire mesh is stable! The potting benches are beautiful! (Who will be the first to carve a slice in the new surface?) And, drumroll please..... The sink drains!!!! (And they said it couldn't be done). Thank you again to all those who had a role in this renovation.

An ad hoc greenhouse session took place on December 30, when a group of eight joined forces to get several hundred fragile little plugs into pots. The event was marred only by our

discovery, as we took a final inventory, that we had been short shipped. Someone, somewhere has our mixed tray and is wondering who on earth would have ordered this odd assortment of plants? The balance of our shipment will hopefully have arrived at about the time you are reading this.

Our Covid protocol calls for vaccination and social distancing, requiring us to manage the numbers in the greenhouse. Thanks to our resident IT specialist, Holly, we have [online signups](#) for watering and greenhouse attendance. We hope this enables everyone to participate in greenhouse responsibilities, so please check the list regularly and lend a hand when possible. If you do not feel comfortable in a group, we always need waterers.

The greenhouse schedule:

January – daily watering/maintenance begins; sign up online.

January 4th – first official Tuesday greenhouse gathering; sign up [online](#).

We are looking forward to getting back together, growing friendships and plants in our greenhouse.



Plant Sale - May 12-13, 2022

Submitted by Cheryl Gamsby and Anne Heller, Plant Sale Co-chairs

We're happy to report that plans for the Club's annual plant sale are underway. This year's sale will be a combination of traditional features and pandemic-related innovations. The sale will be held in the Club's coach house and greenhouse and on the patio at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum on **Thursday, May 12, and Friday, May 13**. It will be open to members, family, friends, and the public (probably limited to individuals on our mailing list; RJD neighbors). Members will again have an opportunity to pre-order perennials from Sylvan Nursery. Greenhouse operations have begun with the planting of hundreds of newly arrived plugs from North Carolina, and the seed selection team will be meeting on January 8th to decide what other annuals we'd like to grow this year. We'll keep you posted as plans continue.

And from our friends at The Christmas Tree Shop, we have an idea for your “touch of spring” brunch with gardeners. Bring in the New Year with seeds!



Features

['The Beauty Is Really in the Fragrance': The Cloisters' Head Horticulturist Tells Us What It Takes to Make a Medieval Garden Magical](#) by Noor Brara, Art & Design Editor, Artnet News



Carly Still (left), the woman in charge of the museum's bounty of plants and herbs, shares how she merged her loves of art and gardening.

“Carly Still, the managing horticulturalist at the Met Cloisters has, over the course of her career, sought to merge the worlds of art and nature. When she began working at the museum 10 years ago, she was blown away by the intimacy of the four, sectioned-off medieval gardens, their carefully curated plant collections, and how

they corresponded to the lore and mythology of the collection’s sculptures, tapestries, illuminated manuscripts and other treasures.

We got on the phone with Still to discuss the ins and outs of life as a museum horticulturist, how she got into the field, and what visitors to the Met Cloisters can expect in the coming months—including a bursting holiday display, complete with bay laurel, polished apples, and fragrant holly, beginning December 16. Read on to find out more, below.

How did you become interested in horticulture in the first place?

That’s a great question. My background actually was in printmaking. I studied at SUNY New Paltz, and I got my Bachelor of Fine Arts and focused in printmaking. I think through my art practice, I became interested in plants. A lot of my work was just abstract and organic. So I started looking at plants for artistic inspiration, and then I thought: “Oh, I bet it would be really great to learn more about these.”

A family friend of mine had a gardening business, so I just called her one day—it was the summer, I was off from college—and I just said, “Hey. I’m interested in learning more about gardening. By chance would you be looking for some new members on your crew?” And she hired me and I fell in love with the work almost instantaneously.

I think it’s like most gardeners. Once you start, it’s just this lifelong relationship that you want to keep developing. I felt like it was a calling. The quiet, meditative side of gardening is what I really like.

I never really realized when I started what a world of work there actually is. I was in upstate New York and loading pallets of soil and mulch into the back of a pickup truck. It was really, really tough work. But when I came into the city and discovered the Botanical Gardens and just this whole other industry of work, then I realized that it actually could be a profession.



The Bonnefont herb garden. Photo courtesy the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

How did you end up at the Cloisters?

I feel just really lucky. At the time, I had moved to Brooklyn and was interning at a paper mill in a print shop, and really wanting to get my hands in the soil, just missing gardening. And I was looking for work on NYFA [the New York Foundation for the Arts]. I found this listing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and I thought, “Oh my God. This sounds amazing.” I’d never visited the Cloisters, but in the job description, they described the orchard maintenance, planting and maintaining the gardens, and greenhouse work. It was a part-time position, but I thought, “This is a really beautiful fusion between the two things that I love: art and gardening.”

So of course I applied, and then came to visit the museum before I had my interview. I was just blown away by these small, intimate spaces. The woman who interviewed me was showing me around and there’s this beautiful little shed where they dry herbs and the collections of plants were just incredible. And I just thought, “What a jewel this place is.”

I was so nervous. But I think at the time, the woman who was in charge of the gardens, Deidre, probably liked me because I had a background in fine art and really gravitated towards the herb garden. She was an amazing plant historian and really taught me this world of storytelling. The lore was where her strength was.

I was over the moon when they offered me the position. I felt like it really transformed my life in so many ways. It was a very humble, three days a week, seasonal job, but then it grew from there.



The Cuxa Cloister at the Met Cloisters. Photo courtesy the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In what ways did it grow? And how did your research and knowledge of the space begin to shape your role?

There's really only three positions in our tiny little department. And the woman who had the assistant position left shortly after I started. So that full-time, year-round position opened up really quickly and I applied for that and I got the promotion.

Deirdre Larkin was managing the gardens at that point. I think she really encouraged me to learn all the plants. So I was also taking classes at the New York Botanical Gardens to get my certification in horticulture. She told me to take coursework and then also gave me so much material to read, even though obviously it wasn't required. But she knew my curiosity was there.

Once you start going in the herb garden, there are hundreds of plants, but you want to learn everything about each one. So I was reading like crazy on the train. At the time, there was also the Medieval Garden Enclosed blog, which was where Deirdre put her energy into writing about the lore and the history of all of the plants. I just ate that up.

Each garden—there are three small, intimate gardens here—tells a different story and they have a different group of plants that we're cultivating in them. So I wanted to be familiar and comfortable working in each garden space. I was trying to shape my way here, and mold myself into someone that would be useful.

What were the challenges of becoming the kind of horticulturalist you wanted to be?

There's this idea of not wanting to leave a trace. That's how I like to view the gardens. You want to have a hand in them, but you don't want to ever show that, right? It should look effortless.

That was the main thing, but I was given a lot of room to grow. When Deirdre left, I worked under Caleb Leech, and he was so talented. He was a real plants man. Over time, I gained a lot of

confidence in my work as a gardener while working with him and tried not to take it all too seriously. At the end of the day, they're just plants. They're very forgiving.

So all this led me to where I am now, as the manager, which feels kind of funny. And I just hired two new awesome women gardeners and they're great.

When you say you want to make the most beautiful gardens, what does that mean to you?

We have herbs dotted through all of the spaces in the ornamental garden and through the herb garden, and for me, the beauty is really in the fragrance. Having fragrant flowers that people can interact with is really important. Upstairs in the ornamental garden, I always talk about the heritage David Austin English Roses. There's lavender all over the place up there.

It is also all about having beautiful flowers throughout the season. That starts with our bulb display, which bloom in early spring. It's overwhelmingly beautiful. We have all of these amazing tulips, fabulous alliums, an explosion of crocus around that time of year. And of course daffodils. All the favorites are up there—dianthus, foxgloves, delphiniums, iris, the martagon lilies, astrantia. We've got all sorts of beautiful perennials up there.

Chocolate cosmos is one of my favorites that's got a fabulous fragrance as well. A beautiful flower form, and a really nice contrast with that dark, rich, kind of blood red. And then we've got some nice, silvery foliage with the artemisias.



The Trie Cloister. Photo courtesy the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

That all sounds really beautiful.

That's what people gravitate towards because there are more flowers throughout the season upstairs. But then the herb garden in the spring is overwhelmingly beautiful. We have lots of other garden favorites down there too, again the foxgloves will be in full bloom and the valerian and the woad, used for the famous blue dye.

And then the Trie-en-Bigorre garden is magical too. That was replanted about five years ago we're still working our way into that space. We just planted a bunch of species tulips, more crocus, more irises, lots of dianthus. The adonis is amazing. There's just so many spring-blooming plants there that are also inspired by the *Unicorn Tapestries* in the collection.



A holly arch during the 2013 holiday display at the Met Cloisters. Photo courtesy the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Are there any other objects in the collection that have inspired you in your garden work, outside of the unicorn tapestries?

Oh yeah. Without a doubt, the *Book of Flower Studies*, which was recently acquired, is one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen. We got to flip through—I didn't touch the pages of course—but our technician flipped through the pages. It almost looks like a little field guide of flowers that are so beautifully studied, they're so easily identifiable. To me, that's just a real inspiration. It feels so timeless. These plants are still here and we can still find all of this beauty and inspiration in the same things.

You'll find we grow every single flower in [the book]. So I love to think, "What was this artist thinking about? And where was he finding these plants?" We had some herbals [books on natural remedies] that were out on display, and those are also wonderful to go through. The way that a nice chunky root of an allium is depicted. You could pull that out of the garden, and it would look exactly like that.

What does a typical day look like for you and your team these days?

We start at eight AM. We have a lot of potted plants, citrus and myrtles, bay laurel, lots of stuff like that. That's all been moved inside. Work this time of year shifts more towards potted plant maintenance and making sure everything's well-watered, that there are no yellowing leaves. We call that our morning round, between 8 and 10, just getting everything ready for the public.

Then of course we do a pass through of the gardens. Right now, we're doing our big cutback of plants. So lots of maintenance gearing up for the winter, cutting all of our perennials back. We just finished planting 15,000 bulbs. We're getting the beds prepped for that, then we'll plant those in, and make sure everything's tucked in.

I even love sweeping the garden. To me it feels like a really important thing. Of course it's the fall and leaves start dropping. But again, finding that balance of making things still look neat, and real, and well-maintained is the focus right now.

Then we gear up for our holiday decorations, which will start in the next few days. And then when we get back from Thanksgiving, we'll look at lots of potted plants... lots of cyclamen, rosemary, hellebores, fragrant jasmine. We want to just fill that gallery space with potted plant material.

Then we'll do the big installation with the arches, and we'll use fresh English holly, fresh apples, fresh ivy, and hazelnuts. That will go up in the middle of December, which is exciting. We're picking and washing ivy leaves, and polishing apples and doing all sorts of super-obsessive repetitive work—out of love."

Nestled within the Artnet News link where the above article was found, is a treasure trove of fun and interesting stories that will certainly peak your sense of wonder.

As an example - after declining repeated requests to name a rose after her, Julia Child finally consented- why? Find out how it all unfolded in the [“People came into the garden and began to weep: The Huntington’s Rose Garden Curator on why he dedicated his life to one flower”](#).



[“What’s it like to be a museum horticulturalist?”](#) Read about Erika Rumbley’s story from the Isabella Gardner Museum.

Finally, but not the end to this extensive fun link - [Yayoi Kusama’s exhibition at the New York Botanical Gardens](#) offers delightful images full of bright and joyous and unexpected color and design.



Accolades

We want to use Accolades to recognize hard work, achievements and, most importantly, to celebrate one another. As we look back on the past year, we think that each of us is worthy of accolades for surviving 2021 with grace, humor, strength, and determination. Here's to us, Ladies...Cheers!



Garden Club of America website

Did you miss the [2021 Floral Design Conference](#)?

All of the workshop videos are available on the GCA site.

Click on "[Takeaways](#)" to watch the **demonstration videos**, **Q&A sessions** and **materials lists**. The Laura Iarocci wreath demo includes great tips on [sustainable wreath](#) materials - a must see!

Upcoming GCA Member Event

2022 Judging Workshop - Monday, January 24th - Thursday, January 27th 11:00-4:30 ET

Registration is free and open to all members of the GCA's judging program, as well as those interested in the program. All are invited to come together across the country for The Garden Club of America's 2022 Judging Workshop, an online event. **Registration deadline is Monday January 17th. See:** <https://www.gcamerica.org/members:calendar/ereventdetails/id/379>

- Monday, January 24th - Floral Design Judging Workshop 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
- Tuesday, January 25th - Horticulture Judging Workshop 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 26th - Photography Judging Workshop 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
- Thursday, January 27th - Botanical Arts Judging Workshop 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

GCA Scholarship Committee

Thanks to our Zone I Scholarship Committee Representative, Pamela Effrein Sandstrom, here are some interesting items from the GCA Scholarship Committee to share:

The three themes of (1) ***observing nature's cycles***, (2) ***learning about natural medicinals***, and (3) ***enjoying the foods that pollinators have gifted humankind*** are perfectly suited to the incoming 2022 New Year's vibe. Let's get outdoors and see what's new!

"Create Your Own Phenology* Journal" (6:19-min. video)

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:videos/details/id/91>

Former **GCA Zeller Summer Scholarship in Medicinal Botany winner Hazel Stark** takes us on a walk through beautiful woodland scenery, inviting us to really "see" nature. Today, Hazel is a Naturalist Educator at the Maine Outdoor School, LC3, which she co-founded, as well as a registered Maine Guide. You may also enjoy her "**Nature of Phenology**" podcast.

Recipient of **GCA's Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany, Dr. Cassandra Quave** was interviewed on "The Naked Scientist" podcast program, "**How might climate change affect herbal remedies?**". Among her many public presentations, Dr. Quave (who teaches ethnobotany and medicine at Emory University and is curator of the herbarium there) was interviewed and featured in "The American Scholar" podcast by Stephanie Bastek: listen to "**Nature's Pharmacy: How ethnobotany blends past and future medicine**" (27 mins.) at. And Dr. Quave's book, ***The Plant Hunter: A Scientist's Quest for Nature's Next Medicines***, was selected by *Kirkus Reviews* as one of the "Best Nature and Environment Books of 2021." Read the [review](#).

And finally, from the GCA's collaborating institution **Pollinator Partnership**, the ***Pollinator Friendly Cookbook***. This "compilation of recipes featuring ingredients that rely on pollination services" is freely downloadable at <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinated-food>. It shares some marvelous (and also kid-friendly) facts about figs, avocados, blueberries, and more, plus recipes that are sure to delight all generations of cooks in the kitchen this holiday season.

***Phenology - The study of the timing of natural occurrences throughout the seasons.**

A View from my Window

As the seasons change, please share your photos!

Email photos to Linda (lindyc@davecornellcharters.com) or Laura (LCampbell64@comcast.net)

View of Crabapple trees at Janet C's



At Ruth Jolliffe's: The Cranesbill Geraniums wore appropriate Christmas colors





From Linda's window:

This is what you missed by not taking Fran Levin's generous offer to snag one of her succulents this past fall. This is mine in all of its majesty, blooming sunny yellow blossoms. A surprise for me!



Thank you Fran!!!!

Tips & Tasks for the January Garden

JANUARY:

- Start looking for gardening catalogs, and start a gardening journal in a notebook, a calendar or purchase a gardening journal.
- Check old seeds for viability. While doing that, paste a label on the envelope indicating when they should be planted, and whether they first need soaking. Sort them according to that timetable.
- Indoor plants get dry at this time of year. Mist them regularly. Plants should be watered sparingly during the winter. Standing them in a tray of wet gravel is a good practice.
- Rotate indoor plants every week or so to keep growth even.
- Check indoor plants for insects and bathe with soapy water if you find any.
- Remove heavy snow from evergreens.
- Stomp a circle around the trunks of fruit trees that might be vulnerable to rodent damage.
- Put the Christmas tree outside as shelter for the birds. Also smear the branches with peanut butter mixed with corn meal. The birds love that. Another use is to cut off boughs to lay on top of flower beds as added protection.
- Keep bird feeders full.

With thanks to: <https://www.andovergardenclub.org/a-new-england-garden-by-the-month>

In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our dear friend, Barri Throop. Barri passed away on Christmas Eve. She has been a member of GCBG since 1989 and was the recipient of our 2018 GCA Club Appreciation Award. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and family. A celebration of Barri's life will be held in late spring 2022.



Barri at the Partners Village Store Holiday Open House, 2011

Helen DeGroot shares the following special memory of Barri Throop:



Mother Goose - Barri created this wonderful creature as the centerpiece for our decorated table at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House "Celebrate the Season" display in 2015. The theme was books, our book was Mother Goose Rhymes. The "guests" at the table were Little Boy Blue, Old King Cole, Mary Mary Quite Contrary, Jack Be Nimble and Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater. Barri made her Goose using chicken wire, sheet moss and evergreen sprigs (imagine the goose in the picture in its full, green glory back in 2015!). Working with her on this goose was a creative thrill. I will admit that I contrived to create the beak out of large, fake sunflower petals but it was a collaboration made in heaven, as they say. She was a gifted floral designer and a delightful friend. A visit to her house confirmed my conviction that she was one in a million. I am broken hearted and I am sure you are, too. Such a treasure. Those table displays were a high point of the garden club's pre-COVID days: the Christmas parties, member meetings in our own houses, and the plant sales; those plant sales were awesome! Well, the friendships made are more valuable than any of these memories and they are still with us and stronger than ever. Amen.

Links of Interest

Libby shared this interesting article from Smithsonian Magazine,

['World's Most Invasive Weed' Sold at Many U.S. Garden Centers](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/worlds-worst-invasive-weed-sold-us-garden-centers-180978481/)

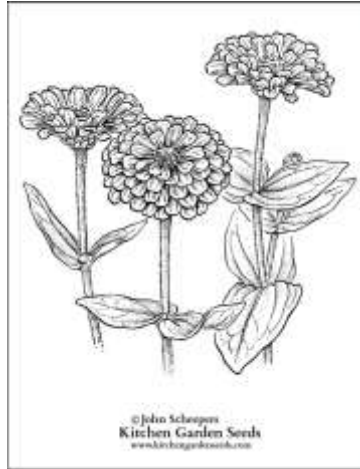
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/worlds-worst-invasive-weed-sold-us-garden-centers-180978481/>

 **ALMANAC**
Click on the link below for a
Planting Calendar

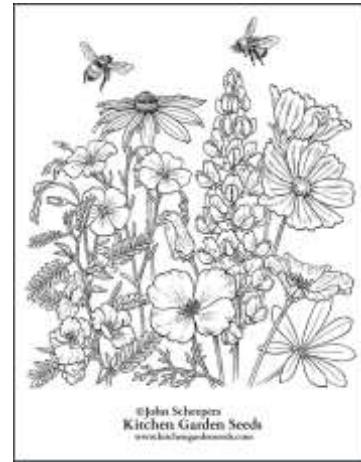
John Scheeper's Kitchen Garden Seeds offers [Coloring Sheets](#) for kids (or kids at heart).
Click on the name to download the pdf:



Sunflower



Zinnias



Pollinator's Garden

For other Coloring Sheets (carrots, corn, tomatoes, and other veggies) click [here](#).

Fun Facts (or maybe not so fun if you don't like shoveling or skiing!)



Brrr! *The 2022 Old Farmer's Almanac* comes with a winter warning: Prepare for a "[Season of Shivers](#)." This winter will be punctuated by positively bone-chilling, below-average temperatures across most of the United States.

January 17th will be a "Wolf Moon" click [here](#) for more information and find out how it got its name!



Just for Fun

Greenhouse quandary:



(New Yorker, December 2021)

TWO KINDS OF PLANT PEOPLE



**OMG, MY
PLANT IS
DYING**



**I THINK I
CAN
SAVE IT!!!**

*Laura

A gentle reminder

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.
A magical thing.
And sweet to remember.
We are nearer to Spring than we were in September.
I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

- **Oliver Herford**



(Artist Sarah Bowman)

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day 
2	3	4 Greenhouse! Sign up online: https://www.gardensclubhuzzardsbav.org/members/sign-up-page/	5	6 4:00 Nan Sinton & Ruth Furman present to RJD Board plans for Year 2 Woodland Garden project	7	8 Seed selection 10-12:00 at Coach House (by invitation)
9	10	11 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	12	13 9:00 GCBB Board Meeting (via Zoom)	14	15
16 1/17/2022 Last day to register for GCA Judging Workshops	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Wolf (full) Moon at 6:51 P.M. ET	18 Greenhouse (Sign up online)	19	20 10:30 GCBB Monthly Meeting (via Zoom) James Brayton-Hall	21	22
23	24 GCA Floral Design Judging Workshop 11:00-4:30	25 Greenhouse (Sign up online) GCA Horticulture Judging Workshop 11:00-4:30	26 GCA Photography Judging Workshop 11:00-4:30	27 GCA Botanical Arts Judging Workshop 11:00-4:30	28	29
30	31	Jan 13th at 9:00 - GCBB board meeting (via Zoom) Jan 20th at 10:30 GCBB Monthly Meeting (via Zoom) Speaker: James Brayton-Hall, President and CEO The Garden Conservancy, "Celebrating and Preserving Beautiful Gardens in America" Jan 24th - 27th GCA 2022 Judging Workshops Mon-Th 11-4:30 ET				

Until next time...

