



# NEWSLETTER

Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club

Volume 37 Number 6 February 2025

## President's Message

January was packed with garden club events, culminating in the inspiring Zone XII Presidents' Council—a gathering of passionate zone leaders and club presidents. We shared fresh ideas and renewed our dedication to GCA and our individual clubs. We presented reports on themes of integrity and collaboration, which is foundational to the work we do within our club for the greater good of our community. We spent Monday afternoon on a walking tour of Carmel-by-the-Sea and what a point of pride to share with them the beauty of the Harrison Memorial Garden, Picadilly Park and the North Dunes!

Saturday's floral workshop with our instructor Sue Ashmun and her assistant Marilee Ahalt before the Presidents' Council was truly unforgettable. With 20+ of us gathered, it was a morning of learning, creativity and building confidence (for me especially) in our floral design skills. A huge debt of gratitude to Hilary Gustafsson and Laura Vogel for behind the scenes planning and coordination—no small feat. Your efforts made the day both seamless and enormously enjoyable. The Presidents' Council attendees enjoyed the beautiful arrangements and the creative talents of our floral design committee.

Right now, there is a beautiful momentum to the work we are doing in our club and within the GCA. I hope you embrace opportunities for enrichment and personal growth. From the various offerings within our club to virtual conferences designed to inspire and educate there is so much to offer. Soon enough our gardens will beckon, be on the lookout for early signs of spring.

Stay cozy,

*Barbara*



## Mark Your Calendar

### February General Meeting - Guests Encouraged

**Date:** Thursday, February 20

**Time:** 9:30 am Social, 10:00 am Meeting, 11:00 am Featured Speaker Ramie Allard presents '**Carmel Garden Design: A Retrospective View**'.

This month, we are delighted to welcome Ramie Allard, who will present an overview of the evolution of sustainable garden design on the California Central Coast. With over 20 years of experience designing and installing stunning, eco-friendly gardens in Carmel, Ramie brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and garden inspiration to share.

**Location:** Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club Banquet Room, 1 McClure Way; Seaside. (831-899-7271 - Plenty of parking)

Perched high above the fairways, the Bayview Grill offers breathtaking views of Monterey Bay. Read the fascinating history of Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Club [here](#). We encourage members to make lunch reservations at **Bayview Grill** or on OpenTable and continue your conversations with garden club friends over lunch.

\*Please email [regrets only](#) to Barbara\*

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## Save the Date





March 6, 2025

Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club presents

**GCA Medalist Michael Forsberg**  
Into Whooperland

Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center

Garden club members & their guests invited at no charge.

**4:00 pm Reception**

**4:30 to 5:30 pm Lecture and Book Signing**

Followed by no-host dinner. For dinner details and to reserve in advance contact Missy Jensen by February 21.



As the first recipient of the GCA J. Sherwood Chalmers Medal for photography,

Michael Forsberg's citation in 2020 reads:

Recognizing his awe-inspiring photography that depicts the beauty and fragility of the Great Plains, and lauding his passionate commitment to conservation education and environmental action.

Michael Forsberg, a Nebraska native, has devoted 25 years to photographing America's Great Plains, covering 100,000 miles across twelve states and three Canadian provinces. Through the beauty of Mr. Forsberg's photographs, he communicates why the Great Plains matter, and his fascination with sandhill cranes led to five years of documenting their migration and the publication in 2004 of *On Ancient Wings: The Sandhill Cranes of North America*. 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 his artistry.

We encourage you to join us for a no-host dinner at Rio Grill with Michael Forsberg after his presentation. We have reserved the private room. Contact Missy Jensen, [missyjensen@me.com](mailto:missyjensen@me.com), 831-915-2131 for details.

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## Upcoming Dates

Thursday, February 6, GCA Photography Conference (Virtual)

Monday, February 10, Photography Event with Woodside-Atherton GC: Speaker Marion Brenner, 10:00 am doors open, 10:30 am to 11:30 am lecture, Woodside Town Hall, carpool options available, contact Courtney

Tuesday, February 11, **GCA Floral Design Conference (Virtual)**

Tuesday, February 11, **Civic Gardens**, 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Thursday, February 13, **Board Meeting**, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Gathering Place, Harrison Memorial Library

Tuesday, February 18, **P4P Dunes Workday**, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday, February 20, **General Meeting**, 9:30 am social, 10:00 am meeting, 11:00 am presentation by Ramie Allard, Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club Banquet Room, 1 McClure Way; Seaside

Tuesday, February 25, **Civic Gardens**, 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Thursday, February 27, **Floral Design Kokedama Workshop**, venue TBD, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Tuesday, March 4, **Horticulture**, Visit to Hacienda Hay & Feed

Thursday, March 6, **Photography**, Michael Forsberg will lecture on "Writing with Light", 9:00 am social, 9:30 am lecture, Babcock Room at Sunset Center

Thursday, March 6, **Reception, Lecture & Book Signing** 4:00 pm reception, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm lecture and book signing, Carpenter Hall, guests welcome

Thursday, March 6, **No-host Dinner at Rio Grill** with Michael Forsberg after his presentation, please contact Missy Jensen for details

Thursday, March 20, **General Meeting via Zoom**, zoom will begin at 9:30am for members, meeting promptly at 10am. This will be the voting meeting for the slate amongst other issues.

Thursday, March 27, **Garden Design & History**, Hancock Park Garden Club member Carolyn Bennett will present "Artists in the Shadows: Women Who Turned Gardens into Art", 9:30 am social, 10:00 am lecture, Chapman Room at Sunset Center, guests welcome

## Committee News

### Civics





### **Agaves for Sale**

It's time to trim back the beautiful agaves at Harrison Memorial Library and the Civics team is looking for loving homes for some of these magnificent plants. **Tuesday, February 27, starting at 9:00 am.** First come, first served.

We'll have a couple of very large plants for \$125 or best offer and a good number of medium and smaller plants for sale as well.

We will help load the plants in your car.

Rita Bell & Susan Osborne  
Civic Projects chairs

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### **Floral Design**

GCA Floral Design Judge and Zone XII Floral Design Representative, Sue Ashmun, lead a floral design workshop where members and guests made the Presidents' Council centerpieces.













We will be making Kokedama (similar to the image below) at our **February 27th** meeting.





Hilary Gustafsson & Laura Vogel  
Floral Design chairs

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## Garden History & Design

### Save the Date

Please mark your calendar for the exciting **March 27th GH&D** meeting. Carolyn Bennett will present 'Artists in the Shadow: Women Who Turned Gardens into Art'. Using the words and images of female artists' works, Carolyn will showcase the fascinating personalities of these women, highlighting the societal and economic challenges they faced and the circuitous routes they took to fulfill their passions for including garden splendor in their art.

Diana Jacobson  
GH&D Committee Chair

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## Horticulture

Our next Horticulture Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4**. We will be visiting Hacienda Hay and Feed in Carmel Valley to tour the garden and learn about regenerative gardening.



On **April 3** we will be meeting with the Tenny's to learn about the butterflies of Monterey County, and our final meeting will be our plant exchange on **May 1**.

I hope all the Hort members received my recent email about the upcoming plant exchange. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions - hopefully you will think of this as an interesting challenge and an opportunity to use your horticulture skills.

Happy growing and happy weeding!

Gay O'Connor  
Horticulture Committee chair

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## **P4P - Partners for Plants**

### North Dunes Habitat Restoration Project

Our first workday of the New Year was on January 21. Members enthusiastically filled six hefty bags with invasive weeds weighing about 330 lbs. Our next workday will be **February 18**.







Diana Fish  
P4P chair

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## Photography

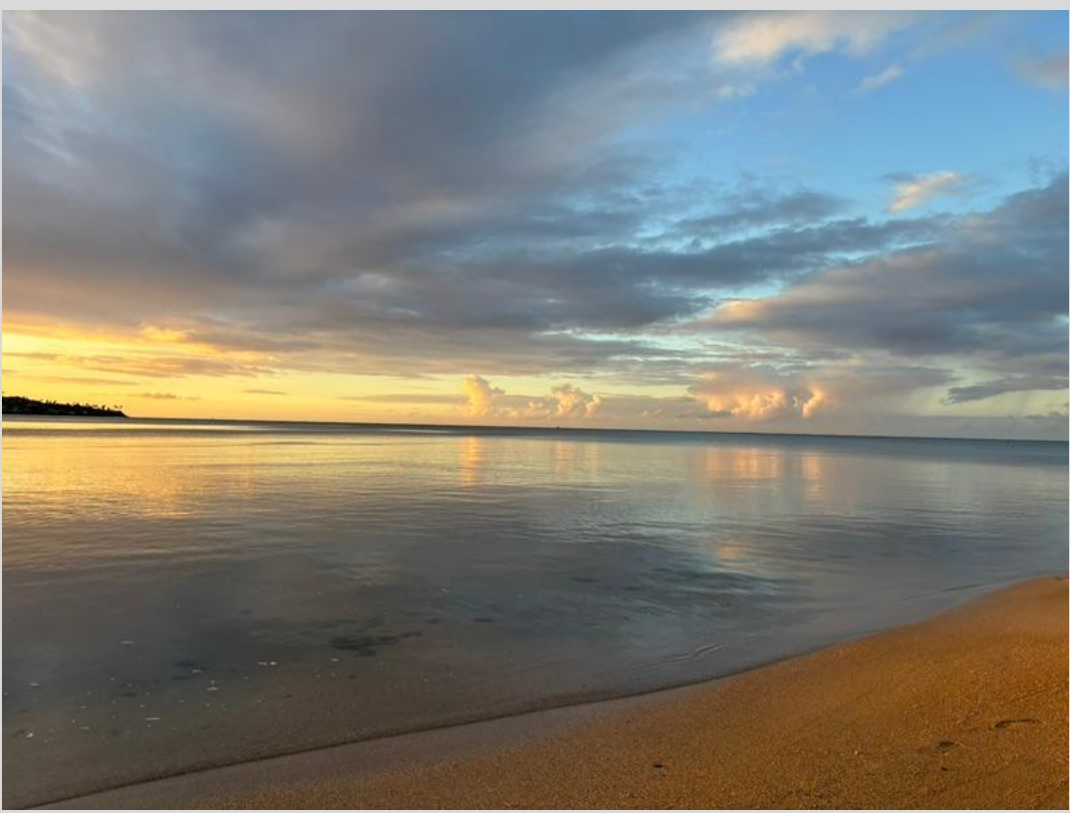
### Monthly Photo Showcase

Pictured below are photographs that capture the essence of "**Quiet**". Thank you for your contributions: Courtney, Judy H, Cass, Lynn, Sally and Barbara.

All members are encouraged to send in photographs that capture the essence of "**Passion/Love**" by **February 24th**, that will be featured in our March newsletter.























### **Tips from the Zone XII Photography Committee Meeting**

Zone XII Photography Representative, Anne-Marie Lamarche, led an educational Zoom meeting, sharing ideas from different clubs and reminding us that the best camera to use is the one you carry. When composing a photograph, we are encouraged to reflect: are you showing the viewer something new or with a new perspective? Do the qualities of the photograph elevate the subject in some way?

Yoni Mayeri reminded us that she is an instructor for continuing online education at Stanford and UC Berkeley. Yoni reinforced some basic concepts to always keep in mind:

1. Hold your camera steady. Self-timers may help, and tripods work magic.
2. Rule of Thirds (built-in grids are available on your iPhone) Grids are found under settings, camera, and grid.
3. Point of view – let your imagination lead you to take photographs with different perspectives: above, below, behind, or beside the subject.



4. Edit, Edit, Edit.

*You don't take a photograph, you make it.* - Ansel Adams

The Tips app is invaluable for learning more about your iPhone camera features. Apple stores offer free classes, and the Apple support app is an excellent resource.

### Upcoming Speakers

Marion Brenner will be speaking to the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club on **February 10th**. They have kindly invited our members to attend this special lecture in Woodside. Marion Brenner is a talented photographer who specializes in shooting spaces designed by landscape architects such as gardens and parks. She has lots of interesting insights on light and how to make a 3D space into a 2D photograph.

Doors open at 10:00 am and the program begins at 10:30 am and ends at 11:30 am. Please contact Courtney if you would like to attend so she can organize carpooling options.

On **March 6th at 9:00 am**, nature photographer, Michael Forsberg, will instruct us on "Writing with Light". This lecture is applicable to all skill levels and camera types. We invite all members to attend. Please mark your calendar.

Keep your eyes open for your next exciting photo opportunity!

Cass Antle & Courtney Doust  
Photography chairs



### Don't Forget to Read the Minutes

[Click here to read the January General Meeting minutes.](#) Please send along **any corrections or additions** to our Recording Secretary, Kathy Sparolini.

### Upcoming GCA Virtual Conferences

Click on the images below to register for February and March virtual conferences or go to the 'Conference & Events' section of the GCA website.

We will be sending our Conservation chair and our club delegate to attend NAL in person, but everyone is welcome to register for the virtual advocacy workshop.





• FEBRUARY 11, 2025 •

Thu Feb 6, 2025

2025 Photography Conference

Virtual

✓ Registration Open

Tue Feb 11, 2025

2025 Floral Design Conference

Virtual

✓ Registration Open

Thu Mar 20, 2025

2025 NAL Virtual Advocacy Workshop

Virtual

✓ Registration Open

## GCA Founders Fund - Three Finalists

The GCA Civic Improvement Committee is pleased to present the three 2025 finalists for the Founders Fund grant:

- Marshlands Conservancy – Remediation of the Critical Meadow Habitat
- The Virginia War Memorial Green Space Project
- Forsyth Park Educational Shade Garden

You can get an overview of the projects [here](#) or at the 'Civic Improvements' page on the GCA website. At the February General Meeting, you will hear more details about these projects and then you will vote on your choice for the winner. After the vote has been conducted and a club favorite is determined, Barbara will cast a vote on behalf of the club.

The Founders Fund grant was established in 1934 to honor Elizabeth Price Martin, GCA's first president. Grants are awarded annually to exceptional community projects proposed by GCA clubs. Thanks to generous gifts from individuals and clubs, the winning project will receive \$40,000 and the two runners-up will receive \$10,000 each.

Susie MacMichael  
GCA Founders Fund Chair

## Online Lecture

Dr. Daniel Fernandez, who was the recipient of the GCA Club Conservation Commendation in 2024, gave a lecture on tracking and capturing fog for the Sempervirens Society's 'Under the Redwoods' lecture series. A recording of his lecture is available on their website - [click here](#).

## Show and Tell





Susie M. had really good luck with her amaryllis bulbs this year!





Gay's Ligularia is in bloom.



Judy C. shared photos of her lovely new view up in the Bay Area.





Lynn's beautiful rusty brown cymbidium orchid has thrived this winter, thanks to the mild weather conditions we've experienced.





Gay's pot de fleur from the November floral design workshop is still going strong! The top photo is from December and the lower photo is from January.

## Monthly Book





Gay O'Connor - a donation applied to the education fund

Daniel Pelikan - a donation applied to the scholarship fund

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