

HORTICULTURE NEWS

GCA Zone XI Spring 2017

Freeman Medal

The winner of the 2017 Freeman GCA Plant of the Year was *Magnolia ashei* syn. *Magnolia macrophylla* subsp. *ashei*; Honorable Mention to *Carpinus caroliniana* and *Halesia carolina*; Special Recognition to *Aristolochia californica*.

The medal is awarded to a North American plant worthy of special recognition. The medal strives to acknowledge the cultivation and use of underutilized plants: trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines and perennials, that are deemed worthy to be preserved, propagated, promoted and planted. The goal of the award is to draw attention to select native plants to encourage their use in landscape and to make more familiar to gardeners. This year think of a herbaceous plant to nominate. Call me if you have questions or need help with the form.

The Real Dirt

Go to your GCA website and look at the quarterly newsletter for horticulture. Later this spring there will be an entire issue devoted to The Centennial Tree Project. Also, check out the archives for more information on horticulture.

Jewels of the Plains



2017 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference
September 24-26, 2017
Omaha, Nebraska

The Shirley Meneice Conference

Save the date - September 24 - 26, 2017

The 2017 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, Jewels of the Plains, will kick off on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Consistently at the top of the "World's Best Zoo" lists, come experience America's largest indoor rainforest as well as the world's largest indoor desert under an enormous glazed geodesic dome. Dine with Zoo Director Dennis Pate, as he shares their many research, conservation and horticultural accomplishments in the Midwest and around the world.

Invitations will be sent out to Club Presidents and Hort Chairs in April. Think now about the delegates to send. They should have an interest in horticulture and maybe have never attended. Look for the invitation this April, **promptly** respond to registration and hotel accommodations. This event sells out within a week.

Stay tuned for possible opportunities to volunteer at the Shirley Meneice this year.



Show of Summer

This is the GCA Major Flower Show presented by the 6 Chicago area Clubs June 24 - June 25, 2017. GC of Barrington, GC of Evanston, GG of Winnetka, Kenilworth GC, Lake Forest GC and Winnetka GC

The schedule is on the GCA website. Three month ownership deadline for Horticulture Classes 4-71 is **March 21, 2017**

Zone XI Zone Meeting

Zone meeting is October, 2017 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Each club in our Zone will be required to enter only one plant in one of the following classes: A seedling of the genus Quercus (oak) propagated by an acorn; a Hydrangea propagated from a cutting or layering; an Echinacea (coneflower) propagated from seed.

Fun Stuff

Here are some of my favorite sites other than GCA of course. They range from garden hints 365 days a year, to growing cut flowers and the last is more about design for my visual sense.

www.awaytogarden.com

www.floretflowers.com

Dirt Simple deborahsilver.com



Partners for Plants is a joint habitat restoration program of the GCA Conservation and Horticulture Committees. Its purpose is to facilitate projects between local GCA clubs and land manager on federal, state, local and other significant public lands



Propagation and Seed Share - go to the GCA web page and find out more about the GCA's seed share initiative. Share a story, collect seeds for the GCA's Annual Meeting and Shirley Meneice



Club and Zone Awards GCA Club and Zone Horticulture Awards recognize and thank members for their contributions and giving GCA Club and Zone Horticulture Commendations is a way to honor those in the community.