PLANTING INFO …

Environmental Edition, Mary Lovings, Editor
Horticulture Edition, Gail Berthe, Editor
Landscape Design Issue, Jackie Fulmer, Editor

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE: Volume III, February 2018

GCG POSITION PAPERS, CONTINUED: REMINDER: DURING THIS GCG ADMINISTRATION, EACH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE OF PLANTING INFO … WILL FEATURE ONE OF THE EIGHT GCG POSITION PAPERS LOCATED ON THE GCG WEBSITE.

As Review: Collectively, the Position Papers state the beliefs and guidelines for action by and for The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. They act as filters for information and also as suggestions for action by GCG, its Districts, and its Clubs. They describe the details of where we stand on the broad range of matters of importance to GCG members in practicing its Beautification … Conservation … Education Mission.

Planting Info … is designed to supplement materials offered through National Garden Clubs courses in Basic Horticulture, Environmental Studies, and Landscape Design.

This issue will feature the Litter Control and Waste Reduction Position Paper, especially recycling, its importance and relevance. Taking a slightly different approach and perhaps viewing a concept from a differing and even an unexpected angle is an intentional approach. Visiting websites of and joining as an active member nationally recognized organizations for the protection of natural resources and the environment is ideal for garden club members. The Litter Position Paper also features recycling aspects of litter control and waste reduction:

RECYCLING:

One category of recycling involves damaged, broken, fragmented or partly destroyed items that often can be repurposed or turned into usable, functioning, or even artistic items. It is in just such activity that the human mind with both its rare creativity and ingenuity can truly excel. Disaster itself can provide unique, albeit unanticipated opportunities.

Think back to the dreadful earthquake of 2011 in New Zealand or consider it for the first time. It rearranged much of the coastal part of the country on the nation’s lower island with a 6.5 force that killed 185 people in the nation/s second largest and coastal city, Christchurch with a population approaching 400,000.
You can locate both New Zealand and Christchurch on the map to the left above and get an idea of how far it is from here. Consider also how far it is from there, off the south eastern coast of Australia, to England. It’s one of the vital parts of the world that made the validity of the phrase *The sun never sets on the British Empire* a validity during the height of Queen Victoria’s Empire.

Influence of the British Empire and especially England is a strong part of the heritage of Christchurch, the name of which evokes perhaps an English town. There is in fact a Christchurch in Dorset. Architecturally there are similarities between Victorian England and Victorian New Zealand. Not unexpectedly, contents of many homes include family treasures imported from England including sets of best china imported from the homeland and passed through several generations. With the earthquake doing what earthquakes do well, there was a huge amount of broken china that owners simply did not want to throw away as trash. Its sentimental and multigenerational family associations made even the fragments treasured. But, what does one do with for example, a dozen broken dinner plates and the rest of the inherited set or sets of china imported at considerable expense from the homeland?

Familiarly, using fragments set in cement to make step stones and pathways for English influenced gardens was popular. Large quantities were collected and reused and recycled in that way. Some sidewalks included inset pavers of mosaics when they were replaced. One group even fashioned a surfboard with dinnerware fragments. There was also a mosaic scene of the Christchurch harbor. But the most striking reuse and recycling was a two part sculpture of two items found in most middle class homes with British owners or connections.

As the most ingenious use of dinnerware fragments, surely Flora and Otto are among the crown jewels of recycling. Giving the items appropriately witty human names became part of the fun and the ingenuity of the effort. The two items were made larger than normal size and placed in a visible spot on what had been a lot where three people had died as a result of the earthquake. Flora and Otto were
appropriately placed on a wood floor, with a picket fence, window frames, a small garden with a path to reference and to evoke familiar domesticity and a house. The human names are of course witty and suggest owners of the items. Flora is appropriately a floral akin to endless English floral chintz fabrics, and Otto with stripes is of course the ottoman on which to rest feet,

**Better quality photos of the pair and other recycled items, some personal and small, are available either by searching Crack’d for Christchurch on any search engine or on Facebook. Explore them for sheer pleasure!**

In current and much needed replacing of decking, this editor has intentionally chosen a product made of 95% recycled materials that is available in a variety of colors, will not splinter, will not need painting, staining or sealing and is also low upkeep. With some research, recycled products are widely available. In reading the Position Paper below, make an honest attempt to make yourself a list of ways and items you can recycle. Many communities have recycling programs, One fairly common practice is to cut plastic grocery bags into strips and make the strips into mats for use by those who are homeless. Many garden clubs and members collect aluminum items for recycling. Collecting pull tabs from cans is another way of recycling. Of course quilts have been a ways of recycling fabrics for hundreds of years. If each person does a few bits of recycling, much can be accomplished.
Position Paper 2003: 
GCG Supports Public Lands/Greenspace

Revised 2016

Since its founding in 1928, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has proudly acknowledged its horticultural stewardship, ever mindful of our verdant heritage and considering it a sacred duty to protect those natural resources so generously loaned to each of us.

Georgia's natural resources are rapidly being depleted. GCG strongly believes our public lands and resources should be managed under a mandate of conservation stewardship for future generations.

Legislation must be put into place which protects public lands and their resources, together with responsible management of them.

Therefore, the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. supports:

- Designation and increased protection of wilderness areas.
- Conservation of land for watersheds, scenic beauty, and recreation.
- Creation of community parks, greenspace, and scenic vistas.
- Preservation and protection of historic landmarks, landscapes, working lands, parks and national preserves from exploitation.
- A dedicated source of funding for the expansion of green space. At the federal level, the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be permanently authorized and fully funded. In Georgia, a permanent source of dedicated funding should be established.
- Conservation and preservation of flora and fauna, especially native species, and the eradication of invasive plants on public lands.
- Enabling legislation authorizing county and municipal governments to establish trust funds for parks and greenspace, river protection and scenic vistas.

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If you have questions about the content of this issue of PLANTING INFO …, by all means contact the editor.