On Monday, February 24, 295 delegates descended on Washington, DC, to attend the 31st Annual National Affairs and Legislation Conference. They learned about the issues and then traveled to Capitol Hill to visit their legislators and discuss current legislation. The delegates consisted of garden club members, Conservation Chairs, Club Presidents, NAL and Conservation Committee members, GCA Board members and GCA President Katie Heins. The underlying focus of the meeting was clean air and water and climate change. Our speakers all related to that theme. Old friends reunited and new bonds were forged with delegates from across the country with a common interest in conservation as they gathered in a chilly and snowy Washington, DC. This was the 8th carbon-free meeting and the carbon offset will be sent to Save the Redwoods League.

Delegates came from 40 states and 144 clubs from as far away as Hawaii. Our biggest contingent was the forty-one delegates from Zone XII. Over half the attendees were first-timers, whose excitement and energy were palpable. We kicked off the meeting on a brisk and sunny day with a tour of two of the newest national park monuments — the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Martin Luther King Memorial.

The delegates enjoyed the outdoor rooms of the Roosevelt Memorial and the striking design of the Martin Luther King Memorial on the Tidal Basin. We later learned from Chip Akridge and Theresa Duncan from the non-profit Trust for the National Mall, that much of the mall has been decimated by years of neglect and misuse, including a failed seawall in the Tidal Basin. Their organization has funded repairs and made the mall more accessible, robust and sustainable. They will be renovating over 38 acres, restoring the soil and rebuilding Constitution Gardens, replete with native trees and shrubs.

Education Day in the Renaissance Hotel was an opportunity to learn about the important topics through representatives of various non-profits and government organizations. We were welcomed by Lindsay Marshall, National Affairs and Legislation Committee Chairman, who recognized and thanked all the committee members, zone zeps and advisors who had helped prepare for the meeting. She also expressed her appreciation for the excellent local administrative support provided by Jennifer Jameson and Lisa Frulla of the Perennial Garden Club. She reminded us that NAL is 45 years old and has been a GCA committee since 1968.

Jenny Fain, the Conservation Chair, mentioned our online publication, Conswatch, and thanked our recorders Elva Busch and Claudia Bell. She also recommended the book, History of Conservation in the GCA. President Katie Heins said it was a privilege to enjoy the fruits of the labors on the Conservation and NAL Committees and reminded us to speak about the GCA purpose statement, which is “to stimulate knowledge and the love of gardening and to restore, improve and protect the environment.” Katie also mentioned the 1930 GCA project to preserve the Redwoods and encouraged everyone to visit the Bridge the Gap link through the GCA.

Left: GCA President Katie Heins, center, with Lindsay Marshall, NAL Chair and Jennifer Fain, Conservation Chair. Middle: Elva Busch and Claudia Bell. Right, photographers at the Roosevelt memorial, one of the newest national park monuments.
Left: GCA President Katie Heins, center, with Lindsay Marshall, NAL Chair and Jennifer Fain, Conservation Chair; Middle: Elva Busch and Claudia Bell; Right, photographers at the Roosevelt memorial, one of the newest national park monuments.
THE BIRDS OF AMERICA PART II:
AUDUBON’S SOUTHERN ACCOMPLICES

Haitian by birth, French by language, American by citizenship and peripatetic by nature, John James Audubon (1785-1851) is perhaps the most well-known American artist of the 19th century (and certainly one of the most popular natural history painters ever). Although he traveled from Maine to Louisiana, his ultimate playground for ornithological discovery and where he spent much of his life exploring was the American South: the very rich corridors of the Mississippi River and the areas from Tidewater Virginia to the Florida peninsula.

Along the way Audubon met artists who became his valued assistants, and in many cases offered his birds a botanical and geographical habitat in which they moved, lived and expressed their unique characteristics. Four such friends, apprentices and partners were Joseph Mason who accompanied Audubon along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the Swiss George Lehman who painted architectural and topographic views of Charleston and its environs; The Reverend John Bachman of Charleston who promoted Audubon’s work, and Maria Martin, botanical artist and Bachman’s sister in law.

Of the 500 plus plates found in the GCA copy of The Birds of America (first edition seven volume octavo set of 1841-1844) several represent Audubon’s southern exposure and the work of his apprentices though rarely recognized on Havell’s engravings. Four popular images from The Birds of America are highlighted here, and pay tribute to GCA’s southern clubs in celebration of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Arete Warren, National Library Chairman
Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III
Part I appeared in the 2012 April/May Bulletin

From lower left:
- Bachman’s Swamp Warbler was found by Rev. Bachman near Charleston and given to Audubon to draw. Maria Martin painted a watercolor of the Franklinia alatamaha which was first discovered by John and William Bartram in 1765 and is widely cultivated today in 1821 while wandering with Joseph Mason, who drew the Magnolia grandiflora leaves and ripe seed pod.
- Long-Billed Curlew was painted by Audubon in 1831 but the view of the City of Charleston with the Battery in the lower left was painted by George Lehman, who painted architectural White Heron.
- Great White Heron was first viewed by Audubon in the Florida Keys. Lehman painted Key West in the background in 1832, and sent Havell special instructions about engraving the Keys.
It is with great sadness that GCA memorializes bright, delightful Bunnie DuPont who served as Vice President, First Vice President, Chair of Admissions and the Endowment Fund and GCA President. She is survived by her daughter, Nicole Limbocker, two granddaughters, and four great grandchildren. In 1969, Mrs. Jerome Doolan, GCA president, said of her First Vice-President, “No task is too monumental and when you add superb judgment, poise, understanding and a dynamic personality, I do not have to tell you that I have had a tower of strength in our beloved Bonnie DuPont.” In her 1974 Annual Report, Bunnie wrote, “We must strive for...a life without having to choose between running out of fuel ..., or clear water, air and unspoiled land...There are many opportunities for us to do our share.” She was ahead of her time. Her club members remember her many awards, beauty, elegance and contagious joy. She was a gracious lady, always generous with her time and many talents.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BARBARA TRACY SANDFORD**  
Plainfield Garden Club, Zone IV

Barbara Tracy Sandford passed away September 2, 2013 at the age of 94. Joining in 1950, Barbara’s 63 years of membership is the longest on record for the club. Elected Club President in 1960, Barbara traveled to Hawaii for the 1961 GCA Annual Meeting and side trip to Japan. She described it as “one of the best experiences of her life.” Her souvenirs from this trip will be displayed at Headquarters. Barbara was Zone IV Director and was the recipient of the Medal of Merit. In her costumed role as “Aunty Litter,” Barbara humorously reminded all to recycle and beautify their surroundings. She won the Zone Civic Improvement Award. Barbara is best remembered for her founding role of Scenic America. She was honored with the Stafford Award for her “exceptional lifetime effort to control billboards and to protect our natural beauty.”

**TRACY PENNOYER SCHILLING**  
Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Zone XII

Tracy Schilling passed away peacefully at the age of 92 on Nov. 26, 2013 in Portola Valley, CA. Tracy became a member the Woodside-Atherton Club in 1951 where she excelled in horticulture and flower arranging and enjoyed mentoring new members. Her roles in the club included: President, Treasurer, Director, and Chair of Horticulture, Membership, Flower Show, Awards, Bulletin and Nominating Committees. She was active in implementing the Woodside Library Garden and was a docent at Filoli. Tracy was Zone Judging Representative, Vice-Chairman and in charge of Medal Awards. She received the Zone Achievement Award in 1988 and was a GCA Vice-President from 1994-1995. In 2002, she became a GC2 Horticultural Judge Emeritus. She will be remembered as a gentle force for good within her communities of Woodside and The Sequoias, where she embraced people with great generosity of spirit, unfailing kindness and an eternally gracious presence.