

February 2014



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

## February General Meeting

**February 20, 2014**

**UWBG/CUH - 9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting**

## Annual Business Meeting

**Members Only**




Following a brief program, we will have table discussions on topics such as:  
What is your SGC passion?  
Where do you see us making an impact for our 2017 Centennial?  
How can we make SGC's Centennial memorable?

**We need everyone's participation!**  
**Please join us. This is your meeting**  
**to provide input into our future.**

**PLEASE RESPOND, YES OR NO**

Carol Eland, 206-324-5414 or  
[caroleland@msn.com](mailto:caroleland@msn.com)

## Events at a Glance

- 2/3/14 **Horticulture Meeting. Hosted by the Floral Design Committee.**  
UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program. As noted in this newsletter. **Bring your Hort Share!**  
**Hort Show Preparation,** UWBG/CUH, Merrill Courtyard Atrium, 9:30 am - 9:55 am  
Demonstration on "How to Pass Plant Specimens at a Flower Show." As noted in "The Hort Report"  
**Community Projects Committee Meeting,** UWBG/CUH, Board Room  
Immediately following the Hort Meeting
- 2/6/14 **Board Meeting,** Sunset Club, 10 am
- 2/10/14 **Work Party at East Montlake Park.** 9:30 am - noon. As noted in Sue Blethen's article  
**School Gardens Committee Meeting,** 1 pm, Jenny Wyatt's home
- 2/14/14 **Deadline to Sign up and Order Lunch for March 3 Hort Outing.** See "The Hort Report"  
**Happy Valentine's Day** 
- 2/20/14 **General Meeting,** UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program. As noted above

**FOR MORE SGC INFORMATION AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS,**  
**CLICK ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)**



## From the President

February is a month of betwixt and between as we are still in Winter, all the while being teased with a hint of longer light in the sky as each day passes – a gentle reminder of impending Spring and the explosion of growth in our gardens!

The SGC Monday Meeting on February 3 will be brought to you by the Floral Design Committee. The program is an example of a Challenge Class in which 2 or 3 contestants will be given a theme, container and floral material to create a design on the spot, as members observe in awe and wonder! Challenge Classes are typically a class in GCA Flower Shows, and this will be a fun way to learn about how to do one.

The General Meeting on Thursday, February 20 will be the Annual Business Meeting. Marilee Ahalt, President Elect, has put a lot of thought and time into this event. Please plan to attend, as it will be an opportunity to give your voice to interesting and fun topics.

GCA should have sent you a survey from its Strategic Planning Committee by now via email, which will take 10 minutes to do. You are GCA's most valuable resource for guidance in their considerations for the future, and your feedback will remain confidential. Please take a moment to complete it ASAP.

*Catherine Parker, Club President*

## Transplanting

Watching hands transplanting,  
Turning and tamping,  
Lifting the young plants with two fingers,  
Sifting in a palm-full of fresh loam,  
One swift movement,  
Then plumping in the bunched roots,  
A single twist of the thumbs, a tamping and turning,  
All in one,  
Quick on the wooden bench,  
A shaking down, while the stem stays straight,  
Once, twice, and a faint third thump,  
Into the flat-box it goes,  
Ready for the long days under the sloped glass:

The sun warming the fine loam,  
The young horns winding and unwinding,  
Creaking their thin spines,  
The underleaves, the smallest buds  
Breaking into nakedness,  
The blossoms extending  
Out into the sweet air,  
The whole flower extending outward,  
Stretching and reaching.

*Theodore Roethke*

## Roster Updates

### Address changes:

Mrs. John Alden Blethen (Barbara): 1630 43rd Ave.E #525, Seattle, WA 98112

Mrs. Isaacson Fray (JoAnn):  
1499 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94109

### Email change:

Mrs. Stewart Riley (Laurie): [laurieariley@gmail.com](mailto:laurieariley@gmail.com)

Please note these changes in your Yearbook

## Debra Prinzing Floral Arranging Class

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014  
Place: Graham Visitors Center, Arboretum  
Time: 2 pm - 4 pm  
Cost: \$50 per person

Registration is limited to 25 people. Contact Debby Smith, [barleyanddeb@yahoo.com](mailto:barleyanddeb@yahoo.com), 206-568-2623

Bring gloves, clippers and a vase no larger than 8" x 5" inches. Students will take their arrangements home.

## Hort Meeting, Hosted by Floral Design

**February 3, 2014, UWBG/CUH**

**9:30 am Social, 10 am Program**

**Come to the meeting to see Floral Design Committee members practice their skills!**

Learn how they design and execute an arrangement from the moment that they are given materials. Staged as a "Challenge Class," they will all be given the same materials. Watch them work! Then, hear one of our judges comment. This is meant to help our SGC members know more about the floral design process. Then you will want to choose a class in our upcoming show in June. Give it a try!



*Debby Smith, Floral Design Chair*

## Hort Share Corner

January Hort Share was lovely and fragrant. Sarcococca was definitely present....dominant even. Also we had blooming Viburnum bodnantense, several Hamamelis, several Camellia sasanqua...not so many Hellebores. Deborah Cheadle brought her Chimonanthus praecox (Wintersweet), which has a wonderful delicate fragrance. Candy Lancaster brought a Baird Board of Hellebores and sasanquas (and a Hebe). It was lovely.

So February is Second Chance for Hellebores... let's see what we can find. Also your branches, forsythia, quince, even magnolias. Maybe put them in a little warm water a couple of days ahead and see if those buds open. Also early daffodils. Remember, we have bottles – big and small -- labels, pens and the Sunset Garden Book for "support". All you need to do is walk out into your garden and see what you have. You may be surprised! Thanks so much.

*Vicki Reed, Hort Share Coordinator*



## Gardener's Corner

### Reminders for February



- Mid to late February is the time to fertilize trees, shrubs and evergreens, using rhododendron type fertilizer. Use a rose or all-purpose garden type fertilizer for roses, fruit and flowering trees. Water in thoroughly.
- Right now is an excellent time for transplanting both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Get bargain prices on berries, roses, shrubs, trees and vines that are sold bare-root. Bare-root plants adapt to native soil better and faster than container plants.
- Add primroses for winter color. Primula vulgaris has one flower per stem and endures blustery winter weather best. Primula polyanthus usually has multiple flowers growing from a single stem but isn't as hardy.
- Prune off tall yellowed stems of perennials, especially ornamental grasses.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries now while dormant.
- Cover the soil around houseplants with plastic and rinse in a lukewarm shower. Remove yellowing leaves and leggy branches. Increase watering and apply weak fertilizer (1/4 strength) *only* after they begin to grow.
- Cut branches of flowering shrubs, forsythia, quince, crabapple and bring indoors to force early bloom.
- Now is the time to get any mechanical power tool repaired. Repair time will lengthen substantially the closer you get to spring and summer usage. I speak from experience.

*Janet Footh*

## The Hort Report

Diana Ackerley launched our first Hort meeting of the year on a high note speaking about fragrant vines and shrubs. She introduced us to new plants that I am eager to learn more about as I re-evaluate my own garden experiments. Fragrance is certainly top of the list when considering replacements 'with strong possibilities.' Diana began with the scientific reasons and historical uses for fragrant flowers, reminding us why flowers bloom and have fragrance. Sharing her favorite plants as well as those in our own Fragrance Garden punctuated her reasons for bringing them to our attention. Many of us enjoyed the frosty visit to the Fragrance Garden to conclude her presentation, taking a closer look at the current blooming shrubs. Her subject certainly revived my garden juices, considering the *Rhododendron loderi* 'King George' for example, with more fragrance and flowers in the coming months. Now to hunt for it in area nurseries!



*Diana Ackerley, Kristie Ratzlaff, Mary Jane Anderson and Stacy King tour the Fragrance Garden following Diana's talk*

The Floral Design Committee will host the February 3 Hort Meeting. Be looking for Hellebores or fragrant flowers to bring in for Hort Share. **Consider arriving early to participate in a "How To" demonstration for our upcoming Flower Show. Meet in the Merrill Courtyard glass atrium at 9:30 am - 9:55 am**

February 3: How to Pass Plant Specimens. For practice, bring in a plant in a vase. Entry cards will be available.

April 7: How to Present a Baird Board

May 5: How to Write Latin Nomenclature

**Important information for the March Hort Meeting.** At our February meeting, a sign-up sheet with a lunch menu will be circulated for our March 3 outing to South Seattle Community College. Lunch will cost \$15., checks payable to Catherine Allan. **Please RSVP to Catherine Allan, [jardinsroyaux@gmail.com](mailto:jardinsroyaux@gmail.com) by Valentine's Day.**

The college campus has two gardens of merit: the Coenosium Garden (dwarf conifer) and the Seattle Chinese Garden with docents to tour us. Plan to leave Seattle by 9:30 am to arrive at S.S.C.C. before our start time, 10 am. The tours will end at 2 pm, and you should be back in Seattle at 2:45pm - 3 pm.

*Catherine Allan, Horticulture Chair*

## Get ready for the 2015 GCA Flower Show by Participating in the 2014 Club Flower Show!

This is a Club Show. Classes are open to all SGC members, including Provisionals.

Registration for Seattle's IN FOCUS 2014 PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW opened to our members on January 16. Sign up now before registration opens to Portland and Tacoma on February 15!

**Online registration only.**

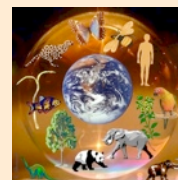
Email the registration information to Juliet Romano, [julietromano@comcast.net](mailto:julietromano@comcast.net) (Note change from the original instructions). Please include name, address, telephone number and email address along with the Class Number and Title of a 1st and 2nd choice of classes. Entries will be accepted in the order they are received. Exhibitors will be notified whether or not they are accepted at the time of registration.

The complete schedule and guidelines are available on the SGC website: [www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)





## Conservation Corner



### **GCA 2014 Annual National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) Meeting Meets February 24-27 in Washington D.C.**

The Garden Club of America sent the following advice to all the Conservation Chairs to consider:

#### **THE FARM BILL**

1. Conservation funding: Both the Senate and the House would consolidate nearly two dozen separate conservation programs into a dozen programs. Since the 2008 Farm bill was enacted, there have been \$3 billion in conservation program reductions. The Senate proposed decreasing this by another \$3.5 billion, but the House proposal was another \$7 billion. GCA urges us to support the Senate level.

2. Linkage: Support the Senate bill linkage of sound agricultural land and water conservation practices (supporting riparian, wetland and other agricultural conservation practices) with qualification for federal crop insurance subsidies. Supported by Ducks Unlimited, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Nature Conservancy etc. This linkage is missing in the House version.

3. Limit new plowing: The Senate bill would limit crop insurance subsidies for the first few years on newly plowed up land for new crop land. The House bill would restrict subsidies only in the Prairie Pothole region of the Upper Midwest. The Senate version protects more grasslands and native prairie.

Other non conservation issues are being debated (supplemental nutrition assessment program, level of crop insurance subsidy, support for specific commodity crops, farm energy, dairy farmer support during economic turndowns, etc.) The current bill expires January 31, 2014. Suzan DelBene is the only WA representative on the Agriculture Committee.

#### **NATIONAL FORESTS**

HR 1526, proposed by Doc Hastings (R) of Pascoe, WA, basically mandated timber harvesting in national forests regardless of environmental concerns, or long standing forest management plans. Although passed in the House in a predominantly partisan vote 9/2013, many of its provisions will not be considered in the Senate and it is opposed by the White House.

Please urge your senators and representatives to work collaboratively to do what is best for protecting our national forests, consistent with good science, sound management, and considering multiple uses such as hunting, hiking, fishing and camping in addition to prudent timber harvesting. Find better ways to finance rural schools than linking them to timber receipts. Provide forest managers with the financial resources they need to deal with wildfire, insect and disease infestations.

**FIRE:** Major issues, especially in the west, are unhealthy National Forests with severe beetle infestation and acres of dead trees. Small fires should be allowed to burn and selective thinning and salvage cutting of beetle-killed or wind damaged trees should be done for fire suppression.

**SCHOOLS:** In 1908 in exchange for the creation of national forests, President Theodore Roosevelt agreed to counties' receiving 25% of logging receipts. Problem: income is not consistent year to year. Partial solution: In 1999, Congress and President Clinton passed the Secure Rural Schools Act as a temporary fix. In 2012 the funds were subject to the across-the-board budget sequester. This year there was diversion of over half of national helium sales for one year to the SRS program (\$263 million). Without further congressional action, school support will revert to the former logging based revenue system.

**LOGGING:** There was a dramatic decrease in U.S. logging (53% between 1987 and 1996). This is due partially to increased regulation and partially to an influx of cheap foreign timber. In areas of OR, WA and CA where spotted owls live the decrease is closer to 90%. In 1987 the annual timber harvest was 12.7 million board feet. Last year 2.5 million board feet were harvested by the Forest Service. The economic impact on logging communities has been painful and they strongly support increased logging activities.

*Carolyn Kitchell, Conservation Chair*



## GCA Scholarships Come to the Pacific Northwest



Oliver Bazinet



Terry Huang

The end of January can be both dreary in the drippy garden, as well as inside for families with college applicants and college students nervously finishing applications for schools, fellowships and internships as deadlines draw near. Many students will be completing their forms for the over 27 opportunities offered by Garden Club of America. Even if you don't have a stressed college student in your home, these programs still may affect you.

Last year two UW students received scholarships from GCA. Terry Huang, a 2011 graduate, was awarded the prestigious *GCA/Royal Horticulture Interchange Fellowship*. Terry did internships here at the UW's Botanic Gardens and at the Smithsonian in DC. He devotes his study to the overlap of botany with horticulture and design. UW student Oliver Bazinet was awarded Zone VI's *Fellowship in Urban Forestry*. Oliver helped design a forestry tool whose reliability and feasibility he wanted to test in different landscapes. The Fellowship allows him to train a variety of people with the tool and to determine its consistency and the best approach to instructing people with it.

In addition, two students spent part of their summer in the Olympic and North Cascades National Parks on *Sara Shellenberger Brown GCA National Parks Scholarships*. Farther south, a student received funds to restore golden paintbrush, an endangered wildflower in Oregon. Alaska was a particularly popular place for awardees who went to study how to replenish groundwater nutrients for the benefit of salmon, to observe wildlife in Denali National Park and study the nesting habits of Whimbrels in the Arctic Circle (brrr).

It's interesting to note that not all of the recipients were traditional students. They included: a mother with two children whose return to school centers on creating green products; a community college teacher; those with doctorates and those young people just beginning their college careers. These scholarships are fine examples of how our organization is willing to focus on what comes next in the world.

Carey Davis

## January General Meeting



SGC members and guests were delighted by Debra Prinzing's talk on the *Slow Flower Movement*.

Pictured: Marilee Ahalt, Debra and Debby Smith

Debra Prinzing's handout on *Slow Flowers* is posted on our Website:

[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)

See also her Website:

[www.debraprinzing.com](http://www.debraprinzing.com)

## East Montlake Park

East Montlake Park is looking beautiful! Take a walk along the south side of the Montlake Cut and check it out! The Mahonia x menzies 'Arthur Menzies' donated by the Conservation Committee is in bloom and the hummingbirds are very happy! Remember: native plants with "wildlife value" (ones that provide food, nesting, etc. for animals) are welcomed. We still have native groundcover needs too, like Mahonia nervosa. Please contact Sue if you have a plant(s) for our park.

The next work party will be one week AFTER the February Hort Meeting:  
**Monday, February 10, 9:30 am - Noon**  
Bring gloves, pruners, shovel, kneeling cushion and shoes. Dress for the weather.

We will cut back damaged fern fronds and do general tidy up. This is always lots of fun... the more the merrier! Please call or email so I know how many to expect. Many thanks!

Sue Blethen, [sueblethen@hotmail.com](mailto:sueblethen@hotmail.com) or 206-930-0129

**Note:** EMP is located along the Montlake Cut, north of the old Mohai at the corner of E. Park Street and E. Shelby Street.

## **Ways & Means**

### **GREAT OPPORTUNITIES - DON'T MISS OUT!**

As is the norm, several SGC outings associated with the Holiday Auction & Luncheon have spaces available. This is a fun way to socialize with our members or to introduce prospective members!

**Mar 13 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE EVENT: "A FIERCE GREEN FIRE."** Viewing of an award-winning documentary on the history of the environmental movement; narrated by Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and others. Held at Gretchen Hull's with wine/hors d'oeuvres; director to be skyped in afterwards for Q & A; for 12 people; 3 spaces available. \$50/person

**May 21 BOARD SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY.** This fun party will be held at Catherine Parker's for 40 people; 12 spaces available. \$75/person

**April 30 SPECIAL GARDENS: RHODODENDRON SPECIES, BONSAI, POWELLSWOOD.** Tours of gardens and lunch at Powellswood for 15 people; 4 spaces available. \$60/person

**Aug 14 ART CLASS AND LUNCH.** Visit the gardens of Gayle Harris & Karen Simmonds; create your own garden art cement leaf under tutelage of artist Gayle Harris (normally a \$75 class); enjoy a lovely lunch at Gayle's for 8 people; 4 spaces available. \$120/person

Contact Suzette if you are interested in any of these: [sdeturenne@comcast.net](mailto:sdeturenne@comcast.net) or 206-524-9042

*Suzette de Turenne, Ways & Means Chair*

## **Community Projects Committee Work in Progress**

The Community Project Committee received and is analyzing four grant requests. Committee members are meeting with the "proposers" to obtain more facts and to evaluate the suitability of the proposal for SGC.

*Fragrance Garden:* Margi Allison is talking to our members about the costs, a planting list and a planting plan. The Fragrance Garden Committee requests \$6500 in 2014 and \$8500 in 2015. This is an internal grant proposal.

*Rainier Beach Urban Farm:* Jenny Wyatt, Charlee Reed and Judy Phillips have met, and together with Sheila Noonan are evaluating this major community initiative. Tilth and the RBUF are the two entities responsible for implementing this volunteer-driven farm. The Seattle Parks Foundation requests \$30,000 for one year or \$50,000 payable by SGC over two years.

*Woodland Park Zoo.* Hotie Hard and Barbara Peterson will meet with the zoo to understand the various elements of their request to partially replant the Rose Garden with substitute varieties that will flourish under the organic gardening regime (no fungicides), which the Zoo introduced to the Rose Garden in 2006. Their request is approximately \$15,000.

*University of Washington Botanic Gardens.* Catherine Allan is evaluating the UWBC proposal to improve the habitat of the Arboretum's prized camellia collection. At its heart, the proposal seeks to remove a very large fir that shades the camellias and to widen the spaces among the camellias to improve the plants' health and increase visitor enjoyment. The UWBC requests \$34,000.

The Community Projects Committee will meet in February and in March. We will make recommendations to the Board at its March meeting and will plan a Membership vote in the spring.

*Carlyn Steiner, Community Projects Chair*

## Looking Ahead

- 3/3/14 **Horticulture Meeting**, South Seattle Community College, Chan Center  
10 am to 2 pm, Program. Depart Seattle by 9:30 am and return 2:45 pm to 3 pm  
**Please note location and time for this all day field trip**  
**See "The Hort Report" for details**
- 3/6/14 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am
- 3/11/14 **Policy and Planning Meeting**, 10 am - 11:30 am. Catherine Parker's home
- 3/13/14 **Debra Prinzing Floral Arranging Class**, Graham Visitors Center, 2 pm - 4 pm  
**Registration required.** Limited to 25 people, \$50 per person. Contact Debby Smith
- 3/20/14 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program  
David George Gordon, UW instructor and author of *The Secret World of Slugs and Snails: Life in the Slow Lane*



### GCA Encourages Use of Email

If you currently receive this newsletter via U.S. Mail and would like to receive it via email, please contact me. Please help us reduce waste and expenses.

Thank you!

Jenny Wyatt, Communications Chair

[wyattjen@comcast.net](mailto:wyattjen@comcast.net)

### The Seattle Garden Club is a Member of The Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



### Seattle Garden Club

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