



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

Author David George Gordon to speak about **Life in the Slow Lane: Understanding Slugs and Snails in Gardens and in the Wild**

David George Gordon is the award-winning author of *The Eat-a-Bug Cookbook* and 18 other titles about orcas and gray whales, cockroaches, tarantulas, land snails and the Sasquatch. The *New York*



Times called his *Field Guide to the Slug* "gripping."

He has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, *Time* magazine and *National Geographic Kids* and has appeared on *Conan O'Brien*, *The Howie Mandel Show* and *The View*. He's spoken at the American Museum of Natural History, San Diego Zoo, California Academy of Sciences, Northwest Flower & Garden Show and many other venues.

In his book, *The Secret World of Slugs and Snails: Life in the Very Slow Lane*, David George Gordon invites readers to "step into a world that, until now, you've only stepped on." During his presentation, he'll share insights about West Coast slugs and snails, their curious behaviors, relationships with native plants and fungi, and the many niches they fill in the natural world. He'll also explain how to forge a meaningful and lasting peace with these slimesters and offer tips for controlling their damage to our flower gardens and vegetable plots. A book signing will follow his talk.

General Meeting

March 20, 2014

UWBG/CUH

9:30 am Social, 10 am Program

Guests Welcome!

PLEASE RESPOND

YES OR NO

Carol Eland, 206-324-5414 or

caroleland@msn.com

Events at a Glance

3/3/14 Horticulture Meeting, South Seattle Community College, Chan Center, 10 am - 2 pm Program
Please note time and location and refer to "The Hort Report" for additional 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

3/20/14 General Meeting, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program. As noted above. Guests Welcome!

4/16/14 Please see the "Looking Ahead" calendar for important information on our April General Meeting on a Wednesday in Tacoma

**FOR MORE SGC INFORMATION AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
CLICK ON OUR WEBSITE: www.seattlegardenclub.org**



From the President

As I am sitting writing this letter to the membership, the wind chill factor outside is 12 degrees. It feels like winter has finally arrived. The Seahawks have won the Superbowl! All's right with the world!

March promises to be a very interesting month for our club. Our Monday Meeting, March 3, will be an outing – a fun, small adventure to the South Seattle Community College, where we will visit the dwarf conifer collection in the Coenosium Garden; a tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden will follow after we enjoy boxed lunches. The General Meeting on March 20 will feature David George Gordon, an instructor at UW, who authored *The Secret World of Slug and Snails: Life in the Very Slow Lane*. (Life in the slow lane sounds quite appealing just now!) Also, at that meeting, please come prepared to vote for what you determine is the best choice of the GCA Founder's Fund three finalists. Information on the finalists is included in this newsletter.

Another opportunity for those of you who are artistically blessed is to design the scarf for the 2018 GCA annual Meeting in San Francisco. The theme is *How the West was One*. This is our Zone's moment to shine, and we'd love to have you submit a design! Please look below for a more detailed description.

Thank you all for participating in the survey designed by the GCA Strategic Planning Committee that was emailed to you last month. Zone XII was aiming for 100% participation, and I am sure they were successful!

Until next month,

Catherine Parker, Club President

Another Sarah for Christopher Smart

When Winter was half over
God sent three angels to the
apple-tree
Who said to her
"Be glad, you little rack
Of empty sticks,
Because you have been
chosen.

In May you will become
A wave of living sweetness
A nation of white petals
A dynasty of apples."

Katherine Anne Porter



Submit Your Designs for the 2018 Annual Meeting Logo and Scarf

The search is underway for the logo and the scarf designs for the Zone XII GCA Annual Meeting in San Francisco in 2018.

The logo will appear in all printed material: program, stationery, marketing pieces, posters and banners, and probably more. Ideally, the logo would reflect the theme, "How the West Is One," but this is not required. It should be very strong graphically. The words "Garden Club of America" and "2018" must be included; the words "San Francisco" and "Zone XII" are optional. Submissions can be hand drawn (scanned) or digital and in pdf or jpeg formats. Artists can send in up to three separate ideas.

If possible, the scarf design would also reflect the theme, but again, it is optional. Designers may submit ideas for more than one color way. As with the logo design, up to three designs will be accepted, and the submission formats remain the same. The GCA Website has information about the history of the Annual Meeting scarf and designs

Scarf sales are one way to make up the difference between the cost of the meeting and registration fees, and thus are of great importance to the success of the meeting.

Please submit your designs by April 11, 2014 to Sandy Scott, scotbus@gmail.com, or Missy Jensen, missy@jensen.com

Community Projects

The Community Projects Committee will soon wrap up recommendations for this year's funding and take them to the Governing Board for approval. As a two-week notice, members will receive an eblast by March 6 outlining the recommended grants. Members will be asked to approve the grants at the March 20 General Meeting.

Carlyn Steiner, Community Projects Chair

The Garden Club of America's 2014 Founders Fund Finalists

SGC members will vote at our General Meeting on March 20 to determine our Club's top finalist for the 2014 Founders Fund Award. As a reminder, Provisionals may not vote on this matter. Our President will then submit our collective vote to GCA. \$30,000 will be presented to the winner, and runners-up will receive \$7500 each.

The Founders Fund was established in 1934 to support and encourage member clubs in the area of civic projects. All three proposals are described in the February issue of the GCA Bulletin and are accessible by logging on to the Founders Fund webpage in the Members Area of the GCA Website.

ZONE II, Garden Club of New Haven. Safeguarding the American Elm: Preserving New Haven's Roots. The Garden Club of New Haven is safeguarding the American elm through a collaborative community effort involving propagation and planting of trees throughout the city. The elms will be tracked and studied to monitor how they adapt to changing environmental conditions. Additionally, this project educates residents, students, and visitors about the rich history of the New Haven Green, its historic architecture and its trees as a "place for all," using both traditional and innovative media.

ZONE III, Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson. Untermeyer Park. Once called "America's Most Spectacular Garden" but recently referred to as "America's Greatest Forgotten Garden," Yonkers NY's Untermeyer Park has been undergoing a renaissance since 2010. Debris, rubble, and weeds have been removed and the walled Persian Garden's water features and plantings restored. Restoration of the Temple of Love is next. Founders Fund money will help revive its tumbling watercourses. Our members will grow plants for the cascading beds and continue to act as docents.

ZONE VIII, Peachtree Garden Club. The Big Green Time Machine. Peachtree Garden Club has continued and enhanced its 46 year partnership with Swan Woods, a 10-acre native plant woodland at the Atlanta History Center, by relocating to Swan Woods an 1830s hand hewn log cabin teaching venue for the thousands of students who visit each year. A Founders Fund grant will make possible trail improvements and site interpretation and will provide a historical landscape to visually separate the cabin from existing modern structures.

Ways & Means Featured Outings!

April 30, Garden Tours and Lunch for 15. \$60. Three spaces available. Tour three wonderful gardens in the Federal Way area: Rhododendron Species Garden and Bonsai collection, followed by a guided tour of Powellswood Garden, where lunch will be provided by SGC members.

May 21, Board Cocktail Party for 40. \$75. Eight spaces available. An annual tradition! Friends and spouses are welcome. Enjoy Catherine Parker's beautiful home and hospitality with beverages and an array of delicious edibles provided by SGC Board members.

Aug 14, Gardens, Luncheon and Creativity for 8. \$110. Four spaces available. Artist Gayle Harris will guide us in a class in which we will create our own sculpted leaf to take home. Enjoy being creative and be inspired by two lovely gardens of Gayle and Karen Simmonds. A festive lunch will be served at Gayle's.

Interested: Contact Suzette de Turenne, sdeturenne@comcast.net or 206-524-9042

Suzette de Turenne, Ways & Means Chair

Conservation Corner



The Conservation Committee's fundraiser for the auction has sold out. The March 13 screening of "A Fierce Green Fire" (a history of the environmental movement) will begin at Gretchen Hull's house with wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 pm. After the film we will Skype Chat with the Film Producer Mark Kitchell in San Francisco. The film will also be shown on Earth Day April 12 on Public Television.

The Conservation Committee has the opportunity to create a semi-permanent conservation exhibit for the 2015 Garden Club Show at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. We are currently planning our first brainstorming event at the BBG in the latter part of April.

At the Conservation Committee meeting on February 3, Alex Brott of FuseWashington gave us a nice summation of the "60 Days, 60 Ways" campaign for Washington State. His group along with the Washington Environmental Council, Washington Conservation Voters and Climate Solutions are part of the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC). The EPC has instituted the "60 Days, 60 Ways" campaign in lieu of the Environmental Lobby Day. The latter was too resource intensive (\$ and time). The Environmental Priorities Coalition (<http://environmentalpriorities.org>) is focusing on two pieces of legislation:

The Coalition supports a bill (HR2465) to remove a loophole that saves oil refineries ~\$41,000,000/year in taxes. This special treatment is nonexistent in 27 out of 29 states that have oil refineries. (Only Alabama has the same loophole). The loophole exists in a law originally enacted for the forest industry in 1949. It was designed so that they could use their leftover wood scraps (known as 'hog fuel' *probably analogous to hog scraps*) to power their saw mills with no taxes on the fuel. The oil companies have used this exemption for their less usable crude oil. The Environmental Priorities Coalition would like to see this fuel not used cost free but taxed to directly support education. One way to look at this is that every other company pays taxes on whatever it uses for power. They believe that the oil companies could at least pay taxes on the value of the fuel. The environmental groups predict that the state won't lose jobs as the oil companies have been spectacularly successful over the last six years and could absorb this tax easily, as they do in 27 other states.

Another bill would add regulations for boat and train transportation of natural gas, at a cost of \$400,000/yr. The new fracked natural gas is more flammable and prone to explosions than crude oil. The regulation would start preventative measures to prevent accidents and preplanning for the inevitable crash/explosions so that lives and properties might be saved. This has a good chance of passing: there are two versions; the House Bill is stricter than the Senate version. The environmental groups are supporting the House version.

Mr. Brott gave us some ideas on how one could participate. Apparently, a hand written letter is worth more than an email. He gave us the EPC's website, [here](#), and the State Legislator Finder app, [here](#). This is the list of their target legislators. They have identified these people as either swing votes on climate issues, or as people they want to hold accountable for their opposition to climate action. In the Senate: Senators Conway (D-29), Fain (R-47), Hargrove (D-24), Hatfield (D-19), Hill (R-45), Hobbs (D-44), Litzow (R-41), O'Ban (R-28), and Tom (MCC-48). In the House, representatives Kochmar (R-30), Morris (D-40), Tharinger (D-24), and Van De Wege (D-24). While these are the folks they're looking at most closely, people can still feel free to reach out and write to their particular legislators."

Finally, Carolyn Kitchell, Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey and Hotie Hard will be attending the GCA National Affairs and Legislation Meeting in Washington, D.C. February 24 to 27. This entails two days of environmental education and a third day of advising our congressional representatives with well-researched recommendations on Conservation issues. Our report will follow next month.

Carolyn Kitchell, Conservation Chair

Hot off the Press: SGC Club Show *Images in Horticulture*

ENVISION the possibilities for the Classes in the Horticulture Division of our Club Show on June 5.

Classes 1 - 5: BEAUTIFUL PROFILES

Showing off the best of Horticulture specimens!

Cut Specimens Unlimited Entries

Class 6: FIVE IN FOCUS

Plant family members that are the best of friends!

Containers 6+ Entries



Five plants of similar/compatible culture (sun/shade, dry/moist) to be planted in a container of exhibitor's choice, not to exceed 14" in diameter, measured from inside rim to inside rim.

Classes 7-8: VIGNETTES FROM THE GARDEN

SGC Baird Boards: A Seattle Specialty 6 Entries Per Class

A non-judged, educational class of cuttings displayed in custom-designed board with 4.5" clear glass bottles that are inset.

Peruse your gardens to **FOCUS** on your potential entries for the Show. If you have questions, call the **CLASS CONSULTANT** listed at the bottom of each Class description. She has been chosen to assist with entries.

LOOK at the **TIMETABLE** for **EXHIBITORS**. It lists the ownership deadline of 3 months (by March 5) for entries in **FIVE IN FOCUS, CLASS 6**. All other Class entries must have been owned and grown by exhibitor for minimum of 3 months (Guideline #3).

UNDERSTAND the Guidelines. They are designed to de-mystify the process and details of a Flower Show.

STILL FUZZY? Call or email Debbi Wilson, jwilson803@comcast.net, 206-979-3714 or Laurie Riley, laurieriley@gmail.com, 206-325-2514.

The complete schedule and guidelines are available on the SGC website: www.seattlegardenclub.org. We look forward to enjoying the beauty and variety of the specimens that you bring to the Show!

Debbi Wilson and Laurie Riley, Horticulture Show Chairs

Photography Show - *Seattle In Focus*

- Don't miss the opportunity to participate in our June Club Photo Show! This is the perfect time to enter a show with lots of hand holding for first timers!
- There is plenty of time to complete your photograph – your exhibit needs to be sent or delivered to Mary Turner to arrive between April 18 and 30.
- As of the newsletter deadline, spaces were available in Classes 4, 5, and 6. Contact Juliet Romano julietromano@comcast.net for registration and updated availability.
- Although participants are initially allowed only one entry, if the classes are not filled by March 15, those who are already registered will be invited to enter an additional photo/class.

The complete schedule is on the member page of our web site: www.seattlegardenclub.org

Suzette de Turenne, Photography Show Chair

The Hort Report

The Hort meeting on March 3 is an all-day field trip to South Seattle Community College's Chan Center: 6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle, 98106.

The program will start at 10 am; please arrive by 9:45 am. This outing will include a tour of the Coenosium Garden (dwarf conifers), lunch (pre-paid) and a tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden. We'll finish at 2 pm.

This interesting article describes the Coenosium Garden <http://formandfoliage.wordpress.com/?s=Coenosium+Rock+Garden>.

If you have not signed up and ordered a lunch, but would still like to attend, please contact Catherine Allan, jardinsroyaux@gmail.com, 425-454-1076.

There will be no Hort Share for this meeting. Save up for April at Graham Visitors Center when it will be Camellias! Big Time!

Catherine Allan, Hort Chair
Vicki Reed, Hort Share Coordinator

Floral Design

Debra Prinzing will be back on March 13, 2 pm to 4 pm, Graham Visitors Center, to offer a class on floral design. Her talk for the January General Meeting was very popular. She will make the subject interesting and fun. Participants will take home their arrangements. The cost is \$50, and a few spaces remain available. Please RSVP to Debby Smith. These classes are a great way to share time, ideas and skills with other SGC members!

Debby Smith, Floral Design Chair

East Montlake Park

The sword ferns are looking great at our park and are a great, low filler. Most of these were donated by Jeff Erickson, who led our propagation efforts, SGC volunteers and by me, digging plants from **King County's Native Plant Salvage**. This program is quite unique to this area. Native plants are dug by volunteers from sites destined for development. King County uses them to enhance parks, wetlands, and native areas in Western Washington and saves beautiful plants from bulldozers and destruction.

Details: If you have volunteered in any of the King County Parks, (like East Montlake Park) you are eligible to participate in a King County Native Plant Salvage Event. These take place the first Monday of each month, October through March. Volunteers dig native plants for King County from 9 am-Noon and then dig for themselves from Noon-2 pm. Or, you can pot up the plants dug in the morning from 1 pm-4 pm and take some potted plants home. Our EMP has benefitted with native vine maple, sword fern, huckleberry, deer fern, bleeding heart, foam flower, and amelanchier. ALL plants were free from these digs. I have also been able to greatly enhance my own garden with plants and nurse logs too. Please contact me if you think this might interest you, and I will email the information.

Note: I will send an eblast for the next work party when our weather improves!

Sue Blethen

Floral Designers Present a Challenge Class



Sue Ashmun displays her know-how as the new "guinea pig"



The "old hat," Vicki Neumann, assesses the plant material



Peggy Wilton interviews Vicki about the contents of her tool box

GCA and SGC Celebrate Photography

Now, with the cold air pushing us back inside, is a wonderful time to enjoy the winter edition of *The Focus*, the Garden Club of America's publication on photography. First and foremost, our own Jane Harder is featured for her prize-winning picture of Icicle Creek Canyon "Aflame in Autumnal Glory" that will make you want to hurry up to the Cascades. Other photos include a mystical cluster of magnolia blossoms, a majestic great blue heron, a mysterious monochromatic white pine as well as other illuminating images.

What impresses me most about the pictures is how personal they are. The *Magnolia's* focus is on the fragility of the blossoms; the heron is framed to be the largest item in the photo; and the lens in the pine tree looks up from near the bottom. Each tells a story. Ever since Dorothea Lange and others set out to chronicle the effects of the Depression and Dustbowl, photojournalism has been subjective and evocative. These lovely pictures follow in that tradition.

An added plus is that *The Focus* encourages those of us who are better at stories than visual acuity. It also gives tips to novices and explains manipulated photography. This should be an incentive for many of us to enter The Seattle Garden Club's up and coming photography show, *Seattle in Focus*, which is explained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Carey Davis



Jane Harder's image of
"Autumnal Glory" on Icicle Creek

Gardener's Corner



Reminders for March

- Plants need nutrients now during their growth spurt. Rhododendrons, azaleas and conifers benefit from acid-based fertilizers while other landscape plants can generally use standard 5-10-10 formulations.
- Look for new growth on houseplants. Increase watering and apply half strength fertilizer only after they begin to grow.
- Cut back old fern fronds, cut epimedium back to a few inches, cut lavenders back to within 2 inches from the barren-looking stems to encourage new growth.
- BAIT FOR SLUGS AND SNAILS
- Prune clematis (summer and fall flowering types) to the strongest stems now, then fertilize.
- If your soil is dry enough, prepare your vegetable garden by digging deeply, adding compost and organic fertilizer. Sow beets, chard, chives, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes, broccoli and spinach. Plant hardy annuals at the end of the month: sweet peas, bachelor buttons, larkspur, coreopsis, sweet alyssum, lupine.
- Sow summer vegetables inside: start cucumbers, tomatoes, squash indoors in flats. When they develop two sets of true leaves, transplant to larger pots. To speed up germination, set flats on grandma's heating pad about 8 inches beneath fluorescent lights. Harden off before planting outside after average date of last frost.
- Lawn care: Ed Hume suggests digging a four or five inch square plug from the lawn to examine and decide if the lawn needs additional help; then take it to a certified nursery person or Master gardener for diagnosis if you are unfamiliar with lawn problems. When finished reset the plug back in the lawn.
- More lawn care: renovate if needed. Mow, thatch, aerate and apply fertilizer. Rake and overseed bare spots with seed mix such as perennial ryegrass and turf-type fescues. Grasses need at least 6 inches of well-drained soil with 2 inches of compost tilled in. Avoid fertilizers containing weed killers. Or.....is this the year to replace your lawn with better adapted landscaping?

Janet Footh

Looking Ahead

4/3/14 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am

4/7/14 **Horticulture Meeting**, Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum
Please note location for April

9:30 am - 9:55 am, Hort Show Preparation. Mini workshop on how to prepare a Baird Board

9:30 am Social, 10:00 am Program. Barbara Tuffli from Woodside-Atherton Garden Club speaks on Camellias. Followed by a walk through the Arboretum Camellia collection

4/16/14 **Joint Meeting and Luncheon with Tacoma Garden Club**
Please note this date is a Wednesday to accommodate TGC's General Meeting date

Tacoma Golf and Country Club, 13204 Country Club Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA

11:00 am Social, 12 - 2:00 pm Lunch and Program. Pat Wall from Portland Garden

Club will speak about preserving the Columbia Gorge. RSVP to Carol Eland,

caroleland@msn.com, 206-324-5414. Carol will be organizing carpools



GCA Encourages Use of Email

If you 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

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



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Seattle Garden Club

University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Box 354115

Seattle, WA 98195-4115