

April 2014



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

Seattle/Tacoma Garden Club Joint General Meeting, Wednesday April 16

Please join many of your fellow SGC Members for a delicious lunch and fascinating program with Tacoma Garden Club!

Tacoma Golf and Country Club, 1324 Country Club Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA

10 am Social, 10:30 am Program followed by Luncheon of Tuscan Salmon Salad. **Please note corrected start time and disregard schedule posted in the Yearbook and last month's newsletter.**

Program: *The Gorge, Then and Now: How GCA and Zone XII Served as a Catalyst to Make the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area a Reality*

A dynamic trio of Portland Garden Club members will share the compelling story of the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, including the catalytic role played by GCA and Zone XII Clubs. Pat Wall, Angie Moore and Georgia Schell will inform and inspire us with stories about the plants and geology of this special place, and the people who were key to addressing challenges along the way.



We hope many of you will join us for this fascinating and powerful program!

PLEASE RESPOND YES OR NO: Carol Eland, 206-324-5414 or caroleland@msn.com

Carol has offered to help organize carpools. Plan to leave Seattle by 9 am to arrive for the Social time and no later than 9:30 am for the Program

Luncheon is \$28 for non-subscribers to the Hostess Fund. To confirm your reservations, please send checks payable to SGC to Carol Eland, 1225 Shenandoah Dr. E, Seattle, WA 98112.

Events at a Glance

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

4/7/14 **Horticulture Meeting**, Graham Visitors Center, WPA. **Please note location**
9:30 am - 10 am Hort Show Preparation, Baird Boards, and Pre-meeting Social
10 am Program, as noted in "The Hort Report"

4/14/14 **Wetherill Preserve Work Party and Potluck Lunch**, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
As noted in this newsletter

4/16/13 **General Meeting**, Tacoma Golf and Country Club, 10 am Social, 10:30 Program and Lunch
As noted above. Please remember this is a Wednesday

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



From the President

Just as spring blossoms are peaking up their heads, so are the efforts of the Seattle Garden Club Committees coming into flower. Membership and Nominations will soon present the membership with their slates of new members and new officers, respectively. Community Projects presented their project proposals for this year at the March General meeting on which we all voted. I am honored to inform you that SGC was generously given \$5000 from the estate of Susan Torrance, which provided us with extra funds to put to good use

in the Community Project packages.

The Program and Floral Design Committees put on a workshop to create an arrangement, which was an extension of Deborah Prinzing's wonderful talk in January. Each participant was instructed to bring a container with which to be creative with flowers, utilizing tips taught to us by Deborah – so much fun! Everyone was a winner and ended up with a lovely design to take and use at home.

This month, we will have our Hort Meeting at Graham Visitors Center with Barbara Tuffli, Zone XII Horticulture Chair from the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club speaking on Camellias, which will be followed by a lovely walk through the Arboretum Camellia Collection. Be sure to wear the correct shoes/boots for this outing! The General Meeting will be in Tacoma with the Tacoma Garden Club. Please note that it will be on WEDNESDAY, April 16. Three warm and engaging members of the Portland Garden Club, Pat Wall, Angie Moore and Georgia Schell, will speak on "Preserving the Columbia Gorge," their shared passion. The social part of the meeting will begin at 10 am; the program will start at 10:30 am and lunch will be included. These times are different from what was published in the Green Book, so please mark your calendars accordingly. I encourage you all to make the effort to go down and enjoy the presentation so that SGC will be well-represented.

Catherine Parker, Club President

SGC February Annual Business Meeting



Members participated in lively discussions on how to celebrate SGC's 2017 Centennial. Planning will begin soon. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, contact Marilee Ahalt, 206-790-2921, marilee.ahalt@gmail.com

Marilee presides over the discussions



Debby Smith, Charlee Reed and Sheila Noonan set up for the meeting



Eleanor Nolan with her splendid table arrangement

Who knocks? That April!
Lock the door!
I will not be pursued!
He stayed away a year, to call
When I am occupied.
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come,
That blame is just as dear as praise
And praise as mere as blame.

Emily Dickinson

Who Knocks?
That SGC Membership Survey and
Committee Sign up!
(apologies to Emily Dickinson)

- Please fill out SGC's yearly survey included in this newsletter. This is your opportunity to provide input and determine how to be involved.
- Return the survey to Marilee Ahalt.
- Questions: contact Marilee, phone: 206-790-2921 or email: marilee.ahalt@gmail.com. Thank you

The Hort Report

Twenty intrepid Seattle Garden Club members joined me "off campus" at South Seattle Community College's Arboretum for a new horticulture experience on March 3. Mother Nature had spent her wrath 48 hours previously and miraculously allowed us the luxury of touring both the Coenosium and Seattle Chinese Gardens under dry and SUNNY skies!

Bob Fincham presented his talk on dwarf conifers, highlighting specimens in his book, *Small Conifers for Small Gardens*. He also spoke to us about the building phases of the Coenosium Garden, highlighting the steps that were critical to establish the dwarf conifer garden, complete with stream bed, berms, boulders and irrigation systems. It was particularly interesting to see the growth in the garden since its conception and the layering of taller trees to screen the garden from the street. The successful combinations of texture and color jump-started our dormant garden juices in early March. It was truly a feast for the eyes everywhere we turned.

We were greeted by docents and board members from the Seattle Chinese Garden Society after lunch. They carefully explained the property with an overview and plan maps of the extensive garden, stressing the point that the entry courtyard area is only one small corner of the entire property. Future plans include a lake, view points and more gardens...once funding becomes available. Currently, they hope to complete the area surrounding the courtyard structure before expanding further. We were impressed by the peony plantings surrounding the courtyard area and agreed a return trip in May would be enticing.

There's never enough time to enjoy everything, but field trips to Bob Fincham's dwarf conifer nursery in Eatonville and returning to the Seattle Chinese Garden in May would be something to consider after today's stimulating horticulture outing.

Our next Horticulture meeting is Monday April 7 at **Graham Visitors Center**. Barbara Tuffli from Woodside-Atherton Garden Club will share her extensive knowledge of Camellias with us. Her talk is certain to be a real treat and will provide you with deeper appreciation of this plant. Please plan to stay after her talk to enjoy a stroll through the Camellia Collection in the Arboretum.



Catherine Allan, Hort Chair

April Hort Share a celebration of Camellias. From the bounty of our gardens we are going to fill Diana Neely's beautiful Camellia tree as our food table center piece! There will also be special "show" dishes for camellia blooms. Also bring whatever else in your garden that makes you smile. Come one come all....Spring is coming!

Vicki Reed, Hort Share Coordinator

Hort Field Trip to South Seattle Community



Conifer Connoisseur Bob Fincham describes plant specimens in the Coenosium Garden



SGC Members enjoy the presentation on conifers



The sun appears during the tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden

Gardener's Corner



Reminders for April

- Beware! A new crop of slugs and snails are growing, are on the march, and they have only YOUR greenery targeted for a smorgasbord! Look on the internet under <http://lostintheflowers.com>. Filed under Gardening Tips & Info there is a blog article entitled *Plants Slugs Don't Like to Eat* and *Secrets of a Slug-Free Garden*.
- Time to pot up your containers with perennials and annuals. Make one to give for Mother's Day.
- Check your irrigation system and soaker hoses.
- Mow the lawn, leaving the clippings to break down and add nitrogen to the soil. Fertilize late in the month using a 3-1-2 ratio slow-release or a natural organic formulation.
- Check for tent caterpillars, aphids, spider mites and scale.
- Direct seed cool season vegetables and flowers: cosmos, asters, snapdragons, carrots, beets, lettuce, beans, and onions. Fertilize these along with roses and blueberries with 5-10-10.
- There is still time to plant small trees and shrubs, perennials and other plants.
- Hope for intermittent sun in between the rain drops....

Janet Footh

The Blueberry Connection

These days blueberries or *Vaccinium* are said to cure just about anything from sore toes to mental confusion. So it is with a bit of smugness that Pacific Northwesterners look out at their blueberry bushes that have survived the March winds and will be ready for picking come July. The botanist Frederick Vernon Colville is responsible for bringing value to this fruit after detecting the berry's preference for acidic soils and lack of self pollination. Indeed, one blueberry, the Colville is named for him.

Colville also spearheaded the creation of the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) in D.C. Even in 1927, he recognized the need to set aside as a living museum, grounds and buildings whose purpose is "to research trees, shrubs, turf and floral plants," which is still the mission of USNA today. Back then Coolidge was President, floods on the Mississippi and Vermont blizzards had impacted over 800,000 citizens, the National Park Service was little over a decade old and not entirely popular, and Garden Club of America barely a teenager. Still, Colville prevailed and with the support of GCA, the Arboretum was established under the auspices of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture where it remains.

Today it consists of over 400 acres with 10 winding road miles. The herbarium holds 650,000 dried specimens; there are at least 10 single genus groupings, a National Grove of State Trees, sculptures gifted to our government and a Native American garden complete with blueberries! Lectures and demonstrations occur weekly, and there are affiliations with 75 plus universities including WSU. All this would not have been possible without the constant support of GCA. So important is the Arboretum to GCA that the last Shirley Meneice Conference, occurring during our Centennial Celebration, was held there with workshops given by USNA's staff.

Carey Abbott



Bonsai persimmon in the U.S. Arboretum, presented to President Reagan by HM Hassan II, King of Morocco, 1983



Kurume Azalea Bonsai in Bloom in training since 1982, U.S. Arboretum

Conservation Corner

The GCA's National Affairs and Legislation Meeting in Washington, DC on February 24-27 inspired Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey, Hotie Hard and me with two days of information-packed lectures focused on the environment. On day three, we presented eight GCA talking points to members of Congress. We joined forces with two Tacoma Garden Club members, Ross Hoyle and Laure Nichols, and spoke with Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray, Representative Derek Kilmer and select staff for Representatives Doc Hastings, Dave Reichert and Suzan Delbene.

Our topics and positions included: Climate Change (support the EPA's efforts to limit greenhouse gases from existing coal plants and improve gas mileage for trucks and cars); 2014 Federal Budget (discretionary spending should maintain conservation programs); Land and Water Conservation Fund (fully fund); Coastal Areas (support making coasts more resilient to extreme weather events; support the President's National Ocean Policy and US ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty); Farm Bill (glad it passed; support legislation to protect pollinators from pesticides); National Parks (support increased funding for infrastructure and staff); Clean Energy (support energy efficiency legislation for homes and businesses as cost effective and 'clean'); and Tax Incentives for Conservation (support incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements, as this has been a very effective conservation measure. It expired January 1, 2014.)

Senator Maria Cantwell asked us to support Washington state fishermen by asking the President and the EPA to slow down and hopefully stop the 'Pebble' Mine for Gold, Copper and Molybdenum above Booth Bay in Alaska. This mountaintop clearing mine is very likely to detrimentally affect salmon spawning. The mine is opposed by commercial fishermen, Indian tribes and conservation groups.

In April, the Conservation Committee will begin planning its exhibit for the May 2015 Flower Show at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Carolyn Kitchell, Conservation Chair



A hallway "photo op" with Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey, Ross Hoyle, Laure Nichols (both from Tacoma), District 6 Congressman Derek Kilmer, Carolyn Kitchell and Hotie Hard

Wetherill Nature Preserve Annual Work Party and Fabulous Potluck Lunch



Last year's happy band of Wetherill workers

Date: Monday, April 14

Time: 9:30 – 12:30 pm. Bring something to share for lunch

Place: Bellevue, just across 520. Hunts Point Town Hall Parking Lot

Sign up at March 20 General Meeting and Hort Meeting on April 7

Call Sis Woodside at 324-1928 for details

There will be a drawing for a prize

All my hurts my garden spade can heal. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Photography Committee

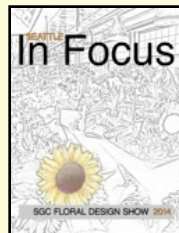
A **spring field trip** to the Pike Place Market is planned for Thursday, May 8, 2014. We will meet at the PIG at 1 pm. However, everyone is encouraged to join us for lunch beforehand in the market. We will offer direction on some different "fun" ways to photograph this extraordinary facility and the people who work and shop there. Any questions can be directed to Mary Turner, mturner915@aol.com or 206-325-0270. Carpooling and lunch arrangements will be firmed up later in April.

Photography Show *Seattle In Focus*



- Are you registered for our photography show? Your exhibit needs to be sent or delivered to Mary Turner to arrive between April 18th and 30th.
- Remember to read Guidelines carefully! The complete schedule is on the member page of our web site: www.seattlegardenclub.org
- It may not be too late! Registration closes on May 1st. There may still be openings. Please check with Juliet Romano for updated availability julietromano@comcast.net.

Horticulture Show Flower Show



Don't forget to register for our Club Shows! Complete information is on SGC's Web site: www.seattlegardenclub.org.

Floral Design Workshop with Debra Prinzing



Exercising their floral design talents with Debra Prinzing are Carol Henderson and Candace Lancaster

Recycle those Award Ribbons!

Do you have any SGC basic award ribbons sitting in drawers or boxes in your home? Have you gazed lovingly at them long enough? In keeping with GCA recycling efforts, we are initiating the idea of collecting and reusing ribbons. There will be a plea and a collection box at the Hort meeting on April 7 for this purpose, and we will also encourage recycling of ribbons at our show in June.

Many thanks!

Suzette de Turenne



Ways & Means Featured Outings!

Coming Right up this Month!

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

Don't Miss Out on the Fun! Photos from Recent Ways & Means Outings



Roxanne Wiley prepares her pizza at the "Via Tribunali Extravaganza" with pizza making and gourmet dinner



Marilee Ahalt, Eleanor Nolan, Debby Smith, Jo Anne Rosen, Barbie Snapp, Peggy-Paige Most and Jolie Roze gather for a Mexican Fiesta and games



Salud! Dabney Rorhrbach, Christine Davis, Laurie Riley, Noreen Frink, Barbara Peterson and Jeannie Gravenkemper



Let the games begin! Barbie Snapp, Jenny Wyatt, Noreen Frink and Marilee Ahalt strategize their hands for Mexican Train



Looking Ahead

5/1/14 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am

5/5/14 **Hort Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, followed by a tour in the Arboretum
9:30 am - 9:55 am, Hort Show Preparation. Mini workshop on botanical nomenclature
9:30 am Social, 10 am Program. Provisional Candace Lancaster on the history of Azalea Way and the special Rhododendron Collection
After the Program: A walk through Azalea Way in the Arboretum

5/8/14 **Hort Committee Meeting**, Issacson Classroom, UWBG/CUH, 10 am - Noon
Planning session for 2014-15 and decisions for distribution of charitable funds

Photography Field Trip, Pike Street Market, meet at the Pig, 1 pm
Or join the group before hand for lunch

5/15/14 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program
Sue Millikin and Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Nursery in Port Townsend



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

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