

February 2015



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America



## February General Meeting

February 19, 2015

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

### Annual Business Meeting

**“MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!”**

**Members Only**

What's going on in your Garden Club? From Finances to Fragrance Garden...  
we will help keep you informed and gather your input!



## New RSVP Policy for General Meetings

We will continue to take attendance at our meetings, but RSVP's will be required only for specified General Meetings. Please plan to send in an RSVP—yes or no — for the following events this year:

April 16, Joint Meeting with Tacoma Garden Club, Seattle Tennis Club

June 4, Annual Meeting Luncheon & Awards, Seattle Tennis Club

Our monthly newsletter will remind you of these important dates.

Jenny Wyatt, Meeting Arrangements Chair    [wjjen@comcast.net](mailto:wjjen@comcast.net)    206-322-2922

## Events at a Glance

2/2/15 **Horticulture Meeting**, CUH, 9:15 am Social, 10 am Program, **Bring your Hort Share in bottles!**  
Provisional Talk: Karen Simmonds *“The Lure of Flowers: Japan's Courtship of the Pacific Northwest”*

**Community Projects Committee Meeting**, CUH, immediately following the Hort Meeting

**Policy & Planning**, CUH, Isaacson, 1:00 pm

2/5/15 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am

2/11/15 **Auction Event, Fun & Games Night**, at Christine Davis' home

2/19/15 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program. As noted above

Consult the calendar at the SGC website: [seattlegardenclub.org](http://seattlegardenclub.org)



## From the President

At our January Board Meeting, I asked Pam Green to share with us about her current GCA position, Nominating Committee Representative for Zone XII. We were enlightened on the thorough process this committee is committed to in order to find and promote candidates from the 200 GCA clubs across the country! Thank you, Pam!

Another member I would like to thank for her years of making us smile - whether it is while she is taking the photo or when we see her at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon in June ~ is Jane Harder! She has spent countless hours taking, organizing, creating and presenting photos of our club members and our activities over the years! Thank you, Jane! She is handing this fun but full-time project over to Kim Bishop. So, please keep smiling for the camera (now with Kim behind the lens) as she is collecting them not only for our enjoyment at the June meeting but also for our website! Thank you, Kim!

The last week in January Suzette de Turenne and I will be going to the Zone XII President's meeting in Pasadena. We will connect with presidents from other clubs and bring back ideas for our club. We were so proud to represent YOU, SGC!

*Marilee Ahalt, Club President*

## Shirley Meneice Conference

Here it is, 2015, and there's no turning back! Our Committee is in full swing making preparations for the GCA Horticulture Conference coming to Seattle Sept. 21-23, 2015!

The GCA Horticulture Committee met in N.Y.C. in early Dec. to discuss details surrounding this conference. Future recommendations were made for 2016 and beyond. The support is truly genuine from this group of twenty-five.

I'm crossing my fingers that by the time this newsletter is sent that our last contract is finalized and we can feel secure in our transportation plans. Laurie Riley is confirming details as I write. Registration begins in early May. No date has been reserved yet. Once that process begins, we'll feel the clock ticking more rapidly than we do now!! Hold onto your hats!

We'll be meeting in the summer. As Jenny Wyatt said recently, "There's no recess this summer"! I'm truly grateful for everyone who is part of the SMC team and am hoping that anyone else who'd like to volunteer saves these dates in Sept. and can help us make this a most memorable conference.

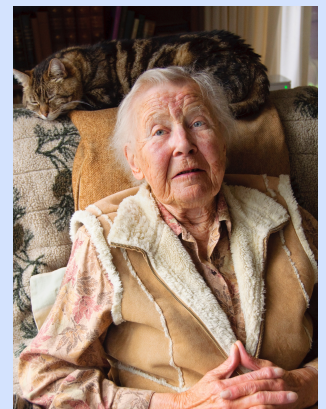
*Catherine Allan, Chair*

## In Memoriam:

We regret the  
passing of

Mrs. Phil Duryee  
'Sylvia'  
on  
December 20, 2014

Joined SGC 1980



## GCA Visiting Gardens Presents THE SPLENDOR OF CUBA

November 6 - 13, 2015

The interest list is out for this  
exciting trip next fall.

Please visit the GCA Visiting Gardens website  
for details and to add yourself to the list to receive  
more information.

*Laurie Riley and Burnley Snyder  
Visiting Gardens Co-Chairs*

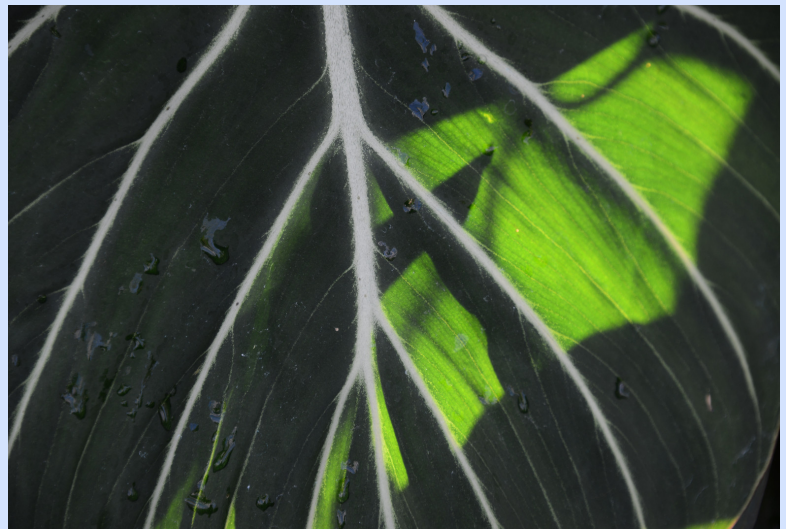
# Photography Committee

The Photography Committee has been busy snapping photos!

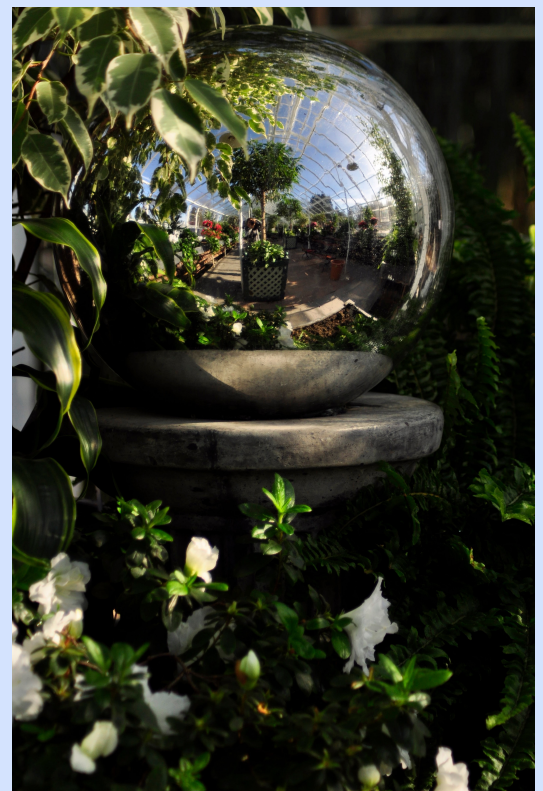
Outings: Each season we hope to post a few photographs from our outings onto the SGC website. Currently there are photos from a shoot in January at the newly remodeled Volunteer Park Conservatory. Check it out! [seattlegardenclub.org](http://seattlegardenclub.org) These outings are casual events set up to provide a time for members to dust off their cameras and practice their photography with other SGC photographers. Join us!

Happenings: Rather than a photo outing in February, planning is underway for an hour-long guest lecture on *How to Print Better Photos At Home!* This will include tips on everything from calibrating your computer screen to suggestions for which printer and photo paper to choose. There will be a small fee per person. Date and Time will be forthcoming via email to Photography Committee members! (Contact me ([julietromano@comcast.net](mailto:julietromano@comcast.net)) if you are not on the Photography Committee but are interested in attending.)

*Juliet Romano, Photography Chair*



*Volunteer Park Conservatory Field Trip (top left clockwise)  
photo credits: Jane Harder, Sis Woodside, Juliet Romano  
and Sis Woodside*





## Community Projects

The CP committee is reviewing grants from five different organizations:

1. Burke Museum, UW: request to fund hand-drawn botanicals that will illustrate a revised edition of *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. [This book, initially published in 1971, is the bible for NW native plants.]
2. Volunteer Park Trust: request to fund plantings and irrigation for a prominent garden bed, located on the perimeter of the Park immediately to the west of the Asian Art Museum.
3. UWBC: request to renovate the Washington Park Arboretum's Camellia garden. Currently, the camellias are quite shaded, resulting in poor plant form. The grant calls for adding new plants and both removing or "limbing" up large native trees that are shading the collection.
4. Green Plate: request is for operating funds to expand the cooking/planting teaching program that benefits underprivileged children.
5. Seattle Children's Hospital: request for operating funds to allow an increased number of children who may participate in planting, and harvesting vegetables grown in the Hospital's organic gardens.

In addition, the members of the committee are visiting some recently- approved projects to assess the quality of the maintenance program, and to confirm that SGC received recognition, as planned.

*Carlyn Steiner, Chair*



We are delighted to unveil the logo for our May Flower Show! Many thanks to Sue Ashmun for designing this beautiful artwork to identify our Show.

The Flower Show Schedule was distributed at the January Hort Meeting. If you didn't receive one, please contact Jenny or Diana, and we'll figure out how to get one to you. We are most appreciative of the Graphics team: Sue, Jolie Roze and Kim Bishop who performed miracles to have this Schedule printed on time! The Schedule is also online on our club website: [www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)

Registration is open for all classes in all divisions. Check the Schedule and contact our division registrars:

Photography — Suzy Titcomb, [stitcomb2@comcast.net](mailto:stitcomb2@comcast.net)  
Floral Design — Sue Ashmun, [susan@ashmun.com](mailto:susan@ashmun.com)  
Horticulture — Catherine Allan, [jardinsroyaux@gmail.com](mailto:jardinsroyaux@gmail.com)

Please enter!

*Jenny Wyatt and Diana Neely, Co-Chairs*



## Ways & Means

### Great Opportunities - Don't Miss Out!

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

Feb 11 FUN AND GAMES NIGHT; held at the home of Christine Davis: 7 spaces available, \$85/person

Mar 5 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE EVENT: "A Symphony of Soil" held at Cathy Parker's: Watch this film which draws "from ancient knowledge and cutting edge science...an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil" accompanied by wine/hors d'oeuvres. The director will join us afterwards for Q & A; 10 spaces available, \$75/person

April 20 TOUR OF SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL GARDENS WITH CISCOE MORRIS: followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres, 8 spaces available, \$75/person

May 19 BLOEDEL RESERVE JAPANESE GARDEN TOUR AND LUNCH: 4 spaces available, \$75/person.

May 27 RHODODENDRON & BONSAI GARDEN & LUNCH: 9 spaces available, \$60/person

May 28 BOARD SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY; held at Vicki Reed's for 40 people; 2 spaces available, \$75/person

June 11 ART CLASS & REFRESHMENTS: visit the art-filled gardens of Gayle Harris; create your own garden art sculpted leaf under tutelage of artist Gayle Harris (normally a \$75 class); 4 spaces available, \$110/person

July 14 BASTILLE DAY AT HANSVILLE BEACH: home of Barbie Snapp; 5 spaces available \$80/person

July 16 CLAMDIGGING AND LUNCH AT MARY JANE ANDERSON'S: 3 spaces available, \$85/person

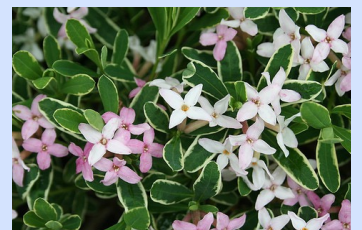
Sept 11-13 (Two Nights) METHOW VALLEY WEEKEND: 4 spaces, \$300/person

Contact Roxanne Wiley if you are interested: [roxwiley@comcast.net](mailto:roxwiley@comcast.net) 425-442-5154

## Hort Report

Our February 2 Hort Meeting will be Karen Simmonds' provisional talk, *The Lure of Flowers: Japan's Courtship of the Pacific Northwest*. Karen lived for many years in Japan and has a deep appreciation of its culture. It will be interesting to hear her talk on the powerful influence Japanese gardening has had on our NW landscapes.

Please bring Hort Share specimens in your own bottles. Bundle up before you go out on that frosty February morning and see what strikes your fancy to share. There should be early bulbs, perhaps a few camellias or early rhodies, *Cornus mas*, maybe some daphne? Let's fill our meeting hall with color and fragrance in the middle of winter!



Deborah Cheadle, Hort Chair

## GCA's Involvement with Student Conservation Association



February means crocuses, snowdrops and the first few lowland hikes of the year in the Northwest. One of my favorite hiking buddies is a former Student Conservation Assoc. volunteer. She never fails to point out something she learned so many summers ago. And once again this February, applications will be coming in from college students wanting to be part of this inspiring program.

SCA's mission is built around engaging young people in hands-on projects in the environment to inspire lifelong stewardship of the land. The idea was conceived by a GCA member! In 1955, Elizabeth Titus of Bennington (Vermont) Garden Club proposed the idea, based on the Civilian Conservation Corps while still a Vassar student. It was established in 1957 and the first young people worked in the Olympic National Park as well as the Grand Tetons. Edna Clark of GCA's Conservation Committee visited nearly all 160 clubs to raise substantial funds for the program. The idea grew out of the success of Edna Fisher Edgerton's and Anna Rockefeller's pamphlet "The World Around Us" which was so popular among college students that the two GCA members printed over 10,000 copies in the 1950's. They did so as the Conservation Committee attempted to adhere to Garden Club of America's main focus: education within its membership and to the public. Eventually SCA became part of the National Park Service and then its own entity as it is today.

But... GCA hasn't forgotten about SCA. In 2010 the Sally Shellberger Brown Scholarship was created in honor of Mrs. Brown on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a Louisville (Kentucky) member with a lifelong commitment to the environment. Each recipient of the award receives a \$750 stipend while participating in an SCA project.

Carey Davis



*Floral Arrangement by Charles Coghlan  
Photo credit: Kim Bishop*

## East Montlake Park

East Montlake Park News Flash:

- Last week a Montlake neighbor of our park stopped by to offer to volunteer with a little weeding when he has time! He has already helped clear the weed pile we created. What a boost to have a neighbor pitching in!
- Work parties will be starting up again as there are small projects to be accomplished: removing constricting bright tape which identified our plants but are beginning to choke the plants, removing small weeds that are appearing, pruning back leggy red-osier dogwood. Additional Mahonia nervosa, 3 varieties of native huckleberry and Garrya elliptica 'James Roof' were planted last week to help fill in amongst the ferns.
- Please keep an eye open for email blasts when our weather co-operates and your schedule allows!
- Many thanks for your continuing support at the park!
- Sue Blethen

## Fragrance Garden

The striped bark maple tree, a remnant from the previous SGC entry/shade garden (1985), was diseased and had to be taken down (see left photo). The *Viburnum bodnatense* is blooming now from the 2007 - 2008 renovation (see right photo). We are now embarking on our third renovation of the garden in 2015! It was 22 years from 1985-2007/8 and now it is 8 years to 2015 for the beautification our garden deserves!

*Diana Neely, Chair*



## Succession

Still cold smell of morning  
hangs heavy on the mountain.  
Trembling leaves open  
their hands to the light,  
invite the day's coming,  
shake off the color of night  
fading into the earth. Somewhere  
a woodthrush, hidden  
among blossoming dogwoods,  
sends up his song, resounding  
through field and village  
and a million years of mountain.

Scott Owens

"Succession" is a section of a longer poem,  
the vigorous poet Owens recently wrote.

## Gardener's Corner

## Whilst the Garden Sleeps...

Having hunkered down for the winter, it's easy to assume that our garden is doing likewise. We're happy to sit back and enjoy the subtle winter garden with its flowering perennials, cheery conifers, colorful twigs and bark. We give little thought to what's happening in the ground below, but I can assure you...while the garden sleeps, the soil never does.

Your garden soil is teeming with life and it is preparing for spring. Some microbes settle into a quiescent state. However, there are hardier microbes, such as Archaea, that remain active and grow all winter long. These microbes, as well as the sleepers, are essential for generating organic nutrients for the garden.

Able to withstand winter temperatures, the beneficial fungi mycorrhizae strengthen plant development and help prevent nasty infestations by noxious fungi. Other beneficial fungi die with the onslaught of winter, but not before casting spores which sprout up in the spring. All of these beneficial fungi are essential in the soil food web, breaking down cellulose to produce hummus.

Lastly we have our beloved worms. Some worms burrow down as far as six feet to escape freezing temperatures. However, since we live in a relatively temperate climate, our worms can stay closer to the surface able to still escape when colder temperatures strike. These garden friends increase nutrient availability, create a more stable soil structure and provide better drainage to the garden.

While we keep warm and cozy inside with our blankets and sweaters, why not keep your garden warm and cozy too by providing it with a blanket "of love." A covering of mulch or compost will keep your soil snug and healthy all winter long and all your little underground pals happy. And your garden will thank you in the spring, I promise!

*Megan Smith*



## Looking Ahead

- 3/2/15 **Horticulture Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:15 am Social, 10 am Program  
Provisional Jolie Roze's presentation "*Perspectives on the Bellevue Botanical Garden*"  
Please bring your plants for 'Hort Share'.  
Community Projects will meet immediately following  
Auction Event, Floral Demo at Martha Harris, 5 - 7 pm
- 3/5/15 **Board Meeting**, Sunset Club, 10 am  
Auction Event, 'A Symphony of Soil', 6:30 pm, Catherine Parker's home
- 3/19/15 **General Meeting**, UWBG/CUH, 9:30 am Social, 10 am Program  
Floral Design speaker and demonstration
- 3/23/15 **Photography Committee**, 10 am, Teri Dantzler workshop on iPhonography, location TBA



### 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!

Dabney Rohrbach, Communications Chair  
[dmrohrbach@gmail.com](mailto:dmrohrbach@gmail.com)

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



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



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