

The Seattle Garden Club

November 2008

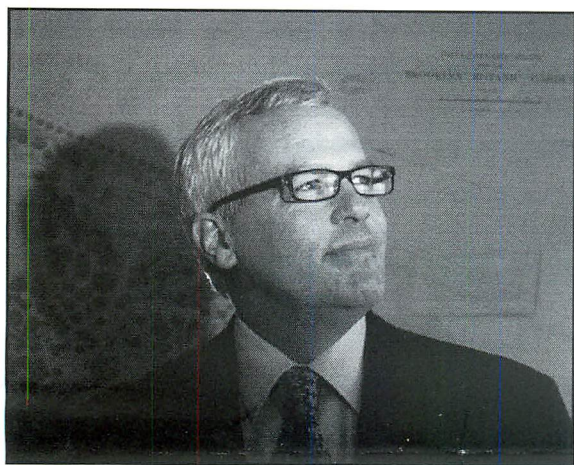
November General Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2008

Joint Meeting and Luncheon with Tacoma Garden Club

Seattle Golf Club

210 NW 145th (adjacent to The Highlands)



Scot Medbury,
Director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Top 100 Museum Professionals of 20th Century

10:00 Photography Show and Coffee

11:00 Program

Noon Luncheon

Members Only

Please respond by Friday, November 14
to Jeannie Gravenkemper at
jgraccoon@comcast.net or 206-322-6639

Non-subscribers to Hostess Fund:

Confirm your reservation by sending a check for \$25
payable to SGC to Jeannie at 2238 Waverly Way East, Seattle, WA 98112



Sitting in Quietude

Winter has a message of its own

When the cold is like a flower—

Flowers have their fragrance, winter has its handful of
memories.

The shadow of a withered branch, like lean blue smoke,
Paints a stroke across the afternoon window.

In the cold the sunlight grows pale and slanted.

It is just like this.

I sip the tea quietly

As if waiting for a guest to speak.

By Lin Huiyin

Christmas Luncheon & Auction

Thursday, December 4
Sunset Club beginning at
10:30

Mark your calendars and make your
plans now. Guests are welcome
(\$40) and you may arrange your
own tables. See the December
newsletter for full details.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pumpkins large and small of many colors remind us of the end of the vegetable gardening season. All the witches and goblins foretell the coming darkness of wintertime. Now that the evening temperatures have dropped, my succulents have been moved indoors near a sunny window to enjoy warm nights and remind me of summertime.

Thank you to Angel Clark and Catherine Allan for an informative presentation on propagation. As Angel explained the science of the stems, we could understand the process of many types of cuttings. Looking ahead to the next First Monday Meeting, the Flower Arrangers will present holiday decorating ideas using travel collections. If you are planning to design an arrangement for our Holiday Luncheon, come to be inspired by Prudence Hammett and her team.

As hostesses for our annual joint meeting with Tacoma Garden Club, we have invited Scot Medbury from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to be our speaker. Scot has roots in the Northwest at CUH and with family in Tacoma. Photography of the Wonders of Autumn will be a show with entries from both SGC and TGC, which you will see mounted at Seattle Golf Club when you arrive for the meeting.

Congratulations to Laurie Riley who has officially become a Prospective Judge for Horticulture. Thanks, Laurie, for traveling to various clubs to participate in their Flower Shows.

Invitations are ready for the Holiday Luncheon. Please use them to invite your friends as guests. Carlyn and her committee are planning an auction with lots of gift and travel items you won't want to miss.

Trudy Baldwin

Barbara Hamachek Lecture

This past summer, our new member Barbara Hamachek gave a brief history and demonstration of Ikebana to the Sun Valley Garden Club. She created five arrangements, explaining the principles of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. Each participant was then given three blue iris and some greens and asked to design an arrangement in our own container.

It was a very popular demonstration; several members said it was the best program ever presented by the Sun Valley Garden Club. Sun Valley Garden Club has many SGC members as well as members from other GCA clubs around the country.

Barbara returned to the Northwest after living for a number of years in Connecticut, where she was president of the Ridgefield Garden Club. She has studied and exhibited in Connecticut, New York, Portland and Seattle. She is about 20 course hours away from earning her teaching certificate.



Conservation Report

Keep an eye on our web site Calendar as the Conservation Committee will be organizing a **Partners for Plants** two day work party at the **Montlake Cut** to restore the formerly beautiful waterside path that bears the name of the Seattle Garden Club. We are told that Betty Miller was instrumental in this project for the SGC. We are researching the history.



WATER CONSERVATION IS VITAL to the water all around us!

"There's a river somewhere that flows through the lives of everyone." Roberta Flack

Saving water keeps our rivers flowing! Practicing water conservation is healthy for the environment. With water running while washing the dishes, you are wasting water that could have served a better purpose rushing down our rivers instead of your drain. Left in the ground, lake levels could be high which means higher streams, happier fish, and a happier Puget Sound.

Conserving water also saves energy and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere. Remember, the water in your faucet needed energy to get there! Delivery systems, filtration systems, even the pump in your well need electricity. We use energy to pump, heat, and treat our water. When we are done with it, the treatment plant uses energy to make the water suitable to return to the environment. The US EPA states, **"In five minutes, a hot water faucet uses as much energy as a 60-watt bulb uses in 14 hours."** It takes a lot of energy to heat water!

Common home appliances use a lot of energy. According to the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department of the US Department of Energy <http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>), a clothes washer uses approximately 350-500 watts per hour; a 40 gallon water heater uses 4,500-5,500 watts per hour. You can even calculate the amount of money each appliance uses: multiply the watts by the number of hours you use the appliance and divide by 1,000 to get your kilowatt hours (kWh). Then, take that number and multiply it by your kWh rate.

The next time you leave the faucet running while doing dishes, shaving or brushing your teeth, think about the macroinvertebrates, the fish, birds and mammals in our streams and in Puget Sound who all live on the water we don't use. When we stop using water wastefully, we are saving money and keeping the air clean too!

One more reminder! Recycle your food scraps in yard waste rather than using the garbage disposal. Remember, the food and water down your garbage disposal requires energy to clean it back out before the water can be returned to the environment.

Source: the Farmington River Watershed Association, Summer 2008 issue of the Farmington River News.

Sue Blethen, Conservation Chair



Gardening Corner

November Chores

- Finish planting bulbs.
- Fertilize lawns with a good fall fertilizer.
- Clean up and cut back perennial beds.
- Cut back mums to 6" when they stop blooming.
- Plant budded camellias now.

Should you use coffee grounds in your garden?

The Associate Professor of Horticulture Science at the U. of Minnesota suggests while coffee grounds are acidic, spreading them as mulch won't really affect the pH of the soil. "They need to be incorporated into the soil to do that and, in so doing, may have adverse effects on some plants, because coffee has allelopathic chemicals that can inhibit growth. Lettuce seems to benefit from coffee-ground-amended soil, but others, such as tomatoes, seem to be negatively affected. Also, incorporating fresh coffee grounds into the soil can tie up nitrogen. Only after the coffee decomposes for a period of time will it release nutrients instead of absorbing them." (For the same reason, pouring old coffee onto your plants isn't recommended.)

EcoTips

Five ways you can promote conservation in your house:

- Only buy seafood products that have the Marine Stewardship Council label. This label guarantees that the manufacturer abides by established environmental standards for sustainable and well managed fisheries.
- Avoid air fresheners and other perfumed products. Freshen the air by using baking soda, cedar blocks or dried flowers and by opening your windows in mild weather.
- Buy organic cotton clothing, organic fruits and vegetables and other goods to reduce the use of toxic chemicals.
- Don't buy furniture or decking made from tropical hardwood (such as mahogany) unless it's got a Forest Stewardship Council label. The FSC label guarantees that the manufacturer abides by established environmental standards for sustainable and well-managed forests.
- Add a new tree to your garden, choosing native or local species.

When you practice good conservation policies in your home, you are not only helping to save our planet but you are also the role model for the next generation to carry on with these practices.



Flower Arranging

Wreath Making Workshop

Wednesday, November 12th

18" Everlasting Cone Wreath

Supplies provided

\$35.00

Space limited

Call Prudence@425 455-9841 OR Judy @425 788-2350

To View SGC Event Calendar Online

To set up permanently:

1. Go to: www.seattlegardenclub.org
2. Click "members" (on left column)
3. Username: "member"
4. Password: "Rhody"
5. Click "Calendar" (on left column)
6. Click "View Calendar"
7. Click "Favorite"(pc) or "Bookmark"(mac)
8. Click "add"

In the future, all you have to do is:

1. Click favorite or bookmark
2. Scroll down to SGC Event Calendar and CLICK & Voila!



WEED of the Month: English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

(www.kingcounty.gov/weeds)

In honor of the Christmas spirit, I hesitate to feature English Holly as the weed of the month, in spite of the obvious connection. Holly's red berries and beautiful, glossy green leaves definitely evoke warm, holiday cheer for many of us. Unfortunately, we are also becoming all too familiar with seeing this plant along hiking trails and in out-of-the-way forests. Sadly, English holly is beginning to represent something much less warm and fuzzy than it used to, at least in this part of the world. Although there isn't consensus about the level of threat posed by this popular European tree to our region, there is clear evidence that English holly is spreading beyond where it is planted (with help from birds, of course) and is able to reproduce in the wild. Here in Washington, holly is limited to mostly western counties. There is something about our climate that English holly thrives on, and our forests are clearly vulnerable to its establishment. This article is reprinted by permission from the King County Noxious Weed Control website.

Yearbook Correction

Awards Committee
2008-2009

Alex Morse,
Chairman

BJ Anderson-Advisor
Phoebe Andrew
Noreen Frink
Gretchen Hull
Eleanor Nolan
Catherine Roach
Jane Yerkes

Horticulture Committee News

What is Propagation? Angel Clark and Catherine Allan reviewed and taught us about layering, division, softwood cuttings, and leaf cuttings at our kick-off October workshop/demonstration at Swanson's Nursery. Members shared their garden plants with the group and took peat pots home for fall propagation projects.



Propagation Gurus

Remember to look on the GCA website for the newest fall issue of *The Real Dirt*. Be sure and turn to page 26 of the latest GCA *Bulletin* for an article about the Olympic Sculpture Park and a photo of our own Ann Wyckoff and Cappy Rooks.

Please make the following changes in your green Yearbook:

Hort Meeting will be JANUARY 12, "Discouraging Plant Disease" by Jenny Wyatt.

Please add Diana Neely and Juliet Romano to the list of Hort Committee members.

Quiz: What is the only food that never spoils?
What is xylem? (a) a musical instrument (b) a retreat for botanists (c) gardener's daytime organizer (d) plumbing system of a plant
See December newsletter for answers.

Answer to last month's question: What is a fruit or vegetable that is only sold FRESH, never canned, dried, roasted, peeled? **LETTUCE.**

Focusing on Photography

Congratulations to Susan Hilpert and Mary Turner for their winning photography entries in the Garden Club of Darien flower show. Susan was awarded a first place and a third place and Mary was awarded two honorable mentions!

Remember to submit your photo to Sis Woodside by November 12th for the "Wonders of Autumn" joint photo exhibit with Tacoma. We are looking forward to seeing what you have captured with your cameras.

Questions? Sis Woodside (206-324-1928)

For those who signed up for the October 23rd Photo Shoot, remember to submit your \$25 to Jane Harder by October 17th. Michele Burton will be teaching us some tricks of the trade at the Arboretum, along with the guidance of JoAnne Rosen and Noreen Frink.

From the Awards Committee...

We would appreciate ideas from our membership for GCA or Seattle Garden Club Awards.

Please refer to your handbook beginning on page 33.

Call or email Alex Morse adfmorse@aol.com or any Awards Committee member with questions.

Donate Air Line Miles

Transporting a good speaker to Seattle is a difficult expense to squeeze out of our Program budget. If you can afford to donate miles we would love to have them. It usually makes all of the difference on being able to invite a recommended out of state speaker.

Be our angel and donate miles.

Sherrill sherrillelliott@comcast.net 206-236-2676



*Flowers... are a proud assertion
that a ray of beauty
Outvalues all the utilities of the world.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Looking Ahead...

Monday, November 3

Horticulture Meeting
UWBG/CUH
9:30 Coffee
10:00 Program
Flower Arranging for the Holidays

Thursday, November 6

Board Meeting
Sunset Club
9:30 – 11:30

Thursday, November 6

Ways and Means Committee Meeting
Sunset Club
12:00 – 2:00

Monday, November 10

Community Projects Committee
UWBG/CUH Board Room
9:00 – 11:00

Thursday, November 13

Deadline for photo entries:
"Wonders of Autumn"
Submit to Sis Woodside

Monday, November 17

Ways and Means Committee Meeting
Home of Carlyn Steiner
9:45 – 11:45

Thursday, November 20

General Meeting
Joint Meeting with Tacoma
Seattle Golf Club
10:00 Coffee & Photography Exhibit
11:00 Speaker – Scot Medbury
Director of Brooklyn Botanic Garden
12:00 Lunch
RSVP: Jeannie Gravenkemper
jgraccoon@comcast.net (206) 322-6639

Newsletter Chair: Burnley Snyder

Editor: Catherine Roach



Seattle Garden Club

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17 OCT 2008



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