

The Seattle Garden Club

February 2009



February General Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2009

The magic of photography, a power point presentation
by our dynamic duo – Jo Anne and Noreen

Nature photography. What makes a good photograph

Guests are Welcome

U.W. Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture

9:30 coffee, 10:00 program

Please RSVP before February 13th to Mary Jane Anderson

mjanderson525@earthlink.net or 206-325-4520)



Jenny Wyatt, happy that it is over



Provisional Jenny Wyatt and
her sponsor Laurie Riley

Gardening Corner



Thoughts for February

- Plant primroses, pansies for early color.
- Bait for slugs with pet-safe bait such as Sluggo or Worry Free.
- Shop for best selection of bare-root roses and fruit trees, purchase fragrant flowering shrubs such as witch hazel, daphne, and sarococca. Plant as soon as you get them home (if the roots dry out, the plant dies).
- Apply final dormant spray to peaches, deciduous trees, shrubs and roses.
- Prune fruit trees; purchase Orchard Mason Bees to pollinate them.
- Prune roses at end of month.
- Plant sweet peas as soon as the soil is warm enough.

Take note...

- For those who are interested, environmentalist, Ed Begley, Jr. will be coming to the Sheraton in Seattle on March 12 to speak on sustainable living. Contact Susan Okazaki at 206-548-2442 for tickets and further information.
- Flower and Garden Show is February 18th - 22nd.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings

In the garden, our recent snowy weather came with freezing temperatures. Both caused many of my magnolia branches to break and some non-native plants to die. I'm going to miss those unusual plants. After numerous days of rain, the soil is oversaturated and, yet, there is hope that all is not lost as the crocus begin to reach up and will soon reveal their jewel-like colors. Indoors, hyacinth of several pastel colors are filling spaces with a fresh scent of perfume.

Our special lecture by Fergus Garrett is just days away as this newsletter is prepared. At first, we worried about filling the auditorium and, now, we hope we won't have to turn away gardeners eager to see his slides of Great Dixter and listen to his funny and bright presentation. Thanks to Carol Eland for the fabulous PR.

In January, your board met in the evening and, afterward, enjoyed socializing over dinner. Judging by the energy in the room, I'd suggest you mix it up with your meeting times once or twice a year. Thank you to all the board members who plan meetings and events, who educate us and the public on a wide variety of subjects and represent us in the community. These ladies are very thoughtful when we come together as a board.

Coming up on May 11 will be the first Wagner Conservation event at MOHAI, a Symposium on Puget Sound Water Quality led by Bill Ruckelshaus and featuring expert lecturers and researchers. Plan to attend the afternoon panel discussions. Afterward, there will be a dinner for all those who want to continue the discussion. Eleanor Nolan, Juliet Romano and Sue Blethen have spent months in planning to make the inaugural event a reality.

Laurie Ahern and her nominations committee including B. J. Anderson, Jane Harder, Dinah Hutchinson and Cathy Parker prepared a slate for new officers to serve on the 2009-2011 SGC Board. The next term begins in June following our Annual Meeting.

Jenny Wyatt presented terrific slides and information about Integrated Pest Management at our recent Hort Meeting. Wade Garretson is the next Provisional to make a presentation in February.

Guests are welcome to the February General Meeting on Photography given by our own talented ladies, Noreen Frink and JoAnne Rosen. This presentation was well-received at Tacoma Garden Club as preparation for their Flower Show in May.

We are in the midst of planning the Biennial Meeting for April. If you have a subject you would like to discuss, please let me know soon so we can consider it for the agenda.

Best, Trudy Baldwin

EcoTips

It's too early to spend much time in our gardens yet so let's concentrate on some of our good intentions and make those changes to reduce our carbon footprint. Here are three easy ones that would make a difference if we all did them:

- 1) Make a real effort to arrange carpools for all those meetings scheduled for this winter.
- 2) Cancel those catalogs that you never buy from.
- 3) Have all your newsletters sent via your e-mail and save trees.



Horticulture Committee News

More on October's New York Botanical Garden Tour

Mother Nature's wrath of high winds and pelting rain announced the day's agenda with a vengeance! To top it off, neither Debbi nor I managed to pack a rain coat! Two girls from Seattle...believed the Google forecast! Luckily, a hotel janitor had two plastic garbage liners.

Todd Forrest, the V.P. of Horticulture at the NYBG, had lectured on the living tree collection the day before, leaving us eager to discover his treasures the next day...only to find ourselves huddled together in an open-air tram, dodging blasts of cold air and rain. He highlighted the NYBG as a **scientific institution**; an **educational institution** where PhD students research plant morphology to serve America, as Kew Gardens does England, with a **collection of botanical specimens** from around the world. Touring the Pfizer Lab was an unexpected highlight. A young Columbian PhD candidate was studying the "Barcode" of plants = molecular make-up of plants. I felt as if we were experiencing science in the 22nd century!

The Conservatory was chock-a-block with cycads, orchids, ferns and chrysanthemums. The current exhibition featured Kiku, the art of Japanese Chrysanthemums in conjunction with an exhibit of bonsai Junipers, Cypress, including a 100 year old Chinese Boxwood. Someday we'll have to have a showing of our pictures.

We welcomed a private tour of the Library and Herbarium which were air-quality controlled spaces, allowing only small groups at a time to view their rare books and pressed flowers. The object that took my breath away was a display of dried herbs from Joseph Banks, the botanist on Captain Cook's voyage in 1770, on a simple piece of 100% rag cotton paper.

Needless to say, our outdoor tour of the Rose Garden, Alpine plants and Forest Restoration were cancelled, but don't feel sorry for us...what do 170 women do when it's raining? SHOP!

Quiz: What is the first "wonder drug" listed in the Ebers Papyrus in 1600 BCE, but not discovered again for its healing properties until 1928?

- (A) Astralgus (B) Pennyroyal (C) Gold (D) Hops (E) Cardus Marianus

Answer to last month's question: In 1893, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Nix v. Hedden* ruled: (C) A tomato is legally a vegetable.

Reminder: Horticulture Meeting February at 9:30 at the home of Burnley Snyder. Wade Garretson, Provisional will be speaking on "Waterwise Gardens: Natives and Ornamentals." 9:30 Coffee and 10:00 Program. Please bring your garden share/show and tell.

Neukom Vivarium Needs Volunteers

The Neukom Vivarium at the Olympic Sculpture Park needs volunteers. Some of you may have gone down to visit recently and found the Vivarium closed. Sadly this was due to a lack of volunteers. An e-mail was sent to all of our membership about the January 10th open house for new volunteers. If you were not able to attend that meeting and would be interested in volunteering, go to www.seattleartmuseum.org and click on "Volunteer" for information and an online application. You may also call SAM at 206.654.3168. Let's support SGC's investment in the Olympic Sculpture Park and keep our donor appreciation plaque visible to all its visitors!

Airline Miles for Program Speakers

We would like to transport a speaker from Los Angeles for a General Meeting next year. If you can help with the cost by donating miles we would love to have them. It will make the difference on our being able to invite this highly regarded lecturer [GCA List].

Sherrill Elliott 206-227-2900



“ From December to March, there are for many of us three ” gardens – the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye.....

Katherine S. White

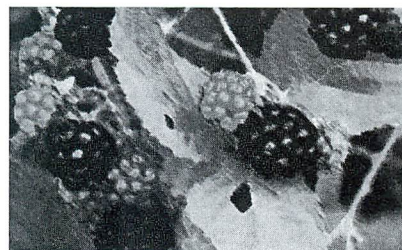
WEED of the Month: Himalayan and evergreen blackberry

(www.kingcounty.gov/weeds)

It is no surprise to any of us that Himalayan and evergreen blackberry are invasive, difficult to control, and taking over vast areas of land in the region. What may be a surprise is that neither species was an official noxious weed in this state. That changed in 2009. Both invasive blackberry species have been added as noxious weeds to Washington's weed list. This means that county weed boards have the option to require control of blackberry for all or parts of their county, although that is not likely to happen considering how widespread it is! Considering that these two species likely cover more area than any other invasive plant in western Washington, is probably high time that they were included on Washington's noxious weed list.

Winter weed tips:

- Pulling weeds is just the thing after big meals.
- Get a soil test to see if fertility or pH need some adjusting.
- On your brisk winter walks, look for overwintering noxious weeds along trails and woodlands.
- Scotch broom is a great winter project.



New 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

President-Elect (one year term 2009-2010)	Catherine Roach
President (one year term 2010-2011)	Catherine Roach
Treasurer	Patsy Pattison
Club Communications	Suzette De Turenne
Community Projects → <i>Conservation</i>	<i>Aurie Shum</i> Juliet Romano <i>Juliet</i>
Coresponding Secretary & Yearbook	Marilee Ahalt
Membership	Dinah Hutchinson
Policy and Planning	Jeannie Gravenkemper
Program	Catherine Allan

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDAR

Monday, February 2	Horticulture Class Home of Burnley Snyder
Thursday, February 19	General Meeting UWBG/CUH
Monday, March 2	Horticulture Class Home of Christine Davis
Thursday, March 19	General Meeting Flower Arranging UWBG/CUH
Monday, April 6	Horticulture Meeting UWBG/CUH
Thursday, April 16	Club Business and Planning Meeting UWBG/CUH
Monday, May 4	Workshop: Flower Show Preparation UWBG/CUH
Thursday, May 21	General Meeting GVC Tour of the Pacific Connections with Paige Miller at Washington Park Arboretum
Thursday, June 4	Annual Meeting and Lunch Broadmoor Golf Club

All I Needed to Know About Life I learned From Gardening

- It's okay to be a late bloomer.
- The plot always thickens when it rains.
- Weeds never sleep.
- Some people are naturally corny.
- Always try to be outstanding in your field.

Conservation Report

Very little information has come to us regarding the attempt of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Oregon to establish an over 600,000 square foot casino off their reservation and within the boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (established 1986). This is a very inappropriate use of land within this designated scenic area and far exceeds the distance limit for off-reservation casinos (a 218 mile roundtrip)!

This scenic area was specifically set aside so it would remain a national treasure for generations to come. It took over 40 million years to be formed. Don't allow this unique area to be compromised with 3 million casino visitors and 1.3 million cars parked on 1 million square foot parking lots! That is NOT how I describe scenic beauty! A casino is NOT supporting the purpose of the National Scenic Area Act as stated: to enhance the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge.



The GCA heads of Conservation and the National Affairs Legislation Committees, Claire Caudill and Derry MacBride, in January sent a letter on behalf of GCA to the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior in the Bush Administration, asking that this request be denied. I have a copy if you want to read it. I strongly urge you to go online and learn about this issue. Visit www.oregonwatchdog.com/pressrelease/index.php/608 or Google the Friends of the Columbia River Gorge and check out their Gorge Priorities to preserve land, air and water within the Gorge. They have much to say about the proposed casino.

Next, write a letter yourself and address it to the new Secretary of the Interior (Secretary-Designate at the time of this writing):

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Get involved to save the beauty and grandeur we know and love. Help protect what is good for the land and for the people in this nation so our children can inherit what Mother Nature created. Don't let our many treasures be destroyed by commercialism! As the popular song so aptly states, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They'll pave paradise to put up a parking lot!"

Take a walk outside and remind yourself just how beautiful life is here in the Pacific Northwest! We are so very blessed. Make an individual effort to leave this world a better place for us all.

Water

Drops.

Water cleanses,

Gathers in the earth.

Tender. Invasive. Subtle.

Emerges a shining river.

When small, it is weak.

When great, it tumbles mountains,

Rendering great cliffs

Sand.



Classic wisdom says that there is nothing weaker than water, yet when united, it can become a titanic force. Like a tidal wave. Or a river that cuts through gorges. This is called the yielding overcoming the hard.

Let's look at it another way. Water does not overcome because it yields. It overcomes because it is relentless. It perseveres and does not give up. It is constant. Rock can block water. Rock can even hold water in a lake for thousands of years. Why can't the yielding overcome the hard then? Because it cannot move. It cannot work its magic of being relentless.

Just as water must be able to express its true nature in a relentless way, so too must we simultaneously and relentlessly express our true natures if we are to be successful in life. Otherwise, we will find ourselves hemmed in by the hard walls of reality, and we will never be able to break through.

But how do we acquire such perseverance? We start small. As drops. From "365 Tao: Daily Meditations" by Ming-Dao Deng

Let us all be small drops using perseverance to achieve lofty goals! Little efforts, when multiplied many times, can make a big difference. **KEEP CONSERVING EVERYDAY**, protecting this wonderful land, whenever and wherever you can. Every little thing does help.

Attend our May 11 Symposium and learn how we can all help Puget Sound.

Sue Blethen, Conservation Chair

Looking Ahead...

Monday, February 2

Horticulture Meeting
Home of Burnley Snyder
9:30 Coffee
10:00 Program
Speaker: Provisional Wade Garretson
Water-wise Gardens
Native & Ornamental, Deer Proof Plants

Thursday, February 5

Board Meeting
Sunset Club
9:30 - 11:30

Tuesday, February 10

Newsletter reports due
sgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Thursday, February 19

Meeting and Program - Photography
Jo Anne Rosen and Noreen Frink
UWBG/CUH
9:30 Coffee
10:00 Program
Guests welcome

Winter Trees

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.

Williams Carlos Williams

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