

## March General Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2009

### *Freedom of Expression – No Right or Wrong in Flower Arranging*

*Six brave SGC members will participate in a "Challenge Class": one floral arrangement created by each woman all using the exact same container and materials to create her own individual interpretation.*

*Come and marvel at the diversity and creativity and cheer on these sacrificial lambs!*

Guests are welcome.

University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
9:30 coffee, 10:00 program

Please RSVP before March 16 to Sheila B. Noonan  
snoonan@gmail.com 206-860-7662



## Gardening Corner

### Thoughts for March

- Plants need nutrients now during their growth spurt. Fertilize the garden; roses, rhododendrons, trees.
- Divide perennials that bloom after mid-June. Share extra plants with gardening buddies, neighbors or a school.
- Lawn care: Renovate. 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 that can run off to cause water pollution. OR, replace lawn with better adapted ground covers and landscaping.
- Orchard Mason Bees will pollinate your plants as the weather warms.
- Prepare vegetable garden beds by digging deeply, adding compost and (organic) fertilizer. In late March sow beets, chard, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes and spinach.



---

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

Greetings to Everyone!

It's time for Winter Break and light snowflakes are falling as I write. A preview of spring is in the air at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show where we will be dazzled by amazing garden displays and lectures by outstanding speakers. Gardeners from the greater Seattle area will visit for what might be the last show.

Spring for SGC brings the gift of a conservation symposium titled Toward A Healthy Puget Sound. Eleanor Nolan is skillfully leading a talented group of members for this May 11 event honoring a past president, Iris Wagner. Although you are not required to purchase tickets for the presentations or the dinner, you will want to listen to the experts who are university professors and researchers describe the issues as well as community conservation leaders who promise to share information and ideas about saving our treasured natural area. There are many opportunities in our community to learn about global warming and changes in the environment with very scientific and theoretical content. Ours will address the issues, and people in the field will respond by sharing their experience of farming and building with respect for the environment. Seating at MOHAI is generous so help us with PR by inviting your family, friends and neighbors.

Your ballots for Founders Fund projects resulted in Zone VII's River Linked: Junkyard to Park in Asheville, NC winning Seattle Garden Club's one vote. Each of the three projects is a winner. The first place winner will receive \$25,000 and the two runners up will each receive \$7,500 at the announcement in May at the GCA Annual Meeting in Providence, RI.

Be thinking about which committees you would like to join next year. In March, you will have an opportunity to let us know which leadership positions you are interested in and which interest group you'd like to join. Of course, all meetings are open and you are welcome to attend board meetings as well as others. It's a good idea to phone ahead because locations and times do change even though our online calendar is usually very accurate.

In January we publicized the Fergus Garrett lecture at our website. Look there soon for an announcement of the conservation symposium. We plan to have a link to ticket sales online.

Best,  
Trudy Baldwin

---

## Cuttings

BY THEODORE ROETHKE

This urge, wrestle, resurrection of dry sticks,  
Cut stems struggling to put down feet,  
What saint strained so much,  
Rose on such lopped limbs to a new life?

I can hear, underground, that sucking and sobbing,  
In my veins, in my bones I feel it,—  
The small waters seeping upward,  
The tight grains parting at last.  
When sprouts break out,  
Slippery as fish,  
I quail, lean to beginnings, sheath-wet.

"There are snowdrops coming out in the garden, and spring is on the way. I shall see it... And because I am alive, I shall watch it all happen and be part of the miracle."

- Rosamunde Pilcher

### ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM GARDENING

- Keep your hands off your neighbor's peonies.
- Sow your wild oats with care.
- Some problems are perennial.
- It's best to keep mum about certain subjects.
- A little manure goes a long way.

# Conservation Report

---

As I write this, our Congress is trying to agree on how to best stimulate the economy. Many conservation groups are hoping that a Works Progress Administration (WPA) type effort will be created with jobs to help clean up and repair the environment across the nation. The National Parks Conservation Association has 2.5 billion in job-creating projects already outlined in our glorious national parks. There are so many important needs!! Our Zone XII Conservation Chairs have recently expressed their specific concerns as: sustainability, recycling, water conservation, native plants/invasive species, bees, organic farming, climate change, genetic engineering, and green buildings. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our delegates to the National Affairs Legislation (NAL) Conference, Laurie Ahern and Judy Phillips, could help open up the eyes of our Washington State legislators to the needs we all see as so vital as stated in our Position Papers!



Every year, the GCA NAL Committee issues well-researched **Position Papers** that state, "The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results." This year's reports include: **Clean Air, Clean Water, Global Warming, National Parks, Public Lands, Transportation, and Waste Reduction.** These are vital, fascinating topics which we should all be aware of! Enjoy the knowledge their research provides and that Laurie and Judy will share with our legislators!

To access these, go to the **GCA website**, click on **members only** and fill in the blanks with your user name: **gcamember** then password: **compost** and click **OK**. Next click on **Committees**, then on **National Affairs and Legislation**, and then on **Position Papers** to access them all! This is very worthwhile reading! The paper on **Clean Water** is specially related to our **May 11 Iris Wagner Conservation Lecture!** A short quote from this document: "The Garden Club of America recognizes that all life is dependent upon clean, uncontaminated water. We support the original objective of the 1972 Clean Water Act to 'restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.' We recognize that a watershed-based approach is an important way to achieve this goal." There is also a very important glossary of water related terms included!! Wonderful stuff!!

You might also want to open the **Con Watch** report on the GCA website to read about our **Partner for Plants Project** at the **East Montlake Park** with the goats!! We made the winter 2009 edition!! Congratulations on your hard work!!

"Mother Nature is just chemistry, biology, and physics. And because of that you cannot spin Mother Nature. You cannot bribe Mother Nature. You cannot sweet talk her, and you cannot ignore her. She's going to do with the climate whatever chemistry, biology and physics dictate. And Mother Nature always bats last, and she always bats a thousand!"

Quote by Thomas L. Friedman, NY Times 10/12/08, p. 10.

An important quote as to the importance of natives in our gardens:

"For now, the most sustainable part of the botanic garden is the regional garden, where sustainability has much to do with native plants. There are no exotic plants here, not because native plants are tougher or more drought-tolerant—anyone who loves lilacs can attest to the ruggedness of certain Asian plants—but because they provide shelter and food for the organisms they evolved with. Native plants "are part of the web of life—insects, even micro-organisms, things we don't even know about yet," Mr. McLaughlin said. "They're part of a system that's been in place longer than humans have been around."

New York Times: "How Green is Your Garden" article.

**Important Note:** The 2009 Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference, called 'A Call to Action' was held February 8th-11th at the Washington State Trade and Convention Center for 900 delegates. This is a biannual conference for 900 delegates, largely directed toward academia. This year's conference hopes to add to the names of the Puget Sound Basin (from Olympia to the Straits of Juan de Fuca) and Georgia Basin (the area that encompasses the San Juan Islands north to Cape Scott) to create the "Salish Sea". This name would reflect the geographic boundary once inhabited by the Coast Salish Indian Tribes, from Olympia to the northern tip of Vancouver Island. It would reconnect the trans-boundary areas dissected by US and Canadian maps at the international border. **This includes the extended watershed areas which affect these waters: "not only at the water and near-shore environment, but the cities, suburbs, farms, and forests that surround it. For whatever happens on the land, the results will flow downhill to the water."**

Seattle Times, "Gauging Health of the Sound", February 9, 2009 by Linda V. Mapes.

\*Our May 11, 2009 Symposium "Toward a Healthy Puget Sound" will be focused more on a layman approach to understanding the needs of a healthy Puget Sound!! We have 2½ hours to explain this—not 3 days!!

Sue Blethen, Conservation Chair



## WEED of the Month: Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

([www.kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://www.kingcounty.gov/weeds))

Scotch broom is a great winter project. Not only is it very easy to find with its evergreen stems, it is easier to pull in moist soil and you are less likely to damage roots of nearby plants. Since Scotch broom, unlike blackberries, doesn't have thorns, it makes for an easy work party activity if you can get a few weed wrenches for people to use. If you need a weed wrench for your own property, you can borrow King County's for a week or two. Just contact (206) 296-0290 to reserve a time and then come to the office in Seattle at 2nd and Jackson (next to the train station) to pick it up. On your brisk walks this winter be mindful and look for overwintering noxious weeds along trails and woodlands. There is a lot of control that can be done in the winter and it's always better to know sooner than later if something has to be done next year. Happy digging and pulling!



Provisional Wade Garrettson and her sponsor, Deborah Cheadle, after a successful presentation



Fawnie Valentine and Sylvia Duryee take it all in at the Hort Meeting



Alison Andrews arrives in style

## Seattle Garden Club Symposium: Toward A Healthy Puget Sound

*Long before Climate Change was talked of, Puget Sound was severely stressed.*

- Dr. Edward Miles, Symposium panelist

*Carved by glaciers and fed by 10,000 rivers and streams, Puget Sound is an ecosystem defined by the movement of water. The health of all living creatures—plants, fish, animals, and humans—depends on clean water. While our waters may look pristine, beneath their surfaces they continue to be contaminated by and at risk from a wide array of pollutants.\**

This spring The Seattle Garden Club will present a symposium entitled *Toward a Healthy Puget Sound*. The purpose of the symposium is to inform and educate the public on the distressed condition of the Sound and the complex issues involved in determining policies to restore and protect it. The symposium will be the SGC's first endowed Iris Wagner Conservation Lecture.

The symposium will be moderated by William D. Ruckelshaus, twice head of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to Chair the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). The PSP is a community effort involving citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, and businesses working together toward a healthy Puget Sound. Mr. Ruckelshaus will moderate two panels, one that addresses the scientific causes and consequences of the changes taking place in Puget Sound, the other addressing the policy issues that must be adopted in order to heal the Sound.

The four panelists on the Science Panel include: Dr. Edward Miles, a University of Washington Professor of Marine and Public Affairs with the Nobel winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Dr. Mary Ruckelshaus, a population biologist from NOAA and the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, who is leading the Salmon Risk Evaluation Team; Dr. Joel Baker, Chair of the Science Committee of the PSP Leadership Council and a leading researcher on local marine environment issues; and Dr. Katharine Wellman, a marine resource economist whose work focuses on marine management and the economics of aquatic habitat restoration.

The panelists addressing the complex policy issues include: Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman and Chief Executive Director of the Jamestown S'Kallum Tribe; Gene Duvernay, President of the Cascade Land Conservancy; Peter Orser, a major developer of urban and suburban land; and Steve Sakuma, fifth generation farmer in a prime agricultural area bordering Puget Sound and past president of Skagitians to Preserve Farmland.

One focus of the symposium will be the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, a recently released plan for use by federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, city and county governments, business and environmental organizations, watershed groups, and individual landowners as a guide to help them protect and restore the Sound.

The Symposium will be held May 11 from 3:00 to 5:30 at the Museum of Science and Industry. It will be open to the public at a cost of \$15 and free to students. Partners include the Pacific Science Center, The Seattle Aquarium, The Puget Sound Partnership, and departments from the University of Washington, including the College of the Environment and the School of Marine Affairs.

A dinner at the Broadmoor Golf Club will follow, independent of but complementary to the Symposium.

\* *The State of the Sound*, 2007, <http://www.psp.wa.gov/>

Updated information including Symposium and Dinner ticketing and related details will be on the SGC Website soon.

## Horticulture Committee News

The Hort Committee met in January with a full agenda. The Provisional talks have been inspiring, educational and well attended: kudos to Jenny and Wade. Hotie Hard will speak in March on "Gardens a Flutter", a subject dear to us.

Because our year's focus has been "Healthy Gardens," the April 6 panel will discuss us SGC members, the Healthy Gardeners. Cathy Parker and others will talk about naturopathic health tips.

How Grow Your Daffodils? Now is the time to look for and label your daffodils. Bring your cut flowers to the April 6 Hort Class to show. (Details to follow.) You are welcome to bring your favorite garden tool as well.

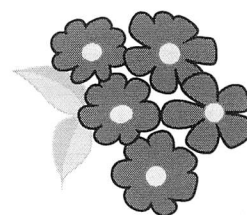
Looking Ahead...

In spite of the heavy snows this winter, many plants survived in the garden. Start now assessing potential material to enter in the June Annual Meeting/Club Show. Angel Clark is compiling a list of references to help you identify your plants. At the May 4 meeting, you will learn good grooming tips for showing beautiful specimens.

Watch for news about a special **Propagation Workshop** coming up soon.

**Quiz:** Persephone fell into the underworld after reaching for:

- A) Frankincense
- B) Flowers
- C) Fido
- D) Fruit



**Answer to last month's question:** What is the Wonder Drug listed in Ebers Papyrus in 1600 BC, but not discovered again for its healing properties until 1928? MOLD. Sir Alexander Fleming noticed in his lab that bread mold was a potent antibiotic. This discovery led to the development of penicillin, thus beginning the era of "wonder drugs."

**MARCH 2, HORT CLASS** hosts Provisional speaker Hotie Hard, *Gardens a Flutter*, at Christine Davis' home.

### SUCCESSFUL AUCTION = COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The December 2008 Holiday Auction was a resounding success thanks to much hard work by the committee and you, our fabulous members! For all who donated goods and services, brought guests and purchased items your generous support insures the SGC will continue making a lasting impact on our community. Because the Auction is our primary source of income at this time, and our members want to continue our involvement in exciting community projects, we need to support the Auction to ensure a viable and successful event.

Over \$30,000 was raised this year! A very special thanks to our Angels who were very generous this year. There were beautiful invitations sent to our Sustaining and Non-Resident members and to guests. The live auction was short, sweet and very profitable. As usual, the table decorations were a highlight thanks to our artistic members and provisionals.

Remember the key formula for our continued ability to fund projects in the community:

**AUCTION \$ + GRANT APPLICATIONS = COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Thank you again to all who helped with last year's event. And remember, it's never too early to start thinking about December 2009's SGC Auction.



### BULLETIN BOARD

*This new column will be used primarily for SGC members to offer plants from their gardens that they may wish to share. Your garden is overcrowded? You are re-landscaping? You need to divide? It wasn't right plant, right place? Post your offer here! Interested taker: all you need to do is contact the donor, take your own supplies (tools, tarp, pots, etc.), elbow grease, extra manpower if needed, and dig away.*

★ **My black mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* "Nigrescens") has multiplied overnight. Willing to share. Call or e-mail Judy Phillips at (206) 325-3838 or jmp1216@comcast.net.**

# Looking Ahead...

## Monday, March 2

Horticulture Meeting  
Home of Christine Davis  
9:30 coffee  
10:00 Program: Gardens A Flutter  
Speaker: Provisional Hotie Hard

## Thursday, March 5

Board Meeting  
Sunset Club  
9:30 – 11:30

## Monday, March 9

Community Projects Committee  
Board Room at UWBG/CUH  
10:00 – 12:00

## Tuesday, March 10

Horticulture Meeting  
Newsletter reports due  
sgcnewsletter@gmail.com

## Thursday, March 19

General Meeting  
UWBG/CUH  
9:30 Coffee  
10:00 Flower Arranging  
Guests Welcome



Overflow Crowd at the Fergus  
Garrett Lecture



Debby Smith and Fergus  
Garrett

Newsletter Chair: Burnley Snyder

Editor: Catherine Roach



## Seattle Garden Club

University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Box 354115  
Seattle, Washington 98195-4115



Mrs. Hugh J. Fitzgerald  
2018 Broadmoor Dr E  
Seattle, WA 98112