



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

September 2009



## September Picnic

**Marigold and Mint & Oxbow Farm in Carnation**

**Thursday, September 17, 2009 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

Don your hats and boots for an adventure and lunch outdoors amongst veggies and flowers. Meet the growers and tour the bounty of a local organic farm. Katherine Anderson of Marigold and Mint will be our hostess and The Grange Café will provide a farm-to-table meal.

Featured entertainment: Provisional Skit!

**RSVP by Friday, September 11 ~ (YES or NO, please)**

Trudy Baldwin: [tgarden.flora@gmail.com](mailto:tgarden.flora@gmail.com) (206) 324-2505

Non-subscribers to the Hostess Fund: Confirm your reservation by sending a check for \$25, payable to SGC, to Trudy at 1920 Shenandoah Drive East, Seattle, WA 98112

Directions: 10819 Carnation Duvall Rd NE (*allow 30 minutes from the Madison Park area in light traffic*)

From the East end of 520 turn left onto Avondale Rd NE; Gentle right at NE Novelty Hill Rd;

Left at W Snoqualmie Valley Rd NE; Quick right at NE 124<sup>th</sup> St and continue across the river;

Right at HWY 203 toward Carnation; 1/2 mile later look for Oxbow Farm sign;

Drive along gravel road to the fields.

*Carpools encouraged* - We suggest Seattle Tennis Club and St. Thomas parking lots as meeting points.

We're hoping to picnic in the orchard with a view of the surrounding hills and bountiful field setting from which we can buy fresh produce that day. If it's not picnic weather, there is a modern barn that will hold the group as an alternative.

### AT A GLANCE

#### events of note coming soon

- 9/17 Annual Picnic  
Oxbow Farm/Carnation  
10:30 a.m.
- 9/22 Pergola viewing event at the  
Woodland Park Rose Garden  
10:10 a.m. - RSVP required
- 10/5 Hort Meeting @ UWBG/CUH  
9:30 a.m. coffee  
10:00 a.m. Program  
"Harvest Bounty"
- 10/5 Charles Jencks Lecture  
Mountaineers Building  
7:00 p.m.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP

Proposals for Provisional Membership  
are due by December 15th.

The forms are available on our web site, or if you prefer that they be mailed to you, contact Dinah Hutchinson at (206) 365-9376. Guests are welcome at various gatherings throughout the year, including the Holiday Luncheon and Auction. These are great opportunities to introduce your friends to SGC.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a fabulous summer!!! Welcome back to a new and exciting year in the Garden Club! The first business of order is to welcome and encourage our four new Provisionals: Carey Abbott, Gayle Harris, Dabney Rohrbach and Kristie Ratzlaff. They are a great group of women who have been diligently working on their "talks" during the summer.

Speaking of summer, SGC members and their guests shared many wonderful outings:

- An entertaining and educational tour by Dan Hinkley in his garden at Windcliff
- An extraordinary, activity-packed, four-day sojourn to Sun Valley hosted by Laurie Ahern, Pam Green, Barbara Hamachek, Dinah Hutchinson, Alex Morse and Charlee Reed
- A fabulous clam digging event and lunch on Hood Canal hosted by Mary Jane Anderson, Debby Smith and Cappy Rooks

These were some of our most popular auction items last December. Many thanks to all of the hosts and hostesses, as well as the Auction Committee, for creating these wonderful experiences.

Looking ahead we have a busy year:

- September brings us a unique picnic venue at Marigold and Mint in Carnation
- A special lecture in October by Charles Jencks
- Our own SGC photographers will present a photography show at our October 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting.
- SGC will partner with the Arboretum in presenting a lecture by Scot Medbury at UWBG/CUH in October
- Holiday Luncheon and Auction in December
- And finally, our planned flower show in May - The committee decided to postpone our GCA sanctioned small flower show for one year. In its place we will have a Club show at Pam Green's home.

We have many interesting speakers this year including Richie Steffen of the Miller Garden; Carolyn Bennett, a Landscape and Garden History expert; Andy Stout of Full Circle Farms; and Jana Dille, a UW student and GCA scholarship recipient. There will be six general meetings open to the public, so I encourage you to please bring your friends and potential members.

I am looking forward to this year and hope to hear from all of you if you have any concerns, ideas or proposals.

*Hope Stroble*



*Iris Wagner, Dr. Ted Wagner and Eleanor Nolan - whose support and effort resulted in the success of last spring's first Iris Wagner Lecture, A Symposium: Toward a Healthy Puget Sound.*

### Provisional Class 2009-2011



*Carey Abbott, Gayle Harris & Kristie Ratzlaff  
(not pictured, Dabney Rohrbach)*

# HORT STARTS

**Har-vest:** n. - a process of gathering in crops; the season when this takes place

As the summer wanes, and the late bloomers emerge, it is also the time to harvest some of our favorite foods: squash, pumpkins, late tomatoes, greens, beans and more. Our kick-off Horticulture Meeting, "**Harvest Bounty**" on Monday, October 5, will be a time and place for you to learn about aspects of growing food, and to bring/tell us about your best harvest crop of the year.

Some of the topics we will cover could include: fruit, snap peas, bees, pests, wild blackberries, tomatoes, and local farmers markets. Our multi-talented Hort Committee panel will be sure to entertain you.

Please remember to bring your "Show n Tell" to the meeting since we would like to see *your* harvests as well!

## QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What is the state where the highest percentage of people walk to work?

a. New York b. Maine c. Alaska d. Florida

See you at the September meeting!

**Debbi Wilson, Horticulture Committee Chair**



*Dan Hinkley's garden presented the perfect background for some of our visitors who coincidentally dressed in blue: Fay Page, Noreen Frink, Corinne Cowan, Holly McConnaughey, Barbara Snapp, Jo Anne Rosen*



*Clamdiggers Mary Jane Anderson, Carlyn Steiner (the hands-down expert), Marilee Ahalt (her first clamdigging experience), Debby Smith and Laurie Riley rinse their bounty for the journey home.*

## GARDENER'S CORNER



Thoughts for September:

- Select plants for fall color
- Water trees and shrubs less; allow them to harden off
- When rains come, fertilize lawn with a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer, using a slow-release formula
- Clean up fallen fruit and fruit tree leaves but *don't compost* them in order to help prevent future disease and insect problems
- Remove spent annuals and *compost* them.
- Keep after the weeds and the slugs!
- As perennials die back, mark them with permanent tags so you'll know where and what they are. If they have overgrown their space they should be dug and divided or moved to a new area of the garden. New or replacement perennials can also be planted this month. Plum trees should be pruned right after harvest to insure a good crop next year.



# CONSERVATION REPORT

Sometimes, being a 'good steward' of our environment can seem daunting. Over the summer, as your new Conservation Chair, I've been trying to take special notice of newspaper articles, news reports, magazine articles and conservation club reports that relate to conservation and the environment. It could be a full time job! So, for the sake of my sanity, I have decided that my reports will have four simple goals. One will be to inform the club about the activities of the Conservation Committee. Second, I hope to acquaint (or re-acquaint) the SGC members with the various conservation positions and reports from the GCA. The third part will be to provide you with links to informative websites or articles that are related to conservation (links should work directly from this article if you are viewing an on-line version). And finally, I hope to give practical advice on how we can all be better stewards. You can help with this endeavor by forwarding interesting links or articles to my email ([julietromano@comcast.net](mailto:julietromano@comcast.net)) and/or by suggesting topics that you would like to have covered.

1) The first official duty as your Chair is to submit the names of the Conservation Committee members for the upcoming 2009/10 year. If your name is not on the list in the forthcoming 'Green Book' and/or you did not receive an email from me in June/July, please contact me via email or phone (206-323-2786) and I will add your name to the committee list. The more, the merrier!

2) In understanding the position papers, we will better understand the conservation goals of the Garden Club of America. I want to begin with the topic of 'clean water' due to the Iris Wagner Lecture in May, "Toward A Healthy Puget Sound", and due to the fact that it is the time of year when we tend to get less rain, but use more water in our gardens. The GCA begins its position paper with the following quote:

## GCA SUPPORTS CLEAN WATER

*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."*

The 'Clean Water' position paper first summarizes the state of water in the US today, followed by a list of goals that the GCA supports, including ways to reduce water pollution and protect ecosystems, safe drinking water, and fresh water resources. I invite you all to follow the link below or copy and paste the address into your browser in order to glance at the rest of the paper (which is only one page long followed by a page of very helpful definitions).

[http://www.gcamerica.org/positionpapers/pp\\_cleanwater\\_07.pdf](http://www.gcamerica.org/positionpapers/pp_cleanwater_07.pdf)

However, I *highly encourage you to read* the pamphlet, 'Addressing Water Issues for Garden Clubs'. Available on the GCA website, it is a road map for things that we can do to inform ourselves and our communities about the importance of taking care of a natural resource that man cannot live without. Some interesting facts from the pamphlet include:

- *The 6 billion people on Earth today share the same amount of water that was available to one-sixth of the population at the turn of the nineteenth century.*
- *Although water covers roughly 70% of the earth's surface, 97.5% of the water is salt water, and much of the remaining fresh water is frozen in glaciers. Humans have access to less than 1% of the total water on the planet.*
- *Of the available fresh water, individuals use less than 10%; agriculture uses 70%; the remainder goes to industry.*

The web address is: [http://www.gcamerica.org/pamphlets/cons\\_new\\_water\\_pamphlet.html](http://www.gcamerica.org/pamphlets/cons_new_water_pamphlet.html)

3) I looked around my house and located a spot for a couple of rain barrels, so that I can have guilt free water for my flower pots next summer.

Seattle Public Utilities offers a 50-60 gallon rain barrel for \$75. Call 206-684-0190 to order. King County maintains a list of local rain barrel sources.

Visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden/rain-barrels.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden/rain-barrels.aspx)

The River Oaks Garden Club wrote a pamphlet entitled: "How Can You Conserve Water and Cut Your Water Bill?"

Visit: <http://riveroaksgardenclub.org/Conservation.cfm> then click on "Conserving Water and Cutting Your Water Bill" about half way down the page to download the report. It is filled with very practical ideas for conserving water in the garden. Both the River Oaks article and the GCA water pamphlet will be available on our SGC website.

4) Finally, while listening to NPR I learned this very helpful tip: When a new or transplanted plant needs extra water in order to get established, it can be tricky to water only that plant without wasting water or losing it to run off. Take an old bucket or 5 gallon pail (from products bought at Costco, etc!), punch 8 to 10 holes in the bottom with an ice pick or screwdriver and hammer, place it at the base of the plant and fill it with water. The water will trickle out slowly and saturate the root ball.

*Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair*

## Notes from the Photography Committee

Photographers, don't forget to get that perfect photo for our upcoming photo exhibit to be held at the October 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. The theme for the exhibit is "Summer Memories, 2009". Photos must include some botanical subject matter, but we are looking for more than a close-up of a blossom for this show, so capture a moment, or an event, or a summer "landscape".



(To be lenient, we have set the dates from June 5<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, the deadline for submitting your entry.) Photos must have been taken this year. The photos will be critiqued, but not judged.

*Details for size, matting, etc. will be e-mailed to all members of the committee in early September. In the meantime, please let Jane Harder or Sis Woodside know if you intend to exhibit a photo.*

Also.....

Art Wolfe, nature photographer, will give a presentation of the Himalaya region at the Sunset Club on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. If you would like to join SGC members for this event, please contact Jane Harder or Sis Woodside for reservations. The cost of the forum is \$12. An optional dinner will follow.

**Jane Harder, Committee Chair**

## CHARLES JENCKS LECTURE

**Date:** Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30)  
Reception following  
**Where:** The Mountaineers Club  
7700 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
**Tickets:** \$20 - Open to the public  
Advance tickets available at  
[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)



SGC is excited to present a lecture by Charles Jencks, renowned landscape architect who created the "Garden of Cosmic Speculation" in Scotland. In his own words: *'When you design a garden, it raises basic questions: What is nature, how do we fit into it, and how should we shape it where we can, both physically and visually?'*

See the website at <http://www.charlesjencks.com/current.html>

## EcoTips

Let's start this SGC year off by finding easy ways to reduce our carbon footprint at home.

Bartell's Drug Store has been recognized nationally with two major awards for their recycling programs.

Take your CFL used light bulbs, as well as no longer used rechargeable batteries and cell phones, to Bartell's for recycling.



You can also take your unused prescription drugs to their "Take it Back Network" stores for appropriate disposal. Improper disposal harms our drinking water and our rivers and Sound.

P.S.: If you are taking that last boat trip this fall, remember not to anchor in eel grass. Eel grass provides nursery habitat, food, and shelter for crab, juvenile salmon and herring. It also helps protect our shorelines by trapping sediment and absorbing wave energy to offset erosion.

## YOUR NEWSLETTER

### Patience Required

This newsletter has a new look. But why does it look familiar? It is intended to mirror our web site! Do you know that yearly expenditures have exceeded \$5,000 to design, print and mail our newsletter? In an effort to reduce these costs, the newsletter will no longer be published and distributed by a professional service. That is where your patience comes in. We will be experimenting with a new look, design and process over the next few months. It will be a learning process, but one we hope will not compromise the quality you have come to expect.

## GCA HAPPENINGS

*Each month Provisional Carey Abbott will be reporting on some aspect of GCA activities. We hope this will encourage our members to take a closer look at the many relevant and interesting articles found at their website: [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org).*

### Fall Travel

Just as we manage to open all of our summer windows, fall creeps around the corner of our Pacific Northwest. In the Cascades the vine maple and huckleberry are reddened by August. In our gardens the lovely little flying seed pods on the Japanese maples fall and the peel of the madrone trees curls on the sidewalks weeks before the yellow school buses return. It's fall. To say that there is a colossal amount of work to do in the garden now, is an understatement. But, it's also a wonderful time to go visiting gardens. *The Real Dirt (TRD)*, Garden Club of America's magazine, has several suggestions if you want to keep your raincoat and boots stuffed in the closet a little longer.

The Spring 2009 edition of *The Real Dirt* (No.#12) features the gardens of Edward James. An artistic, somewhat lonely man with American ties and a passion for poetry and horticulture, James created two gardens - one in West Sussex of England called "West Dean", with carefully constructed beds and buildings; the other in Mexico known as "Los Pozas" (named for nine ponds), with a more mystical, organic flow. Both are open to the public for viewing.

Or you could enjoy the sweet gardens of Anne Spencer, the Harlem Renaissance poet whose Virginia place is described in No.#7 (Spring 2007) of *TRD*. Maybe Italy is calling you. The British Quaker, Sir Thomas Hanbury and his botanist brother, created a sensational garden full of rare but easily acclimatized plants on the Italian Riviera called "La Mortala". See No.#11 (Fall 2008) of *TRD* for an in-depth article on this villa. A favorite of many is Carl Linnaeus' garden near Uppsala in Sweden. Balancing autumn and spring with asters and golden-rod, this incredible garden is detailed in No.#10 (Spring 2008) of *TRD*.

If traveling isn't in your boots this fall and you prefer a quiet afternoon reading, these articles are perfect for an armchair on a rainy day. All are available at the website - [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org). You may also obtain copies by writing to GCA's offices at 14 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City, N.Y 10022.



### Holiday Luncheon and Auction Planning Ahead!

Even though we are still basking in the glow of summer sunshine, it is time to mark our calendars for the most festive SGC event of the year... the Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction!!!

**Thursday, December 3rd, at our new venue,**  
**The Seattle Golf Club**

The Ways and Means Committee is already busy planning an extraordinary party with many great ideas for Auction items. Please put on your "thinking caps" and come up with your most creative item...food, books, trips, tickets, holiday decorations, vacation spots, jewelry, services.

If you can think of an item or activity that you would like us to procure, just let us know. It's not too early to think about prospective guests to invite, as we will have plenty of room and it will surely be one of the best parties of the season.

Please call or e-mail Carlyn Steiner with suggestions or questions: 206.322.3435 or [carlyn@e-steiner.com](mailto:carlyn@e-steiner.com)

### So, Who Really is the Boss of the Garden?

Two gardener's thoughts:

Among gardeners, enthusiasm and experience rarely exist in equal measures. The beginner dreams of home-grown bouquets and baskets of ripe fruit, the veteran of many seasons has learned to expect slugs, mildew, and frost.

***Roger Swain***

The garden shudders when it hears the back door slam and recognizes my foot-steps upon the back porch. By now it knows the man it is dealing with: a harsh but just master who brooks no nonsense from flora or weed.

***Russell Baker***





## SGC AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

### Woodland Park Zoological Society Celebrates Completion of Pergola

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Registration at the South Gate 9:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

RSVP to [RSVP@zoo.org](mailto:RSVP@zoo.org) or (206) 548-2442, by September 16th

A brief program in the Rose Garden at 10:10 a.m. will be followed by an optional giraffe feeding at 11 a.m. and zoo tour. Please park in the South Parking Lot at 50th and Fremont Avenue.

Website excerpt: 'The famed Woodland Park Rose Garden, noted as one of 24 All-America Rose Selection Test Gardens, has been a favorite local spot since it opened in 1924. Now, thanks to funding provided by the **Seattle Garden Club** and Committee of 33, the new pergola is gracing the south end of the garden. The pergola restores the traditional symmetry and north-south views to the landscape.'



*Pergola in progress*

## SGC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SGC's June Annual Meeting provided a wealth of activities. The Club flower show included a host of participants in horticulture, photography and flower arranging. As usual, Jane Harder's dedication to the video, provided a wonderful review of the year, and the awards to members of SGC and the community were inspiring.

### Seattle Garden Club Awards 2009

#### National

Frances K. Hutchinson Medal awarded to **William D. Ruckelshaus** for "*distinguished service to conservation*"

#### Community Leadership Award for Non-Members

**EarthCorps** 2009 Community Leadership Award "*for dedicated service in the field of conservation.*"

**Gaye & Jim Pigott** 2009 Community Leadership Award "*for their leadership in the Methow Valley in the fields of civic achievement, preservation and conservation.*"

#### Club

**Patsy Pattison** 2008 Commendation of Spirited and Enthusiastic Participation (as Patsy was unavailable to attend in 2008, this was awarded at this year's event).

**Judy Thomas** 2009 Commendation of Spirited and Enthusiastic Participation

**Mary Turner** 2009 Commendation of Appreciation for dedicated and sustained participation



*Patsy Pattison and her mother, Alison Andrews*



*Noreen Frink presents award to Judy Thomas*



*Noreen Frink congratulates Mary Turner*

## PLANT EXCHANGE

Your garden is overcrowded?  
You are making a change in your landscaping? You need to divide?  
It wasn't the right plant, right place?

Relatively new to the newsletter, this column will be used primarily for SGC members to offer plants from their gardens that they may wish to share. Post your offer here!

Interested taker: All you need to do is contact the donor, agree to a time, take your own supplies (tools, tarp, pots, etc.), elbow grease, extra manpower, if needed, then dig and haul them away, leaving the donor's area cleaned up! Plants are free!

To place an ad, e-mail your information by the 10th of each month to [sgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sgcnewsletter@gmail.com). Don't use e-mail? Contact Suzette at 206-524-9042.



## Looking Ahead...

- Sept. 17 Fall Picnic  
Members Only  
10:30 a.m.  
Marigold & Mint and Oxbow Farm  
Carnation  
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tgarden.flora@gmail.com  
(206) 324-2505
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9:30 a.m. coffee/10 a.m. Program  
"Harvest Bounty" (Please "Show and  
Tell" your harvest)

- Oct. 5 Charles Jencks Lecture  
Open to the public - \$20  
7:00 p.m. Mountaineers Building  
7700 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Advance tickets online at:  
[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)
- Oct. 29 Washington Park Arboretum's  
75th Anniversary Event  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m. CUH Open House  
7 - 9:00 p.m. Scot Medbury  
discusses the role of the Olmsted  
Brothers in the design of the Arboretum
- Dec. 3 Holiday Luncheon  
and Auction  
Guests Welcome  
Seattle Golf Club



## Color Your Newsletter

To read a full-color edition of this newsletter, visit our website at [www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org).  
Want to save paper and help SGC reduce expenses? Notify us at [sgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sgcnewsletter@gmail.com)  
to receive an e-mailed copy of all future, full-color editions.



### Seattle Garden Club

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