



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America  
[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)

October 2009



## October General Meeting Thursday, October 15, 2009

***"He or she who dies with the most plants, wins! "***

*A presentation on the plant collection  
at the Elisabeth Miller Garden*

Richie Steffan, Horticulture Curator at the Elisabeth Miller Garden is our guest speaker.

Richie often travels with Dan Hinkley around the world collecting plant specimens.

His presentation will highlight different and new plants that have been added to the collection.

**Guests welcome!**

UW Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture

9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting, 10:30 program

and "Summer Memories" Photo Exhibit

**Please RSVP by Friday, October 9 with a YES or NO  
to Sheila Noonan 206-860-7662 [agatha326@aol.com](mailto:agatha326@aol.com)**

### AT A GLANCE

events of note coming soon

- 10/5 Hort Meeting @ UWBG/CUH  
9:30 a.m. coffee  
10:00 a.m. Program
- 10/5 Charles Jencks Lecture  
Mountaineers Building  
7:00 p.m./\$20
- 10/7 - Montlake Cut Park  
Weeding Work Party  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- 10/15 SGC General Meeting @  
UWBG/CUH  
9:30 a.m. coffee/10:00 Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Program  
Richie Steffan
- 10/29 Scot Medbury @ UWBG/CUH  
7:00 p.m. lecture/ \$25

### 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>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It looks like we are entering our Indian summer with all the fall colors fast approaching. How glorious! It's that time of year to harvest all those last delectable edibles in the garden as well as to put our gardens to bed, perhaps with some new plantings.

Diana Neely and our SGC Flower Arranging, Horticulture and Photography judges were very busy throughout the summer planning the GCA Zone XII Judges workshop held in Seattle, September 27 to 29. It was a tremendous effort to plan for all 160 participants. Judging is such an integral part of GCA and SGC so "thank you" to Diana and her committee.

I want to thank Marilee Ahalt for meticulously putting our 2009-2010 yearbook together. I also want to thank Suzette de Turenne for her stellar job of creating our own "home grown" newsletter. Please contact Suzette or Marilee if you have corrections or suggestions. Kudos also go to Carol Eland for doing a wonderful PR job for our special lecture by Charles Jencks on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and the Arboretum's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary featuring Scot Medbury on Oct 29th. Both events should be exciting and informative.

We will have a new format at our general meetings. Coffee at 9:30 as usual, a short business meeting at 10:00 and, of course, our program at 10:30.

Debbi Wilson, Suzette de Turenne and I participated in the GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference in Chicago, September 18 - 21. We will report on our trip in our next newsletter.

And finally, what a great picnic! Beautiful setting among all those flowers and edibles, great skit by the provisionals and camaraderie par excellence. Many thanks to Trudy Baldwin for planning a very memorable event.

## OUR SGC WEBSITE AND YOU - A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP!

**Have you visited our SGC website lately?** Thanks to member Traci Tenneson, it has undergone an amazing face lift this past year. Last spring Traci gave a presentation to our membership, in an effort to familiarize us all with its look, content and ease of use. But Traci admits, she's not too sure that we are all benefiting from it, nor it from us!

### WHAT CAN OUR SGC WEBSITE DO FOR YOU???

- Online calendar - Can't remember exactly where that next Hort meeting is being held? Look online!
- Online newsletter, even past issues! No more digging through piles of mail for the latest (or oldest) SGC news.
- Share your photos with all your Garden Club friends.
- Links to great books, stores, lectures, plant sales, gardens that other members recommend

### WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE SGC WEBSITE??

- Learn to use it!
- Give your input on how to make it better.

### SOUNDS EASY....BUT, HOW?

- Traci Tenneson, our website guru, will come to any committee meeting to do a quick review of how the website works
- Traci has also offered to come to your house and spend time with you on your own computer and show you just how easy it is to use! Look at that smiling, friendly countenance...what better way to learn?



Traci Tenneson  
SGC Website Guru

### Are you a committee chair or in charge of any Seattle Garden Club event?

You are responsible for putting the event details on the calendar. The calendar on the new website is exactly the same as the calendar from the previous website. Please feel free to call Traci anytime if you need her to talk through how to add or edit events on the calendar. *The calendar is the single most important part of our website and it takes everyone to make sure it's current and correct.*

## HORT STARTS

**Reminder:** 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. Please remember to bring your "Show n Tell" to the meeting

Fall is a great time for planting perennials and shrubs. Take advantage of the great sales at local nurseries at this time of year. Did you know that Swanson's has a 10% discount every Thursday for those of us over age 55? Every little bit helps!

### QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What have you been nurturing, measuring, watering this summer for future exhibit?

- a. Crop for the "Harvest Bounty" Meeting
- b. Your new puppy
- c. Your cedar seedlings

(Answer to last month's quiz: c. Alaska!)

**Debbi Wilson**  
**Horticulture Committee Chair**



## 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.

## GARDENER'S CORNER



### Thoughts for October

- During October and November, after soil temperature drops below 60 degrees, the bulbs of flowering tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, dwarf irises, Anemone, alliums, fritillaries, snowdrops (Galanthus) and crocus should be planted. Add Bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole as you prepare the soil.
- Tulip bulbs are flat on one side. Plant flat side toward the pot side and the leaves will lay over edge instead of in towards center of pot.
- As perennials die back, mark them with permanent tags to show their location so you'll know where and what they are. If they need dividing, now is the time to do it. If you have extras, place an ad in the "Plant Exchange" column in the Newsletter.
- Continue watching for insect, slug and snail, or disease damage throughout the garden, and take steps to control the problem.
- Ripen green tomatoes indoors.
- Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, rhubarb and asparagus for winter protection.
- Spray stone fruit trees to prevent fungal and bacterial diseases. Use copper fungicide.
- Clean up annual flower beds; mulch with manure or compost. Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.)
- After the first frost, cut fuchsias back to the edge of basket and store in cool, dry spot for the winter. Check monthly for water.

## SGC AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

**Montlake Cut Park: One year later!**

### Weeding Work Party

**Wednesday, October 7th from 9:30-11:30**

Bring tools and gloves and dress appropriately!

For more information contact Sue Blethen



# CONSERVATION REPORT

I consider myself a decently educated person and a concerned environmentalist, yet I am incredibly ignorant of some of the most common issues involved in the field of conservation. Throughout the Presidential race last year “coal” was mentioned as playing a critical role in damaging our environment. I’m embarrassed to admit that I didn’t fully understand how coal is so harmful to the air we breathe until reading the GCA position paper on “Clean Air”. I’ve included most of it, because it is relatively short and so important. Be sure to read the ‘Glossary of Terms’!

**“GCA Supports Clean Air”** - Clean air is essential for healthy plants, animals and people. The Garden Club of America supported the Clean Air Act of 1970. Air pollution continues to be a problem nationwide, and some power plants, refineries and manufacturing facilities continue to violate federal emission standards. In order to improve air quality and to reduce the risks of climate change, GCA supports the following goals:

- Reduction of three pollutants – **Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**, **Nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>)**, and **Mercury (Hg)** – that are affecting the quality of the air and adversely affecting the habitat of all living things: plants, animals and humans.
- Reduction in the amount of **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)**, and other greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere, as the changing climate may pose the greatest risk to biodiversity in the coming century.
- Reduction of these four chemicals through an integrated strategy of regulated emission caps, improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)** - Sulfur in coal becomes sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), when coal is burned. SO<sub>2</sub> acidifies lakes, streams and soil, diminishes crop yields, deteriorates buildings, and creates haze which pollutes national parks and urban areas.

**Nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>)** - Nitrogen oxide is produced when coal is burned. Winds carry these acid pollutants far from their sources. Acid pollutants fall to earth in wet form (acid rain, snow, mist or fog), or dry form (acid gases or dust). Nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons combine in the atmosphere to form ground level ozone, the major constituent of smog. Human exposure can produce shortness of breath, asthma, and over time, permanent lung damage. Smog can reduce crop yields and damage plants, including forests, food crops and ornamentals.

**Mercury (Hg)** - Mercury is a nerve poison that builds to hazardous levels when released into the environment. The chief source of mercury is coal-fired power plants. Mercury deposition into water bodies can contaminate fish, especially those fish which are higher on the food chain. Forty-one states have issued advisories warning against the consumption of a range of these freshwater and/or marine fish.

**Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** - Carbon dioxide is the gas most responsible for climate change. This heat-trapping gas is released by burning of fossil fuel (coal, oil and natural gas), flaring of natural gas, changes in land use (deforestation, burning and clearing land for agricultural purposes), and manufacturing of cement. These activities account for half of the warming potential caused by human activity.

**How can we help the GCA in its mission to “support clean air”?** One way is by **planting trees**. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, “Trees produce life-giving oxygen and remove air pollution as they lower air temperature, release moisture in the air, and retain particulates.” This is a fabulous website which includes an article on the benefits of planting trees: [Trees and Your Environment](http://www.cleanairgardening.com/plantingtrees.html) <http://www.cleanairgardening.com/plantingtrees.html>

Another way is by **reducing the amount of energy we consume**. Simple steps such as cleaning air filters regularly and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Check out this website for a huge list of other ideas: [How to Reduce Your Greenhouse Gas Emissions - wikiHow](http://www.wikihow.com/Reduce-Your-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions) <http://www.wikihow.com/Reduce-Your-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions>

**Weatherproof your home.** According to an article in Time Magazine, “On average, heating an American home with natural gas creates about 6,400 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> a year; using electricity will produce about 4,700 lbs of emissions. Both numbers can be larger if you live in a cold part of the country.” Check out this article from the Seattle Times from last winter: [Home & Garden | Weather stripping stops cold air at the door | Seattle Times Newspaper](#)

**Stay informed.** Check out the last issue of ConWatch, the GCA publication concerning our efforts in conservation. [http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/conwatch-newsletter/conwatch\\_spring\\_09.pdf](http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/conwatch-newsletter/conwatch_spring_09.pdf)

I look forward to the first meeting of the Conservation Committee this fall. Please contact me if you want to be on the committee, but were not listed in the green book....or if you want to receive our emails, but don’t have time for one more committee!

**Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair**



## Notes from the Photography Committee



The October 15th General Meeting will feature a photo exhibit by SGC Committee members, with the theme "Summer Memories 2009".

**Reminder:** 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*

## SGC Photographers in the Field....



*Emmer Faro by Sis Woodside*



*Monterey by Kathy Lea*



*Moss & lichen at Sinclair Island by Charlee Reed*

### The Words

Wind, bird, and tree,  
Water, grass, and light:  
In half of what I write  
Roughly or smoothly  
Year by impatient year,  
The same six words recur,

I have as many floors  
As meadows or rivers,  
As much still air as wind  
And as many cats in mind  
As nests in the branches  
To put an end to these.

Instead, I take what is:  
The light beats on the stones,  
And wind over water shines  
Like long grass through the trees,  
As I set loose, like birds  
In a landscape, the old words.

*David Wagoner*

### GCA HAPPENINGS

*We hope this feature will encourage our members to take a closer look at the many relevant and interesting articles found at the GCA website: [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org).*

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) just recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Its purpose is to sustain native plants in jeopardy of endangerment. The Garden Club of America was instrumental in the creation of the Center and since its inception, our Garden Club has been a mainstay of the Center. Work done by CPC is outlined in the issues of *Con Watch* which are available on our garden Club's website.



# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND AUCTION

Mark your calendars!

**Thursday, December 3rd**

is the date of our Holiday Luncheon and eagerly anticipated Auction.  
The Seattle Golf Club is our new venue.

We hope each of you will think about a wonderful item to donate.....  
and make a list of guests you would like to invite!

Just to whet your appetite, here are a few exciting items already procured:

- Group trip to the Methow Valley
- Clam digging outing at Mary Jane Anderson's Seabeck cabin
- Wild mushroom foraging with dinner following
- Golf trip to Palm Springs

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We're dreaming of a great Auction! Just like the one we used to know.....



Please consider contributing a *quality* item to our **MAJOR SGC FUNDRAISER!!**  
Be creative! Offer your talents! Dream up something zany, witty, worthy or delicious to donate!

- Excursions, experiences - near or far!
- Entertainment...tickets, parties or talent!
- Share your expertise...create or teach!
- Gardening items...potted plants, specialty tools, unique containers!
- Fun holiday décor....santas, reindeer, elves!
- Unique toys/outing for that special Grandchild!



*Some of the group who enjoyed the great outdoors during the Sun Valley trip offered at last year's Holiday Auction: In back - Catherine Roach, Charlee Reed, Hope Stroble, Dinah Hutchinson, Susan Torrance; Front row - Mary Turner, Laurie Riley, Marilee Ahalt*

Seattle Garden Club and UW Botanic Gardens present

## Scot Medbury

President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

***“The History and Olmsted Legacy of the  
Washington Park Arboretum”***

**October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Open house 5:30 – 7:00pm**

**Lecture 7:00pm**



**UW Botanic Gardens/Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st - Seattle, WA 98195**

**\$25.00 per person**

**For reservations call: 206-543-0540 or visit the UW website @ [www.uwalum.com](http://www.uwalum.com)**



*Photos left to right: 1) The “Speed Way” in 1908, along the site of the future Azalea Way; 2) Azalea Way before improvement. Asahel Curtis glass slide of Olmsted Brothers Photo, 1934; 3) Proposed treatment for Azalea Walk. Asahel Curtis glass slide of Olmsted Brothers drawing, 1936.*



## PLANT EXCHANGE

**SPECIES IRIS JAPONICA  
DID YOU KNOW PAT BASS?**

Avid gardener and friend to many SGC members, Pat Bass (Jo Anne Rosen’s Mother) was the original owner of this wonderful species iris. Jo Anne rescued her mother’s iris when the new owners were relandscaping. Peggy Wilton was a fortunate recipient and the iris have been happily residing at Peggy’s in an eastern exposure with some protection. It’s time to divide and conquer! Although Peggy thinks it would be particularly nice if Pat’s friends were interested, she will be pleased to see some breathing room for her iris and happy to see them growing elsewhere, too. Contact Peggy at 206-323-6322 to make arrangements.

Dividing, thinning, relandscaping? To advertise your interest in sharing, 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...

- Oct. 5     **Hort Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30 a.m. coffee/10:00 a.m. Program  
"Harvest Bounty"
- 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. 7     **Montlake Cut Park**  
**Weeding Work Party**  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 15    **General Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**  
Guests welcome!  
9:30 a.m. coffee/10:00 a.m. Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Program: **Richie Steffan** brings  
us up to date on new and different plants in  
the Elisabeth Miller Garden

- Oct. 29    Washington Park Arboretum's  
75th Anniversary Event - \$25  
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
- Nov. 2     **Flower Arrangers Workshop @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30 a.m. coffee/10:00 a.m. meeting
- Nov. 19    **General Meeting @ Arboretum**  
Graham Visitors Center - Guests welcome!  
9:30 a.m. **Carolyn Bennett**, speaker
- Dec. 3     **Holiday Luncheon and Auction**  
Guests welcome!  
Seattle Golf Club
- Dec. 15    **Provisional Membership Proposals due!**  
Dinah Hutchinson  
(206) 365-9376



## Color Your Newsletter

If you are receiving this by U. S. Mail and want 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.

Suzette de Turenne, Communications Committee Chair



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