



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)

October 2010



## HORT MEETING

October 4th 9:30am  
UWBG/CUH

A panel of some of our own members share their personal garden stories.

Burke Museum guided tour on Western Red Cedar artifacts following meeting at 1:00.

See "Hort Starts" inside  
for more information

### AT A GLANCE

events of note coming soon

- 9/25 **Lake Union Park** opening celebration - sunrise to sunset
- 9/30 **Ways & Means Committee Meeting**, 10am, Sunset Club
- 10/4 **Hort Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30am Coffee; 10am Program, "Earth on our Hands"  
  
**Note: "Welcome Aboard!"**  
**Flower Show Meeting**  
9am in adjoining room  
  
**1pm Burke Museum** guided tour  
Western Red Cedar artifacts
- 10/7 **Board Meeting**, 10am  
Sunset Club
- 10/11 **Conservation Committee Meeting** 9:30am @ Juliet Romano's
- 10/18 **Photography Committee Meeting**, 10am - Noon @ Noreen Frink's
- 10/20 **East Montlake Park**, 9am -Noon  
weeding & some planting
- 10/21 **General Meeting @ Graham Visitors Center** (see info to right)

October General Meeting  
Thursday, October 21, 2010

*History of Japanese Landscape*  
*Dr. Jesse Hiraoka, Speaker*

*Followed by a special tour  
of the Japanese Garden!*

Includes a visit to the new community meeting room currently hosting an exhibition of Japanese photographs, "KATSURA" (name of 'detached palace' in Kyoto); Ishimoto Yasuhiro-photographer

**Guests welcome!**



### GRAHAM VISITORS CENTER

9:30am coffee, 10:00 meeting, 10:30 program,  
12:00 Noon - 1:00pm tour

**Please RSVP by Friday, October 15  
with a YES or NO**

to Charlee Reed [cpreed@msn.com](mailto:cpreed@msn.com) (206)325-7033



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lake Union Park will officially open to the public on September 25 with a 12-hour celebration from sunrise to sunset. This new waterfront park reserves to the public the prime location in the rapidly developing area between downtown Seattle and the south shore of Lake Union.

The Seattle Garden Club granted \$50,000 to the Lake Union Park project. Just ten days before the grand opening, our work party will have planted the concrete “boat” that is to be for posterity the tangible and fitting evidence of our contribution. We can feel justifiable pride that this gift and the \$50,000 we donated to fund the “nurse log” at the Olympic Sculpture Park have helped place Seattle in the top rank of cities turning urban blight and environmental degradation into small but great urban parks. Seattle, more famous for its caffeinated digital connectivity, has created two new public forums where gardens, art, architecture and stunning natural beauty inspire and facilitate social connections and community bonds.

I recently read an article by architecture historian and critic Sarah Williams Goldhagen on the essential characteristics of a successful urban park. Not surprisingly she turned to the “canonical” Frederick Law Olmstead and his intuitive understanding that a great urban park influences the way we view our city and one another. With our Olmstead legacy – especially the SGC-fostered Arboretum – we can attest to the transformative power of an hour in a park. Lake Union Park and the Olympic Sculpture Park can offer the same experience if we open ourselves to their charms.

The GCA Visiting Gardens program, currently led by our own Pam Green and Iris Wagner, includes visits to public gardens as well as affording us privileged access to private gardens. Most of us, when we travel, find our way to parks and gardens. If you are Noreen Frink in Paris, you eat your breakfast every morning gazing at the Luxembourg Gardens. (The mug shot of me above was taken in the Jardin des Plantes.) On my recent baby-sitting week in New York the most pleasant and least-frenzied hours with toddlers were spent in Central Park and on the High Line Park.

As you know, GCA will mark its Centennial in 2013 with a \$500,000 Founders Fund Project to make significant improvements to the East 69<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance to Central Park. (By the way, be sure and go the GCA website and on the *public* page click on “Centennial Celebration” for wonderful articles on signal achievements by GCA members through the years.) Hope Stroble and I have spoken to you already about the High Line Park, featured at the 2009 Annual Meeting. One of the landscape architects was a GCA Rome Prize Fellow. Do not miss a walk on the High Line.

Just days after the opening of Lake Union Park, I will visit Chicago’s Millennium Park with SGC Horticulture Chairman Jenny Wyatt. We will undoubtedly head straightaway for the acclaimed Lurie Garden designed by Seattle’s Kathryn Gustafson. This five-acre garden opened just six-years ago yet appears to have been there, well, a millennium. Take your children and grandchildren to the opening of Lake Union Park, show them our “boat” with pride and return with them through the years to watch its plantings mature and become a garden. They will. After all, our name is on it...and Garden is our middle name.

**Catherine Roach, President**

## ATTENTION!

### PLEASE RSVP NOW!!!

- Charlee Reed for the **October General Meeting**, 10/21@ Graham Visitors Center  
[cpreed@msn.com](mailto:cpreed@msn.com) (206) 325-7033
- Jenny Wyatt for the **Burke Museum tour**, 10/4, 1:00pm [wyattjen@comcast.net](mailto:wyattjen@comcast.net)  
(206) 322-2922



*Mary Kay Fitzgerald, Angel Clark, Carol Eland and Lexie Robbins join Deborah Cheadle in Deborah's beautiful garden, open to SGC members before and after our September Picnic.*



## ECO TIPS



It's hard to believe that it is almost October. Most of us are still waiting for summer! Let's begin this Garden Club year committing anew to 'Renew, Reduce and Recycle'. Here's a couple of easy things we can all do:

- Avoid air fresheners -- open your windows, and use baking soda, cedar blocks and/or dried flowers for a great fresh air scent.
- When you start your furnace for the fall, change those filters for more efficiency to save on gas, oil, or electricity and thus, the environment, too.

**Cappy Rooks**



*Dabney Rohrbach, Kristi Ratzlaff and Carey Davis Abbott presented an entertaining Provisional Skit at the Annual Picnic. Gayle Harris joined in effigy of sorts.*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP

### Proposals due by December 15th

Proposal forms are available via the Seattle Garden Club website: [www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org). Click "For Members" (user name and password are on the front page of your Green Book) then look for the tab on the left "SGC Forms". At this time it is not possible to fill it out on-line, so print, complete and send in.

**Vicki Reed (206)588-0363**

## GARDENER'S CORNER

### Thoughts for October



- Cut back on watering houseplants and stop fertilizing altogether.
- Divide and add new perennials, plant ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- Most plants transplant best in fall. However, wait to move dogwoods and magnolias in late winter or early spring.
- Ripen green tomatoes indoors.
- Clean up annual flower beds; mulch with manure or compost.
- 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.
- Plant garlic in full sun with lots of organic matter. Timing is important as cloves must have time to develop roots before the onset of winter for a pungent summer harvest.
- Thatch, aerate and install sod. Top dress with light layer of sifted compost if lawn was planted with little organic matter. Turn off irrigation systems.
- As always, continue slug/snail patrol.

**Janet Footh**



## GCA HAPPENINGS

### Oh! Those Latin Names

Is the Latin name for an aster, "asterus?" or "asteria?" "asterum?" And is the aster in the same species or genus or subspecies or family as a zinnia? Maybe it's a sister-in-law to the zinnia or maybe a second cousin once removed? I wonder if others have been as flustered with this as I have.

Actually an aster in Latin is simply "aster." And it's in the same family as a zinnia - the Compositae family. Its genus is aster and if it's an alpine aster, it's an "aster alpinus."

I was most happy to find this information in a small pamphlet put out by Garden Club of America, entitled "Do You Speak Latin?" edited by Mrs. T. T. Siler. It's a quick explanation of how Latin came to be used to identify plants and the correct sequence of family/genus/species. Plus there are some good tips on pronunciation in this pamphlet revised in 2001. Look for it on the website: [www.qcamerica.org](http://www.qcamerica.org).

**Carey Davis Abbott**

# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee will be having its **first meeting** for the year on Monday, **October 11th** at my house, beginning at 9:30. All are welcome. Besides having some nuts and bolts to go over such as our 'memberships & contributions' (be thinking!) and what our donation will be to the holiday luncheon (ditto!), the Partnership for Plants project with Sue Blethen (our diligent leader!) and the conservation exhibit for the flower show with Carol Eland (thank you Carol!), we have lots of exciting plans for the year to discuss.

**Field Trips:** Ideas to get us out and about to see conservation practices in our own 'back yard'...

- A trip to the Mercer Slough.
- A visit to see the honey harvest at Seattle Academy.
- A trip to see how rain gardens and environmentally friendly development can reduce storm water run off - the leading cause of pollution in Puget Sound.
- A visit to Cedar Grove to see our scraps and yard waste get composted.
- Any more ideas? Please bring them!

**Projects:** More things we will be discussing...

- Planning our mini-NAL event and attending Lobby Day in Olympia in January.
- How to implement a reusable bag program (suggested by one of our members) in a way that will mesh with the conservation exhibit at the flower show.

**Homework assignments** for the meeting! (for those interested):

- 1) Read at least one of the **Position Papers** of the GCA (which were newly updated this year). Creating the Position Papers and using them as a foundation for our conservation goals and projects is one of the most important things that the Conservation Committee and the NAL Committee do.
- 2) The first person to name all seven Position Papers between 9:30 and 10:00 at the meeting on the 11th will **win a prize!**
- 3) **Book Review or Show & Tell:** Did you read a book or see a film with a conservation bent to it this summer? If so, come prepared to give us a brief description! Did you visit a farmers market or have you discovered a restaurant that sources its food from 'local' suppliers? Did you grow your sunflower and watch for bees to come visit it? Then please show or tell us all about it!

**Dirt! The Movie:** We will be watching the trailer to this 2009 Sundance Film Festival entrant. I have purchased the dvd and will happily share so that we can all be educated listeners for the Conservation lecture with Anne Bikle in November.

Visit the Blog! [SGC Conservation Blog](#)

The Latest Fabulous issue of Conwatch [http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/conwatch-newsletter/conwatch\\_summer\\_10.pdf](http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/conwatch-newsletter/conwatch_summer_10.pdf)

I submitted visits to my sunflower to The Great Sunflower Project!  
[http://www.greatsunflower.org/files/images/Great\\_Sunflower\\_Project\\_Insert.pdf](http://www.greatsunflower.org/files/images/Great_Sunflower_Project_Insert.pdf)

See you on the 11th! **Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair**



*Photos by Juliet of her Lemon Queen sunflower being visited by local pollinators*

# HORT STARTS



Please plan to attend our first Horticulture meeting of the season on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, CUH, 9:30 coffee; 10:00 program. Titled “**Earth on our Hands**,” the meeting will feature a panel of SGC members who will tell us about their gardens. The format will be an informal discussion, so bring your enthusiasm and questions.

We’d like to expand the “show and tell” portion of our Hort meetings and hope you’ll bring in something from your garden to share.

## QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Pumpkin plants produce yellow male and female blossoms that stay open for:

- a. a half-day    b. one day    c. two days    d. many days, if pollinated

Answer to September’s Quiz: The first female botanist working in America was b. Jane Colden

## FIELD TRIP TO BURKE MUSEUM

“A Coast Salish myth says the Great Spirit created Western Red Cedar in honor of a man who was always helping others: ‘When he dies and where he is buried, a cedar tree will grow and be useful to the people - the roots for baskets, the bark for clothing, the wood for shelter’ ” (from Pojar and Mackinnon, *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*).

Join our **special tour of Western Red Cedar artifacts at the Burke Museum** to learn more about the uses of a tree we are growing, planting and studying as part of the GCA Centennial Tree Project. Time and date: **Following the Horticulture meeting on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.**

RSVP to Jenny Wyatt if you plan to attend: [wyattjen@comcast.net](mailto:wyattjen@comcast.net) (206)322-2922

**Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair**

# GARDEN HISTORY & DESIGN

While reading through the No. 94 SUMMER 2010 issue of *HORTUS* (A Gardening Journal), I came across an article about the creation of the Norfolk [Virginia] Botanical Garden built in the late 1930’s with federal funds from the WPA. **Deborah Cheadle, Garden History & Design Chair**

Excerpt from *The Gift* by Sukie Amory:

“...the ambitious Works Progress Administration (WPA) created jobs for more than eight million people who built and improved 651,000 miles of roads, 124,000 bridges, 125,000 public buildings, and 853 airport landing fields. And the WPA’s legacy is not limited to infrastructure...in a legacy that united infrastructure AND the creative spirit, the WPA and its predecessor the PWA (Public Works Administration – oh those acronyms!) also created new gardens, most of them built within existing city parks and in varying states of repair today...”

Farther north, the **Seattle Garden Club** donated \$3,000 (no mean sum in 1936) for the University of Washington to hire the Olmsted Brothers, sons of the great founder of American landscape architecture...to design a planting plan for what is now that tree-loving state’s official arboretum. While planting was delayed until calmer and more prosperous times after the Second World War, five hundred unemployed men found work with the PWA laying the groundwork for today’s Washington Park Arboretum, constructing a picturesque Stone Cottage and Azalea Way.”



**Azalea Way before improvements**





# Holiday Luncheon & Auction

Mark your calendars!

**December 2, 2010**

**Seattle Golf Club**

**10:30am Auction & Social - 12:00Noon Lunch**

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**Our major fundraising event is fast approaching.**

**Mark your calendars and gather your guest list to make sure you are there to support all our SGC projects and grants.**

**The luncheon is always a wonderful time for all – so don't miss it!**

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**Please consider contributing a *quality* item to our *MAJOR SGC FUNDRAISER!!***

**Be creative! Offer your talents!**

**We hope you will dream up a wonderful item and/or outing 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, trees!
- Unique toys/outings for that special Grandchild!

*Sheila Noonan, Ways and Means Chair*



*Some of our most successful Auction items are outings/gatherings with SGC members at private homes or to special destinations. Two popular 2009 experiences, left to right: Mushroom foraging with Jeremy Faber (included gourmet dinner at the home of Carlyn Steiner) and Wild "Game" Night at Burnley Snyder's (included fun games and fabulous dining on wild game). What could be in store for you this year?*

## AUTUMN DAYBREAK

Cold wind of autumn, blowing loud  
At dawn, a fortnight overdue,  
Jostling the doors, and tearing through  
My bedroom to rejoin the cloud,  
I know - for I can hear the hiss  
And scrape of leaves along the floor -  
How many boughs, lashed bare by this,  
Will rake the cluttered sky once more.  
Tardy, and somewhat south of east,  
The sun will rise at length, made known  
More by the meagre light increased  
Than by a disk in splendour shown;  
When, having but to turn my head,  
Through the stripped maple I shall see,  
Bleak and remembered, patched with red,  
The hill all summer hid from me.

**Edna St. Vincent Millay**



## Michelmás and Blackberries



Legend has it that Michael the Victorious hurled Lucifer into the blackberry brambles on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Thus, after that day, blackberries were “deviled” and no longer fit to be picked. Perhaps this was the Celtic explanation of the ill effects of eating fermented berries. At any rate, blackberries were and still are associated with this holiday in various parts of the world.

Indeed blackberries are very present in the Northwest as summer turns to fall. Often they are seen as our invasive adversaries, but I am hard pressed to find someone who does not enjoy picking a few! And this year, the September 29<sup>th</sup> deadline can be ignored as summer had such a sluggish appearance.

As Wade Garretson explained to us in a Horticulture meeting last Autumn, there are several types of blackberries including the Himalayan, and the somewhat evasive wild native that grows low like an ankle bracelet.

It's a great time to make blackberry cordial. Just 4 cups of berries, 3 cups of sugar, a 1/5 of vodka in a large mason jar. Let sit until November, then strain through paper coffee filters and bottle in small jars for holiday gifts that will remind you that summer will come again. **Carey Davis Abbott**

## SGC AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

### Fall Plans for East Montlake Park

Our Eastlake Montlake Park project has been driven forward by both creativity and hard work, and we need more of the same this fall. Please join our efforts to fund, procure, propagate, plant and nourish over 1,000 new plants for the park. Here is our plan:

- 1. FUNDING** We are continuing to seek a grant to fund the purchase of plants but also to provide supplemental water as they get established in this dry, sunny location. We welcome your ideas.
- 2. PLANT SALVAGE and DONATIONS** We need to locate and secure NW native plants we can salvage for replanting at the park. We urge you to donate, or solicit donations of, NW native plants. Jeff Erickson, a volunteer with US Army Corps of Engineers, has offered plants we can dig from an area in Kingston that is to be disturbed by construction. This is an EXCELLENT source of larger plants! Salvage to be held Wednesday, November 3rd - (8:20 Edmonds Ferry) 9-12 with replanting at the park on Friday, Nov 5th, 9-12. Bring weather appropriate clothes, boots and gloves, shovels, and a picnic lunch to enjoy. Treats provided!
- 3. PLANT PROPAGATION** Serious and resourceful gardeners that we are, we intend to propagate a substantial number of the plants we need for the project. GCA's Partners for Plants, already an underwriter of our popular goats, has granted \$2,500 for our propagation endeavor. Jeff Erickson will help us and the US Army Corps of Engineers is creating space for our efforts in their greenhouse and cold frames at the locks. Propagation times to be announced later.
- 4. FINAL WEEDING & BEGIN PLANTING** Wednesday, October 20th, 9-Noon at the park. A few plants have been donated we can start with.

**Weeding, some planting: Wednesday, October 20th, 9am-12 Noon**

**Plant Salvage: Wednesday, November 3rd - 8:40 Edmonds Ferry to Kingston 9-12**

**Planting of Salvaged Plants at the park: Friday, November 5th—9am-12 noon**

Thank you so much for all your help with our very special park! **If you want to help with any aspect of this plan, contact Sue Blethen: [sueblethen@hotmail.com](mailto:sueblethen@hotmail.com) or (425) 455-5284**



## Looking Ahead...

- Nov. 1 **Flower Arranging Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30 a.m. coffee/10:00 a.m. Program
- Nov. 3 **Plant Salvage in Kingston** for East  
Montlake Park; 8:20 Edmonds ferry to Noon
- Nov. 5 **Planting Salvaged Plants at East  
Montlake Park**; 9am to Noon

- Nov. 18 **General Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30am Social; 10am Meeting; 10:30am  
Program: "Paradise Unpaved"; speaker,  
Anne Bikle on Soil Conservation.
- Dec. 2 **Holiday Auction & Luncheon**  
Seattle Golf Club - Guests Welcome!  
10:30 Auction & Social;  
12 Noon Lunch



## ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?

### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE CHANGED TO E-MAIL THIS YEAR!

We are making great strides in reducing the number of hard copies that we create and mail to our members. Thank you! If you are currently receiving this newsletter via U.S. Mail, and are able and willing to receive it via e-mail, please let me know.

*Suzette de Turenne, Communications Committee Chair*



### Seattle Garden Club

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