



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

January 2011



HORT MEETING

JANUARY 10TH

Ethnobotany of Western Washington

by native plant expert
Heidi Bohan

9:30am Coffee;
10am Program @ UWBG/CUH

AT A GLANCE

events of note in January

- Jan. 6 **BOARD MEETING**
@ The Sunset Club - 10:00am
- Jan. 7 **FLOWER ARRANGING
COMMITTEE MEETING**
11:00am
- Jan. 10 **HORT MEETING
ETHNOBOTANY**
(see notice above)
- Jan. 13 **HORT COMMITTEE MEETING**
@ Jenny Wyatt's 10:00am
- Jan. 18 **PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE
MEETING** @ Noreen Frink's
9:30am
- Jan. 20 **BIENNIAL MEETING**
(see notice to right)
CONSERVATION MEETING @
8:55am
- Jan. 24 **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**
@ Catherine Allan's 10:00am
**AWARDS COMMITTEE
MEETING** 10:00am
- Jan. 27 **PROPAGATION WORKSHOPS**
RSVP to Angel Clark

January General Meeting Thursday, January 20, 2011

Biennial Meeting of Membership

UWBG/CUH - 9:30 Social, 10:00 Meeting
Members Only

Join the discussion on **Community Projects**.
Review and evaluate our recent history of giving.
*What are our remedies when a project we
funded is not adequately maintained?
Looking forward, how do we assess whether
a potential grantee will provide long term
maintenance? How should we think about
donor recognition for a major capital project?
Our Community Project policies apply only to
funding requests from organizations outside
SGC. Should we revise them to state a process
for projects our SGC committees initiate?
All that and more!*

Jane Harder will show us a short video on
Mediterranean Medley.

Please reply, YES or NO

by Sunday, January 16th,

to Jane Harder

janeharder@comcast.net (206) 371-7675



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I like to think of myself as forward-looking, but I confess I will miss 2010. It has had the virtue of being easy to say. Twenty Ten. Eleven has three syllables. Perhaps we will elide it like a child. Twenty'leven. We must look for efficiencies. After all, we have a Flower Show to put on.

Before we let go of 2010, though, we will give it a proper send-off. We end each year engaging in a whirl of religious and secular rituals that, though physically draining, are emotionally uplifting. I need the charge of the holidays to keep me going until spring. Plainly stated, I love Christmas. And do you know what I have found since joining SGC? The lessons I have learned from all of you make me look at things differently, do things differently. Juliet is sitting on my shoulder when I make out my shopping list. Do those spoiled grandchildren really need more *stuff*? What *experience* can I give them instead? Prudence is whispering in my ear: "You have too much going on with your decorations. Set a theme at your entry and be consistent throughout the house." (Good grief, I confess I even look at the altar flowers with a more critical eye.) I know you will not believe this: *I made a wreath*. Judy Thomas enticed me out to Bassetti's Crooked Arbor Gardens by promising "everyone is successful." At least we could all agree that mine was ... the biggest.

Move we must into 2011. Our first general meeting is our Biennial Business Meeting on January 20. By that time each of us individually will have taken stock and made a resolution or two. Perhaps we saw the need for a small correction in course. Or we have resolved to try something new. Writ large, that is what SGC does in January every other year. We come together to talk about and assess our policies, our ways of doing things. How might we do a better job of fulfilling our mission?

Several years ago at a spirited gathering in January we examined our policies and practices surrounding Community Projects. We left that meeting with a resolve to increase the size of our grants. Exciting projects abounded, and we wanted to step up and help fund them. We made a strategic decision. We set for ourselves specific, measurable objectives and then put in place some written policies to help us achieve them. Now it is time to *evaluate* how our performance measured up and to set a course for the next few years. Come to our meeting on January 20 prepared to talk constructively about Community Projects. If you have been mulling over other topics for discussion, my email inbox makes a good suggestion box.

Between now and our convocation in the deep midwinter, may your days be merry and bright.

Catherine Roach, President



WREATH MAKING - AN SGC HOLIDAY TRADITION

For the third year, our creative Judy Thomas organized a Holiday Wreath Workshop at Crooked Arbor Gardens in Woodinville. Seven Garden Club members braved the elements on a rainy, blustery morning to create a wonderful variety of natural wreaths. What a great way to get in the holiday spirit! **Pictured: Catherine Roach, Trudy Baldwin, Jenny Wyatt, Traci Tenneson, Judy Thomas, Laurie Riley and Cathy Parker**

ATTENTION!

PLEASE RSVP OR ACT NOW!

- **RSVP to Jane Harder for the General Meeting**
- **Contact Catherine Parker** regarding your interest in the **Flower Arranging 101** course offered February 18th
- Sign up for the Propagation Workshops
- Make plans for your 2011 Flower Show, "**Welcome Aboard!**" entries
- **Recommendations to the Awards Committee** before January 24th

FLOWER ARRANGING 101- FEBRUARY 18TH

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY! There may still be room in this six-hour course being offered to GCA garden club members nationally, taught by Susan Detjens, GCA Judge, Zone III Judging Chair and GCA designated FA101 instructor.

The workshop includes a flower arranging demonstration; an instructional and informative flower arranging notebook; two containers; plant material and supervised time to practice making two arrangements that will be yours to take home. A light lunch will be provided.

Please call Catherine Parker, 206-325-3278, for more information.

Spring is Just Around the Corner at East Montlake Park

The Winter Solstice is now behind us, the days are lengthening, and Spring is just around the corner. When it does come, all the new fern fiddleheads and fronds, then deciduous leaves, flowers and berries will emerge bringing new life and energy to what was once an impossible jungle of invasive plants.

Hot news: Catherine Allan secured three new trees from Jana Dille that have been planted, with one being our very first 'Venus' dogwood! This is a cross between the native *Cornus nuttallii* 'Goldspot' and *Cornus kousa* 'Chinensis' X *Cornus kousa* 'Rosea'. This tree will resist the native anthracnose problem and has extremely large white bracts. It is gorgeous! **Note: We will likely not be able to provide supplemental water to our native plantings. Current studies show we should expect a 20% dieback versus 10% with extra water. That is acceptable and something we can work around.**

While we are looking forward to new leaves and flowers on the many plants, our January Propagation at the Locks will be underway. This will be informative and fun for everyone who participates as we learn all about taking and propagating hard wood cuttings. Look for Jenny Wyatt's article to sign up!

The woodland we are creating at the park will soon become a tranquil scene of native plants and flowers, birds, butterflies, squirrels and other native animals enjoying the berries, seeds, habitat and cover throughout the year. We will continue to pursue donated and salvaged plants, adding the propagated ones, as we fill the park with their beauty. Let's all visit to enjoy nature and the other waterfront activities that this premium location offers! We are so very lucky to be a part of the rebirth of this little corner of the Montlake Cut!

I will be planning impromptu work projects as the weather cooperates so join us when you can! Keep looking for my e-mails! Thank you all for the many, many hours you have spent working in and for East Montlake Park! And, thank you for the privilege of getting to know each and every one of you better as we all work side-by-side on this fun project!

Sue Blethen sueblethen@hotmail.com

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Please contact us with your observations of outstanding SGC members and individuals in our community for SGC and GCA awards.

In January we will meet on Monday, January 24th, 10am.

Trudy Bladwin, Noreen Frink, Alex Morse, Burnley Snyder, Hope Stroble and Jane Yerkes

SGC Holiday Luncheon and Auction

Thank you all for your wonderful support. The Auction was a success and it is all due to your donations, hard work and, of course our Angels!

The Golf Club absolutely glistened and the centerpiece flower arrangements were fantastic. The holiday spirit was felt throughout the Auction and dining rooms and we all had a wonderful time.

The Final Auction figures are not in yet, but the preliminary results show that we raised approximately \$30,000 for our Community Projects funding.

The trips and experiences were very popular. We especially want to thank our wonderful members who offered their homes, convinced their contacts to donate time, expertise and resources to create interesting, fun and unique experiences for us to offer at the Auction. These items were the stars of our event.

The Ways & Means Committee thanks everyone who helped us achieve this success. Without you we could not have done it. **THANK YOU!**



Sheila Noonan, Chair

Holiday Luncheon volunteers, donors and guests make it happen . . .



Some of the Auction Steering Committee members: Burnley Snyder, Dabney Rohrbach, Charlee Reed, Suzette de Turenne, Sheila Noonan (Chair) and Judy Phillips



Volunteers prepare for guest arrival



Angel Clark, Dabney Rohrbach & Carey Abbott look relaxed before the check-out process begins

Members' centerpieces were inspiring and are a traditional highlight . . .



Sheila Dickey



Kristie Ratzlaff



Jo Anne Rosen



Gayle Harris



Carol Henderson



Marianne Kitchell



Arrangement by Barbara Feasey

Members & guests mingle & enjoy the festivities while raising important funds for SGC community projects . . .



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Rain, Rain Go Away...Properly!

It is so fitting that while I write this a **copious amount of rain** is falling. During heavy rains, the combination of stormwater (about 90 percent of the volume) and sewage may exceed the capacity of the drainage system and overflow into our waterways – causing a **combined sewer overflow** (CSO). Twenty four million gallons of “uncontrolled CSO discharges” empty into Lake Washington annually. Annual overflows in Seattle proper have been reduced from 30 billion gallons per year in 1970 to less than 100 million gallons per year typically.

Stormwater is the term for water that runs off the roofs, streets, lawns and other surfaces in the city following rainfall events. As the water drains off these surfaces it washes off pollutants such as oil and grease, chemicals, pet waste and trash. The water and pollutants end up in the storm drain system, of which nearly half drains directly to streams, lakes or **Puget Sound**.

A lot is being done to try to fix our drainage problems. In October, **several SGC members** went to see the SEA (Street Edge Alternative) natural drainage system, which was installed in the Broadview neighborhood in 2001. Now the city has implemented the [Ballard Roadside Raingardens](#), which is designed to replace hard surfaces with natural drainage areas that allow stormwater to gradually seep into the ground.

Individuals can help by building healthy soils, directing runoff into a rain garden, creating areas where rain-water can soak into the soil, catching runoff in a rain barrel, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, cleaning cars at a commercial car wash, keeping cars ‘oil drip free’, cleaning up after pets, and using less hazardous cleaning solutions. Be aware of how much your own property produces in terms of ‘unmanaged runoff’. I punched in my address on this page [RainWise Tools](#) and found that **74,886 gallons of unmanaged runoff flows off my property every year!** All of these facts and TONS more can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov> which is an AMAZING website.

Just **imagine how great you would feel** if you reduced the amount of untreated stormwater that runs off your property and into Lake Washington. Now imagine how great you would feel if you were to **go to Olympia** to encourage legislation that could reduce hundreds of millions of gallons of waste and storm water from entering Lake Washington! This year the SGC Conservation Committee is taking part in **Lobby Day** – which is like a **mini NAL** event, to help members learn how to make a difference beyond what we can do in our own yards. The **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** is focusing on supporting **CLEAN WATER** initiatives.

From our visits to see several types of rain gardens in the fall, to our lobbying efforts for clean water on February 15th, to our rain garden themed Conservation exhibit at the flower show: **We are learning the facts!**

Please join us at our meeting on January 20th to learn more about Lobby Day **(February 15, 2011)**.

Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair julietromano@comcast.net

WELCOME ABOARD! SGC FLOWER SHOW REMINDERS



• FLOWER SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRIES

Registration closes on January 31st

At that time, if there are any classes which are not filled, photographers can register for a second entry. You may contact Jeannie Gravenkemper now to enter your name on the waiting list of any open classes. Class 5 (On the Shore) and Class 6 (On the Waterfront) are filled.

• FLOWER ARRANGING & HORTICULTURE

• Registration opens for SGC on January 11th

• FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY!

May 19, 2011 - 6:30-9:00pm, Maritime Event Center, Bell Harbor International Conference Center

Please submit names and addresses for invitations to Charlee Reed, 308 36th Avenue E., Seattle, WA 98112, cpreed@msn.com 206-325-7033

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 18th will be our annual Photography Committee meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 @ Noreen Frink's. Two very important items will be discussed:

- Mounting and presenting our photos for the show in May
 - Deciding on a "photography-related" speaker for a General meeting next year
- Put your thinking hats on! Please come with ideas, names and contact information!



GUEST SPEAKER 10:30AM TO 12NOON - AL DODSON - NORTHWEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Al enjoys capturing the more subtle and elusive qualities of plants. He will show us many of his images and will discuss the various techniques he uses for the photos.

BRING A FAVORITE PHOTO OF YOURS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO SO.

There will be time for discussion and questions at the close of the morning.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING & MR. DODSON'S PRESENTATION

JUST BOOKED AT THE SUNSET CLUB!

Monday, January 31st - 5pm cocktails; 6pm program; dinner following



World-famous Nature Photographer: Thomas D. Mangelsen

Mangelsen was named BBC's "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" in 1994 and *North American Nature Photographer's* "Outstanding Nature Photographer of the Year" in 2000. In 2005, he was named "One of the 100 Most Important People in Photography" by *American Photo Magazine*, one of only two wildlife-environmental photographers selected for the list.

If you would like to attend, Jane Harder will be organizing a table for the evening.

Call 206-361-7675 or email janeharder@comcast.net - Spouses and friends welcome!

Cost estimated at \$35 per person for dinner, cocktails and program.

PROPAGATION WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011



Are you interested in learning how to take hardwood cuttings? Would you like to help propagate native plants for East Montlake Park? We hope so!

Plant educator Jeff Erickson, will lead a morning (9:30—Noon) and afternoon (12:30-3pm) session on propagating from hardwood cuttings on Thursday, January 27th, 2011. All plant material and supplies will be provided.

The workshop sessions will be held at the greenhouses at the Chittenden Locks in Ballard. Dress warmly, as we may be outside. Directions can be found on the US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Web page: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.dfm?site=lmwsc&page=directions>.

Sign-ups will be handled by Angel Clark, angel@realfolks.org.

For other questions on the propagation project or East Montlake Park, please contact:

Jenny Wyatt, wyattjen@comcast.net or Sue Blethen, sueblethen@hotmail.com.

A BARRED OWL

By Richard Wilbur

The warping night air having
brought the boom
Of an owl's voice into her
darkened room,
We tell the wakened child that all she heard
Was an odd question from a forest bird,
Asking of us, if rightly listened to,
"Who cooks for you?" and then "Who cooks for
you?"

Words, which can make our terrors bravely clear,
Can also thus domesticate a fear,
And send a small child back to sleep at night
Not listening for the sound of stealthy flight
Or dreaming of some small thing in a claw
Borne up to some dark branch and eaten raw.



HORT STARTS

From the beginning of human civilization, people have been interacting with plants for many purposes - medicinal, spiritual, culinary and practical. For our January 10th Horticulture meeting, held at CUH, native plant expert Heidi Bohan will deliver a lively, interactive presentation on the ethnobotany of Western Washington. Heidi will also sell copies of her latest book, *The People of Cascadia*. Her web site has a wealth of information:

<http://www.heidibohan.com/>.

QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Kissing under the mistletoe may have its origins in which of the following? 1. It was said to ward off evil spirits; 2. It was believed to bestow fertility; 3. It was associated with prosperity; 4. All of the above

Answer to November's Quiz: Name the plant whose fruits were highly regarded by all indigenous groups and were dried into cakes for storage: Amelanchier alnifolia, one of our Centennial Trees!

Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair

GARDENER'S CORNER

Thoughts for January:



- Cut off your Christmas tree boughs and use as mulch under low-growing shrubs.
- Keep bird feeders filled thereby encouraging birds to keep visiting in summer when they will keep insect pest populations under control.
- Clean houseplant foliage and reduce watering during this dormant period. Check regularly for indoor pests such as whiteflies, spider mites and mealybugs.
- Most houseplants benefit from increased humidity levels during winter months. Place pots on a tray of pebbles adding water when needed. Keep water level below pot bottom to prevent root rot.
- Mid to late winter is the correct time for pruning fruit and other deciduous trees as well as many shrubs.
- Browse catalogs, visit nurseries for bareroot fruit trees, raspberries, grapes, currants and other fruit, looking for disease resistant varieties.
- Treat yourself to a spa treatment.

Happy New Year!

Janet Footh

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 3 **BOARD MEETING**
10:00 Sunset Club

Feb. 7 **HORT MEETING**
UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social; 10:00 Program
Provisional presentation by Shelley Rolfe -
*Katherine White and Elizabeth Lawrence:
Influences on one another's garden design
and practices*

Feb. 17 **GENERAL MEETING - Guests Welcome!**
UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social; 10:00 Meeting
10:30 program: Panel Discussion of GCA
Flower Shows

Feb. 18 **FLOWER ARRANGING 101**
Pre-Register with Catherine
Parker!



DOES YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION INCLUDE USING E-MAIL?

We have made great strides this past year in reducing our waste and saving publication costs on our newsletter. **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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