



# The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

February 2011

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



## AT A GLANCE

events of note

- Jan. 27 **Propagation** event for East Montlake Park - contact Sue Blethen or Angel Clark
- Jan. 31 **Photography Program** at the Sunset Club for those with reservations
- Feb. 3 **BOARD MEETING**  
10:00 Sunset Club
- Feb. 7 **HORT MEETING @UWBG/CUH @**  
9:30 Social; 10:00 Program  
See information this page.
- Feb. 15 **Lobby Day in Olympia**  
Contact Juliet Romano
- Feb. 17 **GENERAL MEETING - RSVP!**  
Guests Welcome!  
See information this page and page 3.
- Feb. 18 **FLOWER ARRANGING 101**  
Graham Visitor's Center, 8:30am  
Pre-Registration required with Catherine Parker

## HORT MEETING

Provisional presentation  
by Shelley Rolfe

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**  
UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social;  
10:00 Program

**Lives and Gardens Intertwined**

**Two Gardeners:**  
**Katharine S. White and**  
**Elizabeth Lawrence -**  
**A Friendship in Letters**

## General Meeting

**Thursday, February 17, 2011**

### Panel Discussion of GCA Flower Shows

**GRAHAM VISITORS CENTER**

**9:30 Social, 10:00 Meeting**

**10:30 Program**

**Panelists: Susan Detjens,**  
**Sherry Dumke and Liz Rocchia**  
(see article on page 3 for more information)

**Please reply, YES or NO**  
**by Friday, February 11th,**  
**to Hotie Hard**

[hotieh@aol.com](mailto:hotieh@aol.com) 206-524-1346

## YEARBOOK UPDATES

*Please make the following communication changes  
or corrections in your Yearbook:*

Catherine Allan  
Suzette de Turenne  
Lucille Flanagan  
Annie Hofius  
Deirdre Plunkett  
Susan Pollock  
Kristie Ratzlaff  
Catherine Roach  
Judy Thomas  
Glen Youell

[jardinsroyaux@gmail.com](mailto:jardinsroyaux@gmail.com)  
[sdeturenne@comcast.net](mailto:sdeturenne@comcast.net)  
206-484-0033  
[afh2720@aol.com](mailto:afh2720@aol.com)  
206-382-3259  
[susanpollock@gmail.com](mailto:susanpollock@gmail.com)  
[Kristie@ratzlaff.co](mailto:Kristie@ratzlaff.co)  
[tcroach@comcast.net](mailto:tcroach@comcast.net)  
Please delete FAX number  
[gbyouell@gmail.com](mailto:gbyouell@gmail.com)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of us, for one reason or another, are place-bound in Seattle this January and February. We cannot join the Snow Birds in their flight from a damp and chilly Northwest winter. Not unlike someone afflicted with a loss of sight or hearing, we learn to compensate. We lack the sensuous pleasures of lush vegetation and exotic flora, so we bend daily to inspect the Daphne for buds. A daffodil shoot pushing through the mud is a cause for rejoicing. The first whiff of sarcococca is intoxicating. In the long darkness, we plan our gardens and giddily imagine renovations that will invariably exceed our material and physical resources.

For guidance and inspiration, my bedside table is stacked with seed catalogs and gardening books (*Earth on Her Hands*, of course). Close at hand is a tower of novels. Reading and gardening, my two hobbies. A recent series of essays on literary criticism in the *New York Times* helped me tumble to a connection between the two. "Why then, do we read?" asked Sam Anderson. "There's something Buddhist about literary reading, as I understand it – you drop yourself into a little pocket of silence and peace and allow magical things to happen to your consciousness. I read, in the most basic level, because it makes me happy. It calms my brain down." Well, Mr. Anderson, I suggest you also try gardening.

And now I ask you to consider: If there is a connection between reading and gardening, can we not compare literary critics to flower show judges? (You knew I would find my way to Flower Show 2011, didn't you?) If literary criticism advances the state of the art of writing, then surely our GCA judging program raises the level of performance of our flower arrangers, horticulturists and photographers. One of the *NYT* essayists on literary criticism referred to "competitive connoisseurship," and the phrase jumped out at me. I believe Barbara Feasey deserves the credit for coining that term almost a year ago. She was talking about the advantages afforded our members by GCA Flower Shows and the Judging Program. When one of our members enters a flower show, she bravely puts on display her creative imagination. We see the poetry in her soul. She has willingly opened herself to criticism by an expert. And by reading that terse comment with which the judge expresses her discriminating grasp of subtleties, we are all moved a step closer to connoisseurship. Barbara Feasey, I get it.

If I think I am beginning to understand GCA Flower Shows and judging, how much better will I and all of us appreciate their advantages after listening to our panel of GCA Judges from around the country at our General Meeting on February 17. Catherine Parker, Diana Neely, Catherine Allan, Marilee Ahalt and Barbara Feasey have invested a great deal of energy and creative imagination into this program. The visiting judges are honoring us with the gift of their time and expertise. Do not miss it: February 17 at Graham Visitors Center in the Arboretum.

While you are checking your calendar, be sure to note our Hort Meeting on February 7. Shelley Rolfe will bravely step forward as the first Provisional in her class to give a talk. Shelley will talk to us about Katharine White and Elizabeth Lawrence. Lyn White's mother was a friend of Elizabeth Lawrence. I wish I had been a friend of Katharine White. She loved dachshunds. Her husband E.B. White did too, though he feigned exasperation to the end of entertaining millions with stories of his dachshund Fred. (You knew I would get to Fred, too, didn't you?) Here is my favorite anecdote that Andy White tells about his wife Katharine. It seems that another dachshund, a successor to Fred, had died. There was talk of getting a "sensible" dog, perhaps a Lab. One evening Mrs. White exclaimed, "Oh, let's just get a dachshund!" He continues: "She had had a glass of wine, and I could see that the truth was coming out. Her tone was one of exasperation laced with affection. So I engaged a black male without further ado." I write this without too much fear that I will have stepped on Shelley's lines. I suppose though there is some risk. We both know that on Sinclair Island "Fred" and "garden" are words usually shouted in the same breath.

**Catherine Roach, President**

## **ATTENTION! PLEASE RSVP OR ACT NOW!**

- **RSVP to Hotie Hard for the General Meeting**
- **Contact Catherine Parker** regarding the **Flower Arranging 101** course offered February 18th
- Sign up for the January 27th **Propagation Workshops** via Angel Clark
- Sign up for your 2011 Flower Show, "**Welcome Aboard!**" entries in Flower Arranging & Horticulture & give Charlee Reed your **Preview Party** invite names/addresses
- **Contact Sheila Noonan** to be part of the SU Garden Tour and/or Spring Cocktail Party

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING - Meet Our Panelists:

There is an unusual twist to our General Meeting format in February. First of all, we'll assemble at the **Graham Visitors Center** where a stellar lineup of panelists will greet us to present the history and current expectations of GCA flower show formalities. The choice of judges provides a national perspective on the presentation of the three categories: photography, horticulture and flower arranging. We are grateful to Diana Neely for her GCA position as the Judges Chair to handpick these knowledgeable women who will share their expertise with our Garden Club.

**Susan Detjens** is a member of the Millbrook Garden Club, Zone III. She serves on the national Judging Committee as the Zone III Rep. She is the past Chairman of Artistic Classes, Philadelphia Flower Show. Her awards include the Barbara Spaulding Caramer Flower Arrangement Education Award and the Zone Flower Arrangement Award. In 2010, she represented the GCA at *Canada Blooms*, International Class, Toronto, Canada (her arrangement is on the cover of "By Design").

**Liz Rocchia** has been a member of the Portland Garden Club since 1982. She received the Beattie Medal in 1985. She is a Horticulture Judge as well as a Photography Judge. She received the Cherie Sutton Petit award for creativity. She is the Area Vice Chair on the national Judging Committee.

**Sherry Dumke** is a member of the Piedmont Garden Club. In 2007 she chaired the Piedmont Club's Flower Show called *Really Simple*. In 2008 she presented six Flower Arranging workshops for PGC. In 2009 she received the 2009 Club Flower Arrangement Award. She co-wrote the Flower Arranging Schedule for Visions with Margy Pengilly. She attends weekly Ikebana classes with Soho Sakai. She is the Zone XII Judging Rep on the national Judging Committee.

### East Montlake Park

Recently, Catherine Allan stopped by the park while in the neighborhood. She reported how proud she is, "Of the collaborative efforts that have gone into making that weedy, seedy, ivy-infested park look horticulturally correct with native plants in the right places to preserve the beautiful views...and NO MORE IVY!!! Marilyn Fite and Cappy Rooks must be "pulling" for us!! They'd be so proud of all we have accomplished together!!"

---

**Everyone who has participated, no matter how small, should take a bow as a member of the Friends of East Montlake Park Team!**

---

**Now, let's get propagating January 27th** at the Hiram Chittendall Locks Greenhouse to fill the park with more natives. Call or email Angela Clark to sign up for a morning or afternoon session! And, do try to allow a little extra time to enjoy the Carl English Jr. Gardens located there, which SGC continues to support with an annual donation through memberships and contributions.

If our weather improves, I will send out an email announcing any impromptu work parties to spread more wood chips and plant more donated plants. But, I will wait for the snow to clear!!

**Sue Blethen, East Montlake Park Coordinator**  
[sueblethen@hotmail.com](mailto:sueblethen@hotmail.com)

### GCA's Plant of the Year



*Spigela marilandica*

Since 1995, Garden Club of America has awarded the Monitine McDaniel Freeman Horticulture Medal to a native species that is relatively unknown and is possibly endangered. All types of plants including trees, shrubs, bulbs, annuals have won in past years. 2010's winner is *Spigela marilandica*, or Indian Pink, or Pink Root. It's a blushing beauty with a yellow and red star shaped perennial that hummingbirds adore. Its alkalinity deters deer and it is used homeopathically to treat vertigo, headaches and heart conditions. Unfortunately, this spigela thrives in southeastern U.S. and so we don't see much in the Pacific Northwest. However, we might have a better chance with the Freeman's Honorable Mention, the *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*, or Shubby Five Fingers (yes, that's really its name). This small white perennial's native habitat includes Alberta and a few parts of British Columbia. A tough little plant that is a member of the rose family, it prefers rocky well drained soil.

**Medal winners from past years are outlined on GCA's website if you search for "Plant of the Year".** I was pleased to find two of my favorite plants, river birch and a baptisia as former winners, as well as many species unknown to me.

**Carey Davis Abbott**

# WELCOME ABOARD! SGC FLOWER SHOW REMINDERS

## FLOWER SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Photography Division is completely filled. No further entries accepted.

## FLOWER ARRANGING & HORTICULTURE

- Registration continues to be open for SGC only until February 7
- Registration open for Zone XII on February 7
- March 1st - Registration opens for all GCA Clubs



## SAVE THE DATE! 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](mailto:cpreed@msn.com) 206-325-7033

## FLOWER SHOW MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Meetings take place prior to every Hort meeting, the first Monday of each month, at UWBG/CUH at 9am and on March 17 at 9am, just prior to our General Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

## FLOWER ARRANGING 101- FEBRUARY 18TH

GRAHAM VISITORS CENTER, ARBORETUM - 8:30am to 3:00pm

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY! HONE YOUR FLOWER ARRANGING SKILLS!** 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.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

The Mountaineers Club offers a Basic Photography Course on four consecutive Wednesday nights beginning March 2nd through March 23, 2011. The course is held at the Mountaineer Program Center, on the north end of Magnuson Park, from 7pm to 9pm. There will also be optional but highly recommended indoor weekend workshops on March 5, 12, and 19 and outdoor field workshops on Saturday, March 12, 19 and 26 and Sunday, March 6, 13 and 20. A Potluck will end the course on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$125.00 for Mountaineer members and \$135.00 for non members.



Many Garden Club members have taken this class. I highly recommend it. Contact The Mountaineers Club to sign up, (206) 284-6310, [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org).

We are also pleased to report that the Photography Division of our "Welcome Aboard!" Flower Show is completely filled.

*Sis Woodside, Chair*



# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## “Citizen Advocacy in the New Year”

- Join me for **LOBBY DAY in Olympia, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2011**
- **2011 NAL Conference** in D.C. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011:

### **Mrs. Steiner and Mrs. Smith Go to Washington (D.C.)!**

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Laurie Ahern and I attended the **lobby day legislative workshop** to learn more about Lobby Day as well as how to advocate for the environment on February 15<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. It's always hard to leave my bathrobe and newspaper on Saturday morning....but I'm so glad that I did because in many ways, Lobby Day is really **a miniature replica of the NAL conference** that occurs each year in D.C.

There are many ways to be a good conservation steward of the earth. Some of them are private and personal ways of making a difference including the things we do around our homes as well as careful voting and use of our pocketbook to support green initiatives, politicians, businesses and industry. Another way is more public: engaging in a conversation, voicing our beliefs and concerns, writing our representatives.

The **Garden Club of America** has had a long history of advocating for the environment. In **June of 1969**, the National Affairs & Legislation Committee (**NAL**) was created to **“bring to the attention of the membership important legislative proposals in Washington which fall within the fields of our endeavor”** (Mrs. Thomas M. Waller, former GCA President and one of the NAL founders). The work of the Committee enhances the stated GCA purpose “to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.”

As part of my New Year's resolution to **try new things**, I'll be **attending Lobby Day** in Olympia on February 15<sup>th</sup> to let my representatives know how important I think it is for them to pass the **2011 CLEAN WATER JOBS ACT** (as well as passing legislation to **REDUCE PHOSPHATES** in our water and finding a way to make WA State **COAL FREE**), because we must prevent **toxic storm water** from continuing to be the number one source of **pollution in Puget Sound**.

**Join me in Olympia...Watch the short video** on People for Puget Sound's website for information on what to expect....then scroll down and **register online**!

<http://pugetsound.org/programs/policy/lobbyday/2011> OR <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82x34yPwhcQ>

If you can't join me, **look for articles in the news** about the environmental discussions that will be occurring in Olympia during the 2011 Legislative session, and then **email your representative** to let them know how you feel.

**Find your WA State legislator** by typing in your address on this site:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

**Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair** [julietromano@comcast.net](mailto:julietromano@comcast.net)

## **NOW SHOWING IN A GARDEN NEAR YOU**



There's hope! The sarcococca's fragrance is wafting, cyclamen are flashing their lovely colors and early bulbs are pushing through the surface! And lo! Hellebores are putting on a show! Pictured are two newer varieties that display their faces proudly, rather than looking demurely at the ground: 'HGC Jacob', left; 'HGC Winter's Bliss', right.

## **MILLER LIBRARY NEWS**

We have a wealth of information at our fingertips at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at UWBG/CUH. Visit their web site for information on many exciting, upcoming events, including the March 12th Spring Ephemerals Plant Sale and the April 1-2 Garden Lover's Book Sale.

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



# SGC Holiday Luncheon and Auction



Ways and Means extends a huge **THANK YOU** to our Holiday Auction Angels:

Marilee Ahalt  
Alison Andrews  
Phoebe Andrew  
Barbara Bender  
Ann Bohart  
Sherrill Elliott  
Barbara Feasey  
Jeannine Foster  
Jeannie Gravenkemper

Barbara Hamachek  
Hotie Hard  
Barbara Himmelman  
Lannie Hoglund  
Mary Ellen Hughes  
Gretchen Hull  
Kathy Lea  
Betty McCurdy  
Eleanor Nolan

Sheila Noonan  
Cathy Parker  
Barbara Peterson  
Connie Phelps  
Barbara Pringle  
Judy Pigott  
Catherine Roach  
Patsy Sangster  
Mary Smith

Burnley Snyder  
Carlyn Steiner  
Dorothy Strong  
Susan Torrance  
Iris Wagner  
Janet Warford  
Debbi Wilson  
Jenny Wyatt

Your collective generosity was instrumental in our fundraising success for the 2010 Holiday Auction. We could not have done it without you.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES - DON'T MISS OUT!

Our Auction was full of wonderful outings and gatherings inviting your participation. Here is another chance to sign-up for two great experiences!!

### Seattle University's 12 Gardens Tour Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> \$40/person

Explore and learn about these hidden treasures right here in our own backyard.

Seattle University has created 12 distinct gardens on their campus. Each garden is designed to create a specific environment to highlight a different purpose. Gardens include:

- Ethnobotanic Garden which highlights plants used by indigenous North American people
- Healing Garden with plants that have historic and current medicinal value
- Wildlife Garden specifically designed to attract insects, birds, butterflies and other wildlife by providing food and nectars
- Japanese American Remembrance Garden

This will be a fascinating morning starting with coffee and muffins, continuing with a guided tour of the gardens and ending with a luncheon lecture by Becki Koukal-Liebe, SU's Head Organic Gardener.

### Spring Cocktail Party Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Vicki Reed's home \$75/person

Enjoy fine beverages, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, great company at the party of the season! Spouses and friends welcome!

Sign-ups will be on a first come basis. To sign-up e-mail Sheila at [sbnoonan@gmail.com](mailto:sbnoonan@gmail.com)

## SGC IN THE COMMUNITY

### Save the date: Tuesday, April 19, 2011

On Tuesday, April 19, 2011, the Seattle Garden Club is invited to the Bloedel Reserve for a celebration of the newly restored Japanese Garden. In 2009 we funded \$20,000 to help with that project. It is now 95% completed and should be in full bloom for our visit April 19th. Please plan on attending and watch for more details in the coming months.

*Laurie Ahern, Community Projects Chair*



## A January Dandelion

All Nashville is a chill. And everywhere  
Like desert sand, when the winds blow,  
There is each moment sifted through the air,  
A powdered blast of January snow.  
O! thoughtless Dandelion, to be misled  
By a few warm days to leave thy natural bed,  
Was folly growth and blooming over soon.  
And yet, thou blasted yellow-coated gem,  
Full many a heart has but a common boon  
With thee, now freezing on thy slender stem.  
When the heart has bloomed by the touch of love's  
warm breath  
Then left and chilling snow is sifted in,  
It still may beat but there is blast and death  
To all that blooming life that might have been.

**George Marion McClellan (1860 – 1934, Tennessee)**

The Dandelion's pallid tube  
Astonished the Grass, -  
and Winter instantly becomes  
An infinite Alas.

**Emily Dickinson**



## GARDENER'S CORNER

Thoughts for February:



- Cut branches of flowering shrubs, forsythia, quince, crabapple and bring indoors to force early bloom
- Plant primroses and pansies for winter color
- Apply dormant oil to control over-wintering insects on deciduous trees, peaches, apples, pear, shrubs and roses
- Cut off tall yellowed stems of all perennials, especially ornamental grasses
- Prune roses after President's Day. Check new plant varieties for disease resistance
- Seeds for poppies, peas, bachelor buttons, spinach can be direct-sown now
- Start baiting for slugs. They are a problem in spring and fall as well as summer
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries
- Look for new growth on indoor plants. Increase watering and apply weak fertilizer (1/4 strength) only after they begin to grow

**Janet Footh**

## HORT STARTS

Over the next two years, Provisional talks will focus on the accomplishments of women in the fields of horticulture, flower arranging, conservation and photography. February marks the first of these talks. Shelley Rolfe will present **Lives and Gardens Intertwined: Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence - A Friendship in Letters**. Shelley's talk will take us back to an era when letter writing was an art. Through letters, White and Lawrence shared their garden expertise, experiments, practices and drawings as well as the joys and disappointments in their lives.

**Let's bring back the tradition of "Hort Share"**. Please bring something - a plant, a resource, a tool or idea - to add to our knowledge of horticulture.

### QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Ground beetles, Lacewings and Centipedes: which are beneficial in the garden and which are pests?

Answer to December's Quiz: The origins of kissing under the mistletoe are various; among them, it was believed to bestow fertility because of the plant's association with Freya, Goddess of love, beauty and fertility.

**Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair**



At our January meeting, presenter Heidi Bohan talked with members Peggy Wilton and Ann Rogers (photo on left), after her presentation on the *Ethnobotany of Western Washington*. SGC members Jenny Wyatt, Sue Blethen, Janet Footh and Laurie Riley (photo on right) took a closer look at some of the interesting items shared by Heidi at her presentation.

## Looking Ahead...

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

Mar. 7 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING**  
@ UWBG/CUH 9:00 - ALL WELCOME!

**HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH**  
9:30 Coffee; 10:00 Program  
Barbara Snapp, Provisional, speaks on  
Women & Victory Gardens of World War II

Mar. 17 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING**  
@ UWBG/CUH 9:00 - ALL WELCOME!

**GENERAL MEETING - Guests Welcome!**  
UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social; 10:00 Meeting  
10:30 program: Bill Noble, West Coast  
Representative of The Garden Conservancy  
of America

Apr. 19 **BLOEDEL RESERVE** celebrates the newly  
restored Japanese Garden



## 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

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