



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

March 2011



AT A GLANCE

events of note

- Feb. 24 & 25 **PHOTOGRAPHY SPEAKER**, David Perry at the NW Flower & Garden Show
- Mar. 3 **BOARD MEETING**
10:00 Sunset Club
- Mar. 7 **WELCOME ABOARD!** Flower Show Meeting 9:00 (just prior to the Hort Meeting). All SGC encouraged to attend.
- HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH**
9:30 Social; 10:00 Program
See information this page.
- FRAGRANCE GARDEN** work party immediately following Hort.
- Mar. 14 **EAST MONTLAKE WORK PARTY**
9 to Noon; contact Sue Blethen.
- Mar. 17 **GENERAL MEETING - RSVP!**
Guests Welcome!
See information this page.
- WELCOME ABOARD! Flower Show Meeting** immediately FOLLOWING the General Meeting. All SGC encouraged to attend.

General Meeting Thursday, March 17, 2011

Bill Noble
West Coast Representative
of The Garden Conservancy
of America

UWBG/CUH
9:30 Social, 10:00 Meeting
10:30 Program

Guests Welcome!

Please reply, YES or NO
by Friday, March 11,
to Vicki Reed

VReed@simpson.com 206-588-0363

HORT MEETING

Provisional Presentation by Barbara Snapp

MONDAY, MARCH 7
UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social;
10:00 Program

**Women & Victory Gardens
of World War II**

In March and in April
from morning till night
In sowing and seeding
good housewives delight.

Thomas Tusser





FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this in the afterglow of Shelley Rolfe's talk on Elizabeth Lawrence and Katharine White and the epistolary friendship they forged out of a love of both gardening and words. (Someone remarked to me afterwards that the great English poets were all gardeners. It is as though a current flowed out of the earth through a gardener's trowel and directly into his or her soul). The description of Elizabeth's and Katharine's correspondence immediately brought to my mind the Statements of Purpose of both GCA and The Seattle Garden Club and the phrase "to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening" that has pride of place in both statements. It is no wonder that Eve took a bite of the apple from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. She was probably the first member of GCA. Have I already told you that I found minutes of the founding meeting of GCA and that a first order of business was to adopt the principles of the color wheel for flower arranging? Of course, you will think, and surely the adherence to Latin nomenclature was affirmed in the next motion.

At last the days are lengthening and I am yet again astonished by the fecundity of a Pacific Northwest spring. The earth quickens, and SGC too picks up the pace. From now clear through to "Welcome Aboard!" and our Annual Meeting, we will be engaging in a rush of activities designed in one way or another to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening. You may find yourself longing for the peace and solitude of your own garden. Hang in there; stay the course. We are good for one another. However frenzied our collective pursuit of knowledge may seem, we reap an important collateral benefit. We are also learning to know and love one another, and nurturing these friendships is the best thing we can do for ourselves. Unlike Elizabeth and Katharine, we get to meet often, face to face, smiling eyes to smiling eyes. It makes us healthy and whole.

Catherine Roach, President



Laurie Riley & Shelley Rolfe are all smiles at the completion of Shelley's wonderful Provisional presentation.

ATTENTION!

PLEASE RSVP OR ACT NOW!

- **RSVP to Vicki Reed for the General Meeting.**
- **Sign up for your 2011 Flower Show, "Welcome Aboard!"** entries in Flower Arranging & Horticulture & give Charlee Reed your **Preview Party** invite names/addresses.
- **Sign up to help Carol Eland with the Flower Show Conservation Exhibit.**

SGC IN THE COMMUNITY

Friday, April 1, 2011, 10:30 am

The Sunset Club is offering an opportunity to its members and their guests to hear Lee Neff and Dr. John Neff talk about their involvement in the development of the Seattle Children's PlayGarden. As you know, last year the SGC granted \$10,000 to the SCPG to help complete the outdoor landscaping. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to hear more about the extraordinary work carried out in Seattle's nationally recognized public park. Please contact Laurie Ahern for more information: 206-322-6723 or lahern1681@gmail.com.

REMINDER: 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 granted \$20,000 to help with that project. It is now 95% completed and should be in full bloom for our visit April 19. Please plan on attending and watch for more details as the date approaches.

Laurie Ahern, Community Projects Chair

WELCOME ABOARD! SGC FLOWER SHOW REMINDERS



FLOWER SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Photography Division is completely filled. No further entries accepted.
- Deadline for receipt of entries is April 15.

FLOWER ARRANGING & HORTICULTURE

- Registration now open for Zone XII; open to all GCA beginning March 1.
- Deadline for all Flower Arranging and Horticulture classes requiring preregistration is March 29.

SAVE THE DATE - FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY

- May 19, 2011 - 6:30-9:00 pm, Maritime Event Center, Bell Harbor International Conference Center
Please forward the recent "Save the Date" email to any prospective guests. Also, please submit names and addresses for invitations to Charlee Reed, 308 - 36th Avenue E., Seattle, WA 98112, cpreed@msn.com 206-325-7033.

CONSERVATION EXHIBIT - BE A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER FOR SAVING PUGET SOUND

- Calling all members who are interested in helping to set up the Conservation exhibit down at Bell Harbor, Wednesday, May 17. Email Caroleland@msn.com for more details

FLOWER SHOW MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

- The next meetings are scheduled on Monday, March 7, at 9:00 am, just prior to the Hort meeting and on March 17, immediately following our General Meeting - both at UWBG/CUH All members are encouraged to attend.

REGISTER YOUR HUSBANDS FOR THE FUN MEN'S FLOWER ARRANGING EVENT

- Men may team up in pairs for the fun and entertaining flower arranging event "Three Sheets to the Wind" to be held at our Preview Party. All materials will be supplied for this light-hearted, friendly presentation. Deadline is March 29.



Flower Show Chairs, Marilee Ahalt & Barbara Feasey, encourage participation in the men's flower arranging event with a short skit.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE



David Perry will be speaking at the Flower and Garden Show on Thursday, February 24 at 12:15 pm in the Hood Room. His topic will be "Conquering Your Digital Camera." He will speak again Friday, February 25 at 12:15 pm in the Hood Room. His topic will be "A Year in Flowers."

Reminder. Photographs entered in the 2011 "Welcome Aboard!" Flower Show must be received no earlier than March 14, 2011 and no later than April 15, 2011.

Sis Woodside, Chair

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

David Giblin from the Herbarium at the Burke Museum is giving a plant ID class in the flora of the Pacific Northwest. It's a six-week course beginning March 8 for five consecutive Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm, ending April 12. There are two Saturday field trips, March 26 from 1-3 pm on the UW Campus and April 16 at Deception Pass from 8 am to 4 pm. The six-week course is \$160.00. More details can be found at www.uwbg.edu.

Catherine Allan, Chair

East Montlake Park

Propagation was great fun in January at the Locks. Sue Blethen, Deborah Cheadle, Angel Clark (who organized the day), Suzette de Turenne, Janet Footh, Jane Harder, Laurie Riley, Barbie Snapp, Traci Tennison, Peggy Wilton and Jenny Wyatt all worked to propagate natives for East Montlake Park. Jeff Erickson, our teacher, and Michelle McMoran, with the US Army Corps of Engineers, provided most of the plant materials. Mid-March we will check the starts for roots. Toward the end of the month we can then pot up those with adequate roots (most likely the deciduous ones) into 4" pots for further growth. The evergreen starts will take longer. Watch for an email requesting volunteers. Leaves are starting to emerge but **WE NEED ROOTS**. Keep your fingers crossed. All totaled, we prepared 641 cuttings of 13 native plants. Check the website to see all we propagated. Many thanks to all who helped!

Sue Blethen, Angel Clark and Jenny Wyatt

East Montlake Park Work Party Monday, March 14, 9:00 - Noon Bring a shovel, clippers and wear boots. Dress for the weather.

We can clean up the ferns, make wood chip tree wells around the plants we have planted and do some weeding too. Recently planted are small groves of vine maple and wild huckleberry with Mahonia nervosa (low Oregon grape) among the ferns, trees and shrubs along the path. Do take a look at the progress!

Sue Blethen, East Montlake Park Coordinator sueblethen@hotmail.com 206-930-0129



Signing in...



Getting some basic instruction...



The process begins...



Getting more confident...



Preparing the medium...



Innoculating & planting...



The cuttings multiply...



Counting and tagging...



The waiting begins...



GCA HAPPENINGS

ROSES & Harriet Beecher Stowe

As March enters, roses rise to the top of gardeners' lists as the bare budding of climbers begin and pruning shears are sharpened, not to mention the florist hot house, long stem roses that change from red and white in February to March. But because the 2010 winner of GCA's Jane Righter Rose Medal is in Connecticut, that garden is undoubtedly still dormant under snow. Set outside Hartford, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House & Center has an antique rose garden that is renowned for its historic authenticity. Come June the air is heady from the scent of old roses in this carefully restored garden. Stowe, known best as the author of the anti-slavery book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin", was an avid gardener who advocated for medicinal use of plants, wrote about the importance of fresh air and gardens for children, painted and sketched many floral pictures. Her last years were spent picking bundles of wild flowers. The gardens, especially the rose garden at the Center named for Harriet who died in 1896, are a testimony to her passion, and so it is appropriate for it to be honored by Garden Club of America with a medal. The Jane Righter Rose Medal was established by GCA in 1941 in memory of Righter, a trustee at the School of Horticulture for Women in Pennsylvania. It is awarded to an individual or group or institution for outstanding achievement in rose culture.



*Stowe's painting of
her roses.*

Carey Davis Abbott

*"A garden is a place of healing for the soul."
Harriet Beecher Stowe*

Late February

by Ted Kooser

The first warm day,
and by mid-afternoon
the snow is no more
than a washing
strewn over the yards,
the bedding rolled in knots
and leaking water,
the white shirts lying
under the evergreens.
Through the heaviest drifts
rise autumn's fallen
bicycles, small carnivals
of paint and chrome,
the Octopus
and Tilt-A-Whirl
beginning to turn
in the sun. Now children,
stiffened by winter
and dressed, somehow,
like old men, mutter
and bend to the work
of building dams.
But such a spring is brief;
by five o'clock
the chill of sundown,
darkness, the blue TVs
flashing like storms
in the picture windows,
the yards gone gray,
the wet dogs barking
at nothing. Far off
across the cornfields
staked for streets and sewers,
the body of a farmer
missing since fall
will show up
in his garden tomorrow,
as unexpected
as a tulip.

VISITING GARDENS OPPORTUNITIES

The Pasadena Garden Club will host its "DOORWAYS AND DINING ROOMS" benefit on April 13 from 10 am - 3 pm. This event, which occurs only every three years, is a selection of six private homes and gardens. The doorways of each home are designed and arranged by local professional florists, and the dining rooms are designed by members of the Pasadena Garden Club. This year's event is called "CROWN CITY JEWELS". A great reason to visit sunny California or make it a day trip if you are in the area.

Tickets are \$100, including the tour and lunch, and the proceeds fund the PGC Community Projects. Please contact Kay Onderdonk, Visiting Gardens Chairman for Pasadena Garden Club, 626-799-8518 for information.

As you begin plans for your spring and summertime travels, remember the many private gardens awaiting your visit via GCA Visiting Gardens. Contact Laurie Riley for information about local club VG Chairmen information.

Laurie Riley, Chair

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Before attending the NAL (National Affairs and Legislation) conference in D.C. last year, I admit that I was a little cynical about the whole political and legislative process. I don't know what I expected, but I didn't expect to be inspired....at least not much. However, I came back with a renewed sense of purpose, which is what happens any time one chooses to get involved on a deeper level. In March, Carlyn Steiner and Debby Smith will have lots to tell us about their experience at the NAL this year. Several other Conservation Committee members will have stories from attending the Environmental Lobby Day in Olympia. Inspiration breeds inspiration... Listen carefully! Who knows? You may be the next SGC member to attend the NAL in 2012!

And, just in case you need reminding about how seemingly small actions matter... here is, once again, the starfish story:

One day an old man was walking along the beach. It was low tide, and the sand was littered with thousands of stranded starfish that the water had carried in and then left behind. The man began walking very carefully so as not to step on any of the beautiful creatures. Since the animals still seemed to be alive, he considered picking some of them up and putting them back in the water, where they could resume their lives.

The man knew the starfish would die if left on the beach's dry sand but he reasoned that he could not possibly help them all, so he chose to do nothing and continued walking.

Soon afterward, the man came upon a small child on the beach who was frantically throwing one starfish after another back into the sea. The old man stopped and asked the child, "What are you doing?"

"I'm saving the starfish," the child replied.

"Why waste your time?... There are so many you can't save them all so what does it matter?" argued the man.

Without hesitation, the child picked up another starfish and tossed it back into the water...
"It matters to this one," the child explained.

Consider making it a goal to send one email to either a state or national representative this year: WA

State: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx> US Senate: <http://senate.gov/> US House: <http://house.gov/>

Do you need inspiration for a topic to write about? Here are four environmental priorities (<http://environmentalpriorities.org/>) for Washington State:

- 1) Clean Fertilizers, Healthier Lakes and Rivers: getting phosphorus out of lawn fertilizers and therefore out of our waterways
- 2) The 2011 Clean Water Jobs Act: Helping to reduce toxic storm water flows
- 3) Coal Free Future for Washington
- 4) Budget Solutions for Our Environment

Coming in April: Annual Wetherill Clean Up and possible field trip to Cedar Grove!

Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair julietromano@comcast.net

HORT STARTS

Hurray for March! The dark days of winter are over and by mid-month, the danger of frost will also be behind us. Perhaps you are making mental plans for your summer vegetable garden. Our March Horticulture meeting is sure to provide inspiration. Barbara Snapp will present **Victory Gardens: For Family and For Country**. Barbara's provisional talk will relate the efforts of women gardeners on the home front during wartime; Monday, March 7.

Members have commented on how much they enjoy "**Hort Share**." I plan to bring in something from my garden for our next meeting, and I hope you will too.

QUIZ QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Is it generally better in a vegetable garden to plant the rows east-west or north-south?

Answer to February's Quiz: Ground beetles, Lacewings and Centipedes are all beneficial in the garden.

CALLING ALL WESTERN RED CEDARS

If you have been tending a Western Red Cedar as part of SGC's Centennial Tree project, don't forget to sign up for our "Welcome Aboard!" Flower Show, Class 30: Cedar - "Tree of Life". Although many members donated their seedlings to Magnuson Park's remnant forest, where they continue to thrive, a fair number of seedlings have remained in members' hands since spring, 2009, and my, have they grown!

Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair

The Fragrance Garden

(a subcommittee of the Horticulture Committee)

Debbi Wilson attended the Curation Committee meeting at UWBG last month. The SGC will work in the garden 7 months per year for 4 hours per month: March, April, May, June, September, October, November. The tasks for our volunteers could include: weeding, mulching, planting, cutting back/pruning, division - depending upon the time of year and need. The UWBG staff will provide tools but we bring our favorite gloves or hand tools. No work nor changes to the garden can be made without permission from the Curation Committee.

The Fragrance Committee and Chair is charged with monitoring the garden and all communications with UWBG about it.

The FG committee invites you to come and join us for our first 2011 Garden Work Party immediately following the Monday Hort Meeting on **MONDAY MARCH 7**. Even if you cannot stay, come and view our lovely site and visualize its upcoming burst of florescence. The FG Committee plans to host a Work Party every month through June, so you will have ample opportunity to participate.

Fred Hoyt, Acting Co-Director of UWBG, mentioned that some members of the Curation Committee would like to speak at a Monday Hort meeting, perhaps in the fall. Stay tuned for more.

Debbi Wilson, Fragrance Garden Chair

GARDENER'S CORNER

Thoughts for March:



- Cut epimedium back to a few inches, cut off old fern fronds, and cut lavenders back halfway to dead stems
- Prune clematis (summer and fall flowering types) to the strongest stems now, then fertilize
- Sharpen mower blades. Assess lawn needs. If needed, thatch, aerate and top dress with compost
- Clean and disinfect birdhouses and feeders, dispose of old seeds to preclude potential for disease
- Sow cucumbers, tomatoes, squash indoors in flats. When they develop two sets of true leaves, transplant to larger pots. To speed up germination, set flats on grandma's heating pad about 8 inches beneath fluorescent lights. Harden off before planting outside after average date of last frost
- Prepare your own Victory Garden by digging deeply, adding compost and organic fertilizer. Sow beets, chard, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes and spinach. Don't forget some cosmos, bachelor buttons, sweet peas, lupine, larkspur, coreopsis.
- Divide perennials that bloom after mid-June. Share extra plants with gardening buddies and, if allowed, Montlake Park. Check with Sue Blethen/Catherine Allan for permission.
- Start pampering Flower Show possible entries

Janet Footh

Looking Ahead...

Apr. 1 **SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN**
presentation at The Sunset Club, 10:30;
contact Laurie Ahern

Apr. 4 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING**
@ UWBG/CUH 9:00 - ALL WELCOME!

HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH
9:30 Coffee; 10:00 Program
Susan Torrance, Provisional presentation:
"Alice Waters and Companion Planting"

Apr. 7 **BOARD MEETING**
10:00 Sunset Club

Apr. 19 **BLOEDEL RESERVE** celebrates the newly
restored Japanese Garden - SGC invited to
attend

Apr. 20 **CEDAR GROVE GUIDED TOUR**
11:00 to Noon

Apr. 21 **JOINT MEETING WITH TACOMA GARDEN
CLUB @ The Seattle Yacht Club**
10:30 Welcome; 11:00 Program;
Noon Luncheon - MEMBERS ONLY
Program: *The Creation of a
Rose Parade Float*

Apr. 27 **WETHERILL WORK PARTY**
Potluck lunch following



ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?

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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