



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

April 2011



AT A GLANCE

events of note

- Mar. 31 **COMMUNITY PROJECTS MEETING**
10:00 @ CUH
- HORT COMMITTEE MEETING**
12:30 to 2:00 @ Jenny Wyatt's
- Apr. 1 **SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN** presentation at Sunset Club, 10:30; contact Laurie Ahern
- Apr. 4 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING**
@ UWBG/CUH 9:00 - All welcome!
- HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH**
See information this page
- Apr. 7 **BOARD MEETING**
10:00 Sunset Club
- Apr. 12 **WELCOME ABOARD! Preview Party**
Invite Addressing at Kristi Ratzlaff's
- Apr. 19 **BLOEDEL RESERVE** celebration
Contact Laurie Ahern
- Apr. 20 **CEDAR GROVE GUIDED TOUR**
Contact Juliet Romano
- Apr. 21 **JOINT MEETING WITH TACOMA GARDEN CLUB @ Seattle Yacht Club** - See information this page
- Apr. 27 **WETHERILL WORK PARTY**
Contact Juliet Romano

SEATTLE/TACOMA JOINT MEETING

Thursday, April 21, 2011

SEATTLE YACHT CLUB

10:30 Welcome, 11:00 Program

Noon - Luncheon

Creation of a Rose Parade Float

Jean Rosseau and Shelley Cantor, members of the Sherborn, MA, Garden Club, will present a program on the creation of the elaborate floral floats of the Rose Parade. A brief history of the parade will be followed by slides and a narrative describing types of plant material required and the ways in which it is preserved and used.

Members Only

Please reply, YES or NO

by April 15, to B.J. Anderson

andersonbj@comcast.net 425-454-4680

Non-subscribers to the Hostess Fund please confirm your reservation by sending a check for \$30 payable to the SGC & mailed to B.J. at 8602 N.E. 19th Place, Bellevue, WA 98004

HORT MEETING

Provisional Presentation by
Susan Torrance

MONDAY, APRIL 4

UWBG/CUH @ 9:30 Social;
10:00 Program

Alice Waters
An Edible Education





Fred

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sometimes the sterility and blandness of an “event space” can suck the energy out of us. Meeting planners and participants have to bring a stark set to life with their intellectual energy and personal magnetism. It can be hard to do. Once again a still wet-behind-the-ears Provisional Member has given the Seattle Garden Club a lesson in the transforming power of the pursuit of excellence. Barbie Snapp’s exhaustively researched, carefully crafted, visually

compelling and impeccably delivered presentation on Victory Gardens transformed the air in NHS Hall at CUH. No one wanted to leave when it was over.

One of you recently wrote to me of the “effect of the currents brought by the presence of excellence – how they re-awaken in those who experience them a belief in the better natures of the world, and even of themselves.” (I am not making this up. Such are the habits of the heart and mind in this club.) Most of the time it seems that all I have to do to succeed is float along on those currents of excellence that ebb and flow on SGC’s metaphorical Salish Sea. We discern this excellence ethic most readily in our three disciplines of flower arranging, horticulture and photography, but we see it at work in many other arenas. Think of B.J. Anderson’s unfailing graciousness, Juliet Romano’s tireless and unfeigned enthusiasm for the Green Imperative, Barbara Anderson’s quiet but essential financial competence, Suzette de Turenne’s mastery of the technology that produces this Newsletter. I know that each of you, despite natural ability, is paddling hard under water, reflexively pursuing excellence for its own sake.

There is of course a dark side to the pursuit of excellence. We can be hurled against a rocky shore by our perfectionist tendencies. The perfect is indeed the enemy of the good. There are a number of ways to protect ourselves. We can be brought up short by teenagers, young grandchildren or husbands who refuse to get with the program. Personally, I recommend a dog, specifically a dachshund. They in fact eat the homework, leave a calling card in a bedroom just readied for a guest and resist all efforts to shush them. We have had six of them, and each has been adept at thwarting my efforts to achieve perfection. Which brings me inevitably to Fred. He is my muse for this column, and all my failures to achieve perfection, indeed mere excellence, are his fault.

Catherine Roach, President

SGC AMONG FIRST IN ZONE XII TO BENEFIT FROM GCA’S “FA101” CLASS

Showcasing a new educational format for flower arrangers, SGC hosted GCA’s Flower Arranging 101 class at the Graham Visitors Center on February 18. SGC members filled most of the class, but Tacoma and Portland Garden Clubs were represented. A few GCA observers offered advice. The class was led by Susan Detjens, a GCA Judge, Zone III Judging Chair and GCA designated FA101 instructor.

Please see the SGC web site for additional photos.



ATTENTION!

PLEASE RSVP OR ACT NOW

- **RSVP to B.J. Anderson for the Joint Meeting;** non-subscribers to the Hostess Fund send in \$30 for reservation.
- **RSVP to Charlee Reed for the Preview Party invitation addressing get-together at Kristi Ratzlaff’s on April 12.**
- **Sign up for your 2011 Flower Show, “Welcome Aboard!”** Horticulture is in particular need of your participation.
- **Sign up to help Carol Eland with the Flower Show Conservation Exhibit.**
- **Contact Juliet Romano about the Cedar Grove tour on April 20 and Wetherill work party on April 27.**
- **RSVP to Laurie Ahern for the Bloedel Reserve outing on April 19.**

WELCOME ABOARD! SGC FLOWER SHOW REMINDERS



SAVE THE DATE - FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY, MAY 19, 6:30-9PM

PREVIEW PARTY INVITATION ADDRESSING GET-TOGETHER

- Kristie Ratzlaff's Tuesday, April 12, from 10:00 – 2:00. Please email Charlee Reed (charlotte@cr-associates.net) if you can join us – all are welcome!
- Kristie's address is 159 Dorffel Drive E., Seattle, WA 98112. She has a steep staircase in the front of the house, but it's very easy to access her house from the back driveway. Her driveway is behind house off Madrona Place S. Number at top of drive is 138 (her neighbor's house).

FLOWER SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Photography Division is completely filled. Deadline for receipt of entries is April 15.

FLOWER ARRANGING & HORTICULTURE - YOUR PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED!

- Deadline for all Flower Arranging and Horticulture classes requiring preregistration is March 29.
- There are openings in most Horticulture classes.

FLOWER SHOW SET UP - MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY 18!

- Calling all members to lend a hand at Bell Harbor to help with set up on Wednesday, May 18.

FLOWER SHOW MEETING - ALL WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

- The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 4, at 9:00 am, just prior to the Hort meeting.
- All members are encouraged to attend.

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

- Men may team up in pairs or go solo 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.



GCA Flower Show gurus Susan Detjens, Liz Rocchia and Sherry Dumke shared their words of wisdom at our February General Meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SHOW & CLEAN-UP

- Many hands make light work! We hope to have more SGC members add their names to the list of much needed volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be circulated at meetings or you may contact Marilee Ahalt or Barbara Feasey.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Steve Horn is offering a San Juan Sailing Photo Tour Class April 30 departing from Deer Harbor Marina dock at 9:00a.m. returning at 5:00p.m. The cost is \$300.00. For more information, call Steve @ 360-376-3472.



A reminder that all photographs entered in "All Aboard" Flower Show must be received no later than April 15, 2011. Send your photographs to Angela Clark, 113 Madrona Pl. E., Seattle, WA 98112.

Sis Woodside, Chair



Barbie Snapp was inspirational during her wonderful Provisional presentation.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

With just a few Conservation articles left to write as your Conservation Chair, I wanted to impress upon you the amazing resources the SGC and GCA have in terms of volunteer members who are dedicated to conserving our environment.

If there is one thing I've learned in the past two years, it's that being a good steward to the earth entails more than just 'turning off the lights'. Equal to doing our bit at home is making ourselves aware and then acting on that awareness by influencing legislation. In February, several of our members took action by attending the NAL CONFERENCE in DC and LOBBY DAY in OLYMPIA. To learn more about it, ask Debby Smith and Carlyn Steiner about their trip to DC, or Sis Woodside, Catherine Roach or me about our trip to Olympia...or you can visit the GCA Blog GREEN THUMBS to read more about it: [http://web.me.com/julietromano/SGC Consevation Blog](http://web.me.com/julietromano/SGC_Consevation_Blog)



Juliet at Lobby Day

I'm not going to write much this month, because I would rather have you spend your time looking over the Winter 2010-2011 issue of the Conservation Watch (ConWatch) and making yourself more aware! Next month, I'll introduce you to the NAL Legislative Update and its editor Martha Phillips to learn how you can take action!

An introduction to the newest ConWatch publication by its fabulous editor, Elva Bush:

"Previous issues of Conservation Watch have drawn attention to the problems of our world's oceans. Articles have discussed our country's national ocean policy. We've reviewed what the benefits would be for the U.S. to sign the Law of the Sea treaty. Editions have covered our responsibility to improve the health of our oceans. We've included direction about making wise seafood choices. We've learned about dead zones in our oceans and the death of coral reefs. The perils of climate change as it affects our oceans have been covered extensively. And, most recently, issues have been devoted to last year's gulf oil spill and its long-term effects. In this issue, we focus on the inhabitants of the oceans. Here Garden Club of America readers will learn about the numbers and diversity of fish in the seas. You will learn about a true hero of the oceans, a woman you may not have heard of, who deserves our acclaim. Articles will teach us about new protected areas of our waters where marine life can live and prosper without human interference. We'll learn what fish we should eat and why. And what we should perhaps avoid. We'll learn how important our country is for ocean protection. Read on and become a participant in the protection of our earth's oceans." Here is the link. Username: gcamember Password: compost http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/conwatch-newsletter/conwatch_winter_10_11.pdf

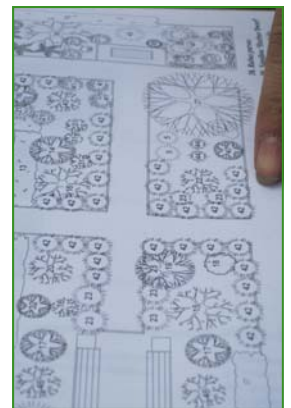
CONSERVATION IN ACTION!

CEDAR GROVE: Please join us for a field trip to visit the Cedar Grove Compost Plant midday on Wednesday, April 20. We will arrange carpools as we get closer to the date...

WETHERILL Clean Up: Join us for a morning of clearing out invasives, followed by a wonderful potluck lunch on Wednesday, April 27.

Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair julietromano@comcast.net

THE FRAGRANCE GARDEN . . .



The UWBG/CUH Fragrance Garden received some TLC from SGC members last month. Helpers included (left to right) Catherine Roach, Gayle Harris, Susan Potts and Peggy Garner.

NAL CONFERENCE

Women from 118 GCA clubs from 42 states came to Washington D.C. on March 1 to participate in the carbon-free annual National Affairs and Legislative Meeting. It was inspiring to be in our Nation's capital with women who were knowledgeable and passionate about the environment. For four days we heard speakers and discussed issues and evaluated the 2011 GCA position papers. Zone XII is so large it's like a country: and the Zone XII women were fantastic, knowledgeable, friendly and great mentors.

We wanted to give you a flavor for some of the illustrious speakers that made presentations to us. To name a few: Bill McKibben [author of *Earth*; founder of 350.org]; John Broder [NY Times, D.C. bureau]; Sen. Ben Cardin [MD]; Dr. Colien Hefferan [U.S. National Arboretum]; Gina McCarthy [EPA]; Rep. Earl Blumenauer [Oregon]; Sen. Lindsey Graham [S.C.] and Rep. Tim Bishop [NY].

By the way: did you know that the EPA is the only regulator of environmental issues countrywide? Hence, attempts to reduce the EPA's funding or its rule-making authority regarding air, water, streams, et. al. directly assault the environment.

And that is what is happening in this Congress, right now. In the 111th Congress, the *environment* is on the defensive, especially in the House of Representatives. This is the political reality, and hence GCA's environmental position papers also strike a defensive tone.

GCA is seeking to preserve the environmental gains of the previous 30 years rather than seeking extended authority. In addition to sustaining our historical initiatives, GCA has focused on full-funding of current environmental programs and protecting the EPA from having its rule-making authority eviscerated. *

Please see our SGC web site for highlights of the 2011 GCA position papers.

It is more expensive to clean up the mess later than to vote, now, to fund these environmental programs. What we can do:

- Support education
- Plant responsibly (and encourage others)
- Be aware of local programs, read the paper, and respond to local Association pleas

Legislators are aware that: For every person who contacts them there are 50 others who feel the same way.

**Currently some members of the U.S. House of Representatives are trying to strip the EPA of its rule-making authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The Bill would prevent EPA from moving ahead with current and planned climate regulations for electric utilities, oil refineries and other large stationary emitters. In some form, the bill is expected to clear the House Energy Committee. EPA's plans to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions have some industries forecasting an economic 'train wreck'; other economists argue that the impact of environmental regulations has been far more positive than negative, a net creator of jobs.*

Debby Smith & Carlyn Steiner, SGC's NAL Representatives



NAL Conference goers gather; the DC Botanical Garden; Carlyn Steiner with Senator Patty Murray



GCA HAPPENINGS

UW Student was GCA's Clara Carter Higgins Summer Environmental Studies Scholar

Living as we do on the very western edge of our country, it is always gratifying when a local person wins a national award. And even more so when the individual may have been stomping around the Center for Urban Horticulture, the Arboretum and other Seattle gardening spots that we all love. So it was pleasing to know that Talya ten Brink received the Clara Carter Higgins scholarship for summer environmental studies. Talya is currently a senior at the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington.

Her interest is focused on bringing sustainability values and environmental awareness to underprivileged communities. Her summer was spent at the Tokyo/Kobe/Awajishima Hyper-Urbanism program. She anticipates her study of hyper-urban spaces will serve as a foundation for her career in Landscape Architecture.

This scholarship originated in 1964 when Clara Carter Higgins, a GCA member in Worchester, Massachusetts indicated her desire to show appreciation to Garden Club of America for all it had "done for her and for others". Due to the popularity of her scholarship, in 1999 additional funds were set aside for this summer study program open to all college students.

Carey Davis Abbott

Today

By Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

SGC IN THE COMMUNITY

In response to membership desire expressed at the January Biennial meeting, to be more informed and involved in the process of SGC grants to Community Projects, you will notice several changes:

1. Prompt notice of all proposals received by CP, regardless of whether or not they are ultimately approved, and an invitation to comment
2. Internal projects sponsored by a committee will now be eligible for CP funds by the same process that external projects are considered (approved by SGC Board)
3. The \$5,000 trigger for membership vote on projects will be lowered to \$2,500 (approved by SGC Board)

Two projects have been received as of the March 1 deadline:

1. Bellevue Botanical Garden has resubmitted its proposal for \$25,000 for their capital campaign to build a new visitor services center, an education center, and creation of two new gardens and expansion of parking space.
2. Dunn Garden has asked for \$2,500 in order to conduct scientific testing and documentation of its heritage trees

The CP Committee is meeting on Thursday, March 31, 10am at CUH to discuss these proposals and other business. All SGC members are invited to attend.

A trip to Bloedel Reserve is planned for SGC members, Tuesday, April 19, 10:30am for a tour and celebration of the remodeled Japanese Garden, which SGC funded last year. Lunch will be available for \$15 and will be served in the Japanese Garden building. Please RSVP to Laurie Ahern, lahern1681@gmail.com or 206-322-6723. Carpools will be arranged from Seattle and Bellevue to take the 9:35am ferry to Bainbridge.

Laurie Ahern, Community Projects Chair

HORT STARTS

April is an ideal month to consider the benefits of rain to the garden. Sally Roth, author of *The Gardener's Weather Bible* (out of print), spells out how it helps our gardens flourish. Rainwater moves from the plant's roots and plumps up leaves and stems; it liquefies soil nutrients for the plant's use; it benefits crucial micro-organisms that aid in decomposition; it freshens up leaves and blossoms, removing dust and particles so they can "breathe" better; and it loosens the soil for better root penetration. Next time you're looking out at a downpour, try to remember the blessings of April showers!

UPCOMING HORTICULTURE MEETING, APRIL 4, UWBG/CUH

Susan Torrance will give her provisional talk on Alice Waters, a teacher, restaurateur, and visionary for the idea of an "Edible Education".

HORT SHARE: All Hort shares are welcome, **especially daffodils!** Throughout the years, SGC has studied and grown daffodils. Let's revisit this spring charmer and create a display. Bring your knowledge, your experience and, of course, a daffodil - even if you've lost its nametag.

HORT QUIZ OF THE MONTH:

Native American tribes called the full moon in April the: a) crow moon; b) the sap moon; c) the grass moon.

Answer to March's Quiz: Planting crops in rows that run north-south is marginally better because plants can lean to pick up both morning (east) and afternoon (west) sun exposure.

Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair

IN MEMORIAM

We regret the passing of two members.

Catherine Deming Connelly,
Honorary Life Member,
a member since 1951, died March 5, 2011.

Mayde C. Anderson
Honorary Life Member,
a member since 1963, died March 9, 2011.



*Mayde Anderson
at the SGC Annual Picnic*

GARDENER'S CORNER



Thoughts for April:

- Finish garden cleanup. *Bait for slugs and snails.*
- Fertilize lawn in late April with a 3-1-2 ratio slow-release organic fertilizer. Begin mowing.
- Direct seed cool season vegetables and flowers; carrots, beets, peas, foxglove, asters, cosmos.
- Harden off and set out seedlings of leafy greens, pansies, onions, snapdragons.
- Roses, blueberries and vegetable gardens need fertilizer (5-10-10) now.
- Pot up containers of annuals and perennials using slow-release fertilizer.
- Pruning tip: Trees and shrubs that flower *before* June, usually on the previous year's wood, should be pruned after they flower. Trees and shrubs that flower *after* June, usually on new growth, can be pruned in spring.

Janet Footh

Looking Ahead...

May 2 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING**
@ UWBG/CUH 9:00 - ALL WELCOME!

HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH
9:30 Coffee; 10:00 Program
Demonstration/Workshop: Hort entry
preparation for the May Flower Show.

May 5 **BOARD MEETING**
10:00 Sunset Club

May 18 **"WELCOME ABOARD!"**
FLOWER SHOW SET UP

May 19 **"WELCOME ABOARD!"**
FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY

May 20 **"WELCOME ABOARD!"**
FLOWER SHOW

May 21 **"WELCOME ABOARD!"**
FLOWER SHOW OPEN TO
PUBLIC & CLEAN-UP



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

We appreciate those who have recently converted to e-mail! If you are able and willing to do so as well, please let me know.

Suzette de Turenne, Communications Committee Chair



Seattle Garden Club

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