



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

MAY 2011



WELCOME ABOARD!

A GCA FLOWER SHOW

CELEBRATING MARITIME SEATTLE

Maritime Event Center Bell Harbor International Conference Center



WEDNESDAY, MAY 18,

9am - SET UP - ALL HANDS ON DECK!

**1pm to 4pm - Pre-assembly for Flower Arranging
& optional early passing for Hort Classes 29-34**

THURSDAY, MAY 19

**6:30am to 7:30am - Hort entries accepted ONLY from Committee involved in consulting,
passing and/or placing; 7am to 10am - Flower Arrangement entries accepted & passed; 7:30
to 10:30am - All Hort entries passed and placed.**

6pm to 8pm PREVIEW PARTY! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS

FRIDAY, MAY 20

10am to 5pm - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Exhibits may be removed after 5pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

8am to 10am - All exhibits removed by exhibitors.

Please note: **Flower Show meeting, Friday, May 6, 10:00 to Noon.** Please meet outside the MEC entrance promptly at 10am. *This will be the final opportunity before the Show to walk through the MEC site.* Meeting will start promptly with some time for sub-committee meetings at the end.

AT A GLANCE

- May 2 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING @ 9:00** followed by
HORT MEETING @UWBG/CUH - 9:30 Social;
10:00 Program; See information this page.
- May 5 **BOARD MEETING - 10:00** Sunset Club
- May 6 **FLOWER SHOW MEETING** on site
10:00-Noon @ Maritime Event Center
- May 9 **CONSERVATION MEETING**
9:30-Noon @ Juliet Romano's
- May 18 **FLOWER SHOW FESTIVITIES BEGIN -** See
information above
- May 25 **COMMUNITY PROJECTS MEETING**
9am @ Laurie Ahern's

HORT MEETING

**HORTICULTURE ENTRY
PREPARATION
FOR THE FLOWER SHOW**

MONDAY, MAY 2

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

**A panel demonstration to demystify
the Flower Show process.**

Bring your questions!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

With her Sunday, April 3 edition, the Gray Lady proved that she is in fact indispensable. Ben Schott's Op-Chart in the *New York Times* furnished us a page-long column of "pluvial terms" to put to use in service of our need to say for the 90th day in a row: "It is raining." Like an Eskimo's synonym dictionary for "snow," this handy list offers us a choice between "blirty" and "flaught" for a burst of wind and rain. After working an hour in the Fragrance Garden, Jeannie Gravenkemper and Debbi Wilson were "impluvious." Is rainwater dripping off your neighbor's eaves onto your property? Charge her with "stillicide" and suggest she install a rain garden. The possibilities seem limitless. And yet I ask: Can word power hoist me out of a deep rain-induced funk? Is it enough to know the word "imbriferous"? (Look it up.)

I do not believe so. In fact, I will trade you "mizzle" or "pash" for the sight of the impeccably tailored Marilee Ahalt in a sailor's hat. Or "onding" and "bedrabble" for the pleasure of sitting next to Judy Phillips. An SGC Hort Meeting is the very best antidote for a case of the blues. Turn off your windshield wipers and walk quickly through an early April "gourder" into the best group therapy session in Seattle. Who could not be cheered by Burnley Snyder introducing Susan Torrance (Torrent?) by holding up a lavishly trimmed hat that read like a phrenology map of Susan's polymathic mind? Susan's topic was "Alice Waters and her Edible Schoolyard." For several years, in a reach-exceeding-grasp-mode, our Program Committee has dreamed of bringing Alice Waters to SGC. Now perhaps Alice Live would be superfluous. Susan brought to life the personality, theory and passion behind Waters' well-financed undertaking to transform a middle school in Berkeley from listless to vibrant. For her diligent research and field study Susan relied on her own packed storehouse of knowledge about education, gardening, mycology and cooking. She also happens to have had a French grandmother, which gives her a little edge of authenticity over the creator of the legendary Chez Panisse. (I believe that Ms. Waters, like Nancy Bain and Bruce Springsteen, is a New Jersey native, perhaps the *je ne sais quoi* that prepared them all for success.)

This latter glancing reference to other climes brings me full circle to Ben Schott's "Pluviocabulary." I never knew there was a useful term to describe "the smell accompanying the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather." Perhaps many of you have never been at a loss for the word "petrichor," having so rarely suffered though "long, warm and dry." I bet, though, for Nancy and the numerous other non-native species among us, that petrichor aroma is Proustian in its power to invoke memories of a summer rain. For many successive springs after we moved to Seattle I noticed a curious, unfamiliar fragrance in the air. After a few years I began to associate it most intensely with spring. Finally I asked what it was. The quick answer was "alder pollen." It may make me sneeze, but I do not mind. For the rest of my life it will remind me of the place I have long called home.

Catherine Roach, President

ATTENTION!

PLEASE RSVP OR ACT NOW!

- RSVP to Judy Phillips for the Welcome Aboard! Flower Show Preview Party
- Contact Co-Chairs Marilee Ahalt or Barbara Feasey to see how you can help our Flower Show



Susan Torrance is happy to have completed her Provisional presentation. Pictured with sponsor Burnley Snyder holding the hat representing Susan's many talents and interests.

The Japanese Endure the Unbearable: Ikebana as a Metaphor for "Gaman"

The still unfolding tragedy in Japan has weighed heavily on all our minds. The Seattle Garden Club has long honored Japanese culture, especially as expressed through Japan's traditions of gardening and flower arranging. We have recently granted funds for improvements to the Japanese Gardens in the Arboretum and in the Bloedel Reserve. Dr. Jesse Hiraoka's presentation in October on the History of Japanese Landscape was one of our most enthusiastically received programs in memory.

Writers and commentators have spoken affectingly of the aplomb demonstrated by the Japanese people in the face of almost unutterable losses. We have come to know the term "gaman," succinctly translated as "perseverance" and used generally to describe the quality of being able to endure the unbearable with patience and dignity. Evan Osnos wrote in the New Yorker that some Japanese, when asked to account for the notable forbearance on display, cited "the rigorous discipline of ikebana." I asked Barbara Hamachek to expand on this. Her comments follow.

Catherine Roach

Shortly after the devastating Tsunami, I attended an Ikebana Sogetsu Workshop. Although we were all reeling from the devastation, our sensei reminded us over and over of the heart and soul of Sogetsu Ikebana.

The word itself comes from the verb Ikeru, meaning to place "life" and Bana which is a beautification of the word "hana," which means flower. When we do Ikebana we are not simply arranging flowers in a vase. We are feeling the life of the plant material, letting it speak to us so we might interpret its meaning and bring humans closer to nature.

Ikebana is a form of meditation requiring complete focus. Because the material is live, it is imperative to honor it by positioning it carefully in one's container. In so doing, one becomes immersed in the material, in the hope a new spring bud brings; in the strength of a winter branch covered with moss; in the vibrancy of a fall leaf as it sends one last burst of color to the world; or in the happiness of a bright orange gerbera dancing in the dry wind of summer. This complete immersion in Ikebana with its reverence for live plant material gives expression to our feelings of honor toward life in general and our connection to all.

Perhaps the hope, strength, vibrancy and happiness that inhere season after season in the traditions of Ikebana allow the Japanese to carry on in the face of adversity -- and inspire us as a nation to give as much as we can in donations and time.

Barbara Hamachek

GCA's SEED EXCHANGE PROGRAM

I was disappointed to find that this past winter's long enduring rain had obliterated my poppies for which I have a passion. However, I was pleased to find that GCA has a seed exchange program that offers all sorts of seeds for gardens, including two types of poppies: *papaver alaticum* and *papaver somniferum*. Started in 2004, this program posts seeds on the GCA web site that members have collected and are available to others upon request. Annuals, perennials, shrubs, vines and even trees are on the list. Sharing seeds is not only economical but also is a wonderful way to protect heirloom varieties as well as an opportunity to connect with Garden Club members throughout the country. If you are interested, log onto the GCA website as a member and follow the links from Committees to Horticulture to Seed Savers. There you will find the seed offerings as well as the emails of the donors. Come fall when your own plants are seeding you can gather them, label and post them for sharing.

Carey Davis Abbott



*Cornus kousa (kousa dogwood)
available through Seed Savers*

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate which has been approved by our Governing Board and will be presented for a vote by the active membership at our Annual Meeting to be held on June 2, 2011 at the Broadmoor Country Club:

President Elect: Laurie Ahern (2011-2012)
Corresponding Secretary: Gayle Harris (2011-2013)

Committee Chairmen

Communications: Suzette de Turenne (2011-2013)
Community Projects: Eleanor Nolan (2011-2013)
Conservation: Hotie Hard (2011-2013)
Membership: Hope Stroble (2011-2013)
Program: Angela Clark (2011-2013)

Active members may nominate additional candidates as noted in the SGC yearbook .

(See pages B-11 and 12)

Election shall be by 2/3 majority vote of the members present.

Respectfully submitted: The Nominating Committee 2011
Betty Paul, Mary Smith, Hope Stroble, Debbi Wilson
Jane Harder (Chairman)

The Roses

One day in summer
when everything
has already been more than enough
the wild beds start
exploding open along the berm
of the sea; day after day
you sit near them; day after day
the honey keeps on coming
in the red cups and the bees
like amber drops roll
in the petals: there is no end,
believe me! to the inventions of summer,
to the happiness your body
is willing to bear.



Mary Oliver

East Montlake Park

The leaves are opening on the deciduous trees while the ferns begin to unfurl their delicate fronds. Spring is definitely happening at the park!

Keep checking the website and look for emails as WE NEED YOU!!

- The Sigma Chi Fraternity is going to send some strong young men to spread wood chips all over the park to ensure moisture retention throughout the summer and to keep stubborn weeds down. The timing has not been determined but they are eager to give community service on a Saturday!
- A work party is needed to cut last year's fern fronds that have been whipped by winter winds, and create plant wells with the above wood chips to help hold moisture during the summer months. Timing has to be determined.
- Another work party at the Government Locks Greenhouse is needed to pot up the small starts we propagated last fall into 4' pots where they will continue to grow.
- New plants should wait to be planted in the fall when Mother Nature will again rain on them, allowing good root growth and a much higher survival rate at this rain-only site!

The Government Locks gardeners will cordon off the planting areas at the park to prevent the crowds on Opening Day of Boating, May 7th, from walking on our plantings.

So, keep watching for emails and notices on the website! Just as soon as we know the timing, we will get it out to you!!

Do take the time to get over to see all we have accomplished at Montlake! It is VERY EXCITING!!

Sue Blethen

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Who, What, When, and Where!

There are roughly 18,000 members of the Garden Club of America....all of them passionate about plants. Many of the GCA members spend countless hours volunteering to educate and inform others about the arrangement, cultivation, beauty and conservation of the plant world. One such amazing volunteer is Martha Phillips from the Litchfield Garden Club in Connecticut.

Martha is a familiar figure to anyone who has attended the NAL Conference. Among many of her GCA/LGC duties are those of authoring the ***Legislative Update*** and the ***Current Legislative Status Report***. Martha is imminently qualified in this regard as she was Deputy Minority Counsel to the House Ways and Means Committee (1977-1986) and Minority Staff Director to the House Budget Committee (1986-1992). She knows her way around (the other) Washington!

Impressed? I am....which is one of the reasons ***I subscribe to the Legislative Update***. I also subscribe because I want to know what I can do to encourage my representatives to vote for bills that protect the environment. For those of you who don't know what the ***Legislative Update*** is, here is a description from the GCA website:

What is the Legislative Update?

The Legislative Update is produced throughout the year and particularly when Congress is in session. Its purpose is to alert subscribers to committee hearings, bills actively before Congress and administrative rulemaking by agencies requesting comments. Usually issues in the Legislative Update need prompt responses from the subscribers. The Legislation and National Affairs (NAL) Committee and the Conservation Committee of Garden Club of America follow several issue areas that relate to GCA's commitment to restoring, improving and protecting the quality of the environment. GCA speaks for plants.

Do you have to respond to everything posted on the Update?

No, but your letter does have impact. Depending on the population of your state, it may represent as many as 5,000 voters. The information in the Legislative Update gives you the opportunity to become aware of very current federal level actions. You and your GCA club may be following certain issues and will want to contact your legislators with your concerns. Sometimes an issue will arise that GCA committees have been following and they will ask for your support. It's up to you to respond or not.

Here is a link to the current *Legislative Update* that came out on April 1st:

http://www.gcamerica.org/membersonly/legislative_updates_current/nal112_004.pdf It explains the Tea Party's attempts to limit the EPA's regulatory powers through attaching riders to the appropriations bill. It encourages members to contact their representatives as changes to environmental laws or reducing the EPA's ability to protect the environment could be devastating. Contacting your local, state and national representatives is a MASSIVE way to make a difference.

How do you subscribe to receive the Legislative Update in your email?

Try this link: <http://mail.gcamerica.org/mailman/listinfo/nallist> (or go to the GCA website: <http://www2.gcamerica.org/> user name: gcamember password: compost Click on 'Member's Login' at the bottom of the page, then click on 'Committees' at the top of the next page. Click on 'National Affairs and Legislation' near the bottom of the next page, and finally, click on 'Subscribe to the Legislative Update via Email' in the list that pops up!)

ALSO... ***THANK YOU*** to those of you who came out to give **Wetherill** a little love on April 27th!

Juliet Romano, Conservation Chair julietromano@comcast.net

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY PROJECTS - OUR PRIORITY

One of the great joys of being a member of SGC is being able to make contributions to worthwhile projects in the greater Seattle area through our Community Projects Committee. **But where does that money come from?** It is through the Ways and Means Committee! Help make it all happen by being an active member of Ways and Means, whose main event is the Holiday Luncheon and Auction each December. Contact Sheila Noonan for more information, 206-860-7662 or sbnoonan@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Holiday Luncheon & Auction will be Thursday, December 8, 2011, at the Sunset Club.

SGC IN THE COMMUNITY

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP VOTE - JUNE 2, 2011

The CP committee met on March 31 and approved the request from Dunn Garden for \$2,500. This money will be used to begin scientific testing and documentation of its heritage trees. In the next step of the granting process, the SGC Board was presented the project, which they also approved. There will be a chance for the membership to learn more about the project from representatives of the Dunn Garden on May 2 at the Horticulture meeting, CUH, 10 am. **A vote of the general membership to approve this project will occur at the Annual Meeting at Broadmoor, June 2, 2011.**

The request for \$25,000 from the Bellevue Botanical Garden was deferred until the October 31, 2011, deadline. Several members of the SGC attended an information session at the BBG and heard from architect Jim Olsen and Dan Hinkley more details about this exciting project. Representatives of BBG will be attending our October general meeting to make a presentation and to take questions.

Members of the CP committee are conducting site visits to projects from the past five years, which were granted over \$10,000 from the SGC. This is in order to understand the overall condition of the projects and if any action needs to be taken.

Laurie Ahern, Chair

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!



SGC's Jen Wyatt recently passed her CPH (Certified Professional Horticulturist) exam, administered to hort students or professionals in the area by the WSNLA (Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association).



SGC was well represented at the Bloedel Reserve's celebration recognizing SGC's contribution towards the refurbishing of their Japanese Garden.

SGC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2010

Please return this survey by May 15, 2011 to Laurie Riley, 1721 39th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

You will also have an opportunity to sign up for committees at future meetings this spring. This survey covers additional valuable information so please fill it out and return it.

NAME:

Suggestions for

General Meeting

Hort Class

Flower Arranging

Field Trip

Would you be willing to give a presentation at a Hort Meeting? If so, on what topic?

Would you be willing to share your home and/or garden for:

Hort Class @ 50-70 persons

September Picnic @ 80-100 persons

All Active Members are encouraged to serve on the SGC Board or to chair a committee.

Which SGC Board position interests you?

Which Committee would you like to chair?

On which committees would you like to participate for 2011-12?

Do you have an interest in serving on **Awards?**

On **Nominations?**

Would you be willing to help with the **Newsletter?**

Or **Website?**

Would you like to be considered for a **Zone XII position?** Is there one that interests you most?

If you are interested in the **Judging Program**, please contact the current advisors:

Flower Arranging: Prudence Hammett 425-455-9841, prudence54@msn.com

Horticulture: Noreen Frink 206-325-6399, nfrink@comcast.net

Photography: Jo Anne Rosen 206-322-1910, joannerosen@hotmail.com

Suggestions for a **Founders Fund** award in our area:

Ideas, suggestions, comments on any subject?

Yearbook Changes? Name, address, area code, cell phone, email, etc.

Membership Status

Any requests for changes in membership status should be submitted to

Hope Stroble, 158 N.W. Highland Drive, The Highlands, Seattle, WA 98177 by June 1, 2011.



Jane Harder's friends, Shelley Cantor & Jean Rosseau, from Sherborn Garden Club in Massachusetts, gave a marvelous and entertaining presentation at our Joint Meeting with Tacoma on the process for decorating a Rose Bowl parade float.



In spite of frigid spring weather, SGC members who visited Yellow Island enjoyed wildflowers and beautiful vistas.

GARDENER'S CORNER



Thoughts for May

- Happy Mother's Day! It's almost warm enough to ready your outdoor containers for summer highlights. Go with a friend to a nursery and pick the right plants for the right light requirements. Plant herbs or vegetables along with annual flowers. Top dress with Osmocote.
- Remember to harden off transplants by exposing them to outdoor temperatures gradually before planting.
- Weed and mulch (Cedar Grove?) before weeds go to seed.
- Fertilize heavy blooming annuals, fuchsias, begonias, geraniums every two weeks with mild solution.
- Fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas; remove spent blossoms.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after bloom. Remove spent bulb seed pods leaving the foliage to mature (turn brown and unattractive!)
- Watch hummingbirds loving your garden and reflect on the success of all your efforts while you enjoy an iced tea or glass of wine on your patio.
- Oh, and BFS.

Janet Footh

HORT STARTS

Anchors away for our next Horticulture Meeting - **Demystifying Horticulture Entries for the Flower Show**

On Monday, May 2, a panel of our members will cover an array of issues related to the Flower Show and demonstrate techniques for preparation and preservation of entries. Do you need to know how to drop off your entry? How to select a cut specimen? How to groom off pesky aphids? Determine an artful presentation? Come to the meeting to find out.

Bring in your *Welcome Aboard!* schedule for a review of rules and guidelines. All questions answered.

Special offer: If you're puzzled over the identity of a plant you'd like to enter in the Flower Show, bring it in. Angel Clark has graciously offered to stay after the Hort meeting and help you look it up in the Miller Library.

Don't forget to bring in Hort Share! We all enjoyed the spring beauties that members shared in April and look forward to another display.

HORT QUIZ OF THE MONTH

The name of the lovely spring flower, *Corydalis*: a) alludes to its two-lipped flowers with long spurs; b) refers to the Greek word for lark; c) means clustered or grouped together.

Answer to April's Quiz: Some Native American tribes called the full moon in April the grass moon; the slender grass blades signaled a time for rejoicing with milder weather on its way.

Jenny Wyatt, Horticulture Committee Chair

Looking Ahead...

Jun 2 ANNUAL MEETING, LUNCHEON & AWARDS

Broadmoor Golf Club
Welcome 11:00

Jun 9 ANNUAL IN & OUT BOARD MEETING
11:00 Sunset Club



CHOOSE TO CONSERVE! RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY 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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