



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

October 2011



AT A GLANCE

events of note coming soon

10/3 Provisional Meeting @ UWBG/CUH
9:00am

Hort Meeting @ UWBG/CUH
9:30am Coffee; 10:00am Program

Conservation Committee meeting
will follow

10/6 Board Meeting @ Sunset Club
10:00am

10/12 Seattle Children's PlayGarden Luncheon @ Four Seasons Hotel;
contact Laurie Ahern

Cancer Life Line community gathering 6:00pm (see page 5)

10/20 General Meeting (details this page)

10/25 Membership Committee Meeting
10:00am

HORT MEETING October 3rd

Van Bobbitt

Professor of Horticulture at South
Seattle Community College

Native Plant Myths

UWBG-CUH

9:30am Coffee, 10am Meeting

Bring your Red Cedars!

General Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2011

9:30am Coffee; 10:00am Meeting; 10:30am Program

ALLISON McCARTHY

PHENOLOGY



A 2011 graduate from the Environmental Horticulture Master's Program at the University of Washington, Allison McCarthy will speak about the highly relevant topic of phenology, the effects of a changing climate on plant growth and survival. She is participating in the Floral Report Card project at UW Botanic Garden's Climate Change Garden in order to integrate existing science programs into elementary, middle and high school classrooms.

**Tour of the greenhouses
& CUH garden plot follows**

All-Member Photography Exhibit

RSVP by Friday, October 14

(YES or NO, please)

Charlee Reed: cpreed@msn.com (206)325-7033

Guests Welcome



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is it really fall? By the time you receive this, it just might be! How about "Indian summer"? Perhaps more applicable for the warm days and cool nights we have been experiencing with ever-so-gradual change of foliage color and texture. A great trade-off for the rainy, gray June we experienced!

By now we have harvested most of our vegetable plots – mine with very little produce – but I tried! The frost will soon be on the pumpkin and it's time to put the garden to bed!

Our Garden Club activities are off to a fine start with many committees already meeting and carrying out plans for the year. Don't forget to check the SGC Website Calendar for dates...new ones appear all the time!

Our picnic at Diana Neely's wonderful garden was a huge success. Thank you to Diana, Charlee Reed and Angel Clark for planning such a memorable event.

Kudos to Gayle Harris for organizing our 2011-12 Yearbook...a.k.a. the *Green Book*... which we all received at the picnic. Our yearbook is a huge and very necessary annual project and we applaud Gayle for a great job. Thanks also to Jane Harder and Catherine Roach for proofreading, and to many other contributors. I encourage you to read your green book – cover to cover. It will enrich your knowledge of our club and how it works.

Our October meetings are real winners that you won't want to miss! Kicking off the Hort year, Van Bobbitt of South Seattle Community College will enlighten us with Native Plant Myths, Monday, October 3. Do you know the meaning of the word "Phenology"? Come and find out when Allison McCarthy, UW Grad Student, speaks on that subject at our first General meeting, Thursday, October 20. Please remember to R.S.V.P. to the General Meeting.

Looking ahead, Jenny Wyatt, Hort Chairman, and Angel Clark, Program Chairman, will be our delegates to the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Workshop in Pasadena, October 31—November 2. We'll look forward to their reports.

And...in case you happen to be in New York City in early October, the official groundbreaking for the 2013 Central Park Founders Fund Project on October 5 is the place to be. This is the first step in the restoration of the two-acre site at the East 69th Street entrance to the park, reflecting the original Olmsted design. In celebration of our Centennial, it will be GCA's gift to the residents of New York and all the visitors to Central Park – 35 million a year. Quite an event!

Speaking of upcoming events, plans are already well underway for our Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction at the Sunset Club, Thursday, December 8. Please mark your calendars and be thinking of wonderful items to donate and a list of guests to invite. Sheila Noonan, our capable Ways and Means Chair, welcomes your participation.

Enjoy this glorious time of year!

Laurie Riley, President

ATTENTION!

Requiring your immediate action!

RSVP

- **Charlee Reed for the 10/20 General Meeting** cpreed@msn.com
(206) 325-7033
- **Deliver your photo for the 10/20 all member photo display to Sis Woodside or Jane Harder by 10/3**
- **Mark your calendar for the Holiday Luncheon & Auction...plan your donation and guest list**

SEED SHARE

AT SHIRLEY MENEICE CONFERENCE

Horticulture chairs and other representatives from GCA clubs throughout the country will gather on October 30th at the Huntington Gardens near Pasadena for the annual horticulture conference. Attending this year from SGC will be Jenny Wyatt, Hort Chair, and Angel Clark, Program Chair.

One of the conference's popular activities is a seed exchange. If you have seeds you'd like to swap (no invasives), please contact Jenny or Angel. Put your seeds in a small envelope and label them: Common Name; Botanical Name; Zone Hardiness; and Type of Seed (tree, shrub, perennial, biennial, annual, vine). You'll receive seeds from another GCA member in return.

HORTICULTURE STARTS

Natives are often suggested as the ideal plant choice for many situations, but are there limitations on how we should use them in our gardens? Come to the October Horticulture Meeting to learn the answer to this and other questions about native plants. Professor of Horticulture at South Seattle Community College, Van Bobbitt will speak on "Native Plant Myths" - Monday, October 3, at CUH.

For "Hort Share" please bring in a photo or sample of a plant in your garden that stretched the season by performing well in late summer and fall. Let's have a wonderful display of our summer garden beauties!

HORT QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Phycology is: a) the branch of botany dealing with algae; b) the study of vascular plant diseases; c) a discourse on the relationship between root cells and beneficial nematodes; d) a cryptic version of the famous line, "Fie upon this quiet life."

Answer to September's question: Lichen is a combination of fungus and green alga living together

Jenny Wyatt, Hort Chair

Centennial Tree Project Update: *A Home for Western Red Cedars*

Since 2009, SGC members have been growing *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar) as part of our Centennial Tree Project. Some of the seedlings, planted in Magnuson Park, are by now established and inching their way upward. Others have remained in containers and were displayed as a Class at last spring's Flower Show, Welcome Aboard!



Would your cedar seedling be happy along the Yesler Swamp Trail at UBNA?

Now comes an opportunity to plant the remaining cedars at the Union Bay Natural Area (UBNA), near the CUH classroom where we hold our meetings. The location, suggested by Fred Hoyt, Associate Director of UWBG and Dr. Kern Erwin, Professor of Plant Ecology, is within the Yesler Swamp Area, between NE 41st St and Surber Dr. NE.

Not only is this shady wetland an ideal habitat for the cedars, its added benefit is an active neighborhood group, *Friends of Yesler Swamp*, committed to restoring and preserving this wetland. For more information see their blog, <http://yeslerswamptrail.wordpress.com/>.

If you have a cedar and would like to plant it in this area, please contact Jenny Wyatt (wyattjen@comcast.net). Bring your cedar to the Hort Meeting on October 3rd or drop it off at the nursery at CUH (M-F, between 8-2). David Zuckerman will keep the cedars together in the nursery until the rains start and they can be planted.

If you'd like to be part of planting the cedars, you can join a *Friends of Yesler Swamp* work party, date to be determined.



Cedars planted at Magnuson Park in the fall of 2009 are thriving in the understory of a forest remnant. Others were planted in swampy areas of the park.



Holiday Luncheon & Auction

Mark your calendars!

Our major fundraising event is fast approaching.

December 8, 2011

Sunset Club

1021 University Street

10:30am Auction & Social - 12:00 Noon Lunch

We are preparing for another wonderful Holiday Luncheon and Auction at the Sunset Club this year. Before we know it the winter will be upon us and the day of the Luncheon and Auction will be here.

At this point we would like you to be thinking about the guests you want to invite and the items and/or experiences you would like to donate.

The Procurement Form is on the website and can be downloaded for your use. (http://members.seattlegardenclub.org/Garden_Club_Members/New_Members_Home_files/PROCUREMENT%20FORM%20full%20page2011.pdf).

When thinking of what you might want to donate, think about what you would like to take home with you. If you would want it, there are most likely others who would like it as well. Items that have done well in recent auctions have included: almost anything for children/grandchildren, opportunities to learn from our members about their areas of expertise, special outings that are of interest to our members and occasions to spend time with each other just for the fun of it. We are always looking for a range of items that cover the price spectrum, from a few dollars to "priceless". We welcome all ideas to support our Seattle Garden Club fundraising. If you have any questions or ideas for auction items, please feel free to contact me.

**Please consider contributing a *quality* item to our *MAJOR SGC FUNDRAISER!!*
Be creative! Offer your talents!**

We hope you will dream up a wonderful item and/or outing to donate!

Sheila Noonan, Ways and Means Chair



Some of our most successful Auction items are outings/gatherings with SGC members at private homes or to special destinations. Three 2010 experiences, left to right: Birding at Grays Harbor with Burnley Snyder, Twin Island garden tour with Susan Torrance and Yellow Island wildflower walk. What could be in store for you this year?

EAST MONTLAKE PARK REPORT

The park has done remarkably well this summer and was very thankful for the moist summer that drove the rest of us crazy. We suffered minimal losses which would have occurred even with regular watering. Most importantly, the small trees, native ferns and groundcovers are doing remarkably well. Another winter and they will be much stronger to endure the summer dry periods.

Two small work parties helped weed over this summer which saved numerous plants from being strangled by morning glory. Catherine Allan, Jenny Wyatt, Laurie Riley, Debby Smith and I did what we could to clean out the invasives once again. The clematis and blackberries are ever so much better but have not totally given up either!! We will prevail!

Watch for more weeding work parties before the fall rains set in for good. And remember that plant donations are always welcome as this is the BEST time to be planting!! I will check our propagation efforts at the Locks to see how the starts fared over summer.

If you want to get involved, just send me an email or call! It is amazing all we can accomplish in just a couple of hours! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated their time, money and BACKS to this effort!

Sue Blethen

SEPTEMBER PICNIC...

SGC members enjoyed the year's first gathering at Diana Neely's fabulous home and garden. Charlee Reed's meeting arrangement skills helped set the stage for a wonderful day which included a horticulture scavenger hunt planned by Diana, a plant exchange organized by Jenny Wyatt, fresh apples and apple juice sampling orchestrated by Catherine Allan and a delicious lunch in the garden with tables graced by arrangements by Judy Thomas. The weather cooperated but for the occasional sprinkles of rain. A great start to our new year!



Jenny Wyatt, Catherine Allan & Betty Paul
man the apple tasting table



Charlee Reed & Judy Thomas lend their expertise



Diana Neely, the consummate hostess



Burnley Snyder (right) presented Suzette de Turenne with an SGC commendation for Spirited and Enthusiastic Participation



Margie Allison & Kathy Lea undaunted by a few sprinkles

Cancer Lifeline

Thank you SGC!



At the October 3rd Hort Meeting, SGC member Susan Pollock will provide us the opportunity to sign up to bring flowers or a plant to Cancer Lifeline.

Excerpt from the Cancer Lifeline newsletter: *For over a decade, the Seattle Garden Club has been an unwavering source of joy for Cancer Lifeline and those who walk through our doors.*

Each week, a member of the Seattle Garden Club delivers a handmade arrangement. Each is unique and is a source of pleasure for our clients, visitors and staff.

You are invited to Cancer Lifeline's 2011 Community Gathering!

DATE: Wednesday, October 12, 2011
TIME: 6 pm - 8 pm @ Cancer Lifeline's Dorothy S. O'Brien Center,
6522 Fremont Ave N,
Seattle, WA 98103
Refreshments will be served!

For more information or to RSVP, please call (206) 297-2100 or email info@cancerlifeline.org -- we'd love to see you there!

CONSERVATION REPORT

Healthy gardens and conservation are great partners. And we all need oxygen! Whether our oxygen comes from nearby plants, the atmosphere, or Puget Sound plankton, all are inter-related. This year, we shall focus, along with the State of Washington, on storm-water and polluted run-off flowing into Puget Sound. Our small home gardens are as important in this focus as large parking lots and farmers' riverside fields. We shall list People for Puget Sound's Rainwater Community Walking Tours as one of our ways to begin SGC awareness as well as that of our neighbors. Our first Conservation meeting will follow the first Horticulture meeting in October; join us if you wish and you also will be hearing from us! We may be stenciling street drains, learning about urban swales, or writing letters to our legislators!



Hotie Hard, Conservation Chair

YEARBOOKS

Those who have not picked up the new Yearbook will be able to do so at the Hort Meeting on October 3rd.



GCA HAPPENINGS

DAFFODILS!!

Autumn is poking its way through our lovely Indian summer, and creating the opportune time to plant bulbs that will lay dormant while winter draws its string around us. Because their yellow perianths catch the thin spring sun, daffodils have historically been a favorite.

In fact, one of the earliest Garden Club of America's letters to members back in 1913-14 advocates for gardeners to plant daffodils. It's a dainty little letter which looks as if it were printed on a hand set press with suggestions for planting. Today, GCA continues that tradition by offering for sale a delicate daffodil named by the Royal Horticultural Society to honor our Centennial. Its pale yellow, strong orange and touch of green capture the colors that will return this spring. These bulbs are grown by Brent and Becky Brent of B & B Bulbs in Virginia. This couple was recently selected to be GCA Honorary Members for their contribution to Garden Club of America. The bulbs are available to order through the website.



Carey Davis

Chain of Women

BY ANNIE FINCH

These are the seasons Persephone promised
as she turned on her heel—
the ones that darken, till green no longer
bandages what I feel.

Now touches of gold stipple the branches,
promising weeks of time
to fade through, finding the footprints
she left as she turned to climb.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Proposals due by December 15th

The Membership Proposal Form is available on the SGC website. You must print it in order to use it. If you are unable to access the form from the web site, please contact Hope Stroble and she will send you a copy.

The Christmas Luncheon and open general meetings are excellent ways of acquainting candidates with Membership Committee members or Board members.

Hope Stroble
hopestroble@hotmail.com or 206-364-6694

SGC IN THE COMMUNITY

In support of one of SGC's community projects, the Seattle Children's PlayGarden, you are invited to a luncheon on October 12, 2011, Noon, at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Laurie Ahern will be organizing those who wish to attend. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Laurie at 206-850-3974 or lahern1681@gmail.com.



PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

REMINDER FOR OUR "FAVORITE PHOTO EXHIBIT"



We are looking forward to receiving your "favorite photo" taken over the summer or fall for display October 20th. It should be 8X10 or a similar size and not mounted. Deliver to Sis Woodside or Jane Harder by Oct 3rd. Please include your name and photo description with submission. Open to all members.

DAY TRIP TO GORDON'S PUMPKIN STAND NEAR LA CONNER OCTOBER 26TH, 9am to 5pm Contact Sis Woodside if you'd like to attend.

Sis Woodside, Photography Chair

GARDENER'S CORNER

Thoughts for October:



- Get rid of icky stuff in containers and garden beds. Keep after weeds and slug/snails.
- Mulch with compost or manure over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, rhubarb and asparagus for winter protection.
- Before adding any amendments to your (clay?) soil, get a soil test done. Simple kits to test for pH and major nutrients are available at garden centers. More thorough tests are done at private labs (ask a Master Gardener for a reference) telling current levels of nutrients and advising what amendments to add and in what quantity.
- Thatch, aerate lawns and install sod if needed. Top dress with light layer of sifted compost if lawn was planted with little organic matter. Turn off irrigation systems.
- During October and November, after soil temperatures drop below 60 degrees, bulbs of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, dwarf irises, fritillaries, snowdrops (Galanthus), alliums and crocus should be planted. Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole as you prepare the soil.
- Remember? Tulip bulbs are flat on one side. Plant flat side toward the pot side and the leaves will lay over edge instead of in towards center of pot.
- Divide perennials if needed and offer extras to your friends.
- Cut back on watering houseplants and stop fertilizing altogether.

Janet Footh



Judy Thomas Featured at Urban Earth Nursery October 7th

Our own, talented Judy Thomas will be a featured artist at Urban Earth in Fremont during the next Fremont First Friday Art Walk on Friday, October 7th from 6-9pm. This is your chance to see some of her current work for yourself. She makes pieces you would want indoors as well as for your garden.



Looking Ahead...

Nov 3 **Board Meeting**, 10am, Sunset Club

Nov 7 **HORT Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**,
9:30am Coffee, 10am Meeting;
Provisional presentation by Sheila Wyckoff
Dickey: *Elizabeth Putnam, Founder of the
Student Conservation Association*

Provisionals will meet on HORT Mondays
at 9:00am at CUH

Nov 17 **General Meeting @ UWBG/CUH**
9:30 Coffee; 10:00 Meeting; 10:30 Program
Susan Olmsted & Eliza Davidson speak
about their joint project at the State Capitol
Gardens

Dec 8 **Annual Holiday Luncheon &
Auction**, Sunset Club



GCA ENCOURAGES US TO USE EMAIL

If you currently receive this newsletter via U.S. Mail, and are ready for e-mail, please let me know. We are always happy to reduce waste and expenses, in keeping with GCA policies. Thank you to those who have already made the change!

Suzette de Turenne, Communications Chair



Seattle Garden Club

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