



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

February 2012



Annual Business Meeting

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER

Monday, February 6, 2012

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

Members Only

Join the discussion on current
issues within our Club.

We will be updated on the Treasury,
the Judging Program, our recent
Auction and Community Projects
policies implemented after last year's
business meeting.

Discussion groups will follow.

Come with questions about any
Club-related issues.

Please reply, YES or NO
by Friday, February 3

to Jane Harder

janeharder@comcast.net (206) 361-7675

*Plus, members' "favorite seasonal"
photo display*

General Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2012

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



CASS TURNBULL
Techniques of Pruning

We will spend a morning with Seattle's
Queen of Pruning, Cass Turnbull.

Founder of Plant Amnesty,
Master Gardener extraordinaire and
champion of sustainable landscapes,
she is the author of two book icons,
Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning and
*The Complete Guide to Landscape
Design, Renovation and Maintenance*.

Her many articles and engaging
lectures make her one of the most
sought after speakers.

Please join us for a lively
and informative program.

GUESTS WELCOME

Please reply, YES or NO
by Sunday, February 12

to Sheila Noonan

sbnoonan@gmail.com
(206) 860-7662



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone! Last week as I looked outside to the gray winter I saw little evidence of the cold we often experience here in January and February. My garden was in "neutral", wondering if it should wait for a winter to come or push on toward spring. I had recently finished planting all those daffodil and tulip bulbs that were put on hold and now I saw crocuses, snowdrops and other bulbs popping up...hellebores, too...not to mention my fully budded star magnolia with a blooming Joseph's Coat Rose climbing up through it. I wondered if we would be hit by a cold snap as our resident hummingbird, visiting daily, reminded me that these cloudy days we call winter aren't so bad and life is good! AND THEN CAME A REAL LIVE SNOWFALL! OUR WINTER IS REALLY HERE!!

January was a busy month. Our Hort speaker, provisional member Marianne Kitchell, enlightened us to the life and accomplishments of Lady Bird Johnson. I think we would all like to visit Lady Bird's Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Well done, Marianne!

Our Annual Business meeting, "Why We Do What We Do", was postponed due to the snow and has been rescheduled for Monday, February 6. Thanks to the Flower Arrangers for their flexibility, to Laurie Ahern and the Policy and Planning Committee for organizing the agenda and to Charlee Reed, Jane Harder and the Meeting Arrangements Committee for the meeting details that had to be revamped.

Behind the scenes, Debbi Wilson and our Nominations Committee have been drawing up a new slate of officers and Board members for next year. Hope Stroble, Membership Chair, has been meeting with her committee to provide our Club with new Provisional members. We all await those exciting announcements.

As we move into 2012, I would like to suggest we think a little more about Seattle Garden Club exposure in the community. Sometimes I don't think we have enough recognition out there in the Seattle world. I would like to encourage everyone to "toot our horn" among friends and acquaintances. Do a little gentle bragging about all the great things we do for the community. Bring a guest or two to an open meeting. Even better, invite a few friends to our Pamela Green Horticulture Lecture on the evening of March 1 at MOHAI. Best selling author from England, Andrea Wulf, will present *The Founding Gardeners*, a new perspective of the lives of our forefathers and the horticultural impact they made on the roots of America.

Enjoy these winter days now that they have arrived and take the time to smell the early blooming Hamamelis and the Sarcococca!

Laurie Riley, President

AT A GLANCE

events of note coming soon

2/2 BOARD MEETING - The Sunset Club 10:00am

2/6 PROVISIONALS @ CUH at 9:00am

BUSINESS MEETING @ UWBG/CUH

See information on first page (rescheduled to this date due to weather)

2/7 POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00am @ Laurie Ahern's

2/9 HORT COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00am @ Jenny Wyatt's

2/16 GENERAL MEETING @ UWBG/CUH
See information on first page

ATTENTION!

Requiring your immediate action!

RSVP

• Jane Harder for the February 6 General Meeting - (206) 361-7675
janeharder@comcast.net If you had already RSVP'd for the original meeting date, please RSVP again for this rescheduled meeting

• Sheila Noonan for the February 16 General Meeting - (206) 860-7662
sbnoonan@gmail.com

LOG-IN

• Please log-in to the GCA web site using your personal ID code; contact Suzette de Turenne for more info

CONSERVATION REPORT

Conservation Curiosities: One citizen visiting or writing a state legislator has more POWER than a paid lobbyist. Why? Because the legislators represent "US".

Conservation Cares: Do we care? Yes! We care about how much sun, how many clouds, how much rain our gardens receive. We care about our kids swimming in the lake. We care about breathing stagnant smog winter or summer.



Workshops by a coalition of conservation groups, held on January 7, prepared for the January 25, 2012 Lobby Day in Olympia. The focus is three priorities: Toxic-Free Kids, Pollution-Free Prosperity, and Continued Goals for Clean Energy.

Let's continue Lobby Day as part of our garden 'green' minded ways by a call, card or e-mail to our legislators ANY Olympia session day.

Address: www.leg.wa.gov/senate (or /house)

Call: Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

We can and do make a difference!

Hotie Hard, Conservation Chair 206-524-1346 or hotieh@aol.com



DOCUMENTING YOUR GARDEN FOR GCA

If part of your New Year's resolution is to investigate documenting your garden for GCA or even for your personal enjoyment, our national headquarters has a wealth of information available. First the GHD Committee's Procedures Manual for Submission & the Procedures Manual will walk you through eligibility. Then GCA interns for the last few years have suggestions for documenting. They maintain that gardens have a social historical value as well as aesthetic. It is stressed that patios, garden furniture and even children's swings and potting sheds be included. Whether or not there is a compost pile will definitely date a garden. A detailed write up will enrich not only the documentation but also display garden language of our time. And, drawings of the overall plan are most helpful. Wide angle and sharp, well-defined camera shots display not only the colors and shapes of a garden, but also the overall impact the garden has on the environment surrounding it. All this and more are offered on the GCA website.

Carey Davis



NAL ALERT

**The GCA National Affairs and Legislation meeting in Washington D.C.
February 27, 28 and 29 still has openings!**

Our two delegates, Hotie Hard and Carlyn Steiner, will be attending but we have been advised that there are still openings!

This is a great opportunity to hear speakers on national conservation and environmental issues and to learn more about the workings of government and issues of interest to GCA.

A great time to be in Washington D.C.!

**If interested, please contact Laurie Riley
for more information.**

FLOWER ARRANGING

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the inclement weather and rescheduling needs, the program originally planned for February 6 featuring a powerpoint of the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) which met in Boston last June will be presented at a later date.

Cathy Parker, Committee Chair

A RETURN TO THE GULF COAST

In 2005, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina was one of those events that leaves us all certain that we are one community. I wrote an article about a family home at Pass Christian, Mississippi - where five generations had gathered -- demolished by the waters and wind of Katrina, having been rebuilt once after the eye of Hurricane Camille destroyed the home and over one hundred live oaks in 1970 in the same vulnerable area of the Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Biloxi, Mississippi. Over New Years weekend, Charlie and I drove east from New Orleans through its devastated ninth ward, over the five-mile Lake Pontchartrain causeway, through Slidell, Waveland, Bay Saint Louis, and onto Pass Christian. We returned to the homesite to see what healing of the land might have begun along the way. For miles, hundreds and hundreds of dead tree stumps are reminders of the longstanding salt water. Only drought tolerant weeds have returned to land along the coast and its beaches. Much debris still remains unmoved. I collected bits of pottery still on the land--and, maybe, from other ports of call--reminding me of wonderful summer dinners. Along the coast, a few homes have been rebuilt, on pilings literally two stories tall under new building codes. Little construction is occurring, as insurance costs that were, for example, \$4000 a year, are now \$24,000.

Katrina is part of the language of everyone in New Orleans: A barometer of progress as long standing "institutions" from taxis to restaurants, hotels to relatives, measure cautiously the slow return of vitality and people and hope, with untold stories of disrupted families - many gone forever.

In short, the miles and miles of dead trees were shocking - a visual reminder of the breadth of destruction of the water surge and flooding. The environmental demolition remains as evidence of the unimaginable destruction of Katrina. The devastation must be like that which we read about daily in Asia and all communities of the earth caused by Tsunamis, wildfires, earthquakes. The impact continues and, soberingly, has not begun to restore the land or its vegetation to normalcy - if ever.

Eleanor Nolan



First Sight of Spring

John Clare (1793-1864)

The hazel-blooms, in threads of crimson hue,
Peep through the swelling buds, foretelling Spring,
Ere yet a white-thorn leaf appears in view,
Or March finds throstles pleased enough to sing.
To the old touchwood tree woodpeckers cling
A moment, and their harsh-toned notes renew;
In happier mood, the stockdove claps his wing;
The squirrel sputters up the powdered oak,
With tail cocked o'er his head, and ears erect,
Startled to hear the woodman's understroke;
And with the courage which his fears collect,
He hisses fierce half malice and half glee,
Leaping from branch to branch about the tree,
In winter's foliage, moss and lichens, deckt.

GARDENER'S CORNER



Thoughts for February:

- Prune roses at end of month or early March. Before purchasing new plants, check rose varieties for disease resistance.*
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Apply horticultural oil to control overwintering insects on deciduous trees, peaches, apples, pear, shrubs and roses.
- Seeds for poppies, peas, bachelor buttons, and spinach can be direct-sown now or early March.
- Start baiting for slugs now.
- Cut off tall yellowed stems of all perennials, especially ornamental grasses.
- Rejuvenate houseplants: cover the soil around them with plastic and rinse in a lukewarm shower. Then cut off yellowing leaves and leggy branches.

*Bareroot roses need phosphorous to promote root growth. Spread superphosphate (0-20-0) or bone meal (3-18-0) in the soil around the root zone. After pruning established roses, apply liquid or granular fertilizers to provide nutrients for new leaves and blossoms.

Janet Footh

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE



Thank you to all who planned to participate in our January Business Meeting photo exhibit. Due to the rescheduling of that meeting, the photos will now be on exhibit at our Business Meeting on February 6. **Reminder: All SGC members are invited to join in our future displays.** *Sis Woodside, Chair*

Now Showing in a Garden Near You . . .

BEFORE the snow & ice . . .



*Wade Garretson's robust
Hellebore Orientale*



*Charlee Reed enjoyed a leaf strewn path in Madrona Park (left);
the interest created by a blue urn and sun dial in her mother's
garden (center); and her own blossoming Abutilon (right)*



*Catherine Allan spied
this Camellia sasanqua
while on a walk*

DURING the snow & ice . . .



*Carex morrowii 'Aureovariegata' (left), Yucca gloriosa 'Bright Star' (center) and Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' (right)
were holding up well and providing some winter interest in Suzette de Turenne's garden*

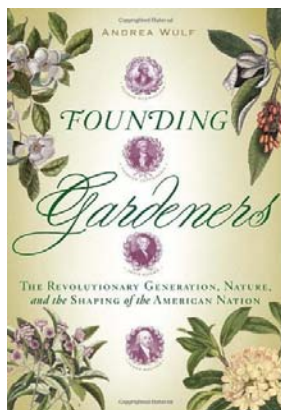
AFTER the snow & ice??? We'll have to wait and see!

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Community Projects Committee invites your input. Upcoming issues we will discuss are guidelines for repeat proposals from institutions and grant proposal information on the public portion of the SGC website. We are gathering additional information on the Bellevue Botanical Garden. We will make its determination along with the Bloedel Conservatory very soon. In that we serve the community, it is gratifying that we continue to get inquiries from institutions regarding submitting proposals. We will approach decisions on pending and future grants after thorough consideration. We welcome the comments and suggestions of the membership at all times.

Eleanor Nolan, Chair

**THE 2012 PAMELA GREEN
HORTICULTURE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS
IN A RARE WEST COAST APPEARANCE**



ANDREA WULF

Best Selling Author of

FOUNDING GARDENERS

*A fascinating look at our founding fathers
from the unique perspective of their lives as
gardeners, plantsmen and farmers*



7:00pm - Thursday, March 1, 2012

The Museum of History & Industry

2700 24th Avenue East, Seattle

(just off State Route 520 & south of the Montlake Bridge)

Tickets: \$20.00

Students: \$10.00

- Proceeds to benefit SGC's Community Projects Fund -

"Lively and deeply researched history...Wulf ingeniously connects that highbrow political philosophy to the founders' personal passion for horticulture...thoughtful account"

Washington Post

"Illuminating and engrossing...Wulf has written an ecological and historical narrative, revisionist in the best sense, combining the suspense of war...with an intimate view of private lives devoted to the natural science...Throughout the narrative, Wulf squarely faces the institution of slavery." *New York Times Sunday Book Review*

For more information and tickets visit www.seattlegardenclub.org

Invite friends and family!

- Tickets will be available at various SGC meetings -

HORTICULTURE STARTS

Marianne Kitchell's engaging talk at the January Horticulture Meeting provided us with fresh insights into Lady Bird Johnson as well as a valuable resource. The Web site for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center contains a Native Plant Database with recommendations for various regions: www.wildflower.org.

Our next provisional talk takes place in March, when Carolyn Kitchell will speak on Gertrude Jekyll.

Update on the Fragrance Garden: Relying on funds from an SGC Community Projects grant, the Fragrance Garden Committee, headed by Debbi Wilson, was able to fill the four containers with seasonal plantings. Brightening the space throughout the winter are Golden Variegated Sweet Flag; Primlet Sunrise and two kinds of Violas: 'Velour Blue Bronze' and Sorbet 'Antique Shades'. As spring arrives, Hyacinth and Narcissus bulbs, donated by Bob Lilly, will push through and complement the planting.

HORT QUESTION OF THE MONTH

One version of this rhyme is "Sedges have edges; rushes are round; and grasses: a) with nodes will never be found; b) are hollow right up from the ground; c) have bases that form a large mound; d) are dicots with seed leaves abound."

Answer to January's question: In general, Sasanqua Camellias: a) have smaller flowers than their cousins, Camellia japonica.

Jenny Wyatt, Hort Chair



Marianne Kitchell, pleased to have completed her Provisional presentation, is pictured with her mother-in-law, Ginny Kitchell

EcoTips



Sightline Daily

Wouldn't it be great to have someone send you a daily link to the top ten environmental news stories in our region so that you don't have to slog through dozens of news sources each morning?

Good News! Check out Sightline Daily and subscribe to their daily updates, which will come to you via email. Go to: <http://daily.sightline.org/signup/> or click on the link below.

Sightline Daily - a service of [Sightline Institute](http://SightlineInstitute.org) - provides a snapshot of the most important **environmental, social, and economic news affecting the Northwest**.

Sightline keeps you informed in two ways:

Our blog: Sightline's researchers look at sustainability trends and issues across our region — delving into issues from climate change and transportation to job creation and economic choices. They connect the dots between issues and highlight smart solutions to today's pressing problems.

Daily news: Each day, our editors rise early and read more than 80 media outlets from the Northwest and beyond. We handpick our top ten stories, publish the list on this site each morning, and deliver them (click this link to subscribe) [by email](#) to nearly 5,000 subscribers.

Juliet Romano

EAST MONTLAKE PARK

Winter months are our last chance to plant natives at East Montlake Park. Contact Sue Blethen by email if you have something you could divide or donate to our park.

Thank you for keeping EMP growing!

Sue Blethen sueblethen@hotmail.com

Looking Ahead...

Mar 1 **BOARD MEETING** - The Sunset Club
10:00am

Mar 5 **PROVISIONALS @ UWBG/CUH at 9:00am**
HORT MEETING @ UWBG/CUH,
9:30am Coffee; 10:00am Provisional
Carolyn Kitchell presents *Gertrude Jekyll,*
Color in the Garden

Mar 15 **GENERAL MEETING @ UWBG/CUH**
9:30am Social; 10:00am Meeting
Vanessa Nagel, Landscape Designer, will
speak on Portland's Min Zidell Healing
Garden - Guests Welcome
(please note that this is a change from the
original schedule in the Yearbook)



IF YOU CURRENTLY RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA U.S. MAIL, and are ready for e-mail, please let me know. In keeping with GCA policy, we are always happy to reduce waste and expense.

Suzette de Turenne, Communications Chair



Seattle Garden Club

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