



The Seattle Garden Club

Member of The Garden Club of America

www.seattlegardenclub.org

May 2012



AT A GLANCE

events of note coming soon

4/30 WETHERILL WORK PARTY

5/4 **BOARD MEETING - 10:00am**
The Sunset Club (please note
change of usual day & date)

5/7 **PROVISIONALS @ CUH** at 9:00am

HORT MEETING @ SWANSONS
NURSERY - 9:30 am

Corky Luster of Ballard Bee
Company followed by a boxed lunch
and tour of Dunn Gardens

5/17 **GENERAL MEETING @ UWBG/CUH**
Information this page

General Meeting Thursday, May 17, 2012

Eric Beckert, Conservationist

10:00 Social, 10:30 Program

*The Preservation of
Puget Sound*



Please reply, YES or NO
by May 11

to **Charlee Reed - (206) 325-7033**

cpreed@msn.com

Guests Welcome

A very special presentation by Director
Eric Becker on his new documentary *Sound
and Vision*. This film is about people working
to protect and clean up Puget Sound and
features our own Juliet Romano.

A short clip from the film can be seen at

www.vimeo.com/20473194

May 7- Hort Meeting Swansons Nursery

9:30am

Corky Luster
of Ballard Bee Company
followed by a boxed lunch
(if previously ordered by you via
Jenny Wyatt) and tour of

Dunn Gardens

Dress appropriately!
see Hort article on page 4
for details



FROM THE PRESIDENT

May is already upon us! Where have the last ten months gone??? My year at the helm of SGC has been a whirlwind of activity and it just continues!

I am about to depart for the GCA Annual Meeting, Southern Exposures in Savannah, where Laurie Ahern and I will represent the Seattle Garden Club, joined by over 700 delegates from 200+ GCA clubs. We will attend a series of meetings on many aspects of Garden Club activity and will be treated royally in the southern tradition. I'll give you a full report upon our return.

In early May, Portland will host our Zone XII meeting, which I will attend along with Laurie Ahern and Charlee Reed. The theme is Wild About Wildflowers.

On the home front, our April joint meeting with Tacoma was a big success for those who attended. Though I was unable to be there, I picked up and reviewed the book featured in the program, From Seed to Skillet, full of excellent information and beautiful photographs. I know it was a lovely event.

We had a fabulous Hort meeting in April. Many thanks to Provisional Susan Potts for her enlightening presentation on the life of Beatrix Ferrand and to Jo Anne Rosen and Carol Henderson for walking us through the amazing World Association of Flower Arrangers show, held in Boston last June.

We look forward to the final Hort meeting of the year, a presentation by Corky Luster of Ballard Bee Company. It will be held at Swanson's Nursery on the 7th, followed by a field trip to the Dunn Gardens to see their tree restoration project which our club has supported.

Our last General Meeting program will be with Conservationist Eric Beckert and his documentary on the Preservation of Puget Sound...not to be missed! Whew!

As you know, our club is full of many talented members with diverse interests. Our photographers are just one group and I want to congratulate three members who were winners in the recent focus photography contest. Suzette de Turenne and Noreen Frink each received Honorable Mentions and Jo Anne Rosen received a first place in their respective classes. You can view their accomplishments on the GCA website - fantastic!

As we plan for the coming year, I encourage you to complete the Membership Survey and Committee Sign-up form found in this newsletter and return it to Laurie Ahern as soon as possible. There will be no clip board committee signups this year so this is your opportunity to submit as much information as you can.

Also included in the newsletter is an order form for the new GCA book honoring the centennial, The Garden Club of America 1913-2013, A Growing Legacy, by William Seale, offered at a discounted price. It would be a fine addition to anyone's library and a great gift.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Luncheon at Broadmoor on June 7, where we will welcome our new Provisionals, view our Club Photography Show and celebrate our whirlwind year! Happy Spring!

Laurie Riley, President

ATTENTION!

Requiring your immediate action!

- RSVP **by May 11** to Charlee Reed for the General Meeting on May 17 (206) 325-7033 cpreed@msn.com
- Order your boxed lunch for the Hort Meeting at Swanson's Nursery by contacting Jenny Wyatt **by April 30!** wyattjen@comcast.net or 206-322-2922



Susan Potts, left, is joined by Laurie Ahern after Susan's informative presentation on Beatrix Ferrand



*Carol Henderson & Jo Anne Rosen
after their WAFA presentation*



*Barbara Pringle, Alison Andrews, Dorothy Strong
& Betty Bottler enjoyed the Hort meeting*

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 7, 2012, at the Broadmoor Country Club:

President: Laurie Ahern (2012-2013)

President Elect: Catherine Parker (2012-2013)

Treasurer: Sheila Noonan (2012-2014)

Recording Secretary: Dabney Rohrbach (2012-2014)

Committee Chairmen

Communications: Jenny Wyatt (2012-2014)

Ways and Means: Suzette de Turenne (2012-2014)

Flower Arranging: Marilee Ahalt (2012-2014)

Horticulture: Catherine Allan (2012-2014)

Meeting Arrangements: Carol Eland (2012-2014)

Photography: Mary Turner (2012-2014)

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
Sue Blethen, Barbee Crutcher, Patsy Pattison, Peggy Wilton
Debbi Wilson (Chairman)

**A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King,
But God be with the Clown -**

**Who ponders this tremendous scene -
This whole Experiment of Green -
As if it were his own!**

Emily Dickinson

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Community Projects Committee met following the April 2 Horticulture Committee. After thorough review of a proposal from Dunn Gardens to SGC requesting \$4500 for consultation and reforestation of the gardens, the Committee approved the grant. Subsequently, on April 5, the SGC Board approved the grant. It will be submitted to the membership for its vote at the May general meeting on May 17.

The SGC grant of \$2500 in 2011 was for "Sustaining the Historical Substance of the Dunn Gardens", listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Heritage Tree Program included mapping and inventory of the Heritage and Champion trees. SGC funds provided for the biennial testing and documentation of cultural conditions affecting the health of the important garden elements. The study provided an outstanding scientific assessment of trees planted by the Olmstead Brothers in 1915 "to better understand their health and cultural needs". The requested \$4500 will engage consultation and professional expertise to "develop a strategy for eventual replacement and reforestation."

After the May 7 Horticulture meeting at Swanson's Nursery, a guided tour of Dunn Gardens will follow. Please try to join in visiting these beautiful gardens.

Eleanor Nolan, Chair

HORTICULTURE STARTS

On Monday May 7th, we will wrap up our Horticulture meetings for the season. Breaking from our usual routine, we will meet at a favorite haunt of all gardeners, Swansons Nursery.

Swansons opens at 9:00 am for shopping. We will gather in the classroom next to Alexa's Café at 9:30 am, and our program commences at 10:00 am

Our speakers will be the highly engaging founder of The Ballard Bee Company, Corky Luster, and Horticulturalist Robin Haglund, owner of Garden Mentors, Inc. This duo spoke together recently at the NW Flower and Garden Show, with Corky speaking on bees and bee keeping and Robin addressing plants for pollinators.

Directions to Swansons are on their Web site: <http://www.swansonsnursery.com/>

After our meeting, we have a special opportunity to visit The Dunn Gardens. Although the Gardens are lovely in all seasons, springtime can be glorious to behold. Try not to miss it! For more information, please see additional piece in this newsletter.

Also coming to a conclusion is my two-year term as your Horticulture Chair. I enjoy the warmth and graciousness of the women of SGC, particularly in the way that so many of you have taken the time to express your appreciation for my efforts. I've had terrific support from my committee members and from all of you. Thank you all very much.

HORT QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer Park Conservatory was built a) in the 1930's with funds from Seattle's first park levy; b) before the Seymour Conservatory in Tacoma and the Golden Gate Park Conservatory of Flowers; c) in 1912 from a pre-fabricated kit shipped from the East Coast.

Answer to April's question is all of the following: Mycotrophic wildflowers are sometimes known as "fungus flowers"; spend most of their lives underground but are not fungi; come in red, yellow, white, pink and brown and are found under thick layers of leaf litter on the forest floor.

FIELD TRIP TO THE DUNN GARDENS

May 7, 12:30 - following the Hort meeting at Swansons Nursery

Conservation Chair Robert Findlay and award-winning curators Glenn Withey and Charles Price will lead tours of the Gardens, with a focus on the Heritage Trees, which date back to the 1915 Olmsted Brothers' landscape plan.

We are welcome to bring lunches to enjoy at Dunn. Bring a sack lunch or Jenny will pre-order box lunches from Alexa's Café at Swansons Nursery. Including tax, the cost is \$12.00 (add tip if you'd like). Options are listed under "Catering" and "Box lunches" on the Café's Web site: <http://www.alexascafe.com/>

RSVP for the field trip and optional box lunch order to Jenny Wyatt, wyattjen@comcast.net or 206-322-2922. Please respond by April 30th.

The Dunn Gardens are located 10 minutes north of Swansons. Map and directions are on the Gardens' Web site: <http://www.dunngardens.org/>

Printed directions will be available day of tour.

Jenny Wyatt, Hort Chair



SGC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY AND COMMITTEE SIGNUP 2012

Return this survey by May 15, 2012 to Laurie Ahern - 1100 38th Ave East, Seattle, WA 98122

This is your opportunity to give your input regarding your club and your participation. Please take the time to fill out both pages and return them to Laurie Ahern. Any questions please contact Laurie by phone: 206-322-6723 or email: lahern1681@gmail.com. Thank you

NAME: _____

Suggestions for:

General Meeting:

Horticulture Class:

Flower Arranging:

Field Trip:

Would you be willing to give a presentation at a Horticulture Meeting?

If so, on what topic?

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

Horticulture Class @ 50-70 persons

September Picnic @ 80-100 persons

Would you be interested in serving on the SGC Board or chairing a committee?

Which SGC Board position interests you?

Which Special Committee would you like to chair?

Would you be willing to work on the Wagner Conservation Lecture committee next year?

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: Vicki Neumann 425-451-4311, vsneumann@comcast.net

Horticulture: Debbi Wilson 206-722-6394, jwilson803@comcast.net

Photography: Kathy Lea 206-367-3232, klea2000@msn.com

Suggestions for a **GCA Founders Fund** award in our area (a substantial monetary award for exceptional community projects):

Would you be interested in attending the **Shirley Meneice Horticulture Workshop**?

Or the **National Affairs and Legislative Conference**?

Any additional comments or suggestions?

Please review your personal contact information in the Yearbook,
name presentation, phone, email, address, etc...and note changes below:

Any **change of membership** status should be directed to
Hope Stroble, 158 NW Highland Dr., The Highlands, Seattle, 98177

Standing & Special Committee Signups

members are encouraged to serve on two or more committees

Name _____

STANDING COMMITTEES (Board Position)

- _____ Club Communications
- _____ Community Projects
- _____ Conservation
- _____ Finance
- _____ Flower Arrangers
- _____ Horticulture
- _____ Meeting Arrangements
- _____ Membership
- _____ Photography
- _____ Policy and Planning
- _____ Program
- _____ Ways and Means

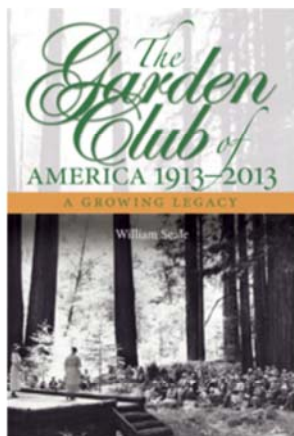
SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- _____ Archives
- _____ Awards
- _____ Bylaws
- _____ Garden History and Design
- _____ Historian
- _____ Nominations
- _____ Scholarship
- _____ School Gardens
- _____ Speaker Endowment Funds
- _____ Visiting Gardens

GCA CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK

Take advantage of this offer to purchase this fabulous book at a discount prior to July 31! You may use this form or may order on-line at the GCA web site, or using the link on our SGC member's web site.

GCA Centennial History Book Order Form



*The Garden Club of America 1913-2013:
A Growing Legacy*

by William Seale

Pre-Order your book today at an exclusive price.

Price will go up after July 31, 2012.

**Special Edition (500 copies only) includes bookplate
signed by author.**

Pricing:

Each Regular book (shipping included)	\$21.00
*NY State residents ONLY (tax and shipping included)	\$22.86
Each Special Edition book (shipping included)	\$43.45
*NY State residents ONLY (tax and shipping included)	\$47.31

TO ORDER:

I wish to order _____ **Regular** book(s) at \$21.00 (\$22.86 NY State residents) each.

I wish to order _____ **Special Edition** book(s) at \$43.45 (\$47.31 NY State residents) each.

Total amount enclosed \$_____ Payable by check or credit card

Credit Card (circle one): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ (mm/yyyy)

Make check payable to: The Garden Club of America. Note on the check "Centennial History Book."

Mail to: The Garden Club of America
 Attn: Magda Cruz
 14 East 60th Street
 New York, NY 10022

Your card will be charged or your check will be cashed upon receipt. Your book(s) will be sent by USPS in October 2012 to the following address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel #: _____

CONSERVATION REPORT

NOTE CHANGE IN WETHERILL DATE...Clippers-Up on April 30!

May 2nd is "GIVE BIG", the online charitable giving matching grant offering from the Seattle Foundation. It is an easy way to help our environment by having our dollars increased. The Conservation Committee encourages the work of People for Puget Sound in addition to many other conservation groups. Learn more on www.SeattleFoundation.org "Give Big". It is an easy way to add to conservation from your armchair!



On Monday April 30th, boots on and clippers in hand, Seattle Garden Club women visit the Wetherill Nature Preserve to help with annual spring clean-up, as well as learn about the new entrance and accommodations made to garden accessibility as a result of construction on the Eastside's approach to the SR520 bridge. An 'indoor' pot-luck picnic will be shared in the Hunt's Point Town Hall.

People for Puget Sound's annual luncheon drew a table of Conservation Committee members, organized by Barbie Snapp. We heard from Charles Fishman about the 'Big Thirst' of the world and its water issues, as well as more about the work of People for Puget Sound. Juliet Romano, SGC member and former Conservation Chair, is the star of the featured People for Puget Sound "Lobby Day" video.

"A Bag in Hand"

- Fabric shopping bags help the environment. Single-use plastic shopping bags are harmful; plastic accumulates on land and in the world's oceans. Fully 10% of "Coastal Cleanup" trash collected in 2010 was plastic bags.
- Even if we line our kitchen wastebasket with a large plastic bag, the number of plastic shopping bags consumed is reduced by a significant amount (info from a 20 year RMIT University study in Australia).
- By keeping a supply of fabric bags in the car, it becomes easy to "have a bag in hand!" and be a great conservationist!

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

GCA SELECTS PLANT OF THE YEAR

Every spring GCA selects a Plant of the Year which receives the Montine McDaniel Freeman award, a tradition since 1995. The focus of the prize is on under-utilized natives - this year *muhlenbergia capillaries*, or muhly grass, gulf muhly, or pink hair grass, as it is commonly known.

This lovely grass is a native of the sandy alkaline soils of the Gulf Coast and grows throughout the East Coast. It was named for the amateur American botanist, G.

Muhlenberg and nominated for the award by Florida's Naples Botanical Garden Director. The plant has pinkish spring flowers and rich golden autumnal color as well as delightful year around foliage and enjoys full sun. It can be planted in Pacific Northwest gardens, although there is ambiguity as to its hardiness here.

Carey Davis



OUT OF MAY'S SHOWS SELECTED

Apple orchards, the trees all cover'd
with blossoms;

Wheat fields carpeted far and near
in vital emerald green;

The eternal, exhaustless freshness
of each early morning;

The yellow, golden, transparent
haze of the warm afternoon sun;

The aspiring lilac bushes with
profuse purple or white flowers.

Walt Whitman

Helpful Websites for Spring Cleaning & Water Conservation

- **Too many catalogs coming in the mail?** To stop unwanted mail, catalogs and phone books go to: <https://www.catalogchoice.org/>
- **How do you wash your car while trying to conserve water?** Go to <http://www.washwithwatersavers.com/> to locate car washes that have been certified as using 40 gallons or less per car and that return clean water to the environment. (Brown Bear and Costco are on the list for Seattle as are several more car washes around the state.)
- **Boycott Bottled Water:** It's not just about all that plastic ending up in landfills. Three liters of regular water go into making just one liter of bottled water.
- **Join the Meatless Monday movement:** <http://www.meatlessmonday.com/> Besides the health benefits, you will help save the 1,857 gallons of water that it takes to produce a single pound of beef. (Pork, Chicken and lamb require much less.)
- **Moisture gage:** Insert a trowel into your lawn. If there's moisture two inches below the surface, it doesn't need watering.
- **Check out all the great information at the Seattle Public Utilities website and learn about how to use organic fertilizer:** <http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/MyLawnGarden/index.htm>

Natural options (compost, bone meal, peat) add nutrients and promote healthy growth without exposing your plants to the toxic chemicals found in conventional fertilizers, which can seep into the ground and contaminate water supplies (and be tracked in to your house via your shoes which is not good if grandbabies are crawling around on the floor!).

- The list of top selling pesticides in King County is similar to the list of pesticides most commonly found in streams in the Puget Sound basin, including Thornton Creek in Seattle and Mercer Creek in Bellevue.
- King County estimates that 62% of the phosphorus entering Lake Sammamish comes from single-home residential areas; sources include fertilizers and soil wash-off. Excess nutrients promote algae blooms that then decompose and deplete the oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life. State Dept. of Ecology scientists found 23 pesticides in streams in the Puget Sound region, and found a greater number of pesticides in urban areas than in agricultural areas.

Juliet Romano

VISITING GARDENS

The GCA Visiting Gardens Committee plans two domestic trips and one international trip each year. These trips are announced well in advance by your Club Visiting Gardens Chairman, in your Club Newsletter, on the GCA Website, in the GCA Bulletin and in the GCA eNews.

The three Visiting Garden trips for 2013 are:

- **Palm Beach**, Florida - March 1-5, 2013
- **Island of Sicily** - April 4-17, 2013
- **The Southern Highlands and the Gardens of Cashiers and Highlands**, North Carolina - July 15-19, 2013

If there is a trip you are interested in, send an email to gcainterestlists@gmail.com and state the particular trip that you are interested in joining. Your email will be acknowledged by a reply email. **There is no obligation when you place your name on an Interest List.** However, the people on the Interest List receive the itinerary at least a week before other GCA members.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE



The Photography Committee is pleased to announce that all entry classes have been filled for the Club photography show at our Annual Awards Luncheon on June 7 at Broadmoor Golf Club.

Entrants are reminded of the May 21 deadline for receipt of your photographs. Deliveries may be made to Jo Anne Rosen **from May 13 to May 21.**

Sis Woodside, Chair
sischet@comcast.net 206-324-1928

FLOWER ARRANGERS COMMITTEE

The Flower Arrangers Committee will be offering a free workshop on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, the day before the June Annual Luncheon. Time and location to be determined.

The Committee will design an arrangement that will complement the theme of the photography club show. We will demonstrate and guide the workshop participants in how to put the design together giving them practice in flower arranging mechanics in a fun and non-threatening way. The containers, mechanics and plant material will be provided.

Participants may take their own arrangements home after the luncheon the following day.

Signs-ups: email Catherine Parker @ chparker3@gmail.com

Catherine Parker, Chair

WAYS AND MEANS

Now that the times for the wonderful 2011 Auction experiences are upon us, we want to remind everyone who signed up for an experience to make sure it is on their calendar. Please check over the following listing and verify any dates that pertain to you.

- **Volunteer Park Conservatory** tour – Thursday, April 26
- **Dirt Diva's Dream Day** – Thursday, May 10
- **Spring Cocktail Party** – Thursday, May 31
- **Sinclair Island Outing** – Thursday, June 28
- **Long Shadows Vineyard** – Friday, July 20
- **Graysmarsh Overnight** – Thursday to Friday, July 12-13
- **Clamdigging** – Thursday, July 19
- **Sun Valley Serenade** – Wednesday to Saturday, August 8-11
- **Autumn Bird Watching** – Friday, September, 21
- **Wild Mushroom Foraging** – Sunday, September 30

If you find that you are unable to attend any experience you signed up for, please let me know as soon as possible – there are waitlists for most experiences.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in the **Seattle Garden Club** for helping me raise funds over the last two years. Your support has made my job fun and easy! Hats off to all the Garden Club members for making our Holiday Auction profitable and enjoyable.

Sheila Noonan, Chair
(206) 860-7662, sbnoonan@gmail.com

GARDENER'S CORNER

Thoughts for May:



- Till in a thick layer of compost to bedding areas, then sow summer crops and pretty flowers.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, azaleas and roses.
- Bedding plants need regular doses of fertilizer. Avoid too much nitrogen or you'll end up with more leaves than flowers.
- Renovate your lawn if necessary.
- Houseplants can be repotted in fresh soil and slightly larger container if necessary.
- Container care tips: (good reminder from Costco newsletter)
 - 1) Never use a dirty container. Rinse it with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chlorine bleach and 1 gallon water. Allow to dry, preferably in the sun.
 - 2) Start with a quality soil mix, not garden or topsoil.
 - 3) Ensure adequate drainage with at least one or more drainage holes in the bottom.
 - 4) Soil tends to dry out quickly in containers. Monitor moisture (drip irrigation) to keep adequately damp.
 - 5) Repot when roots poke out of the drainage hole or when you stick your finger into the soil and it's full of fibrous roots. If reusing the same pot, trim off 25% of the roots, add fresh soil and replace the plant.
- Keep up the weeding and, of course, bait for you-know-what.

Janet Footh



Looking Ahead...

June 6 FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP
Details TBA

**June 7 ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING/LUNCHEON
and Club Photography Show**
11:00am Broadmoor Golf Club
Members Only

June 13 ANNUAL IN & OUT BOARD MEETING
11:00am The 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 Chair



Seattle Garden Club

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