

eNEWS

Member of The Garden Club of America

January 2019

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Shorter days with longer nights generally mean, 'full steam ahead' in December. However, they also signify a time to reflect on the year that has just evaporated and the one that has yet to unfold. Reflecting on our recent holiday luncheon and auction, I'm dizzy thinking of the number of hours dedicated to produce a seamlessly flawless accomplishment! This year's annual event eclipsed previous years' attendance and revenue. These results are the culmination of hard work by the co-chairs, Charlee Reed and Catherine Mueller, along with their Ways and Means Committee. They deserve a standing ovation! The team of financial wizards who tabulated these results also deserve a resounding applause: Patsy Pattison, Dabney Rohrbach, Suzette de Turenne, Katie McReynolds and Kim Bishop. A

smooth check-out system proved to be a grand success! We sincerely thank you, as do the Community Projects that greatly benefit from your efforts. Floral Design Chair Sue Ashmun with Provisional Co-Chair Sandy Hanower were instrumental in the enormous success of the Provisionals' table arrangements displayed at the Christmas luncheon. The theme was 'Woodland Winter', and rumor has it, they enjoyed it!

On a sad note, a long-time member Ann Groff-Smith, passed away in early November. Ann was a true horticulturist who devoted her time to the Seattle Garden Club for over thirty years. Her joie de vivre and expertise are sorely missed.

Our November general meeting was a huge success! Botanical jewelry artist Anne Scott explained the intricate details of her special craft. Many in our club had never seen such creative work, as Seattle doesn't include botanical jewelry in its GCA Flower Shows. Who knows, maybe one day...? A special thanks to Program Chair Carolyn Kitchell for engaging Anne and Sue Ashmun, for hosting her during her brief but inspirational stay in Seattle.

Now to ring in the New Year 2019 with "bells on her toes...she shall have music-flowers wherever she goes!" We are hosting a GCA Flower Show, Nature's Poetry at the Bellevue Botanical Garden from May 30-June 1. Having just visited the Garden D'Lights display there with our grandchildren in the dark of night(5p.m.), it is difficult to imagine a floriferous show of arrangements, photographs and containers in five short months! Please review the schedule and we'll announce any class openings in early January. However, in the meantime, I want to wish each and every one of you a festive season filled with happiness and good health in the year ahead!

Catherine Allan, Seattle Garden Club President



Events

For calendar details, please go to seattlegardenclub.org, then select Members, then select CALENDAR.

| Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|---|--------|----------|--|--|--|
| January 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 10:00AM - 11:30AM SGC Board Meeting | 4 | 5 | | | |
| 6 | 7 8:30AH - 9:30AH Provisional Meeting 9:15AH - 11:35AM Hort Share/Provisional talk @CUH 11:30AH - 1:00BM Community Projects Meeting | 8 12:009M - 1:309M Preview Party Mtg | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 10:00AM - 11:25AM Photography Committee Mtg Photo Critique Review | 16 | 9:30M - 12:00PM SGC General Meeting-Graham Vistor Center, Washington Park Arboretum- Plants with Winter Interest-Randall Higgins | 18 | 19 | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | |
| 27 | 10:00AH FLOWER SHOW MEETING @ JENNY WYATT'S | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Many thanks to all our hostess who provide such wonderful food and floral arrangements at our Hort and General Meetings!!





Events

Anne Scott Floral Jewelry Presentation















Events

Holiday Luncheon and Auction



Ways and Means Report

With the Sunset Club decorated for the holidays and our gorgeous Woodland Winter themed centerpieces, all was aglow for our annual Seattle Garden Club Auction and Luncheon. And glow we did! This year's auction was the most successful auction to date. With incredible new experiences (Mahjong anyone?) and vacation spots, we outdid ourselves this year.

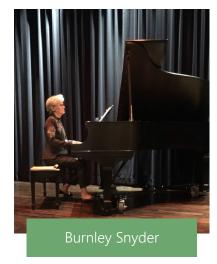
As the old saying goes, "It takes a village" and that village was amazing. Our party and fundraising were successful due to the support of all our members. A special thank you to the Auction Angels for their donations, the Provisionals, and those who provided experiences, items and vacations and, of course, all of the volunteers. Wade Garretson was excellent as our Meeting Arrangements Chair. And Patsy Pattison, aka 'The Bank', master of the Greater Giving software and her helpers made our check-in/check-out a breeze. Special kudos to Suzette de Turenne, who entered all of your items, created the bid sheets along with the accompanying copy, all behind the scenes.

None of this would have happened without the collaboration and long hours the members of the Ways & Means Committee provided. Sue Brickman, Barb Peterson, Suzette de Turenne, Debby Smith, Jeannie Gravenkemper, Carlyn Steiner, Candace Lancaster, Roxanne Wiley, Sheila Noonan and Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey made our job as chairs so much easier. Thank you!

Spaces remain in a number of experiences, therefore, we will bring signup sheets to the meetings or you can contact either Charlee or Catherine, Chairs of Ways & Means.

| Feb 19 th | Behind Scenes NW Flower Show | 5 | spaces | \$60 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|----------|-------|
| Feb 7 & 13 th | Mahjong | 1 | space | \$150 |
| March 7 th | Trivia Night | 1 | space | \$75 |
| April 1 st | M. Harris Floral Arranging/Dinner | 6 | spaces | \$90 |
| May 8 th | Chinese Garden Peonies | 7 | spaces | \$80 |
| May 18 th | aMaurice Wine Tasting | 10 |) spaces | \$80 |
| Sept 10-12 th | Swauk Valley Ranch | 2 | spaces | \$350 |
| Oct 17 th | Spring Bulb Lasagne | 3 | spaces | \$80 |

Catherine Mueller <u>cathmueller@gmail.com</u> 206.679.0902 Charlee Reed <u>charleereed@gmail.com</u> 206.818.7585







Gardener's Corner—The Fragrance of Vanilla in Winter

Sarcococca, Christmas box, Sweet box

Many Northwest gardeners are familiar with the late winter bloomer, *Sarcococca*. It is a popular shrub because it produces a deep green, glossy feature that is relatively low maintenance in our gardens. Found in the Buxaceae family, native to Eastern and Southeastern Asia and the Himalayas, it is a slow

grower showing off its slender, ovate glossy dark evergreen leaves and fragrant white blossoms in winter and early spring. The scented blooms are followed in the warmer months by small berries that create a show for us, and they attract birds. It is an attractive tidy shrub that is disease resistant, preferring the shady spot in the garden. Plant it in areas under windows, doorways and outdoor living spaces, so that its vanilla scent can be enjoyed by those entering the area.

- S. ruscifolia grows 5'x3', with glossy tapered leaves that bear white blooming clusters in later winter, and red berries in the warmer months along arching branches.
- S. confusa, (6'x3'), hosts five clustered white flowers in early spring, followed by dark blue black berries.
- *S. hookeriana var. humilis* 'Fragrant Mountain', creates a lovely vanilla scented blooming ground cover in winter, and, for a bonus, its dark berries persist into the following winter. Good companion plants for *Sarcococcas* include hostas, herucheras, hellebores and ajugas.

What other plants have a vanilla scent? *Clematis armandii, Nemesia* 'Wisley Vanilla' and of course, *Vanilla planifolia*, the only fruit-bearing orchid, the source of the vanilla bean used in flavoring and scents.

Not only can we find vanilla fragrance in the garden, but in diffusers. Vanilla is believed to aid in relaxation, and sleep. Sloan Kettering uses vanilla diffusers to help relax patients during MRI scans because it has been shown to help relieve anxiety, rapid breathing and claustrophobia.

Did you know vanilla oil contains some vitamin B, that helps boost skin and hair health?

Next time you pass a *Sarcococca* this winter, inhale and enjoy its pleasant and therapeutic vanilla aroma and consider adding it to your own garden design.

Debbi Wilson

Visiting Garden Tours

Two new GCA Visiting Gardens trips have been posted on the GCA website. One is, "Gardens by the Seas" on Mount Desert Island, Maine in August 2019 and the other is, "The Mystery and Romance of India" which includes a visit to the World Association of Floral Artists Show in Jaipur in February 2020. You can sign up on the Interest Lists for these trips on the GCA Visiting Gardens page.

Delphine Stevens, Visiting Gardens Chair





East Montlake Park

Last November 10th was not just your typical "walk in the park" at East Montlake Park! Seattle Garden

Club members, Shelly Rolfe, Betty Paul, Sue Blethen, Megan Smith along with her husband, Peyton, helped assist the entire UW Crew Team, Men's and Women's, move 30 yards of wood chips to our park project. Ferns were cut back and transplanted and salmon berry shrubs, sumac and bind weed removed. The enthusiasm was contagious and the crew members were having such a fun time that they expressed interest in returning in the spring. There was lots of laughter, good conversation, and immediate gratification in the park's transformation.



Maintaining and beautifying East Montlake Park is an ongoing joint project between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Seattle

Garden Club. Plantings are exclusively native and "nativars" i.e. cultivars of native species. The park features western sword ferns, dogwood trees, elderberries, ninebark shrubs and snowberries. Various perennials such as native bleeding hearts and fringecups offer foliage contrast and spring beauty closer to the garden's edge. Please consider joining in the fun next time the park needs a clean up. It's a joy working with our volunteers, the calorie burn is impressive and the visual reward great.

Megan Smith

Pimento Cheese Recipe, Caviar of the South!

Many of you asked for the recipe of the Pimento Cheese dip served at the November General Meeting by Juliet Romano.

- 2 cups Shredded extra-sharp white cheddar cheese •
- 1/3 diced sweet onion
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp ground cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1/4 tsp, onion powder and garlic powder
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced (optional)
- 2 (4 oz jar) diced pimento, drained
- Dash of Worcester sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place the Cheddar cheese, cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, onion powder, minced jalapeno, and pimento into the large bowl of a mixer. Beat at medium speed, with paddle if possible, until thoroughly combined. Season to taste with salt and black pepper

Founder's Fund Project Task Force

After touring sites and talking with Arboretum staff we have identified the project that seems most

relevant and feasible for SGC to pursue for a Founder's Fund grant. It focuses on restoration of the small woodland pond and deeply eroded stream that flows from it, upslope from our Centennial Garden. This project is contingent on the Arboretum developing a plan for restoring the entire Rhododendron Glen watershed. We understand that this work may be funded and start soon, but the timeline is not in our control. SGC would be wise to contribute towards the redesign of our target area, as proof of commitment that GCA requires for Founder's Fund recognition. The timeline to submit a proposal to GCA is May 1, 2020. In the meantime, I urge club members to check out the site, which has wonderful potential for enhanced landscape beauty, Olmsted design integrity, horticultural richness and ecological function.



Eliza Davidson, Founders Fund Task Force Chair

Photography Committee

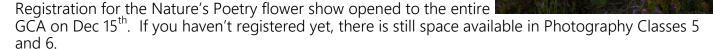
Exciting news! On March 21st, renowned garden photographer David Perry will speak on "Picture Perfect Plant Portraits" at the SGC General Meeting. David is an accomplished speaker, and his talk is

sure to be both entertaining and instructive. Following the meeting, David will teach a 3-hour photography workshop for 15 lucky participants. To register for the workshop, please email Jolie Roze: jsroze@comcast.net. Cost: \$75 per person.

David Perry is an inspirational, Seattle-based photographer, a willing teacher and a captivating storyteller with a keen knack for observation and a distinct twinkle in his eye. His reverence for gardens, flowers and the gardeners who tend them is apparent in the pictures he makes and his playful, sometimes irreverent manner of speaking about them keeps audiences on the edge of their seats

Quote from a workshop attendee:

"The experience was like having coffee with Bob Dylan. It was like doing lunch with Lady Gaga. And a good pint of stout with Paul McCartney. It was mind bending day of lessons, full of mental seeds, as Saxon would say, a bit of seriousness and playfulness. You know you are with the masters when they elevate the nuts and bolts to a much higher level."



Don't forget to take photos of the Winter Solstice on December 21st and then upload your favorite images to the Winter Solstice Gallery on the SGC website!

For questions, please contact Jolie Roze at isroze@comcast.net

Conservation Report

Not a lot has changed since I last posted a report. We won't get a date for our Beaux Arts visit until after the first of the year. But in spite of that I hope that you will be supportive when we do have a date, and come to learn all you can from the work they have done on their waterfront site. Even if you don't live on the water, you can pass on information to friends who do, and who might be inclined to make some improvements to aid salmon recovery.

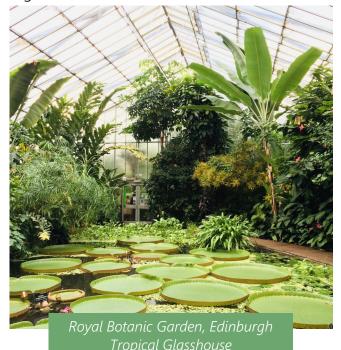
At this time of year, I hope you'll consider investing in a few of the many charities that benefit conservation; The National Park Foundation, Friends of the Earth, The Nature Conservancy, Seattle Parks Foundation, The Washington Environmental Council, Long Live the Kings (Salmon recovery), Mid Sound Fisheries/Mid Sound Salmon Recovery Group, and The Arboretum Foundation all come to mind, and I am sure you can add many others to the list. Even a small donation helps. Right now we as a nation are facing some major pull-backs on conservation funding, and it is important to continue support while this is happening.

I would like to have a Conservation Committee meeting after the Hort meeting in February to look at our list of possibilities and see if we can add one more site visit besides the Beaux Arts visit. I was late in asking Wade to arrange that meeting place at CUH, so I'll let you know once it is on her calendar. We will of course turn out for the clean-up party at the Wetherill Preserve, on April 25, and for the coming Garden Club Show May 30-31.

Beverly Martin, Conservation Committee Chair

GCA Scholarship Report - Halloween in a Herbarium, Eva Rickenbaker

At the end of October, I traveled to England and Scotland to visit herbaria, gardens and the people who have made public gardens in Great Britain such a treasure. In London, I had tea with Mrs. Nancy McLaren, the original funder of the Garden Club of America's Interchange Fellow Student program in the United Kingdom. Mrs. McLaren is doing well, and at 97 she is still just as remarkable as when I first met her in 1997. During my trip, I also toured the herbaria at the Royal Botanic Garden Kew, the Royal Horticulture Society Wisley and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, getting great behind-the-scenes stories from their knowledgeable staffs.



Twenty years ago I worked as an intern at each of these gardens, thanks to my own Garden Club of America interchange fellowship. But back then I did not understand why thousands of old and new specimens were pressed, dried and preserved in tall cabinets reachable only by the tallest ladders. During my fellowship, I spent my days leading school children on rainforest exploration tours through the extensive glasshouses of Kew and Edinburgh. Maybe I chose youth over age, or children discovering plants in the present rather than plantsmen from the past and their historical botanical treasures from the Americas, Asia and Africa. To be honest,

I did not even know about the herbaria of Kew and Edinburgh when I lived there. It was only when I began volunteering at the Hyde Herbarium at the UW Botanic Gardens during the winter of 2012 that I began to appreciate herbaria and their importance to botany and science today.

Symbolically, the end of October turns out to be an excellent time to visit a herbarium, and I journeyed from London to Edinburgh the day before Halloween. All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween, is thought to originate from the Gaelic festival Samhain declaring the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the dark winter months. As the herbarium manager of the Hyde Herbarium, I know that as autumn unfolds, there will be fewer and fewer days to collect new specimens. Herbarium specimens are usually "harvested" or cut when there is fruit or flower to identify them, and by autumn most plants have shed their fruit or flower. The symbolism continued for me as I thought about the dried and pressed specimens in darkness on shelves. The specimens essentially enter a period of winter or darkness until they are needed for identification or research.

I spent October 31--All Hallows' Eve--in Edinburgh with Terry Huang, 2013-2014 GCA Interchange Fellow, who is now back home in Seattle. Terry had returned to Edinburgh for a class reunion for his University of Edinburgh's Masters of Science program in the Biodiversity



and Taxonomy of Plants. Terry got us into the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's herbarium, with its 3.5 million specimens. What an amazing privilege the fellowship is for the year spent learning, but also for the networking and

friendship among scholars that can take place two decades later. We met with Suzanne Cubey, Deputy Herbarium Curator, and after I mentioned David Douglas, of Douglas-fir fame, she printed a list of fifty plus specimens personally collected by David Douglas in the early 1800s in the Pacific Northwest. Terry and I were giddy as we searched the cabinets for each one. Each one once lived, each specimen once exchanged carbon dioxide with oxygen, each specimen once flowered, fruited and dispersed seeds for the next generation. And each specimen was collected by a botanist, a plant explorer, or a plant lover. They, too, inhaled and exhaled atmospheric gases to survive.

That evening, we ventured into the old city of Edinburgh for a proper Scottish ghost tour. Vaults and graves abound in the old city and at every turn there is an even greater and more frightening story of human life in the past. As it got later and later, the stories became all too real. I did not sleep well that night, thinking about my own buried demons and picturing the herbarium specimens lying silently in the cabinets with their own stories. Stories that illustrate climate change through carbon isotopes, bloom times much earlier now than in the eighteenth century, or of plants lost forever, because they have become extinct. Their stories need to be heard or they may haunt us beyond the dark days of Samhain.

Hort Report

Our next **Hort** meeting is on **January 7th** and 2nd year provisional **Ann McCutchan** will be presenting her talk on "A Smoke of Another Color", 'False indigo, Baptisia x 'Purple Smoke'. Following Ann's presentation, our 'Hort Short' will focus on pruning roses. We are fortunate to have **Lead Rose Gardener and rose-master Matt Manion from the Woodland Park Zoo** give a brief presentation on pruning and raising roses pesticide-free. Last but not least, we will finish the meeting with a brief **Latin lesson prepared by Roxanne Wiley**. Her topic is Latin words to describe texture, size and direction. We are getting smarter by the minute thanks to Roxanne!

Please remember to bring Hort share, labeled with its botanical name. There are helpful links on the SGC website if you need help with identification. Bringing something to share is a nice way to get us out in our gardens in the dead of winter to see what is alive and well.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who brought treats to our November meeting -Suzy Titcomb, Marianne Kitchell, Sheila Noonan, Wade Garretson, BJ Anderson, Ana Hergert (flower arrangement), Carolyn Steiner, Dinny Polson and Betty Paul. If you haven't signed up to bring something yet, it is easy to do on the SGC website under Hospitality meetings volunteer sign up or here: Sign up: Hospitality for ALL MEETINGS 2018-19 Sign Ups

Susan Potts & Roxanne Wiley, Co-Chairs, Hort Committee

GCA Judging Program, SGC Members on the Move!

Being part of the GCA Judging Program requires dedication and patience. As part of Zone XII, the largest in the GCA family, SGC participants travel farther and have less opportunities for judging than our east coast counterparts. I am pleased to announce the following advancement recently a announced by GCA:

** Catherine Parker to Prospective, Photography **

We should also recognize and thank the following members who have, after many years, become Emeritus members of the Judging Program:

** Carol Henderson and Peggy Wilton, Floral Design **

Happy New Year! Suzette de Turenne, SGC Judging Program Rep

General Meeting - January 17th

Randall Hitchin will be our speaker at the General Meeting, Thursday Jan 17th, at the **Graham Visitor Center.** His talk will be followed rain or shine by a tour of the Witt Winter Garden. His topic is "Plants of Winter Interest".

Randall is an avid gardener and a lifelong student of botany. He earned his undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz. While at Santa Cruz, Randall managed the California Natives Collection at the UCSC Arboretum. Randall holds a Master of Science in Forest Resources from the University of Washington. His graduate research focused on urban ecology and public garden curation & management.

Randall has worked at the Washington Park Arboretum for nearly two decades. For more than 13 years, he served as the curator of the Washington Park Arboretum. In this capacity, he managed plant collection, acquisition and curation, directed the international seed exchange program, and contributed to collecting planning and design. More recently, Randall joined the Arboretum Foundation, serving as the Outreach & Major Gifts Officer and botanical editor for the Arboretum Bulletin.

Randall is a founding member of the Great Plant Picks Committee and has served on the Board of Directors for several horticultural nonprofits. He has authored numerous articles on horticulture topics, many of which have been published in the Arboretum Bulletin.

His fieldwork includes leading numerous seed collecting expeditions throughout western North America, rare plant monitoring in California, and two botanical expeditions in southern Chile.

Randall is a gifted teacher and storyteller who has instructed courses in botany and horticulture for the University of Washington. He currently teaches for the Landscape Horticulture Program at South Seattle College.

Currently, Randall serves as the Principal Investigator for a field evaluation of *Mahonia* species and cultivars funded by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. This project is the first large scale horticultural research on *Mahonia* in North America.

Floral Design Update

Floral Design still has a few openings in Class 1, Sonnet and Class 3, Pastoral. Sign up now by contacting Caroline Goedhart at CHazard@PointB.com!

Also, big thanks to our Provisionals for a fabulous job with their beautiful and creative centerpieces at our Holiday luncheon. Well done!

Save the Date: May 31ST - Preview Party!

Our Nature's Poetry flower show schedule is on the GCA and SGC websites and easily accessible. By the time you read this article, registration will have opened to all of GCA. Don't hesitate to contact the various division registrars to preregister for various show classes in Floral Design, Horticulture and/or Photography. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the Preview Party on May 31st. Invite your friends and family!

Flower Show Meeting 10am on Jan 28 @ Jenny Wyatt's



GCA Tales and Tidbits!

2019 Honorary GCA Members Announced!

Annually, The Garden Club of America recognizes extraordinary persons who exemplify the GCA's ideals by extending honorary membership to them. Accordingly, with appreciation for their achievements, the GCA

welcomes the following new Honorary Members for 2019:



Dr. Richard Olsen - Director of the USDA-ARS United States National Arboretum (USNA) in Washington DC. His research has focused on the development of superior landscape trees with pest and disease resistances combined with non-invasiveness.

William Cullina - Director of Horticulture/Plant Curator for one of North America's newest and most exciting public gardens, The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine. Previously he was the Director of Horticultural Research for the New England Wild Flower Society in Massachusetts. He is also author of the book Native Ferns Moss & Grasses

Gordon Hayward - Gordon has been designing gardens professionally from his home in southern Vermont since 1985 with particular emphasis on gardens in the Northeast, as well as the Eastern Shore of Maryland, though

he does work nationwide. He is also a nationally recognized garden writer and lecturer. He is the author of eleven books on gardening design.

Dr. Eric Haskell - Professor French Studies and Interdisciplinary Humanities at Scripps College, where he is also Director of the Clark Humanities Museum. His interest is centered on the inter-relations between literature and art, with specific reference to image-text inquiry, and on garden history. He has organized several university seminars including: "Formalism in the Garden," "Landscapes of Illusion: Gardens Occidental and Oriental," "Rethinking the Eighteenth-Century Garden," and "Invention in the Landscape: The Modern Garden and Its Contexts".

2019 National GCA Medalists Announced!

Jane Righter Rose Medal, is awarded for outstanding achievement in rose culture through the propagation of new roses, civic achievement in community rose gardens of educational value or rose collections of special merit - David C. H. Austin from David Austin Roses, LTD



- Eloise Payne Luquer Medal, is awarded for special achievement in the field of botany that may include medical research, the fine arts, or education - Dr. Paul Alan Cox, one of the world's pre-eminent ethnobotanists, he looks for cures for diseases in villages, jungles, and forests in Polynesia, Hawaii, and South America, studying indigenous plants and their uses
- Elizabeth Craiq Weaver Proctor Medal, is awarded for exemplary service and creative vision in any field related to The Garden Club of America's special interests - Dr. Cary Fowler, an American agriculturist and global advocate of crop diversity and conservation
- Frances K. Hutchinson Medal, is awarded to figures of national importance for distinguished service to conservation - Dr. David Gallo, an American oceanographer, explorer, lecturer and educator - a passionate advocate for the protection and conservation of our oceans
- Katharine Thomas Cary Medal, is awarded for outstanding achievement in the field of floral design education - Laura Haley, has made it her mission to educate every GCA club member about the art of floral design and the benefits of flower show