



The Seattle Garden Club

eNEWS

Member of The Garden Club of America

March 2019

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What a time! Who would have guessed that winter would arrive in spades? It certainly played havoc on Meeting Arrangements and travel plans for those trying to escape Seattle in February. My hat is off to **Sue Ashmun** for remaining positive while juggling the speakers' plans to present a talk on dahlias February 4th, which was then rescheduled to the 11th! Now, we're hoping that the third time's a charm and the Willsons will join us in September for our fall picnic, to celebrate dahlias in bloom! Be looking for the dahlia society bulb sales around the Sound in March. Plant them long after this deep freeze has melted and, hopefully we'll have something to show for our efforts in September!

We did manage to have an in-depth February Board meeting, but unfortunately, Conservation and Provisionals were unable to meet as planned. Be looking for rescheduled meetings in March.

Luckily, the February Business meeting on the 21st will carry on as planned at CUH. **Diana Ackerley** has asked six members to present important aspects of the state of the health of SGC and GCA. We need everyone to attend as the GCA Founder's Fund vote will be counted. If you are out of town, please send me your vote, so that I may include it in the total. GCA requests votes by April first. Read them in detail in this Winter issue of the GCA *Bulletin* or in the e-blast that **JoAnne Rosen** sent February 10th, cancelling our Hort/FD meeting at CUH on the 11th. We promise that this meeting will be informative and educational on many levels!

Knowing that this winter cover of snow and ice is a rarity for Seattle, I hope you are able to light a fire, sip something warm, and read some inspirational poetry while enjoying the scene outside. Luckily it won't last long, I hope! I'm crossing my fingers that my poor *Daphne odora* that were trying to bloom, survive! Don't forget to fill your bird feeders! It's been entertaining to say the least watching these happy creatures dance around looking for food! I'm including some fabulous photos from **Eve Rickenbaker's** recent visit to our Centennial Garden and pond in the Arboretum to remind us of the beauty in our own 'backyard'. Stay warm!!



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 March 2019 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------|---|--|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 8:30AM - 9:30AM Provisional Meeting 9:15AM - 11:30AM Hort Share and Provisional talk @CUH 11:30AM - 1:00PM Community Projects Meeting | 5 | 6 2:00PM - 3:30PM Policy and Planning Committee Meeting | 7 Auction Event - Trivia Night at Dabney's 10:00AM - 11:30AM SGC Board Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 9:30AM - 12:00PM SGC General Meeting-Graham Vistor Center, Washington Park Arboretum-Perfect Plant Portraits by David Perry | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Auction Event - Bridge Lunch at Trudy's | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, MAY 31 @ BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN, 6:30 - 9pm

"NATURE'S POETRY"

FLOWER SHOW PREVIEW PARTY

Mark your calendars!

All members are encouraged to attend with spouses, family & friends!

The team of Marilee Ahalt, Sheila Noonan and Carlyn Steiner are working hard to make this a great party.

Events

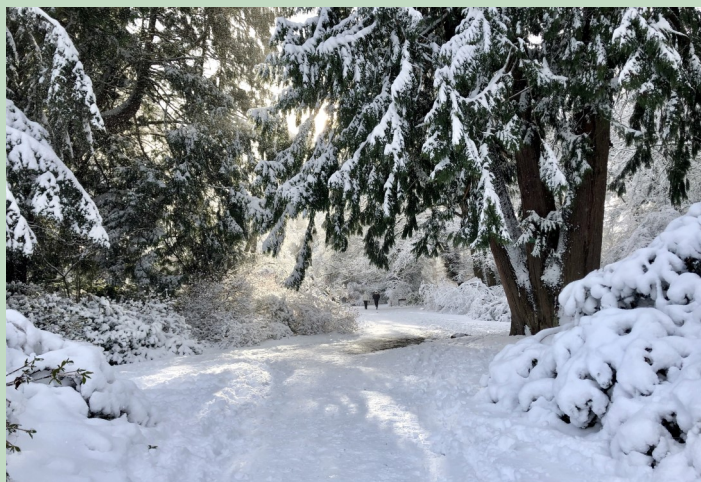


Randall Hitchin



Ladies walking in the garden!

Centennial Garden in the Snow!



Scott and Jenny Wyatt

Reports

Ways and Means Report

There are a number of experiences from our holiday auction with space available. Please take a look at these and let both Catherine and Charlee know if you would like to join in the fun!

TRIVIA NIGHT & DINNER

March 7, 2019, 1 spot available - \$75

Join SGC's Sues, Susans, Suzy, Suzette and Roxanne for trivia night and hosted dinner at the lovely Broadmoor home of Dabney Rohrbach!

SEATTLE CHINESE GARDEN, SSCC ARBORETUM & LUNCH

May 8, 2019; 10am, 6 spots available - \$80

A docent tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden and Coenosium (dwarf conifers) during peony bloom in South Seattle Community College Arboretum for 12 people. Followed by a hosted lunch

PRIVATE WINE TASTING & HEARTY APPETIZERS AT aMAURICE TASTING ROOM

May 18, 2019, 10 spots available - \$80

Be an a List Wine Club member for a day! This intimate wine tasting experience at the aMaurice Woodinville Tasting Room will include tasting current releases and limited library wine, insights into the wine, an overview of vintages and discussion of Washington State as a growing region. Hearty appetizes provided by B. J. Anderson and Kathleen Schafer.

Interested? Contact us.

Catherine Mueller, cathmueller@gmail.com and Charlee Reed, charleereed@gmail.com

SGC General Meeting 9:30 AM-Thursday March 21st

Washington Park Arboretum Graham Visitor Center

Photographer David Perry presents *Picture Perfect Plant Portraits*

David Perry is an inspirational, Seattle-based photographer, a willing teacher and a captivating storyteller. His reverence for gardens, flowers and the gardeners who tend them is apparent in the pictures he makes. He began documenting his impressions of the living world around him with cameras at a very early age and has never stopped exploring the world through lens and viewfinder.

He has had photographing assignments for books, magazines, scores of Fortune 500 annual reports, and national ad campaigns for more than three decades.

After the general meeting, a prepaid workshop by David Perry for 16 (\$75/person) will follow. Please sign up with Jolie Roze, jsroze@comcast.net. Checks should be made out to the Seattle Garden Club.



Reports

Gardener's Corner - What Thyme is it?

In the Laminaceae Family, this hardy evergreen shrub with aromatic leaves, is indigenous to the Mediterranean basin. It grows wild on the hot hillsides where it's more flavorful than in cooler regions. Thyme is drought tolerant.

Thyme has a long history. The ancient Egyptians used thyme for embalming; and the ancient Greeks enjoyed its fragrance by placed its oils in the bath, and burned its incense in the temples. In the Middle Ages, thyme was thought to increase courage. Women would give a sprig of thyme to their favorite warrior before he went into battle. It was put under pillows to help with sleep and prevent nightmares. The Romans, who brought the plant throughout Europe, used it in cooking, and burned it for its distinctive aroma to purify the air.

Thyme is an essential flavoring in much of Western and Middle Eastern cooking.

The most common, *Thymus vulgaris* (Common, Garden thyme), is a cultivated variety of wild Mediterranean thyme. It grows 6-12", with grey green narrow leaves, and white to lilac flowers. It is low edging for flower and herb gardens. It is a delicious accent, especially in Italian pasta dishes, vegetables, and potatoes..



Thymus vulgaris 'Argenteus'

Thymus herba-barona, (Caraway thyme) native to Southern Italy, is a delicate- looking ground cover, with trailing red stems. It's best cooked with root vegetables and cheese dishes.

Thymus serpyllum, (Wild thyme, Mother of Thyme, Creeping thyme) is found in the Northern Mediterranean regions, Europe, and North America. It has fragrant pink blooms and its leaves should only be used fresh. Wild thyme tea can be made into tea and is an excellent remedy for headaches.

Thymus capitatus 'Fragrantissimus', (Orange Scented thyme), can be used as flavoring in place of orange peel.

Finally, *Thymus sp.* 'Lemon Mist' (Lemon Scented Thyme) with mounding habit, is used in salads, soups and teas.

Truly an important gift for our health and to the senses- the blooms and growth habits enhance the landscape, its leaves provide a variety of culinary flavors and aromas, and its essential oils can be used for insect repellent and as a natural food preservative.

Debbi Wilson

My Garden – Thomas Edward Brown

A GARDEN is a lovesome thing, God wot!
 Rose plot,
 Fringed pool,
 Ferned grot --
 The veriest school
 Of peace; and yet the fool
Contentends that God is not --
Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
 Nay, but I have a sign:
 'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

Reports

Conservation Report

We have good news to report! Finally, we have a site visit lined up with John Barker, the landscape architect who helped design the shoreline restoration in the community of Beaux Arts on Lake Washington. He and the Beaux Arts resident who spearheaded the project, Joann Bromberg, will meet with us on April 12 at 10:30. We will meet at the home of another resident, Jan Johnston, so in case it is raining we can have a good place to hear them describe what went into this project. The result has been quite promising as to the added number of salmon fingerlings that have survived since they did this work. JoAnn was worried that we would not be impressed by the "garden" aspect, because they used so many native plants. I told her that was just what the GCA and our club advocates; right in line with our philosophy. I hope many of you will try to car pool and attend. It will be very informative, and Beaux Arts is easy to get to, and is an interesting, lovely older community.

Another project is also looking interesting. I have contacted George Blomberg regarding a possible boat trip on the Duwamish. George is a Seattle Port Commissioner with a wealth of knowledge on the Duwamish, past and present. He asked that I wait to talk in person next week, as he has some family concerns to deal with this week, but he is enthusiastic about spending some time with us. Given the limits to numbers on a boat, we may wish to make this an auction item next year but I will see what he has in mind. This job is teaching me patience.

Margi Allison and I, and the two NAL delegates from Tacoma, attended a meeting at the Washington Environmental Council last week, led by Mindy Roberts. Mindy is a wealth of information regarding what is happening on the state and national level with many of the issues we will be investigating when Margi and I attend the NAL meeting at the end of this month. She inspires us to do our homework before we go!

Other items our conservation committee will be dealing with are the coming Weatherill work party on April 25, and participation in the Conservation project during the Flower Show. I am also encouraging our committee volunteers to give their short conservation reminders at each meeting, both Hort and the General meetings.

Beverly Martin, Conservation

Hort Report

For our **March Hort** meeting we are fortunate to hear a provisional talk by **Carolyn Echelbarger**. Her topic is "For the Love of Scent", Aromatic Aster 'Raydon's Favorite'. All of the provisionals have done a fantastic job this year and we know Carolyn will continue the trend.

Following Carolyn's talk, we will have another **Latin lesson from Roxanne Wiley**. She is going to cover flowering time and different habitats; mountain, wetland, woodland and open land.

For March's 'Hort Short' we have an activity planned we hope will interest many of you! **We would like you to prepare an arrangement from what is in your garden for our Hort meeting on March 4th.** No need to identify the plants or work to a theme or even include flowers - simply put together an arrangement that interests you.

For example, what can you put in a vase to make sure your front hallway looks nice for guests? What would look good on the dining table for a dinner party when the guests are due in an hour? Or, look around your yard, notice a plant or flower and think, "What can I do with this in a vase?" Think of this as similar to composing a photo or a painting. (All these suggestions came from the ever-creative Debby Smith.) We hope **MANY** of you will participate. Have fun with this!

Your Horticulture Chairs, Roxanne Wiley and Susan Potts

Reports

"NATURE'S POETRY" 2019 FLOWER SHOW UPDATE

Enter the show! Attend the Preview Party on May 31st!

Our Flower Show success depends on our member participation. Please check out our show schedule and register for various Floral Design and/or Horticulture classes.

The following entry opportunities are open as of the newsletter deadline in Floral Design and

Floral Design

2 openings for class 1 – sonnet and 3 openings for class 3 – pastoral.

Class 1 SONNET A miniature arrangement of fresh plant material. To be staged on a 6" black base, set on a plank 52" above the floor. Viewed from the front. The base and plank will be provided to exhibitors at the show; color and specific information will be shared in advance by the Class Consultant.

Class Consultant: Vicki Neumann 206.914.9811 vsneumann@comcast.net

Class 3 PASTORAL A Pot-et-fleur arrangement depicting a pastoral scene, collaboratively designed by two GCA members, one skilled in horticulture and the other in floral design. There are no ownership requirements. Viewed from 3 sides. To be staged on a pedestal 40" in height and 20" square. The pedestal may not be draped or enlarged, and the design may extend no more than 6" on any side of the pedestal. A key card is required. The pedestal is provided at the show by SGC.

Class Consultant: Debby Smith 626.823.1310 barleyanddeb@yahoo.com

Horticulture

Various openings in each of the following classes.

Class 8 CADENCE BAIRD BOARDS

A. A collection of five different specimens no higher than 6" above the rim

B. A collection of five different specimens no higher than 12" above the rim

Class Consultant: Suzette de Turenne 206.465.9317 sdeturenne@comcast.net

CLASSES 9-11 CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS – Three-month ownership deadline is February 28th!

Class 9 EPIC Hypertufa Hypertufa container, made by exhibitor and can be carried by exhibitor; may not include ferns. Key card required for 9B, multiple plants.

A. A single plant

B. A multiple of culturally compatible plants

Class Consultant: Jenny Wyatt 206.499.0543 wyattjen@comcast.net

Class 10 LYRIC All in the Family A collection of three or more different rooted species or cultivars from the same family. The container of exhibitor's choice is not to exceed 14". Key card required.

Class Consultant: Nancy Bain 206.448.4844 bainnancy@me.com

Class 11 RHYTHM Ferns Specific containers are required to be purchased through the division chairs. Key card required.

A. A small "log" container planted only with two or more ferns, same or different cultivars.

B. A fern or ferns accompanied by at least two compatible plants. Fern(s) must dominate.

Class Consultant: Megan Smith 206.324.5879 megansmith963@hotmail.com

The complete schedule and guidelines are available on the SGC web site.

GCA Tales and Tidbits!

Founders Fund Proposal

On Feb. 21st at the February Business meeting, we will be asking our membership to cast a vote on one of the three proposed Founders Fund finalist. Below is a short summary of the Fund and the three finalist.

The Founders Fund was established in 1936 in honor of the GCA's first president, Elizabeth Price Martin. The first award, in 1936, was for \$700. In the 83 years since its inception, it has grown to \$30,000 for the finalist project and \$10,000 for each of the two runners-up. Founders Fund grants recognize projects which support and advance the GCA purpose statement.

The Founders Fund is the only GCA program that is chosen from votes cast by all GCA clubs and recorded by the presidents. These projects represent a significant commitment from their proposing clubs, as well as a significant contribution to their communities. They speak directly to the GCA purpose and are a tribute to the energy and dedication of club members determined to make their proposals a reality.

Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve: Restoring a Calcareous Muck Fen

Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve (ACWP) is an extremely rare and unique habitat, providing safe haven for over 300 plant species and 20 state-rare native plants. The Winchester-Clarke Garden Club has formed a partnership with the city of Winchester and Shenandoah University. Together our objective is to transform this wetland into a place where not only the delicate July-blooming hooded skullcap and the willowleaf asters can flourish, but also where the young minds of future botanists and the imaginations of adult nature lovers can take root. Plans include fostering community support, an educational brochure, an audio walking tour and, an additional observation platform with signage to expand access to the lower marsh.

Proposed by: Winchester-Clarke Garden Club, Zone VII Seconded by: Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, Zone VII

Flora and Fauna: The Jane Colden Native Woodland Garden with Animal Habitats

The Fund would support the creation of the Jane Colden Nave Woodland Garden at Trailside Museums and Zoo in the Bear Mountain State Park, NY along with interpretive visitor materials. Trailside attracts a diverse community of 100,000 visitors from urban New York Areas and far beyond, as well as 7000 summer group campers, half of which come from homeless shelters. This large renovation project has over \$500,000 in New York State grants and private funding for reconstructed animal exhibits. A Founders Fund award will provide critical resources to create this woodland garden and interpretive visitor materials

Proposed by: The Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties, Zone III Seconded by: Ulster Garden Club, Zone III

Sniff and Savor Garden at Pittsburgh Botanic Garden: Enriching Community and Revitalizing Landscape

Sniff and Savor will provide an interactive, physical experience with plants, offering tremendous learning opportunities. The garden will offer a raised bed oasis where every plant is fragrant or edible. This sensory focused garden will create serenity and stimulate curiosity while also thoughtfully incorporating design elements supportive of individuals with cognitive and physical challenges

The Founders Fund Award would underwrite permanent garden elements and plant installation leading to new educational programming opportunities

Proposed by: Garden Club of Allegheny County, Zone V Seconded by: Carrie T. Watson Garden Club, Zone V