



# The Seattle Garden Club

# eNEWS

Member of The Garden Club of America

February 2019

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There's nothing like the sweet smell of *Sarcococca rustifolia* as a reward to begin the New Year! Planting these fragrant shrubs near the front door reminds me that spring isn't far away especially on these dark and dreary January days. There's hope in Mother Nature after all!

The saying, 'Slower than molasses in January,' doesn't seem to apply to anyone involved in this Garden Club. We've had two meetings already and it isn't even half past January! My President's hat is off to the Board members who joined me January 3<sup>rd</sup> to get the ball rolling this New Year. Their support renews my energy and vision for our Garden Club in the coming months, especially as the dates for our GCA Flower Show, *Nature's Poetry*, loom ever closer.

The recent Horticulture meeting also jump-started our horticultural curiosity with Provisional, Ann McCutchan's, excellent presentation on the Freeman Medal winner, *Baptisia* x 'Smoke Tree', or False Indigo. She cleverly named her talk: "A Smoke of Another Color." Not only did we learn the numerous reasons to include this versatile plant in our gardens, but she inspired me to search for this shrub at a nearby nursery and include it in our garden for summer interest after the spring flush of color has died down. Thank you, Ann! We are also grateful to Roxanne Wiley for her brief, but educational Latin lessons during these meetings. She brought our attention to the importance of using Binomial Nomenclature when one plant has numerous names in English, emphasizing the need to learn the 'simple' Latin names. Thank you, Roxanne!

We are looking forward to hearing Randall Hitchins speak at the Graham Visitor's Center in the Washington Park Arboretum January 17, on "*Plants with Winter Interest in the Arboretum*." This special collection in the Witt Winter Garden renews my faith in Mother Nature each year with her reliable energy to restore hope in the coming of spring during these soggy Seattle days. We, in Seattle, may feel the weight of winter under damp and gray skies, but a stroll through the Witt Winter Garden in late January or early February is a sure-fire cure for the winter doldrums. Plus, there's no parking or entrance fee to visit this prized collection!

One more important meeting on the horizon this New Year is our February Business meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture, Thurs. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. It's an important time to review the financial health of our club and learn more about the community projects that we support. We'll need a quorum to vote on a GCA Founder's Fund (not the one we're working on yet) and our own Community Projects, so please circle this important date and plan to attend.

May 30<sup>th</sup> may seem far off, however, there are several openings in the schedule as of January 15. Please check page 7 of this newsletter or the SGC website for the Flower Show schedule, *Nature's Poetry*, to enter Floral Design or Horticulture classes. Please sign up sooner than later to enter a class that sounds appealing before someone else grabs your spot.

Here's wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year, 2019!

Catherine Allan, Seattle Garden Club President

# Events

For calendar details, please go to [seattlegardenclub.org](http://seattlegardenclub.org), then select Members, then select CALENDAR.

Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	<a href="#">4</a> 8:30AM - 9:30AM <a href="#">Provisional Meeting</a> 9:15AM - 11:30AM <a href="#">Hort Share and Floral Design Presentation @ CUH</a> 11:30AM - 1:00PM Community Projects meeting 11:45AM - 1:00PM <a href="#">Conservation Committee Meeting</a>	5	<a href="#">6</a> <a href="#">Policy and Planning Committee Meeting</a> 12:00PM - 1:30PM Membership Committee Mtg at Cathy Parker's home	<a href="#">7</a> <a href="#">Auction Event - Mahjong</a> 10:00AM - 11:30AM <a href="#">SGC Board Meeting</a>	8	<a href="#">9</a> <a href="#">Auction Event - New World vs Old World wine tasting</a>
10	11	12	<a href="#">13</a> <a href="#">Auction Event - Mahjong</a>	14	15	16
17	18	<a href="#">19</a> <a href="#">Auction Event - NW Flower Show Preview experience</a>	20	<a href="#">21</a> 9:30AM - 12:00PM <a href="#">SGC Annual Business Meeting-CUH NHS Hall</a>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



**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!



## Events



*Green Goddess, by  
Jill Crutcher*

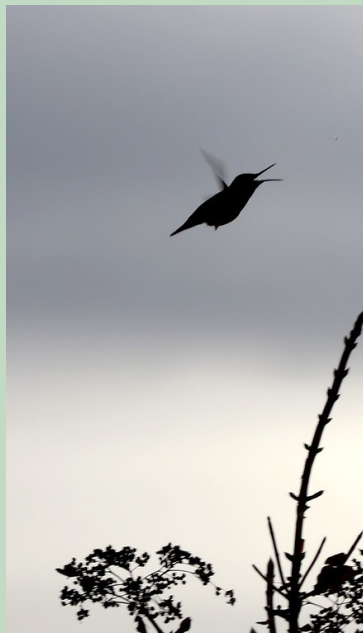


*Catherine Allan, Ann McCutchan  
and Burnley Snyder*



*Nancy Bain and Vickie Reed*

## Winter Solstice Photos



# Reports

## Ways and Means Report

Our post auction experience signup clipboards have gone missing after the January 7<sup>th</sup> CUH meeting. Would you please let **both** Catherine and Charlee know if you signed up for anything at that meeting OR if you know where those clipboards are?

### AUCTION EXPERIENCES WITH AVAILABLE SPOTS

Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Behind Scenes NW Flower Show	5 spaces	\$60
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	M. Harris Floral Arranging/Dinner	6 spaces	\$90
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese Garden Peonies	7 spaces	\$80
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	aMaurice Wine Tasting	10 spaces	\$80
Sept 10-12 <sup>th</sup>	Swauk Valley Ranch	2 spaces	\$350
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Bulb Lasagna	3 spaces	\$80

If you want to sign up please email both Catherine and Charlee. We will also bring clipboards at our meetings for sign up.

Catherine Mueller	<a href="mailto:cathmueller@gmail.com">cathmueller@gmail.com</a>	206.679.0902
Charlee Reed	<a href="mailto:charleereed@gmail.com">charleereed@gmail.com</a>	206.818.7585

## Hort Report

To recap the January Horticulture Meeting...thanks to Provisional member, Ann McCutchan, we now know so much about False Indigo, or *Baptisia* x 'Purple Smoke and its very interesting history related to indigo dye! It looks like a wonderful plant for our gardens here. And thanks to Matt Manion, Senior Gardener at the Woodland Park Zoo Rose Garden, we have a much better understanding of how to prepare our roses for the long winter and how to keep them in good shape during the growing season. We should all make a point of visiting the Woodland Park Zoo this summer to see the 3,000 roses Matt oversees.

In February this year, the Floral Design Committee will be organizing the Horticulture Meeting. Hort Share is always a part of every Horticulture Meeting though, and we encourage you to find something interesting from your garden to remind us all that this is an exciting time of the year in the plant world of the Pacific Northwest! Bring in a spray from your winter-blooming shrubs...we have so many to choose from here, or perhaps a bloom from one of your early spring bulbs, or anything else that shows off at this time of the year. Get up a few minutes early and march outside with your clippers before you leave for the meeting! Thanks to Betty Paul we have a supply of mason jars if you don't have time to grab a vase for your Hort Share. We will have index cards for you to write down the name of your Hort Share.

Your Horticulture Chairs, Roxanne Wiley and Susan Potts

"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.  
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.  
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.  
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance."

Yoko Ono



# Reports

## Gardener's Corner - VALENTINES DAY: A BRIEF HISTORY

The language of love is often expressed in giving a gift, flowers and or verse. On Valentine's Day, the primary expression of affection has been the red rose and Valentines cards.

Valentines Day, St.Valentine's Day or the Feast of St. Valentine's, is celebrated largely on February 14, but, in the Eastern Orthodox Church, July 6 or 30. Originating in third century Rome, Valentine, a priest, was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers forbidden to marry Christians persecuted under Roman law. He is thought to have restored the sight to a young lady, and before his demise, sent her a note, signed, ":from Valentine." Today, in Dublin, those seeking true love make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Valentine to pray for romance.

By the 18th century, in England, lovers gave pressed flowers, confections and greeting cards.

Interestingly, in 1797, British publishers issued, The Young Man's Valentine's Writer, that contained sentimental verses for those unable to write their own. Eventually, greeting cards were manufactured with real lace and ribbons. As postage rates became affordable, Valentine cards grew in popularity, and were mailed and exchanged among classmates, but teachers received the most cards.

Authors wrote eloquently about love for centuries, expressing passion and courtship.

- Edmund Spenser, in The Faerie Queene (1590), said, "She bath'd in roses red, and violets blew, And all sweetest flowers that in the Forrest grew."
- Chaucer associated Valentine's Day with romantic love and poetry. " For this was on St. Valentine's Day when every bird cometh to choose his mate."

For thousands of years, floriography, the language of flowers, has been the communication of affection through the use of arrangements of flowers. The arrangements were used to send the message that the sender was interested. The Victorians exchanged small bouquets or nosegays or tussie mussies that could be worn as a fashion accessories.

The cultivation of the garden variety rose began 5000 years ago in East Asia, where it was grown for perfume, decoration and medicine. Today's roses date from 18th century Europe, and historically, the red rose has been associated with passion. To demonstrate the magnitude of the flower associated with romance, in 2011, 1.5 billion roses were sold- 12% on Valentine's Day. That means that 3 of every 25 roses sold, was sold on just one day, Valentine's Day. Almost one third of American adults will buy flowers on Valentines Day, the majority will be red. Perhaps the red rose has evolved to become the symbol of love in the flower world and our traditional gift on Valentine's Day?

Debbi Wilson

## Fragrance Garden Photos



# Reports

## Conservation Report

I am happy to report that it looks like our site visit to Beaux Arts to see the shoreline restoration they have accomplished will be in March, the week of the 11<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know more as an exact date is chosen. Everyone interested will benefit by attending, since you will learn many ways to make waterfront property more salmon friendly, among other things. More to follow shortly.

Margi Allison and I will be attending the NAL conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month, along with two delegates from the Tacoma Garden Club, and will come back with lots of information to pass on to our members from that exciting event.

We will be having a Conservation Committee meeting after the Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> February Hort meeting. You don't have to be an official member of the conservation committee to attend. We would welcome your participation.

Beverly Martin, Conservation Committee Chair

I think we're all aware of the decline of our honey bees and all they do to pollinate our native plants, flowers, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and berries.

The Conservation Committee is here to help you better pollinate your gardens by renting Mason Bees for the spring pollinating season.

You can sign up today to receive Mason Bee kits at the March Hort meeting. The cost is \$30.00. The sign up sheet will be at the January and February meetings. Or, simply email Shelley Rolfe and I'll add you to the list.

I've done this for several years. It's easy, fun, and keeps our bees healthy as the bee kits are returned and thoroughly cleaned each season.

You'll receive a black box, a nesting block, and a tube of bees. The bees will hatch out, build a mud nest in the tubes, seek nectar from your garden, and then go back into their little nests, spin cocoons, and prepare for the next season. You'll return your kits to me during the summer and they'll go back to the Mason Bee team who clean the kits, readying them for the next year.



## Photography Committee

**REMINDER!** On March 21<sup>st</sup>, renowned garden photographer **David Perry** will speak on “**Picture Perfect Plant Portraits**” at the SGC General Meeting. David is an energetic speaker and popular educator. We're fortunate to have him. The meeting will take place at Graham Visitor Center (not CUH).

Following the meeting, David will teach a **3-hour photography workshop** in the Arboretum for 15 participants. **The workshop is open to all SGC members (no skill level required)!**

Workshop cost: \$75 per person.

To register, please email Jolie Roze:

[jsroze@comcast.net](mailto:jsroze@comcast.net)

# Reports

## "NATURE'S POETRY" 2019 FLOWER SHOW UPDATE

Enter the show! Attend the Preview Party on May 31<sup>st</sup>!

Our flower show will be here before you know it! Its success depends on our member participation. Although Photography is full, the following entry opportunities are open as of the newsletter deadline in Floral Design and Horticulture:

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:barleyanddeb@yahoo.com)

### Horticulture

Various openings in each of the following classes.

**Class 8 CADENCE BAIRD BOARDS** Three-month Ownership

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](mailto:sdeturenne@comcast.net)

**CLASSES 9-11 CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS** Three-month Ownership

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:megansmith963@hotmail.com)

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

The next Flower Show meeting is Thursday, 1/24, 10am @ Jenny Wyatt's

# GCA Tales and Tidbits!

## Make a New Year's Resolution to Reduce Use of Plastic! GCA Clubs Educate and Advocate

"Due to its lightweight, chemical resistance, and low cost, plastic has found its way into everything from makeup to medical equipment to the aerospace industry, supposedly improving life. Or has it? A two-fold increase in plastic consumption since 1959, a throw-away mentality, easy dispersal, and the 500+ year rate of plastic degradation have created a garbage crisis. Garden Club of America (GCA) members are educating themselves about plastics, initiating projects to reduce the use of plastics, and pledging to change their behavior.



The increased use of plastics, especially single use plastics used only briefly and discarded, has resulted in pollution of landscapes and waterways round the world. Not only is plastic slow to degrade, but it can leach toxins into the environment affecting both wildlife and humans. The GCA's position papers on [Oceans](#) and [Waste Management](#) both outline concerns about plastics. Local clubs are following up with initiatives to educate, recycle and reduce plastic use."

Here in Seattle, Ridwell will help you recycle plastics and other difficult items to recycle such as lightbulbs, Styrofoam, natural corks, batteries, plastic wrapping/film and bags just to name a few. For example, plastic wrapping around toilet paper and paper towels adds up and should not be placed in the City of Seattle recycle bins. This also includes plastic food bags and packaging. Corks are natural but are too dense to go in the compost bin.

If you are interested in going beyond the recycle bin, check out [Ridwell](#): "Rest assured that your stuff is being given a new life and stays out of the landfill. We thoroughly vet and only partner with local organizations that are committed to reuse and sustainability."

## 2019 National GCA Medalists Announced!

***Elvira Broome Doolan Medal*** is awarded in recognition of innovative work in landscape architecture with emphasis on city planning and civic improvement in urban areas - Robert Hammond co-founder and executive director of Friends of the High Line, led initial efforts to turn an abandoned rail line on the west side of Manhattan into one of the world's most acclaimed parks - the High Line.

***Sarah Chapman Francis Medal*** is awarded for outstanding literary achievement related to any aspect of The Garden Club of America's interests - Marta McDowell is one of America's leading garden writers, garnering national and international acclaim for her insightful portraits of literary and cultural figures and their relationships with gardening, plants, and place. She combines detailed research with sparkling prose and engaging images, resulting in books that are both entertaining and informative for a wide audience.

***Medal of Honor*** is awarded for outstanding service to horticulture - Piet Oudolf is unique! A plant artist, his work transcends conventional definitions of gardening and horticulture. He has revolutionized garden design, forever changing how visitors experience public gardens. The author of nine acclaimed books, his tributes include a Chelsea Gold Medal, the Veitch Memorial Medal, and the Royal Horticultural Society's inaugural Horticultural Hero award presented for his naturalistic, meadow-style garden at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2018

***Historic Preservation Medal*** is awarded for outstanding work in the field of preservation and/or restoration of historic gardens or buildings of national importance - The USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned US Navy warship afloat, is a stirring symbol of both American naval courage and important historic preservation. America's Ship of State embodies the American spirit and the American dream - never give up, never give in, and never forget who you are.

***Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal*** is awarded for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life - Brain R. Vogt CEO of the Denver Botanic Gardens since 2007, has transformed the Gardens with his global vision and inspirational leadership. His mission - "Connecting People to Plants" locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally—is underway