



The Seattle Garden Club

eNEWS

Member of The Garden Club of America

May 2019

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Spring's spectacular show in Seattle is in full bloom after record-setting warm temperatures in March. *Prunus*, *Magnolias*, *Forsythias*, *Malus*, *Camelias*, *Daffodils*, *Tulipas* and spring ephemerals are all bursting forth! My *Daphne ordora* 'Marginata' suffered frost damage in February, as I mentioned last month. *Daphne*'s tend to be fickle, so I am grateful for its determination to carry on and bloom! Fortunately our *Daphne x transatlantica* 'Eternal Fragrance' in the Fragrance Garden came through the winter beautifully!

It seems with this first flush of spring blossoms outside, the burst of energy inside is in full swing as we plan for our GCA Flower Show, *Nature's Poetry*, May 31st and June 1st. Site visits, emails, committee meetings and material gathering are becoming more frequent as we prepare for this special event.

A small group met at the Bellevue Botanical Garden recently, to review the layout of the show. We are in good hands with **Suzette de Turenne** and **Jenny Wyatt**, co-chairs.

Marianne Mowat's informative Provisional talk on the Freeman Medal winner, *Spigelia marilandica*, proposed by **Barbara Gould** in 2010, captivated our interest to consider adding this striking plant in our gardens. Each and every plant reviewed this year has 'knocked our socks off' with their unique abilities to ward off unwanted critters, fill in garden spaces without being invasive and add a colorful touch that make them all winners! Marianne's friend **Eve Alyson** went above and beyond by painting a sensational water color of the *Spigelia marilandica*, or Indian Pink. Marianne intends to send it to Barbara Gould as a gift after sharing her research and personal interest in 'her' plant. It was a special discovery for Marianne to learn about Barbara's choice and Freeman Medal journey. Freeman Medal nominations are due November 30th each year. It's never too early to be thinking of an under-utilized native plant to propose for this special award. Each year the category alternates between a woody plant or perennial. A year ago, I met **Judy Freeman** in New Orleans, thanks to GCA. She and her family honor her mother-in-law, a dedicated plants woman, by awarding this honor to a plant, not a person. It has been awarded at each GCA Annual Meeting since 1995. Judy grows many of these plants on her North Carolina mountain property where the plants thrive.

We enjoyed our annual luncheon with the Tacoma Garden Club at the Seattle Yacht Club April 18th. Traditionally, this annual exchange to host each other on alternate years has continued for over forty years! This year's speaker, **Justin Schroeder**, horticulturist from the Amazon Spheres, began his career with the Woodland Park Zoo. He managed the Woodinville nursery where tropical plants were stored in preparation for their new home in the Spheres. Several Seattle Garden Club members toured the Amazon Spheres a year ago and another tour was held in April.

I am looking forward to Kay Baxter's Provisional talk Mon. May 6th on *Wisteria frutescens*; "Beauty, Color, Form and Nice Manners"! I've ripped out two *Wisteria chinensis* in my life as a homeowner...I'm eager to learn why *Wisteria frutescens* was a Freeman Medal winner!

Happy Gardening!

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 May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00AM - 11:30AM SGC Board Meeting	3	4
5	6 8:30AM - 9:30AM CUH Isaacson Board Room 9:15AM - 11:30PM Hort Share and Provisional talk @ CUH 11:30AM - 1:00PM Joint Hort and Conservatn Committee meeting CUH/NHS	7	8 Auction Event - Chinese Garden Peony blooms with lunch	9 9:30AM FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING @ Jenny Wyatt's	10	11
12	13	14 Auction Event-Ketcham's J Olson's Lake House	15	16 Auction Event-Butchart Garden for the day w lunch 12AM - 2PM Fragrance Garden Work Party 9:30AM - 12:00PM SGC General Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 11AM - 1PM Set up for Conservation Exhibit at Bellevue Botanical Garden	30 SGC FLOWER SHOW "NATURE'S POETRY"	31 PREVIEW PARTY @ BBG 6:30pm SGC FLOWER SHOW "NATURE'S POETRY"	

Springtime in the Fragrance Garden!

Join us for a work party on May 16th after the General Meeting. Bring your favorite tools and weed pulling skills!

Ana and Hotie Fragrance Garden Co-Chairs



Please look for your annual dues and meeting arrangements fees statement in your email

Dues and Fees for Fiscal Year June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020:

- Active, Provisional and Sustainer Membership Dues: \$230.
- Active and Provisional (mandatory) Meeting Arrangements Fee: \$175. The fee is optional for Sustainers.
- Total due for Active and Provisional members: \$405.
- Dues and fees must be paid by June 1.

Send one check, payable to Seattle Garden Club, to: SGC Treasurer Barbara Feasey, 2701 NE 94th St, Seattle, WA 98115

Events



Nature's Poetry PREVIEW PARTY
Friday, May 31st, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm
The Bellevue Botanical Garden

As you know, the Preview Party is how we raise the funds to pay the expenses of producing our Flower Show and opening it to the Public at no charge.

Tickets per person are \$125 or be an Angel

As a cost saving measure we are using Evites as the primary form of invitation for the Party....so keep a lookout for yours in your email "in box" next week.

We hope you will invite lots of friends to this fun, beautiful and charitable party!

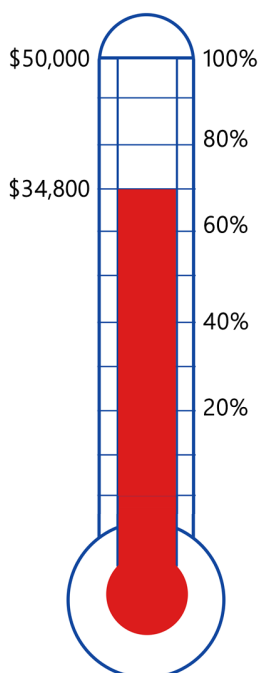
Please send us: names, email addresses and physical mailing addresses to dianaackerley@gmail.com.

Thank you from the Party co-chairs,
Carlyn, Sheila and Marilee

Reports

SGC Community Garden – Fragrance Garden Fund Gains Momentum!

Many SGC members were able to celebrate the lovely scents and gorgeous blossoms of spring while visiting the Fragrance Garden at our March Hort meeting. Here are some photos of spring flowers in the Garden. We'll have a work party on May 16th after the General Meeting, but for now we can enjoy the abundance of delightful species and look forward to a progression of flowers to come throughout the year, including our new Colette rose, planted in the new arbor.



Our Goal
\$50,000

**Thank
You!**

Just like our abundant garden, we're delighted to announce that the Fragrance Garden Fund is growing! This year a very generous gift of \$30,000 was received for the Fund from an Angel Donor. In addition, just this week, we've had two new donations – lauding members who've been engaged in the Fragrance Garden for many years – one in honor of BJ Anderson and another as a tribute to Diana Neely. That coupled with the \$5,000 Seed Money from the Community Projects account puts us only \$14,800 from the goal of \$50,000 – after which the Community Garden Fund can be transferred to the Seattle Foundation as an endowment and begin earning interest. As an endowment, the Fund will pay out money to be used for the maintenance of the Fragrance Garden.

We can all take advantage of the Fragrance Garden Fund as a way to honor family and friends as birthday gifts, special tributes, or as a lasting way to remember our loved ones. You can bring a check of any amount you choose to SGC meetings or mail it directly to the Treasurer. The person you are recognizing will receive a note and her/his name will be included in a future newsletter article.

Ana and Hotie, Fragrance Garden Co-Chairs

Reports

Ways and Means Report

Are you spring cleaning? Reorganizing your house? Traveling this summer? Think about the holiday auction while refreshing your home or traveling. If you have anything you are 'through with' and think it would be a great auction item next year we will take it off your hands! Likewise, if you are traveling this summer and come across a fun arts & crafts fair perhaps you will see something really cool, purchase two and donate the other to the auction! Catherine Mueller can store anything you have, just give her a call or shoot her an email, cathmueller@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, we still have a few spots left for the Chinese Garden tour during Peony bloom. Let both Charlee and Catherine know if you are interested.

Chinese Garden during Peony bloom, May 8, 2019, Cost - \$80

Tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden and Coenosium in South Seattle Community College Arboretum.

- Wednesday, May 8, 2019; 10am
- Docent lead tour of the Seattle Chinese Garden during peony bloom and the Coenosium (dwarf conifers)
- Hosted lunch following



Interested? Contact us.

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

Coming Soon! "NATURE'S POETRY" SGC's 2019 GCA Flower Show

How can you help? Let me count the ways!

Attend the Preview Party! Support the Flower Show by attending the Preview Party and bringing guests. Our \$125 ticket price covers the Preview Party and some portion of the Show expenses. Invitations with full instructions on the party details were sent via email.

Be an Angel! We are counting on the support of Angel Donors to help defray total costs of Nature's Poetry (rental space, staging/lighting, Preview Party)

Enter! Familiarize yourself with the show schedule. Although many classes are by pre-registration only, you do not need to pre-register to enter Horticulture Classes 1-7, Cut Specimens or the Par Class 12. Horticulture entries will be received Friday May 31, starting at 7:30am with all entries processed and placed by 10:30. We will focus more on cuts at the May 6 Hort meeting. If you have any particular questions, please email us and we can incorporate them into the May Hort meeting.

Volunteer! We need help the day of the Show, Friday May 31 with a number of tasks, including transportation for judges, Horticulture registration and placing. Also, hospitality help is needed on Saturday June 1, the day the Show is open to the Public...as well as take down of the show later that day. Contact us and we will answer your questions and direct you appropriately.

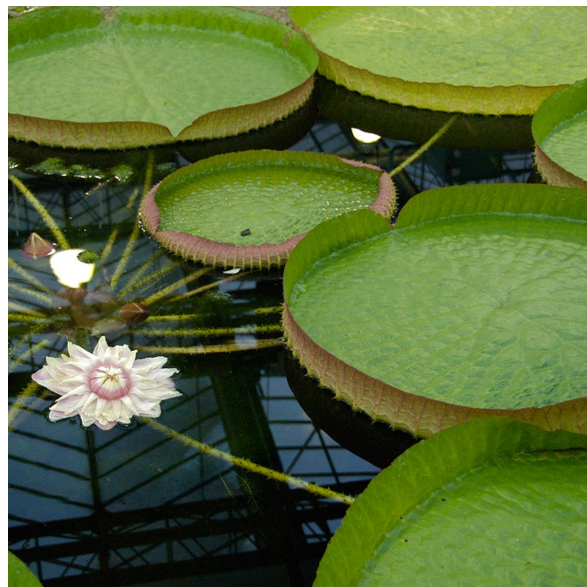
Remember that the Schedule with all show details is available on our SGC Web page [HERE](#).

Suzette de Turenne sdeturenne@comcast.net and Jenny Wyatt wyattjen@comcast.net

Reports

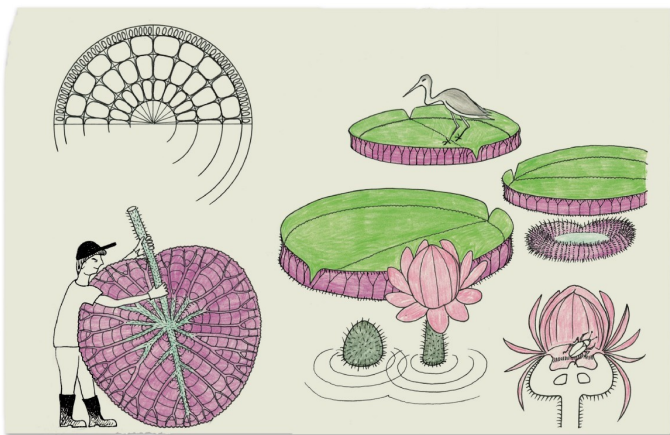
The Lily Goes to London - Gardener's Corner

Victoria amazonica, member of the Nymphaeaceae family, is the largest known species of water lilies on the planet. *V. amazonica* is the national flower of Ghana. Found in the Amazon river basin and bayous, its leaf that lies flat on the water surface measures 5'-8' in diameter supported on a 26' underwater stalk. Its huge leaves can support 100 pounds if the weight can be evenly distributed on its surface. Its thorn covered bud blooms with 100 white pineapple scented petals, but lasts for just one day. That evening, the flower (15" in diameter) temperature rises, attracting the beetles (Coleoptera) that become entrapped overnight as the petals close. The next morning, the bloom opens, frees the insects, but it wilts and vanishes. The freed insects fly on to pollinate other flowers.



The leaf of the *Victoria amazonica* was the inspiration for the extraordinary design of the Crystal Palace which debuted in the 1851 Great Exhibition in London. Prince Albert commissioned Sir Joseph Paxton, an English gardener, horticulturalist and architect to attempt Albert's vision of a place to showcase scientific inventions. Paxton, at the time, was employed at Chatsworth where he honed his design skills while building the Grand Conservatory. He was the first person to

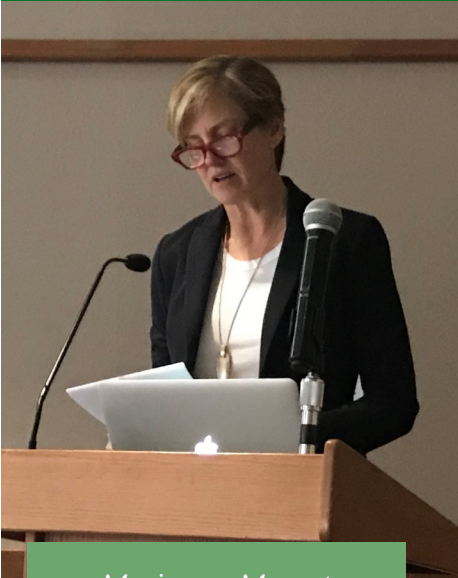
grow *Victoria amazonica* seed in the greenhouse where it bloomed and flourished. Paxton, then, tested the rigidity of the lily leaf by asking his daughter to stand on one of its huge leaves. There, he developed the prefabricated glass and iron structure technique, thanks to better manufacture of glass and cast iron, as well as decreased taxes on glass. Prince Albert was impressed with Paxton's enthusiasm, vision and skill, thus he was hired for the formidable design and construction task. Paxton applied this knowledge to the design of the Crystal Palace.



The Crystal Palace measured 1848 feet long, 408 feet wide, 108 feet high, used 4500 tons of iron, 60,000 square feet of timber, and 300,000 panes of glass. Most extraordinarily, it was built in six months.

Paxton used the "ridge and furrow" roof design, inspired by the structure of the huge *Victoria amazonica* leaf. Its veins on the underside were like a system of buttresses with radial veins, reinforced by concentric plant fibers in opposite directions. The Palace was, indeed, a spectacular sensation, and ahead of its time. The *Victoria amazonica* was named for Queen Victoria, Paxton was knighted and an extraordinary plant inspired an architectural marvel.

Photos



Marianne Mowat



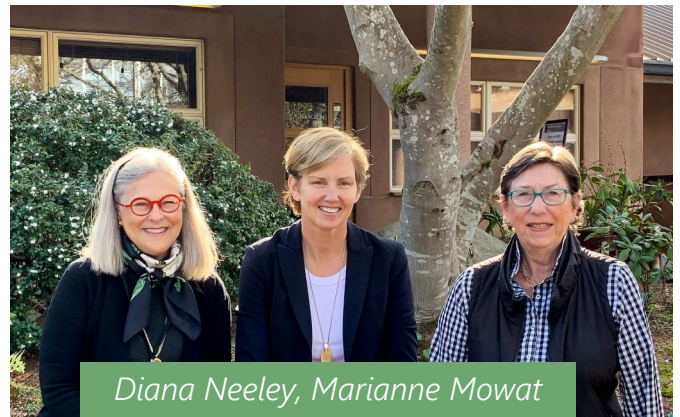
Ana Hergert



Catherine Mueller and
Debbi Smith



Photo Lessons!



Diana Neeley, Marianne Mowat
and Charlee Reed



Carolyn Kitchell, David Perry
and Jolie Roze



Spigelia marilandica



Latin for Gardeners

Resembling Animals

- *Arcturus* – like a bear's tail
- *Crista-galli* – like a cock's comb
- *Tigrinus* – like a tiger
- *Pes-caprae* – like goat's foot
- *Papilio* – like a butterfly



Erythrina crista-galli
- like a cock's comb

Plants Recognizing Famous Male Horticulturists

- *Armandii* – after Father Armand David
- *Banksii* – after Joseph Banks
- *Douglasii* – after David Douglas
- *Menziesii* – after Archibald Menzies
- *Edgeworthia* – after Michael Pakenham Edgeworth



Pseudotsuga menziesii -
Douglas Fir, Oregon Pine,
Douglas Spruce



Archibald Menzies
1754-1842

Scottish surgeon, naturalist
and botanist who served
with the royal navy

Plants Recognizing Famous Females

- *Danfordiae* – after Mrs. C. G. Danford
- *Florindae* – after Florinda N. Thompson
- *Regina-olgae* – after Queen Olga of Greece
- *Robbiae* – after Mary Ann Robb
- *Wilmottianum* – after Ellen Ann Willmott



Queen Olga of Greece



Galanthus regina-olgae
– Autumn Snowdrop

Resembling Other Things

- *Rosmarinifolius* – leaves like those of rosemary plants
- *Salicifolius* – leaves like those of willow trees and shrubs
- *Quercifolius* – leaves like those of oak trees
- *Primuloides* – leaves/flowers like those of primroses
- *Arboreus* - having the form or size of a tree



Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius –
with leaves like
rosemary



Hydrangea quercifolia
quercifolia – with
oak-like leaves

Reports

Conservation Committee

May 6 we will have a joint Hort and Conservation meeting from 11:30am to 1:00pm, after our regular Hort meeting. This is an important meeting, including a yearly review of our small gifts that create goodwill in the community.

The Conservation Committee met on April 12, at the home of a Beaux Arts resident, Jan Johnston, who had very generously agreed to let us start with a talk in the shelter of her lovely abode. She provided coffee for anyone who wanted it. Joann Bromberg, another Beaux Arts resident, spoke about her role in first finding approval among community members for the shoreline renovation, and then going to the county for major funding for the project. Timing was magical for that community, and the county, after many meetings and much friendly persuasion among the residents for unified agreement, decided to go ahead with the project. It took a year just to get permits and to choose a landscape architect who could lead the community and present plans that everyone could weigh in on. Had it not been for very strong leadership on the part of Ms. Bromberg, this might not have happened. John Barker, the landscape architect, then showed us a series of photos and drawings with before and after results, explaining why bulkheads are the antithesis to salmon friendly shorelines. Not all the bulkheads on the shoreline were removed, but where they were, gravel and sand was imported to provide a safer environment and shallower water for the young salmon. (Bulkheads are often a hiding place for larger fish that might feed on the young salmon.) Low native plantings were brought in to provide shade over the water, and logs and driftwood allowed to line the beaches sometimes with underpinnings of steel supports so that they would not move or be a danger to anyone on the beach. These logs and some of the native plants also provided places for insects to thrive, another important source of food for the fish. Many questions were asked by our members. Both John Barker and Joann Bromberg were very happy to be asked about their project with so much enthusiasm. After their presentation we walked the beach to see the actual implementation of the project. It was a most interesting day, giving us hope that there are ways to change things when we are active enough to jump in. Thankfully, no rain! Many thanks to Eliza Davidson for putting me onto this excellent project.



SGC Members plus Neel Parikh, conservation chairwoman from the Tacoma Garden Club, with two other TGC members, and John Barker and Joann Bromberg, who led the discussion

With the Seattle Garden Club Flower Show opening on May 31 at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, I hope as many of the Conservation Committee members as can will pitch in on May 29, from 11 am to 1:00 pm, to help Shelley Rolfe and Carolyn Kitchell set up the exciting Conservation exhibit at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, where it will continue to be on display for three years.

The show itself has already generated a prodigious amount of preparation, and I know it will be beautiful, instructive, fun, and a great success. See you at the Preview Party!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Martin

Conservation Chair

GCA Tales and Tidbits!

GCA to Receive the Rachel Carson Women in Conservation Award



The Garden Club of America will be the recipient of the coveted <https://www.audubon.org/women-in-conservation>. The Award recognizes American women whose exceptional talent, expertise, and energy advance conservation. Past recipients include Lady Bird Johnson, Elizabeth Titus Putnam, Marian S. Heiskell, Sylvia Earle, Maya Lin, and Bette Midler.

The National Audubon Society will present the award on May 16 to GCA President Dede Petri at the Plaza Hotel, NY.

Visiting Garden Trips

Below is a list of upcoming GCA visiting garden trips:

- Washington DC, May 2019
- Bavaria & Austria, June and July 2019
- Scotland, July 2019
- Normandy France, September 2019 (2 trips)
- Maine: August 2019
- India, February & March 2020
- Japan, November 2020



Questions concerning Visiting Gardens or trip suggestions may be sent to: visiting-gardens@gcamerica.org

Tickled Pink—Peony Power

This show-stopping queen of flowers is just around the corner!

But unfortunately she doesn't bloom for long. So here are some tips to make her last -- up to three months!

- Cut your flowers when the buds begin showing some color and are soft like a marshmallow.
- Store them dry with leaves stripped off. This reduces water loss.
- Wrap them completely, stem to bud, in clear plastic wrap, sealing both ends.
- Store horizontally in a frost-free refrigerator away from fruits and veggies.

When you are ready to use them, remove from refrigerator, cut the stems and place in tepid water in a cool area. Once hydrated they should bloom for about a week.

