



The Seattle Garden Club

eNEWS

Member of The Garden Club of America

April 2020

[President's Letter](#)

[Events](#)

[Ways and Means](#)

[Conservation Report](#)

[NAL Report](#)

[Hort Report](#)

[Photos](#)

[Northwest Favorite](#)

[Nominating
Committee](#)

[GCA Tales and Tidbits](#)



I hope this update finds you well. You must be aware of the statewide stay-at-home order for our state. The order is effective for a minimum of two weeks. Every resident in Washington State is required to stay home unless going shopping for groceries, going to a doctor's appointment, or going to work at an essential business, as defined in Inslee's executive order. For our club, this means the following:

Our **April 2 Board Meeting** will be an online video conference - details to follow for board members

Our **April 6 Hort Meeting** is **Canceled**

Our **April 15 General Meeting** with Tacoma is **Canceled**

Our lives may look different for the next year. No one knows how long this pandemic will last. So we will need to remain flexible and take one month at a time to see how this pandemic progresses. For up to date information please go to <https://www.coronavirus.gov>. Another great resource is <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

The safety and well-being of all members of the Seattle Garden Club is our first priority.

We are grateful for your understanding and your flexibility during this difficult and uncertain period.

Sincerely,
Diana Ackerley, Seattle Garden Club President

This is Mary

Mary has had to self isolate due to COVID-19

Mary bought loads of gardening supplies before going into isolation, instead of ridiculous amounts of toilet paper.

Mary can now spend her isolation period brightening up her garden.



Be more like Mary and
enjoy your garden!

Events

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

- **Next Meeting: Corona Virus Impacted Schedule as of March 12, 2020:**
 - **March 19th, General Meeting CANCELED!**
 - **March 20th, CUH Walk CANCELED!**
 - **April 2nd, Board Meeting held on-line – Details TBA**
 - **April 6th, Hort Meeting CANCELED!**
 - **April 15th, General Meeting JOINT w/Tacoma CANCELED!**

Please check your calendars!

Didn't get the "experience" spot you wanted at the holiday auction? Didn't make it to the holiday auction and totally missed out? Never fear! We have spaces available for the following events:

- Swiss Raclette Dinner Party, Sept 11th
- San Juan Island Getaway, Sept 22st-23rd
- Day at the Farm and Pizza Luncheon, June 2nd

Special Opportunity:

We have a number of spaces available for the **Day at the Farm** event on June 2nd. This fun filled tour of a working farm and operations will be led by Perry Acworth, Farm Manager. The urban farm is managed and worked by the UW student run farm program located at CUH. This program helps build community within the student population and beyond into the local neighborhoods encouraging urban farming and healthy eating. CSA offers weekly boxes of freshly grown produce for sale.

Tour is followed by an outdoor pizza luncheon where you build your own pizza.

- 11:00 AM, \$50
- Tour led by Fred Hoyt followed by 'build your own pizza' lunch
- Hosted by CUH

Please contact Sue Brickman susanbrickman@msn.com and Catherine Mueller Cath-mueller@gmail.com

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March."
- Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926



Reports

Conservation Report

As you have been advised, the March 20 walk has been cancelled for the time being. We would expect that the Duwamish Boat trip will also be cancelled but we'll wait until mid-April to make that decision. We will hope that both can be rescheduled in 20-21 by the new Conservation chair if she wishes. I had a meeting at my home of those on my committee who could attend on March 9, and it was a spirited group whom I'm so grateful to have had as participants. Most of them are eager to continue on the committee.

Since we are closed for at least the next month, I want to include Cindy Bostwick's report from NAL. Both she and Ann McCutchan were very enthusiastic about their participation at NAL, and they encourage any member who is asked to attend that conference to jump at the chance. Luckily, Neel Parikh, the Tacoma Garden Club Conservation Chair, was along with them. She has been several times and is a pro, so she was very helpful. I hope to see you at the final June meeting if things have calmed down by then. Otherwise, thank you for a most interesting two years as your Conservation Chair.

Stay healthy, and be wise.

Respectfully,

Bev Martin, Conservation Chair

NAL Report, Cindy Bostwick

We were fortunate to attend the Garden Club of America National Affairs and Legislation Conference (NAL) in Washington DC. We spent two very full days learning about the environmental challenges we are facing, the 2020 legislative priorities for the GAC and the best practices for being effective advocates with our legislators. The third day of the conference hundreds of GAC members fanned out over Capitol Hill and met with their legislators. It was a powerful reminder of the power of women and of Garden Club of America.

The GAC legislative priorities are:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Parks, Public Lands and Native Plants
- Oceans
- Transportation, Infrastructure and Pollinator Highways
- Monarch and Pollinator Highway Act of 2019

We strongly recommend that you go to the GAC website and review our position papers to learn more about these worthy issues and the legislative bills that need all of our support.

We met with Maria Cantwell's office, Patty Murray's office, Representative Denny Heck, Kim Schrier's office and Adam Smith's office. The GAC legislative priorities were well received by all of our legislators.

The speakers were all informative and engaging. A few of the speakers: Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Representative Will Hurd of Texas, John Piotti, CEO of American Farmland Trust, Fran Ulmer, Chair of The Nature Conservancy Global Board, Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of The National Wildlife Federation, Sam Sankar, Senior Vice President of Earthjustice and many more.

Finally, there was a wonderful dinner at the Mayflower Hotel where we had the privilege of hearing from Theodore Roosevelt V who is the founding partner of Redwood Grove Capitol.

It was truly an extraordinary experience to meet so many dedicated members of the Garden Club who care deeply about our environment and GCA. NAL is truly a "must attend" to learn how to be a better advocate for legislative policies that protect our environment.

Reports

Horticulture Report

At the Hort Meeting on March 2, we were treated to a wonderful Provisional Talk by Judy Rupert, who obviously had enjoyed the research she conducted for her talk entitled "Color Me Pollinated". She presented many interesting facts to the membership about what colors attract both bees and hummingbirds and why. We are so lucky to have such dedicated provisionals.

We were very fortunate to have The Curator of the Herbarium at the Burke Museum, Richard Olmstead, speak to us on "How the Names of Plants Tell the History of the Pacific Northwest." His slides covered many of our well-known favorites and uncovered descriptive botanical names which related to the names of plant explorers as well as place names.

The meeting ended with the unveiling of the results of the Soil Your Undies Challenge, an experiment which was initiated at the January Hort Meeting. A slide show of the results of our brave volunteers: Suzette de Turenne, Debby Smith, Barbie Snapp, Sheila Wyckoff-Dickey, Suzy Titcomb and Jeannie Gravenkemper, who had all buried a pair of 100% cotton undies in their gardens, showed the very different physical, chemical and biological activity in the six different gardens. Jeannie Gravenkemper won the prize for the healthiest soil! Her undies were riddled with holes! I think now many of us are curious as to what is going on in the soil in our gardens!

Roxanne Wiley and Susan Potts, Chairs

*Emerson Robles
CUH Custodian*



Judy Rupert and Christine Davis



Roxanne Wiley, Richard Olmstead and Susan Potts



Photos



*Social Distancing
Debby Smith*



Vicky Reed



*Debby Smith, Barbie Snapp, Suzy Titcomb, Suzette de Turenne
and Jeannie Gravenkemper*

Reports

A NORTHWEST FAVORITE: *Ribes sanguineum*

Don't we yearn for shape, color and interest after a long winter? One native flowering deciduous shrub will catch your attention, not only with its shapely palmate leaves, but its dangling racemes of white to dark cardinal red blooms. *Ribes sanguineum*, or Flowering Currant, is a Northwest favorite and a Great Plant Pick.

In the Saxifragaceae family (Grossulariaceae, more recently), it is native to the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. This ornamental shrub attracts year-round hummingbirds and sports dark purple berries after blooming. Its bark is brownish grey and pale brown with lenticels (pores).

Plant it in a sunny location along a fence or near a house for a showy display, or as a single specimen. Underplants could include hostas, hellebores, small rhododendrons and bulbs. If it is in part shade, its habit will be more open. This hardy shrub can grow in poor soils and is drought tolerant once established.

A few favorite varieties include, *R. sanguineum* 'Ubric' White Icicle, that grows to 8' by 6' wide and blooms in early spring before the beautiful berries emerge in summer. It is more commonly found in the area.



Try two smaller cultivars, *R. sanguineum* 'Pokey's Pink' for a splash of pink hues, or *R. 'Pulborough Scarlet'* for a spicy fragrance, scarlet-red long dangling blooms and a splendid feature in the garden.

These vigorous and reliable performers should be included in your favorite gardening journal.

During this time of uncertainty in our world, the following words remain true:

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. Doug Larson

Provided by: Debbi Wilson

Spring Song - Lucy Maud Montgomery

"Hark, I hear a robin calling!
List, the wind is from the south!
And the orchard-bloom is falling
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches
Fair and faint is woven mist,
And the river's orient reaches
Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing
Of the lure of April days;
Every piney glen is ringing
With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together
Springtime lore of daffodils,
Giving to the golden weather
Greeting on the sun-warm hills."



Reports

Nominations Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present its slate of new officers for the Seattle Garden Club 2020-2022 Board. The current SGC Board approved this slate at its meeting on March 5, 2020. Approval will be sought from the General Membership at the SGC Annual Meeting on June 4, 2020, at the Seattle Tennis Club.

The following positions will serve from fall 2020 through spring 2022, with the exception of the one-year rotation of the President Elect (also Policy and Planning Chair); the President; and the Immediate Past President (also Nominations Chair). At our upcoming June 4, 2020 Annual Meeting, Shelley Rolfe, our current President Elect, who was voted into office last year, will become President. Diana Ackerley, our current President, will become Immediate Past President. Catherine Allan, our current Immediate Past President, will complete her term.

Please note that approximately half of the Board is replaced each year on a rotating basis. The Horticulture Co-Chairs listed below will each serve two years. Current Ways and Means Co-Chair, Susan Brickman, will remain in this position for the second of her two-year term, to be joined by a new Co-chair, serving two years.

Proposed Slate of Officers (June 2020 to June 2022):

- President Elect: Barbara Feasey
- Club Communications: Stacey Campbell
- Conservation: Suzy Titcomb
- Floral Design: Marilee Ahalt
- Horticulture Co-Chairs: Wade Garretson & Betsy Larson
- Meeting Arrangements: Kay Baxter
- Photography: Suzette de Turenne
- Ways & Means Co-Chairs: Susan Brickman (2nd year) & Cindy Bostwick (1st year)
- Treasurer Elect: Sandy Hanower
- Provisional Co-Chairs: Mary Turner* & Sue Ashmun
- Nominations: Diana Ackerley
- Policy & Planning: Barbara Feasey

To remain 2020-2021:

- President: Shelley Rolfe
- Immediate Past President: Diana Ackerley
- Recording Secretary: Peggy-Paige Most
- Treasurer: Dabney Rohrbach
- Corresponding Secretary: Jill Crutcher
- Community Projects: Lynn Mowe
- Finance: Dabney Rohrbach
- Membership: Charlee Reed
- Programs: Delphine Stevens

There is a staggered one-year term for both Ways and Means and Provisional Co-Chairs. Susan Brickman will step down after June 2021 as will Mary Turner, Co-Provisional Chair. Both positions will be filled by the Nominations Committee in the year 2020-2021.

Respectfully,

Catherine Allan, Nominations Chair with Committee Members: Diana Neely, Shelley Rolfe, Marilee Ahalt and Karen Simmonds

GCA Tales and Tidbits



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

A Special Message from GCA President Debbie Edwards

March 17, 2020

Dear Fellow GCA Club Member:

As I come to grips with the reality of the risks we all face due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, I am becoming ever-more aware of what is really important in my life. I realize that I have often taken my good health and blessings for granted, and now I just want to hold my family and my dog. I miss seeing and spending time with my friends.

Now that I am “self-isolating” at home indefinitely, I am trying to attend to more important things — even if I can only do some of them by phone or email. This is an unexpected consequence of this horrific pandemic. I might even be able to read a few of the beautiful gardening books sitting on my bedside table gathering dust!

GCA and club meetings and events across the country have been cancelled, and literally thousands of club members are experiencing deep disappointment for the years, months, and weeks spent planning for the “perfect” gathering of garden club friends that will not take place for now. As painful as it has been to cancel these meetings, safeguarding health has been the only objective.

I have been inspired by the theme for this year’s now cancelled GCA annual meeting, Moving Mountains Together. This is what we in the GCA have done for 107 years, and I know that we will do it over and over again. I look forward to the times that we will be together, sharing “the advantages of association” — learning, sharing ideas, enjoying warm fellowship, making new friends, and working for a beautiful, healthy planet.

Please take time to visit this [COVID-19: VOLUNTEER RESOURCES](#) page on the GCA website. It will be updated regularly. Pay special attention to the [“Garden Club Activities When You Can’t Meet”](#) and “Meeting Remotely” sections, and please contact us at healthyGCA@gcamerica.org with suggestions for this resource page and questions. As you know, we are all learning as we go along.

Take care of yourself and your family, and draw strength from nature. Pause to admire the beauty of spring, and share your innate optimism and resiliency with your loved ones and communities.

This too shall pass, and when it does we will be stronger than ever before.

Much love to you, and stay safe.

Debbie Edwards, GCA President