



Seattle Garden Club

All The Buzz

May 2024

www.seattlegardenclub.org



[President's Letter](#)

[Flower Show~Volunteers](#)

[May General Meeting](#)

[Horticulture](#)

[Luncheon with TGC](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Garden H & D](#)

[Nominations Slate](#)

[Photography](#)

[Megan's Corner](#)

[Fragrance Garden](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Wetherill Work Party](#)

[RSVP Annual Meeting](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Calendar](#)

Newsletter editor:
Edie Tenneson

I am writing this at GCA's 2024 Annual Meeting in Hartford CT, where hundreds of women have gathered to learn, celebrate garden clubs around the country, and get to know each other better. There is a flower show as well, and both Charlee Reed and Suzy Titcomb won awards for their photographs, well done you two. Charlee's photo had all sorts of awards surrounding it. I have enjoyed getting to know many other presidents and have come away with some good ideas, some of which might be of interest to our club.

We are nearing the end of our garden club year, but that doesn't mean we are slowing down. At our May Hort Meeting, Beth Ketcham will give her provisional talk, and we will learn more about the National Affairs and Legislative Conference Beth and Christina Koons attended in March. We are also in the home stretch of the flower show, and I hope to see most of you there.

Thank you to Helen Blair and Carlyn Steiner and her Program Committee for putting on such an interesting, entertaining program at the joint Tacoma/Seattle luncheon last week, with Bowen Blair as our speaker. He spoke about Nancy Russell and her success in saving the Columbia Gorge from development, the story one person doggedly working to make a difference. It was also nice to learn that the Portland and Seattle Garden Clubs played an important role, as did the GCA.

Many of us at the luncheon bought the book, ["A Force of Nature."](#) if any of you want to borrow one.

Susan Potts



*Charlee Reed - Best In Show!
Class 5 "SURPRISE" - Color
Splash. Catch the eye with a burst of
one color. Judge's Comments:
"Handsome lighting and moody sky
invite you into the lush landscape".
Best in Show Judge's Comments:
"Beautiful composition + Technical
expertise = WOW factor"
Photo by Gail Atwater; GCH*



*Suzy Titcomb - First Place
Title: "Vibrant tulips in a bubble
ballet" Class 4, "EXPLORE" -
Creative Techniques-Color. Push the
boundary beyond the green.
Judge's Comments: "Color
gradation, strong diagonal line and
off-center focal point create
impactful composition."
Photo by Susan Potts*

Flower Show ~ Volunteers!

Garden Inspirations Flower Show

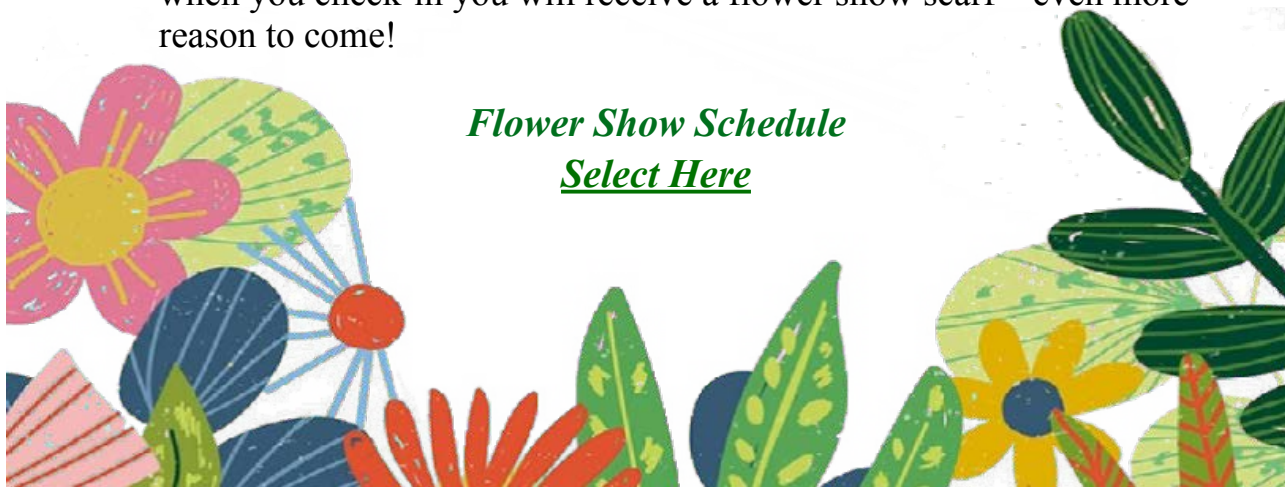
We are counting down the days until May 7-9th!

Please look into your crystal ball to set aside time to volunteer.
Many hands make for light work!

For those of you who are volunteering:

- Please check-in and wear badges. Tuesday and Thursday check-in is in the Isaacson Building, Wednesday is in the Iris Room behind the Atrium
- We will provide lunch both Tues. May 7th & Wed. May 8th to hard working volunteers
- Please bring a water bottle - let's be green!
- Wednesday and Thursday, wear black pants a white shirt and your apron, when you check-in you will receive a flower show scarf—even more reason to come!

Flower Show Schedule
[Select Here](#)



Flower Show ~ Behind the Scenes!



Last Flower Show Committee Meetings leading up to the Show!

May General Meeting



SGC Members and their guests are invited
to attend a private screening of the award-winning film,
generously underwritten by our SGC Member, Iris Wagner:

THE ARCTIC: Our Last Great Wilderness

Thursday, May 16 at 9am | Pacific Science Center | Boeing Theater
200 Second Avenue North, Seattle 98109

Reception 9 to 9:30am | Program begins promptly at 9:45am

Film followed by a conversation with the producer of the film, Tom Campion
Tom is the Co-founder and current Chairman of Zumiez, the world's largest action sports
retailer

and the 2024 recipient of the Garden Club of America
Frances K. Hutchinson Medal recognizing distinguished service to conservation.

Introduction by Sally Jewell
former President & CEO of REI and former US Secretary of the Interior

This program has been generously underwritten by Iris Wagner

[Select here for "THE ARCTIC" Film Preview](#)

[Select here for PARKING](#) Info

Please invite friends and [RSVP Here](#) to coordinate carpools, etc.

Guests will receive a complimentary book:
WE ARE THE ARCTIC, published by Braided River
Select Here to [RSVP](#)

Horticulture

April 1st we had a fascinating Provisional talk by Linda Walker via Zoom. Her presentation topic was on Georgia O'Keefe, the American flower artist, and how Charlottesville impacted her art. Linda spends part of the year in the Virginia city. This is remarkable having just enjoyed Liz's report on the other female flower artist, Frida Khalo.



"Whether the flower or the color is the focus I do not know. I do know that the flower is painted large to convey to you my experience of the flower - and what is my experience of the flower - if it is not color"



Linda Walker on Zoom, Betsy Larson, Carey Davis and Wade Garretson



Name Tag Crew: Susan Dunlap, Molly Reischling and Lucy Glenn

May brings us to Beth Ketcham's talk on artistic depiction of flowers in the Modern Art Era. As Beth will explain how the vision of art that changed in the 1960's, and remains today, altered how flora and fauna are displayed in art. It should be both colorful and insightful. You won't want to miss it on **Monday, May 6** at CUH. The program begins at 10 AM. Come early for coffee and socializing. Don't forget: **horticulture share/ reusable coffee cup/garden books and magazines to pass on.**

The May 6th program concludes the Horticulture Committee's offerings for the season. Talks by eight (8) Provisionals have been presented as well as short pieces by other SGC Members. Fall will bring opportunities for Members to share gardening tips from aphids to zinnias. If you have a topic to share with the group, please let a Horticulture Member know.



In horticulture news beyond, April, "Native Plant Month" is nearly over, but in these changing times, we strongly encourage our members to continue to learn about and plant native species. See: <https://www.wnps.org> for more information regarding plants, classes and field trips. It is a fantastic resource!

And the Department of Health of Victoria warns that precaution should be taken when using potting soil due to an increase in a type of pneumonia caused by exposure to potting soil. Using gloves and a mask are recommended.

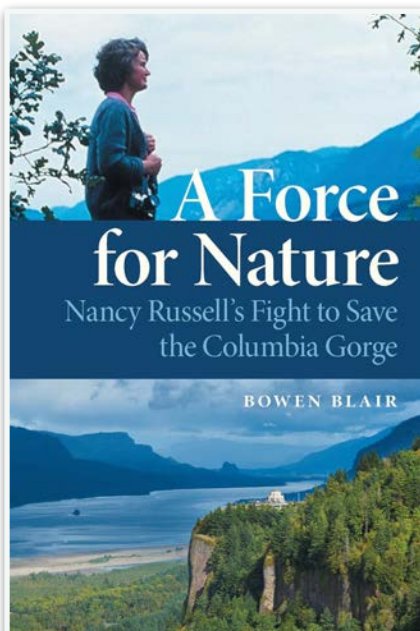


*Horticulture Committee Meeting prior to meeting.
LtoR: Eliza Davidson, Megan Smith, Jeannie Gravenkemper, Roxane Wiley, Sue Blethen, Carey Davis and Julie English*



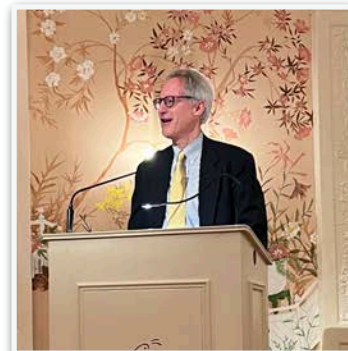
Carey Davis

Annual SGC/TGC Joint Meeting



[Bowen Blair's Website and Book info](https://www.bowenblair.com/)
[select here](#)

On April 18th at The Sunset Club in Seattle, SGC and TGC were treated to a talk by Bowen Blair about his book on the life work of Nancy Russell to protect the Columbia Gorge. Bowen is an environmental attorney, and author (and SGC member Helen Blair's cousin.) [A Force for Nature](https://www.bowenblair.com/) (<https://www.bowenblair.com/>) is an in-depth study of the path to having the Gorge declared a National Scenic Area in 1986 through the biography of Nancy, a woman with no political or organizing experience who mounted a national campaign with the help The Portland Garden Club, SCG, TCG and the GCA.



Bowen Blair

Our annual joint meeting with Tacoma Garden Club is always a treat. Seventeen members from TGC made the trek and many are entering our upcoming flower show. We should be aware; they are experienced and looking forward to the competition! Many thanks to Charlee Reed, Meeting Arrangements Chair for pivoting to The Sunset Club venue and to Carlyn Steiner, Program Chair for arranging this enlightening talk. Those of us who had not read the book before the talk left very inspired to do so!

By Peggy-Paige Most, SGC Program Committee



Helen Blair and Bowen Blair



*Jenny Wyatt with Bowen Blair's Book,
[A Force for Nature: Link Here](#)*



Joint Meeting with Tacoma Garden Club - [Photo Gallery Here](#)



*Floral Arrangements by Liz McKallor, Ana Hergert, Lucy Glenn, and Beth Ketcham.
photo by Caroline Goedhart*

Conservation



Beth Ketcham and Christina Koons have been attending the NAL conference as our Representatives at this important GCA event. Please be sure to check the GCA website [here](#) to view the recorded 2024 speakers. We look forward to hearing about Beth's and Christina's time in Washington DC. at our May 6th Hort Meeting.

Please be sure to visit the Conservation exhibit the SGC Flower Show. We will be featuring the CUH farm and showcasing information on soil health, water conservation, and indigenous crops.

Beth Ketcham and Christina Koons with Arlee Ehlers and Amy Rushforth (TGC) in Washington DC at the NAL Conference

Garden History & Design

Spring Auction Lunch at Nancy Bain's Condo

On a beautiful April day, the Garden History and Design Committee celebrated the inclusion of Nancy's Bain's garden, 'Skywatch', in the Smithsonian Archive of American Gardens with an auction lunch for 12 at Nancy's condo. After a gracious welcome from Nancy, and a tour of her 14th floor condo and garden, Anne Dor presented the photographs chosen by the Smithsonian to the SGC guests and their friends.

Lunch was provided by Committee Members in Nancy's rooftop conservatory dining room set with her family china and silver, spring flowers arranged in clear glass green bottles, and alternating placemats in spring green and black lace pattern. Everyone enjoyed the homemade food and the panoramic views of Seattle and Puget Sound all around.

-Anne Dor - GHD Chair



Debby Smith, Delphine Stevens and Host, Nancy Bain

Nominations

Nominations Committee

The Nominating Committee (Suzette de Turenne with Jill Crutcher, Wade Garretson, Barbie Snapp and Edie Tenneson) is pleased to present its slate of new officers for the Seattle Garden Club Board. Having approved the initial slate in March, the current SGC Board approved the final slate, after some adjustments, at its meeting on April 4, 2024. Approval by the General Membership will be sought at the SGC Annual Meeting luncheon on June 6, 2024.

Beginning Fall 2024, the following positions will serve beginning fall 2024 for the time periods indicated. It is typical that we endeavor to replace approximately 50% of our Board members each year. Due to the changes in our term of office for our Club President, and the elimination of Policy and Planning, a more balanced Board replacement is being attempted by the variations in the typical two-year terms to accommodate this transitional period.

Please note that Susan Potts will remain in office as our President. Her position represents the first return to a two-year term in several years.

Proposed Slate of Officers, two years, except where noted:

President Elect	Cindy Bostwick (one year/President 2025+)
Treasurer/Finance	Patsy Pattison (one year replacing Judy Rupert)
Treasurer Elect	Sheila Noonan (one year/Treasurer in 2025+)
Conservation	Beth Ketcham & Christina Koons
Floral Design	Jill Crutcher
Horticulture	Eliza Davidson
Meeting Arrangements	Peggy-Paige Most (one year)
Photography Co-Chairs	Charlee Reed & Mary Turner
Provisional Co-Chairs	Marilee Ahalt & Jolie Roze
Ways & Means Co-Chairs	Marianne Kitchell (2 nd yr) & Stacey Campbell (1 st yr)

To remain 2024-25:

President	Susan Potts
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Whittlesey
Club Communications	Kim Bishop
Corresponding Secretary	Helen Blair
Community Projects	Roxanne Wiley
Membership	Catherine Mueller



Photography

Please help by Volunteering as a Show Photographer May 7th-9th!

["Garden Inspirations" Show](#) photographers still needed for each of the Divisions, behind the scenes (set-up, passing and candids) and Preview Party. [Please Sign Up - Select Here](#)

Thank you for your help! Samples photos below, on right.

How to Photograph a Flower Show:

FOCUS Sept. 2020 Magazine article, by Sally Barnett, Late Bloomers Garden Club, [select here](#).

All types of photos welcome and here are

Below are just some of the detailed instruction included [in link](#)

Rule #3: Photo Background – Dos and Don's! check for distractions and address issues - [details on page 3](#)

Rule #4: Sequence for shooting individual winners:

- Shoot a wide-angle image that includes entry, ribbon, award, and entry card.
- Shoot a close-up of just the entry.
- Shoot a close-up of the judges' comments.
- Shoot the winning entry with the entrant(s) if possible.

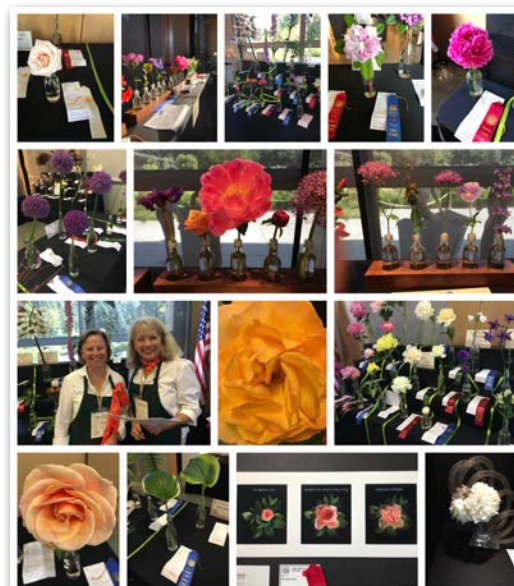
Rule #5 Candid Shots - Look for Action, Excitement and Emotion:

- Include Pre-Show activity- Set up, Passing, Preview Party, etc.
- Capture people looking at the exhibits.
- Make "Handing over Award" shots special!

Rule #8 Pay attention to photo quality:

- iPhone photos are best shot (not live) and sent in at full original size.

And so many more! [Select here for article](#).



What to Learn from Judges Comments:

FOCUS Sept. 2020 Magazine article, by Claire Smithers Mellinger, Albemarle GC, [select here](#)

The show is judged, and now what? We all hope for the blue ribbon, however what if that is not so? Never fear, there is much to learn from judges comments. They spend a lot of time making sure your take away is constructive. What went wrong. What do they mean by "lack of focus" or "distracting elements"? [Read more select here](#).

Hot off the Presses: See [page 1](#) for judges comments! Congratulations to Charlee Reed on "Best in Show" Award and Suzy Titcomb on Class 4, 1st Place, at the 2024 GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show!

Maianthemum racemosum, The Perfect Plant?

by Megan Smith

My dear husband just asked me which I loved more, him or my *Maianthemum racemosum*, a perennial otherwise known as false Solomon's seal. While it did make me pause for a moment, because this perennial is ALWAYS handsome in spring, summer and fall, my husband wins hands down because he's an evergreen, handsome in all four seasons. He edits my writing as well and makes a mean cocktail!

Maianthemum racemosum is a true winner! With its three-foot graceful, arching architectural form, ridged leaves, fragrant white panicle flowers, warm yellow fall color and red berries, it's a wonder this plant isn't in everyone's shade garden. As if looks weren't enough, this perennial is extremely low maintenance and adaptable as well. Drought tolerant and a polite colonizer, this perennial does not seek new real estate as much as the true Solomon's seal, or *Polygonatum biflorum*.



The *Maianthemum racemosum* flowers' nectar and pollen also feed our pollinator friends. Beetles, flies and bees of varying species adore this plant as do hummingbirds! Then, later in the fall, small mammals, bees and birds delight in the berries as a tasty food source. Discerning deer tend to exclude false Solomon's seal in their salad menu but will occasionally test a leaf or two.

This lovely plant has garnered major accolades! It has received the Royal Horticultural Society's prestigious "Award of Garden Merit" as well as The Garden Club of America's 2018 Freeman Medal Award runner up. It has cast its love throughout the United States by being indigenous to every state except Hawaii. So, with all these amazing features, one can only hope the *Maianthemum racemosum* doesn't turn evergreen, or else my dear husband better watch out!

Fragrance Garden

Happy Earth Day!

On April 22, six Garden Club members worked together to tidy up our Fragrance Garden.

We weeded and emptied pots, as we enjoyed donuts, sunshine, beautiful plants and each other!



Come and smell the flowers!



LtoR: Sue Blethen, Catherine Allan, Carolyn Whittlesey, Catherine Mueller, Susan Potts, and Edie Tenneson



Rhododendron "White Lights"



Hospitality

May 6th is the last meeting for Hospitality Sign-up this year!

Still need a few slots filled so please sign up here - [select link](#)

Thank you all,
Charlee Reed, Hospitality Chair

Wetherill Workers



[Link to this year's work party gallery here](#)



Henry and Helen Blair

On April 24th our Club once again showed up in force ready to tackle Wetherill Nature Preserve. Stretching from Hunt's Point to Yarrow Point, The Preserve protects an important wetland area, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the flora and fauna of this special spot. It's a wonderful place for a walk along the many trails meandering down to the waterfront vistas at Cozy Cove.

[Link to all Wetherill Galleries](#)



*Back-LoR: David Bergey (Wetherill Nature Preserve Commissioner), Helen Blair, Sue Blethen, Eliza Davidson, Betty Paul, Barbie Snapp, Anne Dor, Barbara Peterson, Catherine Allan and Sis Woodside
Middle-LoR: Jane Harder and Phoebe Andrews,
Front-LoR: Henry (Helen's Dog), Carolyn Kitchell and Edie Tenneson.
Photo by Bruce Jones (Wetherill Nature Preserve Commissioner)*



Edie Tenneson



Anne Dor



Barbara Peterson



Catherine Allan and Barbie Snapp



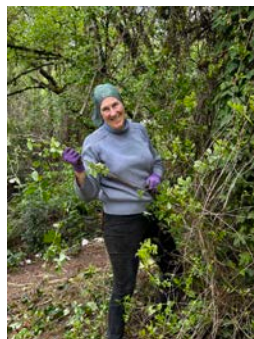
Sue Blethen



Betty Paul



Phoebe Andrews



Eliza Davidson



Sis Woodside & Edie Tenneson



Kim Bishop

For more information on Wetherill go [here](#)

Annual Meeting and Luncheon RSVP



Please [RSVP \(select here\)](#) for our SGC Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon and new provisional introductions, June 6th, at the Seattle Tennis Club.

Thursday, June 6th - [RSVP Deadline May 29th!](#)

At the Seattle Tennis Club

Social Hour and Receiving Line: 10:30 - 11:45

Luncheon/Program: 11:45 - 1:00PM

Poetry

A delicate fabric of bird song
Floats in the air,
The smell of wet wild earth
Is everywhere.



May is pretty, May is mild,
Dances like a happy child;
Sing out, robin; spring out, flowers;
April went with all her showers,
And the world is green again;
Come out, children, to the glen,
To the meadows, to the wood,
For the earth is clean and good,
And the sky is clear and blue,
And bright May is calling you!

by Annette Wynne



May Calendar

[Link to Calendar](#)
[select here](#)

Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10AM - 12PM Board Meeting, Sunset Club/Hybrid zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83062907644?pwd=Uk8rYTU1WjBwUkYGV1BvT3hSaUxMdz09	3	4 7PM - 9PM Robin Layton - Bellevue Art Museum
5	6 9:15AM - 11:30AM Hort Meeting - CUH: Beth Ketcham's Provisional Presentation: "Garden in Art, Current Day" 11:30AM - 12:30PM Flower Show Committee meeting 12PM - 1:00PM Conservation Committee Meeting 12:00PM - 1:00PM Provisional Brown Bag session to follow after Hort meeting	7 SGC, GCA Flower Show "Garden Inspirations"	8 SGC, GCA Flower Show "Garden Inspirations"	9 SGC, GCA Flower Show "Garden Inspirations"	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 9:00AM General Meeting - IMAX Theater, Pacific Science Center Tom Camplon "The Arctic: Our Last Great Wilderness"	17	18
19	20 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions to Edie5548@msn.com	21	22 10AM Miller Garden Tour 5PM - 8PM SGC Board Cocktail Party at Vicki Reed's	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June Calendar

[Link to Calendar](#)
[select here](#)

Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar June 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Prov Corsage Making/Membership Committee	6 Annual Meeting and Luncheon	7	8
9	10	11	12 11AM Old Goat Farm tour and lunch (Auction experience)	13 10AM - 1PM In/Out Board Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						