

# Garden Club of Denver

Volume 7, issue 16

February 2020

## February

### Wednesday, February 5

President's Council Meeting  
Missy Eliot's house  
11 Ivy Lane  
9:30 a.m.

### Thursday, February 6

Conservation Movie Night  
"The Biggest Little Farm"  
Sally Obregon's House  
245 Race Street, Denver  
5 p.m.

### Monday, February 10

Floret Flower Farm  
Seed Workshop  
Lise Woodard's House  
1187 S Gilpin St.  
10 a.m. - noon

### Tuesday, February 11

GCD General Meeting  
Program - "Your Garden  
Bed: Time to Change the  
Sheets?"  
Speaker - Carolyn Bennett  
10:30 a.m. - Social  
11 a.m. - Meeting, program  
and lunch to follow  
**New Location!**  
Mitchell Hall  
Denver Botanic Gardens

### Saturday, February 15

eNews Deadline



## President's Post

### Florabundance Timeline for the Evening

**6-8 p.m. - Silent Auction**

**6-7:30 p.m. - Wine Pull**

**7:15 p.m. - Dinner Buffet Opens**

**8:30 p.m. - Auction Checkout Begins**

### Net Proceeds

All of the net proceeds of the evening from the auction, donations and the wine pull will benefit capital improvements of both the Denver Botanic Gardens at York Street and Chatfield Farms. If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation. Your check can be made out to Garden Club of Denver or the Denver Botanic Gardens and mailed in with the response card.

### Menu

This evening's event is not a "grab a glass of cheap wine and a soggy cheese ball" affair! Judy Grant has worked with Catering by Design to craft a wonderful menu. Rest assured that everyone will have a spot to sit at a table to enjoy the evening but no specifically assigned seat. Mix, mingle, eat, drink and bid!

## Thursday, February 20

### Florabundance

6-8 p.m. - Silent Auction  
6-7:30 p.m. - Wine Pull  
7:15 p.m. - Dinner Buffet  
8:30 p.m. - Auction  
Checkout

Mitchell Hall

Denver Botanic Gardens

## Wed., February 26

Photography Critique  
Margaret Garbe's House  
2552 E Alameda Ave., # 78  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

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**Kay Malo has a new  
email address:  
kaymmalo@gmail.com**

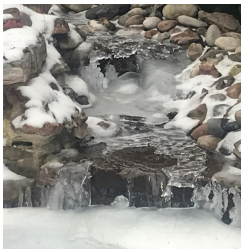
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## Quick Links

[Garden Club of Denver](#)  
[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)  
[Garden Club of America](#)



Orchids in Marnie's  
Pavilion. Photo by Suellen  
White.



## Full bar and passed hors d'oeuvres

Honey smoked salmon & rye  
Seared herb polenta  
Pear tartlet  
Sweet potato endive

## Buffet dinner

Herbed focaccia diamond  
Winter endive salad  
Truffle potato croquette  
Sautéed broccolini  
Chicken & butternut squash roulade coins  
Sage & sea salt beef shoulder tenderloin  
Stuffed portobello mushroom  
Vegetarian entree available

## Awesome Acquisitions

It should come as no surprise that Mary Fowler and her team have come up with a wonderful selection of auction items - trips in Colorado and places further afield, tickets to sporting and fine arts events and beautiful garden and home offerings. Everyone will find a treasure or two to take home.

Additional "buy a share" opportunities will also be available.

- Dinner cooked by Brain Vogt and served at Waring House
- "Cupping with Sarada" and enjoying her coffee and conversation
- A progressive dinner with Mike Bone
- A secret hike and lunch with Panayoti
- A conditioning/fitness class for gardeners
- A guided tour of Mount Goliath by Janet Manning
- A floral design class taught by Cora Sexton Wheeler and Elizabeth Weigand

And the list goes on... and on... and on...

## Florabundance Wine Pull

Please bring a bottle of your favorite wine to the February General Meeting to donate to the Florabundance Wine Pull. All colors and varieties welcome! The night of the event, all the wine will be divided by color and each bottle individually numbered. Guests will pay \$20, pull a number corresponding to a bottle from one of the categories and win the corresponding bottle to take home. Everybody is a guaranteed winner!

## RSVP!

Please do not forget to RSVP for the event so we can be sure to have a spot for you. What a great way to light up a February evening and benefit Denver Botanic Gardens!

*Missy Eliot*

Photo by Missy Eliot.



Beehives in snow. Photo by  
Cynthia Scott.

Missy Eliot  
President  
Garden Club of Denver



## February General Meeting "Your Garden Bed: Time to Change the Sheets?"

by Janet Manning

The program for our February General Meeting is "Your Garden Bed: Time to Change the Sheets?" presented by Carolyn Bennett, Hancock Park Garden Club. We'll gather at Mitchell Hall at Denver Botanic Gardens for our meeting at 11 a.m., followed by the program. (Important! Note the new location.)



We all know change is hard...but sometimes it's necessary. And our gardens aren't exempt! Carolyn's program is designed to enlighten, entertain and encourage gardeners to rethink the way we plan our gardens, experience them, and use them in the face of ecological, economic, and climate challenges. It asks the provocative question, "Just because we can, should we?"

Don't forget to bring a bottle of wine to donate for the auction's wine pull.

## GCD Membership Deadline Reminder

All names for Apprentice Membership in Garden Club of Denver are due by March 1, 2020. This year, the Club has four openings. As a reminder, all candidates must have one proposing letter from an Active or Associate Member and two seconding letters from Active or Associate Members. Proposing is step one. Please remember that mentoring your candidate through the first year and beyond is part of the process.



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## Winter 2020 Bulletin Features SMHC

Check out the latest issue of *Bulletin*, The Garden Club of America's oldest publication dating back to 1913. The Winter 2020 *Bulletin* edition features several wonderful articles on the Shirley Meneice Horticultural Conference held here in Denver last September. Our own Nancy Schotters, SMHC Event Chairman, wrote the main article recapping the event.



You should have received your print edition in your mailbox, but you can also view it online through the GCA Website. [Click here](#) to access the Winter 2020 *Bulletin*.

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## Floret Flower Farm Seeds Workshop by Deborah Foy

We are inspired by the beautiful blooms from [Floret Farm](#) and ordered some seed packets to try this spring. Getting a jump start on the season and starting seeds indoors is fun and easy. You'll enjoy a full season of beautiful repeat blooms and in the fall we will all bring a simple arrangement of our Floret Farm flowers to the Harvest Luncheon.



Join us for a workshop about starting seeds indoors. We'll highlight different grow lights and talk about how to set up a simple seed starting station. We'll send you home with a couple of varieties of annual Floret Farm flowers to kick off your spring season!

When: Monday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Lise Woodard's house, 1187 S. Gilpin Street, Denver

Questions: email Deborah at [foy.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:foy.deborah@gmail.com)

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## Important Dates for Photography Meetings

**February 26, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** Join us to critique photos from the orchid shoot and/or photos that you would like some advice about. We will meet at Margaret Garbe's, 2552 E. Alameda Avenue, Unit 78. Please RSVP to Margaret if you can attend.

**April 8, 1 - 3 p.m.** Workshop to photograph flowers for the Flower Composition Class in the June Flower Show. Details TBD.



**May 13, 1 - 3 p.m.** Help with your Flower Show presentation. Details TBD.

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## The Columbine

by Caroline Rassenfoss

Editor's Note: The theme for the Garden Club of Denver's Annual June Flower Show is "Language of Flowers." To prepare for the show, each month *eNews* will feature a different flower. This month's flower is Columbine, presented by Caroline Rassenfoss from the Conservation Committee.



The columbine - Genus: *Aquilegia*, Family: Ranunculaceae.

"Columbine" is one of the flower's common names; the other is "Granny's Bonnet." The genus *Aquilegia* consists of about 60-70 perennial plants that are found in meadows, woodlands, and at higher altitudes throughout the Northern Hemisphere. The flower is known for its spurred petals.

The blue columbine became Colorado's state flower as a result of a Colorado State General Assembly Act passed in April 1899. In 1925, the General Assembly took additional action to protect the plant by prohibiting digging columbine plants on Colorado's public lands.

Why was the white and blue Rocky Mountain columbine designated Colorado's state flower? The blue color is a symbol of the sky, the white represents snow, and the yellow center symbolizes Colorado's gold mining history. You can also find columbines growing all over the state.

The common name "columbine" traces back to the Latin word "columba," which means "dove," the bird many believe the columbine resembles. The columbine flower shape is well-suited to many nectar feeders, such as hummingbirds and hawk moths.

Columbine flowers have a rich history in herbal use. Native Americans were said to have used infusions of the plant for a variety of diseases ranging from heart problems to fever and even to help the pain of poison ivy.

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## Horticulture Happenings

### February Horticulture Tips

photos and story by Courtney Marsters

#### Hellebores

- When your hellebore flowers poke their heads out of the soil, apply a liquid fertilizer (such as fish emulsion) to give the plant a boost.
- To use hellebores as a cut flower, wait until the flower has started to form seed before you cut.

#### Forcing Flowering Branches

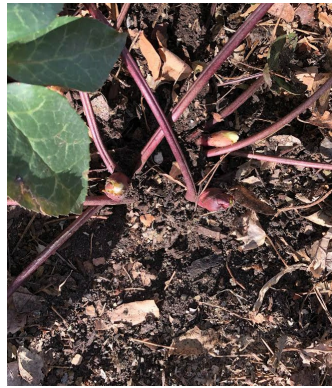
- Force outdoor branches to bloom inside by cutting 1-2 foot lengths of spring blooms - apple, cherry, plum, forsythia, lilac, dogwood, or honeysuckle.
- After bringing indoors, cut a couple of 1 inch slits from the bottom of the stem, so they will take up water.
- Place in a vase, add warm water and wait for bloom (2-6 weeks depending upon the type).

Fertilize your **Bearded Iris** in early spring with bone meal.

Get your **tools sharpened**. Call Ron Hamilton, Razor's Edge, 720-480-2133



*Helleborus niger*



*Helleborus 'Ivory Prince'*

## Floral Design

### Valentine's Day Rose Tips

Submitted by Judy Grant

Valentine's Day is almost here and with it comes a whopping 196 million long stem red roses. In honor of all those flowers, we thought you might enjoy learning these ten fun rose facts.



#### Ten Fun Rose Facts

1. Many people have been passionate about roses, but none more so than Cleopatra. It is said that the floors of her palace were carpeted with rose petals.
2. 1,000 years old, that's the age of the world's oldest living rose. Today, it flourishes on the wall of the Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany.
3. The largest rose bush resides in Tombstone, Arizona. It measures nearly 6 feet in diameter and forms a canopy large enough to shelter a crowd of 150 people. In full bloom this rose is adorned with more than 200,000 white blooms.
4. Throughout history, roses were thought to have mysterious powers. Napoleon gave them to his officers to cure lead poisoning caused by bullet wounds.
5. Roses have been out of this world. In 2002 a miniature rose, 'Overnight Scentsation,' journeyed into space to test the effects of low gravity on the sense of smell.
6. While standing in the famous White House Rose Garden, President Reagan officially made the rose the national flower emblem of the United States.
7. The red rose has been a token of love and passion for thousands of years. In Greek and Roman mythology, the red rose is linked to and loved by both Aphrodite and

Venus, the Goddesses of Love. Affluent Roman women even used rose petals like currency.

8. Botanically speaking, roses don't really have thorns; they have prickles. Thorns have deep roots in a plant's stem, but prickles attach at the surface and are more easily removed.
9. According to Victorian flower dictionaries, a rose's color determines its meaning. Red signifies "love," pink means "grace," peach signals "modesty," white denotes "purity" and orange implies "fascination."
10. And last but not least, in case you are the fortunate recipient of roses this Valentine's Day, here is a recipe to prolong their beauty. **Sugar-Clorox Mix** Prepare a Sugar-Clorox Mix by putting one-half cup granulated sugar and two teaspoons of Clorox in a two-gallon pail of warm (not hot) water. Add this to your vase and enjoy.

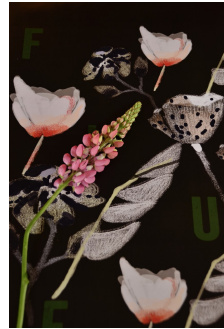
**Happy Valentine's Day from the Floral Design Committee!**

## Photography Focus

### 8 Tips for Still Life Photography on an iPhone or Camera

by Margaret Garbe

1. Use a tripod. Light can be weak and hand-held photography produces blurry photos.
2. Use indirect light. The result will be soft and even lighting.
3. Choose objects that fit the mood of your still life. Then choose objects that convey that feeling.
4. Composition is probably the most important component of a still life image. Start by choosing an object/flower as the main focus of your still life - something that draws the eye. Place the object in the frame. It can be off-center, or if you want a more symmetrical composition, place it in the center and build around the object/flower. You want the viewer's eye to move around the frame.
5. Use the rule of odds. Make sure all items in your still life come in odds. There is one exception to this rule: twos. If you have leaves, arrange in groups of 2, 3 or 5. If you have flowers, make sure there are 3, 5 or 7, not 6. Also make sure the number of groups in the photo are odd as well. But never have 4 or 6. Also try to create a triangle.
6. Use negative space to create pleasing compositions. Negative space helps a still life breathe. It gives a feeling of calmness to the composition. All of your images should have at least some negative space.
7. Choose a backdrop that fits the mood of the photo. If you have a dark, moody still life, a black background might be the best, whereas you might use a white background for an upbeat summer still life. Fabrics or paper with patterns can also be used as a background.
8. Finally, use colors of flowers or objects to enhance your still life. Check the color wheel and use it as you would in making an arrangement of flowers. Every color evokes certain emotions. Blues give a sense of calm. Reds give a sense of agitation. Greens give a sense of spring. You shouldn't use 2 opposite colors in large doses.
9. Have fun!



## Conservation Corner

### Conservation Movie Night

Thursday, February 6 at 5 p.m., Sally Obregon's house, 245 Race

Street, Denver

**The Biggest Little Farm**

"A testament to the immense complexity of nature, *The Biggest Little Farm* follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land."

Please RSVP to Caroline at [careckr@msn.com](mailto:careckr@msn.com). If we have enough people coming, we may add a second night.

