

# Garden Club of Denver

Volume 7, issue 15

January 2020

## January

**Wednesday, January 8**  
President's Council Meeting  
Missy Eliot's house  
11 Ivy Lane  
9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 14**  
GCD General Meeting  
Program - "Room to Roam  
in the New West"  
Speaker - Dave Showalter  
10:30 a.m. - Social  
11 a.m. - Meeting, program  
and lunch to follow  
Gates Hall  
Denver Botanic Gardens

**Wednesday, January 15**  
eNews Deadline

## Quick Links

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



Brooklyn Heights, New York City.  
Photo by Suellen White.

## President's Post

*"It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire  
of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. The crisp winter air is  
full of it."*

-John Burroughs, *Winter Sunshine*

Happy new year! I hope you and yours enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. As we look ahead, we have lots of exciting activities and opportunities coming up between now and the end of June to look forward to. Grab a cup of tea and your calendar!

First, the GCD general meeting on January 14 will be an open meeting. Dale Showalter will be the speaker. Please feel free to bring lots of guests. You will find more information about this further down in this newsletter.

February 20 is Florabundance, GCD's fundraiser disguised as a fun party! **The evening will feature a silent auction, cocktails and dinner.** This is another great opportunity to bring friends, family and prospective



Photo by Alice Hughes.



Photo by Janet Manning.



Photo by Alice Hughes.

members to enjoy an evening with us. You will be receiving an invitation to this mid-January. We are thrilled to have some really fun and unique items and experiences to auction off.

The March meeting is open to the public. David Guggenheim will be speaking on “Lessons from the Deep: What the Oceans Are Telling Us – and Why It Matters.” Please note that this will be a late afternoon meeting at Mitchell Hall. Again, we would love to have a big crowd at this meeting so please spread the word. If you are a member of another local garden club, please email Janet Manning the name and contact information of that club’s president.

April finds twenty lucky members of GCD who will travel to Mount Vernon for a fun trip organized by Judy Grant. Judy serves as the Vice Regent for the state of Colorado on the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association Board and has organized a wonderful itinerary, including tours and opportunities that are not usually open to the public. Thank you, Judy!

May is the official kick off for work in Lainie’s Cutting Garden at DBG – fickle Colorado weather permitting. January is a great time to look at the “bones” of your sleeping garden and daydream about what might be possible in 2020. The DBG Plant Sale is the perfect opportunity to make those gardening dreams a reality.

Finally, we roll into June, and we will once again have a Club Flower Show. The theme this year is “The Language of Flowers.” The schedule should be ready to distribute by the February meeting. I encourage everyone to enter. The process is educational, fun and a great chance to try your hand at exhibiting. Of course, the shiny prizes and bragging rights are nice as well.

Happy New Year!

*Missy Eliot*

Missy Eliot  
President  
Garden Club of Denver





Photo by Missy Eliot.

## **Florabundance: Treasures, Talents, Tickets and Trips 2.20.20**

by Mary Fowler

Momentum is building for a fun and fabulous silent auction at our Florabundance celebration on February 20, 2020.

- Members have been digging through their garden and home treasures - dishes, garden containers, fur coats, art and more.
- Brian Vogt is cooking dinner for ten.
- Panayoti Kelaidis is taking a group on a "secret" hike in the foothills.
- What about a week in Punta Mita, Mexico, or a stay in Silverton during wildflower season?
- Winter or summer vacation stays in Steamboat, Aspen and Vail will also be available.
- Tambi is going to create a picnic basket dinner for a summer concert.
- The Grand Lake Gang is working to put together a midweek stay in Estes Park, followed by a guided trip over Trail Ridge Road to look at the sites, ending with dinner and an overnight stay in Grand Lake.
- The Grant Family is offering a golf foursome at Raccoon Creek, lunch at the clubhouse included.



Our members and the Gardens have been so creative and generous. The list goes on, but we still need more members to be thinking about what they can do to make this evening a successful fundraiser for DBG. January will be our time to flesh out these auction items and plan for a wonderful evening in Mitchell Hall. Happy New Year, everybody!

For more information, contact Mary Fowler at [mdaltonf@gmail.com](mailto:mdaltonf@gmail.com).

## **January General Meeting "Room to Roam in the New West"**

by Janet Manning

Our January General Meeting in Gates Hall on January

14 promises to be an inspirational and visually entertaining one. Conservation photographer Dave Showalter is focused on the American West, with its remarkable open spaces, wildlife and rivers that begin as snow falling on the Continental Divide. Dave uses a collaborative, community approach to visual storytelling to traverse the shortgrass prairie, sagebrush sea (think the Gunnison Sage-Grouse!), and the Colorado River watershed and his presentation will reveal reclusive wildlife, public and private lands conservation, and challenges we all face in conserving the New West.



In his presentation, Dave seeks to make a deeper connection to our Western lands and how we all can contribute as part of the conservation community. All of us can gain some new ideas about how to make a difference. Guests are encouraged for this meeting, especially any prospective new members. Cost for lunch is \$20, payable to the Garden Club of Denver. Please include the name of your guest when you RSVP for the meeting.

## GCA Judge Emeritus

Congratulations to two of our own Garden Club of Denver members, Marilyn Wilson and Sissy Gibson, for receiving their Judge Emeritus status from the Garden Club of America.



"In appreciation of many years of knowledgeable service as a Garden Club of America Approved Judge."

## New Year's Resolution: RSVP to GCD Meetings

by Ann Ellis



Members have been very lax in their response to the meeting invitations and this makes it difficult for our hostesses to have the correct headcount for food and seats.

NAME*	<input type="text" value="HagPac"/>
ALIAS	<input type="text"/>
FIRST	<input type="text"/>
LAST	<input type="text"/>
EMAIL	<input type="text" value="dhagpac@cox.net"/>
CELL PHONE	<input type="text" value="(303) 877-8903"/>
WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE MEETING PORTIONS*	WILL YOU BE ATTENDING LUNCHEON*
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO

Our Garden Club of Denver Bylaws state: "Members are required to RSVP and will be charged \$20 if they do not respond to meeting notices, or if they accept and do not attend, or regret and do attend."

We have a beautiful new Website and there is a spot to RSVP. First you must log in to the site [gardenclubofdenver.com](http://gardenclubofdenver.com) and then click on the "Members Area" top right. This will take you to a new page and you will see "RSVP for the next Meeting" on the left of the

page. Click on that and you will be taken to a page where you can fill in if you are attending the meeting and lunch – 3 clicks and you are done!

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## Glass Gem Corn: Poster Child for the Return to Heirloom Seeds

Submitted by Margaret Brown



Brittle corn stalks border a backyard garden in Flagstaff, Arizona, on a windswept mesa surrounded by ponderosa pine trees. They look dried-up and ordinary, but the garden's owner, Carol Fritzinger, says opening up the husks to see what's inside is like Christmas morning. "Oooh, this one's a pink and purple variety," she says, laughing as she peels back a husk to show a translucent, rainbow-colored corn cob inside. "You just never know!"

"Glass Gem" is like no other corn in the world. It's a throwback to ancient varieties and bred specifically for its beauty. A photo of one stunning rainbow-colored corn cob went viral in 2012. Since then, it has inspired thousands of people to get involved with seed saving.

"I want everyone to grow it," Fritzinger says, showing off a cob patterned with red-and-white swirls like peppermint candy. "So I give as much seed away as people will take." "Glass Gem" has its own Facebook page with more than 19,000 followers, but its journey from an Oklahoma cornfield to Internet fame started with a man named Carl Barnes. Barnes wanted to explore his Cherokee roots, so he began collecting and planting ancient varieties of corn. A mix of Cherokee, Osage, and Pawnee varieties produced two tiny, multicolored cobs, which he showcased at a native plant gathering.

[Read More](#)

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## Horticulture Happenings

### Horticulture Challenge Class for 2020 GCD Flower Show

story and photo by Courtney Marsters

The Kentucky Coffeetree, *Gymnocladus dioica*, was awarded honorable mention for GCA's Montine McDaniel Freeman Award "Plant of the Year" in 2019. [Click here](#) for more information.

We hope to propagate seeds from the Kentucky Coffeetree for a Challenge Class in our 2020 June flower Show. Participants will be given a seed in late March to early April to plant. The seeds need to be filed and soaked overnight for rapid germination and planted ½" deep in potting soil. Pots can



remain indoors or taken outside when the weather is warm.

The Kentucky Coffeetree is a terrific shade tree for Denver as it is tolerant of pollution and alkaline soils. The leaves emerge late and drop early in the fall - a desirous trait with our erratic snows. It grows to 70 feet in full sun and is an excellent alternative to ash trees that are being lost to the Emerald Ash Borer. It has four-season interest and pollinators are attracted to the rose-scented flowers in the early summer. The leaves are soft and lacy in the summer, allowing plants to grow beneath the canopy. Fall brings yellow foliage and winter brings a striking silhouette.

## Conservation Corner

### What To Do With Your Dried Out Tree and Tangled Old Christmas Lights?

by Liz Walker



#### **TREECYCLE:**

Denver Waste Management Treecycle program runs January 6-17. Leave your natural tree without lights or tinsel on trash collecting day.

Drop off locations are available for those not eligible for Denver Waste Management programs. Available through January 31, 2020.

1. Cherry Creek Recycling Dropoff: 7354 E. Cherry Creek Drive S.
2. Havana Nursery: 10450 Smith Road

For more information and hours, [Click Here](#).

#### **HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLE**

Don't throw out your broken or burned out sets of holiday lights! The Cherry Creek Recycling Drop-off site will accept incandescent, LED and icicle lights with strings and bulbs attached.

#### **WRAPPING PAPER AND RIBBON**

Wrapping paper, colored tissue paper and bows are NOT recyclable! White tissue paper is compostable. Think about for next holiday season using reusable wrapping: tea towels, fabric scraps, glass containers, paper boxes, gift bags, brown paper, and newspaper. This blog post has some great ideas to use for year-round for gift-giving. [Click Here](#) to view the Ecocult Website.

## Floral Design

### Holiday Greens Extravaganza

by Judy Grant

For those GCD members participating in the Holiday Greens Workshop this year, the project of a festive message turned out to be not only easy to accomplish but also beautiful for any number of uses.

After first filling a roll of chicken wire with Spanish moss and mood moss, the group began

to add various branches of cedar, fir and pine, then filling in with red and white tulips, roses, hydrangea, and curly willow. Rounding out the lush look, members also added Hypericum, Star of Bethlehem (how appropriate!), *Brunia albiflora*, and winter berry. The process was fun and friendly, the result a finished product that could go on a mantel, a dining room table, or credenza.

Many thanks to the Floral Design Committee with Martha Veldkamp and Bonnie Grenney heading up the creative part of the project, and to Judy Grant for keeping track of communication and checks.

For those of you who made one of these, just remember to submerge the bottom part fully in water every two or three days.



## Photography Focus

### Embracing Light in Your Photographs

by Sarah Grey

Critiquing art can be very subjective. Personal opinions as to what constitutes "good" art can be as varied as our fingerprints. "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" gives us the freedom to experience art from a personal perspective: what moves you, why you like it, what don't you like, and so on.

When creating art, or in this case photography, usually the common goal is to create something that you (and hopefully others) would enjoy looking at. Following some of the basic principles of photography will give you a foundation to create your own unique style of photographs. Sometimes our best photos can come from a spontaneous moment and other times they are a well thought out process. Either way, the success of the photo incorporates a combination of principles that make it successful.



#### Principles of Composition:

- Balance
- Contrast
- Dominance
- Proportion

- Rhythm
- Scale

### **Elements of Composition:**

- Color
- Form
- Light/Value
- Line/Pattern
- Space
- Texture

While all these Principles and Elements of Composition play an important part of photography, I'm partial to the following quote by George Eastman, "Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography."

Light is the key element in your photograph, like the conductor in the symphony. How you address light helps you translate your objective. Is there a particular mood you would like to convey? Perhaps a shot on a foggy day or after a rain storm will add more drama. Bright light evokes a different response than a more soft, diffused light. Black and white photos can feel more timeless or effective by tempering the midday sun. Changes in weather capture moods and drama, as do overcast days, which create a perfect setting to photograph flowers and foliage. Shooting at dawn creates photos with a softer light versus late afternoon/dusk; when the light is warmer, more dramatic. Either time of day, the angles of light are lower and thus impact the scene with more patterns, shadows and drama. Front lighting, back lighting and side lighting are all important aspects of your light source on the subject and each approach creates a different effect: glow, transparency or highlights with shadows.

The Denver Art Museum's current exhibit, "The Truth of Nature," highlights more than 120 paintings by Claude Monet. Monet dedicated much of his life trying to capture the essence of light in his paintings. Often he experimented by painting the same subject matter in different seasons or at different times of the day, for example his Haystack, Poplar and Water Lillies series. Understanding and experiencing the impact, importance and mood of light in these paintings would greatly help any photographer gain a fresh perspective.

Creating our own photographs can sometimes seem intimidating or overwhelming as to where to start. On the heels of the Monet exhibit, I thought it would be fun to encourage you to set an intention in your photo project with repetition of a subject with the study of light. Perhaps on your walk, you have noticed an intriguing architectural feature, maybe a pretty view or a garden gate. Maybe driving around town, you have noticed something that has caught your eye. Maybe a simple element in your own backyard...whatever it may be, your decisions need to be simple and practical so you can execute your project with success.

- Decide your subject.
- Decide on what time or times of the day you will repeat your photo. One in the morning and one in the evening of the same day?
- You might pick the same time of day on several different days.
- If you are intrigued, you could practice this throughout the various seasons.
- Play around with the emotions you are trying to capture and adjust accordingly with your light source.
- Have fun! Interesting light, subject matter and repetition generally can create a sense of wonderment and interest for the viewer.

No doubt with this project, you will learn about many other principles and elements of



composition. But addressing the key foundation of light in photography, and the twist of repetition in the subject matter, you will have created a portfolio of works I suspect you will be quite pleased with and perhaps would hang on your wall or better yet, consider entering in a photography show.