

# Garden Club of Denver

Volume 8, Issue 1

July/ August 2020



## President's Post

To be in our gardens again and no longer cleaning closets, home-schooling (for now) or baking bread, is joyful. We are embarking on a year like no other in the history of GCD or GCA. The Garden Club of America has canceled all meetings requiring travel until September 2021. Your GCD leadership is working hard to provide safe ways to be together so we can continue to be connected and have fun. We will have our Annual Meeting outside in DBG's Annuals Garden and Pavilion on September 8<sup>th</sup>. All meetings and workshops will have a virtual option or be Zoom Meetings if necessary. Our GCA Flower Show, "The Language of Flowers," in September of 2021, will ignite our creativity and encourage us to interact with our talented GCD members.

The logo for our Flower Show, displayed below, is an inspiration! To quote our new affiliate member, Dodie Jackson, "Once again, Angela Overy has created another beautiful work of art." As I began to research and study the flowers Angela chose for this logo design, a clear message from the bouquet became apparent. When you think about the challenges and changes COVID-19 has thrust upon us, her choice of flowers is perfect. The dahlia is

about resilience, the Peace rose speaks to new beginnings while the orange lily is all about courage and anger (directed toward this nasty virus). The yellow lily, on the other hand, represents the desire and need for enjoyment. The gladiolus reminds us to be strong in character while the little pansy's sentiment is immunity and "love in idleness". The zinnia speaks to missing or the absence of those we love, like our grandchildren who must remain six feet away out of our arms. This little nosegay is a message to us all to be resilient, strong, and loving while courageous during this time of adversity!

Enjoy this intriguing theme called "The Language of Flowers" and let's all embrace our creativity, practice and learn with our GCD friends however it is personally comfortable, and have a great time in the process. This year will be about resilience, education and fun!

Thanks,

Meg Nichols



## Calendar of Events



### Mark your calendar!

- September 8, 2020: GCD Meeting, details to follow
- September 22-23, 2020: Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference
- October 13, 2020: GCD Meeting, Details TBD
- November 10, 2020: GCD Meeting, Details TBD
- November 17-18, 2020: Conservation Study Conference
- December 8, 2020: GCD Meeting, Details TBD
- NEW! January 21, 2021: Photography Conference
- February 23-24, 2021: National Affairs & Legislation Conference
- NEW! April 8, 2021: Floral Design Conference
- May 11-12, 2021: GCA Annual Meeting

## Reminders



### What's Happening?

- Don't forget to sign up to help at Lainie's Cutting Garden this summer! [Click here](#) to sign up.
- CALLING ALL SHIRLEY MENEICE WANNABES! The Shirley Meneice conference originally planned for mid-September in Chicago has gone virtual, and GCA is making an abbreviated version available to all GCA members at no cost on September 22-23. Be on the lookout for more information coming mid-August.



**In Memory  
Judy Wilson Grant**  
Photo and story by Meg Nichols

How do you capture her spirit, smile or laugh in words? This picture is indeed worth a thousand of them. Such energy, passion and whimsy were shared with us and we will miss her.

As her daughter Margaret so aptly wrote, "Judy will be remembered as a tireless worker, a model of integrity and grace, and for her effervescent optimism and laughter that affected those who knew her."



[Garden Club of Denver](#)

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*Clematis hirsutissima* seed head by Mary Fowler



Peonies by Marianne Sulser

**Floral Design Tips  
and Inspiration**  
by Nina Sisk and  
Cora Wheeler

Certainly we are witnessing unprecedented times...Who would think that a face mask would hang with our car keys?



*Bombus huntii* on *Gaillardia* by Deborah Foy

**Photography Focus  
Photography Inspirations!**  
by Deborah Foy

"When your heart jumps every time your camera locks focus...you've become a photographer" Mark Denman

For many of us the social distance and encouragement to “stay at home” has put us in our gardens more than ever. We hope these additional hours have brought you renewed enthusiasm for floral combinations and design. Floral design is about using what you have to the best of your ability, so we encourage you to get back in your gardens and “play” with what surrounds you. Lambs ear, barberry, clematis vine, seed pods, ferns, hosta and *Heuchera* can become the base for interesting arrangements. Make a commitment with yourself to try a “miniature” or hone your skills at a hand tied bouquet. The more you work with flowers, the more confidence you will have. Working from your garden will help you appreciate not only color combinations, but also texture and form.

#### Some Tips for Cutting Your Own Flowers:

- Flowers picked early in the morning perform best in a vase, followed by flowers picked in the evening
- Pick your flowers before fully mature
- Condition flowers for several hours before arranging. Clean tepid water is the norm.
- Store flowers in a cool dark place
- Keep your tools clean to avoid spread of disease

Take the opportunity of spending more time at home to ponder some of the best sources for learning more about floral design. Here are some books that will definitely inspire you.

- *The Flower Workshop* by Ariella Chezar
- *A Year of Flowers and Cut Flower Farm* by Erin Benzakein of Floret Farm
- *In Full Flower* by Gemma and Andrew Ingalls
- *The Flower Recipe Book* by Alethea Haramopolis
- *Styling Nature* by Lewis Miller
- *Cultivated* by Christin Geall

There are also some wonderful florists to follow on the web.

- Phillipa Craddock, UK Florist, @Philippacraddock.com
- Erin Benzakein @Floretfarms.com

Along with a sun hat, my iPhone is the other item I reach for every time I head outside. I'm not making calls or checking emails; I'm grabbing it to shoot a cool native bee sipping nectar, a perfect strawberry picked fresh from the garden or a praying mantis cocoon discovered on a fence post. Photography can be that simple and much more deliberate but it's full of creativity, artistry and for me, a wonderful photo journal of my garden throughout the seasons.

#### Looking for a creative spark?

Instagram has an abundance of incredible photographers that will inspire, from big nature shots in Rocky Mountain National Park @imagesofmnp or the beautiful images of Colorado landscapes from Jody Grigg @jodygrignatureshots.

GCA photographers also provide a wealth of inspiration and passion for capturing the world around us. Several are featured on the Photography Committee page of the GCA website. Their stories are fun to read and the photo galleries are outstanding. [Karen McCormick](#) picked up her dad's camera as a child and a life-long passion was sparked. [Sarah Starrett](#)'s passion has led her to train as a GCA photography judge.

Consider entering the [America The Beautiful](#) photography contest for GCA when you are out capturing great images this summer. Choose from 12 different themed classes and send your digital JPEG image between September 1st and 30th for consideration.

As your photography co-chairs this year, Suellen and I are looking forward to inspiring you to look for opportunities, big or small to take the shot.



Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin

- Tutorials by Mayesh Wholesale Florists via Youtube.

Your Floral Design Committee Chairs are busy planning creative, interesting floral design workshops for the GCD calendar. They plan to incorporate new trends in floral design while continuing to increase your knowledge of techniques and best practices. Stay tuned for meeting announcements on whether we are able to meet in our normal fashion or if social distancing remains in place.

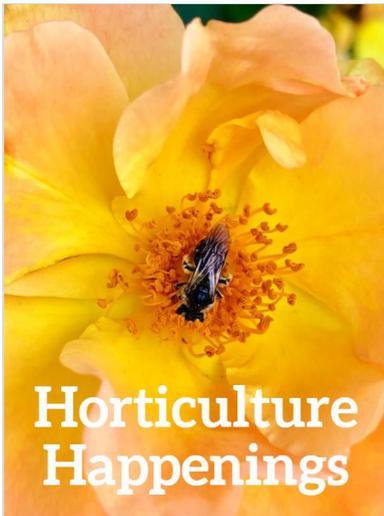


## Fête des Fleurs Cancelled by Becky Shaub Fête des Fleurs Co-Chair

For 35 years, the Fête des Fleurs has been one of our community's most elegant and loved parties, considered by many as an "end of summer" tradition. Due to the current COVID parameters, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the event for 2020.

In lieu of attending the event, please consider supporting the Fête des Fleurs on the Days of Giving. Gifts can be made directly to DBG beginning August 24, 2020 and culminating on the day we would've had the event, August 28th, 2020. Please click [here](#) to make your gift! Funds raised during the Days of Giving will go to provide vital general support to the Gardens, including core outreach programs.

The committee and sponsors have already committed \$135,000 and our goal for the days of giving is \$215,000. Please help us make this happen!



## Horticulture Happenings

Morden's "Sunrise" Rose by Alice Hughes

**Horticultural Happenings**  
by Nancy Schotters  
and Leslie Liedtke



## Conservation Corner

Lower Turquoise Lake by Marianne Sulser

### Conservation Corner By Amy Mower

The BIG NEWS is the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) is heading to the House of Representatives after being passed by the Senate in June 2020.

This bill is huge because it is a combination of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act and the Restore our Parks and Public Lands Bill.

## HORTICULTURE 101: KNOWING, GROWING, & SHOWING

The Horticulture Committee for GCA has been working on a new initiative to inspire members and clubs to get engaged with horticulture. To that end, they have established HORTICULTURE 101, a series of hands-on modules and slide shows on various propagation methods. The committee had been developing this even before the COVID-19 outbreak made workshops more challenging as a way to give clubs an education platform not dissimilar to Floral Design 101 and 201. There are 7 topics posted on the Horticulture landing page, and more will be added throughout the year. Check them out, especially now when we are mostly housebound. Follow this link to see what is offered: [Click here](#)

We plan to reschedule the soil and dye garden workshops at Chatfield when GCD resumes group activities. If you have ideas for workshops or areas of interest you'd like us to pursue, please contact us. Nancy Schotters: [nancy@schotters.com](mailto:nancy@schotters.com) Leslie Liedtke: [leliedtke@gmail.com](mailto:leliedtke@gmail.com)

As you might remember, the LWCF was passed in March 2019 to permanently address and protect our national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, rivers and lake areas.

Funding for the LCWF comes from fossil fuel drilling, but historically has been severely underfunded.

Now, with this new legislation, GAOA will address \$20 billion in deferred maintenance within our national parks; create 100,000 new jobs for our national parks, forest service, fish and wildlife and BLM; and finally to provide guaranteed funding of \$900 million to LWCF.

GCA has issued a call for action for all of us to contact our members of Congress to support this Act, which will be voted on before this publication comes out. During these difficult times, we all realize how incredibly important our public lands and parks are to the American people. During the pandemic, our outdoor spaces have given us all solace and normalcy. Let's appreciate this legislation coming now to help us maintain our national parks and create new jobs.



*Lilium philadelphicum* or Wood Lily  
by Sarah Young

### Coping with COVID-19 in Garden Club of Denver by Sarah Young

As with all our GCA clubs this year, the challenge for the Garden Club of Denver is keeping our club active and functional while coping with the COVID-19 epidemic. The poll by our Executive Committee revealed little enthusiasm for meeting indoors in large groups, so we are adapting by turning to outdoor activities in small



GCD's own Missy Elliot and Nancy Schotters with  
Shirley Meneice (center)

### In Memory of Shirley Meneice by Nancy Schotters

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley Meneice on July 16, 2020. She was a passionate horticulturist, a mentor to so many, and inspiration for all of us. She was a member of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club.

Shirley began gardening with a great zeal at the age of 5, when her mother gave her

groups, employing appropriate precautions, to satisfy our longing for camaraderie.

Outdoor adventures in the mountains are always popular for Colorado dwellers and never more so than now. We are especially fortunate to have Rocky Mountain National Park within a 2 hour drive of Denver and the recent wildflower hike at the Grant property adjacent to the park was a welcome chance for a few of us to be together on a beautiful July morning. The Grants' cabins, which have been in Rhondda and Liza Grants' family since the 1890's, were a safe and convenient base for exploring the wildflower meadows in the park and around the cabins.

With the pandemic, 2020 has been less than optimal in many ways, but it has proven to be a great year for wildflowers, so our efforts were well rewarded. Liza Grant shared her lifetime of knowledge as she guided us to find over 25 varieties of flowers currently in bloom. The most exciting sighting was of the rare wood lily, *Lilium philadelphicum*. Its size and intense color were a delight. It is always interesting to see the wild versions of our favorite garden flowers and to learn about their preferred conditions.

The scent of the ponderosa pines, the cool mountain breezes and intense blue skies lifted all our spirits. Walking along the Big Thompson River, sharing an outdoor lunch together and catching up with friends was at least as important as our horticultural adventure, and the magnificent views of Long's Peak were an added treat. We left with a keen appreciation for the 100-plus years of the Grant family's stewardship of this remarkable ecosystem.

a small patch of garden. She planted radishes that did quite well, and she never looked back. After college, she moved west to Kansas City, then California, learning from each ecosystem what would thrive. She was an accomplished propagator, including of camellias, and has a cultivar named for her. On the GCA seed share database you will still find seeds of numerous plants that Shirley collected and made available to GCA members.

Shirley was so grateful to participate in the conference that was inspired by and named for her when we hosted it in 2019. She enthusiastically joined tours and breakout sessions, taking notes and constantly looking to learn something new. Her note to me after she returned home was full of gratitude for our hospitality and admiration for DBG's amazing staff. She said of the staff "if any of them would like to live in the Carmel area, I'm sure we could find a place for them – although our skiing is mainly on water, salty water." But her highest praise was for our club in planning and executing "the best Shirley Meneice Conference ever." As her friend Luise Strauss noted of Shirley, "What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you may never get to see."

She requested no service, but should you wish, sow a seed, propagate a plant, or dig in the dirt in her memory. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The Garden Club of America Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference Fund, Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club, Center for Plant Conservation, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden, League of Women Voters, Connecticut College, or the organization of your choice.

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Janet Manning graciously hosted a tour of her garden on June 15th amid the COVID-19 lock-down in Denver. Many thanks to her and those who participated.



Elk Herd at Evans Ranch by Mary Fowler





Holley Sanford and Janet Manning enjoying the tour of Janet's beautiful garden.  
Photo by Alice Hughes

Mountain Road by Suellen White



Butterfly by Alice Hughes



Photo courtesy of veldkampsflowers.com

### Little Bouquet Fund

The Little Bouquet Fund (LBF) is a breath of fresh air for our members who could use some cheering up, or to whom we wish to send a big thank you. Members of GCD can support others with this fund, which is made up of voluntary donations from members at dues time. Please contact Cindy Scott when you know of someone who needs a little bouquet and we will send some good cheer on its way. Read a short history of the LBF [here](#).

### GCD Board and Committees 2020-2021

#### Executive Committee

President: Meg Nichols  
Vice President: Cindy Scott  
Corresponding Secretary: Bar Chadwick  
Recording Secretary: Alice Hughes  
Treasurer: Maureen Barker  
Director: Missy Eliot

#### Committee Chairmen

**Admissions & Membership-elected:**  
Jane Davis & Margaret Garbe

### Committee Chairmen (Continued)

#### 2021 GCA Flower Show:

Missy Eliot & Nina Sisk

#### Fund Development:

Liza Grant

#### Garden History & Design:

Holley Sanford

#### Historian:

Muffie Dahlberg

#### Horticulture:

**Awards & Founders Fund:**  
Sally Obregon

**Bulletin & Communications:**  
Sarah Young

**Conservation National Affairs and  
Legislation:**  
Lisä Woodard & Amy Mower

**Denver Botanic Gardens Committees:**

Cutting Garden:  
Genie Waters & Linda Zinn

Fete Liaisons:  
Debbie Davis & Nan Procknow

Flower Arranging:  
Debbie Davis

Holiday Décor:  
Lisa Duke & Ann Ellis

**Directory (Roster):**  
Amy Slothower & Megan Mahncke

**Floral Design:**  
Nina Sisk & Cora Wheeler

Leslie Liedtke & Nancy Schotters

**Hospitality:**  
Nancy Jones & Martha Veldkamp

**Judging:**  
Hope Connors

**eNews:**  
Marianne Sulser & Mary Talbot

**Nominating:**  
Missy Eliot

**Photography:**  
Suellen White & Deborah Foy

**Programs:**  
Caroline Rassenfoss & Tish Szurek

**Scholarships:**  
Ann Crammond

**Visiting Gardens:**  
Lindsay Dodge

**Website:**  
Kathleen Woodberry  
& Elizabeth Weigand