

Garden Club of Denver

Volume 7, issue 20

June 2020

June

President's Council Meeting is cancelled this month

June General Meeting is cancelled this month

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Spring Tulips.
Photo by Missy Eliot.



Iris in rain. Photo by Suellen White.

President's Post

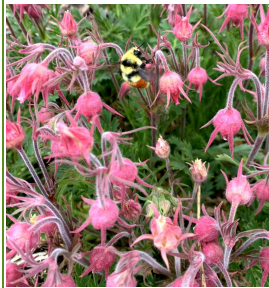
A Gardener's Blessing *unknown*

May the bunnies never nibble on your tender shoots,
May your transplants settle in and put down hardy roots,
May your weeds pull easily, your lawn stay fungus free,
May you never put your back out or inhale a bumblebee,
May your roses never stab you or your hoses spring a leak,
And may everyone visit when your garden is at its peak,
May you never grow weary as you toil for hours and hours.
May you never be too busy to stop and smell the flowers!

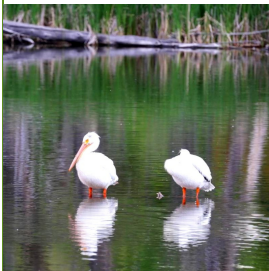
Well, here's to one of the stranger endings of a Garden Club of Denver year! We are such a strong club and have so much to be proud of – even in this unusual time. As I look back over the past twelve months, my first response is gratefulness. Even though the year was cut short, what we



Star of Bethlehem.
Photo by Suellen White.



Prairie Smoke.
Photo by Margaret Garbe.



Pelicans.
Photo by Amy Mower.

accomplished in nine-ish months was inspiring.

We started the year by impressing and amazing all who attended the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference. Did you know that our long relationship with the Denver Botanic Gardens was one of the topics at The Garden Club of America's Fall Business Meeting? What we have created and nurtured between the Club and the Denver Botanic Gardens is the ideal, not the norm. Thanks again to everyone who participated in this wonderful conference!

Next we held an incredibly successful fundraiser to benefit the Denver Botanic Gardens. The proceeds (\$70,000!) will be split equally between York Street and Chatfield. Chatfield will use \$35,000 to work on the Path Lighting Project and York Street will apply \$35,000 to the Nursery Phase One project. Thank you to the entire Florabundance Committee!

We then hosted our community meeting, featuring David Guggenheim, on March 10. Only a week later, the city enacted the "Stay at Home" order and the GCD President's Council voted to regretfully cancel all future activities in light of the impact of Covid 19. I am so grateful that we could squeeze in those last two events as they were certainly highlights of the year!

In between these events were the always wonderful monthly meetings, workshops, movie nights, propagation exercises, newsletters and emails to keep us all connected. Thank you to all the GCD committee chairmen for all of your work throughout the year!

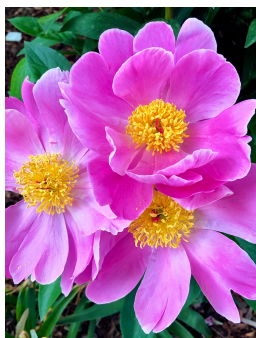
Now, on to the virtual side of GCD ... Kathleen Woodberry rebuilt our website and it is wonderful!

I also send a huge thank you to both Alice Hughes and Ann Ellis who have worked tirelessly to keep us connected to one another virtually since mid-March. Never have the newsletter, jokes and pictures provided such a great source of cheer, connection and communication for GCD members.

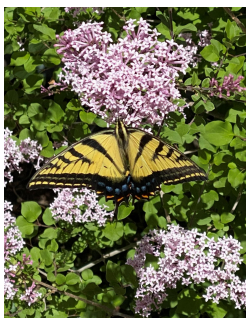
Doodle polls became our way of conducting business. We approved amended Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, the 2020-2021 budget, voted on inviting three new women to become Apprentice members for the 2020-2021 year and



African Daisy.
Photo by Alice Hughes.



'Mischief' Japanese Peony.
Photo by Janet Manning.



Lilacs and swallowtail
butterfly. Photo by
Missy Eliot.

approved the 2020-2021 GCD Executive Committee and Admissions/Membership Chairmen.

Virtual meetings through Zoom are also now the new normal both in GCD and in GCA. Our floral workshop originally scheduled for May was held via Zoom. All the members of the GCA were able to log on and “participate” in the GCA Annual Meeting. For those of you who missed seeing that, please [click here](#).

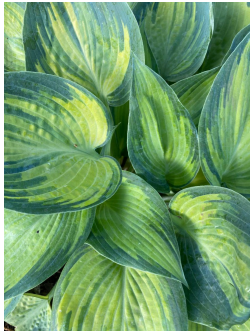
Communicating and conducting business virtually is here to stay but being together in person, when we can, will be wonderful! Meg and I both hope that we can have our Annual Meeting in September at the Denver Botanic Gardens in the Annuals Pavilion to celebrate in person. We have awards and shiny prizes to present, three new Apprentices to welcome and the 2020-2022 Executive Committee to welcome. Please plan to attend – even if we end up seated socially distanced in the amphitheater.

Even though we cannot be together currently, we can still create a sense of community with each other. Please check and update your profile and add a photo as needed on the beautiful new [Garden Club of Denver website](#) to save Amy Slothower from having to follow up with you. After that, dig in the dirt, photograph your fabulous gardens and send your pictures to Kathleen Woodberry, Ann Ellis (until July 1) and Bar Chadwick after that. Offer up lovely but unwanted plant babies for “curbside pick-up,” open your garden for visits from socially distanced GCD members, have socially distanced picnics, laugh and love and celebrate summer!

I send you and yours wishes to stay well. I thank you also for giving me the privilege and honor of serving as President of the Garden Club of Denver for the past two years. I treasure the memories!

Missy Eliot

Missy Eliot
President
Garden Club of Denver



Avocado hosta. Photo by
Missy Eliot.



GCD 2020-2022 Slate of Officers

President – Meg Nichols

Vice President – Cindy Scott

Treasurer (through June 2021) – Maureen Barker

Recording Secretary – Alice Hughes

Corresponding Secretary – Bar Chadwick

Director – Missy Eliot

Admissions/Membership – Jane Davis and Margaret Garbe



Reminder - Update Your Contact Information for the 2020 GCD Directory

by Amy Slothower

June 15 is the deadline to update your information for the 2020 GCD Directory. As a reminder, we are going to be using the website to update and maintain all information for the Garden Club of Denver roster. We are asking that each member visit the website and either verify or update their information by June 15. Don't worry, it's easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://gardenclubofdenver.com>
2. Log in
3. On the top menu, click "Roster"
4. In the "search entries" box, enter your last name
5. Scroll to your name and, at the bottom of your information, click "Edit Entry"
6. Update any missing or incorrect fields
7. BE SURE TO CLICK "UPDATE" at the bottom of the page before exiting

You are almost done – just one more thing! Email Amy Slothower at aslothower@yahoo.com to let her know you have completed your update, This is the only way to prevent her from bugging

you again about this.

We appreciate everyone's help with keeping our information current. If you have questions or need help, please reach out to Amy.

Alice Hughes



ahughes031@mun.com
7165 E 32nd Ave
Denver, CO 80220-6128
Map It
Cell: (303) 877-8903
Home: (303) 360-0342

Divisions:
• Conservation
• Floral Design
• Horticulture
• Photography
• Communications

CCD Role(s):
• Newsletter

CCA Role(s):
• Not yet!

American Gardens Forever Stamps

An acknowledgement of the importance of gardens

The United States Postal Service has released a pane of 20 Forever stamps recognizing the importance and beauty of American gardens. The stamps feature a photograph of a small but evocative area within each of the 10 gardens.

Botanic, country estate, and municipal gardens are represented in the series. The photographs were taken between 1996 and 2014 by photographer Allen Rokach.



Deborah Edwards, President of The Garden Club of America, remarked on the significance of this new stamp collection, "I am delighted that the US Postal Service has chosen to include a stamp collection celebrating American gardens in its 2020 Forever stamps program. This is one more acknowledgement of the importance that gardens play in our national landscape and psyche."

The love of gardening reaches back to the settling and founding of our country. Since its inception, The Garden Club of America has appreciated gardens as part of American history and culture and has sought to preserve this history in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution. Six of the ten gardens in the stamp series are part of The Garden Club of America Collection at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens. They are the Biltmore Estate Gardens (North Carolina), Brooklyn Botanic Garden (New York), Chicago Botanic Garden (Illinois), Dumbarton Oaks Garden (District of Columbia), Winterthur Garden (Delaware), and the Huntington Botanical Gardens (California). Other gardens included in the Forever panes are the Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park (Florida), Norfolk Botanical Garden (Virginia), Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Ohio), and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Maine). The stamps were designed by Ethel Kessler, art director.

The U.S. Postal Service dedication ceremony of the American Gardens Forever stamps scheduled for May 13 at Winterthur was cancelled due to the Centers for Disease Control guidelines and may be rescheduled at a later time.

Stamps are available at post office locations nationwide and online.

NY's Untermyer Gardens Closed:

Flowers Go to COVID-19 Front Line

Untermeyer Park and Gardens, Yonkers, New York closed in March with 30,000 daffodils and 9,000 tulips peppering the beds of the 43-acre garden. “If people cannot come to view the blossoming gardens, closed due to COVID-19, give the flowers to the people who need them the most,” said Stephen Byrns, the 2018 GCA Historic Preservation Medalist and president of the [Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy](#).



With enthusiastic permission from the City of Yonkers and leaders of Untermeyer Park and Gardens, Stephen Byrns and his crew of volunteers donned masks and gloves, kept proper distance on their hands and knees, and cut the blossoms. Six hundred bouquets were arranged in biodegradable paper cups and delivered to two hospitals, two nursing homes, and a residence for the developmentally disabled. “We are told that we were the first garden in the nation to perform this public service,” Byrns noted. Workers from the Parks Department helped by setting up flower arranging stations and lifting heavy trays of flowers onto a large truck, which then traversed the City of Yonkers.

Recipients lauded the symbolic gifts of “spring and much-needed sunshine” that brightened their days, said Byrns. “The smiles and expressions of joy were heartwarming.” In addition to the bouquets, a floral snake sculpture designed with hundreds of daffodils was created in the gardens by Sylvia Lukach, floral designer and member of the Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson, a GCA club. The sculpture, symbolizing Greek mythology’s god of healing, Asclepius, is a reminder that Westchester County has been one of the areas hardest hit by Covid 19.

SAVE THE DATE

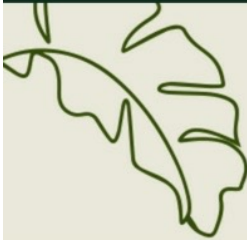
Whether we gather in person or in spirit, let's continue the tradition to celebrate the

Fête des Fleurs

Friday, August 28, 2020
Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

Formal invitation to follow



Presented by

GHPhipps
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Supported by

ANDRISEN MORTON



Baking inspiration, with a gardening twist, from the New York Times.

Horticulture Happenings

Floret Farms Seedlings Update

by Courtney Marsters

"Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts." - Mac Griswold

Here is an update on the seeds that we ordered from [Floret Farm](#) and gathered together at a February workshop to learn how to start the seeds indoors. You will see below that we are having good success and our seedlings are in the yard growing like crazy. In the fall, we hope to share our blossoms and celebrate our hard work with beautiful bouquets of Floret Farm flowers!



Lise Woodard's seedlings at 6 weeks, grown under lights

indoors with no heating pad.



Suellen White's seedlings at two weeks, germinated indoors with a heating pad and taken outside during the day and inside at night for hardening off.



Zinnia and cosmos seedlings, now 9 weeks old, transplanted into Suellen's outside garden.

Floral Design

First Steps for Flower Arrangers

by Bonnie Grenney

Here are some fundamentals to help anyone, from beginner to veteran, get started on making a flower arrangement. These rules make it easy to get a fabulous final "masterpiece."

Step One: Choose a container that will work with its final destination (dining room table, front hall/entrance, picnic table, kitchen, etc.) The size of your container and its contents will affect where you place your arrangement.

Step Two: Pick at least 2 different greens, 2 different sizes (small, medium or large.)

Step Three: Pick your 3 different shaped flowers in 3 different colors, or all the same color.

Okay, now you are ready to begin placing your flowers.

- 1) Your first flower placements will give you your parameters - height for your arrangement. I chose blue delphinium (*Delphinium elatum*). It can be used for height and line.
- 2) The second flower, yellow yarrow, such as Achillea 'Coronation Gold,' is a mass flower and a great color that is complimentary to the blue delphinium. The mass flower will help you fill out the arrangement and give it width and depth.
- 3) The third flower is line and movement. This white Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) has a lovely curve and interesting cascading flowers and leaves. It creates interest and energy for your arrangement.

With these three steps and ingredients, you can make any flower arrangement successful, whether it is a miniature, or a grand statement arrangement. Have fun with flowers from your garden as you make a fun arrangement!

If you have questions, I would be happy to talk you through it.
Call Bonnie at 303-521-4444.



Flower #1 blue delphinium.



Flower #2 yarrow.



Flower #3, Solomon's seal.

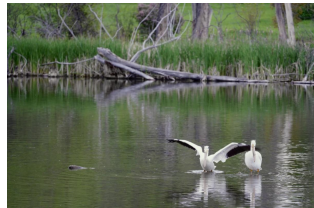
Photography Focus

Using Photography to Beat Stress

by Amy Mower and Margaret Garbe

With times so segregated and isolated, consider this a great time to use your camera more.

Instead of looking at the news too often, and becoming anxious, take some time getting your photography gear together and repurposing this time to take a 14-day photography challenge.



Everyday, take 15 minutes, venture out and capture your garden, a scene in your neighborhood or, we hope, Lainie's Cutting Garden, or whatever suits your creative juices. It could be documenting a flower from start to finish, or your garden through the spring and summer, or sunrise and sunsets - just create! We can share our photos throughout the summer on the GCD website, by highlighting our vision in defying Covid fatigue.

Please use <https://gardenclubofdenver.com/photography-submission> to submit.

Creativity is a true way to relieve stress. We hope you can join us!

Conservation Corner

Make Your Own Beeswax Wraps at Home

by Liz Walker

Make your own beeswax wraps at home. DIY kits will be available.



Since we had to cancel our beeswax wrap workshop, we thought it might be fun to put together kits for you to make your own at home. I will have premixed all the ingredients, cut the cotton squares in three sizes and provide a paint brush. I'll include easy to follow directions, plus a couple of online resources for you to follow if you need some support. The premixed wax squares should be enough to coat three sizes of wraps. I will have the kits available after June 5. Please email me to sign up for the kits at walkerliz40@gmail.com.

[Click here](#) to read a blog post about making beeswax wraps. You can see if this is something that you want to do yourself at home.

[Click here](#) to watch a YouTube video on how to melt the wax and brush it on your fabric.
