

# Garden Club of Denver

Volume 7, issue 17

March 2020

## March

### Tuesday, March 3

Floral Design Workshop  
Contemporary  
Arrangements  
(Cancelled and will be  
rescheduled)

### Wednesday, March 4

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

### Tuesday, March 10

GCD General Meeting  
Program - "Lessons from  
the Deep: What the Oceans  
Are Telling Us."  
Speaker - David  
Guggenheim  
4:30 p.m. - Meeting  
5 p.m. - Reception and Light  
Refreshments  
5:30 p.m. - Program  
Mitchell Hall  
Denver Botanic Gardens

### Wednesday, March 11

Floral Design Workshop  
Mass Arrangements  
Veldkamps Flowers  
9501 W Colfax Avenue  
3:30 p.m.

### Sunday, March 15

eNews Deadline



Marnie's Pavilion, Denver Botanic Gardens.

Photo by Marianne Sulser.

## President's Post

*"Gratitude is not only the greatest of all virtues,  
but the parent of all others."*

-Marcus Tullius Cicero

Wow, Florabundance was wonderful! Thanks to the Garden Club of Denver membership for their tremendous support through both donations and bringing very generous friends. Although we do not have a final total as of this writing, we exceeded our goal and are confident that we will donate at least \$50,000 to Denver Botanic Gardens. We should be able to announce the final total at the March General Meeting at DBG.

The March meeting promises to be wonderful! We will be hosting David Guggenheim, and this is our open meeting.

**As such, the March General Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. sharp in Mitchell Hall on March 10.** Please plan to arrive no later than 4:15 p.m. to allow time to park and get into the Gardens. The meeting will end at

**Thursday, March 19**  
Beeswax Wraps Workshop  
Liz Walker's House  
994 S Josephine Street  
10 a.m. - noon

## April

**Wednesday, April 1**  
Floral Design Workshop  
Miniature Arrangements  
Veldkamps Flowers  
9501 W Colfax Avenue  
3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 8**  
Photography Workshop  
"Language of Flowers"  
Suellen White's House  
1322 E Bayaud Ave.  
1 p.m.

### Quick Links

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

5 p.m.; we will be very efficient. Please invite lots of friends and family to attend this open meeting. We would love a large crowd.

Finally, the schedule for the June Annual Meeting Flower Show is getting a final review and will be available in print at the March General Meeting as well as on the GCD Website. Floral Design, Horticulture and Photography have come up with great classes. Please plan to enter, with a buddy or solo, and take advantage of the upcoming workshops tailored towards entering the June Flower Show.

Stay warm!

*Missy Eliot*

Missy Eliot  
President  
Garden Club of Denver



## Florabundance Is a Huge Success

by Alice Hughes

The Florabundance party on Thursday, February 20, was a huge success. Mitchell Hall was gloriously decked out in warm peach and citrus colors with beautiful flower arrangements on every table.

"The spirit of the event really stood out," said Brian Vogt, CEO of Denver Botanic Gardens. "The organizing team tended to every detail, allowing the room to revel in a wonderful evening together. Once again and always, I am filled with gratitude for the Garden Club of Denver. You are the Gardens' key champion and have been from the very beginning. Thank you!"



More than 150 guests attended the event and enjoyed cocktails appetizers and dinner provided by Catering By Design. The flowers were graciously donated by Martha Veldkamp and were sold at the end of the night to add to the total donation.

Not only did partygoers have a great time socializing, but they did some serious bidding too. About 135 items were up for bid. From garden treasures, to home treasures to trips

and amazing experiences, there was something to everyone.

Garden Club of Denver expects to give a donation of \$50,000 to the Denver Botanic Gardens.

"Kudos to a tremendous team, led by Mary Fowler. Bar Chadwick, Liza Grant, Janet Manning, Lise Woodard and Sarah Young. They did a fantastic job of finding lots of treasures for the silent auction," said Missy Eliot, President of Garden Club of Denver.



## March General Meeting

by Amy Slothower

The Garden Club of Denver's community lecture is coming soon! We are pleased to welcome Dr. David E. Guggenheim on March 10 at 5 p.m. at Denver Botanic Gardens. Dr. Guggenheim is a marine scientist, conservation policy specialist, ocean explorer, submarine pilot and educator. He is the founder and president of the Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Ocean Doctor, dedicated to advancing the conservation of the world's oceans through scientific research, education and community engagement.



From the hallways of Washington, DC to the coral reefs of Cuba to thousands of feet below the Bering Sea, the audience will get a unique perspective on exploring unknown parts of our oceans and ocean exploration. They'll also learn about the threats to the oceans and what's being done to reverse their decline. The lecture will cover how perspectives on the oceans have changed over the past 50 years and, despite our species' journey into space, how little we actually know about the salt-water-covered portion of our own planet.

Please bring guests! All are welcome and there is no charge to attend. The lecture is appropriate for children in middle school or older as well – so bring the kiddos. There will be light refreshments and an informal reception at 5:00pm followed by a lecture and question and answer session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Mitchell Hall.

And, extending our reach into the community, Dr. Guggenheim will also deliver a lecture to all 470 students at Denver School of Science and Technology Montview on March 11. The school competed with other schools in the DSST network to win this honor. They are excited to have a world-renowned scientist meet with students to share his passion and expertise.

[Click here](#) for more information about Ocean Doctor.

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## **GCD Welcomes New Affiliate Member Dodie Jackson**

The Garden Club of Denver is excited to welcome new Affiliate Member, Dodie Jackson, who recently moved here from Houston, TX. While Dodie admits that she is still getting used to all the snowy, cold weather, she is excited to jump into GCD activities. Her new address is:  
401 Jasmine Street, Denver, CO 80220.  
Her email is [dodieojackson@gmail.com](mailto:dodieojackson@gmail.com).  
Phone is 713-299-2694.



Dodie joined the Garden Club of Houston in 2004, and has served on the Community Contributions Committee, Admissions Committee and the Houston Hospice Committee. She served as Second Vice President, Webmaster and chaired the annual fundraiser, The Bulb and Plant Mart. She was Horticulture Chair and the club's Judging Chair.

She served two terms on GCA's National Finance Committee, served as Treasurer for the Shirley Meneice Conference in 2017 and most recently co-chaired GCA's Second Century Campaign for Zone IX, raising over one million dollars.

She is an Approved Horticulture Judge for The Garden Club of America and travels to many clubs, judging flower shows, and giving workshops on bulbs, topiaries, plant grooming for flower shows, and Botanical Arts. She is listed in the GCA Zone IX Speakers List.

- She was honored with the Texas State Florist Association's Award for unusual use of plant material.
- She has won many blues for Botanical Arts, a Best in Show and two Curator's Awards from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.
- She has been awarded the Louise Agee Wrinkle Propagation Award twice.
- She has won the Willemsen Propagation Award twice.
- She has won the Harriet DeWael Puckett Creativity Award.
- She has won numerous Best in Show awards for Horticulture, Floral Design, Horticulture Design and Botanical Arts.
- She was awarded the Alice Kain Stout Mentoring Award for Zone IX.
- She was awarded the GCA Club Horticulture Award.

Dodie won the Newport Flower Show Novice Award for Botanical Arts and two years later won Best in Show at the Newport Flower Show for Botanical Arts.

Her article on growing tulips in the Gulf Coast was published in the *Houston Chronicle*. Her article on Botanical Arts was published by *Garden Friends* and she has been featured in *Houstonia Magazine*.

She has two videos on You Tube, where she demonstrates how to grow tulips and daffodils in the Gulf Coast area.

Dodie continues to give workshops on Botanical Arts, Horticulture Grooming for Flower Shows and Plant Propagation.

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## **Critiquing Photographs**

submitted by Margaret Garbe From From Robert Rodriguez, Jr., Photographer

*Q. When you critique another photographer's photograph, what do you look for? I am in a photography group where we critique each other's photographs and no one has a lot of comments. How do you learn to critique photographs? Any suggestions?*



A. There is no simple answer to this question since it entails increasing your “visual literacy.” By that I mean studying and learning the fundamental concepts of good composition and visual design. I’ve written and spoken about this at length, and I know it is the single biggest challenge we all face as visual artists.

You can’t critique or judge a photograph until you have an innate sense of what works and what doesn’t work, and why. I’m partial to traditional principles that have stood the test of time—I want my work to communicate with as many people as possible. These include things like the rule of thirds, establishing a center of interest, and the importance of simplifying all aspects of an image - including what’s in the frame and how you edit the image. In my opinion, sloppy editing is ruining more images today than ever, and can be avoided not by getting better at using your software, but by relying on good design principles to guide your editing.

Even if some possess an innate talent for seeing design, what is commonly referred to as having a “good eye,” developing a good eye is a skill that all of us can learn and improve with study and practice. That, my friends, is a fact that has been confirmed over and over again in numerous research studies and the biographies of many artists. Read books on composition and design (especially non-photo books), look at lots of photographs by photographers admired by other artists, visit museums and study great paintings. Once you do this for a while, you will begin to see patterns and start to recognize hallmarks of good visual composition.

This will not only help you judge work of others, but more importantly it will help you see deficiencies in your own work—just the thing we need most of all to improve.

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**GCA Freeman Medal 2020 Winners**

## **First place winner: *Geum triflorum*, Prairie Smoke**

This exquisite native herbaceous perennial is a graceful addition to our extraordinary and growing family of Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal winners. Many thanks to the Freeman family for their ongoing support of this medal and all it represents.



Submitted by Seta Nersessian of the Fox Hill Garden Club, Zone I, *Geum triflorum* is an early bloomer on prairies and is a great nectar source for native long-tongued bees and butterflies, as well as native bumblebees and sweat bees which ingeniously find their way into the fused sepals of the flowers to harvest nectar.

The Freeman Medal Selection Committee is comprised of highly respected horticulturists from across the United States. The committee members were unanimous in their final decision about this lovely bloomer. Its early spring interest is followed by an amazing seed head display.

As Seta writes: “the real magic occurs after pollination when the silvery pink, fluffy fruit, or achenes, appear...the stems slowly turn upright, and the seed heads begin to form, creating plumes which persist for one to two months.” Hence the name prairie smoke or old man’s whiskers gives a perfect description of the plant after bloom.

Although prairie smoke is being challenged by taller, non-native plants in its native mesic prairie sites, it is readily adaptable to many other areas. Tolerant of poor soil, moderate drought, heat and humidity, *Geum triflorum* can be grown in sun or partial shade and is suitable for cottage gardens, prairies, meadows, and perennial beds. It is not favored by deer or burrowing animals.

*Geum triflorum* nearly has it all! The selection committee was eager for this plant to become more available across the country and to be planted wherever it might flourish and spread its magic.

### **Honorable Mention, *Asarum canadense*, wild ginger.**

This North American wild ginger is a lovely, soft green, shade-loving herbaceous perennial. It colonizes to form a graceful ground cover that successfully competes with non-native plants. In the summer its 6” heart-shaped leaves carpet moist to dry shady sites as a welcome foil to blazing sun. It is a food source for *Battus philenor* (L.), pipevine swallowtail, is deer resistant, and unpalatable to other mammals. A low maintenance plant, it grows well in many soil types including acid to alkaline soil.

### **Honorable Mention, *Penstemon strictus*, Rocky Mountain penstemon.**

This native penstemon is a prolific pollinator magnet attracting butterflies, moths, and native bees. It is adaptable to both wild sites and garden settings and thrives in sandy loam, rocky soil, and even clay soil. *Penstemon strictus* is a vigorous and low maintenance perennial for sun or partial shade. The beautiful spikes of blue-violet tubular blooms make this a welcome sight from meadows to home gardens.

[More Information](#)

## The "Crazy Worms" Remaking Forests Aren't Your Friendly Neighborhood Garden Worms

by Julia Rosen, *The Atlantic*



On a sweltering July day, I follow Annise Dobson down an overgrown path into the heart of Seton Falls Park. It's a splotch of unruly forest, surrounded by the clamoring streets and cramped rowhouses of the Bronx. Broken glass, food wrappers, and condoms litter the ground. But Dobson, bounding ahead in khaki hiking pants with her blond ponytail swinging, appears unfazed. As I quickly learn, neither trash nor oppressive humidity nor ecological catastrophe can dampen her ample enthusiasm.

At the bottom of the hill, Dobson veers off the trail and stops in a shady clearing. This seems like a promising spot. She kicks away the dead oak leaves and tosses a square frame made of PVC pipe onto the damp earth. Then she unscrews a milk jug. It holds a pale yellow slurry of mustard powder and water that's completely benign—unless you're a worm.

Seconds after Dobson empties the contents inside the frame, the soil wriggles to life. "Holy smokes!" she says, as a dozen worms come squirming out of the soil—their brown, wet skin burning with irritation. "Disgusting." I have to agree. There is something unnerving about their slithering, serpentine style; instead of inching along like garden worms, they snap their bodies like angry rattlesnakes. But the problem with these worms isn't their mode of locomotion. It's the fact that they're here at all.

[Read More](#)

## Horticulture Happenings

### Pruning Tips for Shrubs

by Lise Woodard

At a recently attended DBG class called "Fearless Pruning of Shrubs," I learned lots of tips on what I should do this spring. The instructor suggested that March was a great month to prune since the harsh weather will be behind us but the structure of the shrubs will be easier to assess.



If your shrubs are spring flowering ones that bloom on last year's new wood (ie, forsythia, Nanking cherry, virburnum, lilacs), you might want to wait until just after they have bloomed. Summer-flowering shrubs (ie, mockorange, rose of Sharon, Annabelle and Peegee hydrangea), that bloom on new wood grown that season, can be pruned in early spring.

I learned that the primary objective in pruning flowering shrubs is to encourage new (thus, flowering) growth from the base. One should remove one third of the oldest wood to the ground each year. Trace the cane up to the top to see the impact of its removal. In addition to more flowers, thinning increases air circulation, which can reduce pests and disease.

If a shrub is overgrown, it is best to do rejuvenation pruning. The shrub is cut entirely to the ground in the early spring before growth starts. Over the next few years, thinning new canes to several strong ones creates a youthful plant with many blooms. In fact, I learned that flowering shrubs should be rejuvenated once a decade.

If more than one-third of the branches are woody without leaves or if the shrub has many dead branches, rejuvenation might not work. Some shrubs with one or few primary trunks, such as several *Viburnum* and *Euonymus* species, should not be cut to the ground. You can thin branches back to side branches. Also, lilacs grafted on a common lilac rootstock should not be cut to the ground.

Evergreen shrubs require little pruning. New needles will not grow from branches without needles. If the branch must be pruned back past the needles, remove it back to the trunk, but just outside the branch collar. If multiple trunks occur, remove all but one. On large trees, growth occurs at the top with minimal growth at the bottom. Do not do fall pruning on evergreens as it causes winter burn. Very slow growing spruce species do not tolerate pruning.

Pine trees only retain needles on the last two years of growth, so if you want to control the size of your pine, it is suggested that each year, you snap off one-third of the new growing tips while in the candle stage (before the new needles have fully grown). That is exactly what DBG's Japanese garden does every spring to maintain the size and shape of all their pine specimens.

Juniper and arborvitae can be pruned by cutting individual branches back to a side branch. Again, do not prune back into wood without needles. The base of the shrub should be wider than the top. This type of pruning is very time consuming but shearing causes dense exterior growth, browning and dieback. Shrubs grown in the shade may not tolerate pruning because of their slow growth rate.

An excellent online resource for additional information is Garden Notes at [www.cmg.colostate.edu](http://www.cmg.colostate.edu)

## Conservation Corner

### A Review of Zero Market

by Liz Walker

The Conservation Committee Chairs recently went on a scouting trip to Zero Market at the Stanley Marketplace. Zero Market's goal is to provide products and advice for a zero-waste lifestyle.

They have reusable bags for produce or bulk grains and large tubs of laundry soap, shampoo and conditioner, and cleaning solutions. You can bring your own container or purchase one there, glass or aluminum of course. There are hygiene products such as



*"good things  
come in  
no packages"*

deodorant and toothpaste in jars. Other products included loose tea by the bulk. It was really fun to see all the different items, and it got my mind thinking about all the products I use daily in my house that I could rethink their packaging and waste. We each bought a few products to buy and try out at home.

I purchased cotton face pads- to take the place of using cotton balls. I just throw them in the washer with my towels when dirty. Liza and Caroline tried the soap nuts. The nuts are to replace detergents which contain chemicals and surfactants that are harmful to the environment. The verdict is still out on the nuts. Caroline says you have to make sure you remove the nuts before going in the dryer or they fall apart. Liza says you have to remember to use them or they don't work. But they are inexpensive and a good alternative to chemical soaps.

When thinking about your own shopping habits, rethink the packaging and products you use and see if you can find an alternative to plastics or single use. The Zero Market is worth the trip!

Zero Market, Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora  
[www.thezeromarket.com](http://www.thezeromarket.com)

## Floral Design

### Upcoming Flower Show Floral Design Workshops

by Judy Grant

#### **#1 Contemporary Arrangement - Cancelled and will be rescheduled!**

"Se Hablas Espanol?" Class III

Tuesday, March 3, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Cost is \$50/person

Bonnie's Barn, 7547 Daniels Park Road  
303-521-4444

(A Contemporary Spanish themed arrangement of primary colors to be displayed on a black 20x20x31" tall pedestal which sits on the floor. Arrangement is unlimited in height.)

This workshop will inspire you to learn, plus get your creative juices going. It's a special treat to have our new member of GCD from The Garden Club of Houston, Dodie Jackson. She will give a Powerpoint presentation on Contemporary Design and then, along with Sissy Gibson and Bonnie Grenney, help us create our own arrangements. We will supply the flowers and containers for your creation. Bring your own clippers.

#### **#2 Mass Floral Arrangement**

Wednesday, March 11, 3:30-5 p.m.

Veldkamp's Flowers and Gifts

9501 W. Colfax Av., Lakewood, CO 80215

303-232-2673

Cost is \$50/person

You will be shown several mass arrangements and then you will create your own with what you have learned. Martha and Bonnie will provide all the flowers and containers. Bring your own clippers.

### #3 Miniature Flower Arrangement

Wednesday April 1, 3:30-5 p.m.

Veldkamp's Flowers and Gifts

9501 W. Colfax Av., Lakewood, CO 80215

303-232-2673

Cost is \$50/person

Martha Veldkamp, Nina Sisk, and Dodie Jackson will teach us the tricks and trade of Miniatures. Be inspired by how you can create something so delicate. Containers and flowers will be provided. Bring your own clippers.

Come and be inspired and learn. Your check is your reservation for each class . You can come to one, two, or all three. Please make checks payable to Bonnie Grenney and mail to Bonnie Grenney, 7547 Daniels Park Road, Sedalia 80135.



Contemporary Arrangement



Mass Arrangement



Miniature Arrangement

## Photography Focus

### GCD Flower Show Photography Classes and Workshop

by Amy Mower

Below please find the three classes for the photography division for the flower show. We will be having a workshop Wednesday, April 8 to shoot Class 1 at Suellen's house at 1 p.m. Gather the flowers and backdrop flat surface to convey your personal statement and bring along with your camera or iPhone to shoot this interesting photograph. Let's think outside of the box on this one!



1. **The Language of Flowers** gives meaning to the expression of feelings. This language revolves around the chosen flowers, composition and the uniqueness of its background to convey a mood. Pick one or more flowers, and multiple species if you desire, that have meaning to you and arrange on an interesting flat backdrop. No vases, only flowers on

paper or fabric or other flat surface.

8 x 10" color photograph, matte finish, framed with 11 x 14" off-white mat board. Please identify plant materials photographed.

Consultant Suellen White

**2. Record one flower's bloom life cycle in a triptych format** - multiple blooms permitted. Color or black and white is acceptable.

Three images that are each 5 x 5 inches, matte finish, mounted on a 8 x 21 inch off-white board. Center photos, keeping a 1.5 inch border all around and in-between photographs as well. Please identify plant materials photographed.

Consultant Amy Mower

**3. Utilize that "special time of day,"** either the golden hour or the blue hour, to capture an emotive, natural landscape. Golden hour is after sunrise or before sunset to capture reds and golden colors. Blue hour is before sunrise or after sunset to capture the twilight blue cast of the day.

Color 8 x 10" photograph, matte finish, framed with 11 x 14" off-white mat. Basic editing utilizing cropping and filtering enhancements is acceptable.