

# Garden Club of Denver

Volume 7, issue 19

May 2020

## May

**President's Council Meeting is cancelled this month**

**May General Meeting is cancelled this month**

### **Wednesday, May 6**

GCA Annual Meeting  
1 p.m. MST

Log into GCA website for online access

### **Tuesday, May 12**

Online Floral  
Demonstration

Jenni Skeen, presenter  
Owner of Goodnight Violet  
11 a.m.

### **Friday, May 15**

eNews Deadline

## Quick Links

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



Spring Hellebores. Photo by Courtney Marsters.

## President's Post

### May Multiple Choice Quiz

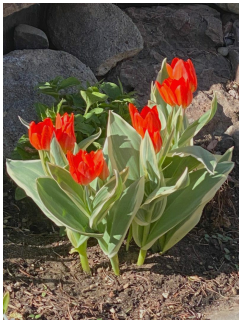
1. *"Boredom is simply the absence of an interesting problem" - Brandon A. Tream*
2. *"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." - Dorothy Parker*
3. *"Dear Brain, please start being able to tell the difference between hungry and bored. Sincerely, I am getting fat." - Unknown*

May finds us beginning to figure out how to crawl out of our "Stay at Home" cocoons and navigate the new normal. We rejoin a world where Zoom is now a familiar way to communicate with friends, family and colleagues, and social distancing, face masks and constantly washing our hands are starting to feel normal.

In this new and cautiously sterile environment, I hope that all of us can find some time to play in the dirt. Gardening is one of the best medicines we



Pasque Flower.  
Photo by Alice Hughes.



Spring tulips.  
Photo by Missy Elliot.



Pruning basket.  
Photo by Suellen White.

have at our fingertips (no pun intended) for enhancing physical and mental health - even if it means more hand washing!

Speaking of gardening, “masks off” to Denver Botanic Gardens for figuring out how to turn the popular Plant Sale Preview Party and Sale into an online and curb side event! I hope that you took advantage of buying lots of plants to put in your pots and gardens this spring and summer. Please send pictures of your pots and gardens to Ann Ellis so that she can send them out to all of us. Please also let her know if your gardens are open for a visit from “socially distanced” GCD members, as well.

Thank you for voting via the Doodle Poll on the new candidates for Apprentice membership in GCD. Just under 70 members voted and many commented how much they preferred reading all the letters at their leisure and voting through Doodle. Based on the results of the vote, all three candidates will become the 2020-2021 class of GCD Apprentices - more about membership in this newsletter.

Finally, be sure to read through this entire newsletter as it has lots of the usual wonderful articles from the GCD committees, an article celebrating a special anniversary for GCD, the 2020-2021 GCD slate and some GCD housekeeping matters that require a Doodle Poll vote of the membership. More of that to follow in the coming weeks as we, unfortunately, will not be meeting as a group until next September.

Please continue to stay well and stay connected and enjoy the merry month of May!

*Missy Eliot*

Missy Eliot  
President  
Garden Club of Denver





Flowering almond bush.  
Photo by Alice Hughes.



Spring Hyacinths.  
Photo by Suellen White.

## Follow Me for More Landscaping Ideas



## Flower Shows in the Time of COVID

by Missy Eliot and Meg Nichols

Dear Garden Club of Denver members,

What an unusual spring! We hunkered down with our families and socially distanced and are just now deciding when and how to gradually get back to the new normal. As you know, the 2020 President's Council regrettably voted to cancel any further gatherings through June and reschedule the Annual Meeting for September in the hope that we can celebrate together then as safely as possible. Currently, we can be in our gardens sharing their beauty with neighbors, but we cannot share them and our gained knowledge with each other and the larger community.



We have been putting our heads together on how to address this unusual transition and renew our sense of our community. Our solution is to repurpose and adapt our June 2020 Flower Show theme, "The Language of Flowers" to a GCA Flower Show in September of 2021. To keep this simple and stress free, we will also skip the 2021 June Club Flower Show in hopes that you enter the September 2021 show. The last time GCD hosted a GCA Flower Show, "Flower Power," was in 2011 and it was a huge success!



Why September, you ask? We looked at the recent spring weather patterns that included late freezes and snow storms and feel safer with the timing of late summer. Yes, it can snow as early as Labor Day too, but at least our gardens are established and blooms can be saved.

Rest assured that we know that even a 2021 Flower Show may not happen due to the ongoing issues with Covid 19 but we can still have fun learning and trying our hand at some new techniques in all the disciplines, hopefully together and not quarantined. We also have the benefit of planning a “budget neutral” Flower Show which means NO FUNDRAISING!

Please be aware that the GCA has simplified the format of a GCA Flower Show to encourage more Clubs to participate. The format of our June meeting’s Flower Show already fills all the current GCA Flower Show requirements with the exception of having the schedule approved by the GCA Flower Show Committee and inviting GCA Judges to come award the national ribbons and Flower Show awards. Of course, we plan to continue the tradition of awarding our own Club awards by popular vote at the Show.

Hopefully, the Show will be at the Freyer-Newman Center on September 3 - 4, 2021. The Chairs of the Flower Show Committee are Missy Eliot and Nina Sisk. They are planning a fun, low stress and efficient process. (Please know that if you have agreed to chair a committee for the next two years, it does not automatically put you on the Flower Show Committee.) When they call you, please consider being a part of this fun project and, to quote the GCA, help “*set the standards of artistic and horticultural excellence, to broaden knowledge of horticulture, floral design, conservation and other related areas, and share the beauty of a show with fellow club members and the public.*”

Stay well,  
Missy and Meg

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## **GCD 2020-2021 Housekeeping: New Members and ByLaws**

by Missy Eliot



It is that time of year when we look at Garden Club of Denver “housekeeping” tasks including but not limited to: voting on the revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, and the 2020-2021 Budget. Normally, these would be voted on during our May or June General Meetings but not this year. Once again, we will be asking you to vote via a Doodle Poll.

1. You have already received the GCD Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to review via email. Below you have a link to the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation once again and another link to a Doodle Poll to vote. Please vote as soon as possible on these and by no later than May 12, which would have been the May GCD General Meeting.
2. Below you will also find the proposed 2020-2021 GCD Budget and related Budget Assumptions. This has been presented to and approved by the 2020 GCD Executive Committee and President’s Council. Please follow the budget links below and review the budget. You can e-mail Mo Barker [mo.barker7156@aol.com](mailto:mo.barker7156@aol.com) with any questions. Please vote on the GCD Budget by May 12 as well.

Closing thought: Why didn’t one of us invent Doodle?”

[Click here](#) to view the GCD Bylaws.

[Click here](#) to view the GCD Articles of Incorporation.

[Click here](#) to view the 2020-2021 GCD Budget.

[Click here](#) to view the 2020-2021 GCD Budget Assumptions.

**Vote for Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation**

**Vote for 2020-2021 Budget**

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## **Welcome New GCD Active Members and Apprentices**

by Mary Schaeffer

It is with great pleasure that we announce our new 2020 active members. They are Marianne Sulser, Heidi Hammell and Elizabeth Weigand. They have all shown such enthusiasm and have all participated in our club's busy year. As we move forward, they are taking on more responsibilities and we look forward to getting to know them better. Welcome!

We are also delighted to announce the results of the vote on new GCD Apprentice Members. Sarah Alijani, Lynn Dolven and Becky Schaub all received tremendous member support through the Doodle Poll vote (almost seventy members voted!) and will be the 2020-2021 GCD Apprentice Class. Normally, they would be introduced at the June meeting. We are hoping to introduce them in September. Should your paths cross with any of them between now and then, please introduce yourselves and welcome them to GCD.



Sarah Alijani



Lynn Dolven



Becky Schaub

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## **GCD's May General Meeting Program Goes Online**

by Amy Slothower

We are taking the May General Meeting program online.

While we are disappointed that we won't have a May General Meeting, our program will be available online! We had previously scheduled a floral demonstration with Jenni Skeen and she is excited to share her work with us virtually.

Jenni Skeen is the Owner and Lead Designer of [Goodnight Violet](#), Denver's only floral studio specializing in high end memorial floristry. Jenni's passion for flowers, delight in art, and curiosity about humanity combine to create customized commemorative floral arrangements for celebrations of life and funerals.



In this workshop, Jenni shops for seasonal stems from Denver area flower farms to create a dynamic and lush arrangement suitable for an entryway, altar or any space needing a bit of drama. Discover Denver's best flower farmers, learn the mechanics behind a large statement arrangement and catch a glimpse of spring's locally grown blooms.

#### **Details:**

1. May 12, 11 a.m.
2. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494334065?pwd=UUU2K2JrVU13Ny9JaXN6cXgzUUNsdz09>
3. OR Zoom ID 884 9433 4065, Password: 100833

If you need help with learning to use Zoom, feel free to reach out to Amy Slothower – (303) 884-7188 or [aslothower@yahoo.com](mailto:aslothower@yahoo.com).

No RSVP required – we hope to see you online!

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## **Update Your Contact Information for the 2020 GCD Directory**

by Amy Slothower

Starting this year, we are going to be using the GCD 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 May 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](mailto: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  
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Map It  
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Divisions:  
• Conservation  
• Floral Design  
• Horticulture  
• Photography  
• Communications

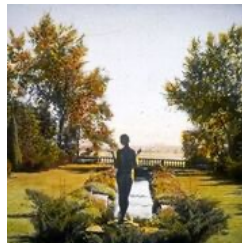
GCD Role(s):  
• Newsletter

GCA Role(s):  
• Not yet!

## GCD Celebrates 100 Years with The Garden Club of America!

by Muffie Dahlberg and Lindsay Dodge

In spite of the pandemic, the Garden Club of Denver is celebrating an important milestone this year. It is being recognized as one of 11 clubs marking its 100th anniversary in joining The Garden Club of America!



As part of this recognition, the national GCA Historian Committee researched annual reports submitted by these clubs 100 years ago. Offered below is the GCD Annual Report that appeared in the December issue of the *GCA Bulletin* in 1920. Guess who the author is.

Congratulations to the Garden Club of Denver on its 100-year association with The Garden Club of America! What an honor it is to be part of such a progressive organization, respected for cultivating the bond among people, plants and the environment. Cheers to the Garden Club of Denver and its next 100 years in the GCA!

Some additional historical highlights about GCA's member clubs include:

- When the GCA was founded in 1913, the original founding clubs numbered 12.
- By 1914, there were 21 member clubs in the GCA.
- In 1917, there were 37 member clubs in the GCA.
- The Garden Club of Denver was founded in 1916, and admitted to the GCA in 1920.
- In 1920, the number of member clubs in the GCA totaled 49.
- Today, there are 201 GCA member clubs, situated in 40 out of 50 states, spanning twelve geographic zones.

### GARDEN CLUB OF DENVER: Annual report, 1920

We feel that the most important event in the life of the Garden Club of Denver has been its admission this year to membership in the GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA. The association has already been a source of much inspiration. We are gratified to learn that the problem of "Wild Flower Preservation," which we had chosen as our life work, is receiving so much attention elsewhere. Our efforts along this line began two years ago. The City of Denver is unique in having, in addition to its city parks, an extensive Mountain Park system. Miles of beautiful mountain roadways are fast being denuded of wild flowers. We have begun actively to combat this destruction in various ways. The Chairman of our Wild Flower Committee is sending a complete report of methods adopted. We now have a Wild Flower Preserve on one of the highways, fenced and protected by the city, where we have planted thousands of Columbine plants, several hundred lilly bulbs and scattered seeds. The regular activities of our Club consist of meetings held every two weeks, except during the



winter months. Discussions, lectures, excursions, exhibits, etc., constitute our programs. We experiment each year with one annual and one perennial flower, the Zinnia and Delphinium being the choice this year.

Our Civic Committee is using its influence toward the improvement of the Roadway and Park plantings. We co-operate with the Horticultural Society in offering prizes and judging the planting of school grounds, and each year have conducted a successful tearoom at the Municipal Flower Show, which we have financed.

ADA B. WELBORN, President.

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## Remembering Lorraine Higbie

by Mary Fowler

By now, most of you will have heard that Lorraine Higbie passed on Easter Sunday. I asked Missy if I could please write something about her for those of you who didn't know her well, since we won't be seeing each other for a while.

The Higbies and Fowlers lived across the alley from each other for as long as I can remember. Lorraine was a close friend of my mother's. With the shared experience of Vail in its earliest days and both women's love of the mountains, our families were completely intertwined. Her daughter, also Lorraine, and I were, and still are, the best of friends, as were young Harley and my sister Sarah (they were literally introduced to each other as infants). Lorraine led the charge to build the Fowler-Hilliard Hut for the 10th Mountain Hut system as a memorial to her friend, Ann, and both Harley and Lorraine were oversized influences in the lives of myself and all of my siblings after the death of our parents.

Her house was always open to me when I was living back east and needed a halfway house, as I dragged my young children to and from Connecticut to the Colorado mountains. They were both generous and loving parental substitutes.

So, when Lisa Duke offered to propose me for Garden Club fifteen years ago and asked Lorraine to second the proposal, Lorraine flat out told me I didn't have the time for it. She was a straight shooter, that woman. I talked her into it, although I don't think I fessed up to her that she was the main reason I was interested.

I wanted to be a grown-up with her and experience all the things that fascinated me about her as a child – her wit, her style and glamour, her powerful determination, her way with gardens and flowers. She was a mountain goat going up a fourteener and knew all the wildflowers. She was the whole package.

She could be intimidating, I grant you. I remember one workshop in the early spring at Timberline Gardens, when Kelly Grummon was speaking to the club about container gardening. He had a bunch of them on tables up front that he was going to offer up for sale. We knew there was good stuff up there, but everyone dutifully stayed in their seats. Everyone, except Lorraine, who went right up and started making her selections, while Kelly was still talking. Of course she did. It makes me smile to think of it.

I know that everyone who knew her understood what a trial it was for her to lose her physical capacities in her final years. It made it much harder for her to go to her beloved home in Vail. I also know she missed her husband dreadfully. She soldiered on, but it was frustrating for her. She told me recently that she was doing everything they were telling her



to do to get better and she just wasn't getting better. Her children tried as best they could to give her the experiences she craved and were her stalwart supporters. Her caregivers were amazing, loving women. But she finally had to go.

So I will leave you all with this last memory of her. In the fall of 2016, some members of the club went to Rocky Mountain National Park to harvest grass seeds for the Park Service. We stayed overnight at the Grants and the next morning headed off on a five-and-a-half-mile hike to Mills Lake, behind Long's Peak. Lorraine and Susan Sheridan met us there with their hiking poles. I think she had already taken her first spill earlier that year, so she had slowed down some and was soon outpaced by the rest of the (much younger) group. I was taking pictures and wanted to hang back with her. She made it to the elevation of the lake, but refused to go the ten minutes further. She didn't want the group slowing down for her on the way back. But I got this picture of her before she made her solitary way down. I've also snuck one in of Lorraine and my mother on Snowmass Peak in the late 60's.

This is how I will remember her and I hope you all will, too. I will miss her so much.



Lorraine and Ann Fowler near Snowmass Peak, late 1960's.



Lorraine hiking to Mills Lake, behind Longs Peak.



On a Mt Goliath hike, July 2012.

## Spring *Bulletin* Issue Features GCD Photographer by Alice Hughes

I received my spring *Bulletin* issue and was admiring the lovely cover photo when I found that our very own GCD member Suellen White took the photograph.

"I took a trip in 2013 to Paris to celebrate my friend's 60th birthday," said Suellen. "We were walking through a farmers' market when I saw these leeks beautifully displayed and took the photo."

"When I saw that GCA was holding a members' contest to submit photos for the spring *Bulletin* cover, I decided to submit two photos. The theme for this issue is agriculture, so I thought 'food!' and found my leeks photo."

Congratulations, Suellen! Read the spring *Bulletin* issue by clicking on the button below.



## Need a Shopping Fix? Check Out GCA's Marketplace

by Missy Eliot

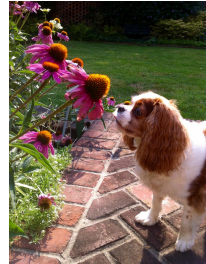
Tired of shopping through Amazon? Try checking out The Garden Club of America's Marketplace. Lots of items feature our very own GCD member Angela Overy's Pollinator design and would make great gifts – one for you and one for a friend! You can also shop White Flower Farm, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Hudson Valley Seed Company and Women's Work.



[Shop GCA Marketplace](#)

## GCA Bulletin's Pets and Posies Contest

What does your pet like to do in the garden? Sniff your squash blossoms? Dig up your dahlias? Nap with nigella? Sunbathe with snapdragons? *The Bulletin* invites you to submit photos of your favorite pet – your dog, cat, turtle, pig, pony, or parrot – enjoying the garden. All submissions will be considered for a 2020 *Bulletin* feature. Five lucky submitters, drawn at random, will receive a copy of Page Dickey's *Dogs in Their Garden*.



The deadline for submission is May 10.

[Contest Entry](#)

## GCA's Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

As we well know, so many events and meetings have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, so we simply decided to make lemonade out of lemons.

On the afternoon of May 6, you will receive a very special invitation to the GCA's 2020 Annual Meeting, virtual style! All nearly 18,000 club members will gather around their respective computers to enjoy an annual meeting like none before.



We will learn who the Founders Fund winners are. We will get a glimpse of the GCA

national medalists and honorary members. We will celebrate our recent achievements, and we will look to the future.

How to participate? You will need to login to the GCA website to participate in the fun, so in the meantime, please take this time to get set. If you have never logged into the Members Area, it's as easy as mixing lemons, sugar, and water — 1, 2, 3!

1. Go to [gcamerica.org/members](http://gcamerica.org/members)
2. Enter your email address and your password. *Unsure of your password?* Click the Forgot my Password link right below the password field, and it will be sent to you.
3. If it doesn't recognize your email address, email staff at [websupport@gcamerica.org](mailto:websupport@gcamerica.org) for personalized assistance.

We look forward to being with you on May 6, so get ready to pour yourself a glass of lemonade and enjoy the show!

## Horticulture Happenings

### How to Prune Roses

story and photos by Janet Manning

I don't know about you, but in these days of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, one of the things I've been able to do is to work in my garden. It's been tempting to get out and prune my roses but it's important not to do this too early in the spring. Pruning encourages new growth, which is much more susceptible to freeze damage when we get those colder temperatures again, especially this year with our record-breaking cold temperatures in April. The earliest one should prune roses here in Denver is the third week in April.



Why does one need to prune roses? You should prune out any old or diseased wood to help your roses maintain an attractive, full shape and to promote the growth of new shoots and buds, resulting in more blooms. Proper pruning can also open up the form of the bush, aiding air circulation to help prevent disease.

Always use sharp bypass pruners and wear gloves. I recommend gloves that are very heavy duty and come up to your elbow. When using bypass shears, position the flat-surfaced holding blade next to the part of the cane that will be discarded. That allows the cutting blade to make a clean slice on the part of the cane that is left. If the canes are very large, you may need to use a lopper or even a small pruning saw. It's important to make the cut at a 45 degree angle  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ " above a healthy bud eye that faces outward. This makes the rose grow outward and allows more light and air into its center. You should seal with Elmer's glue any cuts of branches larger than a pencil to help prevent cane borer damage. If you remove an entire cane, cut it as close to the ground as possible; dead stumpy sections will rot.

There are different techniques for pruning roses, depending on the type of rose you have. For all roses, it's important to remove dead or diseased canes regularly. You should



also remove any weak, scraggly growth and canes that are crossed and rubbing together.

- Repeat blooming Old Garden Roses and Modern Shrubs need little pruning. You can shorten some canes by one third to encourage flowering. Root spreading varieties require root pruning to keep the rose within bounds.
- Repeat blooming Climbers should be pruned after the first flowering. Climbers have two types of stems: the main climbing stems and the lateral shoots that flower. Cutting back the laterals after the first flowering will encourage rebloom.
- Once blooming Old Garden Shrubs and Climbers should only be pruned after they flower. Then they can be pruned lightly to encourage new growth that will develop into next year's flowers.

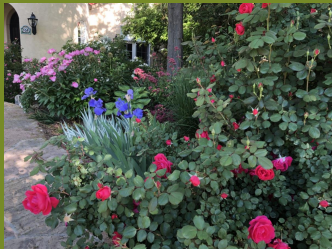
Deadhead all of these types of roses routinely throughout the summer but stop in early August so that you'll get a good set of rose hips in the fall.

Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, and Floribundas are treated a little differently since these roses flower best on vigorous new wood. Assuming you mulched these roses prior to winter, you should remove this winter protection gradually to expose new sprouts so they can harden off. In most areas of Colorado, a substantial portion of the canes are damaged by our winter climate. After you have removed these dead, diseased and weak canes, prune the main canes back to the desired height just above the nearest healthy, outward-growing bud, making sure you are cutting into healthy wood. (The pith should be white or cream and the inner cambium layer should be green.) If you want larger exhibition-type blooms, leave only 3 or 4 of the healthiest canes; leave more canes to produce a greater number of smaller flowers in your garden.

During the flowering period, remove spent blossoms to promote new flower shoots, making an angled cut just above an outward-facing leaf with 5 leaflets. These canes should be pencil thin in order to have enough energy to produce blooms instead of foliage only and to support the weight of new blooms.

Another type of summer pruning is called disbudding. For Hybrid Teas, remove or rub off the outer two buds early on, leaving only the one in the center so that you will get a large one-bloom-per-stem specimen. For Grandifloras or Floribundas, do the opposite and remove the large central bud to end up with more blooms.

After the first part of September, harvest blooms on short stems so as not encourage late new growth before the weather turns very cold. As the growing season slows down, make sure your roses are well watered to help them get through the winter in better condition. Also, cut Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras and Floribundas back to 24-30" late in the season. When the temperatures get down to 22 degrees for a few nights in a row, it's time to begin mulching and the process begins all over again.



Janet Manning's garden in June with  
*Rosa x 'Winnipeg Parks'* in foreground.



*Rosa x 'Morden's Sunrise'*

## Floral Design

### Floral Design Mass Arrangement Workshop

The Floral Workshop was held at Veldkamp's Design Center in March.

#### Materials for tureen-like container

The flowers included astrantia, Nena roses, Free Spirit roses, Lemonade roses, ranunculus, freesia, mini green hydrangea, hydrangeas, Queen Anne's lace, curly willow, protea, tulips and assorted greens.

#### Design for a Traditional Mass Arrangement

The concept for a traditional mass arrangement is one in which the flowers show a full body arrangement with a relatively closed form overall. The center and focal point of the arrangement should be bold and strong using floral and plant materials. The arrangement should progress peripherally to fewer, smaller and more delicate materials at the edges. In the end, there is an overall symmetry and balance that arises from the front and center, with smaller specimens on the outer edges. Most participants in the group chose to make their arrangements all-around instead of one-sided in their lovely tureens.



A lovely mass floral arrangement  
by Leslie Liedtke.



Courtney Marsters' arrangement  
compliments her dining room beautifully.

## Photography Focus

### 10 Tips For Landscape Photography

story and photo by Margaret Garbe

1. Maximize your depth of field by using a small aperture setting like an f 22.
2. Use a tripod. As much as we hate tripods, they really work!
3. Look for a focal point. Focal points can take many forms in landscapes and could range from a building or a structure, a striking tree, a boulder or rock formation or a silhouette. Think of where you place it using the rule of thirds.
4. Think foregrounds. A lake, stream, or a field of flowers are great foregrounds and create a sense of depth in your shot.
5. Consider the sky. Cloud formations add interest in the upper third of your photo.
6. Lines give an image depth and scale and can be a point of interest in and of themselves by creating patterns in your shot.
7. Capture a moment. Creating movement in an image will add drama and mood, and create a point of interest. Capturing movement generally means you need a longer shutter speed.
8. Work with the weather. A cloudy day that is threatening rain can create an image with real mood and ominous overtones. Look for storms, wind, mist, dramatic clouds, sun shining through dark skies, rainbows, sunsets and sunrises.
9. Work the golden hours. The angle of the light and how it impacts a scene - creating interesting patterns dimensions and textures - can make a spectacular photo.
10. Think about horizons. Make sure they are straight, using rule of thirds.



## Conservation Corner

### How Did You Celebrate Earth Day's 50th Anniversary?

by Caroline Rassenfoss



The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. Organized by Harvard graduate student Denis Hayes, the inaugural event encouraged some 20 million people across the United States to participate in marches, clean-ups, demonstrations, and celebrations. New York City closed 40 blocks of Fifth Avenue and 14th Street to accommodate crowds during the first celebration.

As *New York Times* science writer, Henry Fountain, points out: "Earth Day generated a different kind of activism than the kind Americans had experienced in the previous decade, when racial inequality and the Vietnam War were at the forefront."

Earth Day was both a celebration of Mother Earth and a hard look at what was needed to do to protect it. Earth Day had no formal opposition. Or as the *New York Times* reporter Joseph Lelyveld wrote: "If the environment had any enemies, they did not make themselves known."

The resounding support of Earth Day and our environment was followed by a wave of federal policy and new legislation. President Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency and Congress passed The Endangered Species Act and The Clean Water Act, both of which are facing rollbacks today.



Hayes, Earth Day's creator, was early to the table with warnings about fossil fuel use and global warming. He never envisioned Earth Day as an anti-litter, anti-pollution event but more as a "fundamental change in the nature of the American economy." Earth Day changed how we do business and how we continue to live our lives.

While we shelter at home 50 years later, what better time to celebrate Mother Earth? As gardeners and conservationists, we know the mental and physical joy we derive from our open spaces, trees and gardens. By using our cars only when essential, we've given Earth a chance to take a deep breath of clean air -- and we've been able to do the same.

Hopefully, everyone was able to give a tree a hug on Earth Day, as we were not able to give one to each other quite yet.

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## How Did GCA Celebrate Earth Day?

### Ideas to celebrate Earth Day:

1. Visit National Parks [online](#).
2. Attend a webinar on pesticides and pollinators by the [Xerces Society](#) and learn about [Monarch Conservation](#).
3. Appreciate what NASA is doing for the planet in this [video](#).
4. Start that [compost bin](#) again with all the cooking we're all doing.
5. Learn about the [History of Earth Day](#) and virtual Earth Day activities.
6. And before going on your long Earth Day nature walk or as you are finding respite with gardening, read Diane's latest blog entry on [tick prevention](#) on her Healthy Yard website.



[Earth Day Website](#)