

Garden Club of Denver

February 2021

Volume 8, Issue 6



*When the night has been too lonely
And the road has been too long,
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong,
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snows
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose.
Bette Midler*

How do you want to say "I love you" this Valentine's Day? Many say it with roses, a universal expression of love, but to really share your subtle feelings, consider personalizing your message using the Language of Flowers. The color of the rose chosen and the number of roses convey different messages. A pink rose offers a softer sentiment than a red one, but both show deep affection. A yellow rose represents joy and friendship,

while the white rose is a symbol of purity and sincerity. A single rose speaks to a new love or love at first sight. Five stems shows admiration while eight stems show support for a loved one. A bouquet of nine roses is a sign of eternal love, but twelve is clearly an invitation to "be mine." Mixing different colors and numbers of roses creates a bouquet of emotions. A bouquet of red and white roses for instance, would mean, "I love you intensely and my intentions are honorable," while a pink and white bouquet would say, "I simply love you with all my heart."

To reiterate what I wrote in September, our "Language of Flowers" flower show is about the joy it will bring us as we ease out of COVID hibernation to rekindle friendships and create beauty from nature's bounty. So many of you are already working diligently to make sure every detail is thoughtfully and thoroughly considered, as well as participating in at least one, if not many, of the flower show classes. Our Chairmen, Missy Eliot and Nina Sisk deserve a bouquet of five yellow roses to show our friendship and admiration.

Send your message of love this Valentine's Day with carefully selected roses. A random mix of roses might convey mixed feelings or simply send the message: "I don't know what my feelings are, but I sure do like you enough to send you roses."

Meg Nichols



Mark your calendar!

President's Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 10 a.m.

Got Photos! Zoom Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 4:30 p.m.

February General Meeting
with pressed flowers presentation
via Zoom
Tuesday, February 9, 11 a.m.

eNews Deadline
Monday, February 15

**"Sew, a Needle Pulling Thread"
Needlepoint 101 Zoom Workshop**
Tuesday, February 16, 1 - 2 p.m.



[Garden Club of Denver](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Garden Club of America](#)

[GCA ZONE XII](#)

February General Meeting

Join us for our Zoom meeting
Tuesday, February 9th as we learn
how to press flowers and create

Conservation/Photography Birding Field Trip with Norm Lewis
Thursday, February 18, 1 - 3 p.m.

GCA National Affairs & Legislation Conference
Tuesday and Wednesday,
February 23 - 24

Photography Field Shoot
Subject and location TBD
Monday, March 1, 9:30 a.m.

President's Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 10 a.m.

Got Photos! Zoom Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 4:30 p.m.

The Language of Flowers Committee Meeting
Monday, March 8, 1 - 2 p.m.

March General Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 11 a.m.

beautiful botanical arts using those flowers.

Our very own Angela Overy and Monty Kugeler will lead us in a prerecorded Pressed Flower Workshop and then be available for live questions. Special focus will be on preparing entries for The Language Of Flowers.



Member Janet Manning (above) proudly stands by her stunning custom-designed winter planters by Member Elizabeth Weigand. Janet purchased this service during the 2020 GCD Florabundance Auction in February.

Conservation Corner



**Selling Carbon Credits:
A Unique Way for Farmers
to Generate Income**
by Lisë Woodard

After watching the movie "Kiss the Ground, a group of us gathered on



Photography Focus

Connected. Grateful. Inspired
by Deborah Foy

The past year has presented many challenges, provided opportunities to redefine how we engage, and encouraged us to develop creative

Zoom to discuss what we learned about beneficial practices in farming. The key message was that soil health is critical to addressing a multitude of issues. Soil management is the quickest way to improve water efficiency. Planting cover crops when the harvest is over not only improves the soil, but also captures carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis. Converted carbon can be trapped in the soil for years, if the soil is not tilled.

The dilemma is how to make it economically possible for farmers, who are already impacted by volatile weather, lower yields and prices, to make the transition. It takes about four to five years to convert land from traditional farming to regenerative farming. However, early-adopter farmers say regenerative farming increases crop yields, and the money earned from carbon credits has enabled them to buy more land for regenerative farming.

It turns out that a fair number of companies like Shopify, as well as individuals like us, would like to buy units of carbon to offset emissions from travel and transportation. Several startups, like Nori LLC and Locus Agricultural Solutions, as well as established agricultural corporations, are developing internet platforms where farmers can sell their carbon credits to interested buyers. These carbon middlemen verify the carbon capture data with satellites and soil tests.

But this approach raises questions: What happens if land is sold or farmers change their minds? Also, are we letting corporations off the hook by allowing them to buy carbon credits rather than change their business practices?

Watch the trailer for "Kiss the Ground" [here](#). Currently, it is available on Netflix. We highly recommend that you watch it with your family and share with your friends.

approaches to our every day lives. By participating in the GCA COVID BOOK PROJECT, we have an opportunity to help tell the story of this past year through our photographs.

Jean Jarvis, Zone XII Photography Representative, shared that when the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic occurred, there was no coverage by the GCA. It wasn't permitted. "We now hope to provide insights to those who will follow us by sharing what living through a pandemic was like for individuals and families, local businesses, schools, first responders, medical staff, service providers, etc. So snap a photo that tells the story as you greet your beloved UPS driver, join the queue at the grocery, hang that masked Santa or TP ornament, pay for your Starbucks drive-through order, celebrate an intimate holiday meal with your pod, or enter a COVID testing line."

There is a wide and varied list of topics we are encouraged to consider, which can be found on the GCA website under [COVID Book Project](#).

To submit an image (or two) to the COVID Project click [HERE](#).

Submissions are due May 31, 2021.



Photo by Deborah Foy

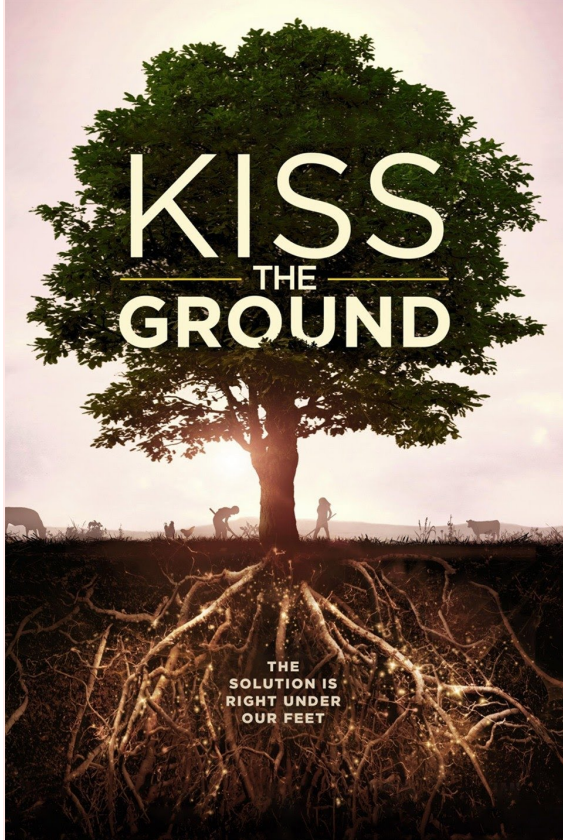


Photo courtesy of Netflix.

Conservation/Photography Birding Field Trip

Please join us for a Birding Field Trip with Norm Lewis on Thursday, February 18, at 1 p.m.

Norm has 30 years of birding experience and is a Department Associate of Zoology for Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Norm will take us to the Steel Street Park (South Platte at 78th and Steele) where we'll observe ducks, geese, coots, herons, and grebes. Bring your masks, camera, binoculars and warm clothing.

Please email Amy Mower if you would like to join at mowerfam@comcast.net. (Alternate weather date is Monday 2/22 1 to 3 p.m.)



Phalaenopsis by Marianne Sulser

Tips for Growing Phalaenopsis Orchids by Tish Szurek

What to look for when buying a Phalaenopsis orchid:

- Look for healthy leaves and roots with no blemishes or



Floral Design by Nina Sisk and Cora Wheeler

What incredible success we had with the December Greens Workshop, "Creating Seasonal Outdoor Pots" on December 8th. Forty five GCD members participated with over 75 individual bunches of greenery dispersed. Our second "how to" video was well received. Cora is a natural to engage and encourage us. Thanks to all the members who sent photos of their creations. It is amazing to witness the creativity of our GCD membership.

- yellowing.
- Check the crown and the stems for patches of black or yellow indicating fungus.
- Look for an orchid with buds not yet open to ensure long blooming time left in cycle.

Where to place your orchid in your home:

- Indirect bright light, preferably near an eastern window,
- No direct sunlight.
- Artificial light is fine, just don't place lamp too close to plant.
- Avoid extreme heat or cold. Don't place near heat or cooling sources.

When and How to Water:

- Water when fully dry. This will vary based on humidity and temperature in your home, usually every 1 - 2 weeks. Too much watering will suffocate the roots.
- Look at roots (a transparent plastic pot is helpful here), they will be silvery or gray when dry.
- Feel the growing medium to see if completely dry.
- Learn the difference in the feel of the pot when dry (lighter) versus watered (heavier).
- Use soft or distilled water, not hard water.
- Two methods of watering are (1) flushing the pot with water for about 10 seconds while holding over the sink, or (2) submerging the pot in water for 10 minutes. In either method, be sure to fully drain the pot after watering to avoid root rot.
- Use lukewarm/room temperature water.
- Avoid letting water pool in the crown or the joints of the leaves. This helps avoid rot.
- Do not mist orchids, which can cause fungal spots on blooms.

When to fertilize:

- Orchids are not heavy feeders. Do not use house plant fertilizer. Use orchid-specific fertilizer instead.
- Orchid fertilizers can focus on growth, boosting blooms or be a balance of both. Choose accordingly.
- Never use more fertilizer than instructed on the label
- Some people fertilize lightly

We suggest that you let the greenery in your pots remain through early spring. Just pull out those elements that are red, or feel too "Christmas-y." The greenery alone will be a welcome addition to your front doors.

Watch for details for the "Miniature" Floral Design Workshop in March.

Monthly Tip **How to Order an Arrangement from a Florist**

February brings to mind Valentine's day and sending flowers to those we care about. Many times we are a bit intimidated by the prospect of How To Order from our florist. Here are some tips to simplify the process.

Know your Florists!

Ask your friends for suggestions. This is a time saver. You know those people who always have gorgeous floral arrangements at their special occasions? Those people often have favorite florists, so ask for a recommendation.

Be willing to tackle the preliminary research when you have a little time on your hands. It will make the task of reviewing florists' work much more pleasurable! The best florists have helpful websites, rich with appealing photos and blog pages. Read their customer reviews and familiarize yourself with order limitations, i.e. delivery options, preset, or custom work.

Be sure to get an overall "feel" for the florist's work. You will generally start to see a pattern to their design. They may lean towards woodsy, organic, contemporary, or a tight pavé look. They might always incorporate a dramatic, unusual flower such as orchids or cactus. You'll be happiest if you seek out a florist whose natural work fits your preference for your occasion.

Order Early!

A minimum of 48 hours is required. For a very special occasion, seven to ten days is a good timeline, as it allows the florist to special order specific flowers and greenery. Event work requires months of planning.

Communicate Specifics!

every time they water/ some once a month

- Consider flushing the pot once a month to remove any salt deposits from fertilizer
- Salt deposits from excessive fertilizing can cause dark patches on roots

What to do after the blooms are gone:

- Phalaenopsis does not go dormant! It is constantly growing. *Note to self: do not set plant in the corner and ignore until dead!*
- This is a good time to repot in fresh growing medium and in a pot with ventilation on both sides and good drainage.
- It is normal for the old leaves at the bottom of the plant to yellow and die off.
- If leaves get dusty, wet a paper napkin or cotton ball and wipe the top only of the leaves.

All these recommendations are really just the tip of the iceberg . . . which reminds me: do not water your orchids with ice cubes!

For more information on orchid care with great how to videos, I recommend [Miss Orchid Girl on YouTube](#).

Know your recipient. Do they only love white flowers? Do they have a favorite flower? What is the Occasion? A romantic floral arrangement would certainly look different than a thank-you arrangement to a coworker.



Debbie Davis' grandson, Charlie, looks pleased with his grandmother's creations. Photo by Debbie Davis.



Congratulations to GCD member Marianne Sulser for winning second place in the GCA *Focus* contest "America the Beautiful." According to the *Focus* editors: there were 219 entrants from 96 GCA clubs representing all 12 GCA zones. Marianne took the photo of Haystack Rock (above) while on vacation in Cannon Beach, Oregon using her iPhone. Congrats also to Suellen White who was selected as a finalist. See all the final results [here](#).



Membership News

Do You Have the Perfect GCD Candidate? by Margaret Garbe

*New member proposals are due March 1, 2021

When considering a candidate for apprentice membership in the Garden Club of Denver, please remember that we are looking for members of diverse ages, interests and talents, as stated in our By-Laws. Our mission statement reflects the interests that a candidate should have: "Founded on a mutual love for gardening and the natural beauty of Colorado, the Garden Club of Denver seeks knowledge and expertise in

horticulture, conservation and flower arranging and shares these ideas and skills with its members and the community."

It is important that other current GCD members know the candidate. When asking someone to write a seconding letter, be sure it is someone who has known the candidate for a while. Before proposing a candidate, please refer to Article I – Membership in the Bylaws, found on pages 66 - 67 as well as the Policies of the Garden Club of Denver, Section 1 - Membership, page 75, in the 2020-2021 Roster or on the GCD website under Governance & Policies. And consider carefully the questions on the GCD Membership Form.

As a sponsor, you will be required to assist your candidate, if she is accepted, through her apprentice year by accompanying her to GCD meetings and workshops, introducing her to all GCD members and participating with her in DBG and other garden-related activities.

Please feel free to call either Jane Davis (303-756-3137) or Margaret Garbe (303-506-5061) for more information.

Welcome, Emerita by Jane Davis

The President's Council has approved a policy change instituting a new category of Membership: *Emerita*. In general, the purpose of this new category is to honor members who have served the club faithfully for many years but no longer feel they would like to, or are unable to, participate in GCD and GCA activities. Although no longer members of GCD or GCA, these ladies will continue to receive the GCD newsletter and, on occasion, be invited to our club events. Details will be available on the website.

**Don't forget to follow Garden Club of America
on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
and add the GCA App to your phone.**

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

Awards & Founders Fund:

Sally Obregon

Bulletin & Communications:

Sarah Young

Conservation National Affairs and Legislation:

Lisë Woodard & Amy Mower

Denver Botanic Gardens Committees:

Cutting Garden:

Genie Waters & Linda Zinn

Fete Liaisons:

Debbie Davis & Nan Procknow

Flower Arranging:

Debbie Davis

Committee Chairmen (Continued)

2021 GCA Flower Show:

Missy Eliot & Nina Sisk

Fund Development:

Liza Grant

Garden History & Design:

Holley Sanford

Historian:

Muffie Dahlberg

Horticulture:

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

Holiday Décor:
Lisa Duke & Ann Ellis

Directory (Roster):
Amy Slothower & Megan Mahncke

Floral Design:
Nina Sisk & Cora Wheeler

Scholarships:
Ann Crammond

Visiting Gardens:
Lindsay Dodge

Website:
Kathleen Woodberry
& Elizabeth Weigand

[View as Webpage](#)