

# Garden Club of Denver

## Holiday 2022

Volume 8, Issue 15



Flower shows, fund raisers, horticulture and conservation projects, as well as significant GCA and GCD awards, remind us of our Club's remarkable accomplishments. We made a difference and were commended for it. We quickly forget the achievements of our friends and fellow GCD members, so it is important to remember their gifts to our club and community, especially as we create a vision of the future.

**1987** Members helped raise \$24,000 for The Greening of Denver, a fund-raising event held at the Ice House for the benefit of Creekfront Park and Denver Botanic Gardens. A prior commitment to Denver Botanic Gardens for signage was met. Ed Connors became a GCA Member at Large.

**1988** The Greening of Denver, the second year of the successful fund-raising event, raised \$28,000 for Creekfront Park, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Historic Denver. Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin was President of the DBG Board of Trustees.

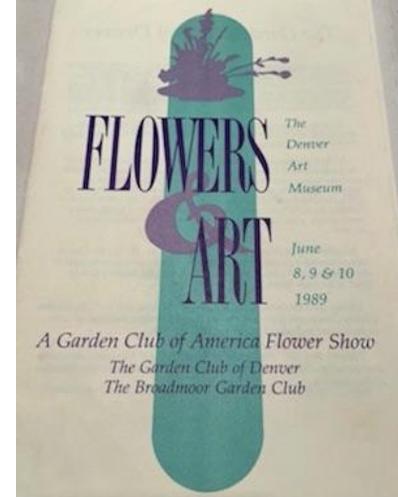
**1989** The Garden Club of Denver produced "Flowers and Art," a GCA small flower show, at the Denver Art Museum. Proceeds went to Denver Art Museum and Denver Botanic Gardens. Best of Show won by Mary Schaefer and her mother, Nancy Schlosser.

**1990** "Flowers and Art," second year of the Garden Club



Honorary member Ed Connors  
(standing)

of America small flower show. Received the GCA Small Flower Show Award. Best of Show won by Susan Sheridan. The Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award won by Debbie Davis. Proceeds went to Denver Art Museum and Denver Botanic Gardens. Angela Overy founded the School of Botanical Illustration at the Denver Botanic Gardens. (See photo below.)



**1991** The Garden Club of Denver celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a luncheon in Denver Botanic Garden's Home Demonstration Garden. The Club established a Wild Flower Preserve on Genesee Mountain. This project helped focus attention on the necessity of securing a Botanic Garden in the Rocky Mountain Region.

**1992** Creekfront Park was completed and dedicated in October through the efforts of Mel Grant and many others.

**1993** "Flowers and Art" was held as a non-GCA flower show to benefit Denver Art Museum, where it was held, and Denver Botanic Gardens. The GCA Club Horticulture Certificate of Acknowledgement for Non-members was awarded to Mr. Rob Proctor in recognition of his dedication to horticulture and his ability to encourage others by sharing his knowledge with wit, energy, and enthusiasm.

**1994** The Garden Club of America presented Panayoti Kelaidis, the Curator of Plant Collections at Denver Botanic Gardens, with the Florens De Bevoise Award for achievement with rock garden plants. The Medal was presented at the GCA Annual Meeting.



**1995** Flowers and Art was a successful GCA small flower show at Denver Art Museum, benefiting the Museum and Denver Botanic Gardens. Awards received were Ann Lyon Crammond Award (education) and Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Award (conservation) for the exhibit "Four Steps to a Beautiful Garden/Planet Wise Planting"; Catherine Beattie Medal and Best in Show for Horticulture to Marilyn Wilson; Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award and Best in Show for Flower Arranging to Angela Overy (photo left) and Marilyn Wilson; Judges' Commendation for Miniature Rock Garden, Pinaceae, and A Gift to the Gods classes. The Garden Club of Denver contributed \$5,000 to Denver Botanic Gardens' capital campaign.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, December 7th at 9:30 in Mitchell Hall for our December meeting and Holiday Greens Workshop. Thank you, Cora and Nina for all you do to prepare for this tradition!

Have a warm & wonderful holiday season with your family and friends,

*Meg Nichols*



# Calendar of Events

## Mark your calendar!

### December

#### Wednesday, December 1

GCA Program on Demand Premier

#### Thursday December 2

Outdoor Pot Greenery Pick Up, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m, Nina Sisk's house

#### Thursday, December 2

Photography Webinar, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### Monday, December 6

Conservation Field Trip, 12:30 - 2 p.m. High Line Canal; See details below

#### Tuesday, December 7

December General Meeting and Holiday Floral Design Workshop, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., DBG Gates Hall, see details below

#### Wednesday, December 8

GCA Online Floral Design Conference

### January

#### Tuesday, January 4

President's Council Meeting, 1 - 2 p.m. Meg Nichols' house

#### Tuesday, January 11

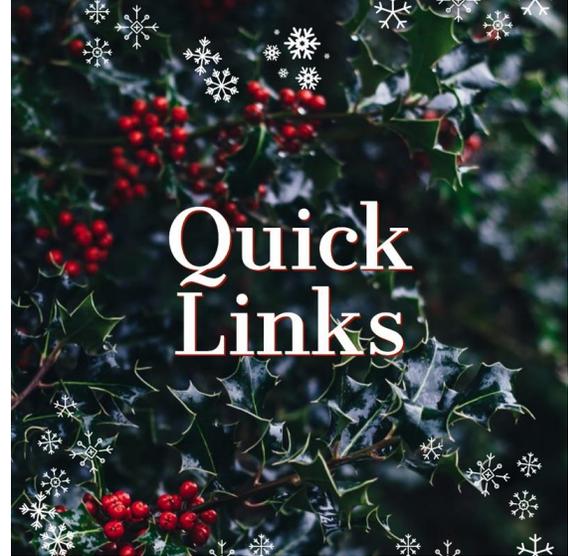
January General Meeting, 10:45 a.m - 1 p.m., DBG

#### Tuesday, January 18

Photography Field Shoot, 9:30 a.m.

#### Thursday, January 20

Got Photos! Zoom meeting, 4:30 p.m.



# Quick Links

[Garden Club of Denver](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Garden Club of America](#)

[GCA ZONE XII](#)

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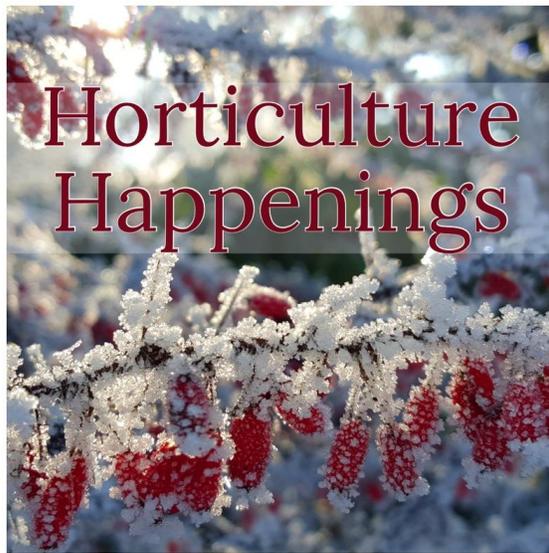
## Membership Announcement

We have room to take on new Apprentices in the 2022-2023 season. Please be thinking of candidates and check the website for proposal details. Letters are due to the Membership Committee on February 28, 2021.

## December and January Programs

In December, our traditional Floral Design "greens" workshop will follow the business meeting with an estimated start time of 11 a.m. This year, we will create an arrangement using amaryllis as a cut flower. Prior rsvp required.

The January meeting will be our first hybrid meeting, meaning you may participate in person or join via Zoom. Our program speaker will be Liz Kalies of the The Nature Conservancy. Liz is a GCA Scholarship recipient and her program will be: "Conservation - Why Science Matters."



# Horticulture Happenings

## **Dividing Hydrangeas by Monty Kugeler**

Hydrangeas can easily be divided. The best time to divide your hydrangea is in the fall when the leaves have already fallen and your bush is preparing to go into dormancy. The alternative is to divide in early spring just before any new growth appears.

Experts suggest tying up the stalks with twine or rope before you start digging. This makes for easier digging and easier transporting. Dig around the bush being careful not to sever the roots. Remove the root ball from the hole. Use the shovel and/or a pitch fork to divide the root ball in half; divide into more sections if it is particularly large. Keep around 12 eyes per clump as a guide.

Plant in a well prepared location with the hole large enough that the division will be at the same depth as it was before you dug it up. Water the transplant well. Be aware that your transplanted bushes most likely will droop at first, but they will perk up in a few days. Keep watering regularly throughout the summer until the roots are well established.

Digging up the entire root ball is preferred but mature hydrangea root balls can be really heavy. If you don't want to wrestle with the whole plant, use a shovel to cut through the root ball and remove an outer section. Dig out that section and transplant. Water both the older plant and the transplant well.



## **You Can Make a Difference by Amy Mower**

Costco sells a billion rolls of toilet paper annually. Most of the pulp used is from the Canadian boreal forest, which is the largest intact forest. The wood produces softwood kraft pulp that is preferred by Americans for the soft bleached toilet paper it creates. Our consumption here in the U.S. is depleting a huge carbon sink. The boreal forests soak up enough carbon to offset the pollution from 24 million cars globally each year. In addition to the climate benefits, many Indigenous people rely on these forests, as do wildlife and plants.

What we can do is consider recycled toilet paper or bamboo products. We can also join forces with Environment Colorado and sign your name to their petition asking Costco/Kirkland to use products that are at least 50% recycled and to quit selling other offending brands. See the chart below on acceptable products.



Annabelle Hydrangea *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' by Leslie Liedtke

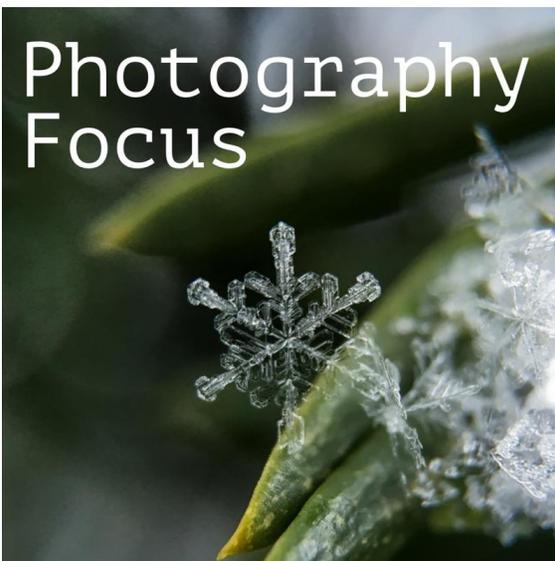
**NRDC** TOILET PAPER SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD

A	B	D	F

### HIGHLINE CONSERVANCY FIELD TRIP

On Monday, December 6, meet at 12:30 p.m. at Eisenhower Park, 4300 E. Dartmouth, to walk 2 miles along the highline to learn about the conversion of the canal into a green stormwater infrastructure and what that means for filtering water pollution from the system and utilizing the runoff to sustain a more robust tree canopy. At 1:30 we will move down to the HL Conservancy office at 4010 E. Orchard, to learn details on how the highline is impacting other urban/suburban parks within the country.

## Photography Focus



**Holidays Create Photo Opportunities**  
by Suellen White

As you celebrate the holidays with family, keep your camera close by. You may just catch your amaryllis in the perfect light. Or while on a late afternoon walk, you will want to capture the alpenglow on the



**Sometimes You Just Get Robbed....**  
by Dodie Jackson

After our recent and wonderful Flower Show, *The Language of Flowers*, I was remembering a few past shows in which I participated. One in particular stood out. It was a GCA Major Show, *Florescence*, in

mountains. For tips on photographing landscapes and for using backlighting to your advantage, check out the [Fall 2021 issue of Focus](#).

If the weather keeps you inside longing for spring, a book showcasing the stunning beauty of the great outdoors may just be the antidote and inspiration you need. Both the editors of *Focus* and *Architectural Digest* recommend ***Private Edens - Beautiful Country Gardens*** by Jack Staub.

Videos are a great way to learn photography techniques and YouTube has a wealth of information. Suggested by *Focus* editors are: 1. Beautiful garden landscape photography [Focus Techniques in Landscape Photography](#) by Nigel Danson; 2. [How to Shoot Powerful Foregrounds](#) by Nigel Danson; 3. [Landscape Photography—Anatomy of a Great Picture](#) by Joshua Cripps; 4. [Essentials of Creative Composition in Landscape Photography](#) by Robert Rodriguez, Jr at [BH&GVideo.com](#).



Backlighting helps petals "glow".  
Photo by Suellen White

### **Photographing Olmsted 200 with the Garden History and Design Committee**

All of you who are joining the Garden History and Design committee on their Olmsted 200 walks in the Denver Mountain Parks, please create a folder for photos from your walks. Sweep your favorites into

Houston.

I had entered a floral design class and entrants were to make a purse. My design was based on the Kelly Bag. I made it out of chicken wire, covered with paper mache and then paved with lamb's ear. The flap of the purse was pulled back, as if the wind were blowing and the underside of the flap was paved with rose leaves. Inside the purse was a bouquet of flowers. I won a Second Place. The First Place went to a purse that was composed of knotted palm leaves and twisted tea leaves. The manipulation of leaves was all the rage at flower shows at that time, so the Judges were impressed. The purse was pretty, but kind of looked like a tourist purchase down in Mexico.

My disappointment over not winning the First Place was eased when so many people kept telling me how much they loved my purse! For many years, other Judges and members kept reminding me of how much they enjoyed the purse. This went on for quite a number of years. At another flower show, some 10 years later, I was introduced to another Judge and when she heard my name she said, "Oh, you are the one who did that purse in Houston." With so much positive feedback, I ended up feeling like a real winner, even though to this day I feel like I got robbed of the Blue Ribbon. But one never knows exactly what the Judges will decide and why. Just keep entering and you might just figure it out! And when you do, let me know!

### **Flower Show Tips for Botanic Arts:**

- Use the color purple as an accent color, not the dominant color. Judges generally do not like purple.
- Make sure ALL of your glue and glue strings are removed.
- Use the Principles and Elements of Design when creating your piece.
- Make your entry as clean and pristine as possible.
- Hide any mechanics or cover them with plant material.
- Do have confidence in your design.
- READ the Schedule for details of what is acceptable and what is not.

the folder and by June you should have a good collection of stunning landscape photos. Deborah and I are proposing an informal photography exhibit from our Olmsted 200 project at the June 2022 annual meeting. Details to follow.



Thank You to everyone who participated in the "Whimsical Wreath" workshop. Members created gorgeous personal designs using grapevine as the base and gorgeous dried plant material.

## Garden History and Design by Holley Sanford and Sarah Alijani

The Garden History and Design Committee kicked off our Olmsted 200 project on October 27th in Genesee with Kate Fritz of the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation. We started with a tour of the historic Chief Hosa Lodge designed by Jacques Benedict in 1918, and then were given "behind the gate" access to the bison herd by Matt Brown, the herd manager. Matt graciously took his time to educate us on the history of the bison herd, the nature of these animals, and how they are cared for on the 580 acres of DMP land in Genesee. A fun fact we learned is that a bison can jump six feet from a standing position! The best way to keep them contained is to make certain they are provided with plenty to eat and stay content in their enclosure. They are truly majestic animals and it was such a privilege to see them up close and learn more about them. After these two tours, we took a beautiful three-mile hike on the Genesee Trail.

Please lookout for more outings on the calendar and sign-ups that Meg will be sending out. We are taking a break until January, but have outings planned every other month until June.

While we are celebrating Olmsted's 200th birthday, we thought you might enjoy reading [this article](#) on Krisheim, a beautiful and historic home in the heart of Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia. The gardens of Krisheim were designed by Olmsted in the early 20th century for Gertrude and George Woodward and have recently been meticulously restored by Chuck and Anna Woodward. Anna is currently president of the Wissahickon Garden Club in Chestnut



The 90-foot-long pond below the Upper Terrace at Krisheim in Philadelphia designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.



Denver Garden Club members in Chief Hosa Lodge. Photo by Matt Brown

Hill. The home and gardens were also documented for the Smithsonian Archives by the Garden History and Design committee of Wissahickon Garden Club in 2013. We hope you enjoy this article and the beautiful photos that accompany it. It is truly a magnificent place.



Bison in Genesee. Photo by Tish Szurek



## Program Perks

### GCA Program Perks for 2021-2022

GCA has another great lineup of Videos On Demand this year! While we will not have Zoom meetings to discuss the videos as we did last year, we encourage you to watch these excellent videos when you have time. The first video is already available on the GCA members website. From your member homepage, click on "Read, Watch, Shop" then select "Videos" from the drop down menu.

Three videos are highlighted this year:

- (1) *Making of a Flower Flash - Creating Goodwill* with Lewis Miller (now available).
- (2) *Planning Your Kitchen Garden for the Year* with Nicole Burke (released December 1).
- (3) *Vitamin N isn't Just for Kids* with Richard Louv (available March 1).



## STRATEGIC PLAN

### What should our club focus on in the next 3 years?

This fall, GCD has embarked on a review of our mission and vision. We ask each of you to reflect on the above question. In the coming months, we hope to get input from every one of our members to create a collective vision for our club.

Our GCD mission statement (which is on our website and printed on page 2 of our directory) reads as follows:

*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, floral design, photography and botanic arts and shares these ideas and skills with its members and the community.*

Thanks in advance for your participation to help point our club in the right direction for the near future!



GCD members having fun decorating DBG's Romantic Garden for the winter.

**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

**Committee Chairmen (Continued)**

**2021 GCA Flower Show:**  
Missy Eliot & Nina Sisk

**Fund Development:**  
Liza Grant

**Garden History & Design:**  
Holley Sanford & Sarah Alijani

**Historian:**  
Muffie Dahlberg

**Horticulture:**

**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

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

[View as Webpage](#)