

Garden Club of Denver

March 2021

Volume 8, Issue 7



*There's rosemary, that's for remembrance.
Pray you, love, remember. And there is pansies,
that's for thoughts . . .*

*There's fennel for you, and columbines.
There's rue for you, and here's some for me; we
may call it herb of grace o' Sundays.*

*You must wear your
rue with a difference. There's a daisy. I would
give you some violets but they withered all . . .*

William Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, Act IV, Scene 5)

Proper etiquette during Shakespeare's time expected people to be subtle about their emotions. Flirting was prohibited, and talking about relationships, taboo. The

Some herbs and their meanings:

Bay Laurel or Leaves:
Victory

Chamomile: Patience

Columbine: Foolishness

Daisy: Innocence

Fennel: Flattery

inability to express feelings freely created a culture where secret messages were conveyed through a language using flowers and herbs. In Act IV of *Hamlet*, Ophelia hands out herbs and flowers to express the feelings she could not voice out loud. Was her “madness” caused by the loss of love and innocence due to Hamlet’s flattery and foolishness? How subtle can we be when creating a nosegay, arrangement or bouquet for our Flower Show? Also remember, The Language of Flowers, when planting your collection of herbs or miniature garden. What emotions are you going to impart?

Even though boredom and frustration with this pandemic has affected us all, GCD will keep you busy this month! Aside from our Flower Show planning, Membership proposals are due! We will also vote on our Club’s choice for the Founder’s Fund Award and approve our Civic Donations and Memberships. Read more about the Founder’s Fund finalists below.

It is going take a little more thyme (strength and courage) to fight this nasty virus, but if we take Nature’s sage (wisdom) advice and sip a cup of chamomile (patience) tea, and sprinkle a little marjoram (joy & happiness) and sweet basil (good wishes) here and there, garnished with a bit of parsley (festivity), we will wear the crown of bay laurel leaves. (victory).

Marjoram: Joy and Happiness

Mint: Virtue

Oregano: Substance

Pansies: Thoughts

Parsley: Festivity

Rosemary: Remembrance

Rue: Grace

Sage: Wisdom

Sweet Basil: Good Wishes

Tarragon: Lasting Interest

Thyme: Courage

Violets: Faithfulness

Meg Nichols



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendar!

Monday, March 1
Photography Field Trip,
9:30 a.m. location TBD

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



[Garden Club of Denver](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Garden Club of America](#)

**Thursday, March 4,
Got Photos? Photography Meeting**
4:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Monday, March 8,
Flower Show Committee Meeting,**
1-2 p.m. via Zoom

**Tuesday, March 9,
GCD General Meeting,**
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Monday, March 15,
eNews deadline

**Tuesday, March 16,
Variety is the Spice of Life:
Additional Ideas for Creating a Fun
Canvas" Needlepoint workshop with
Dodie Jackson, 1 - 2 p.m. via Zoom**

March General Meeting

by Tish Szurek

Join us for our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Our speaker will be Nina Roumell, Deputy Director of Development for The GrowHaus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit offering food distribution programming and educational opportunities related to growing and cooking food as well as overall wellness. Thank you all for your beautiful and creative fascinators at our February meeting! Watch your email for info regarding our participatory splash of fun for the March meeting!

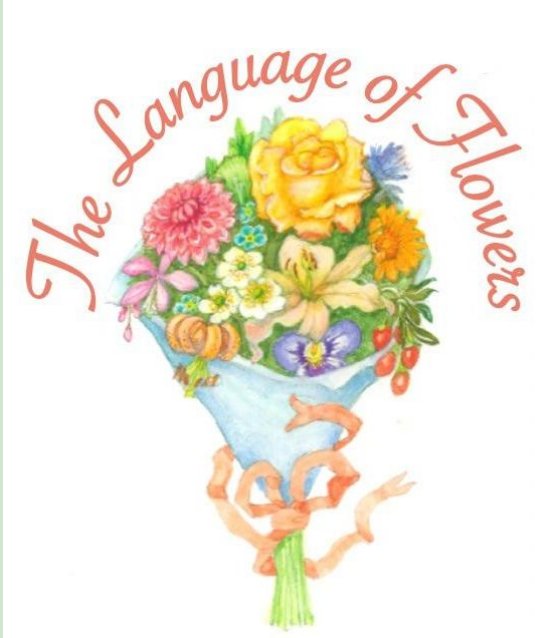


At the February GCD General Meeting donned hats and fascinators. Thanks to everyone who participated!

The Language of Flowers Flower Show News

By Alice Hughes

There is no excuse not to sign up for Horticulture Class III "Strength and Integrity." This is a Gladioli propagation challenge that is open just to GCD members. Our featured flower is the Abyssinian *Gladilus* and it is a lovely,



fragrant white flower that can grow just about anywhere. Best of all, we are giving away FREE bulbs (corms) to all who enter. If you get a beautiful bloom in time for the Flower Show, then please enter. If not, then enjoy your wonderful late summer blooming flowers in your garden or pots.

Abyssinian *Gladioli* are easy to grow, natural looking gems that thrive in full sun to partial shade and prefer moist, well drained soil in your garden or pots. They need to be treated as an annual in our climate, so plant them in the spring for show in the late summer/early fall.

Here is what Nancy Schotters says about the Abyssinian Gladioli she has in her front yard: "I have planted them in front, full sun and in groups as they have narrow leaves. I sprinkle them around in areas that need a pop in mid-late summer. They are so easy to grow and it's worth putting them near where you walk because they are fragrant."

Calling all kids!

Do you know any kids 12 and under who want to grow GIANT sunflowers and/or zucchinis? We are accepting entries for Classes VII and VIII and will be providing kids with sunflower seeds and baby zucchini plants and growing instructions. This class is open to anyone, so put the word out to your kids, grand kids, neighbors and friends.

Sign up now for all these horticulture classes by going to the GCD Website and finding the Flower Show registration on the home page. You can also contact Alice Hughes for more information and to register. (ahughes521@msn.com or 303-877-8903).



Photo of Abyssinian *Gladioli* courtesy of Brent's and Becky's Bulbs

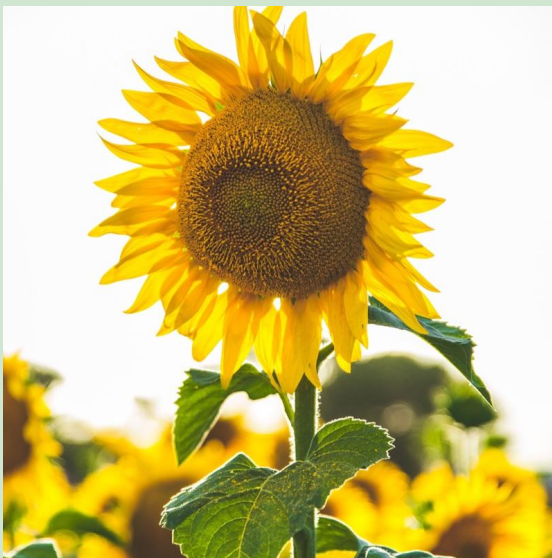
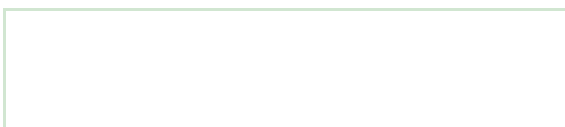


Photo of *Helianthus* in bloom.





Male Mallard duck (*Anas Platyrhynchos*)

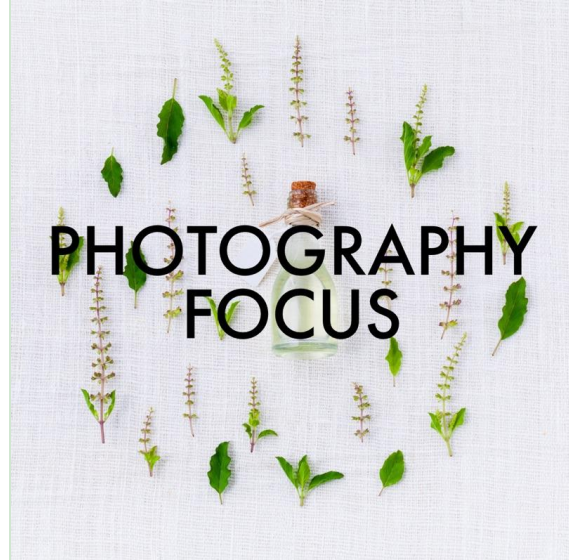
Birds of a Feather by Amy Mower and Lisë Woodard

Did you know there are dabbling ducks and diving ducks? Can you identify a Green-winged Teal from a Mallard or an American Coot?

Recently, a lucky group of GCD members gathered at Steele Street Park to walk along the Platte River and learn about birds. Conservation and Photography organized a joint workshop with Norm Lewis, a Department Associate of Zoology with the Museum of Nature and Science. Norm has over 30 years of birding experience and shared his passion and expertise with the group on a wonderful winter afternoon walk. It was a treat to have a guide at our side to identify everything, but he recommends using the app, Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab, on your smart phone to help identify birds you see in your own gardens or out and about on trails and urban walks. He has personally uploaded observations of birds in his own backyard for over 1,100 days running! The website [can be found here](#) and has a wealth of information, including how to identify birdsongs, live bird-cams and various courses for more in-depth learning.

Grab a copy of Norm's recently completed book, [The Best Front Range Bird Hikes](#) when it is available in May and hit the trails.

Having trouble identifying that bird Norm is happy to help. Email him a photo and where you saw the bird at AerieAdventures@aol.com. We



Inaugural GCA Photography Conference Receives High Praise by Suellen White

On January 21st GCA hosted its first live Photography Conference, *Focus on Photography, Imagine the Possibilities*. Over 1,700 club members from across the country participated. If you missed it – or want to revisit it – the speaker videos are [on the GCA website](#).

The intention of the inaugural Photography Conference was to inspire and raise awareness of the breadth of the field of photography. Many of the GCD members who attended agree the conference achieved its intention.

Noted photographers presented:

Michael Forsberg – Finding Home in Flyover Country; Sal Taylor Kydd – Nature's Solace; Eddie Soloway – Eyes Wide Open: The Joy of Nature Photography. Other photographers led presentations on creating special effects and other composition tips. Check them out at the link above.

The recorded videos of all the presenters are posted on the Photography Conference event page under the AM and PM sessions. There are other event take-aways you may find interesting under the "Read and Watch List" menu.

Want to follow the photographers on Instagram? Here are their addresses:

[@mforsbergphoto](#)

encourage you to look around and learn about our wonderful Colorado birds!



Photo by Suellen White



Photo by Deborah Foy

@sal.taylorkydd

@eddiesoloway

In case you aren't aware, March is photography month. To celebrate, every other year Denver hosts "Month of Photography Denver." Throughout the month are exhibitions, talks, tours and events at spaces throughout the city and beyond. Check them out [here](#).

The photography committee continues its monthly field shoots and *Got Photos?* Zoom meetings. If you want to join us for the field shoots or *Got Photos?* please let Suellen or Deborah know.



Photo of *prunus cerasifera* 'Newport'
by Suellen White



Horticulture Happenings by Nancy Schotters

Spring is around the corner, and as you leaf through seed and plant catalogues, think about starting an herb garden on your windowsill.



FLORAL DESIGN

Photo courtesy of [gardenista](#).

Herbal Arrangements by Nina Sisk and Cora Wheeler

Herbs grow easily from seed, or look for small, organic herb plants at your local garden center. Carefully check plants for pests and give them a good shower when you bring them home. If you transplant your plants, use sterile seed starting or soil mix to minimize the risk of soil borne pests.

Herbs that are easy to grow include: chives, parsley, basil, chervil, oregano, marjoram, rosemary, sage, stevia, lemon balm, lemon grass, mint, tarragon, thyme, and Vietnamese coriander. They will need need a warm sunny spot to grow with an occasional spritz of water for humidity in our warm, dry houses.

It is preferable to use tap water that has sat out for several hours or overnight so chlorine can evaporate. Water your herbs when the top half-inch of dirt is dry, and allow the water to run out from the drainage hole. You can place herbs on a tray with an inch layer of small rocks or decorative stones to provide more humidity.

Fertilize herbs every couple of weeks with a balanced liquid fertilizer. Pinching and using the herbs often will encourage growth. Some herbs such as sage, thyme, mint, basil, oregano and lemon balm will root in water if you want to propagate them to transplant into your garden when the weather warms. Consider growing an herb for one of The Language of Flowers herb classes!



Herbs Growing in Window Box,
photo courtesy of gardenista.com

Herbs are not just for Cooking! “Natural Floral Design” has recently become a design trend in arranging. This style embraces what’s in season and the plant’s natural habit with a looser look. The main ingredients are often found in home gardens, but not normally thought of as bouquet material. We routinely plant herbs in our gardens for their culinary use, but your favorite herbs can also be great companions in floral arrangements. This haute herbal look is gorgeous. Herbs make for an inexpensive and unique “filler”, a lush look reducing the need for focal flowers.

The use of herbs gives your arrangement a fresh, natural, and organic feel stimulating all our senses. They look amazing and the smell is delicious.

Foliage is the secret ingredient to arranging. Adding herbs as foliage will add more texture, contrast and create visual interest without distracting. Different herbs can play different roles in a cut arrangement; herbs can add interest with different color, texture and form. And the amazing fragrances are an added bonus.

Any herbs are likely choices for cut arrangements. The key to long-lasting foliage is in the preparation: like flowers, herbs need to be cut and conditioned. Harvest in early morning when temps are coolest and get your herbs into water immediately after cutting. Strip off lower leaves and stems to encourage good hydration. Herbs that have gone to “flower” or older stems will last longest. Wimpy drinkers need stems to be dipped in boiling water for 7-10 seconds then place in cool water to condition for several hours, (this includes basil, cerinthe, mint, and scented geraniums.)

We encourage you to rethink the herb and begin adding them to your floral designs for eye-catching results.

Herbs perfect for arranging: lavender, parsley, sage, dill, rosemary, pansy, thyme, basil (especially purple), artemisia, fennel, lamb’s ear, cilantro,



PROGRAM PERKS

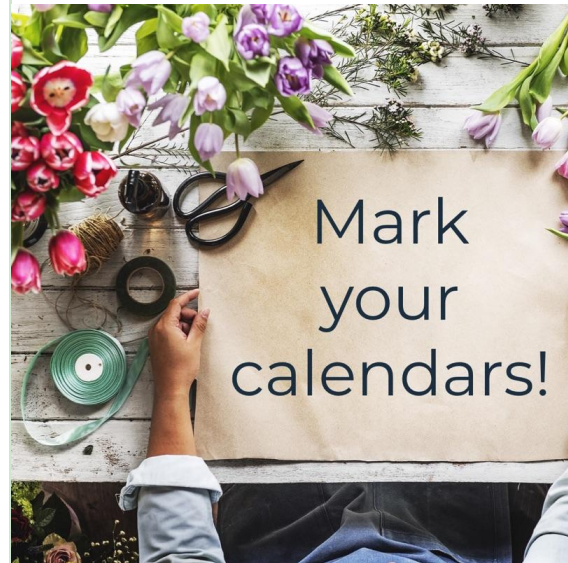
Program Perks by Tish Szurek

Join us for our second Program Perk on Thursday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m. We will be discussing the second GCA program video-on-demand: Stonegate Farms with Matthew Benson

The second in a special series of program videos from GCA, Stonegate Farms with Matthew Benson is a gorgeous tour of nineteenth century estate farm in New York's Hudson Valley. This incredible bio-organic farm is described as "a place where the aesthetic hierarchies of horticulture meet the authentic, purposeful rigors of farming." Watch the video at your leisure (before March 18) and then join us on Zoom March 18 at 5:00 p.m. for a brief discussion and Farm to Bar cocktails! In keeping with Stonegate Farms' motto of beautiful and functional, please plan to show us your most beautiful herbaceous cocktail! (It's homework so it's ok, and plus, during Covid, the weekend starts on Thursday for sure!)

You can find the video on the GCA website [here](#). Or go to main page, click on "Read, Watch, Shop" and then "Videos" and it is the first video listed. If you have any problems, contact tish.szurek@gmail.com. Look for a reminder email and signup for Zoom link in early March.

chive flowers, sweet marjoram, tarragon, mint, lemon balm, sweet annie, cardoon, honeywort, feverfew, and scented geraniums.



March Miniatures

In keeping with our 2020-2021 focus on skill-building for the Language Of Flowers GCD Flower Show in September, our March video will focus on the "how to" and the mechanics of the "miniature." It should be available mid-March, so stay tuned.

Virtual Course in April

A first for GCA, a virtual floral design conference, "Springtide" will occur April 8th, 2021. It is open to all GCA members, registration will launch mid-March. Check out the save-the-date [here](#).

Large-Scale Fun in May

We are working on the details for "The Large Scale Arrangement" demonstration with Kitzel Ruth of The [Perfect Petal](#). Date and Time TBA. We are hoping for an in-person, socially-distanced occasion where you can view the arrangement execution in real time."

The GCA Founders Fund Committee has awarded monetary grants to local community projects proposed by member clubs since 1936. Every GCA member has a vote in every club for the winning proposal. This year's Founder's Fund winner will be awarded \$30,000. The two runner-up proposals will receive \$10,000 each. Garden Club of Denver members will vote at the March meeting in an online poll, and we will submit our club's vote by April 1st. The winning project will be announced at the GCA Annual Meeting. Please take some time to look over these worthy project proposals.

Finalist's Proposal Summaries

Healing a Historic Stream, Engaging All Ages in Urban Water Ecology

The Proposing Club: Seattle Garden Club, Zone XII

Seconding Club: Tacoma Garden Club, Zone XII

Once vibrant, Rhododendron Glen in Seattle's Olmsted Brothers-designed Washington Park Arboretum, has deteriorated into an eroded and invasives-choked ravine. GCA's Founders Fund grant will help halt siltation, rejuvenate plantings, add an accessible loop trail, and beautify the stream as it descends to a pond bordering Azalea Way, the Arboretum's most iconic attraction. Visitors young and old will learn how watercourse restoration improves habitat for the Pacific Northwest's most endangered species, orca whales and wild salmon. See the full proposal [here](#).

Houston Hospice Family Terrace and Commemorative Garden

The Proposing Club: The Garden Club of Houston, Zone IX

Seconding Club: Magnolia Garden Club, Zone IX

Thoughtful native landscaping will transform an ADA- accessible patio into a green sanctuary in the historic garden at Houston Hospice. Families can linger in the garden, maximizing its nurturing effect on their spirits as they say their last goodbyes. The natural embrace of the Family Terrace and Commemorative Garden will create the most respectful and compassionate end of life possible and provide peace to hundreds of patients, families, and caregivers each year. See the full proposal [here](#).

The Vadner Park Civic Project.

The Proposing Club: The Garden Club of the Halifax Country, Zone VIII

Seconding Club: The Late Bloomers Garden Club, Zone VIII

Inspired by GCA Medalist Doug Tallamy, The Garden Club of the Halifax Country in partnership with the City of Ormond Beach is GOING NATIVE with transforming an invasive, overgrown park into a beautiful native plant oasis. Opportunities abound for education on the vital link between native plants to birds, insects, pollinators, water conservation and even withstanding hurricanes. Vadner Park shall be one of a very few exclusively native parks in the State of Florida. See the full proposal [here](#).

Correction

In our February E-News, Debbie Davis was mistakenly identified as the creator of the two beautiful arrangements shown here. In fact, it was her grandson, Charlie. Apologies to Charlie and nice work! Looks like we have a budding gardener in our midst.



**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:**

Lisè 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

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

Scholarships:

Ann Crammond

Visiting Gardens:

Lindsay Dodge

Website:

Kathleen Woodberry
& Elizabeth Weigand

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