

[View as Webpage](#)

# *Garden Club of Denver*

**May 2022**

Volume 8, Issue 19



I apologize for the abridged version of our recent history. It is not a too distant memory for many of us. It would have taken the entire eNews to include it all, but you can read all about it on our website or in print in your directories. I have highlighted our goals and notable accomplishments. It is impressive, and I am proud of our Club yesterday and today!

**2011** The Garden Club of Denver held its first retreat in September. Topics discussed included our ongoing relationships with GCA and DBG, membership participation,

programs and workshops, new member cultivation, and the length and timing of meetings. The evolution of our website continued, and **Helen Boyd** did a masterful job. The Three Trees and a River Committee propagated cottonwoods at Chatfield with the Cottonwood Institute and West Denver Prep Charter School students. With the generous underwriting of GCD member **Bea Taplin** and **Denver Botanic Gardens**, the Club hosted a seated luncheon for 250 in Mitchell Hall to kick off the Power of Flowers Show in June. It featured Nancy Clarke, former White House floral arranger through six presidencies. For the entire previous year, under the leadership of **Lindsay Dodge** and **Bonnie Grenney**, the membership worked tirelessly to produce the stunning flower show that followed. Twelve GCA Special Awards were given, and eight judges' Commendations. A Three Trees and a River-conservation exhibit was awarded both the Ann Lyons Crammond and Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Awards.

**2012** We brought in two GCA speakers – Jane Kilduff on botanical jewelry and Gay Estes, helping to lead the charge in GCA for garden and landscape photography. Local speakers included Clifford Spencer from Mesa Verde, Craig Miller from Parker Water, and Dyana Furmanky on Rosalie Edge, an early conservationist. The Garden Club's involvement with Denver Botanic gardens is ongoing. We now have three members and one apprentice member serving on the board as trustees. Work in the Lainie Jackson Cutting Garden is currently scheduled weekly, multiple flower arrangements are made for the Waring House and Lobby Court during the growing season, the holiday dried arrangements in the Romantic Garden were reinstated this year, and the Garden Club of Denver once again managed the entire process of floral design for the Fete de Fleurs. The Three Trees and a River Centennial Project is winding down this year. The final piece will be an October fundraiser at the Chatfield barn to help raise money for the new native garden at the Chatfield Visitors Center. There will be an Oklahoma-style picnic basket silent auction and live music.

**2013** With an underlying theme of Living the Garden Life, the year began with hosting the Broadmoor Garden Club at St. Anne School. In September, an In-Club Flower Show titled "The Bodacious Garden" sported 75 entries competing for various GCD trophies. For the first time, there were multiple winners in several classes. Special guest Marilyn Brumder, Zone XII GCA Director, joined us for this Fall kick-off. **Sissy Gibson** and **Wendy White** attended the Shirley Meneice Workshop in Austin, Texas, in October. Our November program featured Dr. Eric Haskell, who delivered a lively presentation on "Vaux le Vicomte" to the Denver community at DBG. This effort directly resulted from personal contributions to the Speaker's Challenge Grant, initiated by Immediate Past President **Mary Fowler** the summer before. The calendar year was a festive Reindeer workshop and breakfast meeting to ring in the holidays.

Of particular note was the panel discussion held at History Colorado in February on the controversial topic of Fracking. **Carol Griesemer** and **Cindy Scott** represented GCD at the 2013 Conservation/NAL meeting in Washington DC. In April, renowned local photographer John Fielder held a melodic, pictorial presentation. May found us delving into green buildings with a lecture and guided tour of Kent Denver's new Dining Hall. In addition to improving our minds, we spent lots of time improving our community, DBG specifically. At least 160 hours were spent in Lainie's Cutting Garden and some 105 hours were logged doing floral arrangements, plus another 40 hours for the Blossoms of Light outdoor holiday arrangements.

We retired our GCD Centennial Tree Project—Three Trees & A River with a Fall supper-basket fling at Chatfield Barn, raising \$5000 for a donation to DBG for the Lauren Springer garden at the Visitor entrance. On a national level, **Angela Overy** designed an extraordinary watercolor map for the GCA Horticulture Committee, showcasing all 23,500 trees planted by GCA's 200 member clubs in honor of GCA's Centennial. Finally, in technology, we accomplished significant enhancements to the GCD website and created a monthly E-Newsletter for our Garden Club of Denver members.

**2014** Continuing our theme of "Living the Garden Life," the year was full of garden and garden-like experiences. We began with a commitment to try out the "new" GCA flower show template, where each division is offered solely by itself as a "show." In June, we featured Floral Design; in September, we presented Hort, and in November, we showcased Photography. Our programs were varied and balanced between interesting conservation, photography, floral design, and Hort topics. Some highlights included Dr.



Patty Limerick from the American Center for the West, who spoke on "The City, The West & Water in Denver," Lynn Hoffman-Brouse, who spoke on the "How To's of Flower Photography," A local panel who addressed "Gardening for Children—The Schools, Non-profits & Foundations which support them," "Backyard Chicken Keeping" with Sundari Kraft; "Artistic Floral Headpieces," created by Arthur Williams of Babylon Floral; "All About Roses" by Matt Douglas from High Country Roses, and "Spirituality in the Garden" with Dr. Edward Antonio, from the Iliff School of Theology. **Barb Hammond** represented us at the 2013 Fall Shirley Meneice conference, held in Washington D.C., while **Bar Chadwick** and **Ann Crammond** traveled to Washington to represent us at the 2014 NAL Meeting. On a national level, **Angela Overy** designed an artistic rendering of the 20 Freeman Medal Winners to date in honor of the 20th Anniversary of this award. GCA printed special note cards featuring her bouquet. The research was begun on a possible Centennial Project that might commemorate GCD's 100th Birthday in 2016. The two overarching themes being considered are Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Colorado's National Parks & Monuments.

The Bi-Annual Zone XII Meeting was held in Pasadena, CA, with **Janet Manning**, **Bonnie Grenney**, and **Lindsay Dodge**. BJ Dyer received the distinguished Mary Drake Freer Award for his "outstanding achievement and contributions in flower arranging." **Muffie Dahlberg** and **Janet Manning** represented our Club at the GCA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. **Lindsay Dodge** was asked to serve as the 2014-2016 Zone XII Admissions Rep. Finally, our Club enjoyed many celebrations this year. **Bonnie Grenney** received her official GCA Judgeship in Floral Design; **Missy Eliot** was appointed GCA Flower Show Treasurer; The DBG Ellipse Garden was dedicated to **Nancy Schotters**. **GCD** honored **Bea Taplin** on the occasion of her 90th Birthday!



*Meg Nichols*



**Mark your calendar!**

**Monday, May 2**  
 Floral Design May Day Community  
 Outreach, 10 a.m.-noon  
 Lisa Gould's House, 20 Carriage  
 Lane

**Tuesday, May 3**



[Garden Club of Denver](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Garden Club of America](#)

President's Council Meeting, 2 p.m.,  
Meg Nichols' House, 87 S Ash Street

GCA ZONE XII

**Thursday, May 5**

Horticulture Succulent Garden Tour,  
11 a.m. - noon, Marilyn Wilson's  
House, 5 Polo Field Lane  
Details below

**Thursday, May 5**

Olmsted Presentation, 4 - 6 p.m.,  
Chief Hosa Lodge at Genesee  
Mountain

**Tuesday, May 10**

May General Meeting, 10:30 a.m.-1  
p.m., Denver Botanic Gardens,  
Freyer-Newman Center

**Tuesday, May 24**

Photography Meeting, 1:30 - 3 p.m.,  
Suellen White's House, 1322 E  
Bayaud Avenue



Attention  
Animal Lovers

**Attention Animal Lovers!**

Check out this article sent by Mary  
Schaefer about the top 10 most  
poisonous plants for dogs!

[Top Ten most Poisonous Plants for  
Dogs](#)

**May Program**

Bridget Blomquist will present "The Wow Factor in your Garden" at the May meeting. Bridget began her horticulture career on a whim after graduating from Colorado State University with a BA in Anthropology. Realizing she was not going to be the next Indiana Jones, she took a job with CSU's grounds maintenance crew and quickly fell in love with caring and maintaining the university's grounds. She returned to CSU to pursue a BS degree in Landscape Horticulture. Bridget spent many years designing gardens and maintaining gardens for private residences in the Denver Metro area. In 2014, she joined the Horticulture Department at DBG and is currently Assistant Curator of the Amenities Collection. Bridget is responsible for managing the Annuals Garden & Pavilion, The O'Fallon Perennial Walk and Crossroads at DBG.



# PHOTOGRAPHY FOCUS



## Photography Inspiration! by Deborah Foy

At the GCA Photography Conference this year we were inspired and wonderfully entertained by David Perry's presentation, *The Smartphone Gardener*. David shared his lifelong love of gardening and photographic storytelling and took us behind the scenes on some of his most stunning images. All taken with his smartphone camera! A few of his tips for us – tell us your stories through curated glimpses and simplify! Most of us try to include too much in our photos. Try taking a photo with the regular smartphone lens and maybe try the same shot with the wide angle option or the 2x lens. Don't be afraid to experiment or mess up as you just may discover something spectacular. Consider including a few simple tools to make capturing your images easier. Tri-pod mounts for your smartphone can be invaluable for positioning your phone and holding it still at just the right angle and height. Lightboxes can be super handy tools to help capture studio looking shots with ease. They come in table top sizes that are portable, rechargeable and easy to use. Consider unusual backgrounds... David used seasoned tart pans, cookie sheets and even a large wok as backgrounds for his images! The metallic backdrops helped highlight the subject and were surprisingly elegant! The best part... you probably have versions of these already in your kitchen. His favorite app to recommend is Snapseed. "Artistry, image enhancing and romancing the shot" are the reasons he loves using this editing tool and he



## Conservation Updates Amy Mower

Calling all Members!

For the annual meeting on June 14th, the Conservation Committee would like to have a product table available of sustainable household or garden items that are good for the environment.

Perhaps you have a cleaning product that is refillable and chemical-free, a reusable ziplock bag, bees-wax covers, or recycled toilet paper? Let us borrow your items that you rely on to make your house environmentally friendly! We want to educate our members on new solutions. Please email Amy at [mowerfam@comcast.net](mailto:mowerfam@comcast.net) or Lise at [lisewoodward@gmail.com](mailto:lisewoodward@gmail.com) so we can borrow your products/ideas for the annual meeting.



reminded us of the Antoine de Saint-Exupery quote: "Perfection is achieved not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."

Suellen and I have had a blast Co-Chairing Photography the last two years and loved the creativity, curiosity, and learning we have all shared together. Join us for our final field shoot gathering on May 24th from 1:30 - 3:00 at Suellen's home. We'll have some lovely photography books to share and practice some up-close photography in her garden.

Enjoy the season and keep your cameras handy!

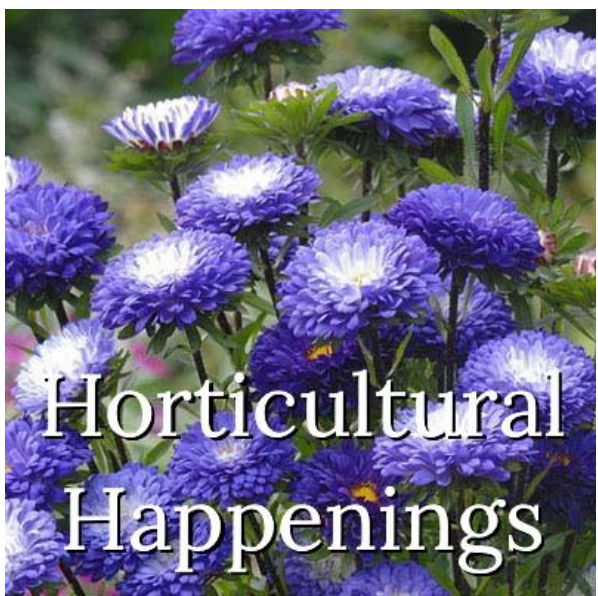


Winter Aconite and Crocus  
Photo Credit: Deborah Foy

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Megan Mahncke from the Garden Club of Denver. Megan has accepted a position as head of Marketing and Communications department in the recently merged Intermountain Health system. Between this new professional role and being the mother of two very busy children she has little time for outside activities. Megan wrote, "Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a part of such an incredible group of women and the impact that is being made by the Garden Club of Denver." We will miss Megan and wish her the very best of luck in the future.



### How Does Your Garden Grow? by Jane Davis

It seems that our GCD members' gardens are growing rather well!



### Spring Plant Sale by Nina Sisk and Cora Wheeler

We are so excited to announce the Plant Preview Party is happening again this year!



Suellen White's magnificent garden at sunset, smack dab in the middle of Denver.



Suellen's garden gate features the Eden climber 'Pierre de Ronsard' amid lilies and iris. (Photos by Suellen White.)



Courtney Marsters is crazy about Regal lilies. The Regal Lily (*Lilium regale*) is a native of Sichuan Province in China. It likes full sun, grows to 3 - 3 1/2 feet tall, and likes a fertile, well-drained soil. It is known for its fragrance and its large trumpet shaped flower with a yellow throat and

We will be able to shop for plants, eat tasty bites, and drink wine (or lemonade) with our friends in person.

The tickets are going fast, so please get yours today! The Plant Preview Party is Thursday May 5th, 2022, 4 - 7:30 p.m.

The plant sale is Denver Botanic Gardens' biggest plant sale of the year! Preview party attendees receive exclusive early access to a wide selection of plants and flowers as well as expert advice from horticulturists, before the sale opens to the public. Guests also enjoy a fabulous array of treats, wine and beer that are included in the ticket price of \$45.

A few tips – bring your own wagon to transport plants, wear walking shoes and use the plant valet when leaving for a smooth departure.

A few favorites: the succulent varieties, pots-in-a-bag, clematis selection, white bleeding hearts and coleus (love Nina's pots overflowing with these stunning leaves).

When shopping the plant sale this year, be thinking about what you might like to cut and bring inside to create new fresh arrangements! "The FD committee suggests a mixture of shrubbery, perennials, and annuals to satisfy your desires. It is the dream of the perfect garden with endless blooms for cutting that spur us on." Here is a reminder of the list that was put together in the March newsletter to get those creative thoughts blooming!

### Perennials

Early spring: hellebores, allium and foxtail lilies, daffodils, fritillaria  
Late spring: peonies, bleeding heart (great colors)  
Summer: sweet peas, roses, scabiosa, dianthus and lilies, rudbeckia, echinacea  
Leaves: coral bells, lambs ear and lady's mantle  
Ornamental grasses, maiden grass

### Annuals

Dahlias (so many beautiful colors), zinnias, cosmos, wild carrot, dusty, vegetables (dill, rosemary, lavender).

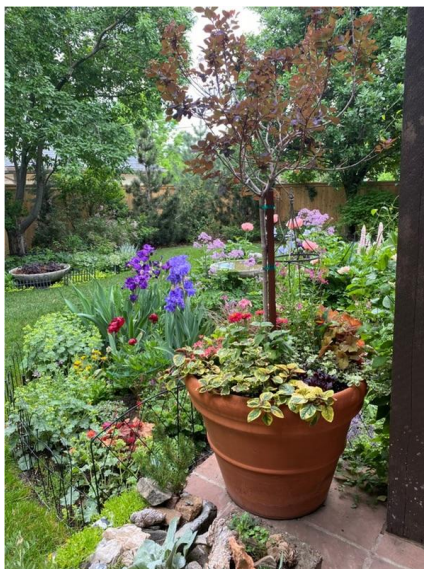
We hope this helps you get excited for the sale and map out a game plan for your gardens and pots!

Happy Shopping!

flushed pink/purple exterior. It is easy to grow in our Colorado climate and well worth planting as it is a show stopper. Paired with the lilies is the lovely lavender *Acanthus mollis*, known as Bear's Breeches or Britches. (Photo by Courtney Marsters.)



Margaret Garbe loves her Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle, *Lonicera reticulata*. It grows 8 to 12 feet tall, thrives in sun, doesn't need much water, has beautiful grey-green brackets with pretty yellow flowers in the center and is loved by pollinators. It is also a climber as most honeysuckles are. She purchased it from High Country Gardens at least 8 years ago and it is still a big bloomer and the most asked about plant in her garden.



Mary Fowler started her garden from scratch just a few years ago and as you will see it is thriving! Below you will find *Heliopsis helianthoides* 'Tuscan Sun', also referred to as False sunflower, which blooms all summer and is a workhorse. The *Echinacea purpurea* Rainbow Marcella 'Butterfly' (aka coneflower) is recognized by its varying sunset hues. There are lots of breeders and these hybrids often revert back to purple. The day lily is *Hemerocallis* 'Halo', which blooms a long time in mid- to



### GCD Amazing Amaryllis Sale is Coming Soon! by Alice Hughes

The 2022 GCD Amazing Amaryllis Sale fundraiser is accepting orders for club members only now through June 1. Place your orders now for best selection. We have some exciting new varieties this year, along with many of your favorites from last year. [Order here.](#)

Questions? Contact Leslie Liedtke at [leliedtke@gmail.com](mailto:leliedtke@gmail.com) or Alice Hughes at [ahughes521@msn.com](mailto:ahughes521@msn.com).



Photo by Todd Bacon on IG as [toddbaconphotography](https://www.instagram.com/toddbaconphotography)



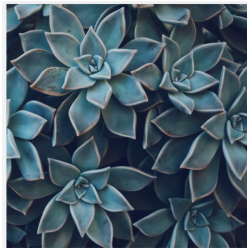


## Strategic Planning Update by Amy Slothower

The strategic planning committee, which includes Meg Nichols, Lindsay Dodge, Cindy Scott and Amy Slothower, is pleased to report that we have a new vision statement and strategic framework for the Garden Club of Denver. The new plan reflects the input of many members over the past eight months. The committee has been working together since last September and, in that time, we have:

- Interviewed 12 different members for an in depth perspective of what a variety of members value about the club
- Conducted an online survey and got responses from 56 members about their priorities for the club going forward
- Facilitated a visioning exercise with members at the May meeting
- Presented a draft plan for feedback at the April meeting.

The strategic plan will help inform the work of the club in coming years and is anchored in three principles: Connection, Community and Continuity. We are excited to see the plan come to life through committee work and club activities. If you have any questions or comments, please let Amy Slothower know at [aslothower@yahoo.com](mailto:aslothower@yahoo.com).



## Don't Miss This: Horticulture Tour

Join us as we tour Marilyn Wilsons fabulous hardy succulent garden on Thursday, May 5th. Drop in between 11a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Address: 5 Polo Field Lane, Denver.

**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: Sally Obregon

Director: Missy Eliot

#### Committee Chairmen

#### Admissions & Membership-elected:

Jane Davis & Margaret Garbe

#### Awards & Founders Fund:

Sally Obregon

### 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:

Leslie Liedtke & Nancy Schotters

**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

**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](#)