

Garden Club of Denver

November 2021

Volume 8, Issue 14



You'll find our Club's activities in the '70s and into the '80s fascinating! We not only embraced our close liaison with Denver Botanic Gardens, but also created collaborations with other organizations, such as Historic Denver. We clearly recognized and addressed the need for historic preservation in Lower Downtown. Conservation was not neglected with the creation of the Clear Creek Land Conservation easement of eventually 700 acres. Our connection to GCA was also important: we nominated our first

honorary GCA Member, Ed Connors, and received a Special Recognition Award at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama for the plant *Aquilegia saximontana*. Fundraisers were ever-present!

1970 The Club voted to assume the planning and installation of plants in Lobby Court of Denver Botanic Gardens. (Photo above) Mrs. Willett Moore organized horticulture seminars for young gardeners.

1973 Garden Club of Denver voted to finance the restoration and development of the Hammer Garden in the Botanic Gardens. The GCA Club Medal of Merit was awarded to Mrs. Willett S. Moore for exceptional contribution in horticulture, conservation, civic achievement or leadership within area of recipient's club.

1975 The Club designed a garden in the 9th Street Park by the Smedley House in collaboration with Historic Denver, Inc.

1976 The Zone XI Conservation Award was presented to Mrs. Albert Coleman for creating the Northwoods Foundation in 1967, with her 320 acres, which then formed the Clear Creek Land Conservation easement. (Three other parcels followed and the total acreage is 700 acres.)

1977 Harriet Kelly proposed to beautify the Westwood Community Housing Project. The Boys Clubs of Denver constructed window boxes. Gardens for the Westwood project have since flourished, thanks to Mrs. George J. M. Kelly.

1978 Thanks to a generous gift from Mrs. Raymond Sargent, the Garden Club of Denver voted to develop the Home Demonstration Garden. Randy Randolph was chosen to be the designer. Mrs. Thomas Taplin was chairman of the project. Mrs. William C. Jackson developed the plant list and Mrs. Edward P. Connors was responsible for obtaining the furniture. A Special Recognition Award was made to Garden Club of Denver at the Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama for the plant *Aquilegia saximontana*. Special recognition was given to Gloria Falkenburg for GCD's plants at the May Zone XI meeting in Winnetka, Illinois.

1982 The Zone XI Horticulture Award was presented to Mrs. William C. Jackson, Jr.

1983 "Table Settings," a successful fundraiser, was held at the Denver Botanic Gardens in conjunction with Tiffany & Company and the Garden Club of Denver. Proceeds went to the Denver Botanic Gardens.

1984 Garden Club members took a tour of Denver's Lower Downtown Historic District and became aware of the need to become involved in historic preservation.

1985 The Greening of Denver Steering Committee was formed to raise money to benefit the Denver Botanic Gardens and Historic Denver, Inc. The GCA Club Medal of Merit was awarded to Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin for exceptional contribution in horticulture, conservation, civic achievement or leadership within area of recipient's club.

As you can see, even decades ago GCD was busy and making a difference. I need your fun photo memories more than ever as we move forward in time so please find some great ones and email them to me!

You won't want to miss our open meeting and luncheon on November 9th at 10:45 a.m. with special guest, Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon. Bring prospective members and friends.



Photo of Mrs. Thomas "Bea"
Taplin

Meg Nichols



Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar!

Tuesday, November 2

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

Wednesday, November 3

Floral Design Workshop, "Whimsical Wreaths", 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Nina Sisk's house

Tuesday, November 9

November General Meeting
11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Denver Botanic Gardens, Mitchell Hall

Tuesday, November 16

Photography Field Shoot
9:30 a.m., location TBD

Thursday, November 18

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

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day



Quick Links

Garden Club of Denver

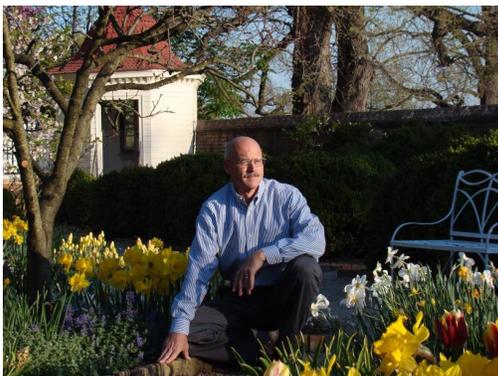
Denver Botanic Gardens

Garden Club of America

GCA ZONE XII

Piedmont Garden Club welcomes

you to their Community meeting on November 10, 2021 at 9:30 am, featuring award-winning garden photojournalist, Saxon Holt. During this Zoom presentation, Holt will share advice from his latest book, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates: Plants for a Lush, Water-Conscious Landscape*. Those interested in attending can access this free Zoom presentation by registering in advance by clicking [here](#). A description of the event can be found [here](#).



November's Program Speaker Dean Norton

The Garden Club of Denver is thrilled to present Dean Norton, the Director of Horticulture at George Washington's Mt. Vernon, on November 9. Dean started working at the Mt. Vernon Estate in June of 1969 and has been there ever since. Dean has a degree in Horticulture from Clemson University and was named head horticulturist at Mt. Vernon in 1980.

Over his 50 years at Mt. Vernon, Dean has devoted his time to researching 18th Century

gardens and practices. He has been successful in applying the latest in plant science and management to a garden in a historic setting.

Dean has received numerous awards, serves on several historic landmark boards, and lectures all over the world. He received the Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor National Medal in 2020 for his dedication to exemplary preservation of historic landscapes and commitment to sharing his horticultural expertise. Dean has also received the American Horticulture Societies Professional Award and is an honorary member of the Garden Club of Virginia. On the GCA website you can find several lectures/tours of Mt. Vernon hosted by Dean on the video page by searching his name.



Make Your Own Pine Cone Pyramids by Debbie Davis

What you need:

- 12 Pine Cones (White Pine collected from Denver Parks used here)
- 1 24 Ga paddle green florist wire (order from Amazon or craft stores)
- Wire cutters
- Aluminum Foil
- Your decorations

Heat oven to 200. Pick needles out of cones and cut sheet of foil large enough to hold all without touching. Place foil on middle rack of warm oven and add cones. Heat until sap is firm and bugs are dead. Check at 30 minutes. If still sticky on bottom, rotate and leave in 15 more minutes. The melted sap will give your cones a sparkle!

Start four inches from end of the wire and wrap it around the base of the cone under the bottom or second layer of scales. Twist the cone or the wire once around (sometimes one method is easier than the other). Add a second cone and twist.



It's Not Your Grandmother's Mum by Martha Veldkamp

Fall has long been the traditional season for the chrysanthemum. Once the yellow buses filled with children appear on the roads, the leaves burst with color, and mums turn up in grocery stores, fall is here. Gone are the days when mums looked like daisies in predictable colors like yellow, white, and bronze. It's not to say that heirloom mum varieties didn't continue to exist in the quiet backyards of the world, they just grew out of favor because of modernization and intense breeding. Now, more than ever, the mum exists in resplendent colors like pink, burgundy, orange and even bicolors with unusual shapes and edges. New varieties have emerged in spider mums, football, pompons, buttons, disbuds, cremones, intermediate incurve and irregular incurve. Cut mums are popular because of their longevity and the hundreds of new varieties that are available to the consumer. A mum can now look very similar to a dahlia and can be the star of the show.

The first mention of a mum was 15



When all twelve are attached to the wire, double twist and cut wire leaving at least four inches. Put end wires together and study shape of pyramid. If you have a big distances between cones, you probably have room to twist the wreath in a figure 8 and pile one half on the other. If the cones are very close together, just tighten the end wires close to the first and last cone and move cones around until you have a shape that's pleasing. The tips of the wires can be looped to form a circle for hanging.



There is a lot of space between the wires and cones so you can insert ornaments, boughs, candy canes, ribbons, or whatever else you have.

These can hang in pairs on mantles, in windows, on stair rails or at the ends of garland swags outside. They last for decades, so they are worth the time to collect and construct. Happy Decorating!

B.C. in China, where its petals were used for tea and its sprouts were used in salads. The mum also served as a remedy for headaches. By the 6th century A.D, the chrysanthemum had made its way to Japan, where it quickly gained royal status. To this day, the chrysanthemum is used in the official seal for the Emperor. Japan has an annual National Chrysanthemum Day on September 9th, also called the "Festival of Happiness," which celebrates this symbol of the country and its Emperor. This day includes local festivals with elaborate displays of potted and cut mums.

In the 16th century, a French merchant, Pierre Louis Blancard, brought three cultivars from China to Europe, with only one surviving. The Swedish botanist, Karl Linnaeus, named it "*Chrysos*" (gold) "*antheon*" (flower). This flower belongs to the *Asteraceae* daisy family. It is a large family that includes asters, coneflowers, and zinnias. Once on the European stage, the mum became a symbol of death because of its use in funerals.

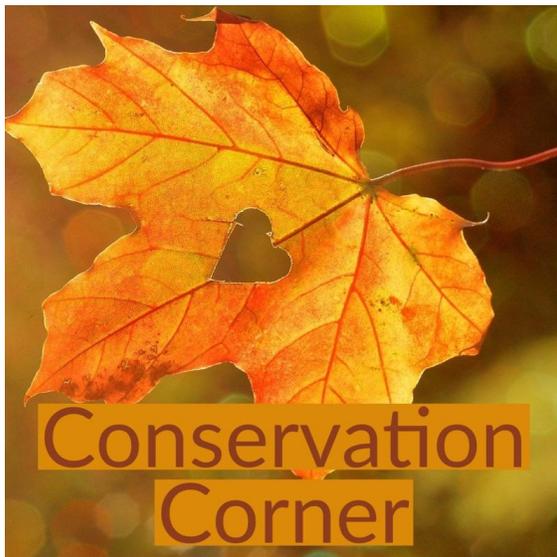
The mum reached the United States during colonial times and since then, it has grown, waned, and regrown in popularity. It now traditionally represents fall. The potted chrysanthemum (indoor and garden) is now the largest commercially grown flower in the U.S. Up until the mid-1990s, cut mums were grown domestically. However, today cut mums for a florist come primarily from Ecuador or Colombia.

Today, breeders in the Netherlands have developed over 300 mum cultivars. Their products include annuals, perennials, plants, bulbs, and cut flowers. This year at the Society of American Florists national convention, the outstanding variety was a chrysanthemum named 'Colorado Springs.' It's a cheery orange that can be used year-round. Also worthy of mention are some of the more popular new varieties like 'Rosana Charlotte' and 'Rosana Elizabeth,' both named after current royal family members in England.

It is safe to say that mums can now be in the limelight, making beautiful arrangements. In the end, maybe —



just maybe — there'll be a day when a florist does not hear the words “No mums please” — because it's just not your grandmother's mum anymore.



You Can Make a Difference by Lisë Woodard

The Conservation Committee's theme this year focuses on how each of us can make a difference in small ways.

According to denver.gov, Denver residents recycle only 63% of the recyclable waste in their homes. Many of us wonder what we can recycle or worry about recycling the wrong thing. The city of Denver has created an excellent detailed list of what can be recycled and what should not be recycled. You can also download an app onto your smart phone for easy access. Click to check out this [resource](#).

Be sure to virtually attend the 2021 Conservation Study Conference on Wednesday, November 17th. The theme is saving wild salmon. The



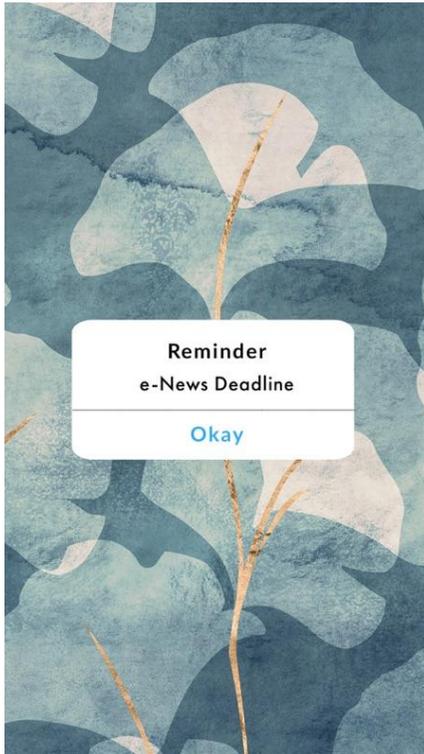
New Perspectives by Deborah Foy

The September issue of *Focus*, GCA's quarterly magazine for photographic arts, has a wonderful article on landscape photography. Jean Jarvis, our Zone XII Photography Representative encourages us to create intimate landscape images by zooming in and capturing the finer details and nuances in our landscape shots. Broad, sweeping views are dramatic, but telling the story through “intimate landscapes requires personal involvement. The photographer must provide the viewer a closer look by extracting smaller scenes and sharing an emotional connection and familiarity with the subject”. She outlines seven ways we can achieve this from framing our shots differently to tilting our camera angle. Find the full article [here](#) and get inspired!

diversity of speakers makes the conference fun: a photographer, a fly-tyer, a fisherman, an author, a tribal leader, and a journalist. Unsure of what is the best kind of salmon to buy? A good source of information is [Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch](#). They also have downloadable brochures on buying sustainable fish for separate regions of the country. Another is MSC's "[Foodie's Guide to Sustainable Seafood](#)".

We are excited about the Olmsted 200 project organized by Holley Sanford and Sarah Alijani with the Garden History and Design committee. We hope photography committee members can help record their field trips to various Olmsted locations this year for the GCD website. If you plan to attend an Olmsted 200 outing please remember to take a few extra shots to help capture the history and unique qualities of each site to share with us.

Lastly, is there a skill you have been hoping to master this year? An app that you want to learn how to use? Please email us with your ideas for photography workshops or speakers this year.



Reminder

The December and January e-News will be combined into a Holiday 2021-2022 Edition. The Newsletter will be published in early December. Please make sure to submit your January content by November 15th.



Colorful ivy on the walls of the author's home. Photo by Deborah Foy

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

Committee Chairmen (Continued)

2021 GCA Flower Show:

Missy Eliot & Nina Sisk

Fund Development:

Liza Grant

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

Holiday Décor:

Lisa Duke & Ann Ellis

Directory (Roster):

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Floral Design:

Nina Sisk & Cora Wheeler

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:

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Caroline Rassenfoss & Tish Szurek

Scholarships:

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