

Garden Club of Denver

September 2021

Volume 8, Issue 12



The Garden Club of Denver has an illustrious history, archived and available to all but seldom revisited. In the coming year, in lieu of the traditional President's Post, I'll be highlighting achievements from our past. This month will feature GCD accomplishments and milestones from our inception in 1916 through the 1930s.

We hope to complete another milestone in the coming year: the creation of a Strategic Plan for GCD. This plan will help us identify our goals for the future and move forward with direction and purpose. By remembering our past as we plan for the future, we hope to inspire the next generation of GCD members.



1916: A group of garden enthusiasts founded The Garden Club of Denver to promote an interest in gardening, the naturalization of Rocky Mountain flora, and in civic planting.

1920: The Garden Club of Denver was elected to the Garden Club of America.

1921: In an effort to eliminate billboards, the Garden Club of Denver printed fliers on Conservation, which were distributed in the Denver Public Schools.

1922: The Garden Club of Denver established the Art Museum's Chappell House Garden.

1925: In the Minutes of Club: "Mrs. Waring spoke of her hope that the Roman Catholic Cemetery near Cheesman Park could be obtained for a Botanic Garden and Arboretum."

She felt we might use our influence to this end.

1934: The Garden Club of Denver called a meeting of botanists and a local college to plan for the establishment of a Botanic Garden.

1938: The City built a Garden Center on the Platte River at Alameda and Santa Fe. Members of The Garden Club of Denver gave of their time and money towards the center.

1939: A garden was established in Central City between the Teller House and the Opera House. The garden was maintained by the Garden Club of Denver from 1939 to 1958.

Are you inspired? Look for more club highlights and photos next month.

Cheers,



Central City Opera House Garden, circa 1940.

p.s. Please send Meg any significant photos you may have of our GCD members and events. mnbdesigns@gmail.com



Mark your calendar!

No General Meeting this month

Thursday, September 2

The Language of Flowers entries are passed and placed
6 - 8 p.m. Preview Party

September 3 and 4

The Language of Flowers Show
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 7

President's Council Meeting 1 p.m.

Wednesday, September 15

eNews deadline



[Garden Club of Denver](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Garden Club of America](#)

[GCA ZONE XII](#)

Monday, September 20
Floral Design Committee meeting
Nina Sisk's House, 576 Circle Drive,
1 p.m.

September 22 - 23
GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture
Meeting via Zoom



2021 - 2022 Garden Club Meetings and COVID



2021 - 2022 Meetings and COVID

It has become more and more apparent that we as a society are not out of the woods yet. Therefore we will continue to wear our masks to all meetings. This provides us with safety and a name tag so new members can continue to get to know us and us them. Meg will be ordering masks for our new members. If you have lost your mask, email Meg and she will order you a new one for \$20.00.

Lets hope masks will not become mandatory again. We will provided some sort of a chain so the masks, if not necessary to be worn, can be still used as a name tag.

Need help finding a COVID Shot?

Call, email, or text Kathleen Thomas at woodberry@gmail.com or 303-898-3900. She can help you!

Save the Date! GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference 2021

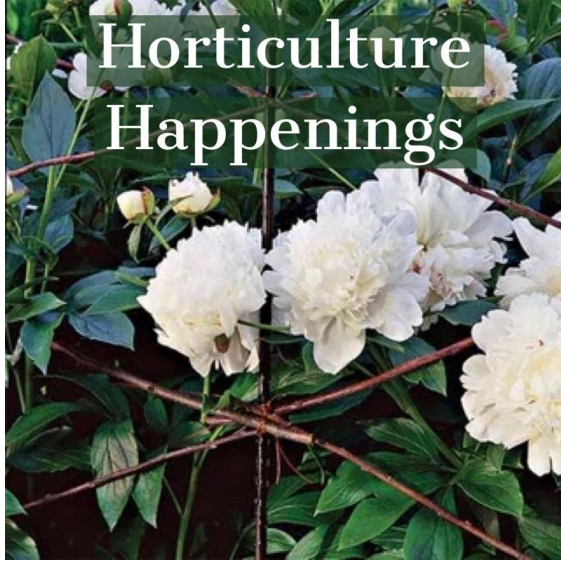
From the diverse beauty of **Heronswood** and **Desert Botanical Garden** in the west to **Coastal Main Botanical Gardens** and **Kampong National Botanical Garden** on the East Coast, join us as we travel the country discovering America's horticultural gems!

Tour the magnificent intersection of breeding championship racehorses with a commitment to stewardship at **Gainesway Farm**. Join us to lean the fascinating history of **Avery Island**, where the McIlhenny family has made Tobasco sauce for over five generations, and where abundant wildlife can be seen in **Jungle Gardens**.

We will hear Leah Pennimen of Soul Fire Farm speak on changing the world one bite at a time and noted author **Amy Stewart** speaking about her book *The Drunken Botanist*. GCA's own **Cynthia Druckenbrod** will captivate us with her work hybridizing day lilies and teach us how to propagate them while **Nancy Schotters** will teach us how to make seed bombs.

Never before have so many of the country's awesome and diverse resources been brought together in one conference, exclusively developed for and available to all GCA members!

Each day will have two sessions in the morning from 11:00 - 1:00 EDT and 4:00 - 6:00 EDT. Stay tuned for more information.



Horticulture Happenings

Plant Supports and Creative Staking by Tracy Zarlengo

Have you been looking for a way to keep certain plants in your garden from flopping over and creating chaos? Are you looking for an alternative to metal cages and wires? If so, here's an idea for you. Many gardeners use natural and sustainable twiggy branches also known as "pea sticks" to create discrete yet incredibly effective supports for everything from annuals to perennials to vegetables.

To try this simple and low-tech approach in your garden, begin by gathering branches of varying lengths from trees and shrubs such as hazel, red twig dogwood, *forsythia*, birch, willow or lilac. Plant material can also be gathered from larger trees that have been pruned (I have used sturdy branches from a hydrangea tree.) Make sure they are free of any leaves. The more branches the cutting has, the more places for your plants to rest. Push in the support around the base of the plant early in the season and the plant will grow to completely hide the armature you have created. This works well for plants such as *nepeta*, *asters*, *delphiniums*, lupins, *phlox*, *dahlia*s and so many more. You can try this with vegetables, too. My eggplant and peppers are supported this way.



Photography Focus

Focus on Photography! by Deborah Foy

We have lots of fun opportunities to showcase your photos, practice your techniques and get inspired this fall.

~ First up, definitely plan to visit the photography division for our TLOF show September 3rd and 4th at the new Freyer-Newman building at DBG. We have filled five different classes with some amazing images many from GCD members!

~ Focus Magazine's 2021 *This Land is Your Land*, the ever-popular GCA photography contest celebrating the beauty and diversity of nature in the U.S. For Photography Schedule, guidelines, and classes - [Click here](#) for more information. Registration opens on Sept. 1, 2021, one class per person. Images must be submitted at the time of registration and classes fill quickly.

Cameraphone images are welcome! If using an older model, shooting with the Camera+ app will net a larger image file.

Study the schedule of classes, carry it as a reminder, and shoot to dazzle the crowd. Images are jury-reviewed but awarded ribbons by popular vote!

~ Through the Lens: Be on the lookout for an email asking all Zone XII clubs and members to contribute photos to TTL. A September/October email will request images for the Fall/Winter Issue.

This pictorial image gallery newsletter is distributed to national leadership in



Now for the creative part. If the plant material for the support is young and supple, it can be made into a basket-like cage or teepee. Start by selecting four long, twiggy branches. Space them evenly around the plant (thick end down), positioning the base of the stick's stem at the outside edge of the clump you want to support. Push the stems two to three inches into the ground at a slight inward-facing angle. Begin bending the twigs toward each other and intertwine them in a way that they stay connected. Gently wind, bend, ease, and twist to reinforce the structure. Weave in additional stems on the sides or across the top for more support.

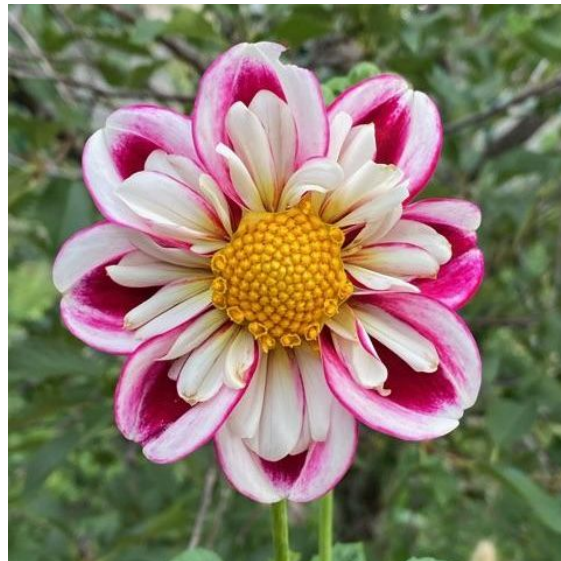
This year, Jennifer Miller at Denver Botanic Gardens has installed some amazingly beautiful woven structures made out of willow. She grows the willow on-site and cuts branches in the spring to create arches, globes and teepees. These are living sculptures and create an instant focal point, adding artistry and wonder while allowing plants to ramble over, around and through them. Jennifer hopes to also make living willow fences in the future using her talents, which she is willing to share with us!

If you would like to further explore the art of woven willow structures there are several good YouTube videos that demonstrate the technique, or check out the work of mother-daughter team Jenny Crisp and Issy Wilkes at willowwithroots.co.uk. Maybe with a little practice, we can all make our own pods!

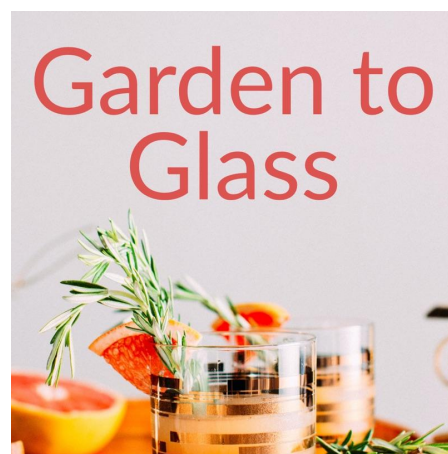
Fall/Winter and Spring. Submissions will be restricted to two to three images per person (at least one image per person will be included).

They are looking to build color stories that include wide-angle, scene-setting and landscape shots, garden overviews and details, story elements (including flora & fauna, architecture, simple still life and detail shots), portraits of flowers, and captured movement (water, wind) and weather. Think freely and creatively; try something new!

~ Mark your calendars for our monthly Field Shoots and *Got Photos* Zoom share! We will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for an outdoor field shoot followed by a Zoom meeting on the 3rd Thursday so we can share our images with one another for some positive feedback and appreciation! We'll start on October 19th and 21st, location TBD.



Bumble Rumble Dahlia by Deborah Foy



Cocktails anyone? Calling All

Garden Design Enthusiasts!



Image by willowwithroots.co.uk

The Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference will include a lecture on designing a cocktail garden titled: *Garden to Glass: Adventures in Cocktail Gardening* by Amy Stewart. From spatial design, hard scape and plant selection, it will discuss creating a place for cocktails with friends in your garden. In addition, it will suggest plants and horticulture needs for infusing your drinks with botanicals and herbs. This will be the last presentation on Sept. 23. [Click here](#) for details.

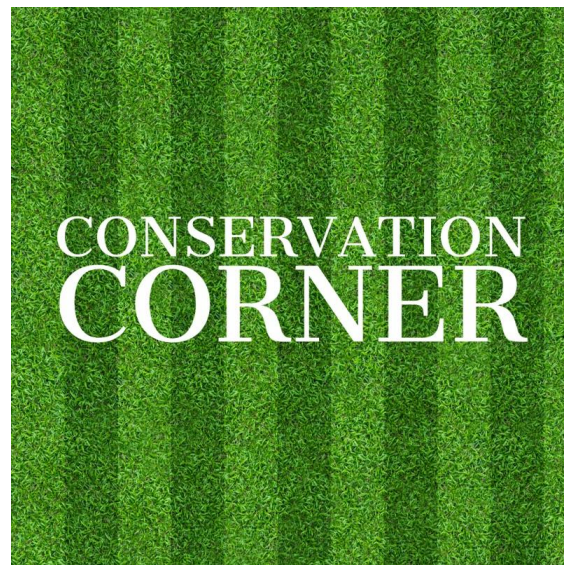


Floral Design News by Nina Sisk and Cora Wheeler

When September arrives, I can't help but think of Back to School. For GCD, September is the month of beginnings, following a summer hiatus from our usual commitments and membership duties. This summer may not have felt like a "pause" as we were in high gear planning TLOF flower show. We will highlight the Floral Design entries in our October newsletter article.

We hope you will sit back and really take a breather the first few weeks in September following TLOF flower show at DBG. We will all need it!

The Floral Design Committee will make a slower start than usual with our first committee meeting planned for Monday, September 20th, 10am at 576 Circle Drive (Nina's house). Please come with ideas on what you



Suggestion for Lawn Fertilizer this Fall by Lise Woodard

After a stretch of very hot weather, Wash Park's Grasmere Lake has developed algae blooms that can poison or asphyxiate other life forms. These algae blooms are caused by excessive nitrogen found in synthetic lawn fertilizers that drain from our yards into our local water sources. Grasmere lake is filled with recycled water from a treatment plant. Denver does monitor nitrogen and bacteria levels and has improved its system for removing nutrients, but nutrient levels vary each year.

During the second week in August, I observed a Denver Parks and Recreation employee manually spraying the algae blooms around the perimeter of the lake. According to the website, washparkprofile.com, the

would like Floral Design to focus on this year, ideas for Floral Design Programs or Floral Design newsletter articles. We need your input!

By now you should have received a request to sign up for GCD committees. We edit our committee list each September and you must sign up annually to continue to receive communications directly targeted to Floral Design. Our information is always on the GCD calendar but we only send Floral Design email reminders to those who have added their name to our Committee. We hope you will join us this year.

department prefers a dye (non-chemical) method to control algae. The dye blocks the sunlight, which causes the overgrowth of algae.

To reduce the amount of nitrogen from synthetic fertilizers entering our water, homeowners could switch to organic fertilizers. Organic lawn fertilizers come from animal and plant waste. They have a lower nitrogen level but feed the lawn over a longer period of time. You need only apply the fertilizer once during the month of September and wet the lawn after application. It is more expensive than synthetic fertilizers but synthetic fertilizers require up to four applications a growing season.



Colorado On The Road Premieres on Mount Evans by Jane Cospers and Alice Hughes

Inspired by GCA's "On the Road" program, the Broadmoor Garden Club and the Garden Club of Denver launched a new joint initiative titled "Colorado on the Road" to foster relationships between the two clubs and provide enhanced educational opportunities. The first event was a guided nature hike high in the Rocky Mountains at 12,250 feet elevation along the M. Walter Pesman Trail

above tree line. This section of the Mt. Evans area includes the sub-peak of Mt. Goliath, where wildflowers grow in rare, protected microclimates amid harsh, unforgiving subalpine and alpine tundra. Mt. Goliath was a GCA Partners for Plants project in the late 1990s and a runner-up for the GCA Founders Fund in 1999.

Tucked throughout the granite fell fields, colorful plants native to the Mt. Goliath area flourish within a short, forty-five day frost-free window. "That amounts to approximately two weeks of spring, two weeks of summer, two weeks of fall with the rest being winter," remarked Janet Manning as the group ascended. Janet has been a guide at Mount Goliath for 23 years and is a former GCD President and former GCA Conservation Vice Chairman, Partners For Plants.

Along the route we were treated to colorful paintbrush, alpine jasmine, Fendlers' sandwort, Whipple's *Penstemon*, moss campion, purple fringe, the highly poisonous death camas, American Bistort and more before pausing at the top in awe of the majestic mountain views all around us.

As we began our descent toward the Dos Chappell Nature Center's gardens and educational exhibits, we lingered among groves of fascinating, ancient 2,000-year-old Bristlecone pines. Even before the day ended, members of both clubs began looking forward to our next joint adventure.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Walter A Pesman Trail and the Dos Chappell Nature Center on the GCD Website.



All photos by Alice Hughes.

Garden History & Designs by Sarah Alijani & Holley Sanford



As you all know, GCA is a proud partner of the Olmsted 200 project, “Parks: Where Nature Meets Community,” a celebration of the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Sr. birth. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. was born in 1822 and died in 1903. It was Olmsted’s son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. who was hired in 1912 to plan the Denver Mountain Park System as well as City and County of Denver parks.

Constructed between 1912 and 1941, the Denver Mountain Parks are a rural park and parkway system consisting of 47 foothill and mountain parks interconnected by scenic drives. The City of Denver owns approximately 13,500 acres of mountain land located in the counties of Clear Creek, Douglas, Grand, and Jefferson. Soon after Olmsted Sr’s death in 1903, Olmsted Jr. stopped using the suffix Jr., so Frederick Law Olmsted projects after 1896 are attributed to his son. However, with that in mind and in honor of both men and their dedication to landscape design, the Garden Club of Denver’s overall plan is to educate GCD members on the significance of the Denver Mountain Parks system and Frederick Law Olmsted’s involvement in the project.

This year, GCD is organizing many fun learning opportunities! We plan to bring Kate Fritz, Board Chair of Denver Mountain Parks Foundation and expert speaker on Olmsted, to our October meeting and kick off the celebration of Olmsted’s 200th birthday. From there, we are planning monthly field trips throughout the Denver Mountain Park system. Coincidentally, we already have hiked one together with our



most recent trip to Echo Lake Park! Other spots we plan to explore are Genesee, Corwina, O'Fallon, Bergen, Fillius, Red Rocks, Dedisse, Pence, Lookout Mountain and Daniels Parks. We are so fortunate to live in this area where we have access to this beautiful open space. Lots more information to come about our fun upcoming hikes – we will keep you posted!

All Photos by Sarah Alijani.

Amazing Amaryllis Sale

Garden Club of Denver members, thank you so much for all your Amaryllis bulb orders! This sale is a first for our club and we couldn't be happier with the results that we have had so far. We hope to make the sale an annual tradition. All proceeds will go towards the Garden Club of Denver Civic Fund and we have some worthy beneficiaries targeted already.

With brisk sales so far from within our garden club, now it's time to open up sales to the general public. Please share the Cheddar Up link (<https://gcd-amaryllis-bulb-sale.cheddarup.com>) to send to friends and family who might be interested in ordering.

This amazing sale won't last much longer. Once we run out of bulbs, our sale is done, so please get the word out now and place your orders soon.



[Click here](#) to order your bulbs!

For more information, please contact Leslie Liedtke at leliedtke@gmail.com or Alice Hughes at ahughes521@msn.com.

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:

Committee Chairmen (Continued)

2021 GCA Flower Show:

Missy Eliot & Nina Sisk

Fund Development:

Liza Grant

Garden History & Design:

Holley Sanford

Historian:

Muffie Dahlberg

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

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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