



***GCD Annual Meeting
Year-End Report to Members
June 13, 2023
Annals Pavilion Garden
Denver Botanic Gardens
Cynthia (Cindy) Scott***

It is hard to believe that our Garden Club year has come to its conclusion... and what a year it has been! I am so happy to get the chance to recap our year for you now.

Looking back, I am blown away by all that we done! Our 2022-23 year marked the **first** year since 2020 that we were able to have all our meetings together in person. Our optimism in planning really paid off. Our Hospitality Chairs, Sarah Alijani and Tracy Zarlengo planned a variety of venues from the Denver Country Club to many locations at our beloved DBG (including today's beautiful setting outside in this garden!) and even a trek up to the historic Chief Hosa Lodge in Denver Mountain Parks. Thank you to all our member hostesses this year as well for all your efforts!

The Programs were fantastic this year thanks to Kelly Stava's willingness to dive in - in just her second year of membership and take on the Chairmanship of this committee! Thank you, Kelly, for your creativity and positivity throughout! Behind-the-scenes planning with Mary Fowler, Lise Woodard and the Hospitality team kept our programs interesting, educational, and smooth! Lise kept us up to date with monthly spots in the newsletter that gave us great background for each speaker. We heard from respected landscape architects, Emmanuel Didier and Bill Wenk about designing habitat gardens and creating infrastructure that will sustain biodiversity in large scale city projects. Both emphasized the importance of native plants in our landscapes. We learned about plant-based eating from Nutritionist/Dietitian Hannah Van Ark and all about the amazing World of Sensory plants from DBG Horticulturalist, Angie Andrade.

We were entertained by *Birding Magazine* Editor and photographer, Ted Floyd and his daughter Hannah, who taught us about the citizen science app, iNaturalist. And speaking of Photography, we got the chance to meet the Director and Cinematographer, Billy Kanaly at our Open Meeting Showing of Amache Rose in the Sturm Auditorium. We learned about the perseverance of the Japanese prisoners and how growing plants helped them to endure. To top it all off, we heard from Brian Vogt about the expanding work of the Denver Botanic Gardens. We took the opportunity to showcase our photography and conservation work with our greater community. Thank you to Amy Mower and her team for pulling together that memorable meeting.

This spring, Briana Bosch from Blossoms and Branch Farm gave us a glimpse into the world of sustainable, regenerative flower farming and set the stage for our own floral designers, Elizabeth Weigand, Martha Veldcamp, Lisa Duke and Cora Wheeler to demonstrate their amazing talents at our May meeting.

We have managed to keep long-held GCD traditions... traditions like maintaining Lainie's Cutting Garden and supplying the DBG with beautiful bouquets all summer long. AND traditions like today's flower show, our December greens workshop, and our seated luncheons together. We are also keeping our traditional focus on enriching the community around us.

Our new-ish May Day Tradition of making bouquets for Craig Hospital (Thank you Lisa Gould!) and the even newer tradition of "The Saving of the Flowers" before the first frost in Lainie's Cutting Garden (thank YOU Elizabeth!) to make appreciation bouquets for the staff at DBG, both illustrate this focus. Our Earth Day clean-up on the Highline Canal and our hard work digging out shrubs and prepping planting beds at Civic Center Park underline our commitment. This tells me something important about this club – We care about the world around us.

All our Committees have incorporated community into their work this past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our "BIG 4" Committee Chairs, Liza Grant and Liz Walker Photography, Stephany Tryba and Suellen White, for Conservation, Elizabeth Weigand, Lisa Duke & Martha Veldcamp, Floral Design, and Suzanne MacKenzie and Ann Ellis, for Horticulture. We have learned so much and had a wonderful time shooting native plant photos in the

Summerhome Garden, dying silk scarves from fresh flowers at the Chatfield Dye Garden, learning about color theory in floral design and how the floral industry works at the Flower Collective and Veldkamp's Flowers. We had 2 very special tours of (NREL) the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden and the new CSU SPUR Campus to learn about cutting edge innovations in conservation-technology and research. Wow! As I said, what a year!

Our programs are enriching and our goals far-reaching. We can see this clearly in the mandates from our Strategic Plan to "Dig In" and grow forward. This work is keeping our club relevant and exhilarated. It is with this thought in mind that the Civic Projects Task Force has been hard at work this spring looking for opportunities for us to really Dig In and add value and meaning to our civic plans. Our goal is to hone-in on 2 or 3 interesting projects over the summer and present them to you all in September. We will vote on the options and by October, hope to come up with a project for next spring. We wouldn't have this opportunity without the efforts of Leslie Liedtke and the Amaryllis Bulb Sale team! I would also like to thank the Task Force: Amy Mower, Kathleen Thomas, Lindsay Dodge, Lisa Gould and Suzanne MacKenzie for all their thoughtful work on this committee. It's a challenging one... AND we're making real progress.

Behind the scenes, our History and Bylaws Committee has been hard at work this year going through boxes (&boxes) of papers and organizing, culling, and safeguarding the information in our archives. Sheliagh Hudon, with Lindsay Dodge and Janet Manning have done our club a huge service here. Thank you!

Holley Sanford and Sarah Alijani have brought new life to our Garden History and Design Committee. They documented Bea Taplin's beautiful garden for the Smithsonian's Garden Archives. Just last week we were treated to an amazing, woman-focused historical and personal tour of the Colorado Chautauqua led by Kathleen Thomas. That was a wonderful time! I urge you all to reach out to read her master's thesis, "The Colorado Chautauqua: A Landmark of Feminine Place and Opportunity."

We are also bringing ourselves up to speed in the communications realm and I want to give a big GIANT shout out to Alice Hughes, Ann Crammond and Bar Chadwick for keeping us up to

date each month on our website and newsletter. Thank you as well to all our members who contributed to the newsletters. We have such knowledge and talent in our club! Our new Member's Spotlight was a wonderful addition this year, and we thank Amy Slothower, the author of all 8 delightful articles which you can easily find on our website.

And we have had so much fun together this year at all the meetings, the cocktail party in the Orangery, workshops, and field trips as well as the GCA Meetings – We sent delegates to the Shirley Meneice and NAL (National Affairs and Legislation) Conferences, the Annual Meeting and the Zone XII President's Council Meeting. We all had the opportunity to be enriched by online Judging, Photography, Floral Design and Conservation Conferences! Fun, Learning and Friendships!

Thank you all for a wonderful year!