

520 Work Begins in Arboretum



SITE PREP: Workers pouring gravel on the WSDOT Peninsula in the Arboretum to create a staging area for construction of the West Approach Bridge North.

Construction of the West Approach Bridge North (WABN) phase of the new State Route 520 Bridge in the Arboretum has begun. This project will connect westbound-traveling vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians from the new floating bridge across Lake Washington to the Montlake area. Eastbound traffic will continue to use the existing structure until the West Approach Bridge South is fully funded and built.

In late September, workers from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) closed off the Miller Street parking lot at the northern tip of the Arboretum to public use. They will be using a large portion of the WSDOT Peninsula adjacent to this parking lot as a staging area for the bridge construction.

Included in the WABN phase of the 520 rebuild will be the demolition of the former Museum of History and Industry building, the “ramps to nowhere” in the Arboretum, and the existing westbound off ramp that runs through the Arboretum wetlands and empties out onto Lake Washington Boulevard.

Workers have installed orange construction fencing around the project boundaries, and will mark temporary access restrictions to the Arboretum shoreline and trails. During the staging and bridge construction, some trees will need to be taken down, but WSDOT says it will work closely with the City of Seattle to minimize tree removal and ensure protection of the remaining vegetation.

According to WSDOT’s construction notice, “Crews will only remove trees and vegetation within the project’s limits as necessary to allow room to build the new structure, including on Foster Island. After construction is complete, the area will be replanted to create a well-blended and integrated landscape.”

The new approach bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in summer 2017.

More info: To learn more about the WABN construction, visit the project website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/WABN/. You may also follow project progress on Twitter (@WSDOT_520) and email project staff at SR520Bridge@wsdot.wa.gov. There’s even a 24-hour SR 520 construction hotline at 206-708-4657. ↪

Seattle Approves Parks Legacy Plan!

On August 5, city voters approved Proposition 1, the Parks Legacy Plan, which created a new Seattle Park District. Administered by the Seattle City Council (acting ex officio as the District Board) and paid for by a citywide increase in property taxes, the district is designed to provide a sustainable source of funding for Seattle Parks and Recreation and its substantial backlog of maintenance projects. The District Board will convene this fall to begin addressing the project backlog. To find out more about the District and see a summary of proposed projects and initiatives to be paid for by the Legacy Plan funds, visit www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy. The Arboretum Foundation advocated for Proposition 1, and we would like to thank everyone who went to the polls to support it! ↪

News and Notes

Sunday Tours: Fruits & Nuts, Fall Color, Pinetum

Every Sunday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., UW Botanic Gardens-trained guides lead free tours of the Arboretum, starting from the Graham Visitors Center. From now through October 12, the theme of the free tour will be “Fruits & Nuts;” from October 19 through November 16, the theme will switch to “Fall Color;” and on November 23 and 30, the theme will be sights and smells of the “Pinetum.” The Sunday tour program will take a holiday break during the month of December and then return in January with a focus on “Ancient Tree Species.”

Farewell to Patrick and Rhett

The Foundation would like to say farewell and thanks to two UW Botanic Gardens (UWBG) employees who are moving on from their positions at the Arboretum and Center for Urban Horticulture: Patrick Mulligan and Rhett Ruecker.

Patrick has served for the past four years as the Youth & Family Education Programs Supervisor (a position funded by the Arboretum Foundation)—and he has accomplished a lot. According to UWBG Manager of Conservation and Education, Wendy Gible, “It is no exaggeration to say that Patrick has completely overhauled the youth and family program and built it into one of the leading environmental education programs in the greater Seattle area. Driven by his passion for education and the natural world, he has developed a diverse and thriving suite of classes, camps, schools, tours and events for all stages of life, from preschoolers right on up to UW students and parents of program participants. In the process, he has maintained the high quality for which our programs are known and has built a talented and dedicated team of educators.” Patrick and his wife, Clara, are expecting their first child, and Patrick is excited to begin the next phase of his life as a stay-at-home dad.

Rhett has worked for UWBG for three years as an hourly gardener and, along with his colleague Preston Pew, has done significant work to help restore collections in the Arboretum—including the *Enkianthus* and rhodys in Rhododendron Glen. He and Preston have also done marvelous work with the extreme weed problems in the Gateway to Chile. Says UWBG Horticulture Manager David Zuckerman, “It is a bittersweet feeling losing Rhett. He is simply one of the hardest-working hourly staff I’ve



TEAM WORK: Members of the UW Cross Country Team, with UWBG gardener Rhett Ruecker.

UW Runners Give Back to the Arboretum

If you’re a regular visitor to the Arboretum, no doubt you’ve encountered the speedy women and men of the UW’s cross country team. During the school year, the team runs in the Arboretum as part of its daily training routine. While on a team run here in May, one of the coaches noticed the Foundation’s yard-sign campaign for GiveBIG and was inspired to organize a special “give back” from the team to show its appreciation for this beautiful place and venue for recreation.

The coaching staff contacted the Foundation to discuss a monetary donation and also to arrange a service day, when the students could come to the Arboretum and help with any work that needed to be done. The Foundation worked with UW Botanic Gardens staff to organize the event, and on Wednesday, August 27—the fourth day of their preseason—39 athletes from the cross country team arrived at the Arboretum for a day of service.

The athletes came in to help with the same focus and drive they demonstrate when training. They divided into three groups and worked on projects in the New Zealand Forest, Cascadia Forest, and Gateway to Chile. In the Gateway to Chile, they made light work of moving two huge piles of mulch from the top to the bottom of the hill by employing a bucket-brigade system. It was an efficient, low-impact, and safe way to deal with the steep slope.

It was incredibly helpful to have additional support from our experienced Garden Stewards, and the UWBG Gardeners were excellent leaders and teachers, as always.

This is a natural partnership, and we hope this day of service was the start of an annual tradition. In addition to their hard work, the team made a generous donation of \$2,500 to the Foundation. It will be used to pay for tools and materials to support group service projects in the Arboretum.

had the privilege of supervising. But I'm very happy that he landed a full-time, permanent Gardener 2 position on the University of Washington campus grounds! We will all miss him, but we'll know where to find him, too."

Winter Garden Tree Removals

In late summer, the UW Botanic Gardens arborist crew removed four western red cedars from around the Witt Winter Garden in order to provide needed light and future growing space for the garden's choice collections. According to UW professor of landscape architecture and the garden's designer Iain Robertson, the removals were necessary to open up the garden's "living wall," which—after more than 25 years of growth—was encroaching on the collection plants and negatively impacting them. Two cedars were removed from the west side of the garden, next to the ornamental "twig bed;" one was removed from the south side next to the Chinese red birch grove; and one was removed from the east side of the garden next to the camellia collection. Existing trees in the background will expand and continue to provide visitors to the garden with the experience of being in an enclosed, intimate space.

TREASURE UNCOVERED: Arboretum staff restored a neglected grove of enkianthus shrubs hidden for decades in Rhododendron Glen.

PLANT CLOSE-UP: Developing fruit on a red vein enkianthus, an ericaceous shrub native to Japan.



Hort Staff Restore "Lost" Enkianthus Grove

Thanks in part to funds provided by the Arboretum Foundation, the UW Botanic Gardens horticulture staff worked this summer to restore a grove of more than 50 enkianthus shrubs—mostly red-vein enkianthus (*Enkianthus campanulatus*)—at the base of Rhododendron Glen. The grove dates back to the beginnings of the Arboretum, but in recent decades it had become "lost" (that is, extremely well hidden) under a dense canopy of western red cedars and other trees. Starting in August, UWBG improved light conditions in the grove through selective understory brush clearing, tree removal, and pruning. Then, using Foundation project funds designated for the Glen, UWBG was able to pay temporary gardeners Rhett Ruecker and Preston Pew to improve the health of the grove through a regimen of mulching, watering, weeding, and fertilizing.

"We're aiming to restore the grove for all to be able to once again—after a very long hiatus—enjoy its natural beauty and splendor throughout the year," says UWBG Horticulture Manager David Zuckerman. "The work will also open view corridors and a cleared natural pathway for visitors to walk from the upper Rhododendron Glen pond area down to the lower 'Lookout Pond' on Azalea Way." ↪

What's Happening

Arboretum Walks & Talks

October 2, 4—6 PM
November 6, 3—5 PM
December 4, 3—5 PM
*Arbor Circle, Legacy Circle,
Steward-level members,
plus guests*

Gifts Galore

Wednesday, December 3
10 AM—8 PM
See page 5

Japanese Garden Events

Sunday, October 12
Maple Viewing Day
See page 5

— ONGOING EVENTS —

ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Pat Calvert Greenhouse:
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
10 AM—Noon

Plant Donations Nursery:
Wednesdays and 2nd Saturdays
10 AM—2 PM,
through October 15

Guided Arboretum Walks

1st and 3rd Sundays, 1 PM
GVC lobby
Call 206-543-8800 to confirm

Master Gardeners Clinic

Saturdays/Sundays,
NOON—4 PM
GVC lobby

All events occur at the Graham Visitors Center unless otherwise noted. Call 206-543-8800 for information on Arboretum events; 206-543-8801 for family and youth education programs or guided walks; 206-685-8033 for adult learning opportunities.

New Developments



AUCTION ADVENTURE TO THE ALPINE ZONE: Participants in our day-hike to the spectacular alpine gardens of Burroughs Mountain, Mount Rainier National Park, on July 26. This trip—led by Seattle Parks and Recreation’s Paul Smith and our own Randall Hitchin—was offered as an auction item at the 2014 Opening Night Party. Look for similar adventures at next February’s party auction (see page 5).

Commemorating John Bollard

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the passing of John Bollard. He died in Seattle on June 28, aged 86. A native of New Zealand, John moved with his wife Eve to Seattle in 1961 and was a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the UW for 35 years. He was deeply engaged in the Kiwi community of Seattle. A founding member of the Seattle Christchurch Sister City Association and New Zealand’s first Honorary Consul to the Northwest, John was instrumental in the creation of the New Zealand High Country Exhibit in the Arboretum in 1993. This small planting—the first eco-geographic exhibit in the Arboretum—served as inspiration for the much larger

Pacific Connections Garden (with its two-acre New Zealand Forest) now under construction here. John is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

On Sunday, October 5, John’s family John’s family dedicated a new commemorative bench in his and Eve’s honor in the High Country Exhibit, now located within the New Zealand Forest. A large group of Kiwis attended the dedication and participated in a special weeding and mulching work party in the Forest.

Foundation Hires New Operations Coordinator

In June, after six years in the job, our beloved operations coordinator Julia “Jules” White left to take up a position at the Washington State History Museum, in Tacoma, and shorten her daily commute from three hours to 10 minutes. Thank you, Jules, for your valuable service to the Arboretum, and best of luck! We will miss you!

Shortly after Jules’s departure, we were happy to welcome Nathaniel “Nat” Bennett on board as her successor. Nat will take over the management of our busy office and also provide administrative support to our executive director. He has a B.A. in archaeology and Greek language and literature from Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, he did field research in Greece, Israel, and Macedonia, and also served as



the operations manager for the Oberlin Student Co-operative Association, which provides at-cost housing and dining to students. When he’s not at work, Nat enjoys cooking, soccer, and playing the piano. “I’m looking forward to working with the Arboretum’s wonderful volunteers,” says Nat, “and also to enjoying a beautiful walk to work.” ☺

New and Renewing Members

The Foundation welcomes members who joined or renewed during the period of June 19 to September 24, 2014.

Sylvan Bonin
Sandy Brodahl
Amy Churchill
Pat Cirone
Marc Cogan and
Ana McConnell
Sarima Davidson

Dan Eisenberg
Gretchen Faulstich
Peg Forney
Natalie Fuller
Shannon Glass
Owen M. Johnson
Florence Kirrage

Karen Krebs
Robert R. Midkiff, Jr.
Catherine Miller
Debi Quirk and Steve DeMont
Richard and Linda Sedgley
Whitney Thompson
Kate Travaille

To renew or enhance your membership, please call 206-325-4510 or visit www.arboretumfoundation.org.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Sale Update

Due to a scheduling conflict at the Graham Visitors Center, we won't be able to host our regular Gifts & Greens Galore holiday sale this December. In its place, we will be offering a single-day, pared-down—but still awesome—version of the sale. We're calling it "Gifts Galore," and it will take place on Wednesday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The sale will feature:



- An expanded selection of gifts, including seasonal specialty items;
- A limited selection of centerpieces and wreaths, hand-crafted by Foundation volunteers;
- Pre-bundled, fresh-cut greens;
- Complimentary refreshments.

Since this is a weekday event, we'll be open late to accommodate after-work shoppers. Don't forget, Foundation members receive 10 percent off all gift items!



CELLAR CONTRIBUTION: Fine wine, gift certificates, and theater tickets make great donations to our party auction.

Opening Night Party

Preparations are under way for the Opening Night Party & Auction at this winter's Northwest Flower & Garden Show. On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, our guests will enjoy delicious food, fine wine, live entertainment, and the opportunity to view the beautiful display gardens at the Garden Show the day before it opens to the public—all



SAVE THE DATE!

Opening Night Party & Auction at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

while helping to raise important funds in support of the Arboretum.

This year's Garden Show (February 11 to 15) falls on the same week as St. Valentine's Day, and the show theme will be "Romance Blossoms." Our party will incorporate this theme—as will our annual garden display, which will be an interactive, love-themed homage to Azalea Way. (Look for details in the winter issue of *GroundWork*, in December.)



Please Donate to Our Silent Auction: Once again, the Opening Night Party will include a lavish silent auction filled with local treasures and unique, nature-inspired experiences. Donations are greatly appreciated! If you would like to donate an item, service, or experience, please download a procurement form from the Opening Night Party event page on our website, www.arboretumfoundation.org. For further information, contact Sheila Beer at sbeer@arboretumfoundation.org or 206-325-4510.



"Maple Viewing Day" at the Seattle Japanese Garden

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Fall is one of the best times to visit the world-class Seattle Japanese Garden at Washington Park Arboretum. At this annual event, enjoy breathtaking autumn foliage, traditional music performances, and more.

- Live music by Kokon Taiko;
- Japanese calligraphy demonstrations by Meito-kai;
- Hands-on nature activity stations sponsored by UW Botanic Gardens;
- Complimentary garden tours at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

Free with garden admission. For details, call 206-684-4725 or visit the Japanese Garden website, www.seattlejapanesegarden.org.

VOLUNTEER VINE

Volunteer Appreciation

On Tuesday, August 12, the Arboretum Foundation and UW Botanic Gardens held our joint annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) to honor our marvelous volunteers. We had a close call with some threatening thunderstorms, but fortunately it stayed dry through the event. The courtyard at CUH was beautiful and offered many different gathering spaces for volunteers and staff to mingle and enjoy one another's company. Live music, blackberry bourbon iced tea, and a table overflowing with homemade desserts were other highlights!

Several Foundation volunteers were honored with awards, including Nancy Grout, who received the first ever Garden Steward of the Year Award. A weeding fanatic, Nancy is always the first to arrive at Steward work parties and the last to leave. The Foundation's 2014 Volunteer Legacy Award was given to Marielle Riordan, who donated nearly 400 hours at our gift shop over the



PHENOMENAL PERFORMER: Marielle Riordan receiving the 2014 Volunteer Legacy Award from our executive director, Paige Miller, at the Volunteer Appreciation Party. (Photo courtesy Riz Reyes)

past year. Marielle's contribution was a major factor in our ability to keep the shop open much more consistently in 2013-14.

Garden Book Bonanza!

This past summer, volunteer Unit 98, based in Tacoma and the Gig Harbor area, got into the book-selling business to help raised funds for the Arboretum. An unlikely opportunity presented itself for unit members to purchase hundreds of

gardening books at bargain-basement prices, and they latched onto it. Their most profitable venture was selling these books during the annual Gig Harbor Garden Tour, in June—and all told, they raised more than \$2,300 in support of our programs. Thanks Unit 98! Following their fundraising success, unit members donated the remainder of the books to the Arboretum Shop. We are selling the books on a rolling cart for at least half off list price. Although some of the books show a bit of wear from storage and repeated moving, they are all un-used, and we have some great titles! ⇄



What's In My Garden 🌿

ELIZABETH MOSES, Garden Guide, Unit Volunteer, and Former Board Member

What is in your garden this season? Fall in my shady garden is the second glory season for the little trees—now 40 to 50 years old—that I purchased mainly from Arboretum plant sales. The bright red of our spreading *Stewartia monodelphia*, butter yellow of our tall *Styrax obasia*, citrus yellow of our towering Dove tree, and copper tan of our lacy dawn redwood are much appreciated as our garden prepares for its brief winter rest. How they light up on rare but welcome sunny days!

What is your favorite season to garden? Very early spring I love our 25-foot-tall witch hazel, *Hamamelis mollis*, as its bright yellow ribbons unfurl, unmindful of a snowfall. The expanding clumps of snow drops are a delight. I love to watch the daily lengthening of young sprouts, so full of promise.

Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book? My go-to gardening book is a weighty reference, *The American Horticultural Society's A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* (DK Publishing, 1997).

When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? In 1956, having just moved to Mercer Island, I was invited to join Unit 6. I learned my gardening skills from some fine gardeners and made cuttings that continue to thrive in our garden today. In 1964, I was invited to join the Unit Council's Governing Board, to put together the Speakers List. Many other varied jobs have followed, so I've never had a chance to get bored.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum? There are many wonderful things about volunteering at the Arboretum, including great friendships with remarkable women, and some men! It's a beautiful place to go to work. My favorite thing was the process of learning the Arboretum so I could take visitors on walks in the Arboretum, in any season. At the time of my guide training, Brian Mulligan and Joe Witt used to lead all such tours, while the volunteers took the school children on the Native Walk. As the tours became more popular—and with the Arboretum very short staffed—Brian and Joe cut us loose on our own, and the rest is history.

UWBG Events & Classes

Art Exhibit: “Ferns, Orchids & Other Treasures”

ELISABETH C. MILLER LIBRARY,
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE (3501 NE 41ST STREET, SEATTLE)

The Miller Library is hosting an exhibit by Lopez Island-based botanist, teacher, and artist Linda Ann Vorobik (www.vorobikbotanicalart.com) now through November 3. Vorobik paints exquisite and botanically accurate watercolors of ferns and orchids. Along with botanical art, the exhibit features hand-painted silk wall hangings and scarves. For more information, visit www.millerlibrary.org or call 206-543-0415.

Three Talks on Garden Design: From England to Olmsted

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 8, 15, AND 22, 7 TO 8:30 PM,
WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

In October, horticultural educator Bryn Homsy will host three lively slide shows and discussions at the Arboretum on the topic of landscape design, with a special focus on how English gardens influenced those in the U.S. The titles are: “English Landscape Design and Its Influence in the West” (October 8); “Kitchen Gardens and Self-Sufficiency” (October 15); and “How a Heated Discussion on Gardens in 1890s England Came West” (October 22). Cost: \$5 per lecture; \$10 per lecture if you register after early-bird cut-off dates (October 1, 8, and 15 respectively).

An Introduction to Mosses

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 9 AM TO 3:30 PM, WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

Would you like to learn about the tiny and fascinating mosses that carpet our forests—and sometimes our lawns? This workshop, designed for beginners, will help you understand the basics of moss structure and biology, as well as the characteristics useful for moss identification. Zoologist Lee Ellis will lead the workshop, which will consist of classroom work and a stroll in the Arboretum. Cost: \$65; \$75 after October 18.

Bugs: Beneficial, Bad, and Beautiful

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 20
7 TO 9 PM, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

This course, taught over four weeks, will focus on the identification and biology of insects and arthropods common to the garden, yard, and larger world—as well as how we can learn to live with and appreciate these creatures. It will cover such topics as the importance of natural enemies and pollinators, non-toxic controls, insects of compost, and more. Each session will include a hands-on period with practical demonstrations, specimens to examine, and reference resources. Cost: \$75; \$85 after October 23. ↔

This is just a small selection of the educational programs offered by UWBG. To find out more or to register, visit www.uwbotanicgardens.org or call 206-685-8033.



Coralroot Orchid,
a watercolor by
Linda Ann Vorobik.
See this and other
paintings by Vorobik
at the Miller Library,
now through
November 3.

Arboretum Foundation

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info@arboretumfoundation.org
www.arboretumfoundation.org

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Graham Visitors Center/Gift Shop:
10 AM–4 PM, daily
Information Hotline: 206-543-8800

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WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

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Useful Phone Numbers

Arboretum Offices/Graham Visitors
Center: 206-543-8800
Japanese Garden: 206-684-4725
Master Gardeners Hotline: 206-296-3440
Miller Library: 206-543-0415
Plant Answer Line: 206-897-5268
UW Botanic Gardens: 206-543-8616
Volunteer Info: 206-616-4890

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Arboretum Foundation

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Arboretum Scene

Camellia sasanqua 'Mine-no-yuki'
Japanese autumn camellia

Though peak season in the Witt Winter Garden at the Arboretum is from January to March, there are sights to savor in this iconic display throughout the year. Starting in November, three specimens of *Camellia sasanqua* 'Mine-no-yuki' burst into bloom on the northeast corner of the garden and put on a stunning flower show that can last well into early winter. A popular selection of the Japanese autumn camellia dating back more than a century, 'Mine-no-yuki' is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a spreading habit. It produces masses of large, lightly scented, peony-like white blossoms that contrast dramatically with the plant's beautiful, glossy, dark green foliage. A recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Merit in 1964, it has been rebranded as the 'White Doves' camellia by the U.S. nursery trade—but I think

the original cultivar name, which translates to "snow on the ridge," is more aptly descriptive. 'Mine-no-yuki' makes a wonderful accent plant, but its spreading habit and slow growth also make it suitable for use as a low hedge, espalier, or container plant. Generally thought of as a small- to medium-sized shrub, it may eventually grow to between 12 to 15 feet tall and wide. A tough, low-maintenance plant, 'Mine-no-yuki' performs best in partial to full sun and moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil. ↪

—Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Foundation