

Opening Night: “Romance Blossoms”

The Northwest Flower & Garden Show returns on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, and once again the Arboretum Foundation will kick off the show with its annual Opening Night Party & Auction. Guests will enjoy fabulous food, wine, entertainment, auctions, and the opportunity to view the beautiful display gardens at the Garden Show the day before it opens to the public—all while helping us raise important funds to support Washington Park Arboretum.

The theme of this year’s Garden Show is “Romance Blossoms,” and guests will be treated to more than 20 beautiful displays that explore connections between flowers, gardens, and romantic love. This year’s Arboretum display will be an interactive homage to romantic walks and *love*-ly scenery on iconic Azalea Way (see page 4 for details). Our party will also celebrate this theme of love among the cherries and azaleas.

MAYORAL MOJO

The Honorable Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle, and his husband Michael Shiosaki will be our honorary co-chairs for this year’s party. Ed and Michael are longtime friends of the Arboretum, and we are delighted to have their support.

Michael has served on the Arboretum Foundation board and as a member of the Garden Stewards, and is fully aware of the importance of volunteers to sustaining the Arboretum. So it’s fitting that the “Fund-A-Need”

portion of the Opening Night auction will focus on raising money to support our multi-faceted volunteer program. Foundation staff recruit, train, supervise, and work with more than 600 volunteers each year, supporting what they do for us. Come raise your paddle and help us keep this vital program thriving!

AUCTION ALLURE

The live and silent auctions at the 2014 Opening Night were a tremendous success, and we’re procuring another cornucopia of delights for this year’s event. Bid on fabulous Northwest getaway vacations, such as a stay at the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort in Leavenworth, Washington, or at the Sooke Harbor House, on Vancouver Island. We’ll have a great selection of local dining experiences to bid on, including certificates for the Boat Street Kitchen, Salty’s, and Ethan Stowell Restaurants.

Treat yourself to a show or a big game! We’ll be auctioning tickets for 5th Avenue Theater, Jazz Alley, the Seahawks, the Sounders, and more. This is just a sampling of what will be on offer. Visit www.arboretumfoundation.org in January to see detailed highlights from our auction catalog.

A TRIO OF TICKET LEVELS

For this year’s party, we’ve simplified our ticket level options, reducing them from five down to three. We will be offering a limited number of early-bird tickets to Arboretum Foundation members, at \$175 each. This offer will be available through January 10 or while the ticket supply lasts. The other two ticket levels are Patron and Benefactor. The prices for these remain the same as last year—\$250 and \$500, respectively.

All guests will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and dessert. Patrons and Benefactors will receive additional benefits, including complimentary parking and reserved table seating for dinner on the main garden floor. Benefactors will also receive two tickets to the Garden Show and a special gift.

PURCHASING TICKETS

Tickets are on sale now. You can purchase them online at www.arboretumfoundation.org, by phone at 206-325-4510, or over the counter in the Arboretum Shop (open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). ☞



Opening Night Party & Auction
AT THE NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
A BENEFIT FOR THE ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 5 TO 9 PM
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

- ☞ Hosted wine & hors d'oeuvres reception
- ☞ Auctions and live entertainment ☞ Buffet dinner and dessert
- ☞ More than 20 spectacular show gardens

Tickets: Benefactors: \$500 ☞ Patrons: \$250
Members Early-Bird: \$175 (limited number available only until January 10, 2015)
Call 206-325-4510 or visit www.arboretumfoundation.org.

News and Notes



PACIFIC CONNECTIONS AMBASSADOR: Kyle Henegar (right) with fellow UWBG horticulturist Roy Farrow during the planting of the New Zealand Forest in 2013.

Farewell to Kyle Henegar!

The Foundation would like to bid farewell to UW Botanic Gardens horticulturist Kyle Henegar, who has worked at the Arboretum since 2009 and been taking care of the Pacific Connections Garden for the past three years. Kyle is moving on to pursue a profession as a certified arborist and hazard-tree risk assessor. While she worked at the Arboretum, Kyle helped establish and develop the Garden Stewards programs, which recruits volunteers to help with the maintenance of Pacific Connections and Azalea Way.

Says UWBG Manager of Horticulture David Zuckerman, “Aside from her historic status as the first Pacific Connections horticulturist, Kyle’s primary accomplishment during her five years was, by far, her unwavering ambassadorship for promoting and educating the visiting public, stewards, park regulars, donors, and other VIPs all about our new and ambitious Pacific Connections exhibit. Her excitement and enthusiasm for the new gardens was contagious to all those she touched and for that we cannot express our appreciation and gratitude enough. The good news is that she has promised to continue her ambassadorship and support by returning as a volunteer!”

The UWBG will begin the search for Kyle’s successor early in the New Year.

Field Trip Yields Botanical Riches for Pat Calvert Greenhouse

Though most of the plants sold in the Pat Calvert Greenhouse are propagated from cuttings taken at the Arboretum, occasionally the greenhouse volunteers go further afield for special plants. Such was the case in early October, when our volunteers visited Derek Clausen’s garden in Snohomish. Derek has an amazing collection of rare conifers and Southern Hemisphere plants, and he was willing to share the plants with us to help raise funds for the Arboretum. Walt Bubelis was Derek’s instructor at Edmonds Community College in the 1980s, and it was



RICHIE STEFFEN



WALT BUBELIS

Two Free Lectures for Members in January

We have two special treats for Foundation members coming up in January—a pair of lectures by two of the most respected horticultural figures in the region: Richie Steffen and Walt Bubelis. Both lectures will take place at the Graham Visitors Center.

On Thursday, January 15, at 7 p.m., Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden Richie Steffen will give a slide show presentation about the Garden’s Great Plant Picks program (www.greatplantpicks.org) and highlight many exceptional plants for gardeners in the maritime Pacific Northwest. The presentation is part of our Arboretum Appreciation Lecture Series. All Arboretum volunteers, and Arboretum Foundation Members are welcome to attend.

On Tuesday, January 20, at 7 p.m., retired Edmonds College Professor of Horticulture Walt Bubelis will present a talk and slide show “Plants and Places of Greece and Crete.” Walt and his wife, Dona, will provide special, themed refreshments, including homemade Greek cookies, Greek wine, and herbal tea. This lecture is first open to Walt’s fan club from his “Walks with Walt” tours, but there will also be about 40 seats available to Arboretum volunteers and Foundation members.

To attend either or both lectures, RSVP to RhondaBush@comcast.net or 206-941-2550.

Walt who made the field trip possible.

The Greenhouse volunteers spent hours touring Derek garden, learning about the unfamiliar plants, and taking cuttings. They left with several coolers full of cuttings, some from species that are threatened in their home ranges. Everything has now been processed, and all told, the volunteers “stuck” 873 cuttings.

Here are just some of the species Derek shared with us: *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, *Cupressus guadalupensis*,

Halocarpus bidwillii, *Juniperus coxii*, *Picea jezoensis*, *Azara dentata*, and *Olearia lineata*. You can expect to see some of these available for sale as early as the summer of 2015. We're keeping our fingers-crossed that everything takes root. Thanks Derek and Walt!

Arboretum Loop Trail Update

Construction documents for the new Arboretum multi-use trail—the Arboretum Loop Trail—are nearing completion. Contractors will bid on the project this winter, and construction is expected to begin in spring 2015. Due to the sensitive nature of the soils in areas along the route of the trail, construction will only take place during the warmer, drier months. It will most likely happen in two phases over two years, with the first phase linking East Madison Street to the Boyer parking lot along Lake Washington Boulevard and the second phase linking the Boyer lot to the Graham Visitors Center and Arboretum Drive East. However, the work sequence will be left to the contractor's discretion.

Designing the trail to create a cohesive loop within the Arboretum has led to some reworking of the initial plans. The project will now include an extension of the trail around the south side of Foster Island Drive, and a tree-way stop and crosswalk at the intersection of Foster Island Drive and Arboretum Drive. If the budget allows, there will also be a new ramp and staircase from Foster Island Drive to the Graham Visitors Center. These features, plus the addition of other features enhancing connectivity between the trail and the Montlake neighborhood, have created extra costs for the project. To offset these costs—and because it is not integral to the trail—the Azalea Way Pond renovation has been removed from the current project. (It will be part of a future project.)

The Loop Trail will bring several benefits to the Arboretum. As UW Botanic Gardens Curator of Living Collections Ray Larson said on the UWBG news blog recently, "First, it will get people into areas of the Arboretum that are currently less well known and visited. Most people don't make it to the Viburnum Collection or even know where it is, and don't get through the Flats (where birches, poplars, and the creek are found) much of the year because the ground is too wet and there are no trails there. The Loop Trail will also open up a new route through the largely undeveloped southern hillside across from the Japanese Garden and will provide another way to access Pacific Connections."

"We will have many new planting areas that will be accessible and viewable," says Ray. "Some of these will anticipate future phases of the Pacific Connections China and Chile forests. Other areas will see the addition of a diversity of new plantings that strengthen existing collections (viburnums, oaks, rhododendrons, and more). There are going to be a lot of new plants going in, and areas with a lot of ivy and invasives will be refreshed." ☞



A SUPER SUPERINTENDENT: Acting Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent Christopher Williams (second from left) with former Arboretum Foundation Board Presidents Della Balick (left) and Barbara Wright (second from right) and current Board President Jim Reid. At its November meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors honored Christopher for his four years of excellent service as Acting Superintendent and for his dedication to the

Arboretum. Christopher is stepping down to his previous role as Deputy Superintendent in the Parks Department as he manages some personal health issues.

What's Happening

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Washington State Convention & Trade Center

Opening Night Party

Tuesday, February 10, 5—9 PM

Arboretum Display Garden

February 11—15

Display Garden Plant Sale

Saturday, February 21, 10 AM—1 PM

Early Bloomers Plant Sale

Saturday, April 11, 10 AM—2 PM

FlorAbundance Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 9 AM—5 PM

Sunday, April 26, 10 AM—2 PM

Member Pre-Sale

Friday, April 24, 5—7:30 PM

— ONGOING EVENTS —

ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Pat Calvert Greenhouse:

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
10 AM—NOON

Plant Donations Nursery

Closed for the season

Accepting donations again March 11

Wednesday sales, 10 AM—2 PM,

April 1 and 8. Official 2015

Reopening: Early Bloomers

Guided Arboretum Walks

Every Sunday, 1:00—2:30 PM

GVC lobby

No tours in December!

Call 206-543-8800 to confirm

Master Gardeners Clinic

Saturdays/Sundays, Noon—4 PM

GVC lobby

Native Plants Study Group

4th Mondays, 10 AM—NOON

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.

Picture Yourself on Azalea Way

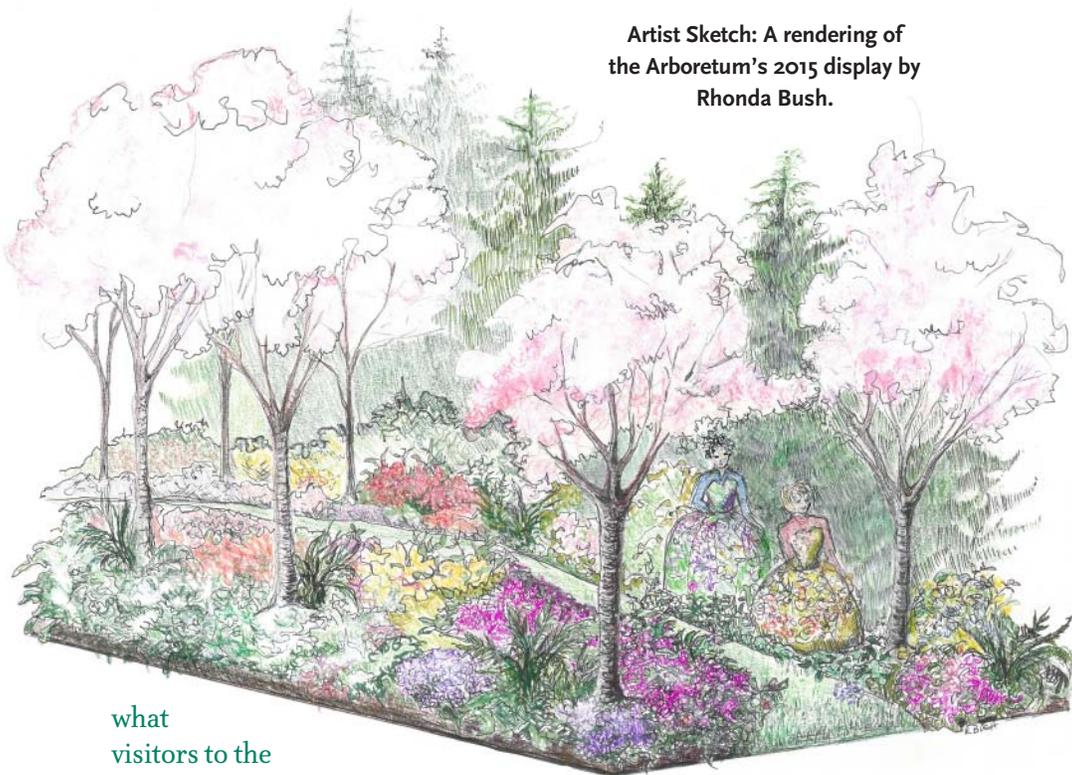
A Historic Promenade, Living Dresses, and an Interactive Photo Op

Valentine's Day takes place during the week of the 2015 Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and appropriately enough, the Garden Show organizers have chosen "Romance Blossoms" as their theme.

Washington Park Arboretum has long been the stage for many couples falling in love. Taking its cue from the Garden Show theme, our display will portray how *romance blossoms* in the Arboretum, specifically on a spring day along Azalea Way. What could be more romantic than a stroll in the Arboretum along this historic, Olmsted-designed promenade flanked by colorful azaleas, cherry trees, bulbs, and groundcovers?

The scene we are creating is a timeless one, but we will also include a novel twist—our small slice of Azalea Way will double as a photo opportunity. It will be a walk-through garden that allows visitors to literally step into the scene and stand behind "living dresses"—dress forms richly covered in ornamental plants and fabric.

Friends and family can capture the scene with their smart phones and post them on their favorite social media. We will be promoting the use of a unique hashtag (#onazaleaway) so we—and anyone else—can follow



Artist Sketch: A rendering of the Arboretum's 2015 display by Rhonda Bush.

what visitors to the garden are saying about it on Twitter and Facebook.

Azalea Way was designed to showcase plants that do well in the Pacific Northwest and demonstrate what plants work well together to create a fabulous spring display. Our display garden will highlight this design and inspire visitors to replicate it in their own gardens. For the first time ever, our garden will also allow Garden Show visitors to interact with it—and become a dynamic part of the display.

The designers of this year's Arboretum display garden are

legendary local plantsman Bob Lilly and award-winning garden designer Phil Wood (www.philwoodgardens.com). This will be the eighth year in a row that Phil and Bob have worked together to create our display. They will be ably assisted by our intern project manager Brooklyn Deatherage—as well as a legion of hardworking volunteers from our partners at Seattle Parks and Recreation and the UW Botanic Gardens, and from the Arboretum Foundation's pool of extraordinary helpers.

See "Picture Yourself on Azalea Way" at the Washington State Convention Center from February 11 to 15 (or at the Opening Night Party on February 10). Visit the Northwest Flower & Garden Show website, www.gardenshow.com, for admission time and ticketing information. ⇨

Display Garden Plant Sale

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M., GRAHAM VISITORS CENTER

Come to Washington Park Arboretum on the Saturday after the Garden Show and purchase some of the high-quality plants featured in our 2015 display. All sales benefit the maintenance and education programs at the Arboretum.

New Developments



LEFT—FIDDLEHEAD FUN: Forest School Coordinator Sarah Heller entertains her students.

LEFT BELOW—TIME FOR AN UPGRADE! The current “shelter” at the Fiddleheads Forest Grove.

Foundation Helps Support Funding for New Fiddleheads Shelter

This fall, the Foundation secured \$25,000 from an anonymous donor to support the funding for a new education shelter for the Fiddleheads Forest School. The Fiddleheads program immerses preschool children in nature through a series of planned outdoor educational activities. School classes take place all around the Arboretum, but are centered in the Forest Grove, just off Arboretum Drive and south of the Magnolia Collection.



The Forest Grove is ideally suited for an immersive nature preschool; however, the only existing “improvements” at the site are a circle of log benches and two green tarp awnings strung from trees for some minimal weather protection. The new shelter will allow for teaching in all weather conditions and create the first permanent outdoor educational venue within the Arboretum.

The UW Botanic Gardens had already identified \$80,000 in funds for the new structure. The funding secured by the Foundation will enable the project to move ahead. Bob Hoshide of Hoshide Wanzer Williams is currently designing the shelter. Construction is expected to take place in summer 2015. The Foundation would like to express its thanks to our very generous donor!

UWBG Hires New Education Supervisor

In September, the UW Botanic Gardens hired Alicia Blood as its new Youth and Family Education Programs Supervisor, succeeding Patrick Mulligan. The salary and benefits for this position are paid for by the Arboretum Foundation. Alicia has worked for over ten years in youth environmental education, starting as a naturalist and teacher for environmental education programs at Mercer Slough and Camp Seymour in Gig Harbor. Since 2003, she has worked for the YMCA of Greater Seattle, starting out as an AmeriCorps member, advancing to the Director of the Earth Service Corps. Most recently she worked as a Contracts Manager for the Alive & Free program. “We are really excited to have Alicia join us and to help us sustainably grow and manage our youth and family programs for the foreseeable future,” says UWBG Manager of Conservation and Education Wendy Gible. Welcome Alicia! ⇨

New Members

The Foundation welcomes members who joined during the period of September 25 to December 2, 2014.

Claudia Allan
Annette Barca
Sally Beckman
Tracy Burrows and
Stephen Bennett

Ashley Cappel
Cynthia Kimmy
Cathy MacLeod
Bill McGee

Sandra and Leonard
Miller
Wolfgang Mueller
Mary Anne Nagler
Carola Nichols

Chris Noble
Molly Pengra
Jonathan Pincus
Deborah Raymond
Susan Roberts

Jack and Charlotte
Robins
Robb Shannon
Bruce Webster

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

Another Amazing Day of Caring!

Well over 100 volunteers teamed up on September 19 for six maintenance projects in the Arboretum as part of the United Way of King County's annual Day of Caring event. Approximately 25 volunteers from Blucora spread 80 yards of mulch in the New Zealand Forest; 20 volunteers from Amazon salvaged 150 sword ferns from an area at the south end of the Arboretum that'll soon be part of the new Arboretum Loop Trail; 20 volunteers from Nordstrom and five Arboretum Foundation volunteers from the Native Plant Study Group spread 60 yards of mulch and planted 15 sword ferns in the Native Knoll; about 25 volunteers from Urban Renaissance Group worked with eight Garden Stewards to remove blackberry and spread mulch in the Pacific Connections Garden; and 25 volunteers from Virginia Mason worked on weeding and mulching berms in the Holly Collection. The Foundation helped recruit and organize the volunteers, while UW Botanic Gardens staff managed the projects. Thanks to all our incredible volunteers!

VOLUNTEER VINE



CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS:
Volunteers from Virginia Mason spreading mulch in the Holly Collection during Day of Caring.

A Flawless FallAbundance

What a difference a year and a sunny fall day makes! This year's FallAbundance plant sale drew 362 shoppers—almost triple the number we had last year during the torrential downpour. More customers resulted in more plant sales, and this year we sold 1,250 plants worth about \$6,500! We received lots of positive feedback from customers, and much of it was about our wonderful volunteers! One shopper said, "Every volunteer we had

contact with was so helpful, patient, and informative. The volunteers were always smiling. It was a great morning. We will return." A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's sale a flawless one!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Display Garden, February 7 to 9 (build), 15 to 16 (tear down)
- Opening Night Party & Auction, February 10

Contact Megan Meyer at 206-577-0549 or mmeyer@arboretumfoundation.org for more information.



What's In My Garden 🌿

NEVE NORTON, Unit 98 and Special Events Volunteer

What is in your garden this season? I live in the woods, so the few garden spaces I have cultivated are loaded with standard shade bed plants. I do love the Hakonechloa that has turned a taffy color, and I get a big kick out of the fact that I spent good money on a *Cardamine cordifolia*, which looks great but is basically a glorified shotweed. Arghhh! I love the shade plants because they are all about texture and look great even on a bleak day with all the different shades of green.

What is your favorite season to garden? This would have to be early spring, when the sap starts to run (I grew up in sugar maple country), and my creative juices start to flow. This is the time when my delusional optimism is still intact, as I truly believe that "This is the year I will really get (insert here any number of long-thought-of projects) done."

Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book? Being a bit of a word nerd, I like to challenge myself with new plant names, puzzling them out (for meaning and pronunciation) to keep the old brain cells firing. I have several books of plant names and pronunciation guides that I have fun with. Probably the one I use most is Allen Coombes' *The A to Z of Plant Names*.

When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? I was introduced to the Arboretum by my son-in-law on a family outing for Mother's Day, several years ago. Azalea Way was spectacular and truly memorable. Then a chaperoning expedition with my other daughter's kindergarten class convinced me this was a special place, indeed. I joined Unit 98 soon thereafter and have made treks north from my home in Gig Harbor for work parties and special events, though distance keeps me from being a "regular." My favorite task has to be the display garden "build" at the Flower and Garden Show. That is such a dramatic process, with plenty of satisfying hard work.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum? The people I have met and worked with: I learn so much from them with every endeavor. I also appreciate the variety of opportunities from weeding, to manning the Florabundance sale and even to the anti-climactic, and sad, tear down of the display garden. I am always made to feel very welcome, useful, and appreciated.

UWBG Events & Classes

Introduction to Beekeeping

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 7 TO 9 PM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE (3501 NE 41ST STREET, SEATTLE)

So you think you want to be a beekeeper? This workshop will give you a snapshot of what it's all about—from the backyard hive to the wide world of apiculture. Entomologist Evan Sugden will provide a brief history of bees and beekeeping, and then go over the basic tasks and costs involved. Also covered will be details on some of the major challenges for beekeepers and ways you can meet them. Whether you are aspiring to keep bees or just curious about it, this session will set you on a straighter path to success and enjoyment. Cost: \$20; \$25 after January 5.

Seasonal Plant ID & Culture: Winter Collections

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 8 AM TO NOON,
WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

Horticulture consultant and educator Christina Pfeiffer leads a series of interactive programs in the Arboretum each year focusing on sustainable horticulture and landscaping techniques. Her next session will explore winter-season treasures among the Park collections. It will include a visit to the Witt Winter Garden, as well as other parts of the Arboretum with collections that shine in the winter. It will also offer a discussion on important cultural practices for the cold season, including structural pruning. Cost: \$65; \$75 after January 15.



PASSION FLOWERS, by Jennifer Rose.
See an exhibit of Rose's flower photography at the Miller Library in the Center for Urban Horticulture, from January 7 to February 14. The library will host a free, public artist's reception on Friday, January 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. For details, visit www.millerlibrary.org.

Landscape for Life: Sustainable Home Gardening

FOUR WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 18 TO APRIL 8, 6:30 TO 9:00 PM
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

Are you a homeowner who wants to create and maintain your own healthy, sustainable landscape? Then the Landscape for Life™ curriculum developed by the US Botanic Garden and Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center is tailor-made for you. Over four sessions, instructor Barbara DeCaro will show you how to work with nature to create a garden that helps repair the web of life. Learn how to build healthy soils with minimal outside inputs, use native and climate-adapted plants for the Pacific Northwest, and find the most environmentally-friendly landscape materials. Cost: \$125; \$150 after March 11. ⇨

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.

Arboretum Foundation

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www.arboretumfoundation.org

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Arboretum Shop: 10 AM–4 PM, daily
Graham Visitors Center: 10 AM–5 PM, daily
Information Hotline: 206-543-8800

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Roger Williams: Vice President
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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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for current and future generations
by strengthening and building a diverse
and engaged community of donors,
volunteers and advocates.*

Begin or renew a membership at www.arboretumfoundation.org

Arboretum Scene

Helleborus niger 'HGC Josef Lemper' Christmas Rose

Native to the mountain forests of Central Europe, *Helleborus niger* is a low-growing evergreen perennial with dark, glossy, toothed leaves. From midwinter to early spring, rose-like white flowers sit atop the foliage on short stems. The plant has long been popular in the garden—and many handsome cultivars are available. 'HGC Josef Lemper' is a member of the Helleborus Gold Collection, a series of *H. niger* selections and hybrids created by German nurseryman Joseph Heuger that are impressive for their quality and consistency. It grows up to 18 inches



tall by 20 inches wide and offers very large, pure white, upward-facing blossoms with yellow centers. From December to February, 'HGC Josef Lemper' puts on a lovely flower show in a large planting bed on the northeast side of the Witt Winter Garden. For the rest of the year, it serves as a useful groundcover, knitting together the camellias, ferns, mahonias, and other plants in the display. *Helleborus niger* performs best in part to full shade and moist but well-drained, humus-rich soil. ↪

—Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Foundation