

Pacific Connections Stewards Start Work

On Thursday, August 24, fifteen gardeners with varied backgrounds came to the Arboretum to attend the inaugural orientation for the Pacific Connections Garden Stewards. Some were already part of the Arboretum family—including one former and two current members of the Foundation. Most were new to the place. But everyone signed up to be part of a new volunteer group that will assist in maintaining the Pacific Connections Garden at the south end of the Arboretum.

The orientation was led by members of the Pacific Connections Garden Task Force, co-chaired by Walt Bulbelis and Jan Whitner. It started out at the Graham Visitors Center with a presentation covering topics such as the history of Pacific Connections, job safety, and expectations for the work to be done. The group then moved to the Pacific Connections Garden where Walt—who taught horticulture for more than 40 years at Edmonds Community College—gave the volunteers a weeding tool demon-



ARBORETUM GOTHIC:
Join the new Pacific Connections Garden Stewards and learn about garden maintenance from a master instructor, Walt Bulbelis.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Thursday, October 13
4 to 8 p.m.
Center for Urban Horticulture,
Seattle

See page 6 for details

stration and modeled appropriate rain gear for Seattle.

The stewards began work in the Pacific Connection Garden a week later. We still need more volunteers to join the team, and a second orientation session is being organized. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact Rhonda Bush at 206-941-2550 or rbush@arboretumfoundation.org.

Sunday,
September 25,
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Fall Abundance
PLANT SALE

Graham Visitors Center
Washington Park Arboretum

Fall is the best time for planting in the Pacific Northwest, so don't miss this new sale hosted by our Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery. After a long season of propagating, growing, potting, and re-potting plants, our greenhouse and nursery will have an abundance of plants on offer. You'll find a great selection of your favorite trees, shrubs, and perennials, plus many unusual species and varieties—all at great prices.

Discounts: 25% off all Greenhouse inventory as well as selected Donation Nursery plants.

Free admission and parking. All proceeds benefit Washington Park Arboretum.

Traffic Calming in the Arboretum

Many of our new Stewards will likely park their cars in the Japanese Garden parking lot on their assigned work days and walk over to Pacific Connections to start their shifts. They'll soon find it a lot easier to cross over Lake Washington Boulevard than it is now. In spring, the City will install a number of traffic-calming devices on the Boulevard to improve pedestrian safety. This includes a crosswalk connecting the Japanese Garden parking lot to Arboretum Drive East. There'll also be a new crosswalk at the Boyer Parking Lot. A speed cushion will replace the current crosswalk on the Boulevard that connects the southern end of Azalea Way to what used to be the main gate of the Japanese Garden.

News and Notes

Feds Approve Plans for 520 Bridge

After 14 years of design and analysis, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) received federal approval for its plans to improve State Route 520—including replacing the aging and vulnerable floating bridge with a safer and more reliable six-lane bridge and highway. On Thursday, August 4, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signed a record of decision, which finalizes the environmental process and allows WSDOT to further design the I-5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and HOV Project and obtain construction permits. The record of decision lists many commitments made by WSDOT and FHWA to surrounding communities before, during, and after project construction. These commitments include mitigation for project effects to the environment and neighborhoods, including Washington Park Arboretum.

Funding is now in place for the construction of the east side and floating bridge components of the project. Work began on the east side of Lake Washington in late August, while bids on the bridge are being examined, with construction scheduled to begin in 2012. As of yet, there is no adopted funding source for the west side component, and it may take several years for funds to be secured.

Randall Hitchin Joins Foundation Team

The Arboretum Foundation is very pleased to announce that we've hired Randall Hitchin to be our new Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager. Randall is the former UW Botanic Gardens Living Collections Manager and Registrar, and has

CenturyLink Pioneers Complete Centennial Project



PIONEER POWER:

The holly collection at the Arboretum received a major makeover thanks to the hard work of the CenturyLink Pioneers. Photo by Steve Erickson.

Over the past year, the Washington Chapter of the CenturyLink Pioneers—a national volunteer group made up of current and former CenturyLink (formerly Qwest) employees—dedicated over 650 hours of work to the Arboretum to mark the 100th anniversary of their parent organization. The volunteers worked exclusively in the holly collection—weeding, mulching, planting bulbs and native plants, and creating a new display bed. They also provided more than \$20,000 in grant funds to the Arboretum for the purchase of soil, plants, interpretive signage, and two new park benches. Stop by the hollies (located on the west side of Lake Washington Boulevard, south of Boyer Avenue East) to see the results of the project. All of us at the Arboretum are very grateful for the generosity and hard work of the Pioneers.

worked at the Arboretum for more than 13 years. He is a much-admired and popular member of the Arboretum family and a font of botanical and horticultural knowledge. In August, because of budget woes at the University, Randall's hours were cut by 50 percent, and it was unclear if he would remain at the Arboretum. Fortunately, at the same time, a new position opened up at the Foundation, and Randall applied.

"We're delighted to have Randall on board," says Andrea Myers, Director of Development at the Foundation. "He has a tremendous passion for the Arboretum, and has always been a strong supporter of the work we do here. He also has the perfect combination of skills required to excel at this particular job. Not only is he an engaging and knowledgeable communicator of the mission of Arboretum, he has a strong background in volunteer recruitment and management."

The UW Botanic Gardens staff is also thrilled that Randall is going to be able to stay at the Arboretum. His first day of work at the Foundation was on September 1. "I'm thrilled to be taking on this exciting new position in support of the Arboretum," says Randall, "and I'm looking forward to working with the great staff team we have in place. I just know there are wonderful things ahead."

Gravel Path Extension on Azalea Way

With funding from the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation will create a new crushed rock path on Azalea Way stretching from the Woodland Garden to the Lynn Street Bridge Trail. Historically, the Azalea Way lawn path has been prone to water-logging eight to nine months out of each year, making use of the historic trail

News and Notes

difficult. In 2009, a six-foot-wide gravel path was added to the middle of Azalea Way from Boyer Parking lot to the Woodland Garden, and has been a big success. The new construction will extend this path by another 700 feet. The work is scheduled for September 2011, and will be done in sections to minimize the impact on Arboretum visitors.

Unit 16 Luncheon to Benefit Pacific Connections

Arboretum Foundation volunteer Unit 16 will host a farm-to-table luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 6 at a beautiful private lodge in Fall City, Washington. Popular garden speaker and poet Steve Lorton will give an entertaining and informative presentation. And in the spirit of the season, expert pumpkin carver Russ Leno (www.masterpumpkinsculptor.com) will demonstrate his art. Attendees will enjoy a delicious three-course lunch prepared by Unit 16 members using primarily locally sourced ingredients. Tickets are \$100 per person, and only 60 seats are available. Net proceeds will be used for maintaining the new Pacific Connections Garden at the Arboretum. For reservations, email Carolyn Collins at kocollins@msn.com or call her at 425-451-7295.



ARBORETUM AMPHIBIAN: A volunteer finds a salamander during the first Bioblitz in 2010. (Photo by Scott Maxwell)

first Bioblitz turned up some fascinating discoveries, including what's likely a new species of spider. So why do it again? Education Supervisor Patrick Mulligan puts it this way: "Going out into the field and collecting data on a single day is like taking a snapshot; it gives you some idea of what's going on. Going out and collecting data year after year is like making a movie, and it gives you a much fuller picture of what's going on." Want to help make a movie? Contact Patrick at 206-543-8801 or simsigan@uw.edu.

Participate in the Arboretum's 2nd Annual Bioblitz

In May 2010, more than 100 volunteers participated in Seattle's first Bioblitz at Washington Park Arboretum. Now it's time to scrutinize the Arboretum's nooks and crannies once again. The UW Botanic Gardens' second annual Bioblitz takes place from 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 23 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 24. You're invited to jump in any time during those 24 hours and help out. Volunteers will be assigned to a team that includes a specialist. Shifts last two to three hours, and the goal is to catalogue every living thing. The

What's Happening

Second Annual Arboretum Bioblitz

September 23, 3 PM
to September 24, 3 PM

Fall Abundance Plant Sale

Sunday, September 25, 10 AM—2 PM

Arboretum Walks & Talks

October 6, 4—6:00 PM
November 3, 3—5:00 PM
December 1, 3—5:00 PM
(See page 4)

Gifts & Greens Galore

Friday, December 9, 3—7 PM
Saturday, December 10, 10 AM—2 PM

Japanese Garden Events

Monday, September 19—
Respect for Elders
Sunday, October 16—Maple Viewing Day
(See page 5)

— ONGOING EVENTS —

ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Pat Calvert Greenhouse
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 AM—NOON

Plant Donations Nursery
Wednesdays and 2nd Saturdays
10 AM—2 PM, through October 12

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

Native Plants Study Group

4th Mondays, 10 AM—NOON

All events occur at the Graham Visitors Center unless 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



THANKING OUR GATEWAY DONORS:

On Monday, August 29, we hosted a small dedication ceremony for major donors to our Gateway to Chile Campaign on the Viewpoint Terrace of the new Chilean garden at Pacific Connections. Harold and Trudy Stack (far left) and Gary Kunis (far right) joined representatives from the Arboretum Foundation (Andrea Myers, Fred Isaac, and Paige Miller), Seattle Parks and Recreation (Andy Sheffer), and UW Botanic Gardens (Fred Hoyt) for the unveiling of a bronze plaque acknowledging our major donor contributions. The ceremony was followed by a champagne toast and lively discussion at the Graham Visitors Center. Thanks to all the generous donors who made this marvelous new garden possible.

Foundation Hires New Volunteer and Giving Coordinator

We are also happy to announce that we've hired Cynthia Welte to be our new Volunteer and Annual Giving Coordinator. Cynthia joined the Foundation as a temporary employee in June and was quickly promoted to full-time in September. She has a keen interest in public gardens and a strong horticultural background, having worked as a gardener at Seattle University for four years and a temporary gardener at UW for a year. She also has a B.S. in environmental horticulture and urban forestry and an M.A. in Museology from the University of Washington. Her Masters project, which she just completed, focused on visitor use and perceptions of Washington Park Arboretum. Welcome Cynthia!

Reichard to Lead October Walks & Talks

Our new Arboretum Walks & Talks program has been a big success since we introduced it in April. The special guided tours, which take place on the first Thursday of every month (except September) and are offered to our Arbor Circle, Legacy Circle, and Steward-level members plus their guests, have attracted steady crowds and introduced a number of new folks to the beauties of the Arboretum. Our next walk will take place on Thursday, October 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. and will be led by the new director of UW Botanic Gardens, Professor Sarah Reichard. Sarah is a wonderful speaker and teacher, and will showcase some of the horticultural highlights of the season at the Arboretum.

To sign up for the tour, please contact Andrea Myers at 206-325-4510 or amyers@arboretumfoundation.org. Beginning in November, Walks & Talks will start at the earlier time of 3 p.m. and run until 4:30 p.m. We keep this schedule through January. Keep an eye on our website, arboretumfoundation.org, for information about upcoming speakers.

Hardy Plant Society Hosting Bulb Sale in October

As we reported in our summer issue, the Foundation retired its annual fall bulb and plant sale this year due to financial considerations. If you were saddened, as we were, to see the sale go, then there's reason to cheer! The Hardy Plant Society of Washington is picking up the idea and will host its first Fall Bulb Sale on Sunday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle). The Society's president is none other than Bob Lilly, the plantsman extraordinaire who helped organize our sale—and Bob says that the new sale will offer a similar (if not quite as broad) selection of bulbs. If you have questions or would like to get involved with the sale, call Bob at 206-579-2702. ↪

New Members

The Arboretum Foundation welcomes members who joined during the period of June 9 to August 31.

Catherine Cannon	Rondi Johnson	Marilyn Montgomery
Vicky Sutton Cleaver	Ronald & Julie	Michele Marielle
Karen Creech	Laeremans	Riordan
Patty Garrett	Elaine Y. Lowe	Anna Satterthwaite
Peter Gross	Ellen Mack &	Shirley & Michael Sidell
Frank Hofmeister	Edward Gomez	Stephanie Sowl
E. Holohan	Duse F. McLean	

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

Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

OPENING NIGHT at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Washington State Convention
Center, Seattle

Dates Set for Our Holiday Sale

Our annual Gifts & Greens Galore sale returns to the Graham Visitors Center on Friday, December 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Once again we'll have a sparkling array of holiday decorations on offer, including wreaths, swags, and fresh-cut greens. The sale will also showcase the Arboretum Shop and its fine selection of gardening and nature books, plant-themed jewelry and accessories, and natural body products. There'll also be live seasonal music, free holiday refreshments, and kids activities hosted by the UW Botanic Gardens education staff. See the Gifts & Greens Galore page on our website, arboretumfoundation.org, for more details and for information on donating cut greens to the sale.

Please Donate to Our Gala Auction



At the 2012 Opening Night, our preview gala for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, the Foundation will again be hosting a silent auction complete with local dining experiences, wine from regional cellars, unique getaway packages, and more. We are beginning the procurement process for the auction and seeking contributions from our members and friends, as well as local businesses. Each donation brings us closer to our goal of raising significant funds to support collection maintenance and education programs at the Arboretum. Your contribution is vital to our success! We would be most grateful to receive any of the following suggested items, but please feel free to be creative:

- Gift cards (restaurants, hotels, retail stores, etc.)
- NEW items
- Themed gift baskets
- Gardening tools, ornaments, books
- Wine
- iPod
- Golf excursions
- Certificates for classes (cooking, photography, gardening, etc.)

In lieu of a donated item, you may also make a cash donation, which can go towards the purchase of an item for the auction. We welcome your ideas and generosity. Please direct any questions or suggestions to Cheri Shanahan at cshanahan@arboretumfoundation.org or 206-325-4510. Procurement forms may be downloaded from the Opening Night event page on our website, arboretumfoundation.org.

Fall Events at the Seattle Japanese Garden



- **Monday, September 19: RESPECT FOR ELDERLY**—The garden honors the importance of elders in our community with a range of performances and cultural activities. Admission is free for senior adults 65 and older.
- **Sunday, October 16: MAPLE VIEWING DAY**—Enjoy blazing autumn foliage throughout the garden.



For details, call 206-684-4725 or keep an eye on the Japanese Garden website, www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm.

VOLUNTEER VINE

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ—You're Invited! The 2011 UW Botanic Gardens/Arboretum Foundation Volunteer Appreciation BBQ will take place on Thursday, October 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the NHS Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle). Appetizers and a main course will be provided. There will be choices for carnivores and vegetarians alike, as well as a gluten-free option. The UW and Foundation staff will also offer a potluck of homemade desserts—and volunteers will get to vote for their favorite! The Brian O. Mulligan Awards and the Arboretum Foundation Lifetime Service Award will be presented at 6:45 p.m. All volunteers welcome! Please RSVP to Bryan



WEEDING PARTY: Volunteers removing undesirable plants from the Pacific Connections Garden in August.

Pilkington at bryanp4@uw.edu or 206-616-3994 by September 30th.

Event Volunteers Needed! As anyone who's ever attended one of our larger events can tell you, they wouldn't be possible without the help of our many hard-working volunteers. Our fall/winter event season is beginning, and we need your assistance to make it a success. Upcoming events include our new FallAbundance Plant Sale, on September 25, Gifts & Greens Galore, on December 9 and 10, and Opening Night, on February 7. If you'd like to sign up to help, please contact our Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager, Randall Hitchin, at rhitchin@arboretumfoundation.org or 206-325-4510. ☺

What's In My Garden 🌿

Janine Anderson—*Bulletin* Editorial Board



What is in your garden this season? The most charming feature in my garden has to be the rampant, six-foot-tall Japanese anemones, which rise through shrubs, short and tall, in woodland areas. Sedges and grasses take on golden hues. *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' lives up to its name. Woody plants—including witch hazel, *Enkianthus*, plume cryptomeria, contorted Japanese larch, 'Tamukeyama' Japanese maple, vine maple, and katsura trees—provide a staggered show of burgundy, pink, peach, yellow, and flaming red. The grand finale, a paperbark maple, doesn't begin to change color until well into November, when other plants are leafless.

What is your favorite season to garden? I favor no season. I garden, weather permitting, when I find the time. I love to fuss, contemplate, consider, fine-tune, and tidy up. Usually I end up doing something other than what I set out to do. I enjoy assembling garden vignettes that please me, but am most satisfied when creating successful spaces for visiting and relaxing—with an outdoor heater and protection from the weather, that can be year-round!

Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book? I have hundreds of books on plants, garden design, and related subjects that I refer to for research. The books I use most, though, are field guides. I think the most all-around useful guide for our region is the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. It's compact and has descriptions everything—birds, plants, insects, mammals, fish, weather, etc.—for all of Washington and Oregon. It might not be as comprehensive as more specialized tomes, but it fits a lot into a little package.

When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? I began training to be an arboretum guide 15 years ago and continue to lead weekend walks and other adult tours. I was invited to join the *Bulletin* Editorial Board in 2008 and have since written a number of articles for the magazine on subjects ranging from trees in the Arboretum's collection to the creation of the Abkhazi Garden in Victoria, BC.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum? The people. I'm fascinated by the wide range of folks I meet on tours—from near and far, and with vastly different interests and expertise. And my colleagues on the editorial board and in the guide program are smart, witty, and fun. ☺

UWBG Events

The Miller Lecture: “Parks, Plants & People”

The Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, Miller Library, and other sponsors invite you to attend the 16th Annual Miller Memorial Lecture, at Meany Hall, on Thursday, September 15, at 7 p.m. This year’s speaker is noted public garden designer Lynden B. Miller. Based in New York City, Miller creates rich plantings that provide four seasons of interest for city dwellers. Her work includes gardens for the Central Park Zoo, Bryant Park, the New York Botanical Garden, Madison Square Park, Hudson River Park, and Wagner Park in Battery Park City. For almost 30 years, Miller has focused on her belief that public open spaces with good well-maintained plantings can change city life. The lecture is free. To make a reservation, email info@miller garden.org. For more information, call the Miller Botanical Garden at 206-362-8612.



“ARBORETA IV,” a drypoint engraving by Elizabeth Reed Smith. See this and other beautiful artwork at the Miller Library’s “Honoring Trees” exhibit this fall.

Science and Practice of Sustainable Sites

The UW Botanic Gardens, the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and Seattle Public Utilities are co-hosting a series of classes beginning in September to prepare landscaping professionals for the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), the nation’s first rating system for sustainable land design, construction, and maintenance practices. Upcoming classes are: “Observations from Two Parks Pilot Projects”, September 20, “Practical Implementation of Soil Protection,” September 27, and “Watering without Waste,” October 4. The classes take place at the Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$30 for one, \$25 each for two or three. For more information or to register, contact Jean Robins at 206-685-8033 or jrobins@uw.edu.

Botanical Art Exhibit: Honoring Trees

October 4 to November 29, Elisabeth C. Miller Library

This exhibit at the Miller Library in the Center for Urban Horticulture will feature drawings, paintings, and engravings by a group of four Northwest artists who share a deep affinity for trees: Jacqui Beck, Donna Leavitt, Cheryl A. Richey and Elizabeth Reed Smith. While the artists’ diverse styles and media represent a range of realistic and abstract renderings of trees, they share an interest in exploring and understanding the symbolism that unifies their work. To see examples of the group’s work, visit their weblog: <http://treesinart.wordpress.com>. For more information on the “Honoring Trees” exhibit, visit www.millerlibrary.org or call 206-543-0415.

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

FOUNDATION OFFICERS

President: Della Balick
Vice President: Fred Isaac
Vice President: Beth Morgan
Vice President: Paul (Skip) Vonckx
Treasurer: Craig Trueblood
Secretary: Iris Wagner
Immediate Past President: Barbara Wright

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Andrea Myers: Director of Development
Niall Dunne: Communications Manager
Randall Hitchin: Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager
Suzanne O’Neill: Events Coordinator
Cheri Shanahan: Major Gifts and Development Coordinator
Cynthia Welte: Volunteer and Annual Giving Coordinator
Julia White: Operations Coordinator
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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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for current and future generations
by strengthening and building a diverse
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volunteers and advocates.*

Begin or renew a membership at www.arboretumfoundation.org

Arboretum Scene

Mespilus germanica 'Macrocarpa' Common Medlar

Common medlar is a small, slow-growing fruit tree native from southeastern Europe to central Asia. It produces three- to six-inch-long elliptical dark green leaves that turn a lovely mix of yellow, green, red, and purple in the fall. A member of Rosaceae, or rose family, medlar bears showy white- to pinkish-white rose-like flowers in late spring. By fall, these develop into inch-wide rounded brown pomes, each with a crown of persistent calyces. Immature fruits are hard and bitter. When ripe, they become soft and mushy and yield a flesh reminiscent of spicy applesauce. The fruits are generally not picked until late autumn, after the leaves have dropped. A hard frost will jump-start or accelerate the softening, or bletting, process. Cultivars such as 'Macrocarpa' have larger, more flavorful fruits than the straight species. Hardy from USDA Zones 5 to 8, medlar grows best in moist, fertile soil and full sun to light shade, and in locations protected from strong winds. ↪



PHOTO BY NIALL DUNNE

—Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Foundation

In the Arboretum: Directly across Lake Washington Boulevard from the Boyer Parking Lot.