

ANNUAL
REPORT
2012–2013



MISSION STATEMENT

The Arboretum Foundation promotes, protects, and enhances the Washington Park Arboretum for current and future generations by strengthening and building a diverse and engaged community of donors, volunteers, and advocates.

VISION STATEMENT

The Arboretum is a highly treasured, widely used community asset and a horticultural, environmental, recreational, and cultural resource for the region.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1935, the non-profit Arboretum Foundation raises funds and manages membership and volunteer programs to promote, protect, and enhance the Washington Park Arboretum. The Foundation provides essential support for Arboretum operations and activities, including arboriculture, maintenance, seasonal gardeners, education, and collection restoration. It is also conducting a major gifts campaign to support implementation of a 20-year master plan to comprehensively renew the Arboretum.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.arboretumfoundation.org

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2012–2013

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A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT



Craig Trueblood

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Trueblood'.

President,
Board of Directors

This year was fun! Things that we have been planning and working on for years are finally happening. Most important has been the signing of an agreement by all of the Arboretum partners with the State Department of Transportation providing for the removal of all the SR 520 ramps in the Arboretum and for millions of dollars of mitigation projects here in connection with the expansion of that roadway. A more detailed description of this agreement can be found on page 6.

All year, the south end of the Arboretum has been rumbling with the sound of heavy equipment shaping the site for the New Zealand Forest. Nearly 10,000 baby New Zealand plants are being shipped from their Portland grower and staged nearby to be planted onsite this summer. The dedication ceremonies are scheduled for mid-September, 2013. We hope that you will be able to join us and our partners in the Arboretum for the festivities.



Paige Miller

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paige'.

Executive Director

To celebrate our New Zealand Forest, and to introduce it to the public, we created “A Hobbit’s New Zealand Garden” at the NW Flower & Garden Show in February 2013. That whimsical re-creation of a hobbit house, hot springs, and hillside garden was the hit of the show, winning six major awards. We are so proud of the team of designers, staff, and volunteers who designed and constructed it.

As they do each year, our marvelous volunteers and supporters helped us to produce the cycle of plant sales and events, work parties, and activities that are so important to sustaining this internationally known arboretum and locally treasured urban oasis. We thank them all for their continued dedication to this special place.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet

	FY 2012	FY 2011
Assets		
Cash in Bank	\$ 257,701	\$ 192,959
Investment Account Funds:		
General	1,398,759	1,955,990
Endowment	1,623,288	1,699,157
Promises to Give from Donors	29,036	79,219
Other Current Assets	37,541	49,057
Property, net of depreciation	21,995	26,867
Total Assets	\$ 3,368,320	\$ 4,003,249
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable		
& Accrued Liabilities	\$ 202,405	\$ 124,184
Long Term Liabilities	15,346	69,844
Net Assets		
Unrestricted/Board Restricted	1,528,498	1,944,113
Temporarily Restricted	339,856	647,893
Permanently Restricted	1,282,215	1,217,215
Total Net Assets	3,150,569	3,809,221
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,368,320	\$ 4,003,249

Revenue & Expenses

	FY 2012	FY 2011
Revenues		
Support & Memberships - Unrestricted		
Membership & Donors	\$ 388,460	\$ 1,737,993
Events & Gift Shop, net of costs	167,108	182,862
Private Grants	55,000	43,000
Other Revenues & In-Kind donations	64,283	70,224
Total	<u>674,851</u>	<u>2,034,079</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Program services	742,922	400,833
Grants to UWBG	291,303	282,683
Fundraising	168,442	159,083
Management & General	127,193	132,858
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,329,860</u>	<u>975,457</u>
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	(48,756)	269,054
Change in Net Assets - Operating Activities	<u>(703,765)</u>	<u>1,327,676</u>
Restricted & Temporarily Restricted Revenue		
Endowment Donations	51,000	299,000
Project - Pacific Connections Gardens	138,350	-
	<u>189,350</u>	<u>299,000</u>
Special Grants to Others		
Projects - Pacific Connections	-	-
Project and Fundraising Expenses	144,237	152,223
Change in Net Assets - Non-Operating	<u>45,113</u>	<u>146,777</u>
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ (658,652)	\$ 1,474,453

Hybrid rhododendron
in Loderi Valley



SNAP SHOTS 2012-13



Opening Night at the Garden Show



FlorAbundance Plant Sale at the Arboretum



Pacific Connections Steward Weeding the China Entry Garden



100 Years of Nancy Davidson Short



Building the 2013 Display Garden



Volunteer Recognition Dinner

AN HISTORIC MITIGATION AGREEMENT

In January 2013, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)—which oversees capital projects at Washington Park Arboretum and includes representatives from the Foundation, City of Seattle, and University of Washington—announced that they had signed a historic agreement ensuring the implementation of key projects in the Arboretum’s Master Plan as mitigation for the effects of the upcoming replacement of the SR 520 Bridge.

Under the terms of the new agreement—a product of three years of collaborative effort—WSDOT paid Seattle Parks and Recreation \$7.81 million to cover the costs of a first round of mitigation projects in the Arboretum, tied to the construction of the north span of new bridge through the Arboretum, which will begin as early as summer 2014. These projects include the design and construction of a 1-mile multi-use trail (see page 7), as well as improvements to Azalea Way Pond, parts of Arboretum Creek, and Foster Island.

The agreement also creates a contractual framework for a final phase of mitigation that will take place in the Arboretum once WSDOT secures funding for the construction of the south span of the 520 through the Arboretum—and the new bridge is finally completed. These projects include the transfer of the WSDOT Peninsula to the Arboretum, shoreline restoration in the wetlands, the creation of a new north entry to the Arboretum, and the day-lighting of Arboretum Creek.

The funding authorized by this groundbreaking agreement is the largest single amount ever dedicated to the Arboretum. It is exciting news for anyone who loves and uses our wonderful Arboretum. Both the mitigation

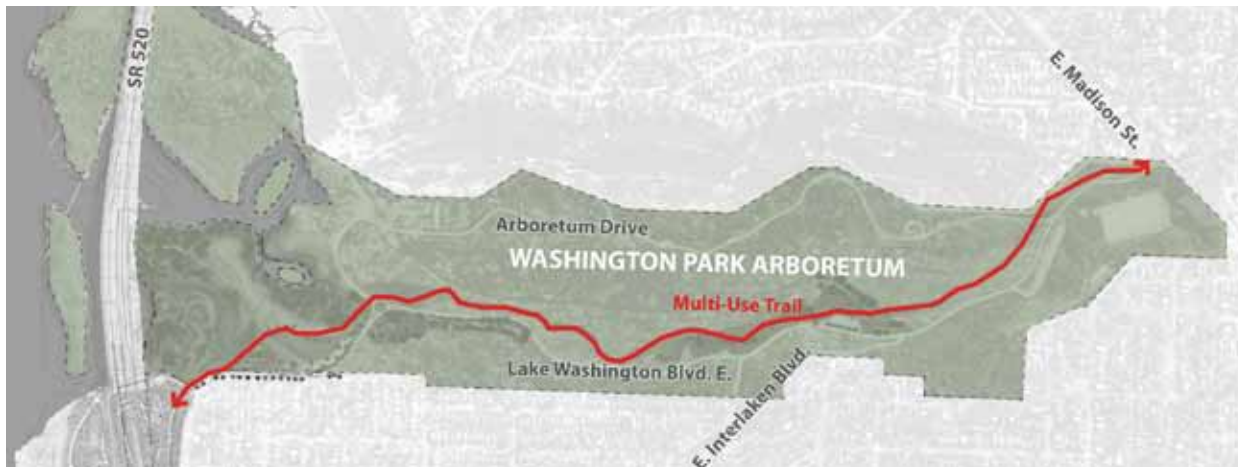


Goodbye to the Ramps: Construction of the new 520 bridge will result in the removal of the infamous “ramps to nowhere” from the Arboretum.

projects and the bridge replacement itself will provide some of the most dramatic improvements to the Arboretum in decades.

Some of anticipated effects of the new 520 bridge within the Arboretum include the conversion of a half-acre of land in the Arboretum from recreation use to transportation use, and increased shading resulting from a wider bridge structure. However, construction of the new bridge will also bring direct improvements to the Arboretum, independent of the mitigation projects. Most notably, during the construction of the north span of the bridge, the Arboretum's "ramps to nowhere," remnants of the abandoned R.H. Thompson Expressway, will be removed. Noise from the new bridge spans will also be reduced using technologies such as quieter pavement.

When the bridge is finished and the mitigation completed, approximately \$20 million will have been spent on enhancing this special place—not including the cost of removing the ramps. It's a remarkable achievement. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this happen: our partners, our board, our staff, WSDOT, and all the members of public who supported us in our efforts.



Happy Trails: The main project during the first phase of 520 mitigation will be the construction of a multi-use trail for bikes and pedestrians through the Arboretum, stretching from Madison Park to Foster Island Road. Eventually it will connect to Montlake and beyond.

CELEBRATING NEW ZEALAND

Grading and site preparation for the New Zealand Forest began in late summer, 2012, at the Pacific Connections Garden. The new two-acre eco-geographic display will be planted this summer, starting in June, and will officially open to the public with great fanfare in mid-September 2013. This major new exhibit will be the first of five forests to be fully planted in the Pacific Connections Garden. As it establishes and matures, it will be a unique and spectacular new garden for Arboretum visitors to enjoy.

The New Zealand Forest will be more than just forest. It will be composed of seven distinct vegetation sections: two southern beech (*Nothofagus*) forests, three shrublands, and two grasslands. All of these sections are modeled on actual plant communities found in mid- to high-elevations zones on the South Island of New Zealand. The new forest will be planted on a slope and has been designed by the Berger Partnership in an altitudinal pattern, with alpine grassland and shrubland habitat at the top and montane and wetland habitat at the base. Visitors will walk down a gentle switchback trail and observe the landscape and plant communities change, as they would in a natural setting.

At the bottom of the trail of the new forest, visitors will arrive at the historic Stone Lookout, which will be fully renovated thanks in part to a generous donation of \$25,000 secured by the Foundation from the Seattle Garden Club. The forest will also feature a relocated version of the New Zealand High Country Exhibit, the Arboretum's first eco-geographic display dedicated in 1993.

[Right] **Forest Building:** Workers transplant a 30-foot southern beech from the old High Country Exhibit into the New Zealand Forest Garden in November 2012 to kick-start the forest canopy.

[Opposite] **A Hobbit's New Zealand Garden:** The hobbit house in our Garden Show display surrounded by stunning New Zealand native plants.



To build excitement for the new forest in the Arboretum, the Foundation partnered with the Seattle-Christchurch Sister City Association to create a New-Zealand-themed display for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in February 2013. Entitled “A Hobbit’s New Zealand Garden,” the playful yet beautifully planted display was an homage to Peter Jackson’s new movie of Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*, filmed entirely in New Zealand, as well as a celebration of our new immersion forest.



All the wonderful exhibits in the Garden Show had a movie theme, but the *Hobbit*-inspired garden was the big hit, capturing six top awards, including the Ethel Moss People’s Choice Award, given to the best garden in the show, as voted by the public. A special thanks to our designers this year—Phil Wood, Bob Lilly, Roger Williams, and Rhonda Bush—and to the New Zealand Consulate General, which sponsored the garden.

Thanks also to Clint Staaf and the Seattle-Christchurch Sister City Association for their invaluable assistance.

NEW ZEALAND FOREST OPENING CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 15, 2013 – Free admission and parking

The Foundation, UW Botanic Gardens, and Seattle Parks and Recreation invite you to join us to celebrate the opening of our new eco-geographic forest in Pacific Connections. Enjoy a ribbon-cutting ceremony, live music and performances, tours and family activities, and refreshments.

SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING

The Foundation's campaign to fund Phase 2 of the Pacific Connections Garden, begun in summer 2012, has been successful so far. As of June 2013, we have raised more than \$1 million of the \$1.2 million needed to complete the construction and planting of the New Zealand Forest. We have also raised \$275,000 of the \$525,000 needed to complete the Cascadia Forest. Major donations within the last year include a \$100,000 gift from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation in July 2012. This money will be used to fund the planting of Cascadia Forest, which will take place gradually over the next several years.

As we've worked to complete the capital fundraising for the two forests, we've also focused on securing endowment funds for their future care and maintenance. To date, we have raised \$643,000 of our target of \$2.8 million for Master Plan endowment. Raising money for endowment will be a major goal for the Foundation in the coming year. This will include another \$1 million for general endowment to help pay for important day-to-day programs at the Arboretum, such as tree care and youth education.

The Foundation helped sustain important daily operations at the Arboretum in 2012–13 not only through endowment investments, but also with revenue from our events and retail programs, annual membership fees, grants from other foundations, and private donations from individuals. One such donation in May 2013—a restricted gift of \$50,000 from a longtime Arboretum donor—will allow us to pay for a ¾-time gardener for the New Zealand Forest for a full year.

PACIFIC CONNECTIONS DONORS \$1,000+

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Another way we helped sustain the Arboretum collections this past year is through our coordination of the Garden Stewards program. Since launching the Pacific Connections Garden Stewards program with UW Botanic Gardens in fall 2011, we have recruited 48 volunteers to help Arboretum horticulture staff care for the new exhibits in Pacific Connections. Inspired by this success, we launched a new stewards initiative in late summer 2012 with Seattle Parks and Recreation and UWBG to recruit volunteers to help maintain Azalea Way. As of June 2013, we have signed up 13 Azalea Way stewards, who help weed and mulch this historic component of the Arboretum from April through November.



Garden Care: Volunteers from the new Azalea Way Stewards Program in May 2013.

Stewards coordinator Rhonda Bush helped organize a variety of enrichment activities for the Garden Stewards throughout the year, including lectures on the ethnobotany of native plants by Warren King George and on the history of the Arboretum by Dr. John Wott, as well as four birding events with naturalist Connie Sidles. The stewards program is funded by generous grants of \$20,000 from the Miller Foundation and \$10,000 from the Peach Foundation.

SUPPORT THE ARBORETUM WITH A PLANNED GIFT

In fall 2012, we received a very generous bequest for more than \$60,000 from the estate of Mary M. Johnson, a longtime Foundation member and volunteer who passed away in June 2012. Mary's gift was a testament of her love for the Arboretum and will be a lasting legacy. Planned gifts like Mary's provide us with essential funds for maintaining and enhancing this special place for current and future generations. If you'd like to leave a gift to the Foundation in your estate plan, please contact Randall Hitchin at 206-577-1147 or rhitchin@arboretumfoundation.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

We hosted another successful series of fundraisers and friend-maker events in 2012–13. More than 100 guests attended our 100th Birthday Party Celebration for local gardening legend Nancy Davidson Short in early September 2012 and helped raised money to support the Arboretum. Guests enjoyed a sparkling evening of food, fun, and friends—not to mention fire dancing on Arboretum Drive.

Attendance was high and sales were strong at our second annual FallAbundance Plant Sale in late September 2012. An end-of-season showcase for our Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery, the sale also featured four specialty nurseries and a great selection of bamboo generously donated by Clinton Bamboo.

At our Gifts & Greens Galore holiday sale in early December 2012, we offered shoppers a one-of-a-kind selection of locally sourced and sustainably harvested wreaths, swags, garlands, and fresh-cut greens. This year, the event also featured DIY demonstrations from crafts experts such as Debra Prinzing and Alexandra Hedin. Specialty gifts included terrarium kits, botanical holiday ornaments, and handmade gift cards from the Hyde Herbarium.

More than 500 guests joined us for the 25th annual Opening Night Party at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in early February 2013. In keeping with the Hollywood theme of the



Garden Show, the party captured some of the glamour and magic of Tinseltown. Guests walked the red carpet, posed for paparazzi, hung out with Dino, Marilyn, and other celebs, and enjoyed seeing their favorite movies come to life in 23 amazing show gardens. In our Fund-A-Need portion of the silent auction, Ciscoe Morris helped us raise more than \$10,000 to support the Arborist and Tree Care Program at the Arboretum.

Gardeners showed up in force for both of our spring plant sales in April 2013. Early Bloomers, hosted by the volunteers in Plant Donations and the Pat Calvert Greenhouse, offered shoppers a fine selection of spring-flowering plants. For the second year in a row, we hosted FlorAbundance—the region’s largest sale— at the Arboretum. Building on the 2012 sale, we added more specialty vendors this year and enhanced our selection of edibles. Shoppers enjoyed the diverse plant offerings, the beautiful setting of the Arboretum,

and the convenience of our special golf cart shuttle service. Next year’s FlorAbundance will return to its regular venue at the newly renovated Building 30 in Magnuson Park.

Our Arboretum Walks & Talks tour program for Arbor Circle, Legacy Circle, and Steward-level members—and their guests— was another big hit this year. The tours take place on the first Thursday of each month, and are a way for us to thank our major donors and cultivate new friendships. Some of the highlights this past year were: a tour of the fern collection at the Arboretum led by Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Botanical Garden, in June 2012; a look at ornamental tree bark with year-round interest by Peter Maurer, a longtime volunteer in the Arboretum Plant Records office, in December 2012; and a tour of little-known edible plants in the Arboretum by author and plant guru Arthur Lee Jacobson, in January 2013.



[Opposite Left] **Honoring a Legend:** Guests at the Nancy Davidson Short 100th birthday bash.

[Opposite Right] **Garden Party:** Friends enjoying Opening Night.

[Above] **Unusual Edibles:** Arthur Lee Jacobson leading a Walks & Talks tour of little-known edible plants.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Our phenomenal group of volunteers worked harder than ever this year—contributing more than 10,000 hours to support our seasonal events and daily programs. They deserve our sincerest thanks.

Our daily, volunteer-run retail programs—the Arboretum Shop, Pat Calvert Greenhouse, and Plant Donations Nursery—all netted strong sales this past year, raising significant funds for the Arboretum. And volunteer numbers for special events were high. Over 500 hours were donated by more than 120 volunteers during the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in early February 2013; volunteer contributions helped make the Opening Night Party and Display Garden hugely successful. More than 100 volunteers donated over 600 hours of their time helping us pull off the region’s largest plant sale, FlorAbundance, from April 26 to 28, 2013. Volunteers also played vital roles in our other annual sale events: FallAbundance (September 29, 2012), Gifts & Greens Galore (December 7 & 8, 2012), and Early Bloomers (April 12, 2013).

Throughout the year, volunteers in the Garden Stewards programs helped Arboretum staff care for the plant collections (see page 11). On September 21, 2012, we once again partnered with United Way of King County for its annual Day of Caring event and helped recruit about 100 volunteers from such companies as Microsoft, Nordstrom, and CenturyLink to work on maintenance projects in the Arboretum.

For their outstanding commitment to the Arboretum, Walt Bubelis received the Volunteer Legacy Award during our Annual Meeting on June 2012, and Sharlene Welsh received our Volunteer of the Year Award during the joint Foundation/UWBG Volunteer Appreciation Party on October 18, 2012.



Check It Out: Volunteers at the marking desk in the checkout line during FlorAbundance 2013.

FOUNDATION STAFF UPDATE

The Foundation hired two new staff members in 2012–13, Sheila Beer and Jeff Boyer. Our volunteer manager, Randall Hitchin, switched positions and is now heading up our development department, while our *Bulletin* editor Jan Whitner retired from her position after six years of service.



Sheila Beer joined our staff in August 2012 as our events and development coordinator. She provides support to our fundraising and events staff, and manages the silent auction for our Opening Night Party. Before coming to the Foundation, Sheila spent most of her professional life in software sales and marketing in Silicon Valley, but returned to her hometown of Seattle to raise her two kids and enjoy the Northwest lifestyle with her family.



Jeff Boyer, our newest employee, joined the Foundation in April 2013 as campaign and major gifts coordinator. He supports our Pacific Connections Garden campaign, as well as the Arbor Circle and Commemorative Gifts programs. He also assists with the development of major gifts. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jeff worked in prospect research for Seattle Pacific University, where he holds a bachelor's degree in psychology.



Randall Hitchin was hired as our volunteer & outreach programs manager in September 2011 and has done a wonderful job. An expert on the Arboretum's plants, having worked as UWBG collection manager for well over a decade, and a passionate advocate for this place, Randall has also provided valuable support to the Foundation's fundraising efforts for many years. In late spring 2013, Randall became our new major gifts and outreach manager and will now be directly involved in our efforts to raise money for maintaining and enhancing the Arboretum.

Jan Whitner worked as the editor of the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin* from summer 2007 to summer 2013. During her tenure, she crafted many beautiful and memorable issues of our horticultural magazine. Jan's battle with a grave illness led to her decision to retire from her position. Thank you, Jan, for all your hard work! We wish you the very best.

DONORS

The Arboretum Foundation is most grateful to our many donors.

ENDOWMENT

The O.D. Fisher Charitable Foundation

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\$500 +

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Walt and Dona Bubelis
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[Opposite Page] *Clematis* 'Huldine' near the Pat Calvert Greenhouse.

[Left] *Mahonia* 'Winter Sun' in bloom in the Witt Winter Garden.



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[Opposite Top] Witch-hazel blooming in the Winter Garden.
[Opposite Bottom] *Sorbus rehdiana* in the Sorbus Collection.
[Left] Cherry trees blooming on Azalea Way.
[Top] *Rosa marginata* blooming on Crabapple Meadow.



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