GROUNDWORK

Spring 2013 Volume 28, Number 1 www.arboretumfoundation.org

Arboretum Signs Historic 520 Mitigation Agreement

t a press conference in the Graham Visitors Center on January 24, 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, 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.

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Early Bloomers

Plant Sale

Graham Visitors Center

For details, see page 2

FlorAbundance Returns to the Arboretum

FlorAbundance

uilding 30 at Magnuson Park is still under renovation, Dso for the second year in a row, we will be hosting FlorAbundance at the Arboretum. Please join us on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the region's largest and best plant sale, and help support the Foundation's mission. As always, dozens of specialty nurseries will be on-hand selling a wonderful selection

of locally grown trees, shrubs, peren-

nials, annuals, and edibles.

Last year's event, which harkened back to our plant sales of old, was a great success. Our shoppers and vendors loved the outdoor setting at the beautiful Arboretum. Parking along Arboretum Drive was plentiful, and traffic flow was light—and our customer shuttle service worked like a charm. This year's event will be even better! We're even adding more vendors to our list to diversify the plant offerings.

Enhanced Selection of Edibles: "Our sale is famous for its strong representation of specialty growers of ornamental plants," says event co-chair Bob Lilly. "This year, in addition to ornamentals, we will have a stronger focus on edible plants. Langley Fine Gardens will of course be

> there, selling the best selection of vegetable starts around, including heirloom tomatoes; but we will also have lots of tasty herbs, berries, and edible flowers for sale."

For a full list of participating nurseries, see the FlorAbundance event page on our website, www.arboretumfoundation.org.



Pre-Sale & Party for Members

rboretum members and their guests are invited to Aattend the FlorAbundance Pre-Sale & Party, on Friday, April 26, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Get the first pick of plants at the sale, while enjoying tasty appetizers from the celebrated Skillet Diner and delicious local wine. Early-bird tickets are \$35. Tickets purchased after April 15 will be \$40. You can buy them online at www.arboretumfoundation.org or by calling 206-325-4510. Space is limited, so buy your tickets soon! ©

News and Notes

Early Bloomers ur first plant sale of the spring season—Early Bloomers—is on

Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by the volunteers in our Plant Donations Nursery and Pat Calvert Greenhouse, the sale takes place within the beautiful environs of the Arboretum.

What you'll find: a great selection of young trees and shrubs for sale in the Greenhouse, and wonderful early blooming perennials such as hellebores, epimediums, lungworts, and primroses in the Nursery. The nursery will also be selling some beautiful hardy fuchsias, generously donated by the UW Botanic Gardens. In addition, the sale will offer a unique array of New Zealand plants, including phormiums, hebes, corokias, and coprosmas—from our awarding-winning Garden Show display (see below).

New Zealand Forest Update

onstruction of the two-acre New Zealand Forest at Pacific Connections got underway this winter and is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. As we go to press, the contractor is currently finishing up the infrastructure portion of the project, including the construction of a bus turnaround on Arboretum Drive and the installation of the irrigation systems for the forest. Soil grading and preparation will then take place. Planting starts in early June. More than 10,000 plants representing over 90 different taxa from 9 plant communities will be planted in the garden. The opening ceremonies are set for September 13 and 15. Stay tuned!

Hort Report: Arboretum Enhancements



Display Garden Wins

best garden in the show, as voted

by the public. The other awards



A MAGICAL RETREAT: The hobbit house in the display, surrounded by stunning New Zealand native plants.

received were: a judge's Gold Medal, the Pacific Horticulture Magazine Award, the Sunset's Western Living Award, the 425 Magazine Award, and the Fred Palmer Exhibitor Award.

A celebration of Peter Jackson's movie of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, as well as the New Zealand Forest being planted in Pacific Connections this summer (see above), the display was designed by Phil Wood, Bob Lilly, Roger Williams, and Rhonda Bush—with help from the other members of our design committee: Paige Miller, Randall Hitchin, and Clint Staaf.

Thank you! Thanks to all the amazing volunteers, organizations, and individuals who helped create the display garden this year, including the New Zealand Consulate General, which generously sponsored the garden, and the Seattle-Christchurch Sister City Association, which provided us with a wonderful pool of volunteer docents. A special thanks to the carpenters at Seattle Parks and Recreation who built the marvelous hobbit house: Bud Connaughton, Rodney Roberge, Erick Hjort, and Scott Dorn.

n addition to prepping for the planting of the New Zealand Forest, the Arboretum hort staff has been hard at work in recent months on a variety of enhancement projects. These include the transplanting of akebia vines from the arbor on the east side of the Visitors Center over to the Center for Urban Horticulture to make room for new Clematis viticella specimens, which will provide a much showier display on the east entrance of the building. The new plants are being funded by Foundation Unit 16.

In Rhododendron Glen, temporary gardeners Rhett Ruecker and Preston Pew have done some amazing work restoring the Rhododendron fortunei and R. thompsonii cultivar beds, which were overgrown and invaded by weeds. These rhodies, which are grafted onto R. ponticum stock, need to be regularly pruned so that they don't revert to their rootstock.

The UWBG gardeners have also been very busy restoring the rock garden just below the Lookout gazebo near Pacific Connections. Overgrown beds have been judiciously pruned and mulched, the historic view corridor northwards from the Lookout along

Azalea Way has been improved, and new rhodies from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden are being planted. Arborist assistant Darrin Hedberg has also done a wonderful job renovating the access trail to the site.

Fiddleheads Program Morphing into Nature Preschool

ast year, UWBG education department launched the new Fiddleheads Forest School, a program of twice-monthly play-based and exploratory classes at the Arboretum for kids ages 3 to 5. The response was overwhelming positive, so much so that UWBG is transforming the program into a full-on nature-based preschool. The school will launch in September 2013. More information and application forms are available at www.uwbotanicgardens.org. UWBG is hosting an Open House about the new school at the Graham Visitors Center on Thursday, April 11, from 3 to 4 p.m.



SISTER CITY CONNECTIONS:

The Mayor of Christchurch, Bob Parker (second from right), with (from left to right) UWBG's Fred Hoyt, the Foundation's Paige Miller, UWBG's Sarah Reichard, and Seattle Park and Recreation's Andy Sheffer. Mayor Parker visited the Arboretum on January 8 and toured the site of the 2.5-acre New Zealand Forest, currently under construction in the Pacific Connections Garden. Christchurch, New Zealand, is a sister city of Seattle, and the New

Zealand High Country Exhibit at the south end of the Arboretum—a gift from the Seattle-Christchurch Sister City Association back in 1993—served as inspiration for the creation of the larger eco-geographic forests of the Pacific Connections Garden.

Pacific Connections Shelter Damaged

ust before Christmas, the interpretive shelter at Pacific Connections was damaged by a late-night campfire lit on the floor of the structure. There were no clues as to who lit the fire, only some signs of alcohol consumption at the site. The fire did not cause any significant harm to the wooden shelter (just some superficial burn marks on one of the carved cedar supports), but it did release enough heat to melt and buckle the terrazzo map of the Pacific Rim inlaid in the center of the shelter's floor. As a result, the shelter has been closed to the public. Plans for repairing the damaged inlay using fire-resistant materials, such as tempered steel, aluminum, or granite, are in motion.

Origins of the GVC Coffee Bar

nyone who has wandered into the Graham Visitors Center since early December will have noticed the large wooden coffee bar installed between the front desk and the gift shop. At long last, our shop is selling drip coffee—a delicious "Arboretum Blend" specially produced by Ballard-based Zoka Coffee Roasters. The bar itself is a thing of beauty. Built by Seattle Parks and Recreation carpenter Dave Schmidt, it's constructed from wood salvaged at a variety of city parks. The large top slab is made from a western red cedar salvaged from the Japanese Garden; the large posts at the base of the bar are from a Cryptomeria that had to be removed from the old MOHAI location; and the door handles on the cupboards are made of madrone driftwood Dave found on the beach at Lincoln Park. Nice work. Dave!

What's appening

Early Bloomers Plant Sale

Saturday, April 13, 10 AM-2 PM

FlorAbundance Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 27, 10 AM-5 PM Sunday, April 28, 10 AM-3 PM Member Pre-Sale Friday, April 26, 5—7:30 PM

Arboretum Foundation Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 5:30 PM

Seattle Japanese Garden

Bonsai Show Sunday, May 19 Children's Day Monday, May 27 See page 7

ONGOING EVENTS -

ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Pat Calvert Greenhouse Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 AM—NOON

Plant Donations Nursery 10 AM—2 PM Donations now being accepted 2013 sales begin April 3

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.

News and Notes

Arboretum Signs Historic Agreement

(continued from page 1)

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," said Jack Collins, Chair of ABGC. "Both the mitigation 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 planned 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.

"Our achievement in bringing about this historic agreement is remarkable," says Paige Miller, executive director of the Foundation. "It took a large and united team to make it happen. 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. 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!"

Sign Up for Summer Camp!

Registration is now open for UWBG's kids' summer camp at the Arboretum. The environmental day camp for 6 to 12 year olds runs for seven weeks this year (weekdays, July 1 to August 16). The cost is \$250 per child per week. Foundation members receive a 10% discount. Register online at www.uwbotanicgardens.org.



FABULOUS FERN STUMPERY:

In mid-January, staff from Botanica Landscape and Design, Inc. spent two weekdays at the Graham Visitors Center working with Arboretum gardeners to create a new stumpery—an expansion of the Signature Bed fern garden on the west side of the building. The stump garden was designed to provide a dramatic setting for a new display of ferns. John Van den Meerendonk, owner of Botanica and board president of the Hardy Fern Foundation (HFF; www.hardyferns.org), supervised the placement of the large western red cedar stumps and logs, and he generously donated the cost of the materials, the transportation, and the labor. On the Saturday of the same week, members of the HFF board met at the Visitors Center to plant the ferns. The HFF folks donated their time—as well as 150 ferns! Thank you to John and his colleagues at the Hardy Fern Foundation.

IRA Charitable Rollover

With all the angst surrounding the "fiscal cliff" deal negotiations in late 2012, something positive came out of the legislative agreement to avoid the cliff: the renewal of the IRA Charitable Rollover in the tax code. Here's how it could benefit you or someone you know who has an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and who is 70½ or older—the age of IRS required minimum distributions. The IRA Charitable Rollover enables people to give tax-free donations to charity from their Traditional IRA account of any amount up to \$100,000 yearly for 2012 and 2013. If you have an IRA, we encourage you to discuss the new rule with your professional advisor. If you would like to consider an IRA Charitable Rollover gift to the Arboretum Foundation, please contact our executive director Paige Miller at 206-325-4510 or pmiller@arboretumfoundation.org.

Opening Night Party







TOP LEFT: CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS:

Marilyn and Dino fraternizing with guests on the red carpet.

LEFT: MAYOR'S ENTOURAGE:

Seattle mayor Mike McGinn and friends enjoying the party.

TOP RIGHT: BEST IN SHOW:

Riz Reyes, with King Kong, in his Skull-Island-themed display, which won the coveted Founder's Cup at the Garden Show.

ore than 500 guests joined us for the 25th annual Opening Night Party at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show on February 19 and helped raise important funds for Washington Park Arboretum.

In keeping with the "Silver Screen" theme of the 2013 Garden Show, the party captured some of the magic and

SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S OPENING **NIGHT SPONSORS**

Saltchuk Resources, Inc. **PACCAR Holland America Line** K&L Gates

Utopia Media and Entertainment The Berger Partnership **Chateau Ste Michelle**

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

glamor of Hollywood. Guests strutted their stuff on the red carpet, posed for paparazzi, gossiped with celebrities (real and not-so-real), and enjoyed seeing their favorite movies come to life in 23 fabulous show gardens.

Superstar gardener Ciscoe Morris was the guest emcee for our auction Fund-A-Need, which raised more than \$10,000 for the Arborist and Tree Care Program. Ciscoe also made a cameo appearance in a short film presented to guests about the important work that staff arborists do in the treetops of the Arboretum.

Patron and Benefactor guests enjoyed a lively tour of the gardens in the show with author and designer Billy Goodnick.

Thanks to all of you who came to the party and supported the Arboretum. A special thanks to our event sponsors; the many individuals and businesses who generously contributed to our auction; and our amazing volunteers! &

VOLUNTEER VINE



PLANT PREP: Display garden volunteers Darla Knowles and Clint Staaf grooming the plants for the show.

Thanks to Our Garden Show Volunteers!—Our wonderful volunteers were out in force again this February at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, providing invaluable assistance with the Opening Night Party (see page 5) and the Arboretum's display garden (see page 2). More than 120 people volunteered over 480 hours in about a single week!

They worked on everything from party ticket processing to docenting at the display garden during the week of the show. We not only put on a great party, we also earned six top awards for our display, "A Hobbit's New Zealand Garden." Thanks to all our volunteers, and to the volunteers from the Seattle-Christchurch

City Sister City Association, our event partner, for making it all possible!

Volunteers Needed For *FlorAbundance*—We are looking for volunteers for all tasks related to our FlorAbundance Spring Plant Sale (April 27 and 28), including:

- Set-up prior to sale
- Unloading and loading plants

- Customer service assignments
- Daily and final cleanup

Please call Randall Hitchin at 206-325-4510 or email rhitchin@arboretumfoundation.org to volunteer. 😌



SPRING GIFT IDEAS

 New botanical jewelry handcrafted from real leaves and flowers by local artist Marise Miville

- Arboretum honey—fresh batch produced by the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association
- The Beautiful Edible Garden design a stylish space using vegetables, fruits, and herbs (Ten Speed Press, 2013)

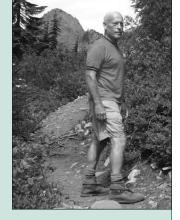
OPEN 10 AM TO 4 PM DAILY Ten percent discount for Foundation members

What's in My Garden 🤏

Clint Staaf, Pacific Connections Garden Steward and Display Garden Volunteer

What is in your garden this season? My wife Diana and I have spring bulbs in flower, including hyacinth and jonquils. Also blooming are heather, forsythia, Chinese rose, and our favorite, a sprinkling of English daisies in the lawn. Pride of place goes to the Corokia cotoneaster (New Zealand wire netting bush), not yet in flower.

What is your favorite season to garden? In the fall, when fruit and vegetables become our main focus. Maggot barriers on our apple and pear trees have proved remarkably effective.



Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book? Jerry Sedenko's The Butterfly Garden. We have a partial tree canopy, an understory of smaller flowering trees and shrubs, birdbaths, and feeders—all of which attract both birds and butterflies.

When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? Several years ago my interest in volunteering at the Arboretum began with John and Eve Bollard's High Country Collection of New Zealand plants.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum? Not only do I get wonderful outdoor exercise, but also I am forming new friendships.⇔

UWBG Events & Classes

Perennials Without Fear

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 7 to 8:30 P.M. / SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1 to 3:30 P.M. CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE (CUH), 3501 NE 41ST STREET

his two-part class will teach you about the best perennials to grow in the Pacific Northwest. The instructor is Carrie Becker, a horticulture teacher at Edmonds Community College and co-author of the award-winning Perennials: The Gardener's Reference (Timber Press, 2007). She will begin with a lecture on April 17 and then lead a field trip to see the plants in action on April 18. The fee is \$60 per person. For more information or to register, email urbhort@uw.edu or call 206-685-8033.

2013 Bioblitz

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 4 P.M. to SATURDAY, MAY 11, 4 P.M.

he UW Botanic Gardens will be hosting another Bioblitz this May to catalog the plant and animal diversity in Washington Park Arboretum. This will be the fourth survey since the first Bioblitz in May 2010. Most of the attention of the other blitzes was on the north end of the Arboretum and the wetlands. The 2013 event will focus on the middle section of the Arboretum. If you're interested in helping out, please contact UWBG education supervisor Patrick Mulligan at 206-616-



DAPHNE BHOLUA, by Janet Parker, one of many beautiful illustrations on view at the Miller Library during the annual exhibit of the American Society of Botanical Artists, from April 5 to May 4. See www.millerlibrary.org.

3381 or simsigan@uw.edu. No experience is required, just a healthy curiosity. Volunteers work in small groups for 2.5-hours shifts

Urban Forest Symposium: "Trees & Views"

MAY 13, MONDAY from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., CUH

The issue of trees versus views is a contentious one, pitting view seekers against tree lovers on hillsides facing mountains and water, up and down both coasts. Hosted by UW Botanic Gardens, Plant Amnesty, and the City of Seattle, the 5th annual Urban Forest Symposium will provide an in-depth look at the issue. Topics will include "municipal view policies," and "view pruning." Speakers will examine lots of case studies from the trenches. The cost is \$74 per person. Register online at http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/ or by calling Jessica Farmer at 206-685-8033. 9

Spring Events at the Seattle Japanese Garden

- PUGET SOUND BONSAI SHOW—Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't miss this annual display of bonsai collections by the Puget Sound Bonsai Association.
- CHILDREN'S DAY-Monday, May 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A day filled with child-oriented activities and performances to celebrate the happiness and healthy growth of children.

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

Arboretum Foundation

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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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Washington Park Arboretum 2300 Arboretum Drive East Seattle WA 98112-2300 www.arboretumfoundation.org

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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.

Begin or renew a membership at www.arboretumfoundation.org



Arboretum Scene

Magnolia × loebneri 'Merrill' Loebner Magnolia

The Loebner magnolia is a deciduous hybrid originally developed in Germany in 1910 by crossing two Japanese species, *Magnolia kobus* (Kobushi magnolia) and *M. stellata* (star magnolia). A small tree with dense branching and a rounded crown, it typically grows to between 20 and 30 feet tall. It is prized for its large, fragrant, star-shaped blossoms. Each flower boasts numerous long, slender petals that create a daisy wheel effect. 'Merrill' is a vigorous, free-flowering cultivar whose stunning white blossoms are blushed with faint pink at the base and appear around mid-April in the Pacific Northwest. A North

American cultivar, 'Merrill' was selected at the Arnold Arboretum, in Boston, and named in honor of Elmer Drew Merrill, a botanist and one-time director of that Arboretum. The plant grows best in moist, organically rich, well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade, and is noted for its good winter hardiness.

—Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Foundation

IN THE ARBORETUM: You will find a lovely specimen of this plant at the south end of the Magnolia Family section, close to Arboretum Drive.

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