

## Azalea Way Stewards Program Launched

This past July, the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and UW Botanic Gardens launched a new volunteer initiative to help maintain Azalea Way, a historic component of the Arboretum's original Olmsted design.

The new Azalea Way Garden Stewards program is modeled on the Pacific Connections Garden Stewards program, which has, since its inception in fall 2011, resulted in the recruitment of close to 30 volunteer gardeners to help maintain the new eco-geographic displays at the south end of the Arboretum. The new stewards will provide volunteer support to salaried Arboretum staff in caring for the planting beds in Azalea Way. The work will consist primarily of weeding, mulching, edging with hand tools, and some planting of native groundcovers.

Volunteers must be willing to commit to a minimum of 24 hours of work on Azalea Way over the period of



**A WELL-TRAVELED TRAIL**  
Azalea Way is arguably the Arboretum's most popular attraction.

Arboretum's extended family.

To launch the new initiative, we will be hosting a number of work parties on Azalea Way this fall. All are welcome to attend. Our next get together will be on September 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in learning more about the Azalea Way stewards initiative or signing up, please call our program coordinator Rhonda Bush at 206-941-2550 or email her at RhondaBush@comcast.net. ⇨

### Fall Abundance Plant Sale

Saturday, September 29  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Graham Visitors Center  
*See page 2 for details*

March to November. And some previous horticultural experience is also required.

New recruits will receive special maintenance training from the Arboretum staff.

Stewards will also benefit

from enrichment activities such as lectures and instructional talks from the many plant experts in the

## Allen Foundation Donates \$100,000 to Pacific Connections

In July, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation donated \$100,000 to our new Pacific Connections Campaign. Though routed through their family's charitable foundation, the donation came directly from Paul Allen and Jody Allen as a personal commemorative gift in honor of their mother, Faye Allen, who passed away in early June. The gift will be used to fund the Phase 2 planting of the Cascadia Forest in the Pacific Connections Garden.

An inspirational figure in the lives of her two children, Faye Allen also inspired generations of young students at Ravenna School, where

she worked as a teacher, instilling in them her deep passion for books and reading. Her love of literature, teaching, and children was reflected in her lifelong commitment to public libraries and public education, causes she championed in her later years through her family's Foundation.

Along with being a lover of good books, Mrs. Allen was also an avid sports fan and theatergoer. And she had a special fondness for flowers and plants. Mrs. Allen died of complications from Alzheimer's disease at the age of 90.

The Arboretum Foundation and its University and City partners

would like to thank Paul Allen and Jody Allen for their generous gift. We appreciate the continued support of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, which has given generously to the Arboretum in the past and was a key donor in the creation of the Japanese Garden Entry Gatehouse in 2008.

We will be installing a permanent plaque at the trail entrance to the Cascadia Forest celebrating the memory of Faye Allen. When the forest is planted, it will become an outdoor classroom for generations of school kids to explore and learn about their local flora. ⇨

# News and Notes

## FallAbundance Plant Sale

Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum

Fall is the best time for planting in the Pacific Northwest, so don't miss our second annual FallAbundance Plant Sale on September 29. Hosted by the volunteers in our Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery, the sale will feature a marvelous variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials—at fabulous prices. All greenhouse plants will be 25% off! And the nursery will offer a nice selection of discounted plants on its sales table.

**Specialty and sponsor nurseries:** This year's sale will also feature a number of local specialty plant vendors, including Madrona Nursery (native plants and perennials), Botanica (unusual perennials), Foliage Gardens (ferns), and The Greenery (species rhododendrons and woodland companions). We will also be selling bamboo generously donated for the event by Clinton Bamboo.

For more information about the sale, call us at 206-420-4060 or visit [www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org).

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

the Arboretum. Over the past year, Abby has been making recordings at these seven sites with sensitive microphones and then digitally editing the sounds to create music. Most of the pieces are meditative reflections designed to capture the visitor's attention and focus it on the Arboretum's ordinary acoustic wonders, such as leaves rustling, raindrops falling on dried leaves, and flower petals dropping to the ground. With the help of solar-powered sound systems discretely attached to trees at the different sites, Abby's compositions will be available for everyone to hear. Abby's work is made possible by donations from the Arboretum Foundation, the Puffin Foundation, the UW School of

## New Director at the SEFS

The University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Science (SEFS), which oversees the UW Botanic Gardens—one of our partners at the Arboretum—has a brand new director. Thomas H. DeLuca, a soils and ecosystem scientist who studies natural resources sustainability, was appointed to the position this summer and started in early September. Responsibilities in his previous job at Bangor University, Wales, included serving as academic advocate for the Treborth Botanic Garden, a teaching garden that is open to the public. Welcome Thomas!



**SONIC ARTIST:** Abby Aresty with her mini mic at one of the seven sites in her "Music of Trees" sound installation.

## "Music of Trees" Sound Installation at the Arboretum

For the month of October, visitors to the Arboretum will be able to enjoy a self-guided sonic art walk around the grounds, courtesy of Seattle composer Abby Aresty. Abby is a doctoral student in the music department at UW, and for her thesis she is creating a sound art installation entitled "Paths II: Music of Trees" that explores "the layers and permutations of acoustic space" at seven chosen sites in

Music, and more than 75 generous individuals. For more information or to hear some of Abby's "tree music," visit her blog at <http://paths2themusicoftrees.wordpress.com/>.

## ABGC Urges Commitment from State on 520 Mitigation Projects

The Foundation and its University and City partners—formally represented by the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)—have been working hard for years to protect the Arboretum from the impacts of the 520 replacement project. In March 2011, we negotiated a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), identifying a list of projects to be completed in the Arboretum as mitigation for the unavoidable effects of the 520 rebuild (including a new north entry, a multi-use trail, and the daylighting of Arboretum Creek), as well as the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties involved. Over the next year, ABGC met regularly with representatives from WSDOT to develop the plans and budgets, and prepare a "term sheet" that would contain binding commitments on the projects to be funded and the amount of money WSDOT would commit to each one.

By mid-spring of 2012, all the basic terms were in place and agreed to by both sides. All that was left to discuss was WSDOT's financial commitment to the agreed project

# News and Notes

list. However, since this time, discussions have stalled. On July 30, ABGC sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Paula Hammond expressing concern at the delay and requesting a definite commitment by mid-August—an urgency it felt was justified in light of the coming departure of Governor Christine Gregoire’s administration at the end of the year. As we go to print, WSDOT has not yet offered any details on how much money it will contribute. The budget to fully fund the mitigation projects has been estimated at approximately \$21 million. Stay tuned for further developments!

**CALMING TRAFFIC:** The new crosswalk leading from the south end of Arboretum Drive East to the Japanese Garden parking lot. This is one of two new crosswalks installed on Lake Washington Boulevard this summer, made possible through mitigation funding from the 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program.



## Annual Meeting Report

More than 60 guests attended the Arboretum Foundation Annual Meeting on June 20 at the Graham Visitors Center, participating in our Board of Directors election and enjoying light reception. Craig Trueblood, an environmental lawyer with K&L Gates, was elected to the position of Board President, taking over from the departing Della Balick. Craig has served on our board for the last four years in a number of offices, including Vice President and Treasurer. His priorities as president include strengthening our partnerships with the City and UW and providing more direct support to Foundation staff in their fundraising efforts. Other board officer appointments included Sherrey Luetjen (VP), Jim Reid (VP), Iris Wagner (VP), Roger Williams (Secretary), and Skip Vonckx (Treasurer).

We thanked departing board members Dan Hinkley, Sabra Contreras, Fred Isaac, Kathleen Pierce, and Barbara Wright for their good work. Special thanks were reserved for Della Balick for her great service to the Arboretum, which included nine years on the Foundation board and three terms on the Arboretum and Botanical Garden committee. In her two-year presidency, Della worked passionately to help implement the Master Plan and create the new gardens at Pacific Connections. She also created a welcoming climate for everyone who works at—and with—the Foundation. New appointments to the board included Diane Adachi, Walt Bubelis, and Anne McCloskey. Walt Bubelis received the Volunteer Legacy Award for his outstanding commitment to the Arboretum. ⇨



**Arboretum Shop**  
WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

### NEW ITEMS FOR FALL

- Signed art print cards by bird photographer, Judy Lane
- Fresh batch of Arboretum honey
- “The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids,” by Whitney Cohen and John Fisher (Timber Press, 2012)
- “The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature,” by David George Haskell (Viking, 2012)

OPEN 10 AM TO 4 PM DAILY

Ten percent discount for Foundation members

## What’s Happening

### FallAbundance Plant Sale

Sunday, September 29, 10 AM—2 PM

### Arboretum Walks & Talks

Offered to Arbor Circle, Legacy Circle, and Steward-Level Members

October 4, 4—6 PM

November 1, 3—5 PM

### Gifts & Greens Galore

Friday, December 7, NOON—5 PM

Saturday, December 8, 10 AM—3 PM

### Japanese Garden Events

Monday, September 17

—Respect for Elders

Sunday, October 14

—Maple Viewing Day

(See page 5)

## ONGOING EVENTS

### ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

*Pat Calvert Greenhouse*

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 AM—NOON

*Plant Donations Nursery*

Wednesday and 2nd Saturdays

10 AM—2 PM

Through October 17

### Guided Arboretum Walks

Every Sunday, 1—2:30 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



**CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS:** Guests enjoying a donor cultivation party at the Pacific Connections Meadow on August 2. The party was hosted by former Foundation Board of Directors member Beth Morgan and former Co-chair of our Gateway to Chile Campaign Kathy Fries. It featured a delicious buffet spread in the interpretive shelter, tours of Pacific Connections by UWBG's David Zuckerman and our Randall Hitchin, live guitar music by Beth's son, Michael, and an inspirational poetry reading by Steve Lorton—a reading that Beth had bid on and won in our 2012 Opening Night gala auction (see page 5). A lovely evening was had by all, and many of Beth's and Kathy's friends were introduced to the beauty of the Arboretum and the important work we're doing here.

## Staff Transitions at the Foundation

We are sad to announce that our Development Director of the past two years, **Andrea Myers**, has left us to take up a position in the development office at Seattle Children's Hospital. During her tenure here, Andrea was very effective at connecting with many of our major donors. She was also instrumental in setting up our Legacy Circle member program, which recognizes donors who include the Foundation in their estate plans, as well as Arboretum Walks & Talks, a monthly walking tour and social event benefitting our Arbor Circle, Legacy Circle, and Steward-level members. Thanks for all your hard work, Andrea! The search for Andrea's successor is currently underway.

We would also like to say thanks and bid a fond farewell to **Nancy Belcher**, who for the past several years has been working behind the scenes at the Foundation, providing policy initiative support to our executive director Paige Miller on issues related to the rebuilding of the 520 Bridge. She was also a member of the Events Evaluation Task Force put together in early 2011 to evaluate the

cost-effectiveness of our major fundraisers. Nancy is taking up an administrative position at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Earlier in the summer, our capital campaign assistant **Cheri Shanahan** also moved on to start a house-painting company with her husband, Ray. Cheri joined us in November 2008 and worked on everything from grant writing to taking event photographs. She also did a marvelous job organizing our 2012 Opening Night Party silent auction. Thanks, Cheri!

In August, we were happy to have **Sheila Beer** join our staff as Cheri's replacement. Sheila has 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. "Working with the Foundation is a meaningful way to convert my family's casual use of the city's treasured park into something more substantial," says Sheila. "And I'm very excited to be on board!"

With Sheila's arrival comes a slight restructuring within our development department. Sheila's job description differs somewhat to Cheri's; she will be our new Development and Events Coordinator, providing support to both our fundraising and events teams. Our current Volunteer and Annual Giving Coordinator Cynthia Welte will take over Cheri's capital campaign support duties; Cynthia's new title is Campaign and Major Gifts Coordinator. There is one more title change to announce: Our Pacific Connections Stewards Coordinator Rhonda Bush is now our new Stewards Coordinator, as she will be managing both the Pacific Connections and Azalea Way Garden Stewards programs. ☺

## New Members

The Arboretum Foundation welcomes members who joined during the period of June 7 to August 16.

Braelan Barnett	Sonya Hawkins	Laurie Dahl Isacson
Sheila and Ken Beer	Helen Hawley	Arni H. Litt
Kenan Block	Connie Hokanson	Judith Lundgren
Ilsa and Roger Coleman	Ellen Hovey	Mark Markaryan
Edla Deppman	Sharon Housiaux	Sabrina Middleton
Scott Finfrook	Larry Hubbell & Shelley Butler	Jan Morberg
		Ib and Ellen Rossen

To renew or enhance your membership, please call 206-325-4510 or visit [www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org).

# Upcoming Events

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 24th Annual Opening Night at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
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 7, from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday, December 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Once again we'll have a wonderful array of holiday decorations on offer, including wreaths, swags, and unusual fresh-cut greens. The sale also showcases the Arboretum Shop and its fine selection of gardening books, plant-themed jewelry and accessories, and nature-inspired ornaments. This year, we will be focusing strongly on gifts from local vendors. The event will also feature craft activities hosted by the UW Botanic Gardens education staff, delicious holiday refreshments, and more. See the Gifts & Greens Galore page on our website, [arboretumfoundation.org](http://arboretumfoundation.org), for more details and for information on donating cut greens to the sale. ⇨

## Please Donate to the 2013 Opening Night Auction!

The 2013 Opening Night at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show (February 19) may seem a long way off, but preparations are under way. Once again, we'll be hosting a splendid silent auction featuring local dining experiences, wine from regional cellars, unique getaway packages, and much more. Proceeds from the auction will provide important funds to support collection maintenance and education programs at the Arboretum. We are beginning the procurement process for the auction and seeking contributions from our members and friends, as well as local businesses. Please consider a donation; each gift brings us closer to our fundraising goal. We would greatly appreciate receiving any of the following suggested items, but also welcome fresh ideas:



- Gift cards (restaurants, hotels, retail stores, etc.)
- Sporting or theatre tickets (Sounders, 5th Avenue Theatre, Huskies, etc.)
- Themed gift baskets (wine, cooking, gardening, spa, movie night, etc.)
- Gardening tools, ornaments, books
- Wine; individual trophy bottles, cases or mixed cases
- iPod or other personal electronics
- Golf or local travel excursions, including vacation homes
- Certificates for classes (cooking, photography, gardening, etc.)

In lieu of a donated item, we also welcome cash donations, which can go towards the purchase of a desired item for the auction. Please direct any questions or suggestions to Sheila Beer at [sbeer@arboretumfoundation.org](mailto:sbeer@arboretumfoundation.org) or 206-325-4510. Procurement forms may be downloaded from the Opening Night event page on our website, [arboretumfoundation.org](http://arboretumfoundation.org). ⇨

## Fall Events at the Seattle Japanese Garden

- **Monday, September 17: 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 14: 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, <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm>.

## VOLUNTEER VINE

*Volunteer Appreciation BBQ—You're Invited!* The 2012 UW Botanic Gardens/Arboretum Foundation Volunteer Appreciation BBQ will take place on Thursday, October 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the NHS Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle). All volunteers are welcome. And bring your appetites because there'll be plenty of grub! Homemade appetizers will be provided courtesy of UWBG and Foundation staff members, who will battle it out for your vote in our "tastiest hors d'oeuvres" competition. The main course will be served by Jasper's BBQ, which is generously donating a portion of cost of the meal to our event. We'll also have donated desserts from Sweet Treats and donated beer from Ninkasi Brewing Company, as well as wine and other



### WEEDING PARTY:

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Paul Smith instructing volunteers during the inaugural Azalea Way Garden Stewards work party on August 7. See cover story for more information about the stewards.

include the FallAbundance Plant Sale, on September 29, Gifts & Greens Galore, on December 7 and 8, and Opening Night at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, on February 19. If you'd like to sign up to help, please contact our Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager, Randall Hitchin at 206-325-4510 or [rhitchin@arboretumfoundation.org](mailto:rhitchin@arboretumfoundation.org). ⇨

beverages. The Brian O. Mulligan Awards and the Arboretum Foundation Lifetime Service Award will be presented around 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Bryan Pilkington at [bryanp4@uw.edu](mailto:bryanp4@uw.edu) or 206-616-3994 by October 5.

### *Event Volunteers Needed!*

Our fall/winter event season is beginning, and we need your valuable assistance to make it a success. Upcoming events

## What's In My Garden 🌿

Suzanne Ferris—Plant Donations Nursery Volunteer



*What is in your garden this season?* *Daphne caucasica* continues to bloom even though it's been hacked back by tenants in our building repeatedly and is supposedly only in bloom during May and June. I love daphnes because they are a fiber source for some of the delicate Asian handmade papers. My partner (Neal Bonham, a staff gardener at the Arboretum) and I also have a small forest of kozo (*Broussonetia kazinoki*), an East Asian tree with mitten-shaped leaves that turn bright yellow in the fall. A climbing aconitum on my front porch has been going strong for three months.

*What is your favorite season to garden?* Spring and early summer, because my garden is heavily shaded once the maples leaf out. Although during August the hydrangeas (seven of them) brighten the understory. The astilbes, coltsfoot, and royal ferns are also happy in the bog during late summer.

*Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book?* Neal and I began our garden by planting trees, so two of my favorite reference books are Donald C. Peattie's *Natural History of Western Trees* and William J. Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*. The black and white illustrations appeal to me as a printmaker, especially the wood engravings by Paul Landacre in Peattie's book.

*When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum?* I started in 1993, when Russ Kurtz was helping the grounds crew on Tuesdays. I helped install the flagstone around the High Country New Zealand bed.

*What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum?* Working with Plant Donations on Wednesdays because some of my fellow volunteers, such as Rita Rae Cloney and Joan Karreck, are far more knowledgeable than me about identifying mystery plants. We enjoy each other's company, and there are so many wonderful plants to buy. I have been placed on a budget by Neal! ⇨

# UWBG Events & Classes

## The Miller Lecture: “Strategies for Plant Conservation”

Many, perhaps half, of the estimated 400,000 species of flowering plants in the world may no longer exist in nature by the end of the 21st century. How far this process goes depends on us. In the 18th Annual Miller Memorial Lecture, Peter H. Raven, a leading botanist and advocate of conservation and biodiversity with a notably international outlook, will discuss strategies for the preservation of our planet’s diversity. The lecture takes place on Thursday, September 13, at 7 p.m. at Meany Hall for the Performing Arts, University of Washington. It’s free to attend. For information, contact the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden at 206-362-8612.

## Enjoy Nighttime Tours of the Arboretum This Fall

The next “Park in the Dark” tours are on Saturday, September 15, and Saturday, October 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Join the UW Botanic Gardens education staff on these fun night hikes through the Arboretum and learn about the adaptations of nocturnal animals that live and hunt here. The tours are designed for families with children ages 6 to 10 and cost is \$8 per person. You can register online at [uwbotanicgardens.org](http://uwbotanicgardens.org) or by calling 206-685-8033.

## Fiddleheads Forest School— A New Fall Program for Preschoolers

The UW Botanic Gardens Education Department has just launched a brand new program designed to connect preschool children with nature through activities and outdoor play. The “Fiddleheads Forest School” will meet on the first and third Thursdays of every month this fall from 10 a.m. to noon, starting



**PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING:**  
UWBG’s new Fiddleheads Forest School is designed for kids ages 3 to 5. (Photo by Jacob Smithers)

September 20. As program facilitator Sarah Short explains, “We will go on hikes, play some games, and do an art project here and there, but mostly we will explore and let the natural curiosity of the young ones direct our adventures.” Each session will have a theme to frame the activities, such as “Salamanders” (September 20), “Spiders and Their Webs” (October 4), “Falling, Changing Leaves” (October 18), and “Bats” (November 1). The cost is \$16 per session for one adult and child, or \$12 if you sign up for the entire series. Register online at [uwbotanicgardens.org](http://uwbotanicgardens.org). For more information, contact Sarah at [sshort@uw.edu](mailto:sshort@uw.edu) or 206-221-6427. ☺

## Arboretum Foundation

2300 Arboretum Drive East  
Seattle, WA 98112-2300  
Tel: 206-325-4510 Fax: 206-325-8893  
[info@arboretumfoundation.org](mailto:info@arboretumfoundation.org)  
[www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://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

**Craig Trueblood:** President  
**Sherrey Luetjen:** Vice President  
**Jim Reid:** Vice President  
**Iris Wagner:** Vice President  
**Roger Williams:** Secretary  
**Paul (Skip) Vonckx:** Treasurer

### FOUNDATION STAFF

**Paige Miller:** Executive Director  
**Sheila Beer:** Development and Events  
Coordinator  
**Rhonda Bush:** Stewards Coordinator  
**Niall Dunne:** Communications Manager  
**Randall Hitchin:** Volunteer and Outreach  
Program Manager  
**Kristin Price:** Events Manager  
**Cynthia Welte:** Campaign and Major Gifts  
Coordinator  
**Julia White:** Operations Coordinator  
**Dan Yuly:** Finance Manager

### WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

is managed cooperatively by University of Washington Botanic Gardens and City of Seattle Parks and Recreation, with support from the Arboretum Foundation.

GROUND WORK is a publication of the Arboretum Foundation.

Editor: **Niall Dunne**  
Design: **Constance Bollen/cbgraphics**  
Photos: **AF staff or as credited**

### 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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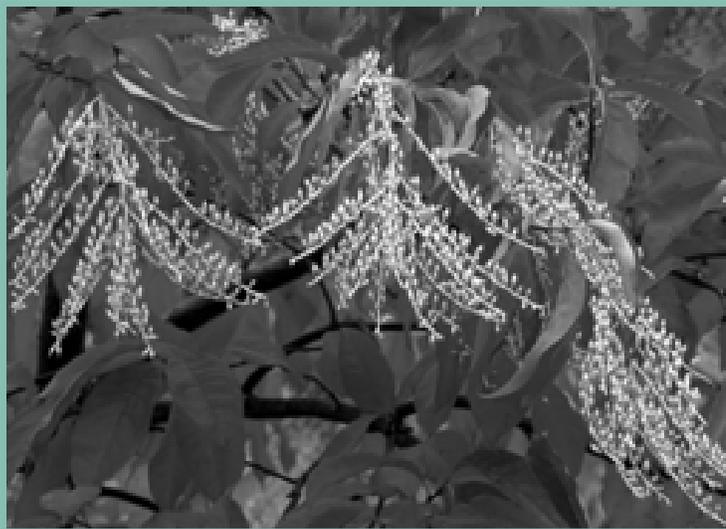
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Washington Park Arboretum  
for current and future generations  
by strengthening and building a diverse  
and engaged community of donors,  
volunteers and advocates.*

Begin or renew a membership at [www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org)



## Arboretum Scene

*Oxydendrum arboreum*  
Sourwood or Sorrel Tree

Native to the eastern and southeastern U.S., sourwood is a deciduous understory tree with some wonderful ornamental attributes. In the wild, plants occasionally reach 50 to 70 feet, but here in the Pacific Northwest the tree is relatively slow growing and rarely exceeds 30 feet tall. The tree's drooping branches bear many finely toothed, lance shaped, glossy green leaves that impart a sour taste when chewed, providing the inspiration for both its common and scientific names ("oxys" is Greek for "acid"). The small, waxy and

fragrant white flowers are held on long, slender, and gracefully curved panicles in early summer, attracting lots of attention from bees. (Honey produced from sourwood trees has a deep, spicy flavor highly prized by connoisseurs.) The flowers develop into persistent, silver-grey fruit capsules that contrast nicely with the foliage's stunning, crimson-red fall color. Fissured gray bark adds further interest in the winter months. The only member in its genus, *Oxydendrum arboreum* belongs to the heath family and along with its ericaceous relatives has a preference for moist, acidic, moderately fertile, and well-drained soils. While it will tolerate much shade, sourwood should be sited where it receives full sun for at least half the day in order to develop good fall color.

—Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Foundation

In the Arboretum, there are several good specimens in the Rhododendron Glen and even more located in the Woodland Garden.