

“New” Location, Same Incredible Sale!

Get ready to garden! Spring is here, and the region’s most complete plant sale—FlorAbundance—is just around the corner. For this year’s sale, we’re returning to our roots. Because of restrictions placed on our regular Magnuson Park venue by the fire department, we are hosting the 2012 event at the place where it all began: the beautiful Washington Park Arboretum. The space will be tighter, but we’re planning to pull out all the stops so that you’ll be able to enjoy the same quality shopping experience you’ve come to expect.

FlorAbundance will take place at the Graham Visitor Center on **Saturday, April 28**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **Sunday, April 29**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. As always, it will feature dozens of specialty nurseries selling a spectacular selection of the choicest trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs, annuals, and vegetable starts. Our partners at Seattle Parks and Recreation will be co-sponsoring this year’s sale.

Nurseries & Plants Galore

“Expect to see all of your favorite vendors at the sale again this year,” says Foundation volunteer and sale organizer Bob Lilly. “Sundquist Nursery and Wind Poppy Farms will be here selling a wonderful variety of heucheras, grasses, and epimediums. And speaking of epimediums, Bouquet Banque Nursery will be back at the sale again after a hiatus offering an amazing selection of these charming groundcovers.”

“Check out Botanica for its collection of unusual and rare perennials grown from seed,” continues Bob. “Look to Growing Girls, Keeping It Green, and Ramble on Rose for the best in shade-loving plants. Pan’s Garden will be selling beautiful sedums and sempervivums, and you’ll find the best in deciduous and evergreen shrubs

FlorAbundance
SPRING PLANT SALE



Early Bloomers Plant Sale

Saturday, April 14
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Graham Visitors Center
See page 2 for details.

from Robinswood, Colvos Creek, and Lee Farms.”

“All the usual suspects will be here selling what only they grow best: annuals, vegetable starts, peonies, grafted dwarf conifers, ferns, arisaemas, wallflowers, and groundcovers. The Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery will also be participating.” See a full list of vendors at www.arboretumfoundation.org.

Logistics and Parking

The vendors will be set up in the main parking lot of the Graham Visitors Center. Shoppers will enter the sale at the parking lot gate. The Large Conference

Room will be our hold area, and checkout will take place in the Big Greenhouse. We’ll have lots of tents set up in the vendor area and near checkout to minimize exposure in the event of rain. Arboretum Drive East will be open to car traffic going one way, southbound. Shoppers will be able to park on the west side of the drive and in the Arboretum lots. Volunteers will be directing traffic, and we’ll have shuttle buses running to bring folks to and from their cars. Pick-up for large plant purchases will be at the parking lot gate of the Visitors Center.

Pre-Sale & Party for Members

Arboretum members and their guests are invited to attend the FlorAbundance Pre-Sale & Party, on **Friday, April 27**, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Get the first pick of plants at the sale, while enjoying delicious finger foods, desserts, wines, and live music. Early-bird tickets are \$35 each. Tickets purchased after 5 p.m. on April 20 will be \$40. Advance ticketing ends at 4:30 p.m. on April 25. You can buy tickets at www.arboretumfoundation.org, at the Arboretum Shop, or by calling 206-325-4510. Ticket numbers are limited, so please buy yours soon! ⇨

News and Notes



Our first plant sale of the year—Early Bloomers—is on

Saturday, April 14, 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 Washington Park Arboretum, so you can come shop for your plants near the Graham Visitors Center and then enjoy a relaxing stroll through Seattle's premier public garden. You'll find a great selection of young trees and shrubs for sale in the Greenhouse, and wonderful early blooming perennials such as trilliums, erythroniums, lungworts, and primroses in the Nursery. The nursery will also feature a nice selection of epimediums and sword ferns this year.

Tours Now Happening Every Weekend!

Good news! Instead of taking place only on the first and third Sundays of each month—like they have for many years—the free Weekend Walk tours of the Arboretum will now take place every Sunday. The Arboretum's volunteer garden guides—trained by the Foundation-funded educators at UW Botanic Gardens—will lead one tour every Sunday, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., starting at the Graham Visitors Center. Each month, the tours will have a different theme. The theme for April 2012 is "Nature's Calendar," and will focus on seasonal triggers in plant life. For details, call 206-543-8801 or email uwbgeduc@u.washington.edu.

Spring Break Camp at the Arboretum

Wondering how to entertain and enlighten your kids this spring break? Sign them up for UW Botanic Gardens' new spring-break environmental education day camp, which runs from Monday, April 16 to Friday, April 20 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Designed for 1st to 6th graders, the camp will teach kids how to become nature detectives and will use games, craft activities, stories, and adventures to explore the phenomenon of spring as it unfolds in the Arboretum. The regular cost is \$225 per child; for kids and grandkids of Arboretum Foundation members, it's \$200 per child. Extended camp sessions (8 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.) are available for an extra fee. For more information or to sign up, call the UWBG education department at 206-221-6427 or email uwbgeduc@u.washington.edu.

Arboretum to Test Fungus-Resistant Conifer

The Port Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) is considered by many to be the finest native conifer in the Pacific Northwest. For many years, wild populations and cultivated plants have been under seige from *Phytophthora lateralis*, a soil-borne pathogen that is especially virulent in wet soils. Once a tree's roots are infected, the plant declines and dies relatively quickly. There is no cure; however, Dr. Everett Hansen at Oregon State University has developed a rootstock that's resistant to the fungus. And thanks to the development and research labs of Monrovia, a number of Port Orford cultivars grafted with the phytophthora-resistant rootstock—dubbed The GUARDIAN™ Series—are being

Display Garden Wins Three Top Awards

On February 7, the Arboretum/Seattle Audubon display garden, "Birdsong," won a judges' Gold Medal, the American Horticultural Society Environmental Award, and the Pacific Horticultural Society Award at the 2012 Northwest Flower & Garden Show. The display was a celebration of the diversity of bird species and habitats found in Washington Park Arboretum. To see pictures of the garden, read profiles of the featured birds, and hear bird songs and sounds, visit our website, www.arboretumfoundation.org. Thanks to everyone who chipped in to make the display garden possible, especially our designers (Bob Lilly, Phil Wood, and Roger Williams), our partners at Seattle Audubon, and all our hard-working volunteers!!

BIG BIRD: A Great Blue Heron replica in the marshland section of the display garden.

PHOTO BY MIKE PENNY/EVENT PHOTOS NW



News and Notes

introduced into the trade. Through a generous donation from Monrovia, the Arboretum will be trialing six cultivars in the GUARDIAN™ Series. The UWBG crew will plant the trees in known phytophthora “hot spots” throughout the Arboretum, and will monitor the growth and health of the plants over the next five years. Stay tuned for periodic reports!

Mother’s Day at the Arboretum

A trip to Washington Park Arboretum on Mother’s Day has become a spring-time tradition for many Seattleites. Families come here in droves to stroll along historic Azalea Way and see the spectacular azaleas, rhododendrons, and dogwoods in full bloom. Mother’s Day takes place on Sunday, May 8 this year. Due the logistics of hosting FlorAbundance at the Arboretum two weeks beforehand (see cover story), there will be no Foundation presence this year. However, the UWBG education department will be at the Visitors Center from 1 to 4 p.m. hosting an array of fun family activities, including craft tables and a scavenger hunt. Call 206-543-8801 for details. ↔

SECURING THE LINE: Staff arborist Chris Watson tying ropes to a red cedar as part of the effort to rescue the fallen oak in the background.

Arborists Rescue Signature Oaks

Heavy snow load from the storms in January caused a 60-foot canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) in Rhododendron Glen to uproot and fall over, injuring a second canyon live oak and a huckleberry oak (*Quercus vaccinifolia*) nearby. Upon careful inspection, the toppled tree hadn’t sustained serious damage. Using ropes, pulleys, and a tractor, UWBG arborists worked with other Arboretum staff and a group of volunteers to pull the tree upright and support it with cables to an adjacent western red cedar. Braces, steel rods, and cables were used to repair branch damage on the other two trees. It may take several years before the Arboretum staff knows whether the rescue efforts were a success.

Both the canyon live oaks and the huckleberry oak are valuable, high-priority specimens, rare in cultivation in Seattle. “The structure and foliage of these evergreen oaks provide a unique feel to this area of the Arboretum,” says UWBG arborist Chris Watson. Plant records indicate that the large live oak was grown from a seed collected by Carl English, Jr., who created the gardens at the Ballard Locks. Native to the Southwest, it features unusual golden-tinted leaf undersides and acorn cups.

The Arborist and Tree Care Program at Washington Park Arboretum is fully funded by the Foundation.



What’s Happening

Early Bloomers Plant Sale
Saturday, April 14, 10 AM—2 PM

FlorAbundance Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 28, 9 AM—5 PM
Sunday, April 29, 10 AM—2 PM
Member Pre-Sale
Friday, April 27, 5—7:30 PM

Arboretum Foundation Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 20, 5:30—8 PM

Seattle Japanese Garden
Bonsai Show, Sunday, May 20
Children’s Day, Monday, May 28
See page 7

— ONGOING EVENTS —

ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Pat Calvert Greenhouse
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 AM—NOON

Plant Donations Nursery
Wednesdays and 2nd Saturdays
10 AM—2 PM

Donations now being accepted
2012 sales begin April 4

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



Bob Hayman and Family: Mari, Bob, Danny, and Barbara in late 2010.

Commemorating a Loved One

Bob Hayman is the one who got his wife, Barbara Yasui—and their two children, Mari and Danny—hooked on running. Since the family moved to Seattle six years ago, the Arboretum has become one of their favorite places to run. Even though Bob died in December after a year-long illness, Barbara has continued their routine of running through the Arboretum at least once a week. When her grown children are in town from New York, they join her. These days, however, they have a special place to pause and think about their beloved husband and dad—a commemorative bench right on Azalea Way.

Soon after Bob's death, Barbara and her kids stopped by the Graham Visitor Center to ask the Foundation about commemorating a bench in Bob's memory. Andrea Myers and Randall Hitchin took them out for a spin in the golf cart to visit the available bench sites. They decided on a lovely site on Azalea Way not far from the Visitors Center.

Thanks to our wonderful colleagues at the City of Seattle, the bench was installed within just a couple of weeks and is a permanent tribute to Bob and his love for life, his family, and the Arboretum. Barbara says, "I just wanted you to know how wonderful it is to have Bob's bench in the Arboretum. I run past there at least once a week and always stop for a few minutes. I'm looking forward to seeing the magnolia and cherry trees in bloom; it won't be long. It's such a comfort to have some place close by where we can go to remember Bob."

If you are interested in finding out more about how to make a gift for a commemorative bench in the Arboretum, please call the Arboretum Foundation at 206-325-4510.

Host a Private Party in the Arboretum!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to invite a group of your close friends to join you for a private party in the Arboretum? You might choose to host a catered dinner, or a simple picnic lunch, or even a morning walk with coffee and pastries for refreshments. A guided tour of the plant collections would also be on the menu. Well, with the help of the Foundation and its partners, arranging such an event is simpler than you might think.

Last July, Lynn and Mike Garvey hosted a fun gathering in the Pacific Connections meadow. They hired the "Paella King" to prepare a delicious meal and invited their close friends to join them. David Zuckerman and Kyle Henegar of the UW Botanic Gardens horticulture staff led tours through Cascadia Forest and the Gateway to Chile. Everyone had a wonderful time.

The idea behind this kind of "cultivation party" is to introduce more people to the Arboretum and help inspire them to volunteer or become new members. If you are interested in hosting one this spring or summer, please contact Andrea Myers at 206-325-4510 or amyers@arboretumfoundation.org.

Foundation Mourns Lost Friends

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the passing of two longtime friends and supporters of the Arboretum: Betsy Fitzgerald and Karen Todd. Both died in February. A landscape architect by training, Betsy had a deep passion for horticulture and served on our Board of Directors from 1993 to 1999. She was also a member of our Arbor Circle. Karen was a nurse who also loved plants and the Arboretum, and was one of our hardest-working plant sale volunteers. ☺

New Arbor Circle Members

The Arboretum Foundation welcomes new members of Arbor Circle who joined during the period of November 1 to March 8.

Arbor Circle members provide leadership support to the Arboretum through annual gifts of \$1000 or more.

Alison Andrews
Steve & Judy Clifford
Vicki Diambri
Nancy Hanford

Anne and Rick Matsen
Doug & Joyce
McCallum
Richard & Meri Nelson

Jim Reid & Richard
Smith
Barbara Yasui

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

Opening Night Party

Approximately 650 guests joined us for the Opening Night Party at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show on February 7, pushing attendance up by 100 over last year's preview gala. Along with increased revenue from ticket sales, we also raised more funds from our silent auction and through event sponsorship compared to the 2011 event.



TOP: RED CARPET ARRIVALS: Patron and Benefactor guests pose in front of our red carpet banner.



EVENT PHOTOS NW/MIKE PENNY

LEFT: THREE'S COMPANY: Foundation Board Treasurer Craig Trueblood, Foundation Executive Director Paige Miller, and Patron Cary Badger in the main exhibit hall.

BOTTOM: INTELLIGENT DESIGN: Arboretum/Seattle Audubon display garden designers Phil Wood (center left) and Bob Lilly (right) in front of "Birdsong" (see page 2) with Foundation Board President Della Balick (center right) and Garden Show judge Steve Aitken (left).

As always, guests enjoyed fine wines, delicious food, live music, and the chance to tour the beautiful horticultural displays of the Garden Show the evening before it opened to the public. Garden creators were on-hand to discuss their displays. Patron- and Benefactor-level guests were treated to an exclusive interview with the Garden Show judges in the main exhibit hall, conducted by celebrity garden writer Val Easton.

This year's "Fund-a-Need" auction drive raised \$9,000 to support the children's education program at Washington Park Arboretum.

Thanks to all of you who came out and showed your support for our wonderful Arboretum! We'd particularly like to thank our event partner Seattle Audubon; our



Special thanks to this year's Opening Night sponsors

Saltchuk Resources, Inc.
PACCAR
 Manson Construction
 Holland America Line
 K&L Gates
 The Berger Partnership
 Chateau Ste Michelle
 Northwest Flower & Garden Show
 Seattle Audubon Society

event sponsors (see left); the numerous individuals, businesses, and organizations that generously donated to our silent auction; and our many dedicated and hard-working volunteers. ⇨

VOLUNTEER VINE

Thanks to Our Garden Show Volunteers! This year's Northwest Flower and Garden Show was in early February, and our amazing volunteers were out in force to help make the Opening Night Party (see page 5) and the Arboretum's Display Garden (see page 2) come off without a hitch. More than 90 people volunteered over 500 hours in just over a week. These volunteers worked on everything from party ticket processing to painting the bird-blind in the display to auction monitoring, and everything in between! We not only put on a great party, but also earned multiple awards for our display garden, "Birdsong." Thanks to all the Foundation volunteers, and to



MULTIGENERATIONAL WORKFORCE: Kathie Jo Kern, UWBG staffer Sarah Heller, and Max Myers helping out at the Opening Night Party on February 7. (Photo by Mike Penny/Event Photos NW)

the volunteers from our Garden Show partner Seattle Audubon, 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 28 and 29) at Washington Park Arboretum, 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. ☺

What's In My Garden 🌿

Liisa Wihman, Pacific Connections Garden Steward and *Bulletin* Editorial Board Member



What is in your garden this season? Wood anemones. I'm very nostalgic about these spring ephemerals, as the wild species form luxurious carpets in the forests of Finland where I grew up. Here in Seattle, I grow the yellow *Anemone ranunculoides*, *A. nemrosa* 'Monstrosa', with its frilly green sepals, and *A. n.* 'Robinsoniana,' with lovely pinkish-purple flowers.

What is your favorite season to garden? Spring—I love the adrenaline rush after the long winter. But then, autumn can be rather lovely when you are just gladly hanging on to whatever is still there.

Can you recommend a good gardening or nature book? Russell Page's *The Education of a Gardener* has been one of my favorites for a very long time. I think I had it on my nighttime table for over 10 years. Page's language still makes me happy, and the design principles are timeless. Otherwise, Karin Berglund's books in Sweden have a philosophical depth and beauty that is difficult to surpass. Someone really should translate them for the English-speaking market. And of course, Thomas Church's *Gardens Are For People* is a timeless classic, and George Schenk's *Moss Gardening* is close to my heart, fond as I am of the mosses.

When did you start volunteering at the Arboretum? Just last year—after having volunteered at the Bellevue Botanical Garden for a while. Having lived in Australia for four years, I was really interested in Pacific Connections.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering at the Arboretum? The amazing depth of knowledge that permeates the place. You cannot help learning new things just by being around the people here. It functions like osmosis, I think...everybody shares their knowledge so generously. It is wonderful to be at the Arboretum pulling weeds and discussing the relationship between *Mahonia*, *Berberis*, and *Epimedium*—pure bliss! ☺

UWBG Events & Classes

Botanical Art Exhibit

April 2 through May 7

Elisabeth C. Miller Library, CUH

Members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) will be exhibiting—and selling—illustrations and paintings at the Miller Library during the entire month of April. A portion of sales will benefit the library. For more information, visit www.millerlibrary.org or call 206-543-0415.



“Golden Crowned Kinglets and Vine Maple”: An illustration by Kathleen McKeenan, on view at the Miller Library in April as part of the ASBA exhibit.

Earth Day at the Arboretum

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day at the Arboretum. Join the Student Conservation Association (SCA), UW Botanic Gardens, and Seattle Parks and Recreation on Saturday, April 14, for a day of fun eco-projects, including invasive weed removal, mulching, and native plant salvage. Tools, gloves, and project materials will be provided. Bring a water bottle, sack lunch, snacks, travel mug for a hot drink, sunscreen, rain gear, long pants, layers of clothing, and boots. For more information or to register, please go to www.thesca.org/seattle, email wanw@thesca.org, or call 206-324-4649.

Azalea Way History Tour

Wednesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Join former Arboretum director John Wott and manager of UWBG horticulture and plant collections David Zuckerman on a walking tour of Azalea Way. Learn about the history of this much-loved part of the Arboretum, how its design has changed over time, the plants, and more. Meet at the Graham Visitors Center. Fee: \$15, early-bird rate; \$20 after May 18. For more information or to register, contact Jean Robins at 206-685-8033 or jrobins@uw.edu. ↗

Spring Events at the Seattle Japanese Garden

- **Puget Sound Bonsai Show**—Sunday, May 20, 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 28, Time TBA. 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 go to the web site: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm.

Arboretum Foundation

2300 Arboretum Drive East
Seattle, WA 98112-2300
Tel: 206-325-4510 Fax: 206-325-8893
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

FOUNDATION STAFF

Paige Miller: Executive Director
Niall Dunne: Communications Manager
Randall Hitchin: Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager
Andrea Myers: Director of Development
Kristin Price: Events Manager
Cheri Shanahan: Major Gifts and Development Coordinator
Cynthia Welte: Volunteer and Annual Giving 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

PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER 



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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 126

Spring 2012



*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

PHOTO BY JOY SPURR



Arboretum Scene

Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana

With its blossoms appearing after the splendor of winter blooms and before the floral roar of high spring, *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana* is a jewel often overlooked. This native of the western Himalaya is the sole species in its genus and a rare specimen in cultivation. Deciduous and slow-growing, it ultimately forms a shrub or small, multi-stemmed tree to about 15 feet high and wide. Its short, rounded, broadly toothed leaves are glossy and light green, turning yellow in fall. The winter aspect of *Parrotiopsis* is much like that of our native hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), but when bloom time comes,

the confusion ends. The “flowers”, actually a tight cluster of yellow flowers called an inflorescence by botanists, appear on bare wood in late March and early April atop creamy white bracts, looking like a cross between the blossoms of a dogwood and a *Fothergilla*. Indeed, *Fothergilla*, *Parrotia*, *Parrotiopsis*, and *Sycopsis* are all close relatives, and when seen together in the Arboretum, the construction of the inflorescence in each species represents a variation on a clear, single theme. *Parrotiopsis* does best in sun to partial shade with well-drained soils that are deep, moist, fertile and slightly acidic.

Randall Hitchin, Outreach & Volunteer Manager, Arboretum Foundation

In the Arboretum, it can be seen in grids 7-4E, 7-5E, and 8-5E, or ask for directions at the Graham Visitor Center.