It was another busy year for collections development and planting in the Arboretum—with a few long-planned projects completed and others started, and with many smaller additions made throughout the gardens. Despite some setbacks due to the prolonged deep freeze and heavy snows in February, it was a positive year overall, with some notable improvements.

**INVIGORATING THE VIBURNUMS**

The Viburnum Collection is located to the west of the Puget Sound Rhododendron Hybrid Garden, in between Azalea Way and the Arboretum Loop Trail—and its gravel paths form the only east–west connectors between the two major trails in that part of the Arboretum. Long one of our most comprehensive collections of a particular genus, the viburnums have recently received some much-needed refreshment. Since the completion of the Loop Trail in late 2017, the collection has been pruned, thinned of excess and overgrown specimens, and—in the past year—expanded. Three phases of planting occurred in the winter and spring, with new species added and other species re-introduced after having been impacted by the trail construction.

The Viburnum Collection is a core part of one of the Arboretum’s original taxonomic plantings from the 1930s and 1940s. In those days, the genus *Viburnum* belonged in the Caprifoliaceae, or honeysuckle family, along with *Lonicera* (honeysuckle), *Weigela*, *Deutzia*, *Sambucus* (elderberry), *Kolkwitzia* (beautybush), *Abelia* and others. Many plants from these genera can be found growing near the viburnums, especially on the north side of what has historically been called “Honeysuckle Hill.” In recent taxonomic revisions, however, both viburnums and elderberries have been moved to the Adoxaceae...
(moschatel family), a much smaller family that also has opposite leaf arrangement. (This type of family name shifting is one reason why laying out entire public gardens according to taxonomic theme has become outmoded.)

While viburnums have fallen somewhat out of horticultural favor in recent decades, they are a large group comprised of many very useful and attractive species. My goals with this collection have been to increase species diversity, grow more plants propagated from wild-collected seed, and showcase additional evergreen examples that are less familiar to the public.

While the construction of the Loop Trail did affect some of the original plantings (which we propagated for reintroduction), overall it has helped us make improvements. Along with being somewhat out of the way, the old viburnum area had become very shaded over time. The Loop Trail not only made the collection more accessible to visitors, it also increased light exposure to existing plants. Viburnums prefer sunnier conditions, and the trail has resulted in increased flowering and better fall color.

In three of the new beds, we added large examples of the wild-collected evergreen species *Viburnum henryi*. Two of these were transplanted from a shaded area along Azalea Way, while the other was generously donated by local horticulturist Riz Reyes from his former home garden. All three of the plants are progeny of seed that Riz collected in Sichuan, China back in 2004, while an undergraduate student in the old UW Urban Horticulture program. Riz also donated a large example of *Viburnum propinquum*, grown from seed collected during that same trip. The plants are settling nicely in their new home, and the new growth should be especially attractive next spring.

*Viburnum henryi* has long been one of my favorite members of the genus. In 2006, I planted a two-gallon specimen—also from Riz—at the UW president’s residence and, over the years, have always been impressed with its attractive performance. The shrub’s willow-like leaves emerge in bronze and burgundy before turning a glossy dark green, and its white, late-spring flowers have a light honey scent. The species grows best in full sun in our climate and reaches six-to-eight feet tall in maturity in bright conditions. In 2005, I planted another specimen in my parents’ garden in a shadier situation, and it has performed steadily with little special care. But sun is where it does best, and I chose bright

The yellow-fruited linden viburnum (*Viburnum dilitatum* ‘Xantocarpum’) planted in new beds along the Loop Trail.

The evergreen *Viburnum awabuki* ‘Chindo’ in flower.

The evergreen *Viburnum x carlcephalum* in bloom by the Loop Trail.

The trail also opened up some new opportunities for expanded planting beds. Using funds from a generous donor to the Arboretum Foundation, we added new berms and beds north of the existing collection along the trail. This allowed for the planting of new species, as well as many of the re-propagated plants. Another added benefit of the trail has been increased visibility into the Viburnum Collection from Lake Washington Boulevard.
positions along the Loop Trail to highlight the plant’s charms.

Elsewhere, we planted several other evergreen types, including Viburnum awabuki ‘Chindo’—a selection originally collected on Chindo Island, South Korea. Along the trail in the original collection area, we planted Viburnum aff. atrocyaneum (recently confirmed as V. propinquum) from a Far Reaches Farm collection expedition to Hubei, China. Closer to the Boulevard, one of Dan Hinkley’s collections of Viburnum cylindricum—a large-growing species native to Southeast Asia—was added, along with several deciduous species.

Examples of the deciduous species Viburnum cotinifolium, V. betulifolium (birchleaf viburnum), V. dilatatum (linden viburnum), V. lantana (wayfaring tree viburnum), V. parvifolium, V. prunifolium (blackhaw), V. setigerum (tea viburnum), and several others were interspersed along the trail as part of a planting of more than 50 individual specimens.

Providing some contrast to the viburnums in this area, we planted a wild-collected Acer saccharum var. leucoderme (chalk maple), a southern variant of the sugar maple that’s shorter than its northern cousin but features the same outstanding fall color. We also planted a specimen of Magnolia aff. insignis, grown from seed collected by Dan Hinkley in the mountains of northern Vietnam.

**HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY**

Just a bit to the north of the Viburnum Collection, along the trail on the east side of Yew Hill, we refreshed another newly opened-up area with plants from the honeysuckle family. Most of these were propagated from existing plants prior to trail construction, but we also included some new acquisitions. We replanted several shrub honeysuckles, including Lonicera purpurascens, a Himalayan species that features burgundy–tinted flowers and seems to be absent from other arboreta in the U.S. We also replanted L. insularis, L. ferdinandii, L. discolor and others. Unlike in parts of the eastern U.S., most shrub honeysuckles have not shown invasive tendencies in the Pacific Northwest.

We planted groupings of Weigela maximowiczii and W. japonica var. sinica, which are profusely flowering upright shrubs with creamy–yellow and pink flowers, respectively. We also added the white–flowering Deutzia × magnifica ‘Erecta’, which boasts handsome peeling bark and double flowers along arching stems. Rounding out the show are two different varieties of Philadelphus coronarius (sweet mock orange), a P. coronarius hybrid, and a golden–leaved selection, ‘Aureus’. We also added three evergreen companions for texture and structure: the conifers Chamaecyparis taiwanensis and Cephaloptaxus fortunei, and the broadleaf evergreen Phillyrea angustifolia var. rosmarinifolia, an osmanthus relative.

Planting in this area was supported by several volunteer work parties from the Seattle office of the company DocuSign, as well as continued major donor support for our Lake Washington Boulevard and Loop Trail improvements.

**ARBORETUM CREEK PROJECT**

Thanks to the same donor, another large project occurred along the Lake Washington Boulevard corridor: the planting of an area of mostly native species adjacent to Arboretum Creek—on the west side of the road, opposite the Viburnum Collection. Over many months in 2018 and 2019, invasive plants were removed from this area, existing shrubs and trees were pruned, and mulch was laid down.

This project enabled us to complete the first round of native plantings between the Boulevard and Creek in January. Here we installed many tough but attractive species, including Philadelphus lewisii (western mock orange), Acer circinatum (vine maple), Holodiscus discolor
(oceanspray), Physocarpus capitatus (Pacific ninebark), and Malus fusca (Pacific crabapple), along with a few conifers such as Tsuga heterophylla (western hemlock) and Thuja plicata (western red cedar). Adjacent to the Boulevard, we planted two larger examples of ‘Starlight’, a hybrid of Cornus nuttallii (Pacific dogwood) and C. kousa (Kousa dogwood) that combines the shape and large flowers of our native dogwood with the disease resistance of the East Asian species. We plan to add more ornamental shrubs and trees to the vicinity this winter, now that additional areas have been cleared of invasive plants.

BOULEVARD & FOSTER ISLAND ENTRY
Also as part of the larger Lake Washington Boulevard Corridor project, we planted a new bed along the Loop Trail next to where the Boulevard intersects with Foster Island Road. The semi-circular bed stretches back from the rock work on the east side of the trail and will add a long season of late-winter to early-summer interest at this Arboretum entry point. We planted two specimens of the late-winter bloomer Corylopsis pauciflora (buttercup winterhazel) along the rockery, plus three early spring-blooming Camellia japonica ‘Showa-no-Hikari’. This camellia bears single, yellow-centered, whitish-pink flowers streaked with dark-pink patterns.

Next to bloom in the bed are three Rhododendron ‘Wilbrit’, an older, moderate-sized cultivar featuring dark-green, rounded leaves and pink flowers. Rosa wardii var. culta, a single-flowered, creamy-white shrub rose (also growing in the larger bed just to the southeast) will continue the bloom season. Finally, two Philadelphus purpurascens, a mock orange species from China with white blossoms and purple sepals, will close out the flowering in late June.

Quercus rugosa, a small, hardy evergreen oak from the southern U.S. and Mexico, provides a backdrop to the new bed, while expanding the species diversity of the adjacent Oak Collection. The plantings are relatively small now, but over the next few years will fill out and become more prominent at this busy intersection.

MEDITERRANEAN MAGIC
Early spring also saw additions to the Mediterranean Garden—a small collection of plants native to Mediterranean regions around the world, originally developed in the late 1940s. Located along Arboretum Drive, just south of the Fiddleheads Forest School, this area has relatively well-draining soils and was, historically, one of the brighter and drier sections of the Arboretum. Over the years, however, the garden has become shaded by the continued growth of nearby conifers. Beginning in 2015, some trees at the south and west sides were thinned to let in more light, and the sun-loving Mediterranean species have benefited.

We’ve also added several new plants, donated by the Arboretum Foundation from its Mediterranean-themed display garden at the 2019 Northwest Flower and Garden Festival. We incorporated two olive cultivars, Olea europaea ‘Manzanillo’ and ‘Mission’, near the O. europaea ‘Frantoio’ that was installed in 2016. While the plants are settling in well so far, it might be several years before we can offer “Arboretum Olive Oil” in the Gift Shop to complement the Arboretum Honey! Cupressus sempervirens ‘Glaucia’, a cultivar of the Italian cypress, was also added.

PACIFIC CONNECTIONS ENTRY GARDENS
We continued to add plants to the Pacific Connections Garden, including new species in all five of the entry gardens surrounding the central meadow. To provide more evergreen interest and contrast in the Cascadia Entry Garden, we planted two cultivars of our native hemlock species, Tsuga mertensiana (mountain hemlock) and T. heterophylla (western hemlock). ‘Iron Springs’ is a dwarf version of
the western hemlock with a more open form than the straight species. (An example of the original 1968 introduction of ‘Iron Springs’ can be found in the rockery south of the education greenhouse by the Graham Visitors Center; another grows in the hemlock grove in the Magnolia Collection.) ‘Sherwood Compact’ is a slow-growing, blue-foliaged dark and twiggy Pittosporum crassifolium—a new species for us—were added as well. (I continue to be impressed with the diversity of the Pittosporum genus, and especially with species from New Zealand.)

AN EXPANDED AUSTRALIA DISPLAY
The biggest addition to Pacific Connections Garden—since the 2013 planting of the New Zealand Forest—was a major expansion of the Australia Entry Garden, which took place in late May. This was the result of a generous donation from Daniel Springer in honor of his mother, longtime Arboretum volunteer Jenefer Hutchins.

The vehicle turnaround just north of the main Australia Entry Garden bed was largely devoid of plantings since the creation of the New Zealand Forest and, in recent years, the area’s two major native trees—a bigleaf maple and Pacific madrone—had either severely declined (in the case of the former) or died (the latter), partly due to construction impacts. The other significant plantings in the area—two majestic Parrotia persica (ironwood) within the turnaround—had remained in excellent condition and were retained. The rest of this area, along with the northern half of the bed on the south side of the turnaround, were planted with species and cultivars native to Australia. From the earliest planning of Pacific Connections, this area had been imagined as an expansion of the Entry Garden, showcasing Australia’s many garden-worthy plants.

In the Chile Entry Garden, we added three specimens of Crinodendron hookerianum (Chilean lantern tree) and one of the cultivar C. hookerianum ‘Ada Hoffman’. Both are small evergreen trees that bear stunning lantern-shaped flowers in spring and summer—red on the straight species and light pink on the cultivar.

In the China Entry Garden, another winter-blooming Edgeworthia chrysantha ‘Nanjing Gold’ was planted closer to the path; a narrow-growing selection of the dove tree, Davidia involucrata ‘Iseli Fastigiate’ was added north of the interpretive shelter; and Viburnum cylindricum was planted in a tough spot on the southwest side of the shelter to close off an unwanted social trail.

The New Zealand Entry Garden also saw some additional plantings of Olearia × haastii and Podocarpus nivalis. Three specimens of the...
Three different smaller *Eucalyptus* trees—*E. parvula*, *E. rubida* and *E. perriniana*—were installed to anchor the adjacent plantings of many forms and selections of *Grevillea*, *Callistemon* (bottlebrushes), *Leptospermum*, *Podocarpus* and *Tasmannia*, as well as examples of *Prostanthera cuneata* (alpine mint bush), *Hakea microcarpa* and *Lomatia myricoides*. Over one hundred plants were installed, and they are settling in.

The floral display will start in early fall—with many of the *Grevillea* selections blooming through the winter—and then continue in spring and summer with the red, yellow and lime–green flowers of the bottlebrushes. Alpine mint bush—on the Great Plant Picks list (www.greatplantpicks.org) for the Pacific Northwest—will chime in from late spring to early summer with small, orchid–like white flowers. So will the alpine tea trees *Leptospermum rupestre* and *L. namadgiensis*, with their profusions of white flowers. It should be quite a show in the coming years as the plants fill in.

Further plantings in the fall of 2019 near the east and northern edges of the turnaround included *Grevillea victoriae*, *Eucalyptus perriniana* and *E. parvula*. Later in 2020, once they grow a little larger in our nursery, we will begin to add more specimens of snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* var. *niphophila*).
attractive growth. An *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle) was added to a drier position in the rockery near the benches at the northeast corner of the Gateway, along with the large, late summer–flowering perennial *Lobelia tupa*.

Farther to the northwest, along the Loop Trail, several more Chilean species were added to help fill in areas exposed during trail construction. These included two *Drimys winteri* var. *chilensis*, along with *Azara alpina*, a lower-growing member of this genus of attractive broadleaf evergreens—and another new species for us.

A little farther north along the trail, in the future China Forest, we added more plants native to Emei Shan, in Sichuan Province. This included two maple species, *Acer campbellii* ssp. *flabellatum* and *A. davidii*, as well as an attractive birch, *Betula* aff. *utilis*, with reddish-brown peeling bark. All three are from various collecting trips by Dan Hinkley. New understorey plants include *Helwingea chinensis*, *Mahonia* (*Berberis*) *gracilipes*, and *Stachyurus* aff. *retusus*.

We added many new plants to the larger New Zealand Forest—the fruits of previous seed-collecting efforts in that country—and we’ve been acquiring additional examples of existing plants that have performed well in that garden. We are also excited to have several species of plants from graduate student Kyra Matin’s spring 2019 collecting work in New Zealand now germinating (see page 25). We hope to begin planting these out in the next year or two.

**A SAMPLING OF NEW TREES**

Spring planting in the Arboretum concluded with the addition of many trees throughout the grounds, including two specimens of *Nyssa sinensis*—an Asian relative of the southeast U.S. native, *N. sylvatica* (black tupelo)—in the wetlands along the Loop Trail. Like its American cousin, *N. sinensis* also produces outstanding fall color and can tolerate wetter soils.

Several trees re-propagated during the Loop Trail project, including the crabapples *Malus × spectabilis* ‘Riversii’ and *Malus baccata* ‘Pyramidalis’, were planted between Lake Washington Boulevard and the Loop Trail, just north of the expanded parking lot 19 (the “Birch Lot”). A hornbeam from Taiwan, *Carpinus kawakamii*, was added to the hornbeam area west of Duck Bay, and another Taiwanese species, *Sorbus randaiensis*, was planted in the Brian Mulligan Sorbus Collection. Both these specimens were grown from seed collected in the wild by Dan Hinkley.

*Cyclocarya paliurus* (wheel wingnut) was added to the nut collection just north of Yew Hill. And *Alniphyllum fortunei*, a spring-flowering relative of *Styrax*—another donation by Far Reaches Farm, based in Port Townsend—was planted in upper Rhododendron Glen among a grove of hydrangeas and rhododendrons, overlooking the seasonal stream.

**DANIEL J. HINKLEY ASIAN MAPLE COLLECTION**

With fall rains arriving early in September, planting was able to resume in earnest. The first installations occurred in the Asian Maple Collection, in anticipation of its dedication in October to renowned plantsman and major Arboretum supporter Dan Hinkley (see page 16). It is fitting that Dan joins two other profound contributors to the Arboretum—Brian Mulligan (*Sorbus*) and Joseph Witt (Winter Garden)—in having collections named after him.

We planted five new trees in the main collection area. Three of them were grown from seed collections made in recent years by Dan: *Acer henryi*, from Hubei province, China; and *A. aff. caudatifolium* and *A. serrulatum*, from the mountains of Taiwan. Also new to the area are selections of *Acer pentaphyllum* and *A. davidii* ssp. *grossoeri*.

As companion plants for the maples, we added wild-collected examples of *Hydrangea aspera* and *H. longipes* from Dan’s expeditions.
Both have attractive lacecap flowers and large, fuzzy leaves.

HEIGHTENED HYDRANGEA

We planted hydrangeas in other parts of the Arboretum this fall, too. In the main hydrangea section, within the Camellia Collection, we continued to add several *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *H. serrata*, and *H. aspera* varieties. One that I’m particularly impressed with is *Hydrangea macrophylla ’Jogosaki’*, a double-flower lacecap type that features lilac florets that bloom over a long period. This is planted adjacent to the *Franklinia alatamaha* along Arboretum Drive and should reach six feet tall in time.

In the so-called “China Wedge,” where the main, descending trail of the New Zealand Forest does a final switchback north towards the Lookout Gazebo, we planted more specimens of *Hydrangea aspera* and *H. longipes* to complement existing plantings native to Emei Shan.

These join other new plantings native to that mountain, including *Viburnum betulifolium* and *Mahonia (Berberis) × savilliana*. The latter is a naturally occurring hybrid between *Mahonia (Berberis) gracilipes* and *M. eurybracteata*. Readers of my 2018 “year in review” column might remember me mentioning we had seedlings of this hybrid in our nursery, and I’m excited to add the plant’s attractive, blue-green foliage and late-summer flowers here—and to various plantings in the Arboretum.

REJUVENATING RHODODENDRON GLEN

One area where several other *Mahonia × savilliana* were planted in the fall is Rhododendron Glen. The Glen has seen a lot of changes this past year, and many more are on the way—thanks to a generous gift from Mary Ellen and Gordon Mulder (see “Restoring Rhododendron Glen,” by Jane Stonecipher, “Arboretum Bulletin,” Spring 2019). While planning for larger improvements to the Glen’s upper pond and creek is well under way, immediate progress to planting areas has been ongoing since last February.

In the upper Glen, increasingly dense canopy had reduced flowering in many prized understory plants and led to the loss of others. In June, after careful planning—including consultation with rhododendron experts—we thinned some trees and removed some others. A few trees were left as snags to support wildlife habitat and the growth of flowering vines. The increase in light has been dramatic, and many of the mature plantings are now more visible.

During the spring and summer, invasive plants such as bindweed were removed, and other rampant growers such as *Vinca minor* were reduced. Rockeries were uncovered, and other declining plants were removed or pruned.

In the fall, we got down to some serious planting business in the upper part of the Glen. Here we have added several large-leafed *Rhododendron* species such as *R. rex* and *R. sinofalconeri*. Species newer to cultivation, including the blue-green-leaf species *R. yuefengense* and *R. platypodum*, were planted in groups—along with companion plants such as *Mahonia eurybracteata*, a late-spring bloomer with blue-green foliage,
\textit{M. \times savilliana}, and several fern species. Other rhododendron plantings included \textit{R. williamsianum}, with its compact habit, rounded foliage, and rose-pink flowers; and \textit{R. orbiculare}, a larger-growing species with near-circular leaves and pink flowers.

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, very generously donated many of these plants, and we look forward to adding to the diversity and breadth of the collection in the next year. Dan Hinkley also donated new rhododendron species from his collecting trips, along with many companion plants. In addition, Far Reaches Farm contributed many other woodland perennials, shrubs and small trees to the project. We are fortunate to have such a generous and knowledgeable horticultural community in the region. Other than private donations, the UW Botanic Gardens has no dedicated funding for plant acquisition, and we are grateful to our donors—including these and other gardens and nurseries—for support.

The Rhododendron Glen project is one of the most exciting collections projects in recent years, and I’m very much looking forward to continued development and enhancement of the area. Be sure to visit often to check on the progress of this and other gardens. We appreciate your continued support and hope you visit and enjoy the Arboretum throughout the year.

\textbf{Ray Larson} is curator of Living Collections at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and curator of the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium, the Arboretum’s herbarium housed in the Center for Urban Horticulture.

\textbf{SEED COLLECTION IN THE SISKIYOUS}

In early October, the UW Botanic Gardens undertook a joint seed-collecting trip in the Siskiyou Mountains with representatives from the Heronswood Garden in Kingston, Washington and the Kruckeberg Botanical Garden in Shoreline, Washington. Pacific Connections Garden horticulturist Joanna Long joined me, Heronswood curator Nathan Lamb and taxonomist Ross Bayton, and Kruckeberg executive director Joe Abken on the five-day sojourn.

We gained valuable insights into the flora and landscapes of the area and collected seed from more than 90 different taxa. With help from these partners, we will be growing the plants on in the coming years for inclusion in the Cascadia Forest. We are excited to add more diversity of species to the display, and to establish a closer approximation of the landscape character of the Siskiyous. It was a very successful and informative trip.