



Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens

November 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Libbie Soden, Evergreen Arboretum President

After a spectacular late summer and fall, the cool rainy weather has arrived. Our garden beds are all tucked in with blankets of mulch, ready for the winter. Now is a perfect time to visit the arboretum and check out our spectacular Conifer Garden. Conifers provide the mostly evergreen backbone of many northwest gardens, and the Arboretum has more than 60 varieties on display. Come take a look at the array of colors, shapes and forms and visualize how they can be used in your home garden. Conifers provide great year round interest but are stars of the show in winter.

Winter is when northwest gardeners do their most important work, PLANNING for the coming season. The Arboretum Foundation has a full plate of celebrations and events scheduled for 2013 to celebrate our 50th anniversary and kick off our plans for future arboretum development. Volunteers have been working hard since summer to get ready for the 2013 Annual Meeting, Gardens of Merit tour, Plant Sale, classes, work parties, and our other events.



Our plans for the future are fun, exciting, and ambitious, and we need lots of additional help to make it the success we know it can be. There are volunteer opportunities for every project and any level of commitment. We have a critical leadership opportunity for a Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator is not the person who does all the work, but rather the person who matches individual volunteers to projects and reaches out to contact community groups and individuals to find volunteers for our scheduled events. This is a key role and essential to the success of our ongoing projects. If you are interested in this leadership position, or in volunteering at any level, go to our website and sign up. It's just that easy! Come on out and enjoy meeting and working with the folks who are making it all happen for the Arboretum.

12,000 RAINGARDENS



Stewardship Partners and Washington State University have started a groundbreaking campaign to install 12,000 rain gardens in the Puget Sound region within the next 5 years. One of the earlier installations is right here in our own Arboretum, behind the Educational Pavilion. Stewardship Partners has been working since 1999 to engage homeowners from all over the state to do their part to clean up our waterways. Master Gardeners in each of the Puget Sound counties are providing outreach and education in

support of these rain gardens and the WSU Extension Office in King County is currently developing a rain garden mentor program.

A rain garden is a depressed garden designed to capture storm-water runoff and filter the pollutants carried in this runoff. Rain gardens capture the runoff instead of allowing the pollutants to be carried directly to storm drains where it is usually untreated, and it is lost as a source of ground water. During summer and fall many streams lack sufficient water to support fish because rains have washed off the landscape instead of recharging the groundwater. 12000 Rain Gardens would filter 160 million gallons of stormwater runoff each year and recharge the groundwater. This will also reduce regional flooding.

Rain gardens also provide food and habitat for wildlife and are designed to be low maintenance. These gardens enhance your landscape and curb appeal. Join us and be a part of this exciting campaign. For more information, please see the 12,000 Rain Gardens website: <http://www.12000raingardens.org>.

Philomena Kedzioriski

Note: You can see an example of a Rain Garden at the Evergreen Arboretum on the south slope of the Educational Pavilion. -ed.

ATTEND A GARDENING CLASS AND APPEASE YOUR INNER GARDENER!

Our free monthly educational series continues on these dates featuring some very interesting garden topics!

ALL CLASSES NOON - 1PM

November 10 HOLIDAY CENTERPIECES FROM YOUR BACK YARD

December 8 WINTER BLOOMING PLANTS

January 19 ROSE PRUNING

These are indoor classes located in the Hort Building so seating is limited*. Call to reserve a seat. There are no confirming phone calls unless you are put on a Wait List.

*RESERVE A SEAT BY CALLING 425-257-8597



GIFT MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Purchase a gift membership now for a gardening friend on-line and they will not receive a renewal notice until February 2014. A gift card acknowledgment will be sent to the recipient in your name.

If you are not currently a member, your new membership will also be extended until our regular renewal date of March 1st 2014. Memberships start as low as \$20.00 and make you a part of the exciting events planned in celebration of our 50th anniversary. For more information go to evergreenarboretum.com and click on 'join'.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

If you have a Facebook account, be sure to follow the comings and goings at the Evergreen Arboretum. Must-see plants and trees will be featured as they peak and catch the eye of our roving Web Site and Facebook Diva, Renee Greenleaf. Even in the winter there is beauty galore in our Arboretum, not to mention it is far more interesting than looking at photos of your friend's dinners and latest pet trick. It is nature at its finest, just waiting for you to enjoy.

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