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## August 2016 Newsletter

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Trevor Cameron, Evergreen Arboretum President**

#### **State of the Arboretum**

Happy summer to all the members and friends of Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens! After the long closure due to the Arsenic Mitigation at Legion Park, the gardens were opened in June with some restricted areas still under construction. Our volunteer work parties have been well attended this year and with much help from the Parks Department, the gardens are coming back into shape nicely. There is still much to be done and we can always use help. Please don't hesitate to join us for any of the work parties in August and through the fall. Also make sure to mark your calendars..... our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held at the work party on Saturday September 24th. This is must attend celebration to say "Thank You" to all of you who continue to help the Arboretum!

The board has spent a lot of time this year planning and implementing two main goals - the reopening/rejuvenation of existing gardens and the planning, design, and installation of the new South Area Plan (SAP). We have begun pruning numerous

garden areas, making way for new plantings to be added as needed. As always, we hope to both improve the quality of the plants to view at the Arboretum and lessen maintenance requirements for the future. Look for new plant collections later this year and in spring 2017. As they establish, these will add additional beauty to freshen up some areas. We are trying to add some of the latest and greatest plant cultivars for your viewing pleasure.

Our major project this season will be groundbreaking on the SAP project. This plan has been in the works for a number of years and it is finally coming to fruition! The plot has been surveyed and plans for beds and pathways are ongoing. This will be an exciting new area and include the impressive new James Madison art piece, an extension of our native plant collection, and some outstanding new garden beds showing off new specimens. There is still much to do but we are finally nearing construction! So many people have helped on this project and many more have participated in fund raising efforts securing much needed donations. Thanks to all who have helped and will continue to do so - we can't wait to show off the new garden when it has been completed.

We hope you have a chance to stop for a stroll in the Arboretum soon and see all the projects going on and the progress we've made. Enjoy the rest of the summer and get out there and work in the garden!



Wow.... Now THAT was a Plant Sale!



Back for another stellar year was the 2016 edition of the Arboretum Plant Sale - and what a sale it was! Every June, this tradition brings in scores of shoppers to purchase plants - with 100% of the money going directly to the Arboretum. This all happens due to one major factor - the number of hours put in by all the volunteers. The crew this year was simply incredible. Work behind the scenes goes back for months as plants are divided, repotted, labeled, and pruned. And then the watering - keeping all those treasures watered

until the sale is one monumental task indeed. Add to that all the generous donations by local retail nurseries, growers, homeowners and others. Now there is a recipe for success! The day of the sale, volunteers did a wonderful job assisting folks with their purchases, loading vehicles and keeping the crowds entertained. **All this hard work resulted in record setting sales again this year.** A truly enjoyable day that we will do all over again in June 2017!

Besides all those who donated plants, we especially thank all the folks who have been working behind the scenes for months to make this happen. In particular special "Thank You's" to Emil Van Den Akker, Vicky Reyes, and Dotti Fickel for leading the group this year on a fantastically successful voyage. Great job everyone!

In conjunction with the plant sale is the annual Arboretum Raffle Drawing. Volunteers first solicit cool items for the raffle and then go about selling tickets for months. There were some awesome prizes again this year including the legendary statue Leo the Lion, a fabulous cedar arbor and a Victorian bench. We were able to raise needed funds for the gardens and as always 100% of these funds go directly to the Arboretum. **Another new record was set this year thanks to all who helped.** We will point out one individual, Dotti Fickel, who seems to outdo herself every year with ticket sales. Who can say "No" to Dotti? Now we just have to talk her into helping again next year..... [See our website](#) for the complete list of prizes and all the lucky winners. We are already gathering goodies for next year's raffle so don't miss out in 2017!

Ready to take a summer stroll? We sure are!



In case you missed the news, the gardens re-opened on Sorticulture weekend in June. The Master Gardener Border and the west perimeter areas are still closed off. Last fall's windstorm created significant damage, and the Parks Department is busy preparing these last two areas for a complete overhaul.

The new and exciting Master Gardener Border will be completed soon and is sure to be both

functional and stunning. In cooperation with all the neighbors west of the Arboretum, the Parks Department will install a new fence and a number of plantings along the fence line buffering neighboring properties. These new plantings will allow for smaller stature specimens and easier maintenance down the road. It was getting awfully dark down along that perimeter but now let there be light! Looks like there will be plenty of new planting areas in the Japanese Maple Grove and the Woodland and Lower Gardens for sure.

If you have not been down to the Arboretum for a while, stop in and take a stroll this summer. Parks and Arboretum volunteers have been working hard to catch up following the mitigation closure and the gardens are looking marvelous!





## Oak Leaf Fundraiser Update

First of all, thank you again to all who supported the SAP expansion project through the purchase of the stainless steel commemorative oak leaves. Our plans have not changed - we will be displaying these leaves in a prominent location near the entrance to the new South Garden. We have heard the concerns from the donors - these leaves will be located where they are not walked upon or sat on. The Arsenic Mitigation Project has delayed this planned expansion for some time but we are looking at going forward in the fall. We will be submitting plans to the city for a short basalt rock stack wall that will work off the existing Gazebo and Native Plant Area and lead into the brand new gardens. It will look amazing and will be there for generations to enjoy. We will keep you updated on progress and look forward to showing off your new commemorative wall very soon.

## Arboretum Focus: Plants, plants and more plants!

As the summer sun shines down (finally), there is much to see throughout the Arboretum. First - it is summer after all - the trees provide some much needed shade! As you meander the paths, enjoy the shelter from our friend the sun and see all the lush foliage. **Hydrangeas** and **Hardy Fuchsias** are in full bloom in the Woodland Garden. The Viewing Mound might be the best spot to sit for a bit in the summer - some gorgeous overhanging trees, nice foliage plantings, and the peaceful sound of water from the sculpture.

Lots of little treasures are popping up through the summer in the Rock Garden. Look for the **Indian Paintbrush**, a great wildflower that is still holding onto some color this time of year. As you go through the Native Plant Walk, notice all the berries out for summer and fall bird foraging. And you may find a **Huckleberry** to taste! There will be some awesome color in this area come autumn. Make to sure to search out the **Clerodendron** specimen - follow your nose and when it is blooming you will find it for sure.



In the Lower Garden look up and note the **Golden Raindrops Crabapple** (see picture at left) - a great tree for all seasons. Right now you will see bright gold little crabapples popping out and soon the birds darting about to grab them. **Hardy Hibiscus** (or Rose of Sharon) is also blooming nearby. Make sure to visit the Maple Grove as well - especially towards fall color time. The trees have been pruned and are showing some awesome form and structure. Don't forget a stroll through the Conifer Garden - the

shapes, textures, and colors always look great. Some interesting cones are starting to mature on many of the specimens. Wherever you stroll, foliage and flowers throughout the gardens greet you. Stop by and breathe in some beauty!

## Captivating Cultivating Classes: Free from Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens!

Come and learn about all things horticulture from our guest instructors at the Arboretum. Classes are on the 3rd Saturday of each month from noon to 1 pm unless otherwise noted. Please RSVP by calling 425-257-8597 or online at [contactus@evergreenarboretum.com](mailto:contactus@evergreenarboretum.com).

### **Plant a Native Garden**

**Saturday August 20th 12-1 PM Free**

Why choose an invasive or exotic plant that could either escape in to the wild or require excessive fertilizing and care? You could choose from a diverse and eco-friendly list of native plants! This class will walk you through and discuss plants in our Native Plant Walk in the Arboretum. Bring pictures and descriptions of your garden and we will help you select appropriate natives that will thrive on minimal care in your setting.

**Instructor - Mary Potter, native plant expert and Arboretum board member.**

### **Plants for Fall Interest**

**Saturday September 17th 12-1 PM Free**

Want a year around garden? Fall is another season to spice up the landscape. Go beyond Japanese Maples and find some other outstanding shrubs and trees that are noted for spectacular fall color. Come and learn from Scott Conner, long time horticulture instructor and radio talk show host, and hear what he has to say about gardening in the Northwest in autumn.

**Instructor - Scott Conner, horticulture expert, talk show host and friend of the Arboretum.**

### **Putting the Garden to Bed**

**Saturday October 15th 12-1 PM Free**

What should you do to get your garden ready for the winter ahead? Some of the topics that will be covered include which perennials to cut back, how much mulch to apply to garden beds, and which plants should be dug up and protected. This a must do class for winter protection and having a healthy start to the spring gardening season.

**Instructor - John Marsh - Master Gardener and friend of the Arboretum.**

### **Be Creative with Conifers**

**Saturday November 12th 12-1 PM Free**

The sizes, textures, colors and forms of conifers are endless. Come learn about the selection of conifers in the oldest garden in the Arboretum - the Conifer Garden. You will see how to choose a proper specimen for your garden and how to care for these beauties. Come and rediscover your "Evergreen State!"

**Instructor - Emil Van Den Akker - owner of Van Den Akker's Landscaping and Arboretum Board Member.**



## Come get dirty with us!

Arboretum work parties have been scheduled. We would love to have anyone interested in helping join us. These work parties are necessary to continue to keep the gardens looking top notch. Come and pitch in while you talk plants and gardening with other volunteers. Enjoy the fresh air and our beautiful Arboretum. Be sure to bring your gloves, tools, a bottle of water and your smiles. We hope to see you there and thank you in advance for your help!!

**Wednesday, August 20th** - 10am to noon

**Saturday, August 27th** - 10am to noon

**Wednesday, September 14th** - 10am to noon

**Saturday, September 24th** - 10am to noon - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

**Wednesday, October 12th** - 10am to noon

## Plans for the South Area (SAP)

The Board of Directors, and more specifically the SAP Design Committee, has been meeting and planning feverishly for the expansion this fall into the South Area Plan (SAP). We are currently working with the Everett Parks Department on the final design and then can begin the groundwork. A new ADA accessible path will be installed along with electrical and irrigation. The ground will then be graded, shaped and the new planting beds formed and we can start selecting some new plants to show off!

Our plan is to continue the Native Plant Walk through the existing Rain Garden and extend these plantings along the east perimeter fence against the golf course. We will make some improvements to the Rain Garden and then tie it in with the new native plantings. Some new basalt rock features will be added in this area as well. The stately existing Coast Redwood specimens will offer a new dry shade garden area. Additional plantings will buffer the garden from the neighboring properties to the west and will be done with approval from the park neighbors. Two large planting beds will show off new specimens as the existing Lower Garden is connected via a new pathway to the new South Garden.

Wow, there is still a lot to do, but what an exciting time for the Arboretum! Thanks to all the members and friends of the Arboretum that have donated to help this project happen. If you are interested in learning more, drop by one of our board meetings as a guest and listen to the plans first hand. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Arboretum Classroom. When we get to planting time, we will need lots of help, so let us know if you are interested in assisting us. More fabulous plants to enjoy coming soon!



Thank you to the City of Everett  
Parks Department!

Our wonderful Parks Department simply has so much to do - there are many parks in our fine city, including the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens at Legion Park. Although our foundation may organize work parties and events and help raise funds for improvements throughout the gardens, it is still a city park and we could not keep the gardens going without the help of Parks staff. They offer not only manpower support to our group, but invaluable advice and guidance as we continue to grow together.

A special "Thank You" to John, Geoff, Craig and all the other Parks staff who have helped and continue to help so much..... especially this year as we try to recover from the mitigation project. We look forward to an ongoing partnership that will keep the Arboretum thriving for generations to come!

Don't forget it is never too late to [join the Arboretum](#) as a member or make a charitable donation. We are a fully tax deductible 501-C non-profit organization!



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