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February 2017 Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Trevor Cameron, Evergreen Arboretum President

State of the Arboretum

Happy February to all the members and friends of Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens! This winter has been most interesting and I hope everybody (and your gardens) have endured the cold spells. I know the days are mostly grey, cold and wet but remember....spring is just around the corner, I promise!

Your Board of Directors has been busy this winter trying to get the South Area completion project going and preparing to hopefully break ground this spring. With much help from the Parks Department, we are closing in on making this happen! There are still numerous proverbial hills to climb but we will keep striving to make the completion of the South Area a reality. Thank you to John, Geoff and Russell in the Parks Department for all the assistance..... The Board can't wait to reach this goal

together and provide all the visitors to the Arboretum some new gardens to explore!

I wanted to say a quick "Thank You" to all the folks that joined me for our first ever winter pruning workshop/seminar on Saturday, January 21st. I think it was a fun day and I'm hoping everyone learned something. The weather cooperating is always a bonus. Remember, as members, you have free access to these events. Our group hopes you will take advantage of opportunities like these classes - we really want to make your membership more valuable and continue to build the bond between the Arboretum and our members. Thank you again for your support!

Now speaking of membership, don't forget to renew for 2017 if you have not done so yet. Our Annual Banquet/Meeting is coming up fast in March - we sincerely wish that all our loyal members will join us for a fun evening. Details follow in this newsletter. I hope to see of al you there and look forward to showing you all the things we are working on and the goals we have for the continued growth of the Arboretum.

I hope to see you all there and wish everyone a great upcoming spring season!



Your Membership Means Everything to the Arboretum!

Attend Our Annual Membership Banquet and Meeting

2017 brings an exciting new year of membership events at the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens that you won't want to miss. First on the calendar is our Annual Membership Banquet and Meeting coming up fast on March 14th. All Arboretum members are cordially invited to join us for this once a year event. Your individual membership will admit one to the banquet while other membership levels above that admit two. Please consider increasing your membership level or even giving a gift membership to a special gardening friend to bring along. Take a moment to renew online at www.evergreenarboretum.com. **We would love to receive your membership renewals or new memberships by March 1st.** Not currently a member? Just go to the website and fill out the information for a new membership...and join the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens family!

Everyone should mark that calendar for **Tuesday March 14th and join us from 6 to 8:30 PM at Floral Hall in Forest Park.** Drinks and appetizers followed by dinner catered by our very own Marylou and friends all await you. There will be a slide show presentation on new plants for the garden 2017. We will be showing off our new 2017 Raffle items for the annual fundraiser. We will be giving away some gardening goodies to those who attend. Come and enjoy a fun evening and mingle with fellow members. Hear all that the Board of Directors is working on and what our goals are for the upcoming year. This is our chance to say "Thank You" for your continued support. Remember admission is free to all current members. Memberships are \$20 per year for

individuals and \$35 per year for families. Please RSVP in the Contact Us section of our website or call (425) 257 8597. Come and enjoy great food and conversation all while helping to support the Arboretum. We hope to see everyone there!

The Everett Home and Garden Show

The 16th annual edition of our local home and garden show is set for March 10th-12th at Comcast Xfinity Arena in Everett. There is always a ton of great ideas to absorb at the show and knowledgeable professionals to help answer your questions. Friday show hours Noon-7pm. Saturday show hours 10am-6pm. Sunday show hours 10am-5pm. Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens will have a booth at the show..... so when you go and get in the spring spirit..... stop by and say "Hello!"!



Arboretum Focus: Plants, plants and more plants!

Late winter and early spring are some of my personal favorite times in the garden. There are many plants that will surprise you this time of year, especially when you talk about fragrance. A number of plants like **Winter Daphne** (*Daphne odora*), **Sweet Box** (*Sarcococca humilis* and *Sarcococca confusa*) and **Dawn Viburnum** (*Viburnum x bodnantense*) will be blooming in February and March. Just follow your nose in the gardens and you will find them! Some of the best of the early perennials are always the **Hellebores** (*Helleborus sp.*).

Numerous flavors of these are planted near the entrance, in the woodland garden, and near the viewing mound. These will be displaying their white to pink flowers from now through most of spring. Some of the larger specimens in the gardens are worth noting as well. Be sure to notice the big old **Star Magnolia** (*Magnolia stellata*) near the entrance that will be dropping white star-like blossoms in February and March. **Yellow** and **Orange Witch Hazel** specimens (*Hamamelis sp.*) are in bloom now (and the yellow one has a nice scent as well!).



Yellow Witch Hazel

Along the native plant walk look for the **flowering currants** (*Ribes sanguineum*) this spring. But be careful not to get buzzed by Hummingbird fly-bys as they will be sucking all the nectar out of the bright pinky-red flower clusters. So many more



beauties will keep your interest as spring begins - shrubs like **Rhododendrons, Azaleas,** and **Pieris** and trees like **Redbud, Crabapple,** and **Serviceberry**. Stop and breathe in some spring beauty!

As we head into spring I encourage you to admire the wonderful array of foliage as deciduous plants break dormancy. Simple plants like **Barberries** (*Berberis sp.*) not only show off yellow to orange flowers in March but then burst with either bright yellow or red spring foliage. The spring growth produced by different cultivars of **Spiraea** (*Spiraea sp.*) is most colorful. A few **Bridal Wreath Spiraea** come out with bright pea green foliage then pop out old fashioned white blooms later in spring. Varieties like

'**Goldflame**' and '**Magic Carpet**' leaf out bright orangey-red and then bloom pink. Then there are the **Japanese Maples** (*Acer palmatum* and *Acer palmatum dissectum*). The Arboretum boasts an impressive collection and I would challenge everyone to visit the maples as they leaf out and swear its not fall color time! You will see bright pinks, scarlets and my favorite orangey ones. Be sure to seek out the '**Katsura**', '**Autumn Moon**', and '**Orange Dream**' if you prefer lime to orange. Search for the impressive old '**Shindeshojo**' if bright pinky red is your color. If you like a deeper purple red find the '**Moonfire**', '**Skeeter's Broom**', or some of the stunning old red laceleaf maples located in the gardens. We imagine fall color with Japanese Maples usually but I think these would amaze you with their spring foliage!



Shindeshojo

Now find some time this month to take a walk through the Arboretum. As we head towards spring it is essential to remind us all - stop and admire the wonders of nature as the plants awaken once again. We hope to see you in the gardens soon!

Plant Sale Preparations are Underway

In fact - they never seem to stop! Yes it is true..... It takes a bunch of great volunteer help lots of time to make our annual plant sale a success. It is all set for June 2017 once again and we will need your help! Our 2017 Plant Sale co-chairs are Marylou Hart and Emile VanDen Akker and they are excited and raring to go! Much work is already happening behind the scenes but there is much to do still. If you are interested in

helping, please contact us on the website or call the Arboretum. Keep an eye on future newsletters as dates and times for work parties dedicated to the plant sale will happen all through spring culminating with the annual sale in June. All pertinent dates and times will also be on our website. We hope to see all of you at the plant sale work parties for 2017!



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. ***Special note to members*** - you will have access to some hands on seminars this year in the gardens free of charge! Others may join these classes by becoming Arboretum members. Please RSVP by calling 425-257-8597 or online at contactus@evergreenarboretum.com. See a complete class listing for 2017 on our [website](#) as well.

A Symphony of Spring Ephemerals Saturday February 18th

12-1 PM Free

Enjoy the beautiful world of spring ephemerals, those sweet little woodland garden gems that are the first wildflowers to bloom in spring. Discover these plants and utilize them in your landscape - they will give a lasting memory in the garden! **Instructor: Susie Egan, landscape designer, garden consultant, master gardener, speaker and garden writer, owner of Cottage Lake Gardens and friend of the Arboretum.**

Rediscover Rhododendrons Saturday March 18th 12-1 PM Free

Come and learn the right Rhododendrons to utilize in your garden. The class will include planting, care, fertilization, pruning and pests/diseases for both Rhododendrons and Azaleas. We will be doing some live demonstration as well by planting some new specimens in the Arboretum. Our focus will be to not only select a bloom we like but to also discover the diversity of sizes and foliage of these northwest garden



beauties. **Instructor - Trevor Cameron - General Manager of Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville and Arboretum President.**

What is a Nativar?

Saturday April 15th 12-1 PM Free

Come and learn about the latest craze in gardening - Nativars - improved cultivars of native plants. Breeders have taken natives and tweaked them to bloom longer, grow tidier, have more colorful foliage and be more disease resistant. The result - less water needed, less maintenance required and often improved wildlife benefit. Join us and discover this exciting new group of useful plants for your home garden. **Instructor: Scott Conner, horticultural expert, radio talk show host and friend to the Arboretum.**

Volunteers Always Appreciated!

Like all charitable organizations, a need for volunteers continues to exist. At Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens, we would love to share our love of the Arboretum and its gardens with you! The foundation is always looking for special representatives from garden clubs to help us build relationships with all our local residents who love plants and gardening. We need help from tech savvy individuals as we work to set up a mobile app that helps Arboretum visitors learn about the gardens and art. Every year we need people interested in learning and helping with garden maintenance to assist with work parties.

The Board would love more folks to assist in organizing and staffing our annual events. We are involved in such things as the Everett Home and Garden Show, Sorticulture, our Annual Plant Sale, our Family Fun Event and much more. The Board of Directors can always guarantee you three things - you will be among fellow nature, garden, and art lovers, you will have some serious fun helping out, and you will feel awfully good for joining the team! Just contact us on our website www.evergreenarboretum.com or call us at (425) 257 8597. Thanks in advance for getting involved when you can!



Come Get Dirty With Us!

Arboretum work parties have been scheduled for the coming 2017 season. 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 March 8th - 10 am till Noon
- Saturday March 18th - 10 am till Noon
- Wednesday April 5th - 10 am till Noon
- Saturday April 15th - 10 am till Noon

A special thank you to all who participated in the 2016 work parties. They were a huge success with the all the volunteers and help from the Everett Parks Department. With the Arsenic Mitigation Project closing the Arboretum for a lengthy period of time it was most important to get caught up on so many things in 2016. We thank you and appreciate all the folks that came and got dirty with us!

Thank you to all of our faithful members that have renewed their membership for 2017! Don't forget it is never too late to [join the Arboretum](#) as a member or make a charitable donation.



Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens
[Visit our Website](#)
Mailing Address: PO Box 13014 Everett 98206



Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens, 145 Alverson Blvd, Everett, WA 98201

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