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May 2017 Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Trevor Cameron, Evergreen Arboretum President

State of the Arboretum

April showers bring May flowers. April showers bring May flowers. I tried to remind myself of that every day during this particularly wet spring. We should be in for one heck of a flower show this season! The Arboretum has awakened for another spring and specimens are blooming everywhere. With spring being delayed a bit with the cool weather, this will be the month to see Rhododendrons, Azaleas and many other plants in their full glory.

As we begin May and head towards June, there is much happening for our group. **June will be a busy month with the [Sorticulture Garden Arts Festival](#) and [The Arboretum Plant Sale and Raffle](#) taking place.** The annual Plant Sale in particular is the most important fundraiser for the Arboretum each year. Plant Sale volunteers have been feverishly preparing already but there is always so much to do. This is a fun time to volunteer and help the crew and they would love to have you. Plant Sale work parties are held every Thursday from 10 AM until noon. The crew is transplanting, grooming,

fertilizing and labeling literally thousands of plants for the sale. Come and join the crew and have some fun helping with sale preparations.

I would also like to personally invite you to the [Summer Pruning Workshop](#) I will be teaching in the Arboretum on June 17th from 10AM-4PM. Our group is trying to offer some hands-on instructional classes in the gardens and we hope you will consider joining us for this informative class. Class will be free of charge to all current members and \$20 for non-members and guests. All the money goes straight back into the Arboretum either way! Not a current member? You can [join anytime on the website](#) or you can sign up the day of the class as well. Don't forget to [RSVP for the class](#) so we have a feel for how many will attend. I hope to see a bunch of you there for the class! June 17th will be an incredible day at the Arboretum indeed..... The Annual Plant Sale, the Arboretum Raffle, and the Summer Pruning Workshop all rolled into one day. Mark your calendar and spend the day with us buying some cool plants at the sale, grabbing some raffle tickets, and joining the pruning seminar for a bit.

Now let's get out and do some gardening! The weather is turning finally and it is about time to get digging. I hope to see you all down at the Arboretum this month on a spring walkabout!



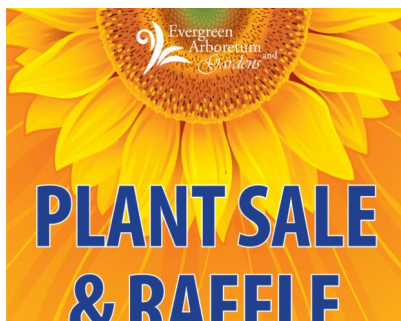
Sorticulture

An Everett Garden and Art Festival Tradition

Legion Park will host the annual [Sorticulture Festival](#) from Friday June 9th through Sunday June 11th. Hours on Friday are 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, and Sunday 10am-4pm. The event features great plant shopping, cool and unique art and treasures for the yard and garden, fun display gardens, kids activities, live music, garden speakers, and best of all..... the Arboretum! Stop by and see us at our booth during the festival - we would love to see you. And walk over and take a stroll through the gardens as well!

The Arboretum Plant Sale and Raffle..... Saturday June 17th!

The annual Arboretum Plant Sale and Raffle Drawing are approaching fast. Don't forget to buy those raffle tickets (only \$1 each) and get your chance to win some great prizes. Prizes can be seen on the website and are also on display in the horticulture classroom at Legion Park. Raffle tickets can be purchased at all Arboretum work parties, Arboretum classes and events including Sorticulture. They can also be bought at Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville. The Annual Plant Sale is a must attend event for all gardeners and bargain seekers with some great plants at ridiculous prices. AND this is all to support a worthy cause - us - the Arboretum! It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we cannot do it without you. Sale will run from 10 AM through 5 PM. The Raffle Drawing will be held at 4 PM on day of the Plant Sale. All of us at the Arboretum hope to see you shopping for plants on the 17th at Legion Park!





The volunteers are rapidly getting ready for the annual plant sale. Much work has been accomplished but there is an incredible amount to be done. **We would like to thank Craig, Brion and Bret from Everett Parks and Recreation Department for building a new potting bench and soil bin for the crew to use. The support from Parks is always a huge help and we could not have a successful sale without their help!** Please remember we will be accepting donations until the first week of June, preferably identified plants and in one gallon pots. This gives the volunteers time to organize all the goodies beforehand. We always need more help and there will be plenty of opportunities to pitch in if you can. Every Thursday from 10 AM to noon, pre-sale work continues. Bring your gloves and favorite tools (and of course smiles) and come join in the fun every week.

There will be much assistance needed in the two weeks before the sale and on the day of as well. The Arboretum needs volunteers for everything from unloading nursery donation trucks to organizing and setting up the sale yard. You can help write thank you letters and assist in clean-up afterwards. **We are trying to reward volunteers as best we can a couple of ways. Every time you volunteer at a Plant Sale work party your name will be entered for a drawing - we will be giving away four \$25 gift certificates to [Sunnyside Nursery](#) to plant sale volunteers. In addition, every volunteer can take home any one gallon plant the first time they come and help.** Please [contact us](#) through the Arboretum phone number (425) 257-8597 or on our website with any questions. Thank you in advance for the help!



NEW Event at the Arboretum ... Kids' Nature Camp in June

Our group is proud to offer some classes geared for young gardeners and nature lovers this season. The inaugural edition of the Kid's Nature Camp will happen from June 26th to 29th from 10 AM to Noon each day. The classes are open to kids ages 8 to 10 and we will have fun nature games/activities for the group. The kids will explore the four basic needs of plants - sun, soil, water and air. This event will cost \$35 per child for member families and \$70 per child for non-member families. Space is limited so [sign up soon by RSVPing on the website](#) or calling (425) 257-8597. We would love to see some young and eager minds join us for this exciting new Arboretum event!!

Family Fun Event Set for July 22nd!

Mark your calendars and join us for this awesome summer event for the whole family! Festivities will occur from 1 to 3 PM and will offer some fun in the sunshine and great outdoors. There will be numerous community groups on hand along with ours to entertain the attendees with some exciting activities. **Organizations attending will include the Everett Public Library, Paws to Read, The Imagine Children's Museum, The Schack Art Center, The Village Theater Kidstage, Master**

Gardeners of Snohomish County, The Pilchuck Audubon Society, and the YMCA. Marco Cortes will be playing music in the garden. There will be balloons, popcorn and a great scavenger hunt for kids. And of course, we can promise sunshine in the 70's by then we hope, right? We would love to have a crowd so please tell your neighbors, bring down the family and let us entertain you in the Arboretum!



Tour the Arboretum with Our Experts!

Looking to take a guided tour of the Arboretum this season? Have a group wanting to explore the gardens and learn about the sculptures? Make sure to [contact us](#) through the website or call (425) 257-8507 to set up a tour with our wonderful docents. We would love to hear from you and set up a private guided tour just for you and your group!

Captivating Cultivating Classes: Provided by 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.

Great Plant Picks Saturday May 20th 12-1 PM Free

Tour the Master Gardener Border in the Arboretum that showcases Great Plant Picks (GPP). Learn about the educational program from the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden of Seattle. This program was started in 2001 and recommends outstanding plants for the maritime Pacific Northwest. Join the class and learn about the selections of plants that have been chosen for the new Master Gardener Border. **Instructor: Dode Carlson, Master Gardener and Arboretum Board Member.**

Summer Pruning Workshop Saturday June 17th 10 AM-4 PM Free for members

Come to this hands on summer workshop and learn proper pruning techniques. We will discuss basic rules of pruning and concentrate on two major categories- pruning of spring blooming shrubs including Rhododendrons and Azaleas and thinning of trees for summer health and lasting beauty. Bring your pruners and your questions. Join us for the whole session or stop in for part of it. This class is free to current Arboretum members. There will be a \$20 charge for non-members. You can join the day of the

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

Hydrangeas for Summer Color
Saturday July 15th 12-1 PM Free

Come and learn all about Hydrangeas and how to incorporate them into your landscape. We will discuss some of the latest and greatest varieties on the market and how to care for these NW garden staple shrubs. We will visit some of the old beauties in the Arboretum gardens and see samples of new exciting ones for home gardeners.

Instructor: Trevor Cameron, Sunnyside Nursery General Manager and Arboretum President.



Arboretum Focus: Plants, plants and more plants!

Each spring the gardens throughout the Arboretum come to life once again. This year the wet and cool weather has delayed things a bit. As we head into May the perennials are still emerging and many of spring shrubs are still blooming nicely. There are always some hidden treasures to find throughout the different gardens so get out there and explore!

It is always a treat to see the deciduous trees and shrubs "spring" back to life and start anew. We often think of **Japanese Maples** (*Acer palmatum*) as trees for fall color but the dozens in our collection are ablaze with spring color right now. The huge Katsura maple emerges orangey yellow..... A Shindeshojo specimen sports bright fuchsia pink..... One Mikawa Yatsubusa in the Rock Garden lights up lime green..... The Autumn Moon glows golden orange..... The list goes on and on! Make sure to visit these on your next walk in the gardens and notice their striking foliage.

Note some other trees as well as we go from May into June. There are a few lovely Dogwood specimens planted in a number of spots at the Arboretum and they will be blooming starting in May. There is a lovely **Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood** (*Cornus nutallii*) specimen planted in the lawn that will be sporting huge white flowers. This is a more disease resistant cultivar of our native Pacific Dogwood and puts on quite a show! **Korean Dogwoods** (*Cornus kousa*) are planted in numerous locations and are my personal favorites. These bloom a bit later in June and July and have literally hundreds of star shaped white flowers that cover their branches. Adding interest are the strawberry like fruits that develop over the summer. This type of Dogwood offers superior disease resistance as well. Be sure to see the variegated leaf from **Wolf Eyes** down near the gazebo - the white and green leaves are simply stunning!



Eddies White Wonder Dogwood

Keep looking up as you stroll along the Small Tree Walk. There are some great examples of noteworthy smaller scale trees planted all along the path. This month the



Goldenchain Tree

Goldenchain Tree (*Laburnum x 'Vossi'*) looks incredible when it drops its huge yellow flower clusters. Most folks think it looks like a giant yellow Wisteria tree!



Eskimo Sunset Sycamore Maple

Probably the coolest foliage tree in the gardens is the **Eskimo Sunset Sycamore Maple** (*Acer pseudoplatanus 'Eskimo Sunset'*) located on the West side of the path. Check the pink/white/green marbled leaves - they are truly unique.

Speaking of foliage, there are some nice **Ninebarks** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) there as well. Look for the cool peely bark and some coppery purple leaves emerging followed by cute little button flowers. These are great tall shrubs/small trees for all season interest.

Some spring blooming trees will still be going strong in May as well. There is a lovely **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier grandiflora*) near the entrance that will look like a cloud of white flowers. Look for all the bees buzzing about it, offering pollination so that the little berries develop for the birds this summer and fall. One of the best in the gardens is the **Golden Raindrops Crabapple** (*Malus x 'Golden Raindrops'*) in the Lower Garden. Not only is it stunning in bloom it is another great one for the birds with lovely little golden crabapples developing over summer for fall foraging.

Although there is plenty of flower power throughout the gardens - don't forget to stop and admire all the foliage as well. Come on down and enjoy a springtime walkabout in The Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens!

2017 Native Plant Fest Northwest

Thank you to all who attended the inaugural Native Plant Fest Northwest on Earth Day April 22nd. We had a nice crowd and volunteers helped restore some areas of the Native Plant Walk. Way to go!



2017 Native Plant Fest

South Area Completion Update

We continue to march towards the completion of the [South Area of the Arboretum](#) this year. The project is being done in conjunction with a major Parks project at Legion Park to help keep the costs down. We continue to meet and address concerns from our group, the Parks Department, and our neighbors along Alverson Boulevard to the west. The project is in bid now and we hope to begin sometime later in May or June. The completion plan will include a new ADA accessible loop path around the South Area, new planting beds in the south area, new benches for seating and the commemorative Oak Leaf wall. Last but not least, the new James Madison sculpture "Siblings" will be installed at the south end for generations of visitors to enjoy. We sincerely thank all the members and donors who made this project possible. Our group is excited to see this project started and look forward to showing off the finished project this summer!

Come Get Dirty With Us!

Arboretum work parties have been scheduled for the 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!

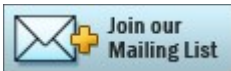
- Wednesday May 3rd - 10 am til Noon
- Saturday May 20th - 10 am til Noon
- Wednesday June 7th - 10 am til Noon
- Saturday June 17th - 10 am til Noon
- Wednesday July 5th - 10 am til Noon
- Saturday July 15th - 10 am til Noon

Special note on work parties for 2017..... We have purchased \$25 gift certificates to Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville and will be giving them away to volunteers each month all season long. Be sure to come and sign your name on the volunteer sheet to be

entered for the gift certificate drawing. **Every time you volunteer we enter your name to win!**



Thank you to all of our faithful members who have renewed their membership for 2017! Don't forget it is never too late to join and help support Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens.



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