



Lake Wilderness Arboretum Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 3

What's Happening at the Arboretum

June - July 2004

From the President

By Kadri Linask-Goode, *President*



Spring cleaning has taken on an entirely new dimension at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum! Thanks to many wonderful volunteers, including 70 Boeing employees, local Eagle Scout candidates, our own TWIGS group (Task Workforce for Integrated Grounds Support) led by Judi Alvau, as well as our Property Management and Development Committee led by Maria Van Zanen, the Arboretum boasts a neat and tidy appearance. You can read about all the completed projects in Maria's article on page 3. Added together all the work completed by our volunteers over the past two months has helped the Arboretum truly shine! Please see *From the President*, p.7

Cindy Ostermann Receives Golden Maple Leaf Award

On Friday May 7, during our Plant Sale and Garden Fair, Cindy Ostermann, the Foundation's immediate past president, received well deserved recognition by the City of Maple Valley. Mayor Laure Iddings read a Proclamation listing many of the projects Cindy worked tirelessly with on behalf of the Arboretum and named Cindy as a recipient of the Golden Maple Leaf Award along with proclaiming May 7, 2004 to be "Cindy Ostermann Day in the City of Maple Valley."



Mayor Iddings presents Cindy her award.

Along with this wonderful recognition, Cindy was asked to be the Grand Marshall of the popular Maple Valley Days Parade this June 12th. Though Cindy's title is now "Immediate Past President," she is as active with the Foundation as ever as Finance Committee Chair, and we are all the better for it. Congratulations to Cindy Ostermann!

June 1st Potluck & Education Program: "Potential Environmental Impacts of Fire Management"

Rob Sjogren, SKCAF's Education & Conservation Chairman and a Natural Resources Instructor at Green River Community College, will speak about possible impacts of fire management on wildlife, people and our environment and also show a film on a Yellowstone National Park fire. The potluck is at 6:30pm and the program at 7pm on Tuesday, June 1, at the Maple Valley Community Center, 22010 SE 248th St, Maple Valley.

Rob has acquired experience in methods and policies used by the State of Washington, private operations, and federal programs. He's a graduate of Green River Community College in Forestry Technology and of Evergreen State College with a B.S. in Environmental Science. Rob and his GRCC students have actively used the Lake Wilderness Arboretum as a "working lab" for several years.

Come enjoy the potluck and hear Rob's unique perspective in this informative and topical program that is free to the public.

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The Spring Plant Sale & Garden Fair

Photos by Nancy Davenport & Maureen Paszek



The plants are ready and waiting to go to new homes..



Early shoppers wait in line for the 10am opening.



Carol Walker shows some of this year's plants as shoppers wait in line.



Decisions, decisions! Shoppers have so many choices!



Just one of the many unique vendor's booths.



Cass Turnbull, featured speaker, gives great tips for proper pruning.



One of music groups that entertained during the sale.



Fun activities for kids were available along with a Miniature Garden Contest.



Plant Sale Co-Chair Barb Huseby and Volunteer, Teria Perdue look pleased with the sale's success

THANK YOU to our Plant Sale Co-Chairs Barb Huseby and Kadri Linask-Goode, to the Committee Chairs, and to all the Volunteers for making this event a huge success. Also for their contributions, many thanks to the King County Explorer Program, Maple Valley Signs, Motorplex, Wilderness Chevron, Mt. Rainer National Bank, Maple Valley Community Center, City of Maple Valley - City Council and Staff, Voice of the Valley, Johnson's Do It Best Rental Center, Columbia Beverage, Terrapin Gardens, Lake Wilderness Elementary PTSA, and Cass Turnbull.

Recent Happenings at the Arboretum...

Propagation Class



Instructor Judi Alvau shows how to determine the proper point at which plant material should be cut. Viola Scoby, class member, is in the forefront at the April 10 Propagation Class at the Nursery.

April Education Program

By Maureen Paszek

Eric Nelson, well-known area horticulturist, presented an excellent program with slides on ornamental grasses.

Eric evaluates different plant species used in landscapes planned by King County which has helped him understand plants that do well in tough situations. He provided outstanding lists of grasses useful for their multicolored foliage, fall colors and moisture, drought or shade tolerance.

In addition to giving information on dividing grasses, he recommended giving most grasses a "haircut" in late February or early March, advised cutting back evergreen grasses by one-third, suggested trimming deciduous grasses to the ground and advised against fertilizing grasses as that tends to make them fall over.

The books he recommends are *Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses* by Rick Darke, an excellent reference, and *Gardening with Grasses* by Michael Kind which has great pictures.

Community Service Day

By Maria VanZanen

If you've walked through the Arboretum lately, you've noticed a lot of work has been done. This is largely due to a huge effort by Boeing and SKCAF volunteers. On April 17, over 70 volunteers worked on seven different projects.

In the nursery, they emptied the raised beds and filled them with good soil. These beds will be used to keep mother plants for our propagation program. The soil from the raised beds was spread and tamped down to level the area in front of the hoophouse in preparation for gravel. (Tristan Wells, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 777 has since spread 12 yards of gravel in this area, willingly accommodating to our schedule to have this done by sale time. Thank you Tristan!)

Leaves were raked up, weeds pulled, and shavings spread to spruce up the nursery for our sale. Four newly purchased wheelbarrows were assembled. By the gazebo, sod was removed and bark spread which enlarged a planting area to include trees that were in the meadow and eased maintenance around them. Three large ceanothus were removed to prepare for new plantings. The Design Focus Committee has not finalized plans, but a dwarf conifers and grasses display is likely. Some of the Heronswood Hellebores were planted along the path to the gazebo.

The entire SM Garden was weeded and spruced up. Mulch was spread and some plants were added to add interest to the garden. An area in the display gardens that had grown very shady over the years and had reverted to salal was brushed out and planted with many of the shade loving plants from Loie Benedict's garden. The area was transformed in a few hours to a lovely shady walk. In another area of the display garden where the sun was good, we added a peony display including several of Loie's peonies. In years to come, we hope to add additional specimens. As these plants get established, they'll be putting on quite a show.



Boeing and SKCAF volunteers add bark in the hellebore area.

The area around the kiosk was spruced up with bark. The ceanothus plants behind the alpine garden were removed. Also, the fabric installed several years ago to smother some hard to control weeds around the anniversary maple was removed in preparation for planting. Again, the Design Focus Committee has not finalized plans, but soon will. A beautiful sweet gum tree donated by Viola Scoby was planted along the woodland edge.

So much was accomplished! Thank you to everyone who participated in this great effort!

Envirothon Competition

The NW Regional Envirothon, sponsored by the Canon Corporation and hosted by the King Conservation District, was held at Lake Wilderness Arboretum and Park on March 22nd. The Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource competition for high school students (grades 9 through 12). Students visited five “in-the-field” test stations that were set up in the Arboretum, Lake Wilderness Lodge and Park where written and hands-on problem solving was required along with a strategy for public awareness. Winning teams from the local and regional competitions will compete in a state Envirothon competition, and the international competition will be held at Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia in late July. Eleven teams, including four from Tahoma HS, represented the Puget Sound area at this year’s competition.



After the competition, it was “photo time” for members of the winning teams.

Birding Update

By Linda Bartlett

The Arboretum birding group has sighted 53 different species listed here and categorized according to the Washington Ornithological Society’s Taxonomic Order.

In field guides, birds are listed in Taxonomic Order - classified by scientists in a system of groups and subgroups, orders, families, species and subspecies. This is helpful for educating the beginning birder regarding relationships and similarities among family groups, i.e., field marks, behavior, habitat.

Most field guides begin with the loons which are considered to be the most primitive birds and end with the smaller perching birds that are thought to be the most advanced. This order changes over time, based on new genetic/ DNA research.

Are you interested in joining the group? Please feel welcome to come. You don’t need to be an experienced birder. With more eyes, the group can see more things! The group meets monthly, third Saturday, early morning. For more information, call 425.413.2572.

Lake Wilderness Arboretum Bird List

Grebes

Pied-billed grebe

Cormorants

Double crested cormorant

Hérons

Great blue heron

Vulture

Turkey vulture

Water Fowl

Canada goose

Mallard

Northern shoveler

Gadwall

American wigeon

Ring-necked duck

Lesser scaup

Common goldeneye

Bufflehead

Hooded merganser

Common merganser

Raptors

Bald eagle

Cooper’s hawk

Red-tailed hawk

Rails

American coot

Hummingbirds

Rufous hummingbird

Kingfisher

Belted kingfisher

Woodpeckers

Red-breasted sapsucker

Hairy woodpecker

Northern flicker

Pileated woodpecker

Vireos

Hutton’s vireo

Corvids

Steller’s jay

American crow

Common raven

Swallows

Tree swallow

Violet-green swallow

No. Rough-wing swallow

Chickadees

Black-capped chickadee

Chestnut-backed chickadee

Bushtits

Bushtit

Nuthatches

Red-breasted nuthatch

Creepers

Brown creeper

Bewick’s wren

Winter wren

Kinglets

Golden-crowned kinglet

Ruby-crowned kinglet

Thrushes

American robin

Varied thrush

Starlings

European starling

Sparrows

Spotted towhee

Song sparrow

White-crowned sparrow

Dark-eyed junco

Blackbirds

Red-winged blackbird

Finches

Purple finch

House finch

Pine siskin

Evening grosbeak

Historically Speaking...

Dedicated Members and a Progress Update

By Maureen Paszek, Membership & Publicity Chair

The Arboretum is very fortunate to have three dedicated people compiling the Arboretum history since they all were a part of the Arboretum's history. Susan Robert's involvement with the Arboretum began as a Board member along with her husband Rollie in the early years. Darlene Stump came in the late 1960s as a leader of a Campfire Girls unit doing a project to prepare for tree planting in what is now the Nursery. She became a member of the Wilderness Unit and later served on the Board. Nancy Sutherland is a member with many years of Board experience. The Maple Trails Garden Club, which has long been a supporter of the Arboretum, has supplied this committee with scrapbooks and other memorabilia to supplement the information that the Arboretum already has. Darlene, Susan, and Nancy have made great progress during the last two months, have now reached the mid 1980s and are currently locating photos to go with the documents.

The Gazebo, Then and Now

In 1980, after sprucing up the Arboretum meadow that included persistent Scotch Broom, youth in the Work Training Program supervised by teacher Paul Scott from Tye High School, built the Gazebo. The sawdust was then spread on the ground to stifle weeds. After paths and plantings were added, the second photo shows the iris in bloom in a recent spring. It looks different now. At the recent Community Service Day, the area was spruced up, barked and now awaits new plantings.



Coming in August: Picnic Plus a Plant Sale

This year's Membership Picnic will be on Tuesday, August 3rd. That evening, the nursery will also be open for a Foundation Member's Only Plant Sale. This sale will be an added benefit for members and a fund-raiser for the Foundation. Mark your calendar now!

Thank you to Bainbridge Gardens for contributing the insert, *Weeds and Weed Controls*, for our readers' benefit.

Azaleas! Azaleas!

Now's the time to enjoy the beauty and fragrance of the of the Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Display Garden which features over 200 selections of a Western Azalea single species, *Rhododendron occidentale*.

Beginning about 30 years ago, Britt Smith and Dr. Frank Mossman collected and documented cuttings in the wilds of northern California and southern Oregon. Of interest to them was the propagation of breeding material for utilization in hybridizing experiments.

The two men planted these azalea cuttings in their own gardens. However, in 1997 when the Smiths decided to sell their acreage, the azaleas' fate was in question. Fortunately, an agreement to help the buyer and developer with the wetland restoration of the property in exchange for the azalea collection was worked out. Arboretum board members and dedicated volunteers contributed countless hours to the vision and planning it took to make this garden a reality.

Britt Smith often shares his plant expertise, as he has at several Arboretum Plant Sales and for other organizations. Currently, Maria VanZanen is making plans to digitize slides Britt made while documenting the collection. Also, Assistant Property Manager Rebecca Stewart is compiling his field notes

Volunteers Needed

Active volunteer and Foundation member Brenda Running is seeking help with caring for the ABC Garden at Shadow Lake Elementary School over the summer. Contact Brenda at 425.432.2038 to offer your help.



Needed: Corresponding Secretary

Become a part of the vital and dynamic SKCAF Board as the Corresponding Secretary. It's an opportunity for you to "get in on the action" as the Arboretum evolves and grows. As Corresponding Secretary, your duties will include

- attending monthly SKCAF Board meetings
- preparing monthly reports
- managing mail, e-mail and voice mail
- preparing and filing correspondence
- acknowledging donations

If you enjoy doing these things, call 425.413.2572. You'll have a great mentor, the current Corresponding Secretary Maureen Paszek, who will help you and answer your questions as you learn the job.

From the President cont.. from page 1

Take a walk around the Display Garden to see the azaleas and rhododendrons blooming next to the new fern, hellebore and peony gardens. Visit the gazebo and see the improvements that have been completed near-by. If you happen to walk in the forest reserve, I'm sure you'll notice the repairs made to the various stair cases leading into the forest from the County trail. Also, don't forget to visit the Smith-Mossman Azalea Garden, which is looking as wonderful as ever with our water feature up and running to add ambience to an already wonderful garden. While perhaps not as obvious from the outside, the Nursery has also undergone many significant upgrades toward making it a fully functioning nursery to assist in our plant propagation efforts.

Also, we hope you had an opportunity to attend and enjoy our always-popular Plant Sale and Garden Fair earlier this month. This is the Arboretum's main fund-raising event and we continue to count on your support through the sale. The volunteers that put their energy and time into making this event a success are truly amazing! Planning, organizing, coordinating, publicizing, shopping, potting and labeling - it all just seems to happen and looks almost effortless until you really start to consider the hundreds of details that have been attended to.

For all of these wonderful enhancements and events we have to thank many tireless volunteers who provide their dedication, time, expertise and materials to continue improving the Arboretum on a regular basis -THANK YOU! If you would like to volunteer or would like to be on our volunteer email list to receive regular updates about volunteer opportunities at the Arboretum, please contact us at Volunteer@LakeWildernessArboretum.org or call us 425.413.2572. Also, if you are already a volunteer and have feedback for suggestions for projects or how to make the volunteer experience even more rewarding and enjoyable, please don't hesitate to contact us as well!

While the storms of the this past winter gave us a bit more to do and provided me with an interesting and challenging start as the new President of SKCAF, the first half of a year has flown by! As I continue getting to know the people and the Foundation, I'm excited as ever to work with everyone to continue enhancing the Arboretum and keep the momentum going.

2004-05 SKCAF Personnel

Board Officers

President: Kadri Linask-Goode
1st Vice President: Eric Larson
2nd Vice President: Nancy Davenport
Recording Secretary: Linda McMonagle
Corresponding Secretary: open
Treasurer: Hal Lamon

Board Members at Large

Criss Barrett
Moria Mackey-Fieth
June Mehrer
Maureen Paszek
Stanette Rose
Rob Sjogren
Maggie Westerland

Committee Chairs

Budget & Finance:

Cindy Ostermann

Education & Conservation:

Rob Sjogren

Membership & Publicity:

Maureen Paszek

Property Management & Development:

Maria Van Zanen

Spring Plant Sale:

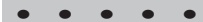
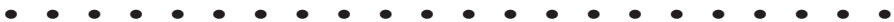
Kadri Linask-Goode
Barbara Huseby

Property Managers

Bill Paine
Rebecca Stewart

Publication Information

This newsletter is published every other month. The next deadline is July 1. Articles are welcomed. Email comments, ideas or articles to editor MarlysHoon@pobox.com or to Info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org or mail to SKCAF, Box 72, Maple Valley, WA 98038.





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Potluck 6:30pm & Education Program 7pm - June 1st “Potential Environmental Impacts of Fire Management”

(Plates & Utensils will be provided for the Potluck)

SKCAF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Lifetime \$250.00
 Business or Org. 20.00
 Family 15.00
 Individual 10.00
 Senior (55+) 5.00
 Student 2.00

SPONSORSHIPS

Benefactor \$1000.00 or more
 Steward 500.00 to 999.00
 Supporter 250.00 to 499.00
 Friend 100.00 to 249.00

Name _____ Business/Organization _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Email _____

Please Circle the Committee/Group you'd like to work on: Property Management & Development
 Budget & Finance Education & Conservation Membership & Publicity Plant Sales History Mailings
 Work Parties Propagation Data Entry Programs

Make check payable to **SKCAF** and mail to **SKCAF, PO Box 72, Maple Valley, WA 98038**

