

# BRANCHING OUT

## What's Happening at Lake Wilderness Arboretum

**Horse Logging at the Arboretum**

Recently at the Arboretum, the words “Whoa” and “Haw” have floated through the air as Wes Gustafson of Snohomish and his draft horses do some low-tech, low-impact horse logging. The SKCAF Board and the City of Maple Valley have opted to use this environmentally friendly method of removing storm and insect damaged trees. Below is Maureen Paszek’s article about Wes and his horses, and on page 2, Linda Bartlett shares details of the horse logging process as she, her daughter and her grandkids watched it happen! ♦

**Take a Step Back in Time & Meet Horse Logger, Wes!**  
by Maureen Paszek

Wes and his team, Clyde and Star, for the last couple of months have been removing trees downed in the December 2003 and January 2004 storms. Logging is very much a part of the history of Maple Valley, and much of it was accomplished just the way Wes is doing it now at the Arboretum!

Wes grew up in California and had a career in electronics. As a kid he was around horses, and about 15 years ago, decided he needed horses in his life again. After looking into it, he decided it would be great if he had horses that could “pay their own way,” and the only ones that seemed to fit the bill were draft horses. As he looked into the prospect more closely, he learned that it was very difficult to find anyone to shoe these horses. (Clyde, for instance, weighs 2,000 lbs.). So he went to farrier school and now shoes his own horses as well as other people’s horses.

His love of his team and what they can do is readily apparent when he talks about how they can do their job with so little damage to the environment. Clyde is 100% Belgian while Star is A grade, meaning some Belgian blood. The log arch slide lift, which is part of the logging process, is rigged so Clyde can pull the larger part of load. Not every draft horse is capable of becoming a logging horse, since it is a stressful task which requires good temperament and allows for no skittishness. The logger needs to know his horses and be nimble of foot himself because it can be a dangerous job.

To see horse logging, come visit the Arboretum. Wes doesn’t have a set schedule, but you may be lucky and be there at the right time! ♦



**Photos:** The above photo gives an idea of the size of Star and Clyde. The next photo shows the log arch slide lift, with the corral in the background at the Arboretum. Each log in the third photo has been removed from the forest one at a time, with little environmental damage. On the right, Star and Clyde seem to be inviting us to come see them soon.



## Watching Wes, Clyde & Star At Work

by Linda Bartlett



Wes, Clyde and Star skid a felled tree.

It is so interesting to watch horses actually working hard and enjoying it. Having owned and trained a number of horses over the years, my daughter and I were excited to have a chance to watch Wes Gustafson work his team of draft horses, Clyde and Star, at the Arboretum. Wes is very good about answering questions and explaining everything as he goes along, from harnessing up the “gentle giants” to actually pulling the logs out of the woods for the logging trucks. He even offered the grandkids a ride on the broad back of his mare, Star, on his way over to the logging site one morning. And after pulling out several logs he turned over the long reins to my daughter and let her drive the

team back to pick up the next log.

One piece of equipment which was interesting to us both was the “evener” which attaches behind the horses to the log. It can be adjusted so the largest and strongest horse is doing more of the pulling. Once Wes drives his team back to the log he’s going to drag out, he picks up the doubletree behind the horses with the chain in one hand and the reins in the other. Then the horses pivot in a very tight circle rarely stepping on their traces until they are facing the opposite direction. He then connects the chain to the log. It’s hard enough to get a saddle horse to pivot in one spot like this when you are mounted, and you will often get a lot of tail swishing (resistance) when asking the horse to back up. Wes’ team backs and pivots very willingly, with necks arched and muscles tense getting ready to begin pulling once they feel the connection to the log.

Now we come to the most dangerous part. As Wes explained, “It’s up to a good driver to control the horses and ‘ease’ into the pull because horses get excited at this point and are prepared to ‘give it all they’ve got’”. Wes often halts them after a few feet to shorten up the chain after the log has been pulled loose. This makes it easier for them to pull the rest of the way. The log is rolling over and over and flailing around, bouncing off brush

and other trees. The “driver” needs to be as agile as a ballet dancer as he is holding the long reins behind the horses and running alongside the log, sometimes jumping through brush while guiding the horses and trying to avoid being hit by the log. One stumble and he could easily be knocked down and dragged or smashed up against another tree. At this point you hear a lot of emphatic “Whoas,” and it’s critical that the horses hear and respond instantly. Most of the time they did while we were watching, although they do get excited and sometimes actually break into a gallop. They get lathered up as they pull, yet they seem to enjoy the work. Wes said it’s better to have a horse with a heart for work than one with no desire that you have to constantly urge on. Clyde and Star are a great working team.

The team is in their glory as the horses arch their necks and strain into their harnesses. They seem to move as one animal, stepping together. Many of the pictures I took showed only one set of legs when they were pulling side by side. Although they get pretty charged up while actually pulling, as soon as they have finished pulling out a log, Wes ties them to a tree while he gets another log ready. They drop their big heads and stand perfectly still next to each other with all the chains and straps down by their legs. This is in such contrast to most horses when you tie them up all sweaty to a tree! They would be rubbing on each other, nipping, pawing and pacing and tearing up the ground all around the tree, and even attempting to lie down and roll!

The horses drag out the logs (which Wes has previously cut from their roots into lengths of approximately 21 feet) into neat stacks ready for the logging truck to pick up and take to the mill. Wes uses a peavey to stack the logs up in a pile.

The quietness of the operation is very impressive when you think how much clanging, grinding and scraping with exhaust belching that a loader-skidder would be doing. Even after pulling 15 logs down the same path which is no wider than a hiking trail, the ferns, salal and Oregon grape growing right next to the path are virtually unscathed!

When I asked Wes if he would advise a young person to go into horse logging. He said, “The person would need to enjoy both logging and horses. If not, he would be frustrated with the pace of the horses.” Wes obviously enjoys both and is very patient and fond of his team of true “work horses.” ♦



## President's Message

by Kadri Linask-Goode

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer! The much talked about drought has fortunately not yet materialized, and I'm sure your yard is benefiting from that as much as the Arboretum is. We're as busy as ever with new projects and numerous outside volunteer groups working at the Arboretum, and the grounds have never looked better! This is due in no small part to our very dedicated volunteers who continue to amaze me in their dedication and commitment.

Otherwise, I have some personal news to share as this will be my last "President's Message," and I will be stepping down as President of the South King County Arboretum Foundation a few months prior to the end of my two-year term in December to welcome my first child.

It has been a privilege to have held the position for nearly 20 months during which time the Arboretum saw much growth and progress in many areas. Things that stand out most in my mind are the wind and ice storms of 2003-2004 and the clean-up that is still on-going with the horse logging; the planning and installation of our Volunteer

Garden; record sales at our plant sales; the propagation mist house and hoop house remodeling and subsequent, intensive use of both; additions to the Smith-Mossman Garden including getting our fountain up and running; and the list could go on and on. So much progress and so many wonderful volunteers that I am honored to know and work alongside.

I feel privileged to have been a part of the tradition of 40 years of volunteers working toward keeping the Arboretum founders' dream alive and growing at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum. In 2006 I look forward to continuing my involvement with the Foundation on a committee and of course coming out to the work parties.

I would like to thank Eric Larson, our current First Vice President, for taking on the role of Acting President until our Board elections in December of this year. Eric has been a very active Board member for many years, and the Foundation will be in good hands!

Thank you for your continued support of the Lake Wilderness Arboretum, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events! ♦

## Plant Sale & Picnic August 2

Tuesday, August 2, is our Membership Appreciation Picnic and Members-only Plant Sale from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum, 22520 SE 248th Street in Maple Valley. As a bonus, there may be an opportunity for you to watch horse logging in action during the evening.

From 5:30 to 6:45pm, the Nursery will be open for the Members-only Plant Sale. You can choose from a wonderful assortment of the Arboretum's nursery stock including some choice and beautiful camellias. (See the article below.) Come on time as the gate will close promptly at 6:45. If you are not yet an Arboretum member but wish to attend, you can become a member that evening. The cost for an Individual Membership is still just \$10!

At 7pm, the potluck and barbecue begin! Bring your family, friends, chairs, your appetite and be prepared to have a good time! Polish hot dogs, condiments, drinks, plates, napkins and silverware will be provided. Side dishes, salads and desserts are welcome additions. Please RSVP to 425.413.2572. We look forward to seeing you! ♦

## Camellias! Camellias! Camellias!

The Arboretum has recently received over 2,000 beautiful camellias from local growers, Ray and Willadeen Childress of Classic Care Nursery, who are retiring. Some of these camellias are quite rare, and all were chosen for compatibility with our Pacific Northwest climate and for pest resistance.

There are over 40 varieties, including 'Bob Hope', 'Finlandia Variegated', 'Kumasaka' and 'Adolphe Audusson'. The prices range from \$5 for one-gallons to \$18 for the 5-gallon size and will be on sale Tuesday, August 2 at the Picnic as well as at the Fall Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Be sure to tell all your gardening friends about these great prices and the excellent selection.

For information about planting and caring for camellias, go to the American Camellia Society web site at <http://www.camellias-ac.s.org/qanda/growing11.asp> ♦

## Two-day Fall Plant Sale

by Maureen Paszek

A first-ever two-day Fall Plant Sale will be held September 9 and 10 at the Arboretum. Some unique plants which have been propagated over the past two years will be available for the first time, including conifer varieties, witch hazel, pieris (all of which have fall interest and color), and some grasses which will add nice texture and movement to your landscape. While there are too many choice (and rare) plants to name, some you might enjoy checking out are *Hebe pinquifolia* with bluegray leaves, small but profuse flowers and great shape; *Hypericum patulum* 'Hidcote' a 4–5 foot shrub with 3" yellow flowers touched with orange which are very showy; and *Camellia japonica* 'Kumasaka', one of the oldest (1695), with double blooms of deep rose. There are many other rare and choice camellias also. Daphnes, anyone? Who can resist their wonderful fragrance in spring?

Those of you who remember Scott Connor's talk at the Arboretum will recall how he encouraged fall planting, specifically before October 15. These plants will need some water and monitoring before the fall rains begin, *but* they will establish great root systems in the winter and grow on better next summer. This Fall Plant Sale offers you an excellent opportunity to add more interest to your landscape.

Also, if you're available on Thursday mornings, 9am to noon, come help the TWIGS group with Sale preparation, such as potting up cuttings. Also, if you know of light-weight carts that could be used at the Sale or have questions, call 425.413.2572. ♦

## Newest Garden Named

Legacy Garden is the name chosen for the newest garden at the Arboretum which was designed by Nursery Manager Judy Nash. This garden is located just east of the Nursery and was planted this spring using many specimens from Loie Benedict's garden. As additional compatible unique plants become available from other sources, they will be added.

A Boeing crew and a Starbucks work party helped with the excavation and planting. Equipment for the excavation was donated, and the operators donated their time also. All the work was completed in two days although many, many hours of removing plants from Loie's yard were logged before the planting, as you may well know. We are especially proud of the amount of work that went into this garden at no cost to the Arboretum. It just goes to show what inventive and creative people we have access to, particularly Judi Alvau, who was the key player in planning this project,

We chose the name Legacy Garden so that gifted plants from other people's gardens may be added with plaques recognizing their contributions in their own special areas. ♦

## Compost/Mulch Blend Now Available

by Katie Swickard

In the Covington Water District's WaterWise Demonstration Garden, we have been using a fantastic mulch blend of 50% compost and 50% fine bark. We have witnessed excellent results in plant vigor, moisture retention and weed suppression. While straight compost works well as mulch, it doesn't always perform well for weed suppression.

Many people who have toured Covington Water District's Demonstration garden or attended our landscape seminars have wanted to use this mulch blend also. Of course, a person can blend their own mulch. However, for larger projects and for those without the energy of an iron workhorse, it is convenient to purchase the mulch already blended. Mulch consisting of 50% compost and 50% fine bark can now be purchased from select area nurseries and compost suppliers.

Proper mulching is just one step in a seven-step approach to WaterWise Landscaping. Click on the Landscaping/Gardening section at [www.covingtonwater.com](http://www.covingtonwater.com) for a complete list. ♦



Applying 50/50 mulch blend in the Covington Water District's Demonstration Garden.

## New Trail at Arboretum

by Maria VanZanen

On Saturday, June 25, ten fire fighters from Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety, Black Diamond Fire Department and Palmer-Selleck District 47 Fire Department did a training exercise at the Arboretum. In one hour they cleared a four-foot wide, 250-foot long trail along the forest edge through thick brush, getting down to bare soil. Plans are to mulch the new trail with wood chips.

The SKCAF Board can now mark as completed another item on the Arboretum's Master Plan. ♦



Fire Department personnel cut a new Arboretum trail.

## Starbucks "Make Your Mark" Day

by Maria VanZanen

At the second "Make Your Mark" Starbucks work party at the Arboretum on June 15, a total of 28 volunteers accomplished much. They moved pots to alphabetize the plants, put up shade cloth, and potted up new plants. A small group weeded some of the new Mossman azaleas and mulched around them. The new azaleas were charted to prepare for the data entry work, and new aluminum plant tags were added. Because of the total hours worked, the Arboretum again earned the maximum of \$1000 through the Make Your Mark Starbucks program. Thank you Starbucks!

Also, among the volunteers were several employees of Bellevue's Lionbridge Technologies where SKCAF Board member Geoff Culbert works. Their help is greatly appreciated. ♦

## New TWIGS Division

TWIGS has a new Seed Propagation division headed by Steffany Neuschaefer. This group's focus will be growing plants from seed for the Arboretum's plant sales and for future gardens. Steffany welcomes help from those interested in implementing this program. Call 425.413.2572 for more information if you're interested in helping. ♦

## Docent Program Update

The new and exciting Arboretum Docent Program is underway with Betty Culbert, an experienced tour guide and nature lover, at the helm. Shirley Lindhal, Linda Bartlett, and Cindy Ostermann have also volunteered to be docents. These Docent Tours and informative guided walks around the Arboretum grounds and gardens will be offered on a monthly basis and also by prior arrangement for school groups, garden clubs, etc. We're always eager for more help and ideas; if you'd like to volunteer, please contact the Arboretum at [info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org](mailto:info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org) or at 425.413.2572. ♦

## Grant Received

A \$3,000 grant has been awarded to the Arboretum by the Seattle Foundation which will help in the completion of the Smith-Mossman Azalea Garden expansion. A huge thank you to Arboretum Past-President Bob Dunning for writing the grant request. ♦

## In Appreciation

by Kadri Linask-Goode

Thank you to all the volunteers who supported the Arboretum during Maple Valley Days by attending to our informational booth in front of the Lake Wilderness Lodge or helping out in the Nursery. Raising awareness of our Arboretum at such a large event is an opportunity we couldn't afford to miss. Thank you again for making our presence at the festival possible. ♦

The Lake Wilderness Arboretum borders a portion of Lake Wilderness. The SKCAF Board recognizing the importance of restoring the Lake to its former pristine condition has joined the Lake Wilderness Preservation Association (LWPA) and will be working with the group in the future.

## Arboretum Joins LWPA

by Maureen Paszek

The LWPA receives support from City of Maple Valley, King County, and Maple Valley Rotary as well as property owners around the Lake and is leading efforts to eradicate the milfoil and other invasive weeds to prevent further infestation. Also, they are educating the public about using fertilizers properly, growing native plants, cleaning up after pets, washing cars, and *not* feeding the ducks.

For additional information, contact Colby Collier (425.413.8556) who heads LWPA currently and is also an active Arboretum member. You can learn more about this organization that strives to preserve Lake Wilderness' beauty for future generations at their web site, <http://lwpa94.org/> ♦

The Lake Wilderness Arboretum 40th Anniversary and Volunteer Appreciation Celebration has been scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, November 12 at the Lake Wilderness Lodge. County and City officials, community supporters, members and volunteers will be recognized for their support, dedication and hard work.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Update

by Barbara Huseby

Volunteers are needed to help plan the event. A guest list must be decided, invitations sent, caterer hired and program organized. If you would like to help plan this fun event, please email me at [bhuseby@spiretech.com](mailto:bhuseby@spiretech.com) ♦

## Donations: May/June 2005

by Maureen Paszek

- RoseBriar Gardens and Design (Rose Lee) - Cedar cultivar for Smith Mossman garden
- Soos Creek Gardens - 4,000 clean one gallon plastic pots
- Lake Washington Arboretum - loan of cash registers for use during the Spring Plant Sale
- Classic Care Nursery (Ray & Willadeen Childress) - 2,000 camellias, many daphne and variegated pieris, hoophouse equipment and garden carts
- Enumclaw Garden Club - \$300 (from their Gardening for the Birds Conservation Event)
- The Seattle Foundation - \$3,000 Grant for work in the Smith Mossman Garden
- Boeing Gift Matching Program
- Starbucks - Make Your Mark Grant ♦

The Alpine Garden at the Arboretum was originally proposed in 1992 and was a dream of the Chinook District Garden Clubs which donated \$1,000. Much of this money was used for fill dirt and some better soil. Also, scree was added as was broken basalt for the garden's boundary.

## Historically Speaking: The Alpine Garden

by Maureen Paszek

June Mehrer did much of the research for the design, visiting other gardens, talking with nursery owners, and spending time in the mountain alpine areas. The original garden completed in 1994, is patterned after areas near or above the mountain timber line where hardy, adaptable plants grow in nutrient poor soil and scree amongst granite and basalt boulders. These compact, small leaved alpine plants are able to survive cold, snow laden winters, and their substantial root systems allow them to utilize runoff from melting snow pack during sunny dry summers. Garden renovations took place in 2002 with additional large stones being added, including a cluster of native basalt columns and additional plants. Featured in the garden are mountain hemlock, various sedums, saxifragas, sandworts, penstemons and other alpine plants. ♦



*This basalt rock sculpture and bird bath is now a focal point of the Alpine Garden.*

## Behind the Scenes

Below are details that three volunteers shared about themselves, along with some of their favorite gardening tips or information sources.

• **Betty Culbert:** “My interest in gardening began as a child in Connecticut. Being in Girl Scouts, biking and later hiking in Colorado and Switzerland expanded my knowledge and love for the outdoors. While I don’t consider myself an avid gardener, I love having flowers in my garden. I did study ikebana in Japan and enjoy doing arrangements for my home and my church.

After we moved to the Pacific Northwest, I worked with the local author of several hiking books, Harvey Manning, when he began leading tours for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. For three years, I served as the Hiking Committee Chair and planned and led area hikes—which is a great way to share my love of the outdoors and to learn about the wildflowers of this area.

Also, I’ve led the tours at the annual Newcastle Days on Cougar Mountain, educating people about the mines, the bygone towns, and history of the area. And now, my son Geoff, currently a SKCAF Board member, has asked me to be one of the new docents for the Arboretum Docent Tours program he is helping develop. I said I would, since I always enjoy any opportunity to showcase our very own community Arboretum!”

• **Steffany Neuschaeffer:** “Although I have been interested in gardening most of my life, that part didn’t really flourish until we moved from Maryland to Colorado in 1997. Once I started carving out the gardens around our new house, I just wasn’t able to stop. At first, I started out just wanting to landscape a small area around the house to manage the weeds. But when I started tilling and amending the soil, smelling the earth, planting the plants, listening to the birds, watching the growth, learning about the native plants that do well in the area, and playing with the fairies, it all became a way of life. A big part of why we moved to Washington last year was because people told me I could garden all year round and that it was a gardener’s paradise. They were right!

I heard about Lake Wilderness Arboretum from someone I met in the Master Gardeners Program this past year. At the same time, my husband told me about this great place he found to walk

our dogs. He said it had great trails, a gorgeous lake and beautiful grounds. I also joined the Late Bloomers Garden Club and one of the members was in charge of the propagation team at the Arboretum. When things happen in three’s like that, I knew it was time to check it out. I visited one day and ended up joining TWIGS (Task Workforce for Integrated Grounds Support), the Arboretum propagation group that meets Thursday mornings 9am to noon. I couldn’t believe it. It was just what I was looking for...and only five miles from my house! What a great community involvement it turned out to be. My family membership followed without hesitation.

I know people talk a lot about the technical details you need to know about gardening like—the best time to plant, what to plant, how to amend the soil, when and how much to water, pruning, fertilizing...but try to set all of that aside for a moment. The first step is to close your eyes and picture your secret garden. A garden can be anything you want it to be. It can be a single strawberry pot, a window box, or a plot of land as far as you can see. The important thing is that the garden be personal—a place where you can nourish the plants and they can nourish you.”

• **Marlys Hoon:** “Little did I know when growing up on an Iowa farm and enjoying the fragrances and colors in my grandmothers’ flower gardens or even when I was weeding the family vegetable garden (Ugh!) that someday I too would enjoy gardening and be a volunteer at an Arboretum way out west in scenic Washington!

After moving to Washington in 1998—where the grandkids were—my friend Rebecca Stewart invited me to join the Late Bloomers garden club where I met enthusiastic SKCAF Board member, Pattie Warr. She asked, well, I should say, persistently asked, until I agreed to join the Arboretum’s Membership & Public Relations Committee.

Yes, I now love gardening in the Pacific Northwest’s mild climate where flowers bloom in the winter, unlike in Iowa. One of the books that has helped me learn more about plants that do well in this area is Ketzell Levine’s entertaining *Plant This!*. She’s from Portland and is the Doyenne of Dirt on NPR. So, get ready to have a few laughs when you read her plant profiles in either her book or on the NPR website <http://www.npr.org/programs/talkingplants/profiles/index.htm>” ♦



Betty Culbert



Steffany Neuschaeffer



Marlys Hoon

# CALENDAR 2005

August

- 2 Members-only Plant Sale, 5:30pm at Nursery  
Picnic, 7pm at Gazebo,
- 4 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 6 Late Bloomers/Maple Trails Work Party, 9am at Nursery
- 11 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 18 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 25 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery

September

- 1 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery  
Newsletter articles deadline
- 3 Late Bloomers/Maple Trails Work Party, 9am at Nursery
- 8 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 9 FALL PLANT SALE, 10am-6pm at Nursery
- 10 FALL PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm at Nursery
- 14 SKCAF Board Meeting, 6:45pm at Annex
- 15 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 22 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery
- 29 TWIGS, 9am at Nursery

## Mark your Calendar!

The Arboretum's 40th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday afternoon, November 12, 2005.

## Receive Your Newsletter Electronically

If you'd like to receive your newsletter via email, please email [editor@LakeWildernessArboretum.org](mailto:editor@LakeWildernessArboretum.org)

## TWO-DAY PLANT SALE • Fantastic Selection

Friday, September 9, 10am-6pm & Saturday, September 10, 10am-4pm  
Arboretum Nursery • 22520 SE 248th Street in Maple Valley

## Remember – FALL IS FOR PLANTING

# SKCAF Personnel

## Board Officers

President: Kadri Linask-Goode  
First Vice President: Eric Larson  
Second Vice President: open  
Recording Secretary: Linda McMonagle  
Corresponding Secretary: Maureen Paszek  
Treasurer: Criss Barrett

## Board Members at Large

Barb Bartnes, Sandra Cirlincione, Geoff Culbert, Moria Mackey-Fieth, Barbara Huseby, Maggie Westerland

## Committee Chairs

Budget/ Finance: Cindy Ostermann  
Education/Conservation: Patrick Bowman  
Membership/Public Relations: open  
Property Management/Development: Maria VanZanen  
Plant Sale: Barbara Huseby

## Managers

Property: Bill Paine & Rebecca Stewart  
Nursery: Judy Nash

## Nominees Needed

Are you or do you know someone who is interested in serving on the SKCAF Board as an officer, member-at-large or as a committee chair for the 2006-2007 term? If so, please call 425.413.2572.

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## Branching Out: Published every other month. Free with membership.

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Articles welcomed. Deadline Sept. 1. Send comments & articles to [editor@LakeWildernessArboretum.org](mailto:editor@LakeWildernessArboretum.org) or to SKCAF, Box 72, Maple Valley, WA 98038

## South King County Arboretum Foundation

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Located next to Lake Wilderness Park at 22520 SE 248th Street in Maple Valley, WA, South King County