director’s notes

Over the past few years I have focused my quarterly edition of these Director’s Notes on some particularly exciting development in one or more of the Center’s program areas, whether it be academic teaching, research, conservation, public and professional education, Arboretum, Union Bay Gardens, Union Bay Natural Area, or Miller Library. This column presents a different challenge, that of saying “So long, best wishes, and thank you!” as I prepare for a new opportunity (in California no less) this fall. (Editor’s note: Dr. Hamilton has accepted the position of Executive Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California.)

I have been privileged to experience the development of something truly unique in the world, the Center for Urban Horticulture, over the past fourteen years. Having arrived here in 1985 with a fresh Ph.D. but most assuredly wet behind the ears, I have had ample opportunity to grow, to adapt, to learn, and, I hope, to help make the Pacific Northwest a more pleasant, ecologically sustainable environment.

As we did during our recent yearlong celebration of the Center’s 15th anniversary, I reflect with pride in what we have accomplished. Themes we have stressed over the years have become accepted wisdom in urban environmental management: 1) combining ecological and horticultural approaches, 2) selecting landscape plants to succeed with minimum input of resources (especially water), 3) linking the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species, and 4) maintaining our landscape’s regional character by utilizing native plants where appropriate. These and other principles prevail at all geographic scales, from the Duwamish greenbelt to one’s own minimum residential landscape, and make us all contributors to the ecological health of our region.

The Center is about “plants and people”, so it is fitting that I close by thanking all of you – my colleagues at the Center; our volunteers; our students and alumni; our very generous donors; collaborators throughout the UW; folks in the many schools, government agencies, and organizations who cooperate with us; and our vast, diverse audiences and communities. Your idealism, good sense, energy, knowledge, and cheer have made this an invigorating fourteen years for me as a faculty member and eight years as Director. Of course there remains much to do – trees to plant, gardens to design, students to teach, threatened species to save, books to write, slopes to stabilize, and new knowledge to create, synthesize, and apply. I know I’ll hear great things from the Center in the coming years, and wish you all the best in meeting the challenges ahead. So long, and stay in touch!

Clement Hamilton, Director, Center for Urban Horticulture

special events

1999 DESIGN SYMPOSIUM:

Design Dilemmas

Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
NHS Hall, CUH Union Bay
$60, includes buffet lunch; pre-registration required

The Night-Blooming Garden

Love to garden but never get home from work until 8 p.m.? Peter Loewer discusses how to design a garden using night-blooming and night-scented plants. This lecture will highlight plants that can bring drama and enjoyment to your evening so that the cares of the day are quickly forgotten.

Peter, from Asheville, North Carolina, is a garden designer and author of more than 25 gardening and garden design books based on real-life experiences. He is a contributing editor to Carolina Gardener magazine, and writes the popular newspaper column called “The Wild Gardener”.

Gardening On A Slope

Is your yard better for skiing than gardening? Linda Engstrom shares how to take advantage of slope characteristics to create an aesthetically pleasing, functional and stable garden. Ways to control erosion, how to navigate across a slope, and planting methods will also be covered.

Linda is from Portland, Oregon, where she works as a garden designer and consultant. She is also an instructor for the Landscape Technology Program at Portland Community College, and is certified with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Designing Your Shade Garden

Some garden areas never seem to see the light of day. Learn to make the most of your shade garden by planting the right perennials, bulbs, and shrubs to liven up those shady beds and borders. Barbara Blossom Ashmun will illustrate how even dry shade can be made more attractive with the right plants and using the best cultural practices.

Barbara is a garden designer, teacher and consultant from Portland, Oregon. She is a contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine and also writes for other popular gardening magazines.
arboretum plant study program

Each section of this ongoing study program focuses on a different set of trees, shrubs, vines, and ground covers in the Washington Park Arboretum, and includes field work on plant identification, plus discussions of plant selection, placement, and function within the urban environment. Handouts will include complete cultural information for all the plants studied, plus a map will be provided so that students can mark favorite plants for future visits.

In each section you will study at least 20 plants not covered in any other section during the same calendar year; over 240 plants will be covered in the twelve sections annually. Plants will be studied in the season of their most distinguishing characteristics (flowers, fruits, etc.).

Autumn, Section A: Saturday, October 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Instructor: Tom Smarr, M.F.R. Student, UW Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH)
Depart From: Graham Visitors Center, WPA
Fee: $20 general public, $18 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required, class size limited

Autumn, Section B: Saturday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Instructor: Randall Hitchin, Collections Manager & Recorder, UW CUH-Washington Park Arboretum
Depart From: Graham Visitors Center, WPA
Fee: $20 general public, $18 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required, class size limited

Autumn, Section C: Saturday, December 11, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (note different start time)
Instructor: Scott Conner, Consultant Horticulturist, Conner Enterprises
Depart From: Graham Visitors Center, WPA
Fee: $20 general public, $18 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required, class size limited

walks & tours

Guided Tours of the Arboretum

Enjoy the seasonal splendor of the Arboretum with its glorious fall foliage, and the beauty of grasses, barks, and berries in the unique Winter Garden. Encourage your club, senior center, community center or organization to sign up for one of these 60 to 90 minute walks.

Topics:
- Seasonal Interest
- Foster Island Ecology
- Native Plants & Ethnobotany

Dates & Times: Guided tours are available between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., 7 days a week, year-round

Fees: $15 per 15 general public adults, $10 per 15 Arboretum Foundation members

Contact: Call 543-8800 to reserve a guide; three weeks advance reservation required

Free Guided Arboretum Walks

Every Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. FREE public tours depart from the Graham Visitors Center in the Arboretum. Walks highlight areas and collections of seasonal interest. Walks are not offered in December, on holidays, or on Husky or Seahawk home football game days.

TOUR: CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW & GARDENS OF ENGLAND

May 20-June 2, 2000

Join CUHer Dave Stockdale for this fabulous tour to Southern England. Attend the remarkable Chelsea Flower Show on Members’ Day, plus visit some of the best gardens in the world. Gardens to be seen include: Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, Hampton Court, Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Court, Barnsley House, Hadspen Gardens, Exbury Gardens, Great Dixter, Hever Castle, Sissinghurst Castle, plus many more! This exciting tour also includes a dinner cruise on the Thames, a night out at a London theatre, and several city-site tours.

For more information, the complete itinerary, or to sign up, please contact Brad Cilley or Bill Barber at Northwest Travel Service at (800) 465-6269 or (425) 747-8277.
gardening & horticulture programs

Practical Tree & Shrub Management

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 12, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: James "Cisoe" Morris, Director of Grounds Care, Seattle University
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $12 general public, $10 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required

Study how to select and properly install trees and shrubs, review plant needs and techniques of watering, fertilizing, pruning, and environmentally sound pest management practices in this introductory level lecture and demonstration program.

Landscaping with Spring Bulbs

Date & Time: Thursday, October 14, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Jed Marshall, Owner, Cadence Landscape Design
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $10 general public; pre-registration required

Plan and plant now for a glorious spring display of bulbs. This introductory level slide lecture will focus on the uses and growing requirements of a wide variety of spring bulbs. Emphasis will be placed on those bulbs that can naturalize in the garden, including such favorites as tulips, scilla, and daffodils. Less common bulbs such as galanthus and erythronium will also be discussed.

Plants & Their Names

Dates & Times: Two-part course; Tuesdays, October 19 & 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. each night
Instructor: Marty Wingate, Horticulturist & Garden Writer
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $30 general public, $27 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required

Study the origins of plant names, and clear up the mysteries of pronouncing those names in this introductory level course. The instructor will provide take-home lists of references and definitions for future use. This program is useful for those persons who wish to participate in the Arboretum Plant Study Program or any of our other plant identification courses.

Gardens & Villas of Italy

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 3, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Dave Stockdale, Education Coordinator, CUH
Location: NHS Hall, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $10, includes light refreshments; pre-registration required

The fountains of Villa D'este, the parterres of Villa Lante, the colorful borders of Lanciania, and the exotic ruins of Ninfa await! Join us for this exciting slide lecture featuring 21 fabulous Italian gardens. This show is based on a recent CUH sponsored garden tour that included sites in Rome, Viterbo, Sienna, Lucca and Florence.

Landscape Design Basics

Dates & Times: Six-part course; Tuesdays, November 9 & 16 and Thursdays, November 11 & 18, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each night, and Saturdays, November 13 & 20, from 9 a.m. to Noon each day
Instructor: Keith Geller, Landscape Architect & Instructor
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $90; pre-registration required, class size is limited and this class often fills quickly

Learn how to create your own basic landscape plan by developing an understanding of design principles and mechanics, site analysis, plant selection principles, and much more. This course is intended for beginners and includes homework assignments in addition to the lectures and field trips.

Greenery Wreaths

Date & Time: Monday, December 6, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Dave Stockdale, Education Coordinator, CUH
Location: Graham Visitors Center, WPA
Fee: $25 general public, $23 Arboretum Foundation members, includes light refreshments; pre-registration required

Learn to make a beautiful seasonal wreath of fresh greens, cones, pods and other natural materials. This hands-on class with easy-to-follow instructions is enjoyable for everyone. Wear old clothes.
WSU Practical Gardening Lectures
These entry level lectures and demonstrations for beginning gardeners are planned jointly with the WSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program, and are presented by experienced WSU Master Gardeners and Cooperative Extension staff.

Native Plants for Garden Color
Date & Time: Thursday, October 21, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Gayle Walters, WSU Master Gardener
Location: Douglas Classroom, Union Bay Campus
Fee: $5; pre-registration required

Pruning Techniques for a Healthy Garden
Date & Time: Thursday, November 18, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Linelle Russ, Professional Gardener
Location: Isaiacon Classroom, Union Bay Campus
Fee: $5; pre-registration required

Creating Year-Round Interest for the Garden Enthusiast
Date & Time: Saturday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to Noon
Instructor: Betsy Fitzgerald, Landscape Designer
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $30; pre-registration required, class size limited to 12

Do you really enjoy gardening? Do you like trying new plants? Would you like to have more year-round interest in your garden? Then join us as we focus on exciting ways to enhance your existing garden layout for continual enjoyment. Be sure to bring plans, photos, etc., of your current garden for this highly interactive session.

prop shop
Programs in this series include a discussion of the featured technique, including when and with which plants it is best used, followed by a demonstration of skills, and hands-on practice by participants whenever possible.

Seed Collecting, Saving, Storing and Pre-Treatments
Date & Time: Wednesday, October 27, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Instructor: Barbara Selemon, Propagator, UW Center for Urban Horticulture
Location: Douglas Classroom, CUH Union Bay
Fee: $18 general public, $16 Arboretum Foundation members; pre-registration required, class size limited
youth & family programs

For more information or to schedule any of the following programs, please contact the Arboretum Education Office, Monday-Friday, at (206) 543-8800/8801.

Storyvine
Wake up to the wonders of nature! Join storyteller Rose Fitzpatrick for these stories of the mysteries of Autumn and the magical world of plants and animals.

Dates & Times: Saturdays, October 2, November 6, December 4, from 11 a.m. to Noon
Location: Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum (WPA)
Fee: FREE, but pre-registration required

Arboretum Adventures
These programs provide children ages 6 to 12 the opportunity to explore the natural world through interactive tours and hands-on art and science activities.

Dates & Times: Sundays, October 10, November 14, December 12, from 2 to 3 p.m.
Location: Graham Visitors Center, WPA
Fee: FREE, but pre-registration required

Arboretum Explorer Packs & Family Packs
Lead your own group or family on an exploration of the Arboretum. Packs are filled with field guides, magnifying lenses, and activity ideas to help you learn more about the plants, animals, and habitats found in the Arboretum.

Topics: Marsh Madness; Tree-tective
Dates & Times: Two-hour rentals available between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., 7 days a week, year-round
Fees: Explorer Packs are $15 per pack for groups of seven or more (Packs contain materials for 15 to 30 participants); pre-registration and two weeks advance notice required. Family Packs are $5 per Pack, FREE to Arboretum Foundation member families; Packs are available at the Graham Visitors Center Reception Desk, but pre-reservation is recommended.

Saplings School Program Tours
Tours are offered Monday through Friday. Maximum of 60 students. All tours begin at 10 a.m. Cost is $2 per student. Chaperones are free. Scholarships are available. Limited number of slots available.

Grades K – 2: Discover Plants
Plants and people... more alike than you think! This program will introduce younger students to the wonderful world of plants. By exploring the Arboretum, children will observe the colors, shapes, sounds, and smells around them as they learn what plants need to grow and be healthy.

Grades 3 – 6: The Life Cycle of A Plant: Fantastic Fall (October & November only)
As the seasons change, so do the plants around us. Explore seed production and dispersal, photosynthesis, and the reasons leaves change colors.

Grades 3 – 8: Plants and People of the Northwest
What is a native plant? How have these plants been used in the past and how are they used now? Students will learn to identify several Northwest native plants and discover their past and present importance.

Grades K – 8: Wetland Ecology Walk
Explore the complex world of a wetland ecosystem. Foster Island provides a unique opportunity for students to study an urban wetland up close and discover the importance of these natural systems.

Self-Guided Learning Opportunities
Use the Arboretum as your outdoor classroom. This 230-acre, centrally located urban forest offers a wealth of study material and experimental opportunities, and we will assist you in planning your visit by offering information on specific subject areas and plant collections free of charge. Groups of 10 or more must schedule their visit with the Education Office by phoning (206) 543-8800.
University Section

Bulb Sale
Bulb Sale, Sunday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum (WPA). Hundreds of unique bulbs available at our 40th annual sale! For more information, contact Elaine Anderson at (206) 325-4510.

Greens Galore
Join us at Greens Galore, the Arboretum Foundation’s annual celebration of holiday greenery, on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Graham Visitors Center at WPA. There will be fresh greens and holiday crafts for sale, and dozens of decorating ideas on display.

Volunteer Quarterly Meeting
The next Volunteer Quarterly Meeting will be Thursday, September 16, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, in the Graham Visitors Center, WPA. The slide lecture “Bulbs at Their Best: Helping Your Bulbs Succeed” will be presented by Barbara Flynn. Please note that these meetings/programs are open to all Arboretum, Arboretum Foundation, and CUH volunteers.

Interested in Volunteering?
If you are interested in joining the Arboretum Foundation, please call Elaine Anderson at (206) 325-4510. Volunteers are welcome and needed for our many special events and programs, in the Foundation office, and for many activities around WPA.

Pat Calvert Plant Sales
A wide variety of plants are available for purchase from the Pat Calvert Greenhouse in the Arboretum every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to Noon. Call Ann O’Mera at (206) 547-2863 for more information.

northwest horticultural society news

Annual Fall Plant Sale
Annual NHS Fall Plant Sale, Friday, September 10, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, September 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., CUH. Over thirty-five growers with thousands of exciting and unusual plants for sale. Don’t miss this last major sale of the year!

Woodland Garden Symposium
Treasures of the Woodland, symposium featuring lectures by Dan Hinkley, John Bond, Cole Burrell, and Judy Glattstein, Saturday, September 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., $65 NHS members, $85 non-members, Museum of History & Industry. Learn about design and maintenance techniques for creating your own enchanted woodland.

The Best of the Best
The Best of the Best, lecture featuring Richard Hawke, Wednesday, October 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., $5 NHS members, $10 non-members, NHS Hall, CUH. Learn about great plants for your garden.

Mail payment and registration to:
Urban Horticulture Courses
University of Washington
Box 354115
Seattle, Washington 98195-4115

Or you may register in person at the Union Bay campus, 3501 NE 41st St., M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please make checks payable to the University of Washington. No bank cards.

Registrations are filled in the order received. Enrollment is limited, classes fill rapidly so register early. A portion of fees may cover refreshments and speaker expenses.

Refunds: Requests for refunds on events not attended must be made in advance in writing, by phone or fax, or in person. Requests received fewer than 7 days from the first class meeting have a $5 handling fee deducted. No refunds can be made after the first class meeting.

Creating Great Rooms
Creating Great Rooms, lecture featuring Keith Geller, Wednesday, November 10, from 7 to 9 p.m., $5 NHS members, $10 non-members, NHS Hall, CUH. Strategies for designing unique and appealing garden rooms.

registration form

program

fee
Af members # spaces total fee

Special Events
Design Symposium $60

Gardening & Horticulture Programs
Practical Tree & Shrub Management $12 $10
Landscaping with Spring Bulbs $10
Plants & Their Names $30 $27
Gardens & Villas of Italy $10
Landscape Design Basics $60
Greenery Wreaths $25 $23
WSU Practical Gardening Lectures: Native Plants for Garden Color $5
WSU Practical Gardening Lectures: Pruning Techniques for a Healthy Garden $5

Design Studio
Creating Year-Round Interest for the Enthusiast $30

program

fee
Af members # spaces total fee

Prop Shop
Seed Collecting, Saving & Pre-Treatments $18 $16

Arboretum Plant Study Program
Section A (October 9) $20 $18
Section B (November 6) $20 $18
Section C (December 11) $20 $18

Check enclosed for:
(please make check payable to University of Washington)

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone - (day) (evening) Fax

(cut here)
Volunteer Outing Being Planned:
A special tour for Center, Arboretum and Arboretum Foundation volunteers is being planned for this fall to South Seattle Community College. In addition to seeing the college’s Arboretum and the new pavilion at the Chinese garden, we will visit a special traveling exhibition of 50 artworks from the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation entitled Pretty Dangerous; Poisonous Plants of Forest, Field and Garden. Details will be mailed to volunteers.

Curatorial Office Volunteer Needed:
The Arboretum Curatorial Office needs a qualified person to assume the role of Arboretum Plant Tagger. This is a fun job that involves Arboretum field work and use of the plant records database. It is a great opportunity to explore the far reaches of the Arboretum and learn a wide variety of plants. The ideal candidate would have good map reading skills, some knowledge of botany or horticulture, and familiarity with Windows-based computers. For more information or to apply, contact Randall Hitchin at (206) 616-1118.

School Program Tour Leaders Needed:
Arboretum volunteers share the excitement of the natural world with over 4,000 students each year. Fall is a beautiful and busy time of the year in the Arboretum. Sign up now to volunteer this fall if you enjoy working with children, care about the environment, love being outdoors, and can donate a couple of hours each week. Training is in October. Contact the Arboretum Education Office at (206) 543-8800 for more information.

Arboretum Maintenance Volunteers Needed: “Tuesdays In The Garden” work parties for the fall are set and awaiting your participation! Upcoming projects include the Woodland Garden on October 12, and the the Winter Garden on November 9. Each work party is from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call Christina Pfeiffer at (206) 328-4182 to sign up.

Library Volunteers: As we head into fall the Miller Library will probably have openings for one or two new volunteers. If you enjoy the mix of horticulture, people and books, give either Martha Ferguson or Brian Thompson a call at (206) 543-0415.

Volunteer Opportunities Tour: A Volunteer Opportunities Tour will be conducted on November 4, from 9 a.m. to Noon. New and prospective volunteers are invited to join us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Center for Urban Horticulture and Washington Park Arboretum. Learn about all the different program areas and how you can make a difference as a volunteer! Call (206) 543-8616 for more information or to sign up.

Master Plan Update: The Arboretum Master Plan is successfully continuing through the approval process. The Seattle City Council gave formal approval in July to move forward on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is the last component of the process. The Department of Parks and Recreation will select a consultant to conduct the EIS, a 6 to 9 month process, during which a number of alternatives will be investigated. Then the Master Plan will be ready for final approval by the Seattle City Council and Mayor and the University’s Board of Regents. For more information and/or a presentation on the Plan, contact Dr. John Wott, WPA Director, at (206) 543-8800.

Library Book Sale: This has been a banner year for donations to the Miller Library. Many are duplicates of titles already in our collection, so we are making them available at excellent prices during our annual book sale. Sale hours coincide with the NHS Plant Sale (see listing on previous page) and the proceeds will go to purchase more books for the library’s collection. The library will also resume Saturday hours September 11, being open 9 am to 3 p.m.

New Books in the Library: New books include: The Cook and the Gardener: A Year of Recipes and Writings from the French Countryside by Amanda Hesser, The Rose’s Riss: A Natural History of Flowers by Peter Bernhardt; Japanese-style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast, photographs by Melba Levick & text by Kendall H. Brown; Shocking Beauty by Thomas Hobbs; and The Tulip: The Story of a Flower that has Made Men Mad by Anna Pavord.

Summer Interns Depart: Three interns recently completed their projects at CUH. Liz Androskau, a Purdue University graduate, worked with Dave Stockdale at CUH Union Bay to complete an Interpretative Master Plan for the Union Bay Natural Area. This plan will be used to solicit funds for further enhancement of the site. She also helped plan this fall’s Design Symposium. Katie Elzer, a current Purdue student, worked with Julie DeBarr at WPA to lead summer camp ecology walks and create a new Discovery Cart program and a new Arboretum Adventures program. Chris Gee, who attends Michigan State University, worked with Randall Hitchin in the Arboretum on an inventory and evaluation of the Cupressus and X Cupressocyparis collections.

Curatorial Office Completes Upgrades: The WPA Curatorial Office has expanded from one stand-alone computer to a Windows NT network with two client machines. Plus, the old computer was substantially upgraded. Staff and volunteers are now able to get their work completed without having to stand in line for a computer!