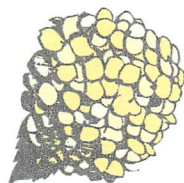


# The Seattle Garden Club

April 2008



## YEARLY MEETING AND LUNCH WITH TACOMA GARDEN CLUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008

### WEYERHAEUSER HEADQUARTERS PACIFIC RIM BONSAI COLLECTION

33663 Weyerhaeuser Way South • Federal Way, WA (253-924-5206)  
See Driving Instructions & Carpool Contacts

#### AGENDA

- 9:30 a.m. Check in, Coffee & Social in the Bonsai Collection Entry Area
- 10:00 a.m. Guided tours of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
- 10:45 a.m. Separate Garden Club Meetings
- 11:15 a.m. David De Groot, Curator of Weyerhaeuser Company's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, will speak on and demonstrate how to start your own Bonsai.
- 12:30 p.m. Box lunches and conversation

*Following lunch a visit to the Rhododendron Species Garden is optional.*

Those not subscribing to the Hostess Fund reply by April 4th  
by mailing a check for \$15.00, payable to Seattle Garden Club, to  
B.J. Anderson, 8602 N.E. 19th Place, Bellevue, WA 98004

ALL OTHER MEMBERS REPLY BY APRIL 4TH TO B.J. ANDERSON AS FOLLOWS:  
Phone: 425-454-4680; E-mail: andersonbj@comcast.net; Fax: 425-454-3954

It is important to be prompt— thank you!

Eastside carpoolers meet at St. Thomas at 8:30 a.m.  
Seattle carpoolers meet at Seattle Tennis Club at 8:30 a.m.

See page 4 for driving instructions.

## In the Arboretum

On April 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. visit the Early Bloomers  
Plant Sale at the Arboretum.

Looking ahead to May 12, at 10 a.m. the Japanese Garden  
will hold its Ground Breaking Ceremony outside the Garden  
Gate. It will be a Shinto ritual intended to calm the kami  
(god) of the earth in preparation for the Gate House Village  
Project. The SGC's funding of the Demonstration Terrace  
Garden should make this a special occasion for all of us.



Dorothy Strong,  
Tracie Tenneson &  
Barbara Pringle

Laurie Riley &  
Laurie Ahern



---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

Salute to Spring, Ladies. Fresh leaves and blossoms of pink and white cherry trees are decorating our landscape. Early bulbs are bursting out with the promise of a new season. Daffodils, which we planted in anticipation of the April Hort Meeting, are just sending up new growth and we all hope to have beautiful fragrant blossoms to exhibit.

Congratulations to our members who will represent Zone XII in the following positions: Jo Anne Rosen as Zone XII Flower Show Representative, Diana Neely as Zone XII Judging Representative and Pam Green as Zone XII Visiting Gardens Representative. Diana will also chair next year's NAL Meeting in Washington, D.C. She has GCA experience as co-chair of Partners for Plants and as a member of the GCA Conservation Committee.

Jo Anne will also chair the SGC Flower Show Selection Committee. She has experience leading a small flower show and has participated in many Zone XII flower shows as both an exhibitor and a judge.

Prudence Hammett has been nominated to be SGC Chairman of Flower Arranging for 2008-2010. We are thrilled to have her creativity and experience sharing her love of designing with flowers.

Our joint meeting with Tacoma will be fun and educational. They asked us for a half hour break in the meeting so each club could conduct some business. It is timely because April is when we will vote on the Lake Union Park proposal. Each of you will receive a mailing from Community Projects with the details of the gift and with a financial statement from Finance showing fiscal projections for several years ahead.

I want to express our thanks to Judy Phillips who has thoughtfully worked with her committee to respond to requests from the community. She has balanced our goals and communicated well with the agencies involved.

Many thanks to our Provisionals, who have used technology well for their interesting and informative Hort Presentations. Colorful illustrations have increased our ability to learn about bulbs, trees, roses, vines and rhododendrons.

Come to the Daffodil Show on April 7. Many of you will exhibit daffodils you have grown and photographs of daffodils. The displays will be open at 10:00 a.m. so you all come and admire and learn.

Trudy Baldwin



### EcoTips

Spring is fast approaching and it's time to start planning our "easy on the environment" garden – keeping in mind ways to save water and use less fertilizer. Remember: right plant-right place. Add native plants to your garden this year. For full shade areas foxglove, bleeding heart and

wood poppies will add color, will reseed and will survive with little care. In addition they are great to bring inside for your flower arrangements. For dry sunny areas choose drought tolerant natives such as yarrow, butterfly weed, false indigo (Baptisia) and native coreopsis and coneflower. Whatever you plant: **1.** build healthy soil by composting and mulching so you will have healthy, pest resistant plants requiring less water; **2.** choose plants that fit their site; and **3.** make every drop of water count. Use soaker hoses and drip irrigation and consider getting a rain barrel. Water in early morning. Happy ECO friendly gardening!

**PS: Consider planting some vegetables midst the flowers. Lettuces add color and interest to the garden and it's such fun to have fresh salads from your garden every night.**

### Conservation Tidbit

*Did you know that crows arrived in cities in significant numbers about 50 years ago? They prey on bird nests and follow where we are looking to locate nests!!! Try to protect nests of native birds by ignoring them but also encourage them by planting northwest natives as food sources: seeds, nuts, berries and other fruits.*



#### February General Meeting at R.E.I.

Speaker Tom Kiernan, President of National Parks Conservation Association and Mary Kay Fitzgerald



# Conservation Report

We learned a great deal from Thomas Kiernan, President of the National Parks Conservation Association, at our February Meeting. The year 2016 is the Centennial Celebration of America's National Parks and there is much to do to restore this system. Government funding is critical. We need to make the parks a national priority.

As Mr. Kiernan stated, "Our national parks protect some of America's most significant landmarks and landscapes. They tell our nation's stories. Yet they suffer from air pollution, development threats, and a chronic lack of funding." He wants us to draw attention to America's priceless resources at risk and to showcase opportunities to act to protect them. Volunteers are important too, as 2,000+ people last summer donated 70,000+ hours and completed repairs to over one half of the storm damage at Mt. Rainier alone!

A massive new study of 20 Western national parks and monuments, including Washington's Olympic, Mt. Rainier and North Cascades parks, found traces of everything from pesticides and mercury to man-made industrial chemicals in some of the most remote and untouched places in the country. Airborne chemicals are the culprit and can be traced back to farming, factories, and global activities, like coal-fired power plants which puff mercury into the atmosphere, according to Dixon Landers, an EPA scientist. Pollution is carried in the air, riding on snowflakes, raindrops and dust particles. Source: "'Pristine' parks tainted..." by Warren Cornwall, Seattle Times environmental reporter.

As Allan Weisman states. "There are still these magnificent places on Earth. The kicker is when you go there, they don't feel strange or exotic. You come away...with a desire for more of the world to return to this level." We need to do everything we can to preserve the biodiversity and ecosystems mother nature created. A healthy ecosystem provides the necessities of life—food, water, medicine, and clean air—as well as aesthetic inspiration for culture and society. Share your knowledge and spread the green message!

Sue Blethen  
Conservation Chair

***"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."* – Nelson Henderson**

Remember: April 19 is Earth Day and Arbor Day! Try to get out and help out in your neighborhood or nearby park!

Thursday, May 8th, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., help us honor Marjorie Wetherill Baird's memory as we work at the Wetherill Nature Preserve. A picnic will follow, provided by your Conservation Committee. Ten acres of blackberries have been cleared mechanically so there are many trees we can now reach. Also, the park commissioners will be there to work with us! Bring gloves, pruners, loppers, waterproof shoes and dress for the weather!! Call or email Sis Woodside or Sue Blethen if you can join us: [sischet@comcast.net](mailto:sischet@comcast.net), cell 206-713-9972 or [sueblethen@hotmail.com](mailto:sueblethen@hotmail.com), cell 206-930-0129.



## The Daffodils

by: William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed – and gazed – but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.



Debbi Wilson & Marilee Ahalt



Marilee Ahalt



## CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH AND GARDEN TOUR

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

To benefit PlantAmnesty

At

Phoebe Andrew's house and garden

\$75 per person

Pre-registration is required

For more information, call PlantAmnesty at

206-783-9813

## Seattle Camellia Society Notice

### CAMELLIA SHOW

Sunday, March 30, 2008

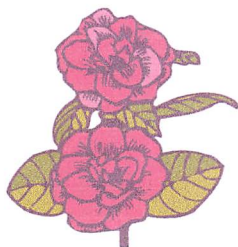
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Graham Visitors Center

Washington Park Arboretum

For Questions contact:

Dinah Hutchinson, Diana Neely or Debby Smith.



## Community Projects

We have received a proposal to fund one of the large Planter Boats at Lake Union Park. It would be a \$50,000 multi-year gift.

The Planter Boats will contain collections of native Northwest plants and will be wonderful horticultural features in the new park.

The Finance Committee and the Board have approved this proposal. The membership has been sent a letter with complete information in preparation for a vote to be taken at the general meeting on April 16th.

## Local Plant Sales

March 29

Seattle Audubon Spring Plant Sale

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

8030 35th Ave NE – [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org)  
NW natives, perennials, organic vegetable starts

April 5

Rhododendron Species, Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 6

Annual Spring Sale

Weyerhaeuser Headquarters, Federal Way

Sunday, April 6 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

April 20

Northwest Perennial Alliance

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

North Seattle Community College

[www.northwestperennialalliance.org](http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org)

April 26-27

Arboretum Foundation Plant Sale

Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

7400 Sand Point Way NE Bldg. 74

[www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org)

Call the Arboretum about Friday eve presale info

May 3-4

Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Sat: 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CUH [www.mgfkcc.org](http://www.mgfkcc.org)

May 10, 24, 31

U-District Farmers Market

June 7, 14, 21

University Heights School

Sat, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Univ. Way & 50th

[www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org](http://www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org)

### Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection

33663 Weyerhaeuser Way South

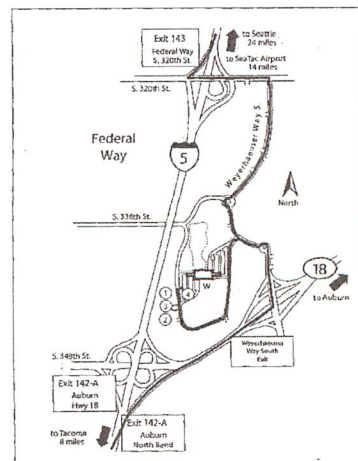
Federal Way, WA 98003

(253) 924-5206

Directions to Weyerhaeuser Company Corporate Headquarters, Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection and Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

**From the North:** Drive south on I-5, approximately 24 miles from Seattle's city center, following the signs for "Tacoma/Portland." Take **Exit 143** (Federal Way – S. 320th St.). Turn left and drive across the overpass. Turn right onto **Weyerhaeuser Way South**. As you enter the roundabout, take the second right and continue south on Weyerhaeuser Way So. Then take the next right (East Entrance) and follow the directional signs to the garden parking area.

**From the South:** Drive north on I-5, approximately 8 miles from Tacoma's city center, and take **Exit 142A** (Highway 18 East). Stay in the far right lane. This becomes the exit to **Weyerhaeuser Way South**. Turn left at the light, cross the overpass, and go through the traffic circle. Turn left again at the East Entrance sign and follow the directional signs to the garden parking area.



- ① Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
- ② Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
- ③ Bus / passenger drop off and disabled parking
- ④ Bus parking – West Lot

# HORT STARTS

**April Hort Meeting Monday April 7th at Graham Visitors Center** featuring YOUR daffodils! To enter your daffodil blooms in the exhibition they must be received between 7:00 a.m. & 8:30 a.m. that morning. The big event begins at 9:30 with coffee, and the exhibition opens at 10:00 a.m.. The exhibition opens to the public from noon to 4:00 p.m.. Invite all your daffodil loving friends to view the show.

**Meeting Location Change.** The May 5th Hort Meeting has been moved to Alison Andrews home in the Highlands. This will be the last Hort Meeting until next Fall. Provisional Sheila Noonan will be presenting fragrant shrubs other than Rhodies and Azaleas.

If you would like to buy a black stand with a test tube, a "Bowman Block" (title coined by Marilee Ahalt) or a triple "Bowman Board" please contact Marilee at 206-230-9854 or email come2ahalt@aol.com.

For those of you who were not at the March Hort meeting to hear Marilee's presentation on how to prepare for the daffodil show, her handout materials can be found on the Seattle Garden Club website. Log in to the members only section and click on the link. You will find her two handouts and a pocket guide to daffodils from the American Daffodil Society. There is a handy link to the ADS site also. Here is just a sampling of what you will find online.

## Know the Names of Your Daffodils

- When you planted your bulbs you made a map or planting diagram.
- As you cut your daffodils, write the cultivar's name and the division on the back of the stem using a permanent, fine-point, black marker!

## Getting Your Daffodils Ready for the Bench

- When picking your daffodils, pick them with a long stem down to the white part if possible.
- Place the daffodil immediately in a container with warm water and keep the daffodil out of the sunshine.
- Do NOT remove the dry sheath!
- Clean off dirt with a Qtip – very gently!

## Culling Process

- The culling process is when you take the daffodil and inspect it for any damage or abnormalities, such as: mittens, browning, tears, etc. This is the time you can make adjustments and groom the daffodil.

## Grooming Tips

- Most daffodils should "look you in the eye". If the head is hanging down, you should gently lift it.
- Take the flower between your thumb and index finger and push its bloom up, toward the sky.
- An exception to this rule are the Division 5 and 6 flowers – they tend to look down.
- Six petals on the flower should be on the same plane. If the petals are not on the same plane OR they are hanging over the cup or "hooded", then push the petals back and gently massage them with your fingers. The warmth of your fingers can do a lot to improve the flower's appearance.
- The flower should be "clocked" – the upper and lower petals line up with the stem in a straight line. If they are not "clocked" then gently twist the flower head until they line up

## Hardening of the Daffodil

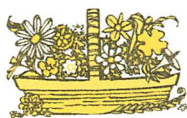
- The hardening process takes place immediately after the grooming. This is when the daffodil absorbs a large amount of water into the stem and flower.
- This begins with cutting the stem with a sharp instrument at about 45 degrees.
- Next place the stems in about 6 inches of "luke" warm water. Warmer water will encourage the daffodil to continue growing.
- It can take 2 – 4 hours for the daffodils to harden.
- Trim daffodil stems by at least 1/4 inch every time you change the water.
- If the daffodils have a few days before you go to the show, put them in fresh water every two days and trim the stems each time.
- You cut the stem again just before you put them in the test tube at the show.

## What if Your Daffodil Looks Perfect Days Before the Show?

- Cut it and refrigerate it! First, clean off any dirt that may be on the flower. You may use a q-tip dipped in water. Then place them in plastic bags and lay them on the refrigerator shelf. When you take them out to exhibit (the night before the show) re-cut the end of the stem and put it in water. This does NOT work for miniatures! They have to be put in water in the refrigerator to keep.

## April Gardening Tips

- Plant summer bulbs: dahlias, glads, lilies, etc.
- Apply organic fertilizers with mycorrhizae
- Bait for slugs with a pet-safe slug bait
- Continue to plant March vegetables such as carrots, beets, leeks and Oriental greens
- MOW your lawn! When the soil warms, treat for crane fly larvae with beneficial nematodes
- Plant cold tolerant bedding plants such as alyssum, snapdragons, and dusty miller



## REMINDER

The April General Meeting is on a **WEDNESDAY**. It is April 16 at the Weyerhaeuser headquarters in Federal Way.

Do not forget to reply to B.J. Anderson, yes or no

She needs an accurate count for the lunches.

## Important Dates in April

- April 3      SGC Board Meeting  
Sunset Club  
9:30 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.
- April 7      Daffodil and Photography Exhibition  
Graham Visitor's Center, Seattle  
Arboretum  
9:30 a.m. Coffee  
10:00 a.m. In-Club Show
- April 16     Weyerhaeuser Headquarters  
Federal Way  
Joint Meeting with Tacoma  
Members only  
9:30 a.m. Coffee  
10:00 a.m. Program  
12:00 noon Lunch  
**Program:** Bonsai Extravaganza  
**Speaker:** *David DeGroot*, Curator of  
the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
- April 25     Finance Committee Meeting  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**Seattle Garden Club**  
University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Box 354115  
Seattle, Washington 98195-4115