



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Spring Newsletter—Vol. 43, No. 1

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Executive Director's Report by Steve Hootman

We welcome our new RSBG staff member Britt Board as the Outreach and Program Manager. Britt has extensive experience in programs and outreach having previously worked at the Seattle Children's Museum and Tacoma Art Museum. Britt has jumped into her new position feet first and is off and running. We welcome Britt to the team and look forward to working with her on new initiatives and programs as we continue to develop and grow. It is always a bonus to have a fresh perspective and some new ideas!

In addition, we have recently hired our newest intern who is working primarily in the retail plant sales area. Natalie Schultz-Purves will be helping to manage the plant sales area as we work through our busiest time of the year in terms of visitors and sales.

We had been on track for a very early spring due to the above average warm temperatures in January and February but a very sudden and damaging cold spell settled in for several days with night-time temps falling to as low as 20 F. This change in the weather has dramatically slowed down the progression of bud swelling and flowering. Most of the early-blooming species already in flower and those that had flower buds beginning to open were frozen but those species that were still tight in bud came through with no damage and are now starting to show color as I write this in mid-March. Aside from losing a lot of early color, the garden and our visitors have benefited from this weather change in that the remaining flowers are now appearing on a schedule more in line with what is normal.

I will be participating in the International Conference for the Conservation of *Rhododendron* Species taking place near Washington DC in April. This event is sponsored by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This will be a truly international event with participants from Indonesia, China, India, Europe, etc. We will be discussing strategies for collaboration, *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, and many other topics.

GiveBig is just around the corner on Wednesday, May 9! We are raising funds for additional programming for youth and families. We recognize the importance of serving our youngest visitors and their families, leveraging our incredible collection to teach kids about conservation, biodiversity, and environmental stewardship. Help us grow the next generation of gardeners and nature enthusiasts!

Visit <https://www.givebigseattle.org/rhododendron-species-foundation>.





Nursery Update by Atsuko Gibson

Our sales area has been well-stocked for the spring season, and new plants are added every week. Our inventory consists of species and hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas, many varieties of ferns (including cultivars that tolerate dry shade such as *Polystichum setiferum* 'Divisilobum'), dozens of hosta cultivars, primroses, magnolias, hydrangeas, lilacs, native plants such as trilliums and flowering currants, and many more rare perennials that can be hard to find in other nurseries. Among the rarest offerings this spring are *Magnolia* 'Lanarth' (see image above) and 'Charles Raffill' (similar to 'Lanarth' but a paler pink), which are rarely offered anywhere in the US. These are large specimens and will make a great statement in your garden. When they start blooming, I guarantee your neighbors will be drooling over them.

Rhododendron 'Nancy Evans' has always been a popular plant in our sales area. It is a small evergreen shrub, and its orange buds open to rich yellow flowers. Another popular *Rhododendron* is 'Medusa' with orange trumpet-shaped flowers. This is a plant for anybody who wants an unusual rhododendron in the garden. Its interesting yet attractive flowers look great in mid-spring and the foliage is also quite attractive.

When you visit our sales area, you might notice the brand-new tables used to display the plants. Our volunteer group, the "Thursday Crew", has been busy constructing these sturdy tables. Many thanks for their time and willingness to take on this project! In addition, don't miss out on the sales table where we have 50% off on the perennials that were carried over from last season. Hope to see you all in our nursery soon! Members, remember you get 10% off on your plant purchase.

New Staff Spotlights

Britt Board, Program & Outreach Manager

In late February, we welcomed Britt Board into the role of Program & Outreach Manager. Britt comes to the garden from the museum world, where she has been working in programming, partnerships, and interpretation for the last seven years. Britt is looking forward to working with the volunteers, bringing in new audiences, and spending lots of time in the garden.

Natalie Schultz-Purves, Intern

Natalie was welcomed aboard as the new Intern and is very excited to work, learn, and hang out with plants. With some farming experiences and endless curiosity, Natalie will bring hard work and a sense of wonder to the team. Catch Natalie at the plant sales pavilion on Saturdays and Sundays as well as learning as much as possible among the greenhouses and garden during the week.



Above: Plant shoppers at the Spring Plant Sale.

Upcoming Events

Spring Plant Sale—April 20 & 21

Mother's Day Weekend—May 12 & 13

Blue Poppy Day—May 19

Evening in the Garden—July 28

Below left: Blue Poppy Day performance; Below right: Mother's Day visitors.



Welcome New 2018 Members

9/1/2017—1/31/2018

Kathleen Sullivan
Colleen Mold
Jenna Jacek
Heather Bradley
Cate & Joe Anderson
Tobey Gloss
Nancee Braddock
Carl Benton Paul
Beth Nakatsu
Mark Cornwell
Kathe Watanabe
Janyce Lauhon-Horton & Kent Horton
Jean Muir
Karen Protti
Emily Ennis
Jean Bragassa
Barbara Sands
Kathy & Bob Leber
Patricia Perry
Nancy Gibson
Shirlee Yaeger

Neel Parikh
Barbara Lago
Johnny Svensson
Deborah Shattuck
Arlen Hill
Josie Kiteley
Ted Henry
Dongseon Seo
Rama Lopez-Rivera
Louise Smith
Gerald Nemanishen
Maria Germinario
Hideo Matsukawa
Claus Joergensen
Masaru Ishii
Khue Nguyen
Gary Berner

**Refer a New Member and
Receive \$20 Off your Renewal!**

Call 253-838-4646 for more
information.

2018 RSF Board

Executive Committee

President: Sean Rafferty

1st Vice President: Ian Walker

2nd Vice President: Joshua Green, III

Treasurer: Bob Gust

Secretary: Garth Wedemire

Members At Large:

Anne Gross

Jean Muir

Chip Muller

Immediate Past President: Mike Stewart

Board of Directors:

Rollo Adams

Chris Brickell

Al Campbell

David Chamberlain

Charles Sale & Margaret Charlton

Ken Cox

Susan Davies

Harold Greer

Benjamin D. Hall

Henry Helm

Donald Hyatt

Douglas Justice

Donald King

William Lindeman

Robert Mast

Peter Norris

Garratt Richardson

2018 RSF Board Continued

Martha Robbins

Hartwig Schepker

Elaine Sedlack

Donald Smart

Jeanine Smith

Joe Ronsley

Diane Thompson

Paul Thompson

Tim Walsh

Keith White

Martin Wilkie

General Contributors

September through December 2017

AmazonSmile Foundation

ARS De Anza Chapter

Walt Books

Kenneth W. Gross

Hans Hasche-Kluender

Kozo Kawano

John Koelsch

Joyce & Davis May

David R. Morel

Dean H. Stout

Timothy Wolfenden

2017 Fall Garden Campaign Contributors

Adams, Margaret
Anderson, Dr. Paul W.
ARS Massachusetts Chapter
ARS Siuslaw Chapter
Bartlett, Robert A. Jr.
Bell, Dianne
Bell, Gwen
Berry, Lady Anne
Brady, Dan
Buchholz & Buchholz Nursery
Buhler, Joan
Bunce, Michael
Carson, Martin
Davis, J. M.
Doi, Yasuyuki
Douglas, William
Dryfoos, Mike
Duke, Carol
Dunning, Robert A.
E White Smith & Lucie Sorensen-Smith
Ecklund, Earl
Fitzpatrick, John
Gehnrich, Herman
Gius, Carolyn
Goetsch, Loretta A.
Graham, Kenneth
Green, Joshua
Gross, Kenneth W.
Hansen, Debra
Hasche-Kluender, Hans

Hayes, Catherine
Henkins, Deena J.
Hertz, Clem
Hewitt, Ted
Hudson, M.
Hungerford, Stanley W.
Keck, Ian
Kinoshita, Margie
Laidlaw, Kurt S.
Marshall, John
Mauritz, Sara
McLean, Katherine
Nelson, Margaret & Allen
Olsen, Sue
Russell, Millie
Sears, Alan & Beverly
Selcer, Donald
Smith, Beverly
Smith, Canfield
Smith, Rex & Jeanine
Smith, Stephen
Soule, Ramona
Swenson, Karen
Thompson, Diane and Paul
Traas, Laurus
Van Patton, Peg
Wall, Carol
Watne, Conrad
Willham, Bruce & Jennifer
Wu, Scott



EVENING IN THE GARDEN

5:00pm — 8:30pm on Saturday, July 28, 2018



Register today to participate in our annual Evening in the Garden event!

Evening in the Garden is held annually to celebrate our wonderful members and volunteers, who are the very heart of our organization.

Call 253-838-4646 to register.

\$35/ Members

\$40/ Non-Member Guest