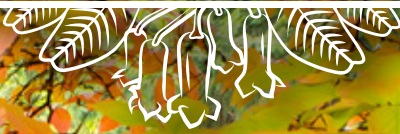




RHODODENDRON

SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN



FALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 3

- P2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- P3 FALL CATALOG HIGHLIGHTS**
- P4-5 FALL GARDENING TIPS**
- P6 UPCOMING EVENTS**
- P7 IN THE NEWS**
- P8 INTERVIEW WITH AN INTERN**
- P9 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**
- P10 DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
- P11 RSF FOUNDATION & RSBG STAFF**

Executive Director's Report by Steve Hootman

As the leaves begin to turn and bright colors return to the landscape, we welcome the cool and (hopefully) rainy weather that accompanies this change in seasons. Considering the very hot and dry summer season we have once again experienced; the garden and its collection of rare plants is in great shape. Flower bud set on most of the species in the garden is substantial this year, which is not surprising considering the historically low production of blossoms this past spring. Next spring is looking very colorful indeed!

The construction of the new hoop house in the RSBG nursery is coming along nicely. Dennis Bottemiller is leading the way along with longtime volunteer and Executive Committee member Paul Thompson. Along with RSBG staff and volunteers George Lewis and Garratt Richardson, Dennis and Paul have been meeting on Tuesdays and have almost completed the installation of the basal pipes which are individually set in concrete. This was the most difficult portion of the project and the most critical as each individual pipe has to be set at exactly the right elevation and distance from each other. This was followed by the final leveling with gravel and placement of ground-cloth to finish the “floor” of the hoop. Great thanks to all of you who have donated to this very important project.

In October I will be heading south to New Zealand where I have been asked to participate in “Rhodenza 2023” hosted by the New Zealand Rhododendron Association in New Plymouth on the North Island. I look forward to connecting with old friends and of course, to my second spring this year!



Fall Catalog Ordering Ends Nov. 1 - [Click here to shop now!](#)

The Fall Catalog will be available until November 1! While we sell a diverse selection of plants in our onsite nursery, our biannual catalogs provide an opportunity to purchase some of our rarest species rhododendrons and companion plants. All plant purchases directly support our mission.



R. augustinii 'Best Purple'



R. proteoides

Fall Catalog Highlights by Atsuko Gibson

R. spinuliferum is an unusual species with orange/red, upright tubular flowers in mid-spring. When you see it in bloom, you will not forget this plant. The bonus is that it can take full sun as long as you keep it watered! This is the case for most of the species that belong in section *Scabrifolia*, such as *R. racemosum* and *R. hemitricotum*. There is no deadheading necessary, and it responds well to pruning. We offer two different collections in this catalog: One is grown from a cutting from a wild origin plant from the Sino-British Expedition in 1981 (SBEC#), and another grown from seeds collected in Sichuan, China by Steve Hootman (CDHM#). Both will make exceptional garden plants.



R. spinuliferum

R. tuba is a vireya rhododendron, which requires a frost-free environment. That doesn't mean you won't be able to grow it successfully. It can be easily grown in containers and placed outdoors during the growing season. Before winter comes, bring them into your greenhouse or place them in bright windowsill until the following spring. The flowers are trumpet-shaped, white flushed-pink, and fragrant in early winter. It is native to Papua New Guinea where it grows epiphytically on tree-fern trunks so be sure to use well-drained soil and keep them slightly underpotted. Our collection of *R. tuba* blooms in February in the Rutherford Conservatory.



R. tuba

Aeschynanthus buxifolius is an autumn blooming African violet relative that is hardy in the maritime PNW. It has taken as low as 16F without any damage. If you have an old rotten stump, consider planting this on top. In a few years, it will send out shoots from all over. It also grows well in a hanging basket or as a houseplant. If you visit our garden now, you can see its bright red flowers in bloom along the main road from the visitor center. It grows best in bright light but away from direct exposure to the sun. These are vigorous, cutting-grown plants from a plant originally collected wild in southeastern Asia where it was found growing on an old stump!



Aeschynanthus buxifolius

Fall Gardening Tips by Emily Joseph

Dig, Divide, and Design - Autumn Is The Time To Dig In

By Emily Joseph, Certified Professional Horticulturist & Assistant Nursery Manager at the RSBG

Interspersed with the warm, sunny days of the end of summer, we have welcomed the return of a few cloudy, cool days and the chillier nights of fall. This time of the year signals the end of the active growing season and the beginning of the all too reliable slipping of time toward the seasons of dormancy. I see it in the nursery daily, as thousands of container plants we monitor draw less water from their potting medium, and the long hours of hand watering begin to shorten. While you may be starting to think about putting the garden to bed for the winter (and putting away the watering hose chained to your side), now is an exceptional time to think about making changes in the garden. Planting new treasures, dividing well-established plants that have outgrown their spaces, or renovating by moving, removing, or introducing new design elements can refresh and refocus even the most summer-weary gardener.

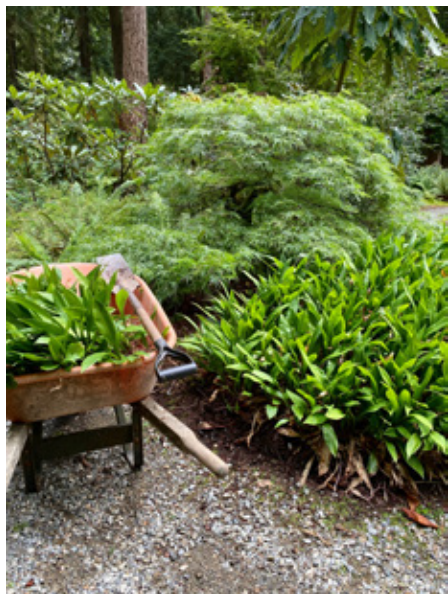
By early September in western Washington, we have about six weeks or more before our average first frost (around the second week of November) and an additional three to four weeks before the likelihood of consistent frost and hardened ground. In addition, cooler temperatures, dew-laden mornings, and early fall rainstorms lessen the stress on newly transplanted plants and reduce the need for constant watering. Though the active vegetative growth above ground begins to slow, roots still have time to establish in the soil before full dormancy. Much of the fall gardening advice and information I have seen for the Pacific Northwest pertains to cool-season crops for veggie gardeners or autumn-themed annuals for splashy seasonal containers. Yet, getting woody trees and shrubs, perennials, ferns, grasses, and groundcovers in the ground during the last warm days of summer and the first days of autumn encourages the development of well-established root systems long before spring. When the dry heat of summer arrives the following year, those plants have had an additional five to six months to settle, dramatically reducing the risk of transplant shock and loss. While fall is generally known as the time to tackle leaf cleanup,

spread chips or leaf mulch, cut back faded perennials, and assess pest and disease problems, it should also be considered as one of the most opportune times to plant.

Aside from planting material you have patiently tended in pots all summer, you can increase the inventory of plants you already have by digging and dividing clumping perennials, grasses, and ferns. First, assess the overall health and size of a plant. Vigorous, healthy plants will divide and transplant more successfully than stressed plants that are possibly knocking on death's door. If you are unsure whether a plant can or should be divided, inspect the growth at the base along the soil line. Are there multiple growth points, shoots, canes, rosettes, or rhizomes around or across a broad base? If so, dig up a generous root ball around the plant and divide to your heart's desire. A hori hori hand tool for smaller projects or a sharp spade/shovel for larger root masses will easily slice through a stubbornly robust root ball. Generally, it is best not to rip or directly handle the roots of most plants. Minimizing root disturbance overall should always be a goal. Once planted, some perennials may not bloom the following year after being divided as they establish in their new location. Many gardeners have experienced that periods of stress can bring about extraordinary bud sets and blooms the following year, but not necessarily with any predictability or regularity. If you follow the "Right Plant, Right Place" methodology of renowned plantswoman Beth Chatto, you already have everything to ensure the plant will eventually bloom and thrive once established in a new location.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fall Gardening Tips by Emily Joseph



Large patch of *Speirantha gardenii* (syn. *Speirantha convallarioides*) in the Upper Woodland Garden, close-up of division with plantlet still attached by rhizome, and freshly potted divisions in the nursery at the RSBG.

In addition to increasing your inventory of plants, dividing one well-established plant that has outgrown its current home and replanting in groups of three can add repetition and balance to a sparse or otherwise simple design. Moving divisions out into other areas of the garden can add continuity to a disjointed design, fluidly moving the viewer's eye through the space. Using repetition in plant choice also increases the emphasis and success of thematic elements, solidifying an overall visual style for a space. Plant lovers and collectors often end up with gardens full of singular standout elements without a uniting theme or underlying visual thread running throughout. Repeated plants can add a sense of calm and neutrality, much like negative space. The backdrop of recurring material allows the singular showpiece plant to stand out and truly shine. Ultimately, endless stylistic choices and combinations are possible when installing or revising a design. A few simple additions and revisions in a landscape during the fall greatly impact a garden before the growing season has begun.

Over the next few weeks in the garden, I will be dividing clumping perennials like *Anemone*, *Iris*, *Primula*, *Saxifraga*, *Speirantha*, *Ypsilandra*, and even our native rhizomatous oak fern, *Gymnocarpium disjunctum*. Many of these will be potted and grown-on in the nursery to eventually be sold and make it out into your landscape. Inevitably, a few will be placed back in the garden at the RSBG in already established plantings and newly renovated beds to bring continued cohesion to the overall woodland garden design.

If you need a few new plants to add to your garden repertoire this season, the 2023 Fall online catalog is now open for orders. If you have time to visit the garden for inspiration, our retail nursery behind the Visitor's Center is freshly stocked with new hybrid and species rhododendrons, tropical vireyas, companion plants, and sought-after collector's items. Whether you purchase new plants or make more from your current collection, I hope you take time to enjoy the remaining planting season and continue to get out and into the garden.

Upcoming Events



FALL FLASH SALE

ONE-DAY ONLY

Saturday, Sep. 30

10 am - 4 pm

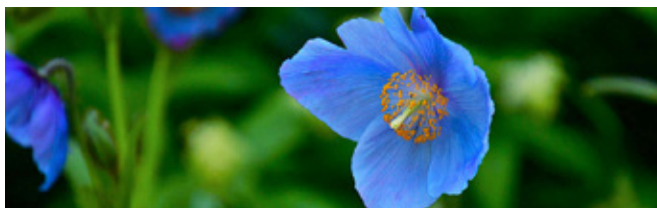
Our Summer Clearance Sale was a huge success, so we decided to bring it back for the fall!

Shop for your favorite fall foliage and hard-to-find plants, during this special one-day only sale!

We'll restock the nursery with new varieties we haven't offered before, plus a fine selection of never before offered *Begonia* species collected wild in the forests and mountains of Asia.

Fill your home and garden with fresh colors, designs and textures - all from your friends at the Rhody Garden!

**The first 50 plant shoppers will receive a
FREE Blue Poppy Plant!**



FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday

October 28-29

10 am - 4 pm

Celebrate autumn at our Fall Foliage Festival that features tours, pop-up plant vendors, food trucks, a costume contest and kid's scavenger hunt!

Admission is FREE!

Saturday:

- Fall Color Guided Tours
- Featured pop-up plant vendors
- Phyto inspection for Canadian customers
- Food Trucks
- Costume Contest
- Kids Scavenger Hunt

Sunday:

- Fall Color Guided Tour
- Featured pop-up plant vendors
- Costume Contest
- Kids Scavenger Hunt

The RSBG received multiple awards for community and tourism in 2023

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD WINNER

This August, the RSBG was selected to receive the Community Impact Award from the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce.

The Rhody Garden was chosen for its leadership which serves as a model of inspiration in personal, professional and volunteer efforts; a track-record of community enhancement through projects or business concerns designed to make a difference; and service to the community.

Chamber staff and their board of directors decide on the winners each year and present the award at their annual fundraising gala. The gala recognizes leadership and celebrates the economic vision we all share for supporting a resilient, innovative, and regionally connected business network.

The 2023 Chamber Gala will be held on Nov. 18, at Woodbridge Corporate Park from 6-9 pm.

[Click here to read the full press release](#)

BEST IN THE PNW WINNER

This May, the RSBG launched a campaign to request nominations to be entered into The Seattle Times' 2023 'Best in the PNW' contest. Garden supporters nominated the garden in nine categories.

During the voting period, garden supporters voted the RSBG 'Best in the PNW' in the following categories: Best Day Trip, Best Family Attraction, and Best Tour. The Rhody Garden won silver in each of these categories.

The contest winners were announced September 24 and received recognition in the official winners magazine print addition and online.

This is a huge achievement to be listed as winners in three categories, and even more impressive to secure silver against PNW tourism giants like Pike Place Market and others.

The Rhody Garden sends a BIG "THANK YOU" to everyone who voted for us "Best in the PNW!"

[Click here to read the full press release](#)



Interview with an Intern by Natalie Ries

Meet RSBG Intern Marissa Swindler



This year, the RSBG welcomed Marissa Swindler onto staff as the garden's newest intern. Marissa grew up in Tacoma, WA, and lives there now with her husband. Marissa began her horticultural journey at Windmill Gardens in Sumner, as a seasonal worker in the spring of 2021. This past June, Marissa graduated from the University of Washington Tacoma with a BA in Writing studies. In her free time, Marissa enjoys reading, writing, and hiking.

I recently sat down with our bright new addition to the RSBG family to get to know her better and to share her story with all our members.

NR: Welcome, Marissa, we're so pleased to have you on the team here at the garden. What brought you to RSBG?

MS: Thanks, Natalie! It feels pretty fancy to be interviewed like this. I'm a fan. Anyway - what brought me here? I was on the way home from a road trip to Montana, looking at all the beautiful nature and thinking, 'well, I have a degree in writing, but writers don't get paid too much, and besides, working outdoors every spring and summer is really great.' So, I hopped online and started emailing gardens near Tacoma to see if they were hiring, and lo and behold, I got an email back from Steve, and I thought he seemed like a cool guy to work for. And here I am.

NR: I had a similar experience before my first interview, and thought Steve was a pretty cool guy too. Now that

you've been here awhile, what is your favorite duty at the garden, and why?

MS: There is a lot that I like to do here. I will admit that when it gets to the sixth hour in the day of weeding, I'm not such a fan of it, anymore. But I really enjoy potting up small plants at the potting bench. The work is satisfying. To that end, pressure washing the floor of a greenhouse was pretty fun and satisfying, too.

NR: I agree with you on all fronts, while growing up weeding was my least favorite chore, and the work done at the potting bench looks like fun. So, which task is your least favorite and why?

MS: I do a walk every morning both around the nursery and garden to get temperatures. While I love this, I really can't stand the amount of spiderwebs I walk through in the garden. Every day, at least ten catch me in the face, so I wave my clipboard around in front of me like a crazy person now, and hope no one sees me.

NR: Hahaha, I get that, I love spiders, and don't like destroying their homes with my face. Let's talk about life after your internship... where do you see yourself working?

MS: Well, by then I'm thinking it may be time for me to put my actual degree to use, and get myself a good writing job. But we'll see. Not a lot beats working outside in nature. I may wind up back at my nursery job at Windmill Gardens, or in a different garden.

NR: No matter where you end up, I know you're going to shine! Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience here at RSBG?

MS: I have really loved working here the last few months. One thing I knew before, and has still blown my mind, is that you really can't stop learning about plants. There are so many types of rhodies, that I don't understand how anyone is able to remember even a quarter of them. And this blows my mind about plant people. They never want to stop learning. Learning seems like the passion of the people who work here, and they make me want to work harder, even by just rattling off the locations of a few rhodies in the garden that I'm 100% sure I've never even seen before. So, I guess all of that is to say, that a lot of the time people tell me I have a dream job, and that's true. But not because of what I get to do, but also because of who I get to work with.

Membership Matters

Welcome New Members January 1 - September 28

The garden is grateful to all its longtime members, those who have been with us on this journey from the very beginning. To all those members who joined us in the 70's, 80's, 90's and 00's, THANK YOU! Your continued support has helped the garden not only thrive but to set itself apart as a leader in the botanical garden world.

In this issue, we'd like to welcome all our new members from the beginning of this year to now. Welcome to the RSBG family! We hope you are enjoying your member benefits.

New Associate Members

Atlanta Botanical Garden
OSU Facilities Services Landscape

New Sustaining Members

Andrew B.
Martha M.

New Supporting Members

Sherry B.
Carol B.
Casey C. & Mike J.
Melanie D.
Emily D.
Calvin H. & Ann C.
James H.
Kathy H.
Gregory J.
Claire K.
Carleen K.
Jack K.
Page L.
David & Eileen M.
Carol M.
Bill M.
Sue N.
Kathy P.
Danielle P.
Lorelei S.
Lisa S.
Kevin S.
Kim T.
Anna W. & Stephen M.
Susan W.

New Family Members

Erlinda A. & Louella M.
Andrew A. & Gary B.
Jeannie A.
Tom A.
Stewart & Joann A.
Jordan & Liliana B.
Leshell B.
Lisa & Andy B.
Christine B.
Frank B.
Ann C.
Christine C.
Jacob C.

Christopher C. & Nancy Y.
John C. & Dalice S.
Deborah C.
Sean C. & Mandy R.
Ted C.
Craig C. & Mildred W.
Seferiana D.
Teanna D.
Rachel D.
Margaret D.
Ben & Lisa D.
Stephen & Heather D.
Ciara D. & Dan R.
Sheri & Jeff E.
Molly E.
John E.
Valerie F. & Ben L.
Susan G.
Timothy G. & Natalie M.
Carol G.
Nancy G.
Angelica G. & Shane D.
Arias G. & Luis E.
Eric G. & Brenna A.
Sandeep & Prabha G.
Brandon & Hailey H.
Natalie H. & Bo C.
Karen & Lawrence H.
Nancy Marie H.
David H.
Eryn & Mike H.
Leah & Rowan I.
Judy & Mannie J.
Jeff J.
Michaela & Casey J.
John K. & Fanwei K.
Chris & David K.
Dorris & Karen K.
Janet & Mike K.
Elizabeth & Jeff L.
Mary Jo M.
Ronda & Rahel M.
Michael M.
Kelly M.
Stephen M.
David M.
Brian M.
Greg M.
Corin & Emilio M.

Elaine M.
Kyle & Miranda M.
Shontee M.
Lisa & Keith M.
Debra M.
Elizabeth N.
Zara N. & Mat S.
Hoa N.
Henning N.
Nina N.
James O.
Breanna P. & Eric H.
Christine & Patrick P.
Michelle P. & Austin B.
Heather P.
Madeline Q.
Brooke R.
Janna R. & Chynna C.
Bronwyn R. & John D.
Emily R.
Tyler R.
Norman & Joan R.
Christie S.
Cori S. & Madeline R.
Lydia S.
Daniel S.
Lindsey S. & Dashiel N.
Josh & Melissa S.
Sean S.
Nancy & Nicholas S.
Teresa & Scott S.
Vicky T.
Arlene T.
Walter T.
Christina T.
Tal T.
John & Christine T.
Christina W. & Gary M.
Diane W.
Linda & Richard W.
Nicole & William W.
Kevin W.
Victoria W.
Lidia Y.
Beth Z.
Liu Z. & Christopher G.

New Individual Members

Carmen A.	Takako K.
Christine A.	Sushil K.
Amber A.	Diane L.
Darlene A.	Jeremy L.
Phyllis A.	Ann L.
Claire B.	Julie L.
Stella B.	Anh L.
Tim B.	Erin M.
Esther & Robert B.	James M.
Kristy B.	Angeline M.
Elizabeth B.	Joshua M.
Bret B.	Paddy M.
Wendell B.	Beauze M.
Evan B.	Jason M.
Norman B.	Nancy N.
Ronald B.	Ryan N.
Elizabeth B.	David N.
Carol B.	Polly O.
Thomas C.	Lizbeth P.
Nance C.	Nathan P.
Joseph C.	Anne R.
Beth C.	Kathleen R.
James C.	Jerome R.
David C.	Theodore R.
Jonathan E.	Jim S.
Dominique E.	Paula S.
Robin F.	Leily S.
Holly F.	Letania S.
Susanne F.	Katrina S.
James F.	Ethan S.
Winona F.	Michael S.
Margaret G.	Margaret S.
Vanessa G.	Frank S.
Lindsey G.	Ron S.
Amelia G.	Ethan S.
Gwen G.	Jack T.
Jennifer H.	Jason T.
Matthew H.	Steven T.
Nancy H.	Katherine T.
Richard H.	Jessica V.
Kyle H.	Scott V.
Katherine H.	John V.
Cameron H.	Melody W.
Shannon H.	Linda W.
Mark J.	Sandra W.
Andy J.	Chris W.
Kevin K.	Gerard W.
J. K.	Amely W.

Endowment Contribution

06/01/2023 - 08/31/2023

Joshua Green Foundation, Inc.

General Operations

06/01/2023 - 08/31/2023

Garden Campaign

Adams, Margaret
Agress, Peggy
Anderson, David
Bartlett, Robert A. Jr.
Bell, Lynne
Bemis, Michelle
Bland, Don
Christianson, Neil B.
Clausen, James
deSpoelberch, Phillippe
Duke, Frank
Eggers, Susan
Everding, Kenneth
Gage, Elbert
Gray, Laura

Gross, Kenneth W.
Hart-Guss, Cheryl A.
Hasche-Kluender, Hans
Joseph, Clyde
Kellerman, Carole
Kendall, Peter
Lee, Page
Lee, Robert
McGill, Patricia
McIntosh, Kevin
Minns, Gary & Walsh, Chrsitina
Morano, Jason
Morris, Tom & Linda
Olsen, Sue
Parker, John

Paul Thompson
Sinclair, June
Smart, Don
Stowell, Scott
Swenson, Karen
Tully, Dennis
Twigg, Stephanie A.
Wall, Carol
Watne, Conrad
White, Keith A.

Cash Contributions

Aragon, Lindsay
Atkinson, Phyllis
Chapen, Carol F.
Clark, Susan
Dahlgren, Ruth
Davies, Dr. S.E.
Fleischmann, Lucille
Hellwig, Phyllis
Niihara, Shuichi
Parson, William
Riggs, Rudy
Traas, Laurus
Valerie, Sasson & Gary May
Zachau, Charles

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Roger Paul Lintault
by the Aragon Family
by Tom & Phyllis Hellwig

In Loving Memory of Rollo Adams
by Winnie Adams

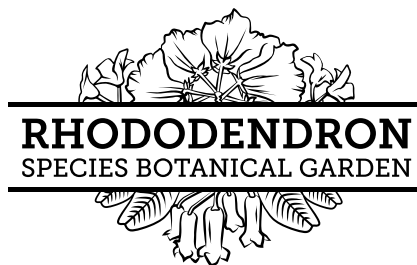
Show your love for the RSBG:

Donate
Today

RSF Foundation & RSBG Staff

Staff

Executive Director and Curator	Steve Hootman
Chief Business Officer	Grace Pham
Nursery Manager & Assistant Curator	Atsuko Gibson
Marketing and Outreach Manager	Natalie Ries
Horticulturist & Assistant Curator	Will Clausen
Assistant Nursery Manager	Emily Joseph
Assistant Horticulturist	Adam Duell
Administrative Assistant	Janey O'Neil
Visitor Services Representative	Alexys George
Rutherford Conservatory Curator	Dennis Bottemiller



Board of Directors Executive Committee

President	Peter Norris	Cambridge, Massachusetts
First Vice President	Mike Stewart	Sandy, Oregon
Second Vice President	Chip Muller	Seattle, Washington
Secretary	Chris Southwick	Nanaimo, B.C., Canada
Treasurer	Robert Gust	Edmonds, Washington
Immediate Past President	Sean Rafferty	Shirley, B.C. Canada
Member at Large	Joseph Bruso	Hopkinton, Massachusetts
Member at Large	Anne Gross	Salem, Oregon
Member at Large	Stephen McCormick	Long Beach, Washington
Member at Large	Paul Thompson	Bothell, Washington
Member at Large	Kenneth Webb	Victoria, B.C., Canada

Board of Directors

Al Campbell	Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada
David Chamberlain	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Ken Cox	Glencarse, United Kingdom
Susan Davies	Palmerston North, New Zealand
Donald Hyatt	McLean, Virginia
Douglas Justice	Vancouver, BC, Canada
William Lindeman	Port Townsend, Washington
Tom Nosella	West Vancouver, BC, Canada
Stephanie Sallaska	Des Moines, Washington
Hartwig Schepker	Ottersberg, Germany
Don Smart	Carnation, Washington
Valerie Soza	Seattle, Washington
John Stephens	Long Beach, Washington
Ian Walker	Shoreline, Washington
Tim Walsh	Eureka, California
John Weagle	Halifax, NS, Canada
Garth Wedemire	Comox, BC, Canada
Keith White	Salem, Oregon

Board of Directors (Honorary)

Peter Cox	Glencarse, Scotland
Honoré Hacanson	Longview, Washington
June Sinclair	Port Ludlow, Washington
Philippe de Spoelberch	Haacht, Belgium