



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Summer Newsletter—Vol. 43, No. 2

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Executive Director's Report by Steve Hootman

It was a tremendous spring season here in the garden with record-breaking attendance at most of our major events and probably the most income in terms of overall plant sales that we have ever recorded. The unusually dry and warm weather had a great deal to do with our success this spring but the efforts of Britt and the rest of the staff definitely contributed to a very good start to the year. Now, with our busy spring behind us, we begin the summer season of watering, weeding and propagation. We were forced to begin watering in the garden much earlier than normal this year due to the month of May going down as both the driest and warmest on record for our region. So, we now enter our long maritime-Mediterranean dry season with the ground already quite dry! It looks like we are in for a very long summer.

We welcome our new intern Alison Sulham who started with us in May. Alison has considerable experience in greenhouse production and nursery work and has been a great addition to the team.

Earlier this spring the entire staff had a field trip to the newly opened Amazon Spheres in downtown Seattle where we were given a personal tour by the lead horticulturists. The Spheres are three geodesic domes joined together and planted with cloud forest plants including some quite large trees. It is used by Amazon employees as work and meeting space. Many of the plants growing in this new conservatory originated at the RSBG including numerous *Rhododendron* species, *Agapetes*, etc. and some large tree ferns which had grown too large for our own Rutherford Conservatory.

Woodland Gardening, the beautifully illustrated new book by Ken Cox, is selling well and I urge you to visit our website for further information. It has received rave reviews and is only available from the RSBG here in North America.

I was quite happy to spend a great deal of time with many of you during the recent International *Rhododendron* conference in Bremen, Germany. We saw many fine gardens and plants and the whole event was extremely well-organized and enjoyable.

I also had a very successful trip to Virginia in April for the Botanic Gardens Conservation International meeting on conservation of the genus *Rhododendron*. A great deal of planning and evaluation took place with representatives from most of the major *Rhododendron* gardens and collections in attendance.



Last Call!

Register by Friday, July 13 to attend our annual Evening in the Garden event—Rhody Gras, a New Orleans-themed celebration.

Sign up at: <https://rhodygarden.org/cms/evening-in-the-garden/> or call 253-838-4646.

Summer Bloomer: *Rhododendron auriculatum* by Atsuko Gibson

If you have a large garden, *R. auriculatum* is a must have. Its handsome foliage can be up to 12 inches long, but the true treasure of this plant is when the highly fragrant flowers are borne in summer (late July to early August for us in the PNW). Our plantings of *R. auriculatum*, along the main road, are among the original plantings still left in the garden from 43 years ago. When they bloom, especially on a warm day, the mouth-watering sweet fragrance travels far and surprises visitors walking through the garden. The flowers are funnel-shaped and typically white with green-yellow blotches, but we have the rare rose-pink flowered form in the collection as well.

Underneath our large specimens of *R. auriculatum*, we recently planted the ground-cover *Asarum caudatum* and the wildflower *Disporum smithii*, both native to the PNW.

Once they fill in, there will be a solid green carpet of *Asarum* with the lovely Fairy Bells arching above with white bell-shaped flowers. Recent new collections of *R. auriculatum* are planted out in our nursery beds, waiting to be placed in the garden.

We need to do tree work before we can plant them in the garden but

this should be done in the next year or two. In fact, some of the newest collections of *R. auriculatum* will bloom for the first time this year! We are hoping some of them will be pink ones. We'll see!

The species name comes from the auriculate leaf base (ear-lobed). It was introduced into cultivation in 1899 by Ernest Wilson. This heat-tolerant species grows well with afternoon shade and is hardy to -5F. It is native to SW China and can attain over 30 feet in height in the wild.



Welcome, Alie!

We are thrilled to have a new full-time intern—Alison Sulham! Alie is originally from the Midwest and moved to the Pacific Northwest nearly 20 years ago. She has spent the last two years working on farms in California. Alison has enjoyed horticulture since childhood, from vegetable gardens to cacti and succulents to flowering plants. Working in a botanical garden has been a lifelong dream, so this internship is an opportunity that Alie cherishes and enjoys. Do say hello if you see her working in the garden!

Spring Events Recap by Britt Board

The season kicked off with record-setting sales and attendance at our **33rd Annual Spring Plant Sale**. We had over 1200 attendees, 28 vendors, and a new venue—the Christian Faith Center located just down the road on 320th. New elements were speckled in, including three art vendors selling pieces to complement the garden, such as paver stones, fused glass, and ironwork. From intrigued passers-by to seasoned gardeners, the event brought in a wide range of visitors. We enjoyed chatting about all things gardening, catching up with vendors, and eating delicious food from KC Deez Barbeque truck. A special thanks goes out to our volunteers, who hauled plants, set up the tent, tallied, carried, greeted, and counted. More than any other event, the Spring Plant Sale is so very dependent on volunteer support. Thank you for making it the best year yet!



Mother's Day Weekend

Mother's Day Weekend brought in over 2,000 attendees from all over Puget Sound. This year featured garden-inspired activities, including collage, leaf rubbings, and a book nook for kids and families. Tacoma Photographer Anthony Goins snapped downloadable portraits for visitors (see photo on the right) and we were wowed by Crisp Creperie, which served up hearty sweet and savory creations.

Left: Family portrait by photographer Anthony Goins.

Below: Visitors in the Blue Poppy Meadow.

Blue Poppy Day—Presented in partnership with the City of Federal Way Arts Commission and the Pacific Bonsai Museum, the Annual Blue Poppy Day event is a celebration of art and nature. We hosted 2000 visitors, 15 vendors, Pilgrim Coffeehouse, The Cheese Pit, and performances by the Federal Way Youth Symphony and husband and wife duet Deux Gitans.



Woodland Gardening by Kenneth Cox

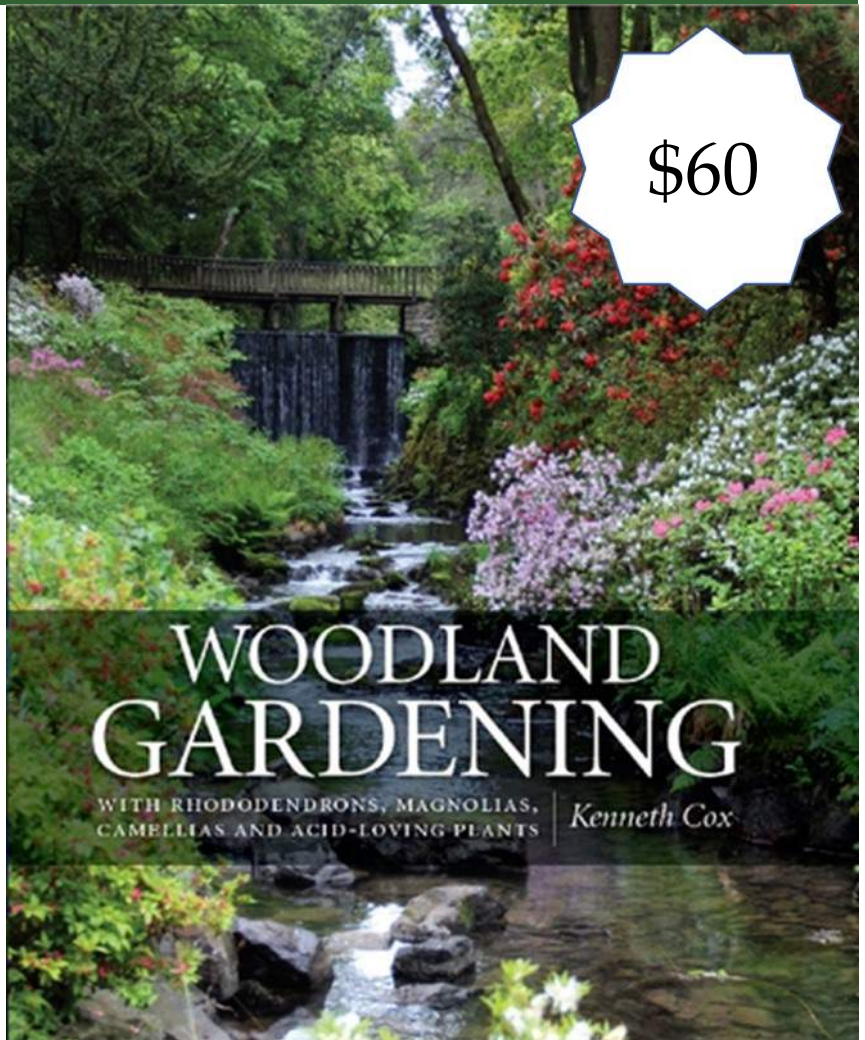
This is a comprehensive and lavishly illustrated new book on woodland and shade gardening with valuable information on cultivation and style, as well as descriptions of many of the most exciting new plants that have been introduced in the recent modern era of plant hunting.

The RSBG is a publishing co-sponsor with Glendoick Gardens of Scotland and we have the exclusive rights to distribute this exciting new book in North America. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used in the conservation of endangered *Rhododendron* species.

This book has just been released, but it has already sold out in Australia and New Zealand!

Order online at:

<https://rhodygarden.org/cms/woodland-gardening-book/>



Upcoming Event—Fall Foliage Festival!



Saturday, October 20 - 27

Fall Foliage Festival includes:

- FREE Entry to Garden
- Demonstrations
- Presentations
- Fall Plant Sale
- Tours

Visit our website for updates.

Welcome New 2018 Members

2/1/2018 — 5/31/2018

Mary Lee	Ladeen Miller	Gail Weyerhaeuser	Pegi Glenn
Kimberly Wolf	Jack Ottaway	Pamela Linder	Paula Kierkegaard
Sue Kahle	Janet Smith	Annette Peck	Kathleen Crabtree
Dianna Palermo	Michael Walsh	Richard Pulkrabek	Ken Crabtree
Jeanne Mitchell	Barbara Farrell	Donna Bogumill	Marion MacKay
Ray & Julia Stewart	Jim Leighty	Jennifer Dahlen	Gary Goelitz
Carol Bradley	Kim Woodruff	Serene Munroe	Bill Pusztai
Jocelyn Lane	Sara Ives	Roy Sapp	Serena Sedgwick
Dave Keen	Sara Lawrence	Emma Cotton	Jody Estes
Lori Sechrist	Nancy Rawles	Chase Stanley	Ed Keeley
Janet Adams	Karen Darrow	Ken Tuomi	Sheri Keeley
Karen Kennedy	Sek Hoeun	Kathleen Grube	Dean Simson
Ed Rogers	Bernie Jacobs	Gabrielle Fitzgibbon	Tom Bell-Games
Joyce Webley	Isabelle Marsh	Lisa Wendling	L Myria Jacobs
Mike & Cindi Bentz	Sherri Kanzler	Glen Jamieson	Eric Olmsted
Bonnie Berk	Robert Woolley	Edrea Jones	Hristina Popova
Michelle Boyer	Julia Woolley	Jill Watson	Valerie Tasche
Patricia Crossman	Leslie Elliott	Martin Cieri	John Keawe
Kenneth Everding	Rita Norcross	James Rendahl	Janet Reidy
Ginny Read	Heather Carlisle	Vicki Demetre	Patricia Barrett
Svea Dagal	Elbert Chang	Jay Mirro	Renee Fischer
Kathryn Lewis	Maureen Green	Laura DiMaria	Dan Meier
Arek Mazur	Dan Kessler	Linda Putt	Shida Michihiro
Molly Hill-Woodworth	Terri Lindeke	Lynn Rollins	Roy Hanaki
Ron Jendretzke	Annamarie Smith	Frank Cole	John Aslin
Cynthia DeVeiteo	Mike Fong	Shon Robinson	Janet Davenport
Maureen Miller	Cindy Lucas	Janice Chang	Ossie Parsons
Eva Morgensterna	Ron Richter	Jeffrey Dufficy	Hobson Jandebaur
Lesley Roth	Elaine Turner	Anthony Feilback	Christopher Herndon
Cynthia Sable	Guanjiao Fu	Iris Fagerland	Keith Geller
Jessica Eads	Janice Sutter	Mark Lucas	

2018 RSF Board

2018 RSF Board Continued

Executive Committee (2017 to 2019):

President: Sean Rafferty

Immediate Past President: Mike Stewart

1st Vice President: Ian Walker

2nd Vice President: Charles Muller

Treasurer: Robert Gust

Secretary: Garth Wedemire

Executive Committee Members At Large:

Anne Gross

Jean Muir

Paul Thompson

Board of Directors (2015-2018):

Rollo Adams

Christopher 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

Martha Robbins

Joe Ronsley

Hartwig Schepker

Elaine Sedlack

Donald Smart

Jeanine Smith

Diane Thompson

Paul Thompson

Tim Walsh

Keith White

Martin Wilkie

Newly Elected (2018 to 2021):

Jerry Ackerman

Tom Nosella

Valerie Soza

Renewing Members (2018 to 2021):

Ken Cox

Robert Gust

Henry Helm

William Lindeman

Robert Mast

Charles Muller

Peter Norris

Joe Ronsley

Charles Sale & Margaret Charlton

Hartwig Schepker

Don Smart

Mike Stewart

Paul Thompson

Garth Wedemire

2018 Spring Garden & GiveBig Campaign Contributors

GiveBig 2018

Luanne Coachman
Jean Feagin
Kenneth W. Gross
Henry R. Helm
Ian Keck
Janet Lafferty
Kurt Laidlaw
Mary Lignana
Ramona Machulak
Nina McNamara
Jean Muir
Charles Muller
Ramona Okamoto
Suzanne Olsen
Tracy Oster
Trayton Otto
John Parker
Camille Paulsen
James Pellicer
Charles Scheaffer
Michelle Scheff
Stephanie Shadbolt
Donald Smart
Jeanine Smith
Ramona Soule
Cathy Spiker
Michael Rusch
Joy Wannamaker

Garden Campaign

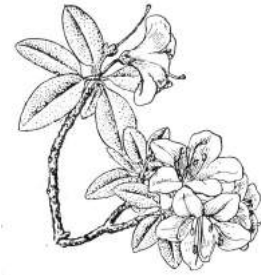
Margaret Adams
Rollo & Winnie Adams
Dr. Paul W. Anderson
ARS Cowichan Valley
Robert A. Bartlett Jr.
Richard & Jeanette Booth
Mary Beth Dahl
Carol Duke
Kylie Faccenda
Janice Gerdemann
A.J. Giustina
Laura Gray
Hans Hasche-Kluender
Donald Hyatt
Maggie Kaperick
Barry Kast
Marianne Lanning
Nancy Meyer
Beverly Pierson
Martha Robbins
Stewart Rogers
Yin Chun Shen
Rex & Jeanine Smith
John Stephens
Jennifer A. Velinty
George Weyerhaeuser
Dr. Keith A. White
Ellen Wright
Marica & Klaus Zech

Restricted Contributions

Garratt R. Richardson, *Nursery Renovation*
Rollo & Winnie Adams, *Lawn Mower*
Janice Gerdemann, *Lawn Mower*
ARS Seattle, *Donation to Internship Program*
WSNLA, *Grant for Retail Intern*
Walker Foundation, *Research & Education Donation*

Endowments

ARS Hawaii, In Memory of Charles Trommer
Fondation Franklinia
Robert Gust
Ian Walker



General Operations

AmazonSmile Foundation
ARS Connecticut
ARS Juan de Fuca
Thomas C. Bland
Boeing Match
Walt & Caroline Brooks
Stanton & Gwen Brown
Joan Buhler
Ronald & Barbara Burch
George & Kathy Burtchett
Karen Chraska
Susan Clark
Vicky Costakis
Dr. S. E. Davies

Leonard A. Frojen
Carmen Grimes
Venessa J. Harrold
M. Hudson
Donald Johnson
Kroger
Charles Larus
Anita R. Lockhart
Ron & Ginny Mapes
Gerald Nemanishen
Jack Olson
James Olson
Beverly Pierson
Rosemary J. Read

Laura Reid
Dorothy Robbins
Marie Robbins
Don Smart
Beverly Smith
Ramona Soule
United Way
Joy Wannamaker
Jonathan & Holly Wright

Extraordinary Gifts:

Dr. Peter Edward Norris

Legacy Circle

Members of the Legacy Circle:

Deena J. Henkins

Peter Norris

Donald King

Ian Walker

Anne Guelker

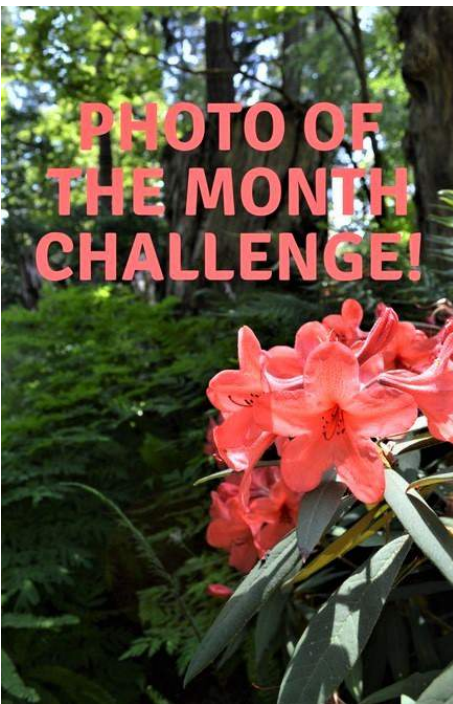
Keith White

About the Rhododendron Legacy Circle:

The Rhododendron Legacy Circle is open to all members who have made provisions for the Rhododendron Species Foundation in their financial or estate plans. Established in 2013, the Legacy Circle enables the RSF to recognize and show appreciation for our friends' generosity during their lifetime.

Legacy gifts are an impactful and vital means to ensure the RSF's future success. There are many creative ways to provide a contribution to the RSF while enhancing and safeguarding one's own financial situation. Planned giving helps maximize the tax benefits of charitable giving, allowing people to provide a gift they may not have thought possible. For more information, visit: <http://rhodygarden.org/cms/get-involved/planned-giving/> or contact Grace Pham at Grace@RhodyGarden.org.

The Social RSBG



You're invited to participate!

Post an image from the Rhody Garden, then tag the image @RhodyGarden through Instagram or send us a Facebook message. The winning photo will be featured on our social media channels during the first week of the following month. Winner also receives two free garden passes!

Stay Connected...

