



Celebrating 60 Years of Growth in 2023

## **A Brief History of EA&G**

In 1963 the Everett Garden Club appointed a committee to find a site for a local arboretum. An 8-acre site in north Everett was donated by the Everett Parks Department. The original Arboretum board planted the first tree, a pin oak, which still lives on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole of Legion Memorial Golf Course.

The golf course was redesigned in the 1970s, and the Arboretum was moved to a 3.3-acre spot west of the golf course. A decision was made to focus on creating a place for the public to learn about a variety of landscape designs appropriate to urban residential settings. This direction is reflected in our mission statement and led to a name change, from Evergreen Area Arboretum to Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens.

## **Governance and Organizational Structure**

Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens (EA&G) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit governed by a volunteer board which works with the Everett Department of Parks and Facilities on garden maintenance, renovation, and the addition of original sculptures in the gardens. The Arboretum Board raises money for the gardens through an annual plant sale, grant writing, memberships, sponsorships, and donations. EA&G also provides a cadre of dedicated volunteers who organize classes, events, programs, and special projects to improve the gardens, provide educational opportunities, and connect visitors to nature. We also purchase and plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs in the Arboretum.

## **Mission**

To create and maintain an inspirational arboretum and gardens accessible to all, internationally acclaimed, and locally enjoyed for its plant diversity, original art, and educational opportunities.



Dear Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens Members,

This was such a good year, despite the fact that COVID once again prevented us from holding an in-person annual meeting, and COVID and RSV meant we had to cancel two Wintertide children's craft events.

We completed the renovation on the Small Urban Tree Walk that began in 2021 with the help of a Snohomish County Small Capital Projects Partnership grant and ended in late 2022 thanks to a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. We checked everything off our wish list—new kiosk, bicycle rack, signs identifying this area as part of the Arboretum, and some beautiful new trees.



We continued our free online classes for adults, held two family fun events, and brought back docent tours, honoring the education component of our mission statement. Our membership numbers are steadily returning to pre-pandemic levels and sponsorships have also increased, helping to ensure a stable balance for our operational expenses.

SculptureWalk, a partnership with the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association, returned as a two-day event with an evening reception for our members and the artists. Our economic stimulus grant from the City of Everett coupled with generous donations allowed us to light up the Arboretum for the month of December with triple the number of lights from the previous year. Board members staffed our new kiosk on weekends, welcoming visitors and handing out gnome scavenger hunts and candy canes.

We will be celebrating the Arboretum's 60th anniversary in 2023. We have even bigger plans for 2023-24. I hope you'll be part of them, whether as a member, volunteer, or garden visitor.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Simmons*, President

### **Board of Directors, 2022—2023**

Eileen Simmons, President

Trevor Cameron

Wayne Walker, Vice President

Tracie Dessart

Libbie Soden, Recording Secretary

Jeanne Crisp

Renee Greenleaf, Corresponding Secretary

Dee Drake

Marylou Hart, Treasurer Accounts Payable

Tom Easley

Agnes Eros, Treasurer Accounts Receivable

Alan Heck

Hap Wertheimer, Past President

Brion Henault

Robert Christensen


Emile van den Akker


Craig Callies (on leave)

## Education Program


Education is at the heart of what we do. We offer classes and events for all ages, introducing children to the joys of nature and gardening and providing educational opportunities to urban gardeners looking for inspiration and help designing a home garden that will thrive in our climate. Docent-led tours returned after a COVID hiatus, providing organizations with tours tailored to their interests.


### 2022-2023 Highlights

 Our partnership with the Imagine! Children’s Museum expanded to two classes, Bees & Botany and Little Scientists, bringing preschoolers into the Arboretum to learn about nature .

 Spring and summer Family Fun Events brought families out to enjoy the Arboretum. Children planted peas in April and in August they enjoyed nature-themed craft projects and games thanks to organizations such as the YMCA, Master Gardeners, Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center, and Everett Public Library.

 Zoom classes continued and in-person classes and docent tours returned.

 A partnership with an Edmonds College landscape design class resulted in 14 original designs for the Backyard Garden and many ideas that will be included in the final design..

 Our partnership with the Everett Public Library provided three Story Walks during the year, as well as assistance with “Out on a Limb” —our first special event for our 60th Anniversary.



April Family Fun Event



Imagine Children’s Museum Class



Fall adult class in the Arboretum

## Art in the Gardens

Members of the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association returned to the Arboretum in August for a two-day event featuring over 50 smaller works placed throughout the gardens. The sculptors talked about their work to our many visitors, provided demonstrations using hand carving tools, and even helped us set up our Saturday evening reception for members and artists. The reception, catered by Board member Jeanne Crisp, was well-received. In addition to Jeanne’s delicious food, music was provided by David Lee Howard.

The sculptors will be back in August 2023, as will the reception—this year including sculptors, members, and volunteers.



Waiting for Judy by Jeremy Kester



Sculptors Brandon Pritchard and Luke Nalker



Ellie Hochman works on a carving

## Special Project Highlights of 2022 – 2023



The Small Tree Walk renovation, funded by EA&G, a Snohomish County Small Capital Project Partnership grant, and a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, was completed in September. Although we are planning more landscaping around the south end of the area, we now have a new, larger kiosk (thanks to Northwest Hardscapes for a beautifully built structure), new signs welcoming people to the Arboretum (shout out to Terrene Inc. for creating our new signs—and then donating one!), a bike rack, and many new trees.



We finally refreshed the paint on our iconic Little and Lewis Entry columns, and they do look terrific.



We are redesigning the Backyard Garden. This long overdue project got a big boost from a Department of Commerce COVID Recovery grant for arts and cultural organizations. The grant will enable us to begin site preparation.



## And the Work Goes On...



Above, left, volunteers unload one of the many trees purchased for the renovation of the Small Tree Walk.



Above, right, a rainy Saturday didn't dampen the spirits of our annual plant sale shoppers. Thanks to plant sale chair, Alan Heck, the 2022 sale was one of our most successful ever. All \$26,910.73 raised will be "replanted" in the gardens. The raffle brought in \$4,934, another success.







## Wintertide Lights, 2022

Work began in October for Wintertide Lights, only to be undone by a November wind storm. Volunteers rallied, and within a few hours, lights were removed from the trees that were blown down and all debris was cleared away. The month-long event kicked off as scheduled on December 1 thanks, in large part, to Renee Greenleaf, Chief Elf. Renee spent many hours troubleshooting timers, working with volunteers on lighting paths and trees, and then staffing our kiosk to welcome weekend visitors during frigid December



## Membership and Fund Development

We have 260 members as of December 2022. Membership has still not returned to its pre-COVID level. We would very much like to break the 300-member barrier.

-  An \$18,600 COVID relief grant for arts and cultural organizations from the Department of Commerce will enable us to begin work on the Backyard Garden renovation.
-  A \$20,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust allowed us to complete a much-needed renovation of the Small Tree Walk with the addition of a new kiosk, signage, and bike rack.
-  The final year of our Everett Forward grant provided the resources to increase the number of lights for our third annual Wintertide Lights.
-  An August reception in the Arboretum for members was very well received and enabled our members to visit with each other after three years without an in-person annual meeting.
-  Our Tribute Tree program added two new trees to the Arboretum.
-  Social media fundraisers and our Light a Tree Campaign have raised \$5,000 for Wintertide Lights. We also received a very generous \$5,000 donation in memory of Sue Long for Wintertide Lights or other needs in the Arboretum.

## Volunteers: How It All Happens

In 2022 our volunteers spent 1,170 hours working directly in the Arboretum—including planting, weeding, hauling away debris, and spreading woodchips and mulch.

EA&G board and volunteers spent 2,350 hours on other responsibilities—including grant writing, event and class planning and implementation, public relations, record-keeping, and volunteer-intensive events such as Sorticulture, Wintertide Lights, the plant sale, and Sculpture Walk.

Our volunteers make the Arboretum the special place that it is. This year we held a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon in September attended by approximately 30 volunteers with food donated by J and L BBQ.



**Financials: March 1, 2022—February 28, 2023 (unaudited)**

**Revenue**

General Donations	\$22,277.59
Sponsorships and Grants	\$26,450.00
Membership	\$8,814.21
Special Events	\$40,458.02
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$74,194.82</b>

**Expenses**

Special Events	\$11,182.39
Special Projects	\$59,573.51
Outreach Events	\$10,268.19
Business Expenses	\$6,665.31
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$87,688.89</b>

**Net Income \$9,837.76**

**Assets**

Checking Account	\$93,823.90
Money Market	\$20,556.78
Community Foundation of Snohomish County Endowment	\$45,083.83

- Our fiscal year runs from March 1 through February 28. All figures are as of February 28, 2023.

**City of Everett Assistance in the Gardens**

This year Everett Parks and Facilities provided the following support for the Arboretum:

- Electrical assistance for Wintertide Lights
- Scheduled rangers to close the gates during Wintertide Lights
- Donated a bicycle rack for the entry area.
- Poured concrete pillars to anchor the bicycle rack
- Mowed the lawns
- Added a storage area for mulch
- Provided classroom and office space for EA&G

**Thank You to All 2022—2023 Sponsors**



**Thank You to Our Partners**

- Everett Public Library
- Northwest Stone Sculptors Association
- Imagine Children’s Museum
- Terrene Inc. for sign donation

