Arbor Day 2023

Since 2008, PlantAmnesty (PA) has supported the community's trees by holding an annual Arbor Day Prune. Our founder, Cass Turnbull, was a certified International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborist and a tenant of the organization is to uphold the ISA standards in the industry. PlantAmnesty is affiliated with over fifteen ISA-certified companies and their incredibly generous employees. These arborists are members of the organization's referral service - a service where community members who are seeking ethical and scientifically accurate pruning ask PlantAmnesty for recommendations. In 2022 alone, we had over 1,200 referral requests.

Each year the Tree Committee, consisting of our referral arborists, seek out public gardens, schools, or nonprofits in need of major pruning and donate a full workday. In 2021, PA selected 1125 East Harvard in Capitol Hill; future home of Seattle's newest park on the Bullitt Estate and projected site of the Cass Turnbull Garden.

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department requested the help of PlantAmnesty arborists in the removal of a number of very large, dead, and dangerous American Elm trees that were victims of Dutch Elm Disease. Fourteen companies represented by 26 arborists stepped in to safely remove the trees. A total of three large elms and a grove of smaller elms which had succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease were taken down over the course of seven hours. Approximately $30,000 worth of work was completed to ensure this new park will be safe for visitors.

PlantAmnesty is thrilled to donate our 2023 day of pruning to the Soos Creek Botanical Garden. Allen Taylor, chair of the Tree Committee, visited the property in November and our staff and arborists have been looking forward to April 28th for months! PlantAmnesty is honored to donate this work to a public space that respects and promotes the restorative properties of nature and ensures it is accessible to everyone.

Maggie Rogers, Plant Amnesty Executive Director

RAINIER AUDUBON Returns to Soos Creek Botanical Garden

Rainier Audubon Society (RAS) returns to Soos Creek Botanical Garden with their informational booth during the two day Spring Plant Sale on Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. In past years visitors enjoyed the educational materials, sample birdhouses and interesting displays. The Rainier Audubon Society is a completely volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) organization. Everything the RAS has accomplished would not be possible without the selfless contributions of RAS members, volunteers and the public.
King Conservation District (KCD) supports the Master Gardeners at Soos Creek Botanical Garden

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) funds and manages the fruit and vegetable garden in cooperation with the Soos Creek Botanical Gardens (SCBG). The Master Gardeners (MGs) are on site in the vegetable garden areas from March to October on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 12pm to answer gardening questions for the public.

The SCBG in collaboration with MGs successfully applied for a grant from the King Conservation District (KCD) to install a new roof on the hoop house in 2022. The KCD grants are focused on supporting successful local fresh food production in underserved communities. The hoop house is important to food production because the MGs propagate all of their vegetable seed starts in the hoop house. All fresh produce and extra vegetable plant starts are donated to the Auburn Food Bank which serves over 3,000 households within the city of Auburn. In 2022 the MGs donated 100 pounds of vegetable plant starts and 1,600 pounds of fresh produce to the local Auburn Food Bank.

Nancy Purcell, Manager of the Soos Creek Vegetable Demonstration Garden

Meet Our Newest Employee

Hello everyone!
My name is Josh and I am beyond thrilled to be part of the team here at Soos Creek Botanical Garden. A little bit about me - I’m originally from San Jose, California, where I grew up wandering redwoods and oak woodlands, as well as the many beaches nearby. I now have lived up here in Washington for the past 6 or so years with my wife, our three dogs, and two cats. I have a background in nursery work, restoration, park management, and residential gardening.

My first time at SCBG was during a fall plant sale. My wife and I bought some crocosmia bulbs and the most prolific flowering Scabiosa I have ever had in my garden. Though we were asked a few times, we decided against buying any peacocks that day, but I am happy to see them in the aviary every morning when I come into work. My first impressions upon the Garden itself when I took my initial walkthrough were that of pure awe! What a truly wondrous place to work in; as I walked along the path next to the long green lawn I couldn’t wait to see this Garden in every season to see how its beauty changes.

I am so happy to be working alongside such amazing folks here in these wondrous 23 acres - a big thank you to Maurice and Jim for the opportunity to do so. I hope to share my passion for the Garden with all of you in the future and hope you will all see how the Garden will reflect that as well.

See you in the garden!

Bird Nesting Boxes

Our local Auburn Audubon Society has been in collaboration with Soos Creek Botanical Garden in building nesting boxes to be installed in our Garden. Last year, three of the proposed twelve nesting boxes were installed in the Garden. The Audubon folks will supply the rest of the nesting boxes as time allows and will also be coming to the Garden at the end of the year to clean out the boxes for next years’ fledglings. So far, we have one Chickadee box, one small songbird box, and one box for swallows. Can you find them?
Spring Plant Sale

Spring is slowly peeking around the corner here at SCBG, welcoming the earliest of bulbs and buds. We welcome you to come to our annual Spring Plant Sale on April 21st and 22nd to enjoy these early delights and to browse through the offerings in our nursery.

We’ve been busy since January preparing for your visit, and our nursery will be full of plants suitable for your Pacific Northwest garden. We’ll have some of your often-requested plants available from our garden for sale this spring as well as a colorful selection of blooming perennials.

The Master Gardeners will be on-site to answer your plant or pest questions.

The Auburn Rainier Audubon Society will be here to talk all things birds. Ask them about our collaboration with them to install 12 new nesting boxes throughout our Garden. They have installed three of the twelve so far...can you find them?

Rose Lee, an expert in all things roses, will be on hand to talk about the new Rosarian Walk next to the nursery. She will have a variety of plants for sale, including her wonderful sweet peas!

Remember that Mother’s Day (May 14th) is merely 3 weeks after our sale, so pick up a plant or two to celebrate your mom. We will also have some hand-painted porcelain items for sale that may please mom.

Take some time to stroll through the beautiful garden to see ducks on the pond, rhododendrons bursting with color, and hellebores in full spring glory. Listen to our cheerful songbirds and check out the Pavilion by the Pond for your next event.

Remember that you, too, can become a volunteer at Soos Creek Botanical Garden. It will become your happy place, too!

Donations accepted, as we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit garden. Admission is free.

Join a Team & Join the Fun

Katie Swickard - Board of Directors Chair

Maurice Skagen’s vision for SCBG has always included the importance of community. The public is welcomed to stroll the Garden without an admission fee. The volunteers who donate their time and talents to benefit the Garden also do so to enrich the experience the community enjoys in this botanical oasis.

Would you like to be a vital part of enhancing the public’s enjoyment of the Garden? There are several areas where you might find the perfect fit to join a team of like-minded folks.

Events Team

We are looking for a team of dedicated volunteers to assist with events at the Garden. Do you like to talk about and plan activities? Do you enjoy thinking of delicious food and beverage options? Are you an organizer or a brainstormer? We need you on the events team!

Docent Team

Joining the dedicated team of docents would be a good fit for someone who enjoys talking with people about plants and gardens. There are a wide variety of tours that visit the Garden, from retirement home groups, to garden clubs or beginning gardeners. New docents receive ample materials and training and typically join along with another docent on tours. We need you on the docent team!

Propagation Team

The Garden’s spring and fall plant sales are partially stocked with plants produced by our own propagation team. A variety of tasks are included that team members take part in to make this area a success. Only a few positions are available for advanced gardeners with previous propagation experience.

Garden Maintenance Team

Keeping the Garden beautiful, healthy and safe takes many, many volunteers and we need you! Would you like to learn more hands-on gardening skills? Do you enjoy spending time in nature, maintaining a wide collection of plants? Mulching, digging, weeding, raking and trimming are more fun with a group of friends!

These are just a few of the teams that are looking for additional help. Other opportunities include assisting in the Heritage Center, marketing, office work and plant sale help. You may find that when you step up to help the community, you also find a new community of friends yourself.

If you are interested in volunteering, e-mail us at info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org for more information. Once you fill out the New Volunteer Form you will be contacted with more information.

Take Your Group on a Private Docent Tour!

To book your tour,

E-mail: info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org
Pavilion by the Pond Programs

Pavilion Programs are on the third Wednesday of the month, 12:30pm to 2pm. No charge, but donations gladly accepted. The Pavilion provides covered outdoor seating.

April 19 – Container Gardening with Lauren Linscott the Bonney Lake Plant Lady
Maximize your small spaces or add a focal point to your larger areas with a head-turning, gorgeous container garden. Watch Lauren a landscape and container designer, as she creates a stunning container sure to bring joy in each season. Lauren will show how a container garden can reflect the seasons with just a few changes. Pick up pro tips from Lauren on her FB page and Instagram.

May 17 – The Great Blue Heron with Connie Sidles
Come along with Master Birder and author, Connie Sidles, as she introduces you to herons that have shaped our culture and continue to fill our lives with beauty. Majestic and mysterious, the elegant plumes of herons enticed hunters to kill them. Their near extinction inspired people to start Audubon Societies around the world, one of the earliest and most successful conservation efforts.

June 21 – A Rose Journey with Rose Lee
Help to celebrate the Grand Opening of the newest part of SCBG, “The Rosarian Walk.” Rose will share her life-long personal journey of how she came to collect one of the most romantic of flowers, including the challenges and successes. Following her program, which focuses on the Heritage and other roses planted in early Spring 2022, the SCBG docents will lead us through the new Garden.

June 24 – The Grand Opening of the Rosarian Walk
Grand Opening of the new Garden continues on Saturday, with another Docent Tour of the new Rose Garden and more at 10:30

July 19 – Beauty and Duty: 100 Years of Women in Our Armed Forces
Join historian Alice Miller as she displays authentic and some rare women’s military uniforms and shares personal stories of the women who wore them. Learn how women advancing in the military ranks have helped women in civilian life as well. Learn why and how the uniforms were made and how they relate to fashions of the time periods. We will begin with a uniform from 1898!

August 16 – Summer Sizzlers: The Clematis of July, August and Beyond
Master Gardener, Laura Watson, will share her love of Clematis, especially the late summer bloomers: profuse Clematis, Trumpets, Urns, the late Large-Flowered and Non-Climbing Clematis varieties. Using great photos, Laura will share care and pruning tips about Clematis: the “Queen of Climbers!” So, as Laura says, “Grow the Heck up! Embellish your Garden with Clematis Vines!”

September 20 – Backyard Chickens: 101
Mary Stueber is co-owner and head chicken-keeper at “13 Hens Farm” in Maple Valley. Her current flock includes over 70 chickens, 15 ducks, and 2 turkeys. Mary will discuss chicken and duck keeping topics. Mary and her family sell organic vegetables, flowers and eggs at the Maple Valley Farmers Market, May to September. Come and hear some of her happy stories about raising poultry.

2023 Save the Dates

Saturday, June 3, 2023
11am to 3pm
Heritage Roses NW will hold a Rose Display of Old Garden Roses in the Pavilion by the Pond.
Visitors are welcome to view these stunning specimens, both fragrant and disease resistant. Free of charge.

Sunday, June 11, 2023
3:00pm to 4:30pm
Rainier Youth Choir will be performing at Soos Creek Botanical Garden, featuring Disney songs, “We Are One”

Friday, July 7, 2023
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Jazz in the Garden with Seattle Jazz Network
(10 piece Jazz Band)

August 5 & 6, 2023
Emerald Theatre presents 2 performances.
Saturday performance at 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Sunday performance at 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Sunday, August 27, 2023
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Auburn Chamber Orchestra
We are a group of people dedicated to growing, promoting, and educating on Old Garden Roses (OGR) in the Pacific Northwest. Our roses are of the types grown since ancient times by people including the Greeks and Romans, Chinese and other cultures, and include historic roses like the ones grown from rose hips brought to Washington, on the Oregon Trail, by Louisa Boren Denny in Washington in 1854. A direct descendant of this is planted in the Soos Creek Botanical Garden, Auburn, WA.

We love these old roses because they are hardy, beautiful and the source of beautiful fragrance! Some repeat bloom and some bloom only once, but those still put on a good show for weeks in spring. Most of these roses have a story-some history-associated with them which can be a fascinating tale.

Old Garden Roses have been shared for centuries by people digging up runners or starting cuttings to make new bushes. A club like ours gives members a chance to view a multitude of OGRs in personal collections and public gardens, a chance to start their own collections and a source of information and advice on those roses.

We have quarterly meetings, sometimes with a guest speaker, and events include our annual rose display, field trips both local and distant, and service projects to support OGRs.

We would love to have you join us and have a rosy future! You can join us by sending a check for $10.00 dues, made out to "Heritage Roses Northwest"

to: 12821 SE 285th St.,
Auburn, WA 98092.

Please include your name, address, phone number and email.

Thank you!
Spring Plant Sale
Friday & Saturday,
April 21 & 22, 2023
10am to 4pm

- Our Garden is bursting with spring color!
  Walk about our Garden and take a stroll through our new Rosarian Walk.
- Stop by and chat with Master Gardeners, Rainier Audubon Society and our rose expert!
- Gifts available for Mother’s Day (May 14th).
- Docent tours available. See us online to register!

Sales proceeds support our admission-free Garden.
Soos Creek Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit garden.

COLOR IN THE GARDEN
March — Cherry, Magnolia, Camellia, early Rhododendron, Pieris
April — Magnolia, Cherry, Dogwood, Azalea, Rhododendron, Camellia, Crabapple, Currant, Redbud
May — Rhododendron, Azalea, Magnolia, Clematis, Iris, Peony, Lilac, Rose, Water lily
June — Rose, Kalmia, Peony, Dogwood, Iris, Hydrangea, and a host of perennials

Schedule your Event or Ceremony at the Garden

- Weddings
- Meetings / Classes
- Fundraisers
- Memorials
- Family Reunions

The event pavilion was completed in April, 2020. We are now taking reservations for 2023 celebrations.

Email us at: info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org

GARDEN CLIPPINGS is a publication of the Soos Creek Botanical Garden and Heritage Center
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