



# E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust

## *Fall 2008*

**Annual Fall Foliage Festival, Sunday Oct. 12th 2-4 pm**

*"See a Garden. Save a Garden"*

What do "Dry martinis in a water-wise garden" bring to mind? How about "A private Historic Launch Tour of Lake Union", Great Chocolates or Extraordinary Art for the Garden? Those fun items and many more surprises will await us at the silent bid table during the Annual Fall Foliage Festival at the Dunn Gardens on Sunday, October 12 from 2 – 4pm. Other features this year: Music by Mike Good and local artists, Theresa Novion and Rickey Cabine, will display and sell their latest works.

Our Curators have compiled an exciting wish list of things they'd like to establish in the gardens. Care to help with Herba buena, evergreen ferns, clematis, and more? Come see the list of beauties that they can nurture with your help. Local Shoreline plant explorer and grower, Riz Reyes will bring rare beautiful plants to sell from his nursery, *Landwave Gardens*, and *Kruckeberg Botanical Garden* will again bring plants to tempt our guests. Our board-member bar tenders will pour a glass of wine or cup of hot cider. We'll have chestnuts roasting over the fire along with fall delicacies donated by Dunn Garden board members. Our knowledgeable docents will be giving mini tours of the property, and you'll have a chance to introduce this award winning garden to friends and family. (AND renew your membership, too!)

We want to extend our thanks for all the years of support by our treasured members. This is our way to stay in tune and express our gratitude. The Fall Foliage Festival began nearly ten years ago with just 25 friends of the gardens. Last year we had a wonderful turnout in excess of 250 members and guests. Come again, bring your best friends and share some garden lore with Curators Glenn Withey, Charles Price and the Dunn Garden Board members. It's a truly great way to spend a couple of hours enjoying this beautiful change of season~ so please be our guest.

RSVP's appreciated at [info@dunngardens.org](mailto:info@dunngardens.org) or 206-362-0933.

Susan Robinson, Board Member &  
Chair, Fall Foliage Festival



Lily and Hydrangea Photos by Patty Flowers

Stroll Through the Woodland Glen—Fall Foliage Festival 2007>>>



Photo by Patty Flowers

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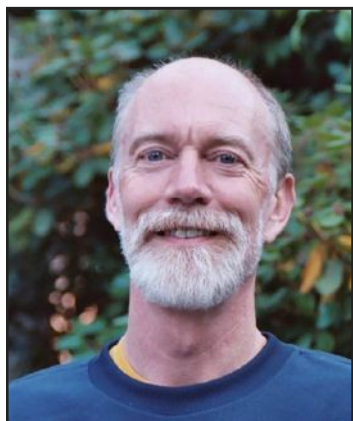
*Upcoming Events*

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## Letter from the President, Bruce Lamka



Greetings -

The past six months have been a particularly exciting time at the Dunn Gardens, but also a challenging time, as I will describe. The Gardens were honored this year by the AKCHO (Association of King County Historical Organizations) (see article below). The Gardens have been featured in the *Seattle Times* and the *Seattle PI* and the *National Trust for Historic Preservation*, (see our website for links to these articles) and our Curators, Glenn Withey and Charles Price, have also been the subject of stories about their fine work in the *Seattle Times* as well as in the *Arboretum Bulletin*, the *Northwest Garden*

*News* and other publications. And, perhaps not surprisingly given this interest in the Gardens, we have enjoyed a significant increase in visitors..

Our first Executive Director, Sue Nevler, has gotten settled in and, while working only part time, has brought added vigor, vibrancy and visibility to the Gardens and to our special events such as our annual May Wine Tasting Fundraiser and our June NW Seattle Estate Garden Tour Fundraiser, featuring tours of three great private gardens in the nearby Highlands that otherwise are not open to the public.

We have also encountered a concatenation of vicissitudes, as a family friend likes to say. The roof of the Curators' cottage failed and had to be replaced, then the septic field promptly followed suit, so we had to dig a ditch and hook up the premises to the City Sewer. While not unexpected, incurring two major expenses in such rapid succession has put a strain on our budget, somewhat exacerbated by the general stagnation of our economy and the related decline in charitable giving that has been affecting most nonprofit organizations.

So, as the gardening year draws to a close, we look forward to our Fall Foliage Festival and to some newly-planned year end events, and we hope that you will visit us and also continue to support the grounds and the mission that are the Dunn Gardens.

Bruce



Attending AKCHO Ceremony: Bob Findlay, Tanya DeMarsh Dodson, Beth Dodrill, Sue Nevler

The Dunn Gardens were doubly honored this spring by the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO). Our recently completed Dunn Gardens Treatment Plan, a detailed document that provides the foundation for the conservation of our gardens, received the 2008 Charles Payton Award for Heritage Advocacy.

Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Dunn Gardens docent, tour administrator, and co-author of the treatment plan with landscape preservationist Beth Dodrill, was awarded the 2008 Charles Payton Award for Cultural Advocacy.

**Bruce Lamka**  
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Vice President/Finance & Administration

**Jann Blackburn**  
Vice President/Board Operations

**Robert Findlay**  
Vice President/Garden Conservation

**Roberta Goodnow**  
Vice President/Annual Giving

**Gayle Harris & Susan Robinson**  
Vice Presidents/Special Events

**Chris Smith Towne**  
Vice President/Long-Range Planning

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Glenn Withey

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sue Nevler

**CURATORS**  
Charles Price  
Glenn Withey

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David Traylor

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J. Michael Kaiser, CPA, PS  
Konrad J. Liegel, Counsel

**NEWSLETTER**  
Susan Dunn\*

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Connie Hokanson

\*Past Board Presidents

## 2008 & 2009 Events & Dates

*The Garden is open for tours April, May, June, July, September and October each year. Please call the Dunn Gardens office at 206-362-0933 to schedule your private or group tour, or visit our website.*

September 23rd - Docent tour of UW Botanic Gardens Headquarters. Meet at 9:30 to Carpool.

October 7th - Docent Thank You Luncheon 11:00am - 1:00pm

October 12th - Annual Fall Foliage Festival: 2pm - 4pm at The Dunn Gardens.

October 31st - Last tour of the season.

November 13th - Evening Lecture by curators Charles Price and Glenn Withey. 7 pm refreshments; lecture at 7:15pm.

December 21st—Winter Solstice Stroll — Thank You for Neighbors and Members at the Friends Level—Begins at 4:00 pm

April 1, 2009 — 2009 Tours of Dunn Gardens begin — Sign Up NOW via our website [www.dunngardens.org](http://www.dunngardens.org)

May 2009—Wine Tasting and Garden Stroll—Watch for date/time.

July 18-19, 2009 - 2nd Dunn Gardens ArtWalk “Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Centennial Inspirations”. Call to all artists and all who enjoyed the first ArtWalk. Contact the office for more information.

**Check our website at [www.dunngardens.org](http://www.dunngardens.org) for other upcoming tour and event dates.**



Dorothy Clark agrees with the National Trust for Historic Preservation — “THIS PLACE MATTERS”



Christine Reis and Beth Weir at City of Shoreline Earth Day—Central Market

GARDEN  CENTER  
**SWANSON'S**

9701 15th Ave. NW  
Seattle, WA 98177  
(206) 782-2543

[www.swansonnursery.com](http://www.swansonnursery.com)

# 25% SAVINGS

for E.B. Dunn Garden Supporters

Swanson's is pleased to extend Special savings to E.B.Dunn Garden Supporters.

Bring this voucher in to receive a 25% discount off **ONE** regularly priced item.

One per customer, please.  
For one time purchase.  
Expires October 15, 2008

May not be combined with other discounts or used to purchase gift certificates.

GARDEN  CENTER  
**SWANSON'S**

## *NW Seattle Estate Garden Tour*

On Sunday, June 29th, we held our third bi-annual NW Seattle Estate Garden Tour of three gorgeous gardens located in The Highlands. Guests enjoyed strolling through the estate grounds, listening to music by George Shangrow and Orchestra Seattle musicians playing in each garden, along with organ music played by Valerie Shields wafting from the chapel.

The properties were outstanding: an intimate, modern collector's garden and two grand formal estates including a beautiful rose garden within a framed pillared promenade, amphitheater, and greenhouse tucked into the kitchen garden with many other special features to delight guests on a sunny summer afternoon.

All concluded at the Dunn Gardens with an elegant reception to the music of harpsichord and flute. Guests departed with wonderful donated gifts to take home. We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day!

We send our sincere thanks to the estate owners, our donors and sponsors, George Shangrow and musicians, special historians, docents, board members, staff and curators and our guests.

This fundraiser provides funds that are critical to the Dunn Gardens daily operations. Thank you for enjoying and supporting our special events.

Gayle Harris, Board Member & Event Chair

### **Special Thank You to Estate Tour Sponsors**

—Point B Solutions Group, LLP—  
Doug McCallum, Financial Resources  
Group—Wells Fargo Bank—Swanson's Nurs-  
ery—Shoreline Bank—The Portico Group.—  
Maintco, Inc.—Diva's Espresso—Herbco—  
Garagiste—Palm Bay Imports—A & B Im-  
ports—Hills' Food & Wine— Celebrations  
Catering—Fred Meyer—Oppenheimer— Stu-  
art Miner, Windermere—Top Foods— and  
Laurel Gifts (Guest Gift Boxes)

### **Thank You to Estate Tour Donors**

—Virginia Dunn—Jane Harder—Ann Ormsby—  
Jenny Wyatt—Sue Todd Yates—



Playing at Estate #3 Orchestra *Seattle* Woodwinds:  
Shari Muller-Ho, John Dimond, Steve Noffsinger,  
Brian Rolette, Laurie Heidt



Playing at Estate #2 Orchestra *Seattle* Brass Quintet: Rona  
Sass, Moc Escobedo, Chuck Colburn, Dave Brewer, Jim Hen-

Orchestra *Seattle* Musicians not pictured:

Playing at Estate # 1 String Quartet: Mari Horita, Joe  
Bichsel, Deborah Daoust, Theo Schaad

Playing at The Dunn Gardens: Harpsichord: George  
Shangrow, Flute: Jeffrey Cohan

Photos by Connie Hokanson

## *Executive Director, Sue Nevler*



Margaret Mead once wrote of “postmenopausal zest”, a resurgence of energy women experience after childrearing duties are completed. Something similar happens to gardeners. After the frenzy of spring planting and tending, there’s a pleasant summer pause to admire our “progeny” and then a renewed energy in the fall. It’s a burst of vigor in autumn, before our grey skies close in.

We feel that in the Dunn Gardens this year. The welcomed spate of much needed publicity drew members and new guests to our tours, to our terrific fundraisers and brought attention to our purpose of conservation.

The Association of King County Historic Organizations recognized the garden conservation Treatment Plan with the 2008 Charles Payton Award for Cultural Advocacy.

The Seattle Foundation awarded the gardens a much needed grant of \$7,500 in unrestricted funds through the Community Grant making Program.

But this year’s \$50,000 setback due to infrastructure repairs has prompted the acknowledgement that we must leap into this autumn season with real vitality.

You’ve seen the gardens’ outreach presence this year at Shoreline Earth Day, the Broadview Library, Broadview Garden Club Plant Sale, Kruckeberg Mother’s Day Sale, Haller Lake Chilipalooza, The Wooden Boat Festival and Swansons and Sky Nurseries. Our Curators continue to lecture locally as well to acquaint gardeners with the Dunn Gardens. Tour guests have included the Whatcom County Horticultural Society, the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens and the South Appalachian Plant Society. We must be getting the word out!

The upcoming Fall Festival is our annual thank you to members and invitation to join in the effort to conserve these important historic gardens. We will be previewing next year’s ArtWalk (July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>) and our participation in the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Centennial activities in 2009. We’re excited to announce joint Open Days with the SS Virginia V, the last of the mosquito fleet steamers (June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>), another rare and wonderful preservation effort from the early 1900s.

In this time of critical need, I hope you will consider stepping up your support as we commit to renewed vigor in efforts to sustain this award winning landscape.

I look forward to seeing you in the gardens.

*Sue Nevler, Executive Director*

### **E. B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust Mission Statement**

*The E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust is dedicated to conserving historically significant gardens in the Northwest. Specific purposes of the Garden Trust include: conservation of the Dunn Gardens for use and enjoyment of the public; conservation of other historically or horticulturally significant gardens in the Northwest; and public education about the history, horticulture, restoration and preservation of gardens in the Northwest.*



Dunn Gardens Supporters say “This Place Matters”



Telling The Dunn Gardens Story at Swanson's Nursery

## Conservation Priorities at the Dunn Gardens

The Dunn Gardens Conservation Committee benefits from having regionally respected arborists, landscape designers and preservationists, architects, professional gardeners and neighborhood representatives as members and others readily available as advisors to the committee. The group meets monthly to clarify needs and to review specific rehabilitation proposals for areas throughout the site. The primary objective of the committee is to manage the ever-changing gardens and aging structures in their historic context and to foresee and prioritize conservation needs.

Recent examples focus on the Dunn Gardens Resource Center as well as the garden landscape itself. Two years ago, a volunteer house inspector predicted that we would need to replace the heating system and roof of the resource center within two years, and he was right, and the work has been completed in the last year. Following similar advice, we recently rehabilitated the all-important well. We are now planning for the construction of a machinery building on the grounds and the replacement of the East Wing of the resource center with archives and offices for the administrators and gardeners. The Center itself is desperate for a new coat of paint and we are researching a color often used by the summerhouse architect and variously known as Gould's Mud or Goose dropping green.

Our largest concern in the gardens is the conservation of the heritage trees and a program is being developed to inventory and assess the cultural conditions affecting their longevity. The recent removal of a stately, but ailing, Scarlet Oak from the Southern side of the Great Lawn truly focused our attention on the importance of the heritage trees in the overall visual structure of the gardens.

All of this work requires financial support, of course, and the committee makes every effort to keep the board of directors current with rehabilitation needs and related costs.

*Bob Findlay, Trust VP for Garden Conservation*

## E-Mail Addresses

We here at The Dunn Gardens are finally becoming more savvy about the value of communications using e-mail. We have begun sending out notices of upcoming events and other newsworthy items this way and are anxious to continue to build our database with your e-mail addresses. Please contact the office via e-mail ([info@dunngardens.org](mailto:info@dunngardens.org)) with your e-mail addresses or by telephone (206-362-0933). Addresses will not be shared.

## Photography

Our photographs used in each newsletter are often by more than one party, and we don't always acknowledge each one with proper credit. Many thanks to our ongoing official photographer and board member, Connie Hokanson. Her work is often supplemented by others, including our curators, Charles Price and Glenn Withey. Special thanks to the rest of you who share your beautiful photographs with us as well.

## Watercolor Classes by Mary Ann Coles

Join Broadview artist Mary Ann Coles' watercolor classes at the Dunn Gardens each Wednesday from 9:30-1:00 pm. The cost is \$40.00 per session or \$140.00 for 4 sessions. Mary Ann started painting 10 years ago, and shows her work at the Bellevue and Edmonds Art Festivals each year. Her classes run continually throughout the year, teaching composition, wet-on-wet applications and techniques for beginners to advanced students. Contact Mary Ann Coles for dates and details at 206-367-7311 or [macstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:macstudio@hotmail.com)



*A special thank you to **McCallum Print Group** for their generosity in donating this newsletter printing. None of our precious donations were used for this. We greatly appreciate their support.*

*We endeavor to make our publications as accurate as possible, however, we do make mistakes. Please let The Dunn Gardens office know if you see any errors and omissions.*

## Curators' Corner... by Charles Price and Glenn Withey



For Charles and me, it is always a bit tricky writing our newsletter contribution months in advance of publication-as we can't anticipate what might be. However, looking back is easy and here is a brief recap of just a few things that went on since the last newsletter.

The first half of this year was cold. While technically not that cold, up thru June 15<sup>th</sup> it was the coldest year since 1917, when looking at the number of days that got above 60 degrees. Thankfully this came to an end, and the summer weather has been very welcome. At least the cool spring encouraged lush growth and a delayed, but long bloom sequence.

Summer always brings the need for watering, especially with a garden like this one, where many of the plants demand an occasional drink in order to look healthy. The well motor failed in late June, but luckily we were able to replace it within a few days. The old motor ran for more than two decades, and let's hope this new one will too.

Ed's house got a new roof, and we are now hooked up to the sewer system, both of which were costly endeavors. The roofers did a very good job, and were very careful of the various plants, which we greatly appreciated. It will be nice to know that going into the winter that we won't have a leaking roof...

The septic drain field failed (it was located under the Magnolia sargentiana 'Robusta', in front of Ed's house), and we finally joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century and connected to the sewer system. While the magnolia enjoyed the 'feeding', this past year was not good for it. With the failed drain field, boron built up (being 'eco-friendly' we were using Boraxo as a laundry aide), and the tree was slowly being poisoned. Now, the soil is going back to normal as the boron dissipates. It will most likely take one more year before the boron level drops back to a safe number.

Our favorite tree in the garden, a *Quercus coccinea* (Scarlet oak) was cut down this spring. We knew this tree was failing, as this past winter large limbs began to drop on non-windy days, which wasn't a good sign... Best Tree Service NW did an excellent job removing this tree, with no damage to any of the surrounding plants (of which there were many). We have purchased five seedling oaks, as a replacement (we'll plant all five and will select the best one as time goes on) for this grand old tree, so mark down in your calendar to come back in ninety years to see how the 'new' tree is faring! With so much soil borne disease, a young vigorous tree will perform much better, versus planting a larger tree that has lost a majority of its root system (from being field dug).

Multiple beds are scheduled for renovation this late fall, winter, as the garden requires constant editing and grooming. It is a pleasure to be able to live here, and to enjoy the garden. Do plan to attend our upcoming Fall Festival, in October. Your support is needed and welcomed. The garden now has less than ten years before it's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and there is plenty to keep us busy between now and then. With your support we look forward to the next one hundred years!



New Roof Installed on Curators' Cottage/Office



Connected to the sewer system after septic system failure



Diseased *Quercus coccinea* (Scarlet oak) was cut down this spring

## ***Dunn Gardens Docent Program***

The lively DG docent program has had an exciting year under Jenny Wyatt and Kathy Cooper's leadership. This year there were lectures on plant identification by our curators, Tanya DeMarsh Dodson on the Great Plant Picks in the Dunn Gardens, Carrie Becker on perennials, and preservation issues by Beth Dodrill. Fieldtrips to the Locks with Arthur Lee Jacobson, to Powellswood, and to Whidbey Island to see docent Stacie Crooks' design work and the Chocolate Flower Farm were all educational and good fun. Our docents have a unique learning experience and share their knowledge of the gardens through tours and outreach events. Please consider joining this stimulating program.

Please Contact Us: [info@dunngardens.org](mailto:info@dunngardens.org), Call: 206-362-0933 Website: [www.dunngardens.org](http://www.dunngardens.org),

### ***Docents - 2008***

*Liz Barr  
Vivian Brehm  
Linda L. Breiwick  
Gwynne Fowler Briggs  
Dorothy Clark  
Laurie Colman  
Stacie Crooks  
Beth Dodrill  
Robert Findlay  
Patty Flowers  
Melba Glenn  
Stephanie Gurnett  
Margot Hill  
Connie Hokanson  
Rosalie Holcomb  
Marcia Holt  
Pamela Hughes  
Joanne Jonsson*

*Terry Kimball  
James Knodell  
Laura Kvasnosky  
Jan Lewinsohn  
Cynthia McGrath  
Chrissy Marshall  
Caroline Mass  
Melania Morris  
Anita Nason  
Sue Nevler  
Ann Ormsby  
Malena Pontious  
Carol Ann Rea  
Monique Reed  
Christine Reis  
Susan Routh  
Janet Seery  
Bonnie Storm*

*Paula Scher  
Sarah Stouder  
Hope Stroble  
Terry Walsh  
Barbara Waske  
Beth Weir  
Sue Todd Yates  
Kathryn Yerke*

***Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson -  
Tour Coordinator***

***Jenny Wyatt -  
Docent Program Director***

***Kathy Cooper -  
Docent Program Coordinator***



Summer 2008 Docent Trip to Whidbey Island to see docent Stacie Crooks' design work and the Chocolate Flower Farm

Photo by Connie Hokanson

**The following groups toured the Dunn Gardens in 2008 — Don't Miss Out~**

**Book your favorite group NOW for the 2009 Tour Season!!! [www.dunngardens.org](http://www.dunngardens.org)**

East Side Trilogy

Country Garden Club

Whatcom Horticultural Society

Aegis of Shoreline Retirement Home

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

Phi Beta Kappa

Master Gardeners of Thurston County

Tour purchased at Children's Home Society Auction

Marine Hills Garden Club

Broadview Historic Society

Santa Fe Botanical Garden

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle