



E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust

Spring 2008

Garden Stroll and Wine Tasting at The Dunn Gardens

A Fundraiser to Honor May - Historic Preservation Month

**May 18, 2008, Sunday
4:00 to 6:00 PM**

Please come and enjoy a late afternoon at the Dunn Gardens for a spring garden stroll and wine tasting. Our special Dunn Gardens supporters, JM Cellars of Woodinville, will again be sharing their wonderful award-winning wines. We have also added three additional wineries that represent the best of handcrafted Washington wines. We are excited about the participation of Page Cellars, Sparkman Cellars and Thurston Wolfe. All the wines offered for tasting will be available for purchase at this event.

Take a stroll through this breathtaking Olmsted-designed garden enjoying these exceptional wines. Our outstanding docents will be available to guide you through the beautiful spring colors to the wine tasting stations. Hors d'oeuvres will be featured to enhance and complement your wine tasting experience.

At \$50 per ticket, this popular event will sell out quickly. To reserve your space call 206.362.0933 or reserve on line @ www.dunn gardens.org, or simply mail your check to Dunn Gardens, P.O. Box 77126, Seattle, WA 98177.

Please join us for this very special event.

**Debbie Agee & Kathy Cooper
Wine Tasting Event Co-Chairs**

These beautiful photos are by Debbie Donaway. Look for more of her work on our website, in the Gardens' e-mail updates and in an upcoming publicity event. Debbie is a student in the commercial photography department at Seattle Central Community College and is partnering with Dunn Gardens in a Community Learning Program designed to give real world experience while building student portfolios. The Dunn Gardens partnered last year with Raven Gildea, a student at Shoreline Community College, in producing flyers and posters for the ArtWalk. We are currently developing a new program with the UW Department of Geography and are seeking more collaborative ventures of this type. Please call or e-mail the office for details!



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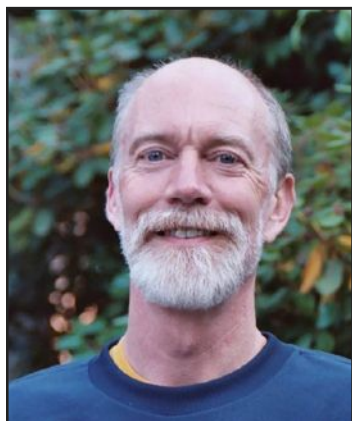
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Greetings -

Spring seems really and truly on its way, at last, and with the early initiation of daylight savings time, we trust that there is now enough evening light so you can get home and enjoy your gardens after work.

We hope that many of you have received and have enjoyed e-mails from us containing brief reminders of upcoming events and a picture from the Dunn Gardens. If you have not received these virtual visits to the Gardens and would like to, please call the office and give us your e-mail address. You can also sign up on our website. We very much want to stay in touch with you in this way and share the beauty of a place we all love.

We also want to report that the Dunn Gardens has been nominated for an award by the Association of King County Historical Organizations for its Treatment Plan. For those not in the know, a "Treatment Plan" is the document that sets forth the historical elements of a garden and establishes the parameters within which the garden will be developed and maintained as an historic place. This is an especially challenging process because, as we all know, gardens are such dynamic things. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Tanya DeMarsh- Dodson, who did yeoman's work researching and developing the Dunn Gardens Treatment Plan, and are delighted to report that Tanya has also been nominated for an AKCHO award for her efforts. Wish us both luck.

Speaking of life cycles, our chipper/shredder has for some time been on its last -- well, not legs, but flails. Members of the Dunn/Bayley family have generously donated half of the price of a new machine and we are seeking funds to buy the other half. So, if anyone out there is inspired to contribute to the renewal of nature implicit in turning plant material into compost or mulch, or if you would like to buy the naming rights to a really high testosterone piece of equipment, we want to hear from you.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank Grant Dull for his contributions to the Dunn Gardens. Grant, who served as VP/Treasurer and was instrumental in helping us move forward to become a more mature organization, resigned effective the first of this year due to the demands of his professional and other volunteer commitments. We miss Grant, but look forward to seeing him at events for years to come.

Bruce

Bruce Lamka
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NEWSLETTER

Tracy McCallum

PHOTOGRAPHER

Connie Hokanson

*Past Board Presidents

2008 Upcoming 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.

March 25th – Mandatory Workshop for Docents. Plant ID class with Charles Price and Glenn Withey. 1:00pm - 3:00 pm at The Dunn Gardens.

April 1st - Tour season begins.

April 8th - Presentation by Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson; Great Plant Picks Program.

April 17th - Evening Lecture by Board member Sue Nicol, “Managing Zoo Landscapes in an Olmsted Park: A Seattle Story”. This public event begins at 7:00pm with light refreshments. Lecture at 7:15 pm.

April 22nd - Tour of Carl English Gardens at the Locks with Arthur Lee Jacobson.

May 6th - Public event, presentation by Board member Beth Dodrill, “Historic Preservation at The Dunn Gardens”. May is Historic Preservation month. 10am - 12pm at The Dunn Gardens.

May 18th - The Dunn Gardens Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event. See article in this newsletter.

May 20th - Presentation by Carrie Becker, “Perennials at The Dunn Gardens”. 10am - 12pm.

June 29th - NW Seattle Estate Garden Tour, see article in this newsletter.

July 8th - Presentation by Board Member Ann Ormsby on Monocots. 10am - 12pm at The Dunn Gardens.

July 22nd - Tour of Powells Wood, A Northwest Garden. Meet at 9:15 at Dunn Gardens to carpool.

Garden is closed in August

September 9th - Fall Species Identification Class with Charles Price and Glenn Withey. 10am - 12pm.

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. 7pm refreshments; lecture at 7:15pm.

July 2009 - 2nd Dunn Gardens ArtWalk “Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Centennial Inspirations”. Call to all artists and all who enjoyed the first ArtWalk. New works inspired by the AYPE and created to showcase current talent and sensibilities. Contact the office for more information.

Look for Val Easton’s article and photo feature in the Pacific Magazine of the Seattle Times this July to see highlights from last year. Also, see works by Julie Speidel and John Weber in The gardens now. The curators’ garden features “Kingfisher” by Tony Angell which was generously donated by Kathy Fies.

Watch our new “Artist in Residence” program throughout the seasons.

Check our website at www.dunngardens.org for other upcoming dates.

NW Seattle Estate Garden Tour

Sunday June 29th

In this 100th Anniversary Year of the Highlands, come view three Highlands estates and the historic Dunn Gardens of the same era.

This is your opportunity to tour three rarely opened spectacular gardens located in the Highlands. Listen to wonderful music by Orchestra Seattle and Seattle Chamber Singers directed by George Shangrow as you stroll the grounds. The first estate is intimate and modern, with a lovely pond garden and a fine collection of natives and rare species. Stroll next to a 1929 very grand formal estate designed by James F. Dawson and Noble Hoggson (whose work you see in the Dunn Gardens). Enjoy the later design work of R. David Adams, in the rose garden and grounds against the imposing tall Douglas firs as a stately backdrop. Your third visit is a large 1920's estate, designed by A.A. MacDougall, featuring a beautiful allee, walled parterre, water view and strong lines with many new plantings to enhance the original design throughout the garden. Dunn Garden docents will be at each garden to give further history and details of these stunning properties.

The estates are clustered together and within easy walking distance for you to enjoy at a slowed pace. Conclude your afternoon with wine and refreshments as you leave the Highlands and tour the enchanting woodland gardens of the nearby historic Olmsted designed E.B. Dunn Gardens with curators Glenn Withey and Charles Price. Beautiful gift bags will be presented to each guest as our way of thanking you for your donation to the Dunn Gardens.

The 2008 Estate Tour will be held on Sunday, June 29th from 1:30 to 5:00 pm. All of the gardens are located very close to the parking area in the Highlands and so this will be a walking tour. There is a \$100.00 donation for members, and a \$150.00 for the first non-member (which will include a membership to the Dunn Gardens for one year), and second family members or guests at \$100.00 each. In the past this has always been a very popular event and has sold out quickly. So take this opportunity to guarantee your reservation. Call 206-362-0933, or reserve online at www.dunngardens.org.

Gayle Harris, Chair



Executive Director, Sue Nevler



I suspect many already know my passion for this wonderful garden. I am indebted to my fellow former board members whose support has launched me into the exciting position as The Dunn Gardens' first Executive Director.

I look forward to working with our curators who continue to amaze us with knowledge and wit as stimulating as their provocative landscapes. And I know our committed board members, along with our excellent staff members, Dot, David, Roger, and Zsolt will help keep us on course, continuing our preservation work and educating more in our community about the importance of retaining and enhancing these rare historic landscapes.

In our local horticultural community I expect that both old and new ties will flourish. As we joined KBGF at Sky Nursery's recent Garden Fair, I observed, "United we stand." David Berger's retort, "Divided we propagate." did not disappoint!

We will continue to sister with KBGF at the NW Flower and Garden Show, share classes with NHS, and participate in the Pacific NW Garden Conservancy Forum, meetings which strengthen gardens of many aspects in our region.

Expect ideas and events burgeoning from Dunn Gardens based on Olmsted's old "Emerald Necklace" around Boston, which may find new life here in upstart Emerald City, Seattle. Watch for events during Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Centennial next year.

We are starting projects with Seattle Central Community College, Shoreline Community College, and the U.W. Geography Department to provide nonprofit learning opportunities to local students. A win/win for all.

As I look to steer a course ahead, my feet are anchored in the past. I invite you to consider your own past levels of commitment and encourage you to increase your personal support of these very fine gardens.

Our first 2008 board meeting exercise yielded these definitions of the Dunn Gardens:

"Continuing a Legacy"
"An American Classic in NW Seattle"
"Retreat from consumer driven artificial culture to a place of beauty and serenity"
"Find peace and thrills in a classic landscape sanctuary"

I hope you find one that resonates and that motivates you to come visit. I look forward to seeing you in the gardens.

Sue Nevler, Executive Director

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

Other Items Worth Mentioning!

Conservation of The Dunn Gardens

May is Historic Preservation Month, and although conservation efforts are underway all year long at the Dunn Gardens, this is an opportunity to showcase the results of the work of our garden conservation committee, curators, and gardeners. Committee and board member Beth Dodrill will talk about “Historic Preservation at the Dunn Gardens” on Tuesday, May 6. Preservation efforts in the gardens will be supported by participants in our annual Wine Tasting event at the gardens on Sunday, May 18. I will be giving garden conservation tours for the Broadview Historical Society and for the Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation to round out the month.

We think of preservation as holding in time and place, but we are constantly reminded that historic landscapes are dynamic places that respond to changing cultural conditions, growth patterns and life-cycles of horticultural collections. We recognize that they are reflections of generations of gardeners – their originators and their caretakers. We are also learning that planning for the conservation of an historic garden is guided by the evolution of the garden itself – we are caringly watchful.

Bob Findlay, Trust VP for Garden Conservation

Wish List!

The Dunn Gardens Chipper/Shredder is feeling the effects of a very active lifespan, chewing up limbs and spitting out paths at the gardens. We will need to invest in a replacement this year. If you are interested in helping to underwrite the cost of a new beast, please contact the office. This an essential part of annual garden maintenance, and your help is very much needed and appreciated!

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) with your e-mail addresses or by telephone (206-362-0933). Addresses will not be shared.

Our Photographs

We are very fortunate to have many people interested in our gardens, and interested in photographing the beauty they display. 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.

A GARDEN SQUIB



I spent several days in March removing a bumper crop of these newly germinated plants. What are they? Note the single leaf. One leaf at germination is the signature of the Monocotyledon Class of flowering plants. This monocot, a member of the Lily family, is Smilacina (often misspelled even by experts as ‘Similacina’) racemosa or False Solomon’s Seal. It grows happily in a variety of habitats, with a preference for moist soils, producing white plumes at the end of each mature stalk followed by bright red berries. I find it does quite well, keeping its color until fall, without regular summer water. Seeds germinate freely. Once large rhizomes form during the second year following germination, the rhizomes tend to branch forming dense groupings of stems. Plants may be propagated by dividing the rhizomes. If you do not wish large numbers of Solomon’s Seal, they are best prevented by deadheading the blossoms before seeding or picking out the just germinated seed leaf before rhizomes form. Large rhizomes are difficult to remove.



Lore has it that the juice from crushed rhizomes was used to treat earache, sunburn, rheumatism, sore back and kidney problems. A tea made from the leaves was thought to prevent conception. The starchy rhizomes are edible when cooked and sometimes served as food for Native Americans and early settlers. While also edible, the red berries are apparently not palatable.

Ann Ormsby, Board member

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE DUNN GARDENS

I would like to be a member of the Dunn Gardens at this level.....

Student/Senior \$25 - \$49 Basic \$50 - \$99 Friend \$100 - \$249 Booster \$250 - \$499 Supporter \$500 - \$999

Sustainer \$1000 - \$1499 Benefactor \$1500 - \$2499 Patron \$2500 - \$4999 Champion \$5000 +

Circle category above (check enclosed or credit card # below): \$ _____

I am already a member. Please accept my additional donation to support the Dunn Gardens:

For this amount: (check enclosed): \$ _____ Name: _____

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Phone: _____

Please mail check or credit card payment to:

E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust, P.O. Box 77126, Seattle, WA 98177

Phone: 206-362-0933, E-Mail info@dunngardens.org, Website: www.dunngardens.org

The E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization to the Seattle Foundation. Your contribution is deductible from federal income tax to the extent allowable by law. The Dunn Garden is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

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.

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



While this winter was not technically that cold, it felt like a long, cold winter. Usually on New Years day we'll have several flowers open on Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'. This year the bulbs were almost a month late. The snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) were several weeks off, too.

Interestingly, only early bulbs seemed to be late coming into flower. Various winter blooming shrubs have been on time, and the garden actually had quite a nice show from the various Mahonia x. media cultivars, Viburnum x. bodnantense 'Dawn' and Daphne bholua.

Charles and I worked on renovating Ed's perennial border in December, and mulched it with cow manure (a donation from Pam Lyford). Every year we try and refine the plantings in this bed. Not always easy, with moles undermining the new additions, and the rather limited amount of direct sunlight. While the border seems to be sited to get quite a bit of sun, the various towering trees block quite a bit of light.

This winter we edited the border of self-sowing pests (several forms of blue flowered geraniums among others), and have tried to balance out the composition. Certain plants, like the phlox, bulk up quickly and need to be divided every two to three years. If this doesn't happen, neighboring plants are invariably swamped and end up being set back.

The tennis court garden is also going to be renovated, and again we'll try and bring some balance to the plantings, as some plants have thrived a little too well while others have suffered. The giant lumps of Portuguese laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) were cut down this winter. While these plants did provide a visual barrier between this garden and the western woodland walk, they'd become far too aggressive. Seedlings were appearing everywhere, as this plant is on its way to being as much of a pest as English laurel. And, the amount of light that the laurels blocked was beginning to affect surrounding plants.

With the laurels cut down, one can now enjoy an uninterrupted view of the various Mt. Fuji cherries (five). New screening has/will be planted, and once again the tennis court garden and western woodland walk will be blocked from one another.

Elsewhere in the garden we are mostly doing minor tweaking and adjustments. Certain trilliums need to be lifted, and the areas cleared of *Oxalis oregana*. While the oxalis is a charming native groundcover, it is also a thug, and is swallowing up the various diminutive trilliums. Since the oxalis is in the roots of various rhododendrons, it will be an ongoing battle, since rhododendron roots form impenetrable mats. Oh well, job security as they say.

The bed between the driveway and Ed's lawn is also getting cleaned up, as the rhododendrons planted in the 1950's are failing (some more quickly than others). While we like our native salmon berry (*Rubus spectabilis*), it was running rampant in this bed, and was starting to suffocate smaller plants -o out it came. This plant has questing roots, and while we've managed to get rid of most of it, some remain as its roots and the roots of the rhodies have become fully intertwined. Charles pulled out roots that had grown eight feet in one year, so this gives you an idea of how tough this plant is.

We are looking forward to seeing the 5,000 crocus bulbs flowering in the lawn next to the classroom. Instead of planting them by hand, which is a guaranteed way to get carpal tunnel problems, we used a sod cutter and peeled back the sod. Charles carefully placed the bulbs, as there are five different cultivars, and the sod was rolled back down. By keeping the sod intact, there has been much less squirrel depredation, since these little monsters don't have as easy access as they do when one hand trowels the bulbs in. We had multiple donors help pay for these bulbs, for which we are grateful. A garden of this size gobbles up plants without even trying!

The poor scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), which is in the Kubota garden bed, is slated for removal. This tree dropped two larger branches this winter, on non-windy days, not a good sign... Several soil borne diseases are present in the tree, which have weakened it. If this tree were sited in the middle of a meadow, with no paths nearby, we'd let the tree fall apart on its own. But, since it is in a high impact area, safety of homeowners and the public is paramount.

This is the second grand tree to succumb to old age since we've been here. And, as time goes on more trees will fail. While we will definitely miss this grand old tree, it opens up new opportunities. A garden this mature is always evolving and changing, and our role is to help guide it along, thinking about the next one hundred years - and not just how plants will look next month.

We plan on ordering several small scarlet oaks from Forest Farm Nursery, growing them on and then selecting the best form as a replacement. We've noticed that far too often when a larger tree is field grown and then dug, the tree sulks for many years. This is due to the fact that most of the roots get cut off. in the move, and it takes years to grow a new set. More often than not, a small tree (with intact roots) will outperform a larger tree and have fewer problems with age.

Charles has been renovating certain rhododendrons, where rootstock had taken over the grafted portions. This process is rather dramatic, since a vast majority of the plant is often cut away. Nowadays rhodies aren't grafted, but prior to the 1950's, this was a common practice. Rhododendron ponticum was widely used as the rootstock, and this plant is incredibly vigorous. Over time, the rootstocks suckered and outgrew their brethren. One plant that Charles pruned is on the path between the tennis court garden and Ed's perennial border. Once a commanding mound, the plant now has been reduced by 90%. As time goes on, this renovated plant will fill in, as we'll make sure to keep any suckers from taking over. Another example is the triangular bed, surrounded by asphalt, south of Ed's house. This bed is in year two of renovation and in one more year things should start to 'come together'. While it may seem drastic to do this, we need to in order to save these old cultivars.

Do plan on an April or May visit. Far too often the garden is quiet, during these months, on tour days. Some of the best plants are in flower then, and the garden is delightful. And, we would like to thank all of you for your continuing support!



Dunn Gardens Docent Program

Tour season is underway at Dunn Gardens and a number of exciting special events are on the horizon. None of this would be possible without a dedicated group of docents and volunteers. Docents serve as our “ambassadors,” leading groups of visitors through the Gardens and interpreting its historic legacy. Please let us know if you are interested in our Docent Program.

BECOME A DUNN GARDENS DOCENT

Training: First Orientation -Tues. March 11th, 2008 9am-12pm;
Meetings - periodic Tuesdays 10am-12pm through Tour Season (April -Oct., closed Aug)
Dunn Gardens Study Notebook

Commitment: Lead 6 garden tours a year (at your convenience)

Benefits: Plant Identification classes with our curators Charles Price & Glenn Withey
Field trips to private and public gardens.
Lectures by noted local horticultural experts.
Free admittance to Flower & Garden Show by working at the Dunn Garden Booth.
Wonderful camaraderie while learning NW history, Olmsted design
and rare plants in a beautiful setting.

Please Contact Us: info@dunngardens.org, Call: 206-362-0933
Website: www.dunngardens.org,

Our docents were deeply saddened to lose a dear friend and early Dunn Gardens docent, Barbara Treece, who passed away in December. Barbara was warm, quick to laugh and a committed volunteer who will be very missed in The Dunn Gardens and in our community.

Docents - Spring 2008

*Vivian Brehm
Linda L. Breiwick
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Dorothy Clark
Laurie Colman
Stacie Crooks
Beth Dodrill-Rezghi
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***Jenny Wyatt - Docent Program
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***Kathy Cooper - Docent Program
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***Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson - Tour
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