



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERISM 1965 - 2015

Branching Out

Lake Wilderness
Arboretum News

July 2015

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

September 11-12, 2015

Lake Wilderness Arboretum is "Celebrating 50 Years of Volunteerism" this year with a weekend of events **September 11 and 12**, including the Fuchsia Festival and the annual Fall Plant Sale, both perennial favorites with the community.

The **50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend** begins Friday evening at six with the popular **Fuchsia Festival**, which takes place among the fuchsias in the gardens. This year, a group from the **Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra** will entertain our guests. Saturday morning, the **Fall Plant Sale** starts at 10 o'clock in the Nursery and runs thru 4:00 p.m. Then, Saturday beginning at 2:00 p.m., the **50th Anniversary Celebration** kicks off in the Meadow and is scheduled to continue throughout the afternoon.

Events and activities continue to be added to this free Celebration event, including musical performances from the **Maple Valley Big Band**, cupcakes from Covington-based **Double Dee Cupcakes** and more. Guests can browse our display table with membership and donation forms as well as information about the Arboretum. Guests can also look forward to free sno-cones and a surprise treat.

If you or your business would like to donate or be a part of the Celebration Weekend in other ways, please contact **LWAF President Noel Paterson** by email at director@lakewildernessarboretum.org.

Happy Birthday to Us! We look forward to celebrating with you at our **50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend**.



Musical acts scheduled to appear



cupcakes from
Double Dee Cupcakes

4th Annual

Fuchsia Festival

One of the crown jewels of our summer gardening season is the **hardy fuchsia**, a shrub that starts to bloom in May or June and continues to brighten any Pacific Northwest garden through the fall.

You're invited to celebrate this beauty—and our 50th Anniversary— at the **4th Annual Fuchsia Festival** on **Friday, September 11** at 6:00 p.m., an evening of camaraderie and fun, set among the hardy fuchsias in our gardens. Guests will be treated to food and refreshments, music from the **Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra** and a rare opportunity to see the beautiful book, ***The Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya*** by **Joseph Dalton Hooker, M.D.**, on loan from the University of Washington.

"The Fuchsia Festival is a way to



celebrate the stunning fuchsias, enjoy wine, other drinks, hors d'oeuvres and music, and to raise support for the Arboretum," Noel says. "We hope more community members will attend this lovely fundraising event."

Tickets are \$20 per person, available from any **Board Member** before the event or by email at info@lakewildernessarboretum.org and **\$25 at the door**. All proceeds benefit the education and outreach program at the Arboretum.



*Noel Paterson, President
Lake Wilderness Arboretum
Foundation*



Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation President's Letter

What a hot summer it has been!

While many of us enjoy the summer days, our poor Arboretum has been hit hard by the lack of precipitation and constant sun. **Susan Goodell**, our garden manager, and **Bob Wahlberg**, our property manager, have been working with many of our volunteers to do what they can to keep our gardens vibrant, but we have lost a number of plants to the heat, and even more to thieves. It has

been a difficult season for the Arboretum, but we are constantly making improvements and adapting to challenges so we will be even stronger next year. With support from the City of Maple Valley and friends of the Arboretum like you, we will continue to be a beautiful part of our community, one that thrives for another 50 years. If you would like to join us, drop us a note at info@lakewildernessarboretum.org.

-Noel

LAKE WILDERNESS ARBORETUM

22520 SE 248th in Maple Valley, WA

Open Daily from Dawn to Dusk
Entrance & Parking Free to the Public

Developed and maintained by volunteers for 50 years, the Arboretum's 42 acres showcase landscaped display gardens and a forest reserve, with walking trails for exploring throughout the year.

Free public tours on the third Saturday of each month from April to October:

Docent Tours

July 18 - August 15

September 19 - October 17

Children's Story Time

with Librarian Sharon from

Maple Valley Public Library

Tuesday, August 5 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19 - 10:30 a.m.

United Way's Day of Caring

Friday, September 18

Maple Valley Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 24

**TO VOLUNTEER, DONATE OR BECOME A MEMBER**

info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org

Visit LakeWildernessArboretum.org

Call 253-293-5103

Mail PO Box 72, Maple Valley, WA 98038

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LakeWildernessArboretum)



Woodland Garden

Revitalized Gardens & Trails

Lake Wilderness Arboretum's display gardens have been created, cultivated, transformed and maintained by dedicated volunteers for 50 years.

Volunteers under the direction of Garden Manager **Susan Goodell** are re-establishing the Arboretum's plant collections into five unique gardens. These include the re-imagined **Woodland Garden** that highlights existing collections of Japanese Maples, Hydrangeas and Rhododendrons; the **Perennial Garden**, anchored by a thriving display of hardy fuchsias gifted by the [Northwest Fuchsia Society](#) and the Western Fuchsia Species Society; the **Legacy Garden**, which preserves plants propagated by well-known Pacific Northwest gardeners Loie Benedict and Marjorie Baird; the **Alpine Garden**, two distinct

displays of plants that grow well near or above the timberline and that grow well in rocky, dry conditions; and the **Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden**, one of the largest collections of deciduous western azaleas in the world.

In addition, visitors can learn about how the native cultures of the Pacific Northwest used their natural resources on the **Tribal Life Trail** or explore 26 acres of second growth forest hiking easy trails.

Take a free guided tour every third Saturday of the month from April through October.

Magnolia Macrophylla (large leaf magnolia) - Legacy Garden



Arboretum Thieves: Damage & Motive

Recently, KIRO7's Alison Grande reported on thieves who stole more than 30 plants from the Arboretum. Here's a transcript from the coverage:

"We have two holes here where plants were taken. I didn't expect things to go missing here. And there was another one right over here behind this big rock." Susan Goodell is the Garden Manager at Lake Wilderness Arboretum, a 42-acre public garden.

"It's a lot of work to keep up with, and to have your work kind of disappearing out from underneath you just feels a bit demoralizing." Instead of taking care of plants, she is counting empty holes. "You'll see, in places where there is an ID sign, and then there's no plant."

In two weeks, thieves stole more than 30 plants and trees from the nonprofit in Maple

Valley run by volunteers. "I'm not really sure why somebody feels the need to take them from a public place."

Volunteer Bob Dunning has his suspicions. "I'm pretty sure that it's the same person coming here and trying to fill out his bottom line for his current landscaping job," Dunning says. Dunning thinks the thief comes early in the morning. "And I would guess that a lot of these plants are dead now, because they did not dig them up properly," he adds.

They say the dry weather makes the plants easier to rip out. It's possible the thieves stole plants to replace plants killed by the recent heat wave. When they took inventory they found even more missing. Several Japanese maples disappeared.

"I know that one of them had recently been planted to celebrate our 50th anniversary," Goodell says (the 'Shin Deshojo' that was donated for the Arboretum's 50th anniversary by the Late Bloomers garden

club). Now instead there's an empty hole.

They called the Maple Valley Police Department and filed a report. The damage is over \$1,000. There are some surveillance cameras in the Arboretum, but not enough to cover all 42 acres. Volunteers here hope the thieves will stop.

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"It was the usual jerk and run method with just enough selectivity to suggest that some home gardener without personal pride was shopping for their landscape," Bob shares in a Facebook post. "It is extremely disheartening to volunteers and benefactors to have years of work destroyed in moments by a few jerks. This impacts what we are able to offer for the viewing pleasure of the public, especially where the plant involved is difficult to replace. Based on the constant stream of visitors we believe that the Arboretum is a valued part of the Maple Valley scene. Sometimes it just seems like we are bailing against the tide."

## Beautiful Blooms

Pictures taken of the Arboretum's fabulous gardens and surrounding area. Newsletter contributors include Janet Muniz, Mark Wilson, Sara Chapman, Cindy Ostermann, Sally Halvorsen and Bob Dunning.



Share your Arboretum pictures with us on [our Facebook page](#) - and we might highlight them in our newsletter!



# Bob Dunning Returns to Board

**Bob Dunning** returns to the Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation Board of Directors as Member at Large.

The recently retired longtime friend of the Arboretum has been volunteering since 1997, and served as Foundation president in 2000.

"I came back to the board now because I see a need for better representation from the garden volunteer team where I have been active for the last few years," he tells us.

Bob explains what inspires him to devote so much quality time to one of Maple Valley's best kept secrets.

## Why are you involved with the LWAF?

I became attached when I built the Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden. I planned it and coordinated its construction.

## What's your favorite Arboretum event?

The annual Spring Plant Sale. I enjoy meeting people and selling plants.

## What do you think is the Arboretum's biggest contribution to the community?

It's a pretty place to walk and enjoy some peace and quiet. It also offers examples of what is possible gardening in the Puget Sound region. There are many other contributions related to the history of Maple Valley and connections with the greater gardening community in our area.

## Congratulations, Bob!

Thank you so much for your tireless support and devotion.

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS WITH US!



Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden



# Annual Fall Plant Sale

Come out and support Lake Wilderness Arboretum at the annual Fall Plant Sale  
Saturday, September 12

This popular fundraising event takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Arboretum nursery and features a wide variety of native and specialty plants for sale. With many of the plants marked down at a discount, local garden enthusiasts can take advantage of substantial savings.

"Proceeds from the Fall Plant Sale help to maintain our beautiful gardens and forest," LWAF President Noel Paterson says.

Gardeners can learn more about the Arboretum's unique plants, what to purchase and how to prepare their yards for winter with help from many dedicated volunteers, Arboretum Board members and staff, as well as Master Gardeners.

This year, stopping by the Fall Plant Sale also gives members of the community a chance to visit the display gardens and trails at the changing of the seasons from summer to fall ...

**... And to help us celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**



## IT'S SO EASY TO DONATE!

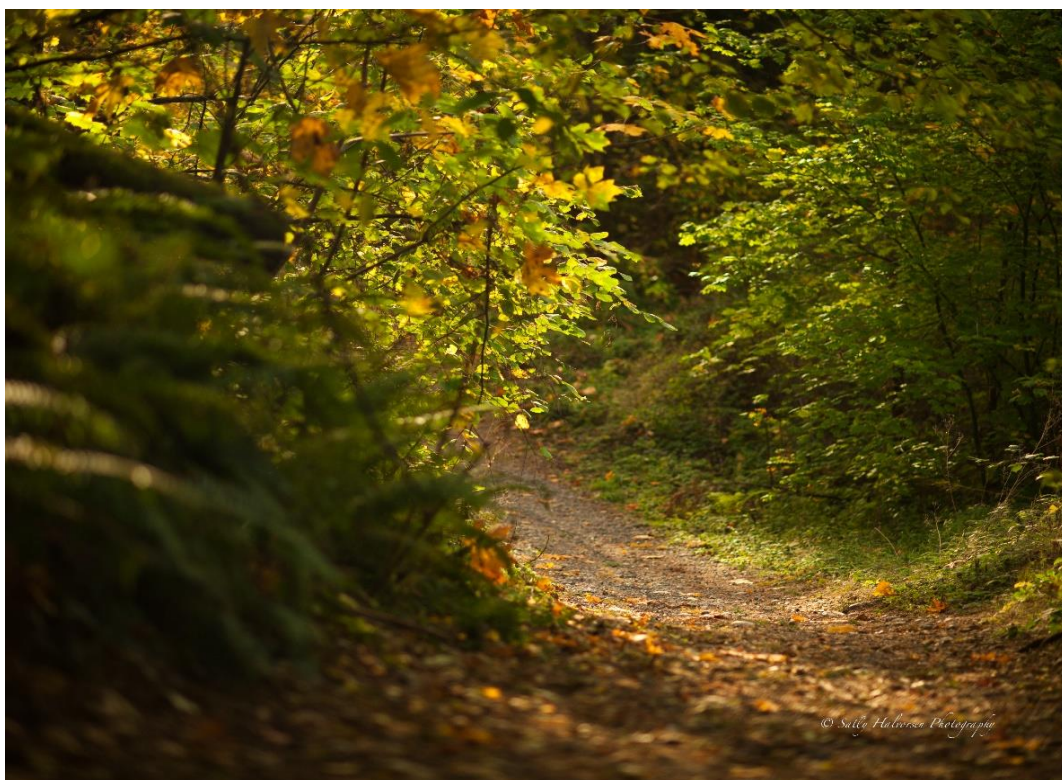
Just use the handy donate button on the [LakeWildernessArboretum.org](http://LakeWildernessArboretum.org) homepage

**Donate**



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Lake Wilderness Arboretum  
News

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