



Looking down the Carlmas Long Borders into the Ole and Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove

July Gardening Tips for Extreme Weather, Rich Soil, and Drought Tolerant Plants

By Susan Miller, Master Gardener

Watering gardens wisely will matter more and more as our summers heat up and rains form differently, at a frequency both unknown and changing. That is, our current rainfall is coming more often in the form of hard-hitting flash storms and atmospheric rivers. As of mid-June our Governor said, "As the climate crisis worsens, we're facing the most extreme summer weather in history. While WA State faced the wettest start to the summer in over 70 years, other states are preparing for sweltering temps that will catastrophically disrupt their fragile electrical grid."

Healthy soils can retain more water in any climate change scenario because water-wise and climate friendly soils can absorb and lessen the effect of runoff. And below the surface, rich soil teems with microorganisms creating space for air and water.

This summer try evenly spreading $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1" of compost into your soils and grass. I've recommended Gardener and Bloome's --"G and B" for short -- Soil Building Conditioner (3 foot cubic bales), available at the Issaquah Grange. Keep multiple bags stored and use them regularly wherever your soil is hard packed or used up. Add 2" of "G & B" around the base of trees and shrubs.

We're about to over-seed our moss-filled grass with "Custom Shade" seeds found at a quality garden center. The edges of my lawn also show the infiltration of buttercup and ajuga along the borders of garden beds, stonewalls, and lawn. I wasn't looking forward to prying up by hand the weeds embedded in my lawn. I confided the bleak prospect

of digging tough weed roots out of my lawn to a horticulturalist/instructor as he guided a tour of a private garden. He whispered back, "herbicide."

The meaning was not lost on me. There are times I need to bite the bullet and judiciously use a product I think of as my worst enemy. The same instructor emailed me later to explain that repeated applications of vinegar until the seed stops reappearing had also been shown to be an incomplete option. But there was no doubt in my mind that the time and effort to eradicate my weeds by applying vinegar was not for me. I will make peace with herbicide this one time.

On a more natural note, beneficial insects like ladybugs and lacewings can be your best defense against unwanted bugs. Ladybugs feed on aphids, scale insects, and mites. Yellow jackets try to chow down on your barbecued meat because they are carnivores--and, therefore, they also devour many garden pests. Hmm, an interesting tradeoff: if I eat vegetarian at my next picnic, maybe the yellow jackets will ignore me.

By midsummer we want to be maintaining a strong well-hydrated root system that will increase plant resiliency during droughts. Run your soaker hoses or low arcing sprinklers at dusk or dawn for 30-40 minutes per week to water root systems deeply. You can test your water efficacy one hour after watering by digging 6-12" to see if soil is damp. Hydrofarm sells a three-way meter to measure moisture, light, and pH values for \$15.

(July Gardening Tips continued on page 4)

Wise Plant Choices Based on Local Research

By Katie Swickard, chair SCBG Board

Gardeners in Washington have been battling the azalea lace bug, *Stephanitis pyrioides*, since it was first detected in our area in 2007. Native to Japan, it's presumed to have hitched a ride on infested nursery stock.

Ryan Garrison, a Plant Health Care Specialist at UW Botanic Gardens, has been researching and applying scientific principles and detective skills as a sort-of botanical Sherlock Holmes, if you will, sleuthing out the mysteries behind the deterioration or demise of prized collection plants.

Ryan stated in his Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin article "Gauging Resistance, My Azalea Lace Bug Research in the Arboretum" that the lace bug is "A tiny member of the insect order Hemiptera (along with aphids and cicadas), it feeds on different species of *Rhododendron* and occasionally other members of the Ericaceae, such as *Kalmia* and *Pieris*. Feeding by nymphs and adult azalea lace bugs removes chlorophyll from leaves, reducing rates of photosynthesis and transpiration in infested plants. As a result of chlorophyll removal, yellow or white stippling appears on the tops of affected leaves."

Ryan collected "approximately 200 leaf samples from 18 plants, one to two times per week, from April to October in 2018 and 2019. Then, count the number of unhatched eggs, early instars (immature insects), late instars and adults under a microscope.

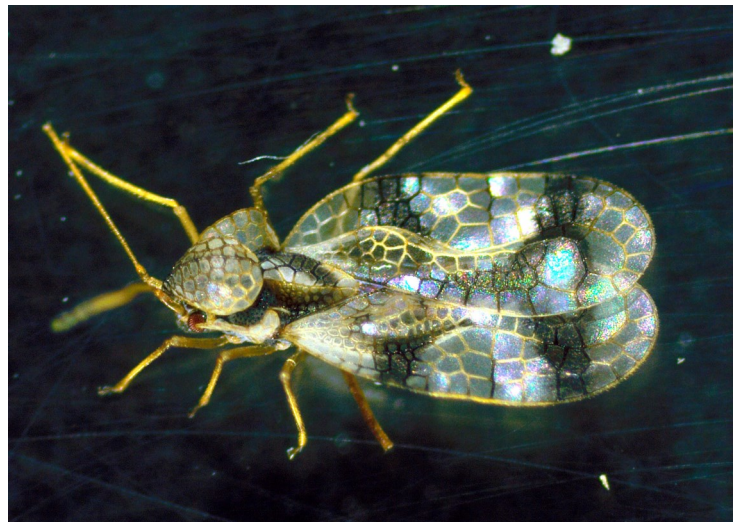
In the end, I collected more than 11,000 leaves and counted almost 20,000 lace bugs. We used this data to determine exactly when each life stage was present in the Arboretum. By linking the timing of these life stages to temperature data, we were able to develop a mathematical model that predicts when those life stages should appear in any given year. The immature nymphs are most susceptible to control efforts, so we designated a control window to be between when the eggs have hatched and when adults first begin to appear.

On an average year, the most effective time to take control measures for azalea lace bug in the Pacific Northwest is between May 16 and June 12. However, be advised that on a warmer year, eggs will hatch earlier, and the window could start on May 7. Conversely, on a colder than average year, the window could start as late as May 30. Soil-applied systemic pesticides, such as imidacloprid, are effective against the lace bug, but application timing is critical, and the danger posed by these pesticides to pollinators is an issue. Milder treatments such as horticultural oils or soaps are effective but only against the immature stages of the insect. Oils and soaps should be sprayed under the leaves of affected plants during the time window."

Ryan's research helps local gardeners to make informed plant choices. "In some cases, it may be difficult to switch



Azalea Lace bug damage on rhododendron.



Azalea Lace bug (Stephanitis pyrioides). Photos by Ryan R. Garrison

from growing evergreen azaleas to less susceptible species ... If you must plant evergreen azaleas, or if your existing plants are dear to you, a pest management plan will be needed. Through our study of the seasonality of the lace bug, we have provided gardeners with the tools they need to effectively control this pest."

This summer make it a practice to do your own research in your garden. Are you noticing lace bug damage? Will you replace susceptible plants or develop a plan of control measures?

Visit https://arboretumfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/garrison_azalea-lace-bug-research.pdf to read his complete article and for a list of some lace bug resistant *Rhododendrons* observed during this study at the Washington Park Arboretum.

At Soos Creek Botanical Garden visitors can observe:
Rhododendron auriculatum - SW side of the Heritage Flower Garden

(Plant Choices continued on page 4)

Scout Honor Court

By **Barbara Nagel**

On Sunday, May 22nd, Boy Scouts of America, recognized five young men from Troop 455 by holding a Court of Honor at St. Anthony's Parish Hall, in Renton, WA. Jim Daly, Barbara Nagel and Joe Nagel were guests. Four of the five boys had done their Eagle projects at Soos Creek Botanical Garden. Jim and Barbara



(L to R) *Nicholas R., Nathan S., Jared B., Benjamin S., and Roman A.*

were thanked by these ambitious youth for their help and support with the projects.

Each youth spoke for several minutes about their great memories of Scouting. The path to Eagle rank is long and encompasses years of community service work, taking on various roles in the Troop and learning many new skills along the way, all before the age of 18.

Fewer than 4% of all Scouts earn the rank of Eagle. It is a true accomplishment, recognized by Schools, the Military and Employers. The rank was described by one speaker as a true brotherhood, and an example of that was having several other older men present at the Honor Court who had earned the Eagle Rank themselves.

Roman Antolin built two benches for the Garden, which are used and enjoyed by the community. Nickolas Rac built a very sturdy roof for the 3 section soil bin located behind the Hoop House. Nathan Schlicker built two large picnic tables for the Garden, each seating six, giving a total of four picnic tables, which are free to use. Jared Bacher completed two benches placed in the Pavilion by the Pond area. Benjamin Smith built a Little Food Pantry for the Fairwood United Methodist Church.

These fine young men join the group of over 30 Scouts who have completed their Eagle Projects in the past 10 years at SCBG. If you look closely, you will see small plaques on each project with name, troop number and year completed.

Forest for the Trees

Have you visited the Trees tab on our website, or added a special tree to our online, crowd-sourced map of culturally significant trees? This is a crowd-sourced map telling the stories of our most culturally-significant trees. Anyone who can recall the experience of a special tree can contribute a story. Explore our relationship with trees--experiential, historical, magical, and metaphorical.

Trees are a vital part of our culture and that's because:

Trees clean the air, conserve energy, combat climate change, and provide oxygen – did you know that in one year an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people?

Trees also conserve water, reduce water pollution, and help prevent soil erosion.

Trees provide food for humans and other living creatures and habitat for wildlife.

Trees cool neighborhoods with their shade, and they cool tempers, too – studies have shown that barren neighborhoods have more violent incidents than their greener counterparts.

We need to take all this to heart, because as the human population in South King County continues to grow at a robust rate, green space and trees are vulnerable to development.

To that end, SoCoCulture has launched the “Engaging Trees” initiative here in South King County to encourage everyone who lives here to learn more about trees via the programming presented by SoCoCulture’s botanical members (check our calendar for upcoming events, or visit each of their websites directly). We want folks to understand the importance and value of trees in our landscape, and to advocate for a tree-friendly region! Snap a photo of a tree you treasure, add it to our map, and share why it has special meaning to you. Explore the map (and add to it) at <https://sococulture.org/engaging-trees/>

Linda Hallberg

Another Scout Project...



Cameron D. just completed the new arch to The Rosarian Walk.

King County Library System Brings Story Time To Soos Creek Botanical Garden

On Saturday, September 10th at 10:30am children ages 3-8 are invited to celebrate the joy of nature with Miss Roberta, Auburn Children's Librarian, for a story and an activity set among the Ole and Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove, where they will learn all about the beautiful giant trees. Bring a blanket to sit on during story time. Please register with KCLS at <https://1.kcls.org/treetour>.

The Rosarian Walk

By Maurice Skagen, SCBG Board President

Fall of 2021 three Rosarians passed away: Anne Belovich of Stanwood, David Elliott of Victoria, British Columbia and Roger Phillips of London, England. Following their deaths, Soos Creek Botanical Garden received substantial contributions from members of two organizations, Heritage Roses Northwest and the Rainy Rose Society in their memory for the development of a new heritage rose garden.

In addition, Rose Lee, member of the Heritage Roses Northwest, donated over one hundred older roses from her own collection. Some people use the date of 1860 to identify the 'older roses' others use World War I as a date for these roses. In the 1960's, David Austin, of England began to hybridize the 'older roses' with the Iceberg rose. His roses are known as the David Austin roses. Many people consider them in the same category as the 'Heritage Roses'.

This inspired Maurice Skagen, an avid rose grower himself, to select a sunny, unused location behind the plant sale nursery to establish a new garden area, which he has named, *The Rosarian Walk*. He created a rectangular design bordering the plant sale nursery which resulted in an L-shape garden with a circle connecting the two rectangles. The work began late winter into spring with removing twelve mature alders and preparing the area for planting. Jose Alvarado, Garden Maintenance Technician, laid out the gravel paths and lined the paths with bricks. He planted all the roses and other plantings within a two-month period while garden volunteer, Dianna Marshall, identified the roses with labels. Maurice Skagen and the propagation team germinated a collection of English daisy, columbines, hollyhock, and Shasta daisies as part of the complimentary plantings.

Garden volunteer, Barbara Nagel, contacted local Scouts, Cameron Down and Cameron Daniels, with a request to build two rose arbors: one as an entrance arbor from the parking lot and the other as an exit arbor leading into the main garden. On the east end of the rose garden, a backdrop of flowering trees and shrubs, as well as a hedge with approximately sixty iceberg roses was installed.



Iceberg Roses

While the plantings will be settling in and getting established this year, we can all look forward to enjoying an abundance of color, scent, and visual delight next year from this newest room added to the Garden.

(July Gardening Tips continued from page 1)

If heat replaces this month of June's cool rain, then use mulch to insulate your roots around shrubs and trees. It's fine to let your grass "go golden" in the summer with its monthly watering and trying to minimize walking on it. Don't squish the action below the soil because the compressed soil will encourage buttercup, our favorite weed, with some of the most tenacious roots known on the planet.

If the summer heat kills your plant, replace it with a heat resistant and drought tolerant plant such as the California lilac or ceanothes, shrubby cinquefoil or potentilla, hebe, rock rose or cistus and shrubby lavender and rosemary. Look to dryer regions in Oregon or northern California for plants that do well in their weather.

Or consider these natives: Ocean spray, red flowering currant, and dogwood. My favorite native red flowering currant that was "cultivated" to have yellow leaves is called *ribes sanguineum Brocklebankii*, my favorite tongue-twister. Try it! It's gorgeous gold with deep pink blossoms!

More drought tolerant plants include vine maple, ginkgo biloba, smoke tree, Irish yew, barberry, ninebark, strawberry tree, Pacific wax myrtle, Japanese holly, evergreen huckleberry, and mugo pines. Note: These plants are drought tolerant once "established." "Established" means that the plant has gone through 2 years of supplemental watering during the dry season.

Looking ahead to September 2022, expect a write-up about the ongoing, multi-West Coast-universities' experiment on how much drought our favorite regional plants can tolerate. It's a hot topic.

(Plant Choices continued from page 2)

- Rhododendron fortunei - on the 132nd Ave fence, SW corner
- Rhododendron occidentale - in both Carlmas Long Borders
- Rhododendron ponticum - a variegated one is beside the back door of the Volunteer Office
- Rhododendron racemosum
- Rhododendron scabrifolium - Pond Garden, near the deck NE corner
- Rhododendron degronianum ssp. yakushmanum - Carlmas Long Border north
- Rhododendron yakushmanum x tsariense - Carlmas Long Border south

Excerpted with permission from an article that first appeared in the spring 2022 issue of the Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin.

Summer Events Coming UP!

Seattle Jazz Network

Friday, July 8, 2022

7:00pm to 9:00pm

"Get your groove on and hear Seattle Jazz Network in a beautiful outdoor setting!"
10 piece jazz band with fabulous singer!

Bring your comfy lawn chair, or use our folding chairs. Tickets: EventBrite.com by June 1st, or at the door. \$15 Adults; \$10 Youth under 18. Free for kids 5 and under with an adult.



SOOS CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN *and* HERITAGE CENTER

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info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org

Sunday, August 7, 2022

2 performances: 2pm and 7pm

A Mid-Summer Night's Dream

Join the cast of a dozen talented actors presenting the well-loved comedy, A Mid-Summer Night's Dream, by Shakespeare on Sunday, August 7th. This family production will be set in the 1950's and is sure to please all ages.

Gates will open at 1pm and 6pm for ticket sales (Adults: \$15; Military, Seniors and 18 and under; \$10. Under 6 free).

There will be 2 shows: 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are also on sale through Emerald Theatre.org now.

Stroll the Garden; get your seat or bring your lawn chair; enjoy some light snacks sold by Emerald Theatre.org. Shows will be followed by "Actors Talk Back" to answer show questions. Find out how youth 6th -9th grades can attend a local Shakespeare Summer Camp in Maple Valley on the theatre's website.

Sunday, August 28, 2022, 2pm

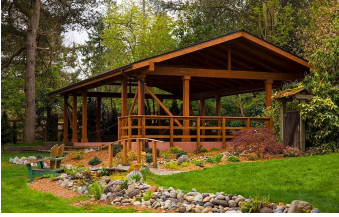
Auburn Symphony in the Garden

Join the Auburn Symphony String Quartet for a lovely afternoon in the Garden for fun, family-friendly favorites! Some chairs will be available, or you may bring your own. Pack a picnic and enjoy some beautiful music with the best view in town.

This concert sold out last year, so watch for tickets when they go on sale July 6! Tickets sales are through the Symphony phone line, as well as at the door, starting at 1pm.

Adults: \$15.; Youth \$8.
12 and under free.

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.

July 20, 2022 – American Dippers at Flaming Geyser State Park

Presented by Dan Streiffert – Conservation Chair, Rainier Audubon Society

I have been photographing the American Dippers at Flaming Geyser State Park for the last three years. I have captured everything from courtship, nesting, fishing for Caddisfly larvae and Salmon eggs, to feeding their young. They are quite easy to spot and observe, particularly in the Spring and Fall. Follow Dan as he takes us through the park, searching for American Dippers.

August 17, 2022 – Fall and Winter Chores to Make Your Spring Gardening Easier

Presented by Ladd Smith, Co-Owner of In-Harmony

Come learn how you can become a more successful gardener and do it with less work. Your garden will be more beautiful and you will enjoy putting in less effort and getting more enjoyment when you learn how to work with Mother Nature. Healthy soils, good watering and natural yard care techniques will be some of the topics discussed. Be prepared to learn and laugh along with Ladd!

September 21, 2022 – Salmon Life Cycle and Washington Fish Hatcheries

Presented by Lawrence McCrone, master docent at Issaquah Salmon Hatchery

Lawrence is a biological oceanographer who worked for 33 years in environmental consulting. Since retiring, he has served as a volunteer master docent at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (ISH), leading tours and helping to educate the public about this valuable resource. He will give a presentation about the salmon life cycle, the role of hatcheries in WA state, operations of ISH, and some of the challenges faced by salmon in the NW. If there is sufficient interest, he will lead a tour of the ISH at a later date.

Yoga in the Garden

Hello Volunteers and Visitors at Soos Creek Botanical Garden!

Brigette Rey Waner will be returning for another year as our amazing Yoga in the Garden instructor.

Brigette will again offer her classes on the Wednesdays of July and August at 8:45am to 9:45am for Volunteers (and any visitors who need an early class). If there is interest, she will also offer a class at 10am to 11am for Visitors.

Cost for visitors for each class is \$10. by cash or check. All fees are donated back to the Garden by the generosity of Brigette!

Wear loose clothing, bring your Yoga mat, a towel or small blanket, and any props you have.

Brigette will bring extra props to borrow.

Bring a friend. Brigette has easy adaptations and teaches all levels of Yoga students.

Those who have already signed a Hold Harmless for the Garden and Brigette will not need to re-sign. New students will sign before their first class.

More Events at SCBG

July 8 – 7pm to 9pm

“Jazz Network”

10 piece Jazz band with singer.
\$15 adults, \$10 youth under 18,
Children 5 & under free.
Bring your lawn chair or use ours

Wednesdays in July & August.

8:45am to 9:45am, Yoga for Volunteers

10am to 11am, Yoga for Visitors: \$10 per class

No pre-registration required. Bring mat and large towel. All levels of instruction are welcome.
Fees donated to Soos Creek Botanical Garden.

August 7 – 2pm & 7pm

Shakespeare in the Garden:

Emerald Theatre Midsummer Night’s Dream

\$15 adults, \$10 youth, Age 6 & under free.
Bring your lawn chair or use ours.

August 28 – 2pm to 4pm

Auburn Symphony Chamber

Purchase tickets at AuburnSymphony.org
after July 4th, \$15 adults, \$8 youth, Age 12 & under
free. Bring your lawn chair or use ours.

September 16 & 17 – 10 to 4pm

Fall Plant Sale



Ole and Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove at Soos Creek Botanical Garden.

Tree Tour 2022 Kids Edition at Soos Creek Botanical Garden

Saturday September 10, 2022

10:30 - 11:30am

Celebrate the joy of nature with Miss Roberta, Auburn Children's Librarian, at Soos Creek Botanical Garden for a story and an activity set among the Ole and Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove. Learn all about the beautiful giant trees.

Registration opens August 27 at 12:00am

Please register with KCLS at <https://1.kcls.org/treetour>

Tree Tour 2022 at Soos Creek Botanical Garden: Ole & Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove

Saturday, September 10, 2022

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Visit to the Soos Creek Botanical Garden to see the big trees of the Ole and Sarah Skagen Cedar Grove. Discover how the library can help you learn more about trees in your backyard, woods and beyond.

Registration opens August 10 at 9:00am

Please register with KCLS at <https://1.kcls.org/treetour>

Celebrate! Fall Plant Sale



Come out and help support our Garden!

We're having our annual

Fall Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday,
September 16th and 17th, 2022

10am to 4pm

COLOR IN THE GARDEN

July — Hydrangea, Crocosmia, Lily, Hosta, Rose, Fuchsia

August — Hydrangea, Fuchsia, Dahlia, Rose, Hibiscus, Calla, Anemone

September — Dahlia, Fuchsia, Anemone, plus many colorful berries & pods



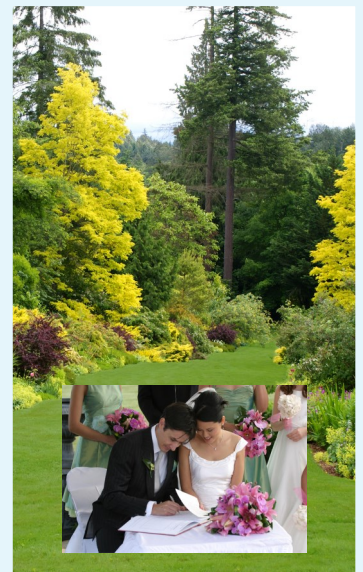
More monthly color on our Facebook page.

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 2022 celebrations, with a small refundable deposit.



Email us at: info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org

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

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