

# GARDEN CLIPPINGS

SOOS CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN *and* HERITAGE CENTER

SPRING 2022



Photo Caption

*Japanese Iris standing tall near the Schaefer Pond*

## Rainier Audubon Conducts 3rd Annual Bird-Count

### ***Greetings, Soos Creek Botanical Garden***

Very warm thanks go to you for opening up the Volunteer Room for Lucia, Curt and I as we participated in the 119th annual National Audubon **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**, the 41st annual CBC for our chapter, Rainier Audubon, on Sunday Jan 2nd. In the snow!

This count was the most scenic, beautiful Christmas Bird Count I have ever experienced, and we've had some sunny, lovely days in the past. While the snow cover and icy spots made walking feel treacherous, I loved what I saw everywhere even though the birds hid.

We are so grateful that your beautiful garden is within our 15-mile diameter CBC Count Circle. I regret not asking for permission to come onto the property before I did. I was so pleased with the friendly welcome from you, Jim Daly and Carmen gave me back in Dec 2019, for our first CBC visit.

This year, with the temperatures hovering around freezing most of the morning, we three were especially thankful for the hot tea, indoor restroom, and the wall heater! It helped make this our best CBC ever. Thank you for filling the bird feeders, that was kind of you!

While we did not see many species on this year's visit, our only White-crowned Sparrow of the whole day was spotted by Curt in your garden. Also seen was Lucia and Curt's only Red-breasted Sapsucker of the day (I had seen one at Mary Olson Farm in the

morning.) Curt watched it fly across the lawn, and Lucia and I were able to study it closely when it landed on a tree right next to us! I had just that minute pointed out to her the many sapsucker holes on nearby tree trunks, and here it came!

Three Song Sparrows and nine Crows were observed. A male Spotted Towhee was eating the red jewel-like fruits of a Barberry, not stopping when we came along. I'm saving my favorite sighting for last – a Pacific Wren hopped around on the snow offering us one of the best views we've ever enjoyed. It showed up so well against the white background, staying out in the open for several minutes!

I'll send our species list for the day in a separate email. If you or anyone is curious about what area we covered, the Count Circle is shown via a link in the December 2021 online newsletter, the *Heron Herald*, if you click on the CBC info and scroll down the page you end up on; ours is Area 2. I usually only cover the northwest half, with Highway 18 as the dividing line, but Curt and I covered the southeast half as well on Jan 2nd since team members Ken and Linda were in CA.

Again, many thanks to you, Linda!

***Cheers, Barbara Peterson***  
***Rainier Audubon Society***

Visit our website at [www.rainieraudubon.org](http://www.rainieraudubon.org).



**RAINIER AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Serving South King County and North Pierce County

## Soos Creek Vegetable Demonstration Garden

The Soos Creek demonstration vegetable garden is funded and managed by the Master Gardener Foundation of King County with additional in-kind support from the Soos Creek Botanical Garden and educational resources from Washington State University.

The demonstration garden is designed to demonstrate ways in which modern visitors can successfully cultivate high value crops, and to demonstrate to urban children how their food is grown. During the 2021 garden season, 2,600 pounds of fresh produce were donated to the Auburn food bank.

Food production has nearly doubled by following gardening principles of no tilling, composting, use of cover crops in winter, and monitoring soil temperatures and moisture content prior to planting. Crop rotation and barrier methods have decreased plant infections and insect invasions. Overwintering of cool weather crops, protective cloches in spring, shade cloths in hot weather, and use of perennial vegetables have extended the growing season.

Community volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to assist the Master Gardeners. Children who show an interest in gardening are welcome to participate under adult supervision.

Gardening related questions from visitors to the garden are welcomed and encouraged during work hours.

**Master gardeners are on site for work parties Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10am to noon.**

Washington State University requires proof of vaccination and masks for volunteers, age five and above to work in the garden.

***Nancy Purcell, Manager of the Soos Creek Vegetable Demonstration Garden***

## Heritage Roses Northwest Rose Society

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 in ancient times by the Greeks and Romans, Chinese and other peoples. We love them 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 Old Garden Roses.

***Margaret Nelson, Heritage Roses Northwest***

## Audubon Partnership

The Rainier Audubon Society of Auburn, WA, has generously offered to donate, install and maintain twelve songbird nesting boxes to be placed throughout the gardens. The first box is slated to be in place this month. Rainier Audubon Society will also be at our Celebrate! Spring Plant Sale on April 22 and 23, 2022, to share your interest in all things birds and talk about their donated nesting boxes at SCBG.

***Jo Schumacher***

## HERITAGE ROSES NORTHWEST

*presents*

## Heritage Roses

**Saturday, June 4, 2022**

**11am to 3pm**

This program is **free** and will be held in the Pavilion by the Pond at Soos Creek Botanical Garden. Many award winning, fragrant, beautiful roses will be on display.

Visitors will be asked to vote for their favorite rose! Rose lovers will be on hand to answer questions about Heritage Roses and why to grow them and where to buy them.

HERITAGE ROSES  
NORTHWEST

<https://www.facebook.com/heritagerosesnorthwest>

**SOOS CREEK BOTANICAL  
GARDEN *and* HERITAGE CENTER**

## FIVE Garden Events for 2022

Mark your calendar for a fun, free afternoon at the **“Heritage Roses Northwest”** display at the Garden. On June 4th, from 11am to 3pm this rose society will display choice heritage roses in the Pavilion. Visitors will vote for their favorite. Heritage roses are known for their fragrance and resistance to disease. The Plant Sale area at the Garden will be open for purchases.

Visitors are welcome to stroll the grounds and enjoy June in bloom!

On June 18th, 11am to 1pm, Alice Miller, assisted by husband Steve Miller, will present **“100 Years of Women in the Workplace: Styles and Stories.”** For over 20 years, Alice has collected historic uniforms and clothing of American women, as well as the stories that go with them. Alice has presented her programs at the Museum of Flight, the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, as well as on military bases and in schools. Bring your lunch and a friend, or decorate a tea table for 8 with your book club, your garden club, or neighbors. Wear your own vintage apparel if you wish! Tickets: \$10 Adults/\$5 Youth. Tickets on EventBrite and at the door.

Get ready to groove with **“Jazz Network,”** a 10 piece swinging jazz band plus their own jazzy singer! This group wowed us at our 2021 Tenth Anniversary Garden Celebration! On July 8th, 7 to 9pm, this place will be jumpin’! Grab one of our chairs or bring your own. Tickets: \$15 Adults/\$10 Youth on EventBrite and at the door. Under 5 no charge.

**Shakespeare’s “MidSummer Night’s Dream”** comes to the Garden, courtesy of the Emerald Theatre on August 7th. Two performances: 1pm and 7pm. This comedy is suitable for all ages and promises to bring smiles and laughs! Use our chairs or bring yours. Tickets \$15 Adults/\$10 Youth on EventBrite and at the door. Under 5 no charge.

Rounding out the season, the **Auburn Symphony Chamber Orchestra** returns to the Garden on August 28th, 2pm to 4pm. This family concert encourages picnics and children. Use our chairs, bring your own, or a picnic blanket to enjoy the thrilling sounds of the Auburn Chamber Orchestra. Tickets on sale from the Symphony after July 4th: \$15 Adults/\$10 Youth. Under 5 no charge.

## Wanted

A few docents to walk small groups through the Garden and help them enjoy the beauty of nature. Must have the ability to walk slowly for 90 minutes and enjoy people and plants. Training available. Contact [info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org)

## Time to celebrate spring and join our volunteer team!

Volunteers are the roots of our Gardens’ history and continue to be a fundamental part of Soos Creek Botanical Gardens’ operations, mission, and future. As a volunteer, you’ll have the opportunity to learn and explore while sharing your talents. You’ll become an integral part of our family.

If you are interested in a physically active volunteer role and getting your hands into SCBG soil, then you may be interested in volunteering with our garden team. We welcome the talented helping hands of volunteers now more than ever before, whether you are a novice or master gardener. Volunteer tasks include mulching, removing weeds, removing spring bulbs, planting annuals, deadheading, dividing, and pruning under the direction of our master gardener, Kathleen Lapham. Share in the wonder of our garden throughout its seasons and work with our staff and enjoy learning from one another.

Contact us: [info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org)

## Your generosity is making a difference

Garden wishes were shared on GivingTuesday during the past holiday season, resulting in many of our wishes being granted. As a non-profit foundation there are many needs that sometimes go unmet. GivingTuesday was a springboard for the Garden’s end of year fundraiser.

Thanks to our supporters’ generosity, a new dehumidifier has been purchased for the History Center which will help tremendously with preserving the quality of the displays and antiques. Microphone stands, a professional quality garden cart and various pruners were also purchased.

Watch for our next fundraiser, GiveBIG, on Tuesday, May 3rd. This will be the Seattle Foundation’s 6th Annual GiveBIG day of giving when your gift will be stretched even further thanks to their stretch fund. It’s the perfect chance to show your support for the community we all love. And best of all, this year you can schedule your gift in advance so you don’t even have to remember on the day.

Thank you for helping to make a difference at SCBG, as we provide a FREE, no admission, public garden for our community to enjoy.

**Katie Swickard, Board of Directors, Chair**

## 2022 Save the Dates

### 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 13 – The Romance of Sweet Peas

*Presented by Rose Lee*

Who doesn't love these fragrant and delicate climbers? Rose is bringing small pots of sweet peas for purchase after her program (cash/checks). Time to plant these show-stoppers!



#### May 18 – What Is Good Gardening?

*Presented by Kathleen Lapham, our new Garden Maintenance Lead*

Kathleen, a 30-plus year Master Gardener, will teach "What is Good Gardening?" Come with your notebooks and questions for Kathleen. From your lawn to your trees to your flowers and veggies, Kathleen has answers.



#### June 15 – My Quest for Blue Flowers

*Presented by Jane Gardner*

June 15th will find us seeking "Bold, Beautiful, Blue Flowers" with Jane. While not the most common color in the garden, true blue flowers are striking and stand out in your garden bed. Get buying and growing tips from Jane.



#### Upcoming Pavilion Programs...

##### July 20

American Dippers At Flaming Geyser State Park

##### August 17

Fall and Winter Chores to Make Spring Gardening Easier

##### Sept 21

Salmon Life Cycle and Washington Fish Hatcheries

### Events at SCBG

*June 4 – 11am to 3pm*

**Heritage Roses Northwest Display**

(See ad on page 2)

*April 22 & 23 – 10am to 4pm*

**Celebrate Spring! Plant Sale**

*June 18 – 11am to 1pm*

**100 Years of Women in the Workplace:  
"Their Styles and Stories"**

\$10 adults, \$5 youth, Age 5 & under free

*July 8 – 7pm to 9pm*

**"Jazz Network"**

10 piece Jazz band with singer.

\$15 adults, \$10 youth, Age 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 – 1pm & 7pm*

**Shakespeare in the Garden:**

**Emerald Theatre Midsummer Night's Dream**

\$15 adults, \$10 youth, Age 5 & under free.

Bring your lawn chair or use ours.

*August 28 – 2pm to 4pm*

**Auburn Symphony Chamber**

Purchase tickets at [AuburnSymphony.org](http://AuburnSymphony.org)

after July 4th, \$15 adults, \$10 youth, Age 5 & under free. Bring your lawn chair or use ours.

*Sept 16 & 17 – 10 to 4pm*

**Fall Plant Sale**

# Celebrate! Spring Plant Sale

April 22 and 23, 2022  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm



- **Healthy & colorful plants at great prices!**



- **Featuring Kalmia, Heuchera, and flowering spring perennials.**



- **Many plant varieties from our own Garden.**



- **Master Gardeners on site!**



- **Talk birds with the Rainier Audubon Society!**

Sale proceeds support our lovely admission free garden.

*Soos Creek Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit garden.*

## COLOR IN THE GARDEN

**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



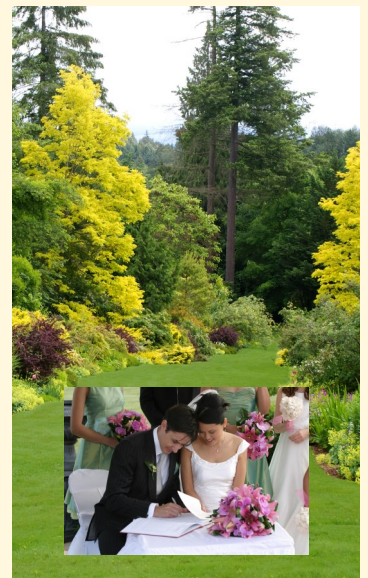
More monthly color on our Facebook page.

## 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@sooscreebotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@sooscreebotanicalgarden.org)

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

29308 132nd Ave. SE — Auburn, WA 98092 — 253.639.0949

Web: [sooscreebotanicalgarden.org](http://sooscreebotanicalgarden.org) — email: [info@sooscreebotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@sooscreebotanicalgarden.org)