

# Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee

November 5, 2003

8:30 - 10:00 am

*Donald Graham Visitor Center*

**Note: Retreat to be held Thursday, December 4, 2003, 1:00-5:00 pm**

**The regular December 3 meeting is cancelled**

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|------|------------|---|--|
| I.   | 8:30-8:35  | Approval of October 8 minutes and November 5 agenda*  | Sandra Lier                                  |
| II.  | 8:35-9:00  | UW Management of the Plant Collection   | Jan Arntz/John Wott ( <b>next page</b> )     |
| III. | 9:00-9:05  | Report on Park Board public hearing/recommendation on Arboretum Master Plan Implementation  | Michael Shiosaki                             |
| IV.  | 9:05-9:10  | Report on presentation to UW Regents  | Sandra/John Wott                             |
| V.   | 9:10-9:30  | December 4 retreat planning/Goals and Objectives  | Sandra/Fritz/Fred                            |
| VI.  | 9:30-9:45  | 520 Bridge Status – ABGC representation   | Sandra/Tom H                                 |
| VII. | 9:45-10:00 | Old business/new business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CUH Director Update</li><li>• Update on operating procedures</li><li>• Update on Goals &amp; Objectives</li></ul> | Tom Hinckley<br>Fritz Hedges<br>Fritz Hedges |

For new business items requiring more than three minutes, please contact ABGC Acting Chair Sandra Lier, [lier@u.washington.edu](mailto:lier@u.washington.edu), or Sandy Brooks, ABGC Coordinator, at [sandy.brooks@seattle.gov](mailto:sandy.brooks@seattle.gov) or 206-684-5066, to be added to an agenda

ABGC web site address: [www.wparboretum.org](http://www.wparboretum.org), select ABGC

July 17, 2003

Revised 10/17/03

## Washington Park Arboretum – Management of the Plant Collection by the University of Washington

*Authority* - The University of Washington Board of Regents controls all University property and is the steward of the University of Washington campuses and outstations. With respect to the Washington Park Arboretum it is managed cooperatively by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and the University of Washington. The Arboretum Foundation is the Arboretum's major support organization. The City of Seattle owns the Arboretum's buildings and most but not all of the land. The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation maintains the park functions and the University of Washington maintains and manages the plant collections at the Washington Park Arboretum. The University of Washington manages the Arboretum and its plant collections in association with the University's Center for Urban Horticulture. The Regents recognize the value of the Washington Park Arboretum and the plant collection to the University, the City of Seattle, its residents, the region, the State of Washington and future generations. The Regents are aware of the importance and value of the Washington Park Arboretum and that it is an important cultural landscape.

*Mission* - Within the physical space of the Washington Park Arboretum, the plant collection is a critical element of the University's educational and research mission. The Arboretum is an educational laboratory which must be maintained, expanded, and updated as needed to meet its mission. Arboretum related research and innovation must also occur. Specimens are constantly added to the collection for teaching and research purposes.

*Management of the Plant Collections* - The University utilizes five approaches to the maintenance and management of the collections and supporting environment. They include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction and the establishment of new collections. The landscape's existing condition, its educational and research value, and its ability to convey historic significance are considered. Curatorship of arboretums has changed significantly and will continue to change over the years. Examples of these changes include irrigation techniques and disease control.

*Assessment and Analysis* – The University's maintenance and management practices and decisions are based on a broad analysis and assessment of the Arboretum. The University carefully considers the landscape's existing condition, its educational, research and outreach value, and its value as a historic resource. Changes to the context and content of the plant collection are analyzed and documented on an ongoing basis. Analysis includes such elements as compliance with the goals of the master plan, and the health and historical value of the plants in the collection. The University uses the analysis to determine the appropriate action such as in-kind replacement of declining vegetation, reproduction, propagation, etc. An inventory and documentation of existing conditions; site analysis and evaluation of integrity and significance, development of a preservation approach and treatment plan, development of a management philosophy and plan as a strategy for ongoing maintenance and preparation of a record of treatment are developed for each

major change. Documentation consists of a memorandum that may include photographs and sketches. Documentation will be kept on file for public review at the Arboretum offices.

Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction - An effective maintenance philosophy and plan has always been critical to the well-being of the plant collection. The University shall continue to develop and manage the plant maintenance plan. The Plan will be reviewed with the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. The University will review the plan with the Provost, the Dean of the College of Forest Resources, the Director of the Center of Urban Horticulture and the Campus Landscape Advisory Committee. On-site assessments will be made by the maintenance staff of the Arboretum in consultation with the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to document the presence of weeds, pests, dead leaves, pale color, wilting, soil compaction, etc. all of which signal particular maintenance needs. Well-conceived management and maintenance activities can sustain character and integrity of the collections. This information will help establish both a baseline and record of plant conditions that contributes to the University research and teaching mission. Preservation and rehabilitation treatments will seek to secure and emphasize continuity while acknowledging change.

Relocation or Establishment of New Collections – When the University undertakes deliberate changes or additions to the collections compliance with the goals of the Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan, the health of the collection and the historical value of the collection will be considered. The assessment and analysis techniques described above ensure changes enhance the Arboretum’s role as an educational laboratory. The University may also refer to the National Parks Service Preservation Brief No. 36; “Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes” to guide this work.