



The Chase *View*

Summer 2016

Summer Strides

At Chase Garden, spring unfolded into summer with verdant bursts of green and vibrant flowers. This is my first full season as the director of Chase and I continue to be amazed by how the garden changes each and every day. As the summer cycle of transformation plays out in the garden, our larger focus on Chase Garden's transformation is in full bloom, with new programming, partnerships, and opportunities for you to experience the garden in a fresh way.

Already this year we have welcomed more than 700 visitors to Chase Garden, including several tours – most recently, the Berkshire Garden Club from Lenox, Massachusetts, and the staff and volunteers from Bainbridge Island's Heronswood Garden. We are lucky to have master gardener interns who are working with our horticulturist Will Clausen to redesign a garden bed using Pacific Northwest natives as part of their certification. "lone's Garden Shop" opened this spring, offering garden décor, books, and gift items such as lone's Summer Lavender Soap and Emmott's Juniper Berry Soap.

On May 10, Chase Garden welcomed a group of Garden Conservancy Fellows to kick off their greater Seattle garden-study tour with a captivating presentation on the history of our region's garden style by Steve Lorton, former Northwest bureau chief for *Sunset* magazine. Two weeks later, we held our first fundraiser, "Garden & Grapes with Ciscoe Morris," featuring Marcus Sophia Winery, Stringtown Winery & Lavender Farm, Vino Aquino Winery, Sharon's Catering, and music by Tate Hughes. A presentation by the renowned and beloved Ciscoe Morris made the day truly memorable!

We are delighted to have received a \$10,000 anonymous challenge grant to help support efforts to make Chase a fully independent public garden. Challenge grants are a powerful way for you to double the impact of your generosity. Please contact me about contributing to the Chase Challenge and see the sidebar for more information.

A sincere thank you to each of you, our members, donors, and volunteers for your vital commitment to Chase. A special thanks also to our horticulturist Will Clausen, whose knowledge and diligence give this garden the "elegance" our guests refer to each day. Together, we are building a community that is passionate about preserving the Chase Garden.

I hope you are enjoying the summer season and I look forward to seeing you soon at the garden. Please check "What's Happening" in this newsletter and on our website for a list of events and new ways to experience the Chase Garden this summer!
- Lori Taylor, Director, Chase Garden

Take the Chase Challenge!

Double the impact of your gift to Chase through a special matching gift program being offered by a very generous anonymous supporter!!! **Under the Chase Challenge, up to \$10,000 worth of gifts will be matched dollar for dollar.** Please use the Membership/Donation form below to take advantage of this special opportunity.

All donations to Chase made through the Garden Conservancy are tax-exempt and go directly toward the preservation of the Chase Garden. Thank you so much for your support!



"Oh, la, la! Magnificent plants, spectacular garden design, and a panoramic setting. Chase Garden gets four brussels sprouts, my highest rating for a garden anywhere in the world." - Ciscoe Morris



Chase Featured in *Pacific Horticulture*

The long anticipated Summer 2016 issue of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine just arrived and is available for sale at our neighbor's nursery, The Old Goat Farm, at 20021 Orting Kapowsin Hwy, E. Graham, and all throughout the region. It has a terrific article on Rex Zumwalt, who helped design key aspects of the Chase Garden.



Our mission is to continue the artistic vision of Emmott and lone Chase and to preserve their garden for the public, to inspire and educate visitors, foster community, and connect people with nature. This year, as we continue to work toward transitioning Chase to become an independent nonprofit, **we are actively seeking experienced board members** to help guide the organization as it grows. If you love gardens and have solid business, legal, and/or fundraising skills and are interested in helping to preserve Chase Garden, please contact Lori Taylor at 360-893-6739 or ltaylor@gardenconservancy.org.



Membership/Donation Form

My check/money order is enclosed

Please charge my Visa MasterCard Amex

Card # _____ Expires _____

Name (Please print) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

\$35 Individual

\$50 Family

\$100 Supporting

\$200 Club/Society

\$250 Sustaining

\$500 Business

\$1000 Patron

\$5000 Founding

Chase Challenge Donation \$ _____

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me!

What's Happening

By Aug. 30, vote for your favorite photo in our members' photo contest exhibition at the garden. Winner receives private tea party.

Sunday, Aug. 14, Members and Volunteers Recognition Picnic, 12 - 4. RSVP today!

Friday, Sept. 30 - Sunday, Oct. 2, Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 - 11:30, Coloring Your Garden with Japanese Maples workshop with Greenscape Designs owner Julia Graham, followed by tour of local private gardens. Limit 15 people. Class only: \$15, members \$10. Class & tour: \$25, members \$20. RSVP



Local homeschoolers use Chase as an outdoor classroom! On June 14, twenty-two children enjoyed a day in the garden learning about ecology, making dried flower bookmarks, releasing ladybugs, and going on an educational scavenger hunt.



Garden & Grapes Benefit, May 21
Thank you, guests and sponsors!



A big thank you to the Pierce County Master Gardeners for donating a couple truckloads of plants and books for us to sell at Chase!!!



A Garden Conservancy Preservation Partner

Mailing address: PO Box 8, Kapowsin, WA 98344

Street address: 16015 264th Street East, Orting, WA 98360

www.chasegarden.org

www.facebook.com/TheChaseGarden



Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

Every good plant deserves a great story, something beyond the color and scent of the flower. Stories of botanical discovery are often interesting. A good example is the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)—a “living fossil”—a plant known only from its fossil record and thought to be extinct, only to be discovered alive in the wild. It's strange to think that a prehistoric plant that was first identified from a millennia-old impression left in stone turned out to be alive and well. Dawn redwoods are also in a unique group of trees that are both coniferous and deciduous. We are lucky to have one at Chase Garden.

The discovery of the dawn redwood is relatively recent. In the early 1940s, while working with fossils that were believed to be from redwood (*Sequoia*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium*), a Japanese paleobotanist named Shigeru Miki realized that there was something strange about some of the fossils: they had a different leaf arrangement than the others. He soon realized he was looking at fossils from an unknown genus of plants, which he named *Metasequoia*, meaning “similar to Sequoia.” Further fossil work showed that *Metasequoia* was a widespread and common plant throughout the Northern Hemisphere during the age of the dinosaurs.

Because no living examples of the tree were known to exist and no fossils were found that were less than 1.5 million years old, it was assumed that the plant was extinct. As it happened, at around the same time that the *Metasequoia* fossils were found and named, foresters discovered a massive tree in the wilds of central China. The tree was called *Shui-shan* (“water fir”) by the local population but was unknown to the foresters. Realizing that they had possibly discovered a new kind of tree, they returned at a later date and took samples for analysis. Because of World War II, it was several years before the samples could be thoroughly examined. Eventually, in the late 1940s, the connection was made by two botany professors, Hu Xiansu and Wan Chun Cheng, who realized that these samples matched the fossils of *Metasequoia* that had been previously identified and classified.

This news was very exciting for botanists and horticulturists alike. Expeditions were launched to locate more trees and, thanks to the botanical community's interest in this venerable genus, seeds have been collected and sent to arboreta and commercial cultivators far and wide, ensuring its survival for the foreseeable future. Domestication is important for the protection of the plant genus because its natural habitat is threatened by human activity. Our tree, planted in 1993, is now fifty feet tall. We are doing our small part to contribute to the conservation of this living fossil.

- Will Clausen, Horticulturist, Chase Garden

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual

- Free admission to the garden
- *The Chase View* newsletter
- E-letter notifications
- 10% discount on plants
- Invitation to members-only events

Family - Individual benefits PLUS

- Free admission to the garden for family members living at the same address

Supporting - Family benefits PLUS

- 10 guest passes

Sustaining - Supporting benefits PLUS

- Free guided tour

Patron - Sustaining benefits PLUS

- One free day in the garden for up to 20 guests
- Recognition on Chase Garden website and in newsletter

Funding - Patron benefits PLUS

- Framed plaque with contributor's name displayed in the Fireside room
- Photo album with views of Chase Garden, plants, and quotes

Society/Club

- One free guided tour for club members
- 10% plant discount on day of tour
- One copy of *The Chase View* newsletter

Business

- Free admission for owners
- Family benefits, plus 20 guest passes
- Recognition as supporting business with ad space in the newsletter
- One guided group tour