



Hardy Plant Society of Washington

<http://www.hardyplantsocietywa.org> ❖ PO Box 77556, Seattle WA 98177

Purpose	Board Meeting
Date	May 7, 2012
Location	NE Branch Library, Seattle Public Library
Participants	Kandy Kroll, Pamela Perrott, Coral Wilde, Grace Hensley, Terri Bates, Stefani Cushing, Caroline Zebroski
Absent	Bob Lilly, Alice Brewer

Agenda

1. Plant Sale retrospective

- what went well
- did we like the site?
- how did the credit card widgets and the cash registers work? Congratulations to Stefani for getting both of these ready for our sale
- what we'd do differently next time
- how much we made, estimated
- Summer sale at Kandy's? When?
- more signs with wire H's - who will design (Pam will get them made, but not design them)
- take photos of your plants this summer and email the photos to Pam for our plant sale photos
- photos at 8 1/2 x 11 okay?

2. Public Garden

- shed
- other progress, if any
- any progress on plant list?
- next work parties

3. Bulb sale

- when will we order bulbs?
- how many?
- have we found the banner from last year?

4. Blooms of Bressingham beds

- Grace report on her meeting with Riz Reyes on the record keeping he's been doing

5. any other business?

Meeting notes:

1. Garden at CUH

Grace received an email from David Zuckerman from CUH, on Monday May 7th, which is shown below:

From: David Zuckerman <dzman@u.washington.edu>
To: grace hensley <methylgrace@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2012 9:10 AM
Subject: RE: HPSW business

Hello Grace,

A few items needing attention:

- Design/Build class is asking for April payments. It would be most efficient for HPSW to send full-payment (\$1,000.00) to the UW Student Farm (make check payable to same), and then it can be paid out from Farm's 16-4950 budget to the Design/Build class. The class also conveyed to me that they are still short funds. Any additional funding support would be mighty appreciated.

Send check to Karen L Russell , Administrator, Biology

UW Box 351800

Seattle, WA 98195

206 685-8241, 206 543-1620 FAX: 206 543-3041

russe@uw.edu

- Do you have a timetable for May work parties? Natives are getting restless to see progress (weeding, additional soil, plants for Magnolia bed).
- How did the Blooms meeting go? Are you set w/ program protocols? Plants come in week of June 11. It would also be great if you can get mulch on the beds. We will provide the material, just let me know what to purchase.
- Please avoid future "ad-hoc" plant additions to your beds, e.g. Rhamnus was not on original plan for Magnolia bed and did not get reviewed by committee beforehand. They haven't received great fanfare, perhaps they will look better later in season? Rhamnus frangula is also invasive in SE US. Do you know what they are exactly? Bob said R. alaternus 'Columnaris'. There is no such thing, but there is a R. frangula 'Columnaris'.

All for now. Keep me posted! And, let's hope for more sunny weather!

David

David Zuckerman
Manager of Horticulture and Plant Records
UW Botanic Gardens
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Here is Grace's answer to David:

Hi David,

Thanks, this is timely; we have a board meeting tonight. Bob is out of the country until later in the month, so I'll make some decisions for him.

1. We'll get a check for \$1000 cut to UW Student Farm. There will not be any additional funds from us.
2. We have two maintenance parties planned for May. I haven't sent out the emails for them yet, but one is this Saturday (May 12) at 11am, for horsetail pulling and assessment of the Blooms of Bressingham (BofB) beds, and the next is Sunday May 27th for spreading the last dump truck of dirt on the first bed, more weeding, BofB plant rearrangement, and lifting of stones. What do you have in mind for the BofB beds? Does Riz have an estimated amount, and source for material that he likes? We can spread that on the 27th too.
3. I'm as flummoxed by you on the plant choice ... I think Bob meant that the 'Lemon Zest' was the Rhamnus, but I googled and couldn't find anything. I'll ask him when he returns. I'll ask the board tonight what the schedule is for getting plants on a plan for you to approve.

That's all for now, and nice to see you on the news, though for such an awful reason.

Keep in touch,
Grace

At the board meeting, we decided to pay the \$1000 as we'd promised. Kandy will follow up. Pam provided copies of Grace's email for the board members to read. We decided not to offer any more money than the \$1000 we'd originally promised. We will get the smallest shed in the building being built by the UW Architecture Design and Build class. It will be only 9x9 feet. We'd planned a 9x15 shed when we were planning to build our own shed. The UW farm gets a 9x15 shed, a green house and an outdoor classroom – they get the lion's share of the building and we get a little piece of it. It will also be sited as far from our beds as humanly possible, and right next to the farm.

The Magnolia bed is full of horsetails. CUH arranged for about a foot of topsoil to be dug out and disposed of, and we brought in new topsoil at great cost (about \$3000 by the time we're done) – in order to get rid of the horsetails, and it seems not to have worked AT ALL.

We spent time discussing what to do. We'll have two work parties in May to tackle cutting off the horsetails below the soil line. The first is May 12 at 9am, the second is May 27th. Mary Ellen Asmundsen had horsetails and she was able to slow them down a lot by cutting them below the soil line weekly for a year. We don't think we'll have weekly work parties, but we hope that biweekly cutting will work, too. We understand we should not pull them, rather we should cut them off a few inches below the soil line where the growing point is, where the green stem turns to black.

We are under pressure from CUH to plant the bed ASAP. The problem is, what about the horsetails? Will they invade whatever we plant, so that later on we'll have to dig up and toss the clumps? We decided to plant the potted material we already have, i.e. the stuff that we potted up and which is at Kandy's. It won't cost us anything, and most of it isn't so special that we'd be really devastated if we had to dig it up and toss it. We will show a list of our plant material to Carrie Becker at the Saturday May 12 work party at 11 am and ask her advice on what to choose to plant, given the horsetail problem. One idea is a mass planting of candelabra primroses, but they've finished blooming for the year.

We are planning to treat the soil near the Magnolia, which wasn't dug out, by covering it with cardboard and putting a layer of mulch on top.

We'll give a copy of our plant sale list to CUH and ask them to okay the plants on it. We cannot plant anything without approval. We haven't been able to figure out how to get approval. Giving CUH a large plant list (from Bob, Susan and Carrie's book, with obviously invasive plants removed) didn't work. We're hoping a shorter list (our plant sale list) will be accepted and approved, possibly with some of the plants removed. CUH is very concerned we not plant anything they consider invasive, and we don't know exactly what they think is invasive, so we've been kind of at an impasse – and it's spring and time to plant.

CUH wants a planting plan, but we hope a plant list will suffice, and then we can plant what we have in whatever way seems to work best.

We'd also like to involve more than the board members to design the bed.

2. Plant Sale retrospective

- a. People liked the site, especially the greenhouse head space. The flow of people worked well. The ability to bring a car to the checkout area was great.
- b. Suggestion – have at least one table with plants on it in the main parking lot to bring people in. We didn't have any plants people could see until they entered the greenhouse
- c. Have a greeter at the entrance
- d. The signs with metal H's worked well. Terri put them out all over the neighborhood and several people said they came because they saw the signs. We voted to make more signs, to make new ones with our logo on, and to make them for both the bulb sale and the plant sale. Pam needs to find out prices and report back at the next board meeting. Pam said she'd get them printed if someone else designed them. We thought we should have 20 more signs, i.e. about 36 total, for each sale. We thought the signs should be yellow with black print, our full color logo and the words HPSW Plant Sale or HPSW Bulb Sale. Stefani offered to design the signs.
- e. The plant sale banner is at Terri's house. The bulb sale banner is at Kandy's. For both sales, we need tiny banners printed with the new dates, and Velcro to attach the smaller signs. Kandy and Deborah will get the small date banners made.
- f. The new cash registers and the credit card widgets that attach to a smart phone both worked well. We thought having 3 markers and 2 cashiers worked well, but if we'd had a larger crowd we could have used more markers. Pam asked how we managed credit card receipts with the cell phone widgets. Stefani said we offered to email receipts to people, but most didn't care if they had a receipt. Pam asked if we

- needed 2 credit card widgets. This year we only used one, because Pam wasn't sure her iPhone had the Intuit application installed. It's installed now, and Pam offered the use of her phone for future sales. Terri and Alice would rather not use their phones, so if we need 2 phones we need to look for a second person with a smart phone who is willing for it to be used for a few hours on the plant sale and bulb sale days.
- g. The people counter person said we had 186 people show up.
 - h. Pam asked about the photos on 8 ½ x 11 paper – were they too big? People said no, the photos were fine. Pam plans to look up another 30-40 plants for the next plant sale, so that eventually we'll have a fairly complete set of photos. Pam reminded board members to photograph their plants this spring and summer and to send the photos to Pam. We had more photos this year than last, but by no means all the plants had photos. The wood stirrer sticks and the wide scotch tape worked well for holding up the signs, and the 20 weight paper Bob backed them with also worked well. Pam reported only one of the plastic page protectors tore when removing the tape.
 - i. We need signs that say SUN and SHADE and EDIBLE, which we didn't have, but we organized the plants that way. We also need someone knowledgeable in addition to Bob to help organize plants into SUN and SHADE categories.
 - j. We discussed possibly having the plant sale in May, since we don't have a greenhouse, some of the plants hadn't come up – and the Rodgersias we took to the sale that hadn't come up didn't sell well. We left a lot of our potted stock at Kandy's. We may use up most of that stock, in planting the first bed at CUH. We discussed what date in May. The second weekend isn't great – it's Mother's Day weekend. The first weekend in May has many, many competing plant sales. For further discussion. We also discussed moving the sale to the 3rd weekend in April. That would conflict with the NPA sale. Our sale this year conflicted with the Arboretum Early Bloomers sale, but not with the NPA sale.
 - k. Another possibility is to just plan to have 2 plant sales and let everybody know we'll have 2 and the second one would be at Kandy's in May.
 - l. We proposed 2 pricing work parties, not just one. i.e. one the weekend before, maybe, and one the day before. We discussed ways of making pricing easy. And possibly having some code for sun vs. shade, like colored dots on the tags, maybe. We thought we could buy yellow tags for SUN and pastel green for SHADE and write the plant names on the colored tags. We could put up signs that said yellow tags = SUN and green tags = SHADE. We'd need only one per flat of the colored tags to say where the flat goes, if we decided to write the plant names on white tags.
 - m. We thought we could organize the plants at Kandy's into SUN and SHADE so that one transport could have only SUN or only SHADE plants. Our idea of loading up on Friday this year was a good one in many ways, but it led to a 'load me now' stress on Friday, and an inability to organize the plants we were loading, except into ones that could withstand being outside in the wind and those that couldn't. We thought we might rent a moving truck and take all the plants in one truck, with shelves. If we knew a nursery person well enough and they weren't using their truck on our plant sale date, maybe we could borrow a truck?
 - n. If we priced early enough we could put the prices online, i.e. we could post the version of the plant sale spreadsheet Pam brought to the sale, with prices.
 - o. We need to buy more red tags for pricing. We thought we could price plants as they are potted, maybe? Then we could have the prices in the spreadsheet on our website.

- p. We weren't able to get the Sunday for our plant sale. We could only get CUH on the Saturday. The Saturday conflicted with the Bloedel Garden sale on Bainbridge Island, and some of our members went to that sale instead. Next year we do have CUH on Sunday. We don't want it to be the Saturday before Easter. We need to find out when Easter is, in 2013. Right now we have the 2nd Sunday in April booked for our plant sale and the first Sunday in October booked for the bulb sale (in 2013) both in the NHS hall.
- q. We thought we could vote next board meeting, when Bob is back.
- r. Kandy is concerned about the cost of renting CUH, and how much of our profit goes to CUH in rent. Bob is trying to get them to agree to give us a break on rent, since we are maintaining garden beds for them. Pam agreed to bring the cost of next year's rentals of the main NHS Hall to the next board meeting.
- s. We made about \$3800 gross from the plant sale. Since if we'd sold every plant we might have made about \$4600 (Pam entered the #pots and price into the plant sale spreadsheet and got Excel to multiply and add for the total). We sold most of the plants this year.

3. Blooms of Bressingham beds

Grace met with Riz Reyes, who has been keeping track of the plant trials from Blooms of Bressingham. It's not a true plant trial, rather it's a plant evaluation. A trial is more scientific, there's a control and you compare your plant to the control. The control is something you know grows well. The trial asks how does it grow in Seattle. Riz has been keeping the information in a long Word document. Grace will convert it to Excel, which will be easier to handle. Riz did a map last year using Visio. Grace will buy a copy of Visio for her Mac. We'll get new plants for the beds this year on June 11th. We'll need to make a new map once we've planted the new plants and removed whatever of the old plants we want to move to the Magnolia bed. We have implicit permission to plant the Blooms of Bressingham plants in the Magnolia bed. Grace will evaluate how they are doing every 2 weeks throughout the growing season.

The BofB bed is watered. Grace will ask CUH to back off on the watering. It was pretty soggy recently. We can't have major signage there but we probably can have one sign in the bed. We cannot plant any trees or shrubs in the BofB beds.

4. Bulb Sale

Because Bob was not at the board meeting, we did not discuss the bulb sale.

Next Meeting

Monday June 4, 2012 at the NE Branch Library, 6-7:45 pm.