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March 2014 Newsletter Supplement

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Northwest Flower and Garden Show - February 5-9, 2014 at the Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

Northwest Orchid Society Garden "50 Shades of Orchids"

This year's NWF&G Show theme was 'Art in Bloom'. The NW Orchid Society created a garden in the shape of an artist's paint palette, with an additional display surrounding a large support column across from the main display. Please take some time to read the article by Joff Morgan in the March 2014 NWOS newsletter about our exhibit and all the fine people and companies who helped bring it to life.

What follows is a photo essay of our garden, plus it's construction and take down. Photos Courtesy Joff Morgan, Diane Drisch, Mike Foster, Donna Pierce, Kate MacMillan, and Mike Cory.

Want something printed in the newsletter? E-mail it to nwos_news@nwos.org no later than the 25th of the month.



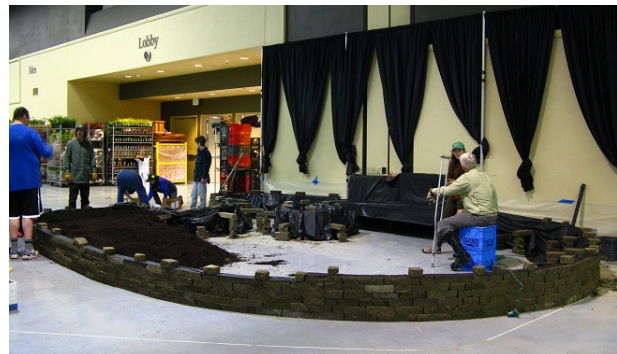
Our Garden sign.



Laying out the first row is the most important.



Building the knee braces to support the rock wall.



The walls are almost done and a little mulch is carefully added around the knee braces.



Here comes the mulch.



A dramatic moment when the dark sawdust mulch is dumped.



Just ask Bruce and Peter...it's hard labor working on the walls.



The crew's not too tired to goof around. Cylvia's sprouting ears!



After another Bobcat load of mulch arrives, George and Leanna move it around in preparation for putting in the Woodland Park Zoo's tropical foliage.



Sedum tiles from Etera is used as a border between the walls and our blooming orchids.



Finally, the walls are built, the mulch has been spread and the sedum border tiles are in place.



The crew of volunteers helping to build '50 Shades of Orchids' take a much needed break.



Three huge specimens of Cattleya Hailstorm 'observe' the goings on at the WA State Convention Center. They're from the Volunteer Park Conservatory, awaiting labeling and placement into our garden.



Lake Washington Environmental Horticulture helper Shawna makes 'owner labels' to stick to our orchid pots. These help to identify which plants belong to whom, when the garden is dismantled on Sunday Feb. 9th.



We're not ready to place the orchids yet, but that doesn't keep them from arriving. The majority of flowers arrive on Monday Feb. 3rd.



Every plant is given a good scrutinizing.



Kate MacMillan helps label and place orchids into our display.



Joff moving orchids into position.



Cylvia placing plants just so. Notice the plastic grid placed on top of the bark mulch to support the orchids.



Donna and George preparing and placing plants in our garden.



Making a special framed display.



Joe and Kevin being creative.



Everyone contributes ideas on where things should go. First, Joe makes a suggestion...



then Donna points to a good spot...



and Cylvia adds her expert opinion...

while Leanna and Abby try to keep up with the flower placement suggestions.



Lots of workers, lots of great work.

Cylvia and Leanna work well as a team.



Team members:
two happy and one goofy.



Midway done, some plants are still on the rock wall waiting to be placed, plants still need to be put on the picture frames and extra mulch waiting to be used to fill in low spots.



Cylvia and Leanna continuing to place the plants.



Cylvia does an amazing job every year arranging the orchids 'just so' to create a gorgeous display for the public.



Donna & Diane wonder if we should move it a little this way or that way?



Leanna and Abby work on the centerpiece.



Cylvia and Chris, two of the best helpers



Busy workers.



Joff placing terrestrials.



Cylvia and Peter placing plants. The lighting crew is in the background with their lift. Our garden is next to be given dramatic lighting.



It's getting late and we're still working.



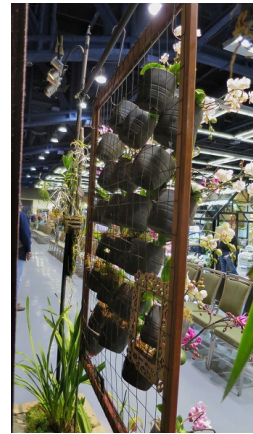
Making orchid art frames.



Mike attaches Spirit Line pots to a hardware cloth frame for our Photo Op display



Plants go into the pots.



Behind the scenes of the photo op frame.



Finished Phalaenopsis Photo Op Display.



Photo Op display in action.



George places moss around all of the plants as a final touch. This is repeated throughout the garden.



Getting closer to being finished.



Before: carts, tables, tools, dirt. Will it ever be done?



After: Not only is it done, but it's gorgeous!



Our garden in the shape of an artist's palette.



The garden was 617 square feet and took us 20 hours to build over a 3.5 day period. Then it was all dismantled in two hours!



Picture frames left.



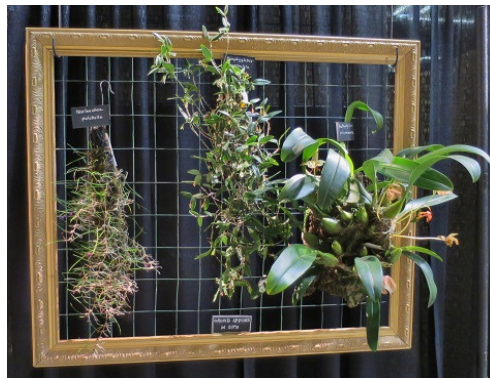
Picture frames right. These frames with live orchids 'disguise' the Convention Center's ugly support column at the front of our garden.



Central panel of frame display.



Frame close-up.



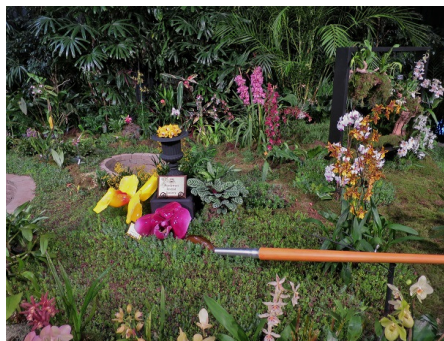
Frame detail.



Another frame detail.

And now a series of garden closeups:





And now some portraits of our Orchid flower Masterpieces:



Esmeralda cathcartii
(native of the eastern Himalayas)



Glass artwork in center of garden by
www.jasongamrathglass.com, both pieces
owned by and on loan from Chris Peterson



Cattleya hybrid



Angraecum sesquipedale (Darwin Orchid),
from Madagascar



Fdk. After Dark 'Black Ice' AM/AOS



Phragmipedium



Dendrobium



Disa uniflora (a native of South Africa,
it grows near stream beds where the
roots are bathed in fresh water daily)



Lycaste Absolutely Stunning
'Grantham's Glory' AM/AOS



Cattleya amethystoglossa
(native of Brazilian rain forests)



Paphiopedilum armeniacum (native of China)



Paphiopedilum Norito Hasegawa
(Lady Slipper)

And now we're ready for the public. What fun it is to share our work!



Charming artsy hostesses whose artist's palettes mirror our garden design.



Beret and Display



Mike, still in a beret, engages the public.



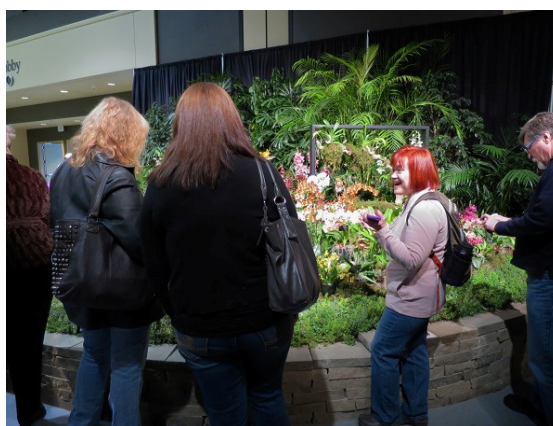
People have lots of questions.



Joff helps answering questions.



Peter talks orchids.



Enjoying the public enjoying our garden.



Chatting.



Behind the beautiful display, it's fun to share our love of orchids.



Lots of people visited our garden during the Show. Attendance was about 60,000 paying customers, despite the Seahawks parade the first day & snow on the last day.



It could get crowded at times.



People sure loved our garden.



Leaning in for a good look.



Taking a closer look at the black orchid.



Lots of photo taking.



Orchid admirers.



Going in for the close-up.



More photo taking.



Wanting to remember a special bloom.



Can't get enough of these beauties!

And finally, it's time to take dismantle our wonderful garden.



First we remove the sedum tiles and place them on plastic trays.



Removing all the carefully placed moss from around the pots.



Taking out a big cymbidium.



More plant and moss removal.



Removing plants begins in earnest.



Display plants are sorted by lender off to one side.



Flowering plants are sorted, cover pots are packed up.



The pile grows.



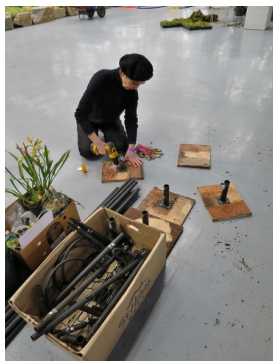
More plants are off the display than are on.



NOWS volunteers continue to remove plants, moss, and foliage



After the plants are gone, the moss is packed in bags.



Dismantling the APS pole system.



Look at all that mulch and rock.



Shoveling.



More shoveling.



Some remove rocks while others stack them in the background.



Stacking rocks begins.



Stacking continues.



More rock stacking.



Our beautiful display is gone in just 2 hours.



Rock is neatly stacked and ready to be removed by Marenakos. Then Sawdust Supply will take back their dark mulch.



It's all over until next year.



Love the Silver Medal, but let's go for the Gold next year!