

THE CONSERVATORY NEWS

Winter 2008

STEPHANIE JOHNSON-TOLIVER RETIRES

It's the end of an era! Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, Senior Gardener of the Conservatory for the past 25 years, will retire in February after 30 years of service for the Seattle Parks Department. Parks and FOC will honor her with an all-day reception on February 12 (see details to the right).

Stephanie began working at the Conservatory in 1978, working at that time with Senior Gardener Tosh Kiyonaga. Tosh had built the Conservatory's collection of orchids and passed his invaluable body of knowledge on to Stephanie. When he left five years later, Stephanie stepped into the role of Senior Gardener, and began shaping the future of the Conservatory.

Stephanie has loved and cared for the Conservatory and its collections as if it were one of her children. She's seen it through two major renovations and has built up the educational programs from scratch. She designs the displays, cares for the plants, spends time with the public, and handles

mountains of paperwork.

What does the future hold for Stephanie? She'll be doing volunteer work for the Northwest African-American Museum, working on their educational programs part time (she's already developed a curriculum unit for them). She says she also wants to travel, visit some relatives and friends, and maybe write some short stories.

How does she feel about her time at the Conservatory? She says she has no regrets. She's had a great staff to work with, has enjoyed working with the Friends of the Conservatory, and has made some life-long friends. Stephanie won't totally disappear. She'll stay in touch, looks forward to joining the Friends, and helping out at the Plant Sales.

Stephanie, you will be truly missed!

Thank you for all you have done for the Volunteer Park Conservatory! Best of wishes for what comes next.



photo: Sally Mitchell

CELEBRATING STEPHANIE JOHNSON-TOLIVER

You're invited to join Seattle Parks Department and FOC as we honor Stephanie for her 30 years of service at the Conservatory on Thursday, February 12, 11:00 am to 3:30 pm in the Potting Shed behind the Conservatory. Refreshments all day, with a presentation to Stephanie at 3:00 pm. All are welcome. Please help us celebrate with Stephanie. Stop by to say hello and help us wish her well!

IN AND AROUND THE CONSERVATORY

WHAT'S ON DISPLAY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Here's what to look for in the Conservatory this winter:

Palm House

Giant Bird of Paradise
Bird of Paradise
Anthuriums
Orchids

Seasonal House

Azaleas
Cyclamen
Norfolk Island Pine
Spider Plant
Gardenias
Peperomia "Tricolor"
Beginning Feb.:
Daffodils
Tulips (late Feb.)
Cineraria

Cactus House

Crown of Thorns
Prickly Pear Cactus (fruit)
Haworthias
Aloes
Agaves

GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Stay warm and enjoy the beauty of the Conservatory by volunteering in the Information Center and Gift Shop. Horticultural knowledge helpful but not necessary, training available. Weekend help a priority. Shifts are 9:45-1:00, 12:45-3:45. Call 206-322-4112 or email foc@volunteerparkconservatory.org.

Fern House

Elephants ear (flowers)
Forest lily
Amaryllis
Clown Fig
Variegated Shell Ginger
Queen of the Abyss

Bromeliad House

Spanish Moss (flowers in Feb.)
Jungle Cactus
Copper Leaf
Blood Banana

TREE WALK

FOC presents an event for our Members and Volunteers: a Walking Tour of the Trees of Volunteer Park (Saturday, April 18, 10 am to 11:30 am) with renowned plant expert Arthur Lee Jacobson. Arthur will complete his tour with a book signing from 11:30 to 12:30 pm directly following the tour. Please join us!

Tour space is limited to 20 individuals and is for FOC Members and Volunteers only. Sign up now to participate! 206-322-4112 or foc@volunteerparkconservatory.org

NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

FOC will again have a booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, February 18-22 at the Seattle Convention Center. We're looking for volunteers to staff our booth. Shifts are 9 am to 12 noon, 12 noon to 3 pm, 3 to 6 pm, and 6 to 9 pm on each day. Volunteers receive free admission to the show! To volunteer contact Audrey at 206-322-4112 or foc@volunteerparkconservatory.org. You must be a current FOC member or volunteer to participate.

WE STILL WANT YOUR INPUT!

The Fall 2008 newsletter included an Opinion Survey. Thanks to all who have filled it out. We have received some great responses, but we're still interested in hearing from you. If you haven't yet responded to that survey you can still mail it in or drop it off at the Gift Shop. It's also available online. There's a link to the survey on our homepage: www.volunteerparkconservatory.org

BOTANICAL TREASURES OF BHUTAN

April 27 – May 12

Space is available in this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Daily explorations will be focused on the nature, culture, architecture, and spirituality of Bhutan, with visits to the Royal Botanical Garden, a nunnery, and the annual festival in Ura. Conservatory Senior Gardener Stephanie Johnson-Toliver will provide horticultural insights, working in tandem with a Bhutanese plant taxonomist.

Book by January 31st and save \$600 per person. Reduced price \$5350 plus \$250 suggested donation (departure taxes additional).

For more information contact Ellen Hecht, ellen@wholeworldjourneys.com, 206-499-2646.

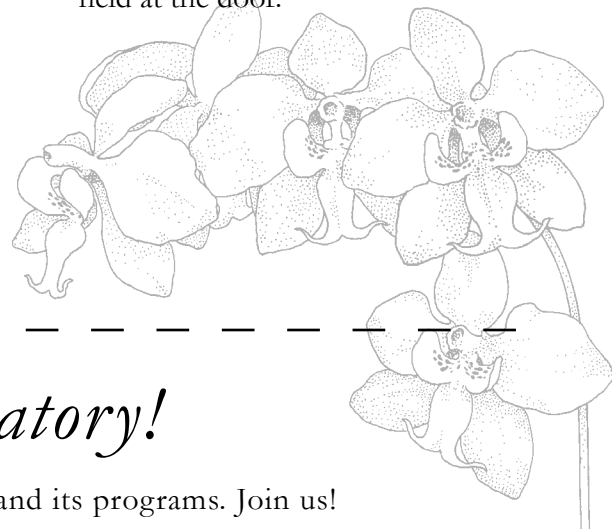
AN EVENING WITH CISCOE MORRIS

The Friends of the Conservatory is pleased to present Seattle media favorite Ciscoe Morris on Tuesday, March 10. The evening begins with a reception in the Conservatory 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by a lecture at 7:00 pm (with Q&A), **“How to Incorporate Tropical Plants into the Pacific Northwest Landscape”** at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park.

Ciscoe Morris is well known in the media. Featured on KING5 TV, ‘Gardening with Ciscoe with KING5’s Meeghan Black’, can be seen every weekend on the KING5 ‘Morning News’ and on the KING5 ‘Noon News’ on Tuesdays and Thursdays. His half-hour long ‘Gardening with Ciscoe’ with co-star Meeghan Black, can be seen every Saturday on KING5. In addition, Ciscoe has co-authored two books. His newest book *Ask Ciscoe* made its debut in late 2006 and is among the top selling garden books nationwide. You can read Ciscoe’s

‘To Do’ column every week in the Saturday Gardening Section in the Seattle P-I. Ciscoe’s home garden was featured in the October/November 1999 issue of *Seattle Homes and Lifestyle*. Ciscoe regularly leads garden tours to countries all over the world.

Tickets are \$20 for FOC members and \$25 for non-members (tickets include the reception and the lecture). Tickets are available in the Conservatory Gift Shop, or you can reserve your tickets by phone at 206-322-4112 or by mail. Make your check payable to FOC and mail to FOC, 1402 E. Galer St., Seattle, WA 98112. Include SASE if you would like the tickets mailed to you, otherwise tickets will be held at the door.



Join the Friends of the Conservatory!

Your membership in the Friends helps to support the Conservatory and its programs. Join us!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of payment:

Check enclosed (payable to FOC) Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Exp. date _____

New Member

Renewal

\$40 Individual

\$25 Senior/Student

\$50 Supporting

\$100 Sustaining

\$500 Patron

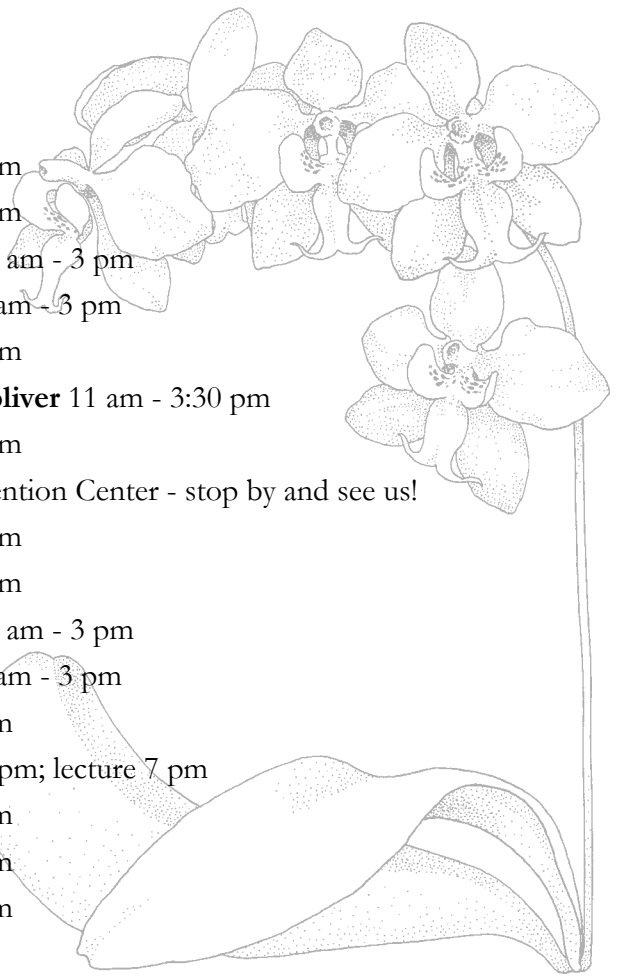
\$1000 Conservator

Other \$ _____

Mail to: FOC, 1402 E. Galer St., Seattle, WA 98112

CALENDAR

- January 24 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- January 31 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- February 5 **First Thursday:** Docents available in Conservatory 11 am - 3 pm
- February 7 **First Saturday:** Docents available in Conservatory 11 am - 3 pm
- February 7 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- February 12 **Retirement Open House for Stephanie Johnson-Toliver** 11 am - 3:30 pm
- February 14 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- February 18-22 **Northwest Flower & Garden Show** Seattle Convention Center - stop by and see us!
- February 21 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- February 28 **Plant Talk: Ant Plants** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- March 5 **First Thursday:** Docents available in Conservatory 11 am - 3 pm
- March 7 **First Saturday:** Docents available in Conservatory 11 am - 3 pm
- March 7 **Plant Talk: Calatheas** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- March 10 **An Evening with Ciscoe Morris** reception 5:30-6:30 pm; lecture 7 pm
- March 14 **Plant Talk: Calatheas** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- March 21 **Plant Talk: Calatheas** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- March 28 **Plant Talk: Calatheas** Short talk in Conservatory 1 pm
- April 18 **Tree Walk** with Arthur Lee Jacobson 10 am



EARLY NOTICE:

May 9 **Spring Plant Sale**



1402 E. Galer St.
Seattle, WA 98112
www.volunteerparkconservatory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 12720