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New Book Features Washington Garden Paradise Among *Outstanding American Gardens*

*Modernist Pacific Northwest Japanese-influenced garden offers majestic view of
Mount Rainer and is also home to mid-century "Time Capsule" house*

(Orting, WA, December 2, 2015) . . . On the road to Mount Rainer is a little-known garden paradise that has been delighting visitors for years: the one-of-a-kind Chase Garden that was envisioned and built by Emmott and lone Chase. It was a labor of love they began in 1962, and is just an hour outside of Seattle.

Chase Garden is an early example of the modernist, Japanese-influenced garden style now identified with the Pacific Northwest. It features a breathtaking naturalistic landscape of alpine meadows and woods filled with plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees, many of them native. Many are plants that the Chases found in nurseries across the state or that Emmott and lone admired in their frequent hikes in the surrounding Cascade Mountains. Serene reflecting pools and stylized rock gardens serve as focal points near the house. Meandering paths, lined with simple but lush plantings and accentuated with strategically positioned boulders, invite visitors to explore intimate woodlands, open meadows, perennial plantings, and awe-inspiring vistas.

Noted Tacoma landscape architect Rex Zumwalt worked with the Chases to design the initial landscape plan. The house was designed by Olympia architect K. Walter Johnson in 1957, and features a fireplace built with stones from the Puyallup River.

To help preserve this unique property, the Garden Conservancy, the only national nonprofit dedicated to saving and sharing outstanding American gardens, began working with the Chases in 1995. The Chases assigned a conservation easement to the Conservancy that year. When Emmott passed away in 2010 (lone died in 2007), he deeded the property to the Conservancy, which, as part of its garden preservation program, began transitioning it from a private paradise to a public garden.

The magnificent garden is featured in the Conservancy's silver anniversary book, *Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration – 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy*, which showcases 50 gardens that have participated in the Conservancy's preservation and Open Days programs in its first quarter-century. Jenny Young du Pont, president and CEO, notes, "The Chase Garden is an excellent example of what makes American gardens often so wonderful: like our culture, they blend old and new into something completely original. We believe that gardens are as important to their community as museums and national parks. We have helped rescue, restore, or rebuild more than 80 in twenty-five years and would like to be a resource for many more in the future."

Lori Taylor, director of the Chase Garden, says that Chase is a beloved destination thanks in large part to the work of dedicated volunteers—many of them loyal long timers—who, among other activities, help the full-time horticulturist maintain the pristine beauty of the site. "Our plant sales are widely anticipated because we offer uncommon perennials that grow well in the Pacific Northwest. Families hold events and small weddings here, hundreds of schoolchildren have come for field trips. Even local car clubs take road trips here. It's the perfect destination."

With a growing membership of more than 400, Chase is now forming a board of directors. "We would like to become fully independent in 2016, with the support of the Washington community," says Ms. Taylor.

The centennial of the National Park Service also occurs in 2016 and Ms. Taylor expects even more visitors—whether on their way to Mount Rainier or not—will find their way to what is fast becoming a not-so-secret garden. "We have so much to share. The garden itself is peaceful and beautiful. The view of Mount Rainer is spectacular. We are delighted to welcome everyone to enjoy our special place."

More information about the Chase Garden and the Garden Conservancy can be found at www.gardenconservancy.org. *Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration – 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy* makes an ideal holiday gift—and promotes a local iconic landmark. The book is available at local retailers or your favorite online bookstore.

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