

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2011

NHS FALL PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, NOON TO 6:00 PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

LOIS WILLMAN AND MARIE WEILER

WE MAY NOT HAVE HAD the greatest summer, but you can get warmed up for autumn by shopping for the coolest plants at the NHS Fall Plant Sale, **September 16–17**. This two-day event is a fabulous way to view plant selections from about 30 of the Pacific Northwest's great wholesale and specialty nurseries.

From Anemonopsis to Ypsilandra, from Abutilon to Zauschneria, from bamboo to rhododendrons, our vendors will have the most unusual collector's plants and the hippest new introductions as well as many old standbys and Great Plant Picks—all bursting with health and ready for you to pop into your garden at this, the most opportune planting time of the year.

As you've probably heard, the hangar at Magnuson Park is no longer available, so this year's sale will take place at **North Seattle Community College**. (See driving directions on page 11.) We've reserved the cafeteria and the student center as well as two large rooms at the front of the complex—space enough to accommodate the same number of vendors as in previous years. We guarantee, you will not be disappointed!

A couple of things to note:

We will not be able to use the wagons indoors, so if you have a luggage cart or



A wide selection of beautiful perennials is available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 16 and 17 (Ann LeVasseur)

what I like to call an “old lady shopping cart,” be sure to bring it. We will have “quick hold” tables scattered about and, as usual, the area for longer holds.

Also, because we'll be indoors, dogs will not be allowed, so remember to leave your pooch at home.

In addition to the wide selection of plants, there is also a wide variety of volunteer positions available to support

the sale. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and take-down; distribute and pick up signs in the neighborhood; cashier; and work the hold, tally, plant donations, and will call areas. Volunteers benefit greatly by becoming some of the first shoppers, plus they receive a discount coupon good toward a plant purchase. What volunteers seem to enjoy most, however, is the opportunity to see ►

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all those wonderful plants up close while working at their job stations. Those wanting to help can contact **Lois Willman** at loiswillman@gmail.com.

Another great way to support the sale is through member donations. If you have plants you would like to donate, they can be dropped off at the sale Friday, September 16, between 9 am and noon. If you have questions or need any help with plant delivery, contact **Emily Dexter** at edexter4@comcast.net or **206-526-2927**. Plants should be potted, labeled with the plant name (botanical as well if you have it), and priced. Any additional information about the plant, which would help it thrive in its new home, would be helpful.

The plant sale is a critical fundraiser for NHS. Proceeds go toward funding NHS programs, scholarships, and grants.

So come to the sale, check out great plants, reconnect with old friends, and support our nursery owners and community. 🌱

For further information on the plant sale and directions to North Seattle Community College, visit our website at www.northwesthort.org. Directions are also printed on page 11.

Lois Willman and Marie Weiler are the co-chairs for the NHS Fall Plant Sale.

2011 NHS PLANT SALE VENDORS

Blue Frog Garden Nursery: Perennials, groundcovers, shrubs, trees, azaleas

Botanica: Uncommon and underused perennials

Bouquet Banque Nursery: Fat, juicy, healthy, 2-gallon perennials

Chimacum Woods: Species rhododendrons

DeGro Flower & Garden: Uncommon perennials and some temperennials

Elemental Plants: Predominantly PNW native plants, specializing in trees and shrubs

Fairmeadow Nursery: Evergreen oaks, perennials, Northwest native trees, and shrubs

Far Reaches Farm: Unusual perennials and bulbs, drifting into a few woodies and alpines

Foliage Gardens: Ferns and related plants

Glenwood Gardens: Shrubs, dwarf stuff, conifers, and perennials

Keeping It Green Nursery: Hardy orchids, unusual woodlanders, and hard-to-find natives

Lael's Moon Garden Nursery: Trees, shrubs, edibles, and select perennials

Lee Farm & Nursery: Trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and hardy fuchsias

Madrona Nursery: Special perennials and some native plants

Mount Forest Farm/Robyn's Nest Nursery: Hostas, ferns, and shade perennials

MSK Rare Plant Nursery: Native and rare plants adaptable to the Pacific Northwest

Munro's Nursery: Hardy perennials, trees, shrubs, and shade-tolerant plants

Naylor Creek Nursery: Hostas, epimediums, asarums, cimicifugas, and shade perennials

Old Goat Farm: Perennials for sun or shade

Overland Enterprises: Drought-tolerant perennials for sun or shade

Pan's Garden: Sedums, sempervivums, and specialty perennials

Perennial Pleasures: Ferns, sempervivums, ground covers, and other perennials

Ramble on Rose Perennials: Perennials

Rhododendron Species Foundation: Species rhododendrons

Robinwood Nursery: Eclectic selection of perennials, grasses, fuchsias, and shrubs

Steamboat Island Nursery: Temperennials, uncommon perennials, shrubs, vines, and grasses

Taking Root Nursery: Unusual perennials, hostas, ornamental grasses, and ferns

The Desert Northwest: Cold-hardy desert plants, Southern Hemisphere natives, and subtropicals

White Picket Gardens: Unusual perennials, drought-tolerant plants, salvias, and hebes

Wind Poppy Farm & Nursery: Grasses, sedges, rushes, water plants, and perennials



More beautiful plants that are available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 16 and 17 (Ann LeVasseur)

PLANTS TO SEEK OUT AT THE NHS FALL PLANT SALE

MARTY WINGATE



ABOVE: *Grevillea victoriae*
'Marshall Olbrich'

RIGHT: *Poncirus trifoliata*
'Flying Dragon'



YOU HAVE A LIST IN YOUR HEAD—what to look for at the NHS Fall Plant Sale—but it's incomplete. Allow me to help. Here are just a few more plants you might consider buying.

The hardy Australian mint bush, *Prostanthera cuneata*, has tiny mint-scented evergreen leaves growing in a congested fashion on a fairly tidy mound to about three feet; small white flowers with a purple brush mark appear in spring. It needs full sun, and has sailed through every one of the last eight winters in our garden.

Look for *P. cuneata* on the tables of **Overland Enterprises** where you'll also find *Gentiana ternifolia* which has wispy foliage with pale blue flowers in fall, and a half dozen varieties of Colchicum.

Dry shade and poor soil is a recipe for disaster. And yet, here comes the silvervein creeper vine (*Parthenocissus henryana*) to the rescue. **Steamboat Island Nursery** will be selling this deciduous vine that gets fabulous fall color as well as bronze-red new growth in spring. It's not bad as a ground cover, either.

Also on offer from Steamboat is deer-resistant *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Duke Garden'. A low-growing selection of the Japanese plum yew, it reaches only about four feet high and wide. Also look for *Daphne bholua*, which has fragrant, late-winter flowers and *Dichroa febrifuga*, a semi-evergreen sprawling hydrangea relative with blue or pink flowers followed by eye-catching blue fruit.

You can also find *Dichroa* at **Bouquet Banque Nursery** along with *Epimedium*, silverleaf hardy cyclamen, and woodland plants including *Podophyllum*.

Botanica will have large specimens of the gorgeous tree peony *Paeonia lutea* var. *ludlowii*. Picture its five-inch wide lemon-yellow flowers on seven-foot stems in your garden. Also at the Botanica table is the California native *Darmera peltata*, perfect for pondside. Its hairy stalks topped with a mound of pink flowers emerge in May, followed by the umbrella leaves.

Anticipate spring with Botanica's *Primula capitata* var. *mooreana*. Its purple flowers, arranged in a pincushion style with a dusting of white called "farina" is a long-bloomer from April to June. Look for *Thalictrum delavayi* var. *decorum*, the delicate, summer-flowering meadow rue with "parasols" of lilac flowers followed by ornamental seedpods.

Lael's Moon Garden Nursery will have the hardy contorted orange (*Poncirus trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon')—fragrant white flowers followed by small, bitter orange fruit, on contorted branches. Yikes, the thorns! For those overwintering Anna's hummingbirds, get *Grevillea victoriae* 'Marshall Olbrich' with tubular deep red-orange clusters beginning in winter.

From **Far Reaches Farm**, look for *Begonia emeiensis*. You'll delight in late-season pink flowers in the shade and won't mind mulching it in winter. You must buy *Lobelia tupa*. I'm surprised our resident hummingbird doesn't buzz up and give us a big fat kiss every summer when this tall herbaceous perennial starts blooming. It has coral-colored beaked flowers on tall stalks.

Among the dwarf conifers at the **Old Goat Farm**, look for woodland perennials including *Trachystemon orientalis*. I planted mine in dry shade several years ago, and have barely given it a thought since except to admire its stems of blue flowers in spring following by enormous heart-shaped leaves.

I hope to see you at the Fall Plant Sale on September 16-17. And let me apologize in advance for butting into your conversation about which plant to buy; as a self-appointed personal shopper, I can't help myself. 🍷

Marty Wingate is a Seattle-based writer and speaker about gardens and travel. She is also an NHS board member.