

# GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2012

## NHS FALL PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, NOON TO 6:00 PM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

MARIE WEILER

IS IT THE LOOKING, THE COLOR, the greenness, the texture? Is it the touching, the softness, the crispness, the smoothness? Is it the smelling, the fragrance, the freshness, the earthiness? Whatever it is that feeds your plant lust, come indulge your passion at the **NHS Fall Plant Sale, Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, at North Seattle Community College.**

With access to 30 or so vendors and thousands of plants under one roof, you're sure to find the perfect specimen to fill any holes in your garden that developed over the summer.

If you suffer pangs of guilt every time you shop for plants, you can easily justify your purchases at this sale by remembering that by buying generously, you are supporting the NHS scholarship and grant programs. In 2011, scholarships went to UW students Hillary Burgess, to document urban garden characteristics that influence pollinator abundance and species; Leann Andrews, for her work in Peru to help to build healthy soil in an urban slum community near Lima; and Katie Murphy, for her soil tests on parking strips to determine their suitability for growing vegetables. Grants went to the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation, which operates the four-



*A wide selection of "very cool" perennials is available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 14 and 15 (Debbie Campbell)*

acre public garden containing a unique blend of Pacific Northwest natives and unusual exotics set in a naturalistic wooded setting for the City of Shoreline; the Pollinator Pathway, a mile-long strip along Columbia Street in Seattle planted with predominantly natives; and Plant Amnesty's 4th Annual Urban Forest Symposium, which took place in May at the Center for Urban Horticulture and

addressed the concerns of those whose work involves volunteer planting and care of the urban forest. With your help NHS can continue to fund these types of projects.

The sale will once again be held at North Seattle Community College, but this year we'll be taking over the Arts & Sciences underground parking garage, with entry on the northeast side of ►

## NHS FALL PLANT SALE . . . continued from page 1

campus. All the vendors will be in one huge, well-lit and naturally air-conditioned area. Park outside in the enormous parking lot and walk on into the spacious, well-lit hall of plants. As usual, we'll have a hold area to facilitate carefree shopping, a coffee cart to reenergize, and will-call volunteers to help you get your purchases to your vehicle. We'll be able to use our wagons—hooray!—but since those are in limited supply, feel free to bring your own if you have one.


### Plants to donate?

We'd love to have any healthy plants that are overflowing your garden. NHS keeps 100 percent of the proceeds from these sales, so they are extra precious. If you have plants to donate, please contact Emily Dexter at [edexter4@comcast.net](mailto:edexter4@comcast.net) to make arrangements, or simply bring your plants to the donations table by 10:00 am Friday. Plants should be potted, labeled with the plant name (and botanical name if you have it), and priced. Information regarding care of the plant would be appreciated.

### Is it the looking, the touching, the smelling?

Enjoy it all when you help set up, tally, cashier, take down, or assist in the hold area or with will call. Volunteers are needed for all shifts and all volunteers receive a \$5 coupon off their purchase. To sign up to volunteer, please contact Cindy Fairbrook at [fairbrook4432@comcast.net](mailto:fairbrook4432@comcast.net).

**For further information on the plant sale and directions to North Seattle Community College, visit our website at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org). Directions are also printed on page 11.**

For any other questions, please contact Marie Weiler at [meweiler@comcast.net](mailto:meweiler@comcast.net). 

*Marie Weiler is chair of the NHS Fall Plant Sale.*

## 2012 FALL PLANT SALE VENDORS

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

**Botanica:** Uncommon and underused perennials

**Bouquet Banque Nursery:** Fat, juicy, healthy, two-gallon perennials

**Chimacum Woods:** Species rhododendrons

**Colleen James Garden Design:** —NEW THIS YEAR— Fall-blooming plants, *Iochroma* (related to *Brugmansia*, or angel's trumpet), Bolivian fuchsia, and salvias

**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 plants, 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

**Robyn's Nest Nursery:** Hostas, ferns, and shade perennials

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

**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

**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

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



*More beautiful plants that are available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 14 and 15 (Debbie Campbell)*



# PLANTS TO SEEK OUT AT THE NHS FALL PLANT SALE

MEGHAN FULLER

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD SO many plants that you couldn't possibly fit one more, here comes the NHS Fall Plant Sale! NHS has brought together a fabulous mix of local nurseries that will bring some of their most interesting and hard-to-find plants, as well as tried and true favorites. To tempt your palate, here are a few of the exciting plants that will be available at the sale.

RIGHT:  
*Impatiens*  
*omeiana*

BELOW

RIGHT:  
*Thuja plicata*  
'Whipcord'  
(Photos  
courtesy  
of Meghan  
Fuller)



*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Little Honey' is just one of the rare offerings that will be available from **Overland Enterprises**. It's easy to grow, only gets to three feet, and its lemon-yellow leaves will shine in a container or partly shaded corner of your garden.

Overland will also carry rare hostas including *Hosta* 'May', the golden-leaved sister to *Hosta* 'June', one of the highest rated hostas available. For an explosion of color at the end of summer, they'll have a variety of fall blooming asters such as *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'. Mark and Susan Overholt, of Overland Enterprises, say that if left unpinched it can become a "giant" of the garden, reaching up to 18 inches tall.

Keep an eye out for some of the showiest specimen maples around from **Lael's Moon Garden**. They'll be carrying *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Esk Sunset', a 25-foot beauty originating from the Esk Valley of New Zealand whose new leaves emerge pinkish-orange in spring. By summer, leaves transform into a marbled array of green, dusty pink, and creamy white, while the underside of the leaves stay purple! For even more wow,

they'll have *Acer palmatum* 'Shirazz', a Japanese maple with crimson-pink new leaves that change to green, brilliant pink, and cream by summer. They'll also bring an array of interesting conifers like *Thuja plicata* 'Whipcord', whose arching cord-like foliage makes for a fabulous and unique container plant and *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Sunlight Lace', whose yellow needles turn bronzy during cool winter temperatures.

From **Lee Farm and Nursery**, you'll find a wide selection of collector perennials such as *Impatiens omeiana*, an absolute must have for shade gardens. Looking nothing like standard impatiens, it's a hardy perennial with a glowing yellow stripe down the center of each leaf and interesting yellow flowers late in the season. They'll also have an assortment of hardy fuchsias including the rare *Fuchsia campos-portoi*, which actually spreads through underground runners to slowly fill a corner of your garden with a long season of delicate purple and red blooms.

**MsK Rare Plant Nursery** will have *Itea ilicifolia*, hollyleaf sweetspire. It's a graceful, 10-foot evergreen shrub for shade or part shade that is absolutely covered with foot long racemes of fragrant greenish flowers come summer. Like *Garrya* on steroids! No space? It doesn't mind being trained as a vine or espaliered. They'll also have rare and collector plants such as *Helwingia chinensis*, an oddity of the plant kingdom with flowers that grow out of the center of the leaves and *Danae racemosa*, a small shade shrub loved by florists for its shiny, pointed leaves and fantastic texture.

Another standout is *Roscoea purpurea* from **Glenwood Gardens**, which flies off the tables when it's in bloom. It looks like a crazy combination of an orchid flower and a leek. *Lep-echinia hastata* will be available from **Wind Poppy Farms**. You'll fool people into thinking you found a giant new salvia. This four to five foot hardy perennial has gorgeous silvery felted leaves and tall flower spikes of fragrant, magenta-colored flowers.

These are just a few of the cool plants you'll find at the sale. To see the rest, you'll just have to be there. Come early and make sure you have space in your car for all the goodies you'll find. I'll see you there! 🍁

*Meghan Fuller is the retail floor manager at Swansons Nursery in Seattle. She is also an NHS board member.*

# ORCHID BASICS

RIZANIÑO “RIZ” REYES

WHO HASN'T BEEN TEMPTED by an exotic orchid at your local grocery floral department, but resisted the temptation to spend money on something you'll most likely just end up killing? They're expensive, temperamental, require a greenhouse to grow, and only the most experienced gardeners can get them to flower again. This is no longer the case. Orchids have become such popular houseplants, and with more and more cultivated hybrids being mass-produced, we now can afford to purchase a healthy, blooming orchid, learn about its cultural requirements, and not feel too dejected if it just ends up in the yard waste bin. Orchids are the largest flowering plant family in the world so their requirements can be very specific, but this article will cover some of their basic needs in order to keep them healthy and flowering. At the end, we'll discuss some of the most common types available and their basic cultural requirements.

## Temperature

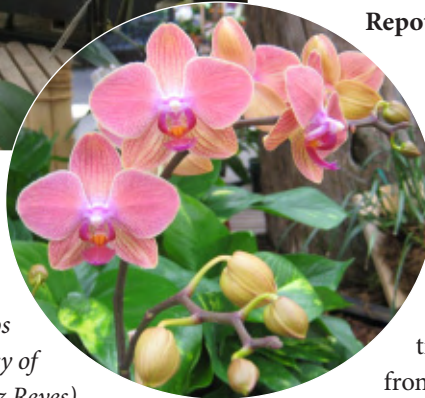
Orchids are divided into three categories, but, in my opinion, there are actually four: frost/winter hardy, cool, intermediate, and warm growers. There are orchids that we can actually plant in gardens as cold-hardy perennials. These include **frost/winter-hardy** members of the genera *Bletilla*, *Calanthe*, and *Cypripedium*. Most other types of orchids are indoor plants and are divided into **cool growers** (minimum 45-55° F nighttime, 60-70° F daytime), **intermediate growers** (55-65° F nighttime, and 70-80° F daytime) and **warm growers** (65-70° F nighttime and up to around 90° F daytime).

## Light

Light can be variable, but absolutely crucial, if a plant is to actually flower once again. A blooming orchid can be placed just about anywhere in the home, but when not in bloom a bright spot with indirect light is ideal. However, there are a few that require intense light to the point of almost “burning” the plant. Many types will thrive just fine in a bright windowsill with an east or southeastern exposure, but you almost have to just try and experiment with an orchid you like and see how it does in your conditions.



TOP:  
*Phalaenopsis*  
RIGHT:  
*Phalaenopsis*  
hybrid (Photos  
courtesy of  
Riz Reyes)



## Fertilizer

Generally, orchids are not heavy feeders. Those that grow on the trees in the wild get their food from decaying organic material and the animals that fly by. As with any fertilizing regimen follow the instructions on the label and reduce the concentration by half.

## Repotting

Once roots begin to escape the potting mix, then it's an appropriate time to bump the plant up to the next pot size. Most of the orchids offered in stores are *epiphytes*: airplants, basically. They attach to trees, take in the moisture from the air, and have great air circulation. To replicate this natural environment, orchids need a very well-drained

mix that's usually composed of chunks of bark, sphagnum moss, and pumice. Some indoor orchids are terrestrial and still require good drainage, but consistent moisture is key.

Keeping these basic tips in mind, you can select from the list below some of the most common and most popular orchids now readily available. Knowing some basics, doing a bit of homework, and making some observations about your potential growing conditions, there's nothing more rewarding than getting an orchid to rebloom. In fact, that's when “orchid fever” kicks in, and you're hooked!

- *Oncidium*—“Dancing Ladies;” cool to intermediate; bright indirect light; epiphyte
- *Cymbidium*—Cool to intermediate; bright indirect light; mostly terrestrial
- *Dendrobium*—Intermediate to warm, but might require some cold to initiated buds; epiphyte
- *Phalaenopsis*—“Moth Orchid;” intermediate to warm; indirect light; epiphyte
- *Paphiopedilum*—Tropical Lady Slipper; cool to intermediate; indirect light; terrestrial 🌱

*Rizaniño “Riz” Reyes is a former NHS board member.*



# FALLING WALLS, ADDING PLANTS

FORREST CAMPBELL



WHAT DO FALLING WALLS have to do with adding plants? I was at a Hardy Fern Foundation (HFF) luncheon sitting at a table with fellow members of NHS and HFE, John and Jane Whiteley.

The conversation was, of course, about plants and soon shifted to a situation they had in their garden. They had two dry stack stone walls that were failing. When I visited their site I saw two dry stack walls sinking and leaning back into the hillside. The walls are the focal points looking to the west from the lower patio area, centrally located in the middle of the back garden. The lower wall at 27 ft. long and the upper wall at 22 ft. long had a very narrow planting space due to the settling. I recommended that both walls be removed and rebuilt correctly.

## Rebuilding the walls

These are the steps we took to rebuild the walls:

1. Removed and stacked all the rocks.
2. Removed and hauled away the saturated clay dirt and inferior base material.
3. Put down a 4 to 6 inch base of 5/8 minus rock and started rebuilding the wall.
4. Installed 2x4 and 4x4 pieces of wood blocks about 1 ft. long at several random levels.
5. Backfilled the area behind the wall with a combination of gravel and three-way soil.
6. Removed the blocks after two levels above these areas have been completed and filled with three-way soil.
7. Removed the soil and used an amended soil mix with selected plants.

## Adding the plants

The finished walls have three planting areas. First, the planting in the pockets and crevices that was created in both the upper and lower walls includes *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Ni-

LEFT: *Ophiopogon chingii* 'Sparkler'  
 CENTER: *Oxalis griffithii* (Far Reaches Farm)  
 RIGHT: The finished dry stacked stone wall  
 and plantings (Forrest Campbell)

grecens', black evergreen foliage with pink-tinged, white flowers followed by black berries; *Lewisia cotyledon*, rosettes of narrow, fleshy, evergreen leaves and showy clusters of white flowers on long stems; and *Lewisia*

'Norma Jean' with its pink flowers. In addition, we planted a collection of ferns in this area.

Second, the two landings with a southeastern exposure providing sun until noon are planted with two *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Wissel's Saguaro' of different heights and two dwarf rhododendrons. The groundcover layer of this planting includes *Epimedium* 'Spine Tangler', *Trillium rivale*, the limey-green *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina', and the quite striking *Oxalis griffithii*, a double-flowered Japanese selection with white flowers.

Third, the north planting area provides for an interesting combination of shade-loving plants. *Dryopteris dilatata* 'Jimmy Dyce', a fern with a stiff, upright growth habit provides space for an underplanting of *Adiantum aleuticum* 'Subpumilum', *Polypodium x mantoniae* 'Cornubiense', and two dwarf mondo grasses: *Ophiopogon chingii* 'Sparkler', a very slow clumper with blue shiny fruit, and *Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Nana'.

The Whiteleys were happy with their revitalized dry stacked stone walls with their new plantings, and will be able to enjoy them for many years.

**Special thanks to Far Reaches Farm for their unique plants, information, and photos and to Sue Olsen and Judith Jones for their expert knowledge of ferns. 📷**

*Forrest Campbell is a member of NHS and is the owner of Landscape and Property Services, LLC. He can be reached at [forrest.campbell2@comcast.net](mailto:forrest.campbell2@comcast.net).*

# VOLUNTEER PROFILE: EMILY DEXTER

LYNNE DE MERRITT

EMILY IS A RELATIVELY RECENT convert to the gardening world, though she acknowledges being a fan of Ciscoe's radio program long before becoming a serious gardener. In the late 1990s she hired a professional landscape gardener who drew up plans, guided Emily with plant choices, and replaced her front lawn with a lovely garden. That was the beginning. Over time she took an interest in gardening and started to embellish the original plan. Then she was introduced to NHS. She says she is really a product of NHS which has provided education and instilled a love of plants from its educational tours, lectures, and the shared knowledge of its members.

Emily is a CPA, now semi-retired. Professional work included 22 years in the forest products industry where she specialized in financial systems implementations, a five year stint with Oracle as a financial systems software engineer, and more recently part-time work with a tax accountant and a wealth management organization. She is a graduate of Whitman College, and received her MBA at the University of Washington. Once eager



*Emily Dexter pulling blackberry vines at a neighborhood work party (Jeannie Hale)*

to be part of the working world, she now finds great satisfaction in volunteer work. NHS has meant a great deal in her transition from the working world to retirement. She is desirous to show her appreciation by volunteering where needed.

Emily has been most active on the NHS Plant Sale Committee. Over the past two years she has been in charge of plant donations.

In addition to NHS, Emily is active on the Laurelhurst Community Club Board. You many have seen her planting daffodils in the median across from the entrance of Talaris Conference Center, or leading a brush clearing project from Lake Washington's Waterway No. 1. When she is not working, gardening, or entertaining friends, she may often be found in her cabin in the woods on Lopez Island. Emily enjoys meeting people and learning about their interests. Thank you, Emily, for all that you do for NHS! 📷

*Lynne De Merritt is an NHS member and a life-long family friend of Emily. Emily Dexter is an NHS board member.*

## ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Deena Baron  
Sandy Burke  
Jennifer Coursen  
Susan Eggers  
Leah & Elise Erickson  
Frank Fujioka  
Martina Jaeger

Bethany Lael  
David Page  
Cynthia Riskin  
Julie Sheehan  
Carol Stanley  
Judy Roberts Wabey  
Mary Wehmeyer

## HAS YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGED?

Are you getting the monthly e-mail blasts announcing upcoming NHS events? Getting *Garden Notes* via e-mail? (If you signed up to receive it that way.) Also make sure that you don't have a spam filter on blocking [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com). Notify Karin Kravitz of any changes to your mailing or e-mail addresses at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com).



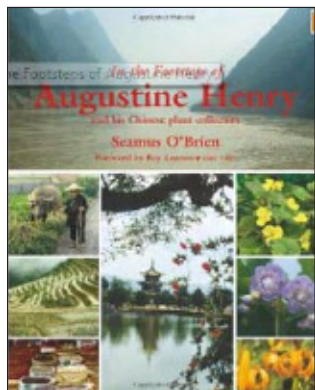
# MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON

WHILE YOU'RE BROWSING THE TABLES at this year's NHS sale, you may notice that many of the plant treasures tempting you have "henry" or some similar variation in their name. In most cases, these honor Augustine Henry, the Irish customs official who worked for the Chinese government in western China during the 1880s and 1890s.

Henry was not sent there to collect plant specimens, but that was his passion, and his day job allowed him far greater access than most outsiders had to the rich flora of the countryside. His discoveries and his tireless efforts to share those discoveries—through his letters and the seeds, bulbs, and dried plant specimens he sent back to Europe—led to many, many important plants being introduced to western horticulture.

My excitement over Henry was sparked by my recent reading of *In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry and his Chinese plant collectors* by Seamus O'Brien. The author not only tells the history of his fellow Irishman, he also tells of his own



recent expeditions to the areas that Henry explored, especially those that were soon after destroyed by the rising waters of the Three Gorges Dam.

You can join in celebrating Henry by buying some of his plants at the sale, including *Lilium henryi*, *Parthenocissus henryana* (silver vein creeper), and *Rhododendron augustinii*. Other plants introduced

because of his research—and the enthusiasm for the plants of western China that his research sparked—include *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple), *Davidia involucrata* (dove tree), and *Hamamelis mollis* (Chinese witch hazel).

*In The Footsteps* is also a winner this year of The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries' Annual Literature Award, one of the highest awards for a book on horticulture or botany. Please come and take a look at this very special book in the Miller Library. 📖

*Brian Thompson is the manager and curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.*

## ~ THANKS TO OUR 2012 PATRONS ~

*The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide a world-class educational program for Northwest gardeners. Thank you, patrons!*

Phoebe H. Andrew	Ann Keppler
Alison Andrews	Marcia & Jerry Kindinger
Barbara Asmervig & Michael Thanem	Katherine King
Karen Babbitt	Karin Kravitz
Robert Barca	Denise Lane
Barbara Barry	Raymond J. Larson
Douglas Bayley	Susan & Barry Latter
Charlotte Behnke	Alice Lauber
Karen A. Benson	Alex LaVilla
Mathew Berberich	Jeanne Marie Lee
Suzette V. Birrell	Dorothy Lennard
Nicky Bocek	Ann LeVasseur
Constance Bollen	Janet Lewinsohn
Elisabeth Bottler	Toni Loomis
Sara W. Bowe	Mary Helen Krock & John MacKean
Jayne Bray	Hans & Tina Mandt
Virginia Brewer	James K. Marshall
Walt Bubelis	Judy Massong
Whit Carhart	Pamela McAlpine
Heather & Terry Chubb	Bob Meadows
Patricia Church	Renee Montgelas
Michael Coie	Maureen Morris
Stacie Crooks,	Ciscoe Morris
Crooks Garden Design	Daniel Mount
Nancy Daar	John and Lee Neff
Erika M. D'Albert	Sue Nevler
Tanya Demarsh-Dodson	Charles Ogburn
Emily Dexter	Sue Olsen
Tina Dixon	Janet Padgett
Anita Dunn	Mary Palmer
Mrs. Philip Duryee	Peg Pearson
Dominique Emerson	Maryann & Charles Pember
Janet and Michael Endsley	Susan Picquelle
Kristina Erickson	Dinny Polson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Evans	Dixie Jo Porter
Cindy & David Fairbrook	Suzanne Ragen
Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson,	Ravenna Gardens
Far Reaches Farm	Judy Redmond
Nancy Fasoldt	Pat Riehl
Carolyn Fisher	Mira Rondeau
Betsy Fitzgerald	Jo Anne Rosen
Kirsten Fitzgerald	Elsa C. Rosenkrantz
Beverly Fletcher	Nita-Jo and Randy Rountree
Kathy & Ed Fries	Marilou T. Rush
Meghan Fuller	Liz Sanborn
Carla Beres Fulton	Tia Scarce
Gerald Gettel & Judith Thornton	Sandra Schumacher
Maren Gilliland	Patricia L. Sheppard
Marilyn Glenn	Daniel Sparler
Susan Goetz	Greencliff Landscape Co.
Jeff Graham & John Longres	Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson
Greg Graves & Gary Waller,	Philip Stoller
Old Goat Farm	Walter Thompson
Pam Green	Shelagh Tucker
Faye Greenlee	Ralene Walls
Jan Hadley	Marie Weiler
Laurel Harrington	Joanne White
Joyce Hawkins	Jackie White
Deborah Heg	Carolyn Whittlesey
Catherine Hillenbrand	Madeleine Wilde
Deborah Horn	Marty Wingate
Darlene & Dan Huntington	Withey-Price Landscape Design
Lisa Irwin	Dr. John A. Wott
Native Green Landscapes	Ann Wyckoff
Becky Johnson	Harriet Zipp
A. C. Kennedy, LLC dba Kemper/Iverson, Ltd.	

**THANKS TO OUR  
2012 DONORS**

*We wish to thank  
our donor members for  
their generous support.*

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**

Nancy Alvord  
Emily M. Dexter  
Cindy & David Fairbrook  
Julie O'Farrell  
Daniel Sparler & Jeff Schouten  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip R. Stoller

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS**

Jean Amick  
Alison Andrews  
Barbara Asmervig  
Charlotte Behnke  
Constance Bollen  
Ginny Brewer  
Geraldine Cherry  
Elen Cosgrove & Jeffrey Fahl  
Tina Dixon  
Mary Drummond  
Danielle Ernest  
Carolyn Fisher  
Beverly Fletcher  
Susan Goetz  
Jeff Graham & John Longres  
Lynne Harrison  
Terry Hayes  
Mike Hayes  
Diane M. Hilmo  
Janice Humeniuk  
Denise Lane  
Raymond Larson  
Jeanne Marie Lee  
Dorothy Lennard  
Janet McIntyre  
Maureen Morris  
Daniel Mount Gardens  
Lee C. Neff  
Chuck Ogburn  
Linda Park  
Elsa C. Rosenkrantz  
Nita-Jo Rountree  
Liz Sanborn  
Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson  
Sue A. Tong  
Dennis & Dorene Tully  
Ralene Walls  
Marie Weiler  
Joanne White  
John Whittington  
Glenn Withey & Charles Price  
Jennifer Wyatt

**THE STORY OF PLANTS:  
VINE MAPLES**

DANIEL MOUNT

EACH DAY THE COAST STARLIGHT departs L.A. for Seattle. My backpack and I were on one of those trains many autumns ago heading northward toward my new home. It was October as we chugged into Washington. I noticed the bright red leaves of small trees poking out from beneath the canyon-like walls of cedars, hemlocks, and Douglas-firs hugging the track.

Those trees, as I soon learned after arriving in Seattle, were vine maples (*Acer circinatum*). Vine maples range from the northern counties of California into southern Alaska. Within this range it flourishes from sea level to nearly 5,000 feet in the Siskiyou Mountains. Though they prefer moist river valleys, they can also be found in drier forests on the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

These ubiquitous small trees—mature height can range from 6' to the rare 35'—are quite adaptable, thriving under our great conifers with only a modicum of direct sunlight or in the bright baldness of clear cuts. In the garden they probably prefer something in-between and show their best fall color with at least half a day of direct sunlight. Being easy and bearing a great resemblance to the Japanese maples, especially the full moon maple (*A. japonicum*), make them popular with landscapers and gardeners alike.

They were not so popular with the first French explorers to this coast, however. After hacking their way through the gnarled and thwarting thickets once covering vast tracks here, they named them *bois du diable*, the devil's wood. Northwest tribes had kinder names for them, usually dependent upon their use. The Quinault called vine maples *maxó' atcalnix* meaning "basket tree," though they had many uses other than basketry for the flexible hard wood, which they collected in spring when it was most malleable. They mixed the charcoal of vine maple wood with oil to make black paint, or with water to make a treatment for dysentery. Throughout their range tribal names for vine maples are as diverse as their uses. Some tribes only made utensils while others made spears, snowshoes, and salmon traps. Vine maple wood was not used for construction, however. Their trunks never reach a substantial girth for making boards and the wood tends to warp with age.

In the garden, vine maples, known to demonically snake and coil their way through forests, become quite tame. Slow growers, they can be easily trained into a graceful single- or multi-trunked trees. The website [plantlust.com](http://plantlust.com) lists 11 cultivars of vine maple available to modern gardens. The relatively new and upright selection 'Pacific Fire' with stunning red bark can be found in most local nurseries. 'Sunny Sister', with its apricot new growth and glowing yellow fall color, is a little harder to find. I will certainly add one to my collection this year. My favorite by far is 'Monroe' with its deeply incised leaves reminiscent of lace-leaved Japanese maples. A beautiful mature specimen grows in the Pacific Connections Garden in the Washington Park Arboretum.

Only once have I regretted getting off that train at King Street Station 24 years ago. I think it was a rainy Monday morning in November. You know what I'm talking about. Yet, I look forward to the silence of the sodden days of gardening ahead, to ordering tulip bulbs, and the reddening of the vine maples.

But not as much as I look forward to spring when the honey bees buzz in the delicate little fuchsia-like flowers of the vine maples and the tulips are blooming, again. 🌸

*Read more of Daniel's reflections on plants and gardens at [www.mountgardens.com](http://www.mountgardens.com).*



# PACIFIC HORTICULTURE BREAKS NEW GROUND

LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER

“FOR 37 YEARS, *Pacific Horticulture* has covered stories about gardening and horticulture on the West Coast featuring remarkable plants and the passionate people who grow them. But we’ve never stopped there. Ever curious, we examine how matters of gardening intersect with real life, design, and the environment. At that intersection, we realize just how much gardening matters.”

The above paragraph is an excerpt from the summer 2012 issue of the newly redesigned *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, my first as editor following the April retirement of the esteemed Richard Turner. Today, in addition to a lively new editorial format, magazine content takes on a fresh life, online at [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org), our dynamic new website bringing years of archived articles, photographs, and reviews to anyone with Internet access anywhere in the world.

New job, new layout and design, new website—to say it’s been an eventful year doesn’t begin to describe my learning curve at the helm of this venerable publication. The ambitious rebranding project began last fall (while I was still on the board of directors) when Pacific Horticulture Society received a bequest from the estate of American opera singer Blanche Thebom and a grant from the Elisabeth C. Miller Charitable Foundation. These generous gifts allowed our organization to re-envision how we go about our mission to educate and inspire West Coast gardeners. The past six months have been a thoughtful, creative, and collaborative effort under the direction of Switchyard Creative, a Portland-based marketing, strategy, and design agency.

Our overall goal was to broaden our appeal to include young gardeners, designers, homeowners, and urban readers. The publishing industry is a challenging one, and we feel strongly



*The summer 2012 issue of  
Pacific Horticulture  
(Cover image: Jennifer Lynn Boggs)*

that the changes we’ve made will allow us to reach new readers while keeping our in-depth approach and commitment to real gardens—made by real gardeners—intact.

Paper, type, and layout have been updated and refreshed bringing you the same authentic content in lively new departments, laid out with elegance and simplicity in full color throughout all 64 pages of the quarterly print journal. Online at [pacifichorticulture.org](http://pacifichorticulture.org) current magazine articles are backed up by seven years of archived content and enhanced with short, timely pieces allowing us to connect with readers between print issues. The website was developed using responsive design technology, which means now you can take *Pacific Horticulture* with you wherever you go: viewing and sharing content from any desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

Looking forward, *Pacific Horticulture* is looking to broaden its retail presence

and reach out through social media channels to grow our community of passionate gardeners and broadly curious readers. Long a trusted resource for experienced gardeners we also have much to offer those just coming to the world of horticulture by transforming today’s excitement into an informed, lifelong love affair with plants and outdoor spaces. As I said in my editorial:

“Whether you have a patch of earth to call your own or find yourself interacting with the landscape in parks, streetscapes, and public gardens we invite you to take *Pacific Horticulture* along as we explore the world around us.” 🌿

*Lorene Edwards Forkner is an NHS member and is editor of Pacific Horticulture. She can be reached at [lorene@pacifichorticulture.org](mailto:lorene@pacifichorticulture.org).*

The Pacific Horticulture Society (PHS) began in 1968 when three San Francisco Bay Area societies joined together to publish a common journal. Later joined by the Northwest, Southern California, and San Diego Horticultural societies, PHS has become widely respected throughout the West. NHS members are entitled to receive a discounted subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* for an annual fee of \$20 in addition to your regular dues.

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## ~ 2012 FALL CLASSES ~

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Landscaping for Privacy with Scot Eckley*

Are you unmotivated to spend time in your garden because of noise, nosy neighbors, and unsightly views? Learn about stylish solutions that can give you privacy even on small properties at the home of garden designer Scot Eckley (featured in Marty Wingate's book and in her March NHS lecture). Scot will be on hand to explain the techniques and plants he has used.

LOCATION: ECKLEY GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 18

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Dramatic Winter Containers with Richie Steffen*

Spend the morning with Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Botanical Garden, and learn how to put together a unique combination of plants for a winter container. Richie will share techniques and tricks to make container plantings that will not only be dramatic and eye-catching, but will last all winter long. Each participant will have the opportunity to create his/her own winter container to take home.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$55.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$75.00 LIMIT: 12

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Plants for Autumn Interest with Richie Steffen*

The Miller Garden is vibrant in the autumn with a multitude of trees, shrubs, and perennials especially selected for their late season interest. Join Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Garden, on a walk through the garden learning how to use these plants to create a colorful autumn show in your own garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 15

FOR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL [NWHORT@AOL.COM](mailto:NWHORT@AOL.COM) OR CALL  
KARIN KRAVITZ AT 206-780-8172

## ~ GARDEN NOTES SURVEY ~

Have you finished taking your *Garden Notes* Survey? Give your input to help this newsletter stay relevant to your needs. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JXD3SFD> and fill out a very short survey. Results will be analyzed that will improve the *Garden Notes'* content. Thanks from the *Garden Notes* Committee.

## ~ WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES ~

RECEPTION 6:45 PM LECTURE 7:15 PM  
NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE  
MEMBERS \$5.00 NON-MEMBERS \$10.00

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN

OCTOBER 10, 2012

### *The Pleasure Garden*

Jeffrey Bale

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

### *Personal Expression in the Garden*

Lee Buttala

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE  
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG)

## ~ 2012 MILLER LECTURE ~

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7:30 PM

### *Conserving Plants in a Changing World*

Dr. Peter H. Raven, Speaker

LOCATION: MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
RSVP TO THE MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN AT 206-362-8612  
OR [INFO@MILLERGARDEN.ORG](mailto:INFO@MILLERGARDEN.ORG)

## ~ SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN GIVE & GROW LUNCHEON ~

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

### Honoring Dr. Abe Bergman

LOCATION: FOUR SEASONS WATERFRONT HOTEL

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON  
DONATIONS WILL BE REQUESTED  
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 AM

Join NHS at our member's table for this event to raise funds for innovative programs for children with special needs and their families.

FOR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL [NWHORT@AOL.COM](mailto:NWHORT@AOL.COM) OR CALL  
KARIN KRAVITZ AT 206-780-8172

## ~ SAVE THE DATE! ~

### 2013 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, March 23, 2013, 8:30 am-4:00 pm  
Bastyr University Auditorium

Members: \$65.00 Non-members: \$85.00

Hot Trends for Cool Climates:

Contemporary Planting and Design in the Continental Style

### SPEAKERS

- Cassian Schmidt, garden director of Hermannshof, Weinheim, Germany
- Christine Orel, landscape architect
- Petra Pelz, landscape architect and garden designer
- Gert Fortgens, garden director of Arboretum Trompenburg, Rotterdam, the Netherlands



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RAY LARSON



THOUGH IT IS NOT YET THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER as I write this, it will be near the end when this issue of *Garden Notes* is sent out. Hopefully, we'll have at least another month of good weather before fall settles in. This is my last President's Message, as my second term ends in November. It has been a good run, and though filled with more demands than I initially expected, I hope I leave NHS in at least as good of shape as when I

started. I'll still have another year on the board before that term ends, and plan on being actively involved for the foreseeable future. After serving on the board since 2007, I know that NHS is only successful because of our volunteers, and we are fortunate to have so many that are so committed. Being president has only reinforced that knowledge.

I first became acquainted with the Northwest Horticultural Society almost 20 years ago. I was still an undergraduate, back at home in Seattle for the summer and working a part time job at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH). It was just a job setting up tables and chairs for events and babysitting weddings back then. But I discovered early on how important NHS was to the local gardening community. The sign in the hall that bears our name gave a thumbnail history, and the naming of the building was one way that the University recognized NHS as the catalyst for the founding of the Center and the creation of first rate research facilities for the Arboretum across Union Bay. In my early days at CUH I became friendly with some of the members of NHS who used the library, as well as the office managers who worked in the NHS office in Isaacson Hall—**Heidi Shifflette** and later **Karin Kravitz**. I got to know even more folks through the annual Fall Plant Sale at CUH, since it was such a robust and occasionally chaotic affair. I took my job in Facilities pretty seriously at the time, and I still remember the time I kept Plant Sale Chair and former President **Doug Bayley** on site sweeping the parking lot long after everyone else had left. Hopefully Doug has forgiven me by now. **Sue Clark**, **Anita Dunn**, and many others were always very kind in those early days, and it was through those friendships and my burgeoning interest in horticulture that I started attending lectures.

By the time **Richard Hartlage** came to town in 1997 I was getting hooked on plants. Working with **Val Easton** and seeing how much effort NHS put into the library auctions each year made me realize how unique NHS was. At CUH I came into contact with every gardening organization and group in the region, and found that NHS was the most well-rounded and had the most to offer. The members were excited about plants and happy to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. By then I was a regular at lectures and had started graduate school. In 2001, I received one of the NHS Miller Scholarships in Horticulture. And after Merrill Hall was destroyed later that year, it was NHS (of course) who stepped up to fund a fully furnished new library. I've been fortunate to be involved more directly with NHS since then, and was honored to be invited to serve on the board in 2007. But it is the past two years that have flown by, and not only because my daughter Hazel (pictured above) was 10 months old when I started as president! It's been an exciting time, and thank you for allowing me to serve this fine organization. 🇺🇸

*Ray Larson is the president of NHS.*

### EDITOR

Judy Redmond  
judyredmond@frontier.com

### DESIGNERS

Judy Redmond and  
Constance Bollen  
cb graphics,  
cbgseattle@comcast.net

### CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:

Debbie Campbell  
Forrest Campbell  
Stacie Crooks  
Lynne De Merritt  
Emily Dexter  
Lorene Edwards Forkner  
Meghan Fuller  
Karin Kravitz  
Ray Larson  
Daniel Mount  
Riz Reyes  
Brian Thompson  
Marie Weiler

### PRINTER

Mike Klinke,  
Impression Printing

## DIRECTIONS TO NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE is next to I-5, just four miles north of downtown Seattle.

### Heading North on I-5

1. Take exit #173 (Northgate exit)
2. Turn right (south) onto 1st Avenue NE
3. Turn right again at N. 92nd Street
4. Turn right onto College Way N.
5. The college is on the right.

### Heading South on I-5

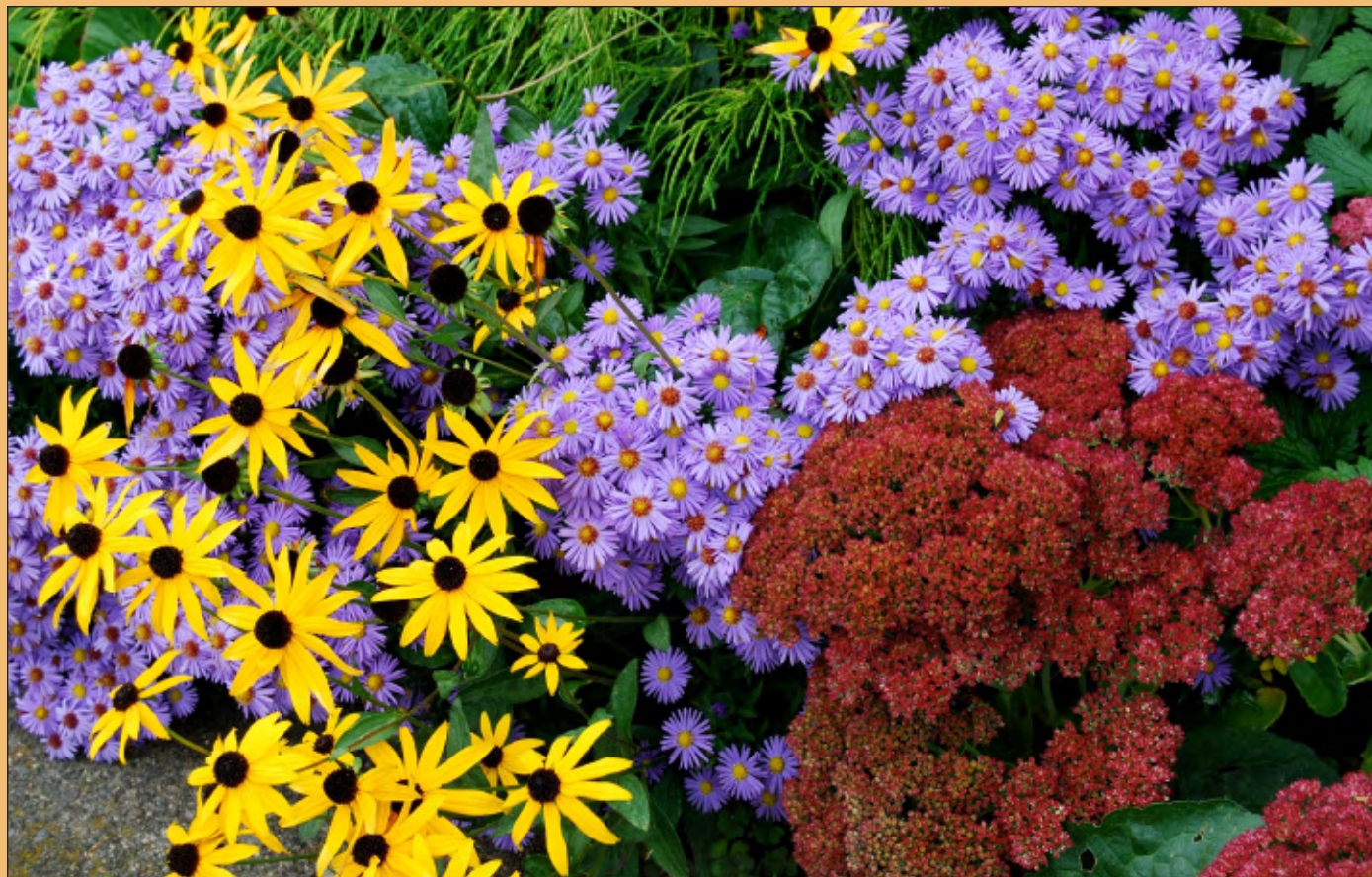
1. Take exit #173 *westbound* (Northgate exit)
2. Turn right onto N. Northgate Way
3. Turn left onto Meridian Avenue N. (becomes College Way N.)
4. The college is on the left.

Parking is free in any of the lots or on the street. **New this year:** The Plant Sale is located in the Arts & Sciences underground parking garage, with entry on the northeast side of the campus.



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 4597  
ROLLING BAY, WA 98061-4597

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 4842



STACIE CROOKS

*Aster novi-belgii* 'Professor Anton Kippenberg', *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm', *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Mops', and  
*Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' taken in Stacie Crooks's garden

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."

Stanley Horowitz, 1933-2008, teacher and former president and CEO of the United Jewish Appeal