

# GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2013

## BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN IS GROWING!

DENISE LANE AND NITA-JO ROUNTREE

AND YOU'RE INVITED! The Northwest Horticultural Society members and their friends are invited to a reception at the Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) at **3:00 pm on Sunday, April 7, 2013.**

The Garden hosts many events throughout the year, including plant sales, summer concerts, floral and art exhibits, celebrations, and the hugely popular Garden d'Lights held during the holiday season. Growth has occurred steadily at the BBG since opening to the public in 1992, and now, in its 21st year, the Garden is embarking on a carefully designed plan that will offer visitors of all ages expanded educational opportunities and new garden features to explore.

The residential scale and design of the gardens is intended to showcase plants that thrive in the Northwest. In addition to providing a feast for the eyes and the senses, visitors are afforded educational opportunities through the BBG website ([www.bellevuebotanical.org](http://www.bellevuebotanical.org)) and its searchable database. Detailed maps of the Garden allow visitors to locate common and botanical plant names usually complete with photos and cultural information for each section of the garden.

In May, the BBG opened the "Ravine Experience... Take a Walk on the Wild Side," a new garden featuring a one-third mile nature trail with a 150 ft. suspension bridge spanning the ravine. Visitors can enjoy the marvels of nature—wildlife,



*Bellevue Botanical Garden's Alpine Rock Garden (Rebecca Randall)*

soaring conifers, and native understory from 55 ft. above the forest floor—just minutes from the hustle and bustle of downtown Bellevue.

One of the featured gardens is the Alpine Rock Garden where High Cascade granite outcrops house an alpine world comprised of spring blooming *Primula auricula* 'Argus', with exquisite small crimson red flowers with white centers, *Pulsatilla vulgaris* with large bright purple flowers, and a host of *Lewisia*s. The show continues throughout the year with a mosaic of sedums, gentians, and penstemons

mingling under alpine forms of *Abies*, *Pinus*, and other genera.

In any given year, there are around 100 different cultivars of mostly hardy fuchsias blooming in the fuchsia trial garden resulting in a dazzling floral display beloved by hummingbirds. Each plant is numbered to correspond with the key on the BBG website so that visitors can choose their favorites for their own gardens—if choosing only a few is possible!

The renowned Perennial Border provides examples of beautiful garden design, exciting color combinations, ▶

## BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN IS GROWING! . . . continued from page 1

and unique plant choices. *Clematis heracleifolia* with yellow flowers inside dark blue bracts pairing with the yellow flowers and blue-green foliage of *Alchemilla mollis* are punctuated with *Rosa moyesii*, a Chinese mountain rose with beautiful deep red flowers that mature into fat orange-red hips. Trees and shrubs provide year-round interest for the ever changing display of perennials and bulbs. Staircases bisect the border to make viewing welcoming and accessible, and benches are strategically placed for visitors to relax while they drink in the fragrance and beauty.

The garden will soon break ground on beautiful new structures designed by nationally acclaimed Olson Kundig Architects that blend outdoor space with much needed indoor space creating harmony throughout.

**Education Center**—Education, a key component of the Garden's mission, is expressed through programs such as the Living Lab for children K-5, internship and docent programs, adult education, and interpretive materials. The education center will feature flexible spaces for meetings, programs, and workshops and will also house administrative offices and a catering kitchen.

**Visitor Services**—The new Visitor Services Center will adjoin the Education Center forming a welcoming courtyard and point of entry for visitors. Tours will gather here; visitors will find interpretive materials, restrooms, gift shop, and become oriented to the Garden layout.

At the entrance to the garden, a **Donor Wall** will permanently display the names of those who provide tax deductible gifts of \$1,000.00 or more. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

**"Growing a Living Legacy"** an \$11 million dollar capital campaign is a partnership be-



*The Ravine Experience...Take a Walk on the Wild Side  
(Joanne White)*

tween the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. Through the 2008 Parks Levy passage, CIP Process, and a challenge grant from the city, along with private donations, nearly 90% of the campaign goal has been pledged. Depending on the outcome of construction bids, construction could begin as early as April 23, 2013.

We are constantly reminded of the fact that capital campaigns are truly huge efforts that enlist the time, expertise, and resources of many in order to accomplish something that none of us could do on our own. We can't think of a better definition of community which is at the heart of what the Bellevue Botanical Garden is all about.

Delectable wine and sumptuous appetizers will greet NHS attendees upon their arrival at the reception on April 7th that will acquaint or reacquaint them with the Garden. Capital Campaign Committee Chair, Denise Lane, will briefly explain the fabulous

changes about to take place. Dan Hinkley, as horticultural consultant, will describe the new Tapestry Hedge and Fern Plaza. A very special performance will be given by Jim Fox presenting Christopher Lloyd—not to be missed! The event is **FREE** to NHS members and their friends, but space is limited, so you must RSVP.

If you arrive early, you can stop by The Vintage Sale that runs from April 4 to 7. It will include quality collector, antique, and home décor. Leave time to stroll the Garden regaling in the hundreds of unique cultivars of hyacinths, daffodils, peonies, and more. 🌸

### **BBG Reception for NHS**

DATE: *Sunday, April 7, 2013*

TIME: *3:00 pm*

COST: *Free*

LOCATION: *Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center  
12001 Main St. Bellevue, WA 98005*

*Brief presentations by Denise Lane, Dan Hinkley,  
and Jim Fox presenting Christopher Lloyd.*

*RSVP to [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)*

*Denise Lane chairs the "Growing a Living Legacy" Capital Campaign Committee, and Nita-Jo Rountree is a past NHS president.*

# COME TOUR WITH US IN 2013

GILLIAN MATHEWS AND RENEE MONTGELAS



ABOVE LEFT: Richard Hartlage talks to an NHS tour group at the Chihuly Garden and Glass

ABOVE RIGHT: The Gates Foundation

BELOW RIGHT: The tour group at the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago (All photos courtesy of Renee Montgelas)

Chicago and southern Wisconsin in late August and no, it wasn't too hot nor humid. The gardens we saw were spectacular, from the prairie-based Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago;



the wonderful gardens (and people) of Madison, Wisconsin; and the legendary home and school of Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin. A

favorite was the Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, a free public garden.


A fall tour of Oxbow Organic Farm and Marigold and Mint flowers in the Snoqualmie Valley was quite a treat, followed by a delicious farm-to-table lunch under their grape arbor. For fresh tastes from the field, it doesn't get any better than this!

Looking forward to 2013 your NHS Tour Committee consisting of Dominique Emerson, Daniel Mount, Mary Palmer,

Nita-Jo Rountree, and Jackie White join us in planning this year's program of tours. Check the NHS website and look for future e-mail announcements.

On the planning table:

- April 23—Chihuly Garden and Glass with Richard Hartlage: an opportunity to visit the garden one year after opening and see the show of 23,000 bulbs [See page 10 for details.]
- New York City & Hudson River Valley—September 27–October 2
- Whidbey Island day tour—August 2
- Kitsap Peninsula—June 27
- Two wildflower hikes with Daniel Mount—early fall by popular request
- Meet the Designer tours—more to come in summer
- June 14-29—Tour of Germany (a few spaces still available)

Our tours are informative and fun, and we invite you to join us this year. For more information please contact Karin Kravitz at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com). 

*Gillian Mathews and Renee Montgelas are NHS Tour Committee co-chairs.*

AS WE START PLANNING for this year's tours, it's always fun to look back at the previous year.

In 2012 we expanded our offerings to reflect the range of interests of NHS members. We started with a late spring day hike with Daniel Mount to view wildflowers along Umtanum Creek Canyon near Ellensburg.

Our popular Meet the Designer series featured three local designers. Virginia Hand showed three of her Seattle Queen Anne projects, including her own garden and studio, sharing her design philosophy and techniques. Past NHS President Richard Hartlage gave a behind-the-scenes view of the recently opened Chihuly Garden and Glass. In October, we had a unique opportunity to tour the Gates Foundation campus with designer Shannon Nichol, founding partner of the internationally renowned firm Gustafson Guthrie Nichol.

Summer is prime garden touring time. The Bainbridge Island tour in July was wildly popular. NHS member Deborah Cheadle conducted the tour of four island gardens, including her own two-acre garden and the new garden of Little and Lewis.

The "away" garden tour in 2012 was a five-day visit to



# GREAT PLANT PICKS 2013: SMALL SPACES—BIG IMPACT!

RICK PETERSON



ABOVE: *Anemone nemorosa*

RIGHT: *Epimedium grandiflorum* 'Yubae'  
(Richie Steffen)



YOU LOVE PLANTS. “So many plants, so little space” could definitely be the bumper sticker for your car. For gardeners with small yards or an urban plot there is always the concern of selecting plants that won't overwhelm in size. This can be especially important when one has a large variety of plants. For 2013, Great Plant Picks (GPP), an educational program of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, is focusing on GPP selections for smaller spaces.

Nearly all of the bulbs selected as Great Plant Picks will fit nicely into a small garden; in fact, one could plant a variety of alliums, snowdrops, daffodils, and tulips and still have room to spare. Chase away the winter doldrums with *Galanthus elwesii*, giant snowdrops, which begins to bloom in January. Brighten your March with golden yellow trumpets of *Narcissus* 'King Alfred'. Although it sometimes seems to be planted everywhere, few other bulbs provide such a glorious splash of color in late winter.

There is a myriad of excellent smaller plants for perennial spring color. *Anemone nemorosa*, or wood anemone, is a low growing, spreading colonizer with brightly colored single

flowers in shades of blue, purple, pink, or white. Plant wood anemone with our native *Trillium ovatum*, *Pulmonaria* 'Benediction', and *Epimedium* 'Yubae' for a lovely early spring display.

For a small area in shade choose from several handsome ferns such as *Polystichum polyblepharum*, *P. neolobatum*, or *P. makinoi*, and mix with *Hosta* 'Minuteman', *H.* 'Patriot', or *H.* 'Loyalist'. Add *Smilacina racemosa* and a few *Helleborus* × *hybridus* for a winning textural combination.

Conifers include some of the tallest and oldest plants on earth, but the GPP selection committee has chosen over 40 conifers which will not overpower a small garden.

Some are dwarf shrublets such as *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana', *Thujaopsis dolabrata* 'Nana', and *Tsuga canadensis* 'Jervis' while others are trees with a very narrow habit: *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Green Arrow' and *C. nootkatensis* 'Van den Akker'. All of the preceding as well as the other 30 odd conifers will provide year-round attraction in a small area.

If you're fond of maples, but don't have a lot of room, GPP has an excellent selection, whether you're looking for a tree with stunning fall color, eye-catching bark, or a native plant. Japanese maples are noted for their crimson, orange, and golden foliage in autumn, and many listed on the GPP website mature at about 20 feet or less. For tree trunks that are strikingly unique try *Acer griseum*, *A. tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt', or *A. triflorum*. The vine maple, *Acer circinatum*, is always an excellent choice along with either cultivar of this native plant: *A. circinatum* 'Monroe' with its deeply divided leaves or *A. circinatum* 'Pacific Fire'—new to the GPP list this year—with coral red bark!

A fantastic array of clematis dominate the choice of vines for smaller gardens, but be sure to consider the unusual intergeneric hybrid, × *Fatsyhedera lizei*, or its variegated variation × *F. lizei* 'Annemieke'.

For those with a limited gardening area, but who want a big impact from reliable and showy plants, there are almost 500 Great Plant Picks selections for smaller spaces to peruse at [www.greatplantpicks.org](http://www.greatplantpicks.org), each with its own “fact sheet” describing outstanding attributes, culture, and plant combinations. 📄

*Rick Peterson is the Great Plant Picks manager.*

# ALL ABOUT HOSTAS

RIZANIÑO “RIZ” REYES

REGARDED AS THE MOST POPULAR perennial plant for the shade, hostas truly have earned their place in the landscape. Predominantly grown for their luxurious leaves adding form and texture to the landscape, they truly are more versatile and diverse than most gardeners think. In a push for more low maintenance plantings, many frown on the amount of water they seem to require and the never-ending battle in controlling pesky slugs and snails. However, there's no denying the drama they add and the resilience of their hardiness. Here are the answers to the most commonly asked questions about hostas in the hopes you'll rediscover an appreciation for these “tried and true” staples of the shade garden!



*Hosta 'El Niño' (Riz Reyes)*

## What's the best way to control slugs and snails?

There are numerous brands of slug and snail bait on the market. Be sure to read the labels concerning toxicity to pets. Copper tape and beer traps are also common, but with variable results. Some growers also claim that having very coarse, rough mulch such as woodchips, hazelnut shells, and gravel slows down their activity. The key is to apply treatment very early in the season when the shoots are developing.

## What kind of soil do they like?

Hostas like a rich, moisture-retentive soil that also drains well. Amending your soil with organic matter will give ample root room and nourishment for lush, healthy plants.

## Can I grow hostas in a container?

You can grow any hosta in a container, but the smaller varieties seem more suited for this growing method. Use a good quality potting soil, a container with drainage, and water regularly during the growing season.

## How do I plant a hosta under a tree?

Care must be taken not to overly disturb the roots of the tree when digging a hole. Spread the roots out as well as you can when planting a hosta and backfill with the native soil along with compost or topsoil to cover the roots. Hostas under trees require regular irrigation and you may notice the hosta may not reach its

full size because of the severe competition. To alleviate this, grow the hosta in a container in that space instead.

## How much water do they need?

Mature specimens are actually capable of withstanding some dry periods, but for the most part, they need regular watering during the growing season to keep them looking their best. An inch of water each week, per plant, is about correct.

## When can you divide/transplant a hosta?

The easiest time to divide hostas is in early spring when they are just emerging. As long as each piece has a shoot with roots attached, they will grow into a healthy plant.

## Are there hostas that like more sun or more shade?

Golden-leaf and variegated varieties get their best coloring with a bit more light while the blue selections tend to do best in more consistent shade. Avoid planting in full direct sunlight, but they also dislike being in constant darkness.

## Should I cut off the flowering stems?

A few gardeners don't like the flowering stems of hostas and choose to cut them off, but there are many varieties with exquisite, large flowers that are often very fragrant. (See *Hosta plantaginea*, *H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'*, *H. 'Stained Glass'*, and *H. 'Royal Standard'*.)

## What plants look good with hostas?

Spring ephemerals and small spring bulbs are wonderful while hostas are just starting to come out of the ground. Ornamental grasses for shade like Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra*) and black mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'*) are classics along with coral bells (*Heuchera*), and assorted ferns.

By keeping these few pointers in mind, the versatility and durability of the hosta become evident by adding a bold and dramatic feature in just about any situation in the garden. 🌿

*Rizaniño “Riz” Reyes is a landscape designer and horticultural consultant, and is a former NHS board member.*

# VOLUNTEER PROFILE: KIRSTEN FITZGERALD

KARIN KRAVITZ

WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING for a great volunteer you're always looking for that person who has a difficult time saying "NO!" Kirsten Fitzgerald is such a person, and NHS has been the recipient of her many volunteer talents for years.

Kirsten was born in Montreal and raised in Vermont, but luck came her way in 1990 when she moved to the mild Northwest climate. She became an NHS member because both her mother-in-law, Mary Kay Fitzgerald, and her sister-in-law, Carol Eland, both NHS members, began bringing her to lectures and symposiums. During her first two board terms from 2000–2006 she worked on the Symposium Committee, chaired the Membership Committee, managed the booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and worked on the library auctions and the plant sales, creating the original volunteer tee shirts that many of you collected.

Not only did Kirsten get involved in NHS because of her family, but we have enjoyed



*Kirsten planning for springtime  
(Davin Fitzgerald)*

their help over the years as well. Her husband David helped her lug our old barn wood flower show booth back and forth to the show. At six her son Davin (now a senior in high school) coached her and timed her 15 second TV spots advertising the plant sale, and many of you remember her bringing the quietly dozing Aiden (now 10) to lectures in 2003.

In addition to working with her husband in his wholesale outdoor gear business, she keeps busy with school and sports activities with David and her three sons. Perhaps she is able to do so much because she starts her days early rowing at 4:30 am spring through fall several days a week. We were very happy when she decided to make time again for NHS and rejoin our board in 2011 as treasurer. Her beautiful garden is full of wonderful plants, even though she claims that she still has pots from past plant sales dating back to 2005 waiting to be planted. 🌱

*Karin Kravitz is the NHS administrator.*

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# LITERARY NOTES

## FROM THE MILLER LIBRARY

BRIAN THOMPSON



LIKE MANY SEATTLE GARDENS, mine is small and shady, making this issue of *Garden Notes* especially rich in helpful ideas for me. To supplement those ideas, I've chosen a few books that are especially focused on small, urban spaces.

An old favorite of our Information Technology Librarian Tracy Mehlin is *The City Gardener's Handbook: From Balcony to Backyard* (1990) by Linda Yang. This New York City author conversationally works step-by-step through all aspects of city gardening. I particularly like how each paragraph is annotated in a side column of highlights.

Yang finds a nice balance between no-nonsense practicality and a light humorous touch. I learned a lot from "the crossword puzzle approach" to plant selection, while her essay on "end-of-season blues" is perfect reading when garden devotion is flagging.

Container gardening is one way of dealing with limited space options, and my favorite book on this subject is *The Encyclopedia of Container Plants* (2010) written by Ray Rogers with superb photographs by Rob Cardillo. This A-Z encyclopedia considers five design attributes—color, line, form, space, and texture—for every entry.

While the emphasis is on ornamentals, food plants that have good looks are included, too. Rogers' ideas are creative, useful, and fun. After lamenting the aggressiveness of mint he suggests, "...tease mint by growing it in a hanging basket placed high above ground level; only the most determined (and unwatched) mint will be able to reach the soil and run away."

Our own Marty Wingate emphasizes design principles and problem solving in *Big Ideas for Northwest Small Gardens* (2003). Her tips help you expand your sense of space in a small garden or deal with dark, difficult corners. Other ideas help with blocking neighborhood eyesores and masking urban noise.

Marty is particularly good at giving you permission. Yes, you can have a wildlife garden in the city. Of course your garden is big enough for a water feature. And yes, you can even have chickens on your wee estate.

Need more ideas? Come to the **Garden Lovers' Book Sale** on **April 5-6**—details at [www.millerlibrary.org](http://www.millerlibrary.org). 📖

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

### ~ THANKS TO OUR 2013 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!*

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# THE STORY OF PLANTS: PULMONARIAS

DANIEL MOUNT

GARDENERS, LIKE DOCTORS, often get trapped at parties by people with a thousand worrisome questions. They'll ask you about a plant in their garden with yellowing leaves, or bugs. Then they'll brag about their tomato harvest or reminisce about their mother's rose garden, how meaningful it was to her. I'm all for finding meaning in your life through plants, but not necessarily roses. The conversation invariably leads to the question: "What is your favorite plant?" After all, gardeners always have favorite plants, collect them to a distraction, and become mini-experts on them telling you how and why to grow them *ad nauseum*.

I have many favorite plants—willows and aloes, cabbages and conifers—yet I am hard pressed to choose my favorite. So I have a spring-loaded response to the question: lungwort. Usually this releases me from my party trap, and I'm free to go freshen my drink, or wander past the hors d'oeuvre table again.

Lungworts, better known as pulmonarias, are truly one of my favorite plants, so I am not lying, and let me tell you why. They're workhorses. And there is one among the over 150 forms and cultivars that has put lungworts on my favorites list: *Pulmonaria saccharata* 'Margery Fish'.

I planted it 10 years ago in a client's garden. Though many plants have come and gone, 'Margery Fish' has stayed put growing in volume and beauty. Its mildew resistance, heavily spotted leaves, and early bloom time earned it the RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993.



*Pulmonaria* 'Margery Fish' (Daniel Mount)

I planted it with wine-colored heliobores which pick up the intermediary mauve as the pink buds open becoming blue flowers. This changing flower color, one of the charms of pulmonarias, actually has a function. The pH of the flower changes as nectar develops. The final blue signals bees that dinner is ready.

Not all of the 14 or so species in this complicated genus have this trait. One can find solid blue flowers, solid pink flowers, blue buds that turn pink, and pure white flowers. Plant breeders revel in this variability and the genus's ability to form interspecific hybrids.

*Pulmonaria* cultivation began with *Pulmonaria officinalis* in the sixteenth century. Grown in medicinal herb gardens it was thought to cure lung problems, thus the names *lungwort* and

*pulmonaria* from the Latin word for lung, *pulmo*. In the eighteenth century lungworts entered the ornamental garden. The first one in the U.S. was planted in Bartram's garden in 1728. Breeding in earnest didn't start until the late twentieth century and much of that as recently as the 1990s.

Since 'Margery Fish' I have planted many other cultivars in my gardens. 'Benediction' with its vivid blue flowers and narrow sparsely spotted foliage tops my list of favorites.

*P. rubra* 'Redstart' with its early dainty coral flowers renews her spell over me each spring, though I find I gravitate more toward the pure blue cultivars

like the stunner 'Trevi Fountain'. I think this year I may even add a pure white cultivar to my collection.

Oh no, did I say collection?

Where will it go with all the other members of the Boraginaceae getting room in my garden: the alkanets (*Anchusa*), the bluebells (*Mertensia*), the navelworts (*Omphalodes*) and the brunneras (*Brunnera*)? The weedy forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*), borage (*Borago*) and white comfrey (*Symphytum orientale*) finding footing in my garden show that my favoritism graces not only the pulmonarias but the whole borage family.

Now you'll never have to ask me what my favorite plant family is.

Just ask me if my drink needs freshening. ☞

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



## MASTERING THE ULTIMATE MIXED BORDER: 2013 SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL CLASSES WITH DANIEL MOUNT

THIS SERIES OF FOUR CLASSES over the course of a growing season will provide you with the information and inspiration you need to design, install, and maintain the ultimate mixed border. Returning to the same garden over six months will give you a chance to understand the workings of these very complex borders. The variety of plants in these borders includes: deciduous trees, conifers and dwarf conifers, broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, deciduous shrubs, vines, hardy perennials, grasses, tender perennials/temperennials, hardy and tender annuals, four season bulbs, ground covers, and edibles.

Attaining visual and cultural success with a multitude of plants is not always easy. Instructor and gardener Daniel Mount has spent the last 10 years designing, grooming, and tweaking these borders at the private estate in Medina where these classes will be held. His deep understanding of the



conditions under which he is gardening, the various needs of plants, and the client's desire for year-round interest has created a gallery of borders where he explores and plays with color and texture with a sprawling palette of plants. These borders have appeared on the cover of *Sunset* (April 2005) and more recently in *Fine Gardening* (October 2012).

Don't miss this one time opportunity for an in-depth study of the principles of mixed border creation and care.

The classes will meet from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on four Wednesdays: **April 3; June 5; August 7; and October 2, 2013.** (There will be a free bonus class on **December 4** for those who sign up for all four classes.)

See details on page 10. 📖

## PLANT NERD NIGHT THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013, 6:00-9:00 PM

IF YOU CAME TO PLANT NERD NIGHT last spring you know how much fun it was to join radio and TV personality Ciscoe Morris for an evening of fun and frolic to satisfy every plant lover's dream. Six specialty nurseries presented their favorite new plants and there was a mad frenzy by all attending "horti-holics" to purchase their exciting recommendations.

This year we are going to have Plant Nerd Night in the summer so that we can enjoy the wonderful summer weather and the plant sale can be outside. There will be more room inside for the program and the auction of sensational plants plus garden events and art. Ciscoe will again be hosting with the assistance of Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm. There will be a bluegrass band, amazing silent and live auction items, food, wine, six specialty nurseries to tell us about this year's must-have plants, and lots and lots of plants for sale.

### 2013 Specialty Nurseries

- Cistus Nursery, Portland
- Far Reaches Farm, Port Townsend
- Keeping It Green Nursery, Stanwood
- Lee Farm & Nursery, Fall City
- Robinwood Nursery, Vashon Island
- T&L Nursery, Redmond

We wish to thank our **sponsors** who help us make this event possible.

- Ravenna Gardens
- Sky Nursery
- Wells Medina Nursery

Don't miss this opportunity to have a fabulous evening and support the NHS education and grant programs. 📖

*Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 8:00 am*  
*Brown Paper Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com/](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/)*

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## ~ SPRING CLASSES ~

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Bulbs with Rick Kyper*

Rick Kyper is a well-known horticulturist, plantsman, and extraordinary garden designer. He imports bulbs and seeds from around the world for experimentation as well as for his clients. Rick will review a multitude of different bulb types and will focus on requirements that will achieve optimal growing results. You will see blooming bulbs in containers as well as in the ground.

LOCATION: KYPER GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 20

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Primroses for the Northwest Garden with Richie Steffen*

Primroses are a herald of spring, offering long-lasting color and a wealth of variation in flower form and size. Join the curator of the Miller Botanical Garden, Richie Steffen, for a stroll through the garden to see delightful selections and species that will thrive for you, and learn how to use these versatile perennials effectively in your own garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Broadleaf Evergreens for the Landscape with Holly Zipp*

Broadleaf evergreens abound at the Miller Garden! Head Gardener Holly Zipp will give a tour of the collection of these workhorses of the garden showing how they are used in every layer of the garden, from backdrop to standout. She will discuss how they can be used to create interest, texture, and drama in your own garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

### *Tour of the Volunteer Park Conservatory and Propagation Techniques in the Production House*

Senior gardener of the Conservatory, David Helgeson, will lead a tour of the beautiful, century-old conservatory and Jeanne Schollmeyer, senior gardener of the production house, will lead a tour of the Conservatory's production greenhouses. She will demonstrate the propagation and growing techniques used to produce the displays for the Conservatory. In addition, Ross Bayton, former garden editor and writer for Britain's largest selling horticulture magazine *Gardeners' World*, will show some of his home propagation techniques. This class will include hands-on propagation techniques, and you will take home small plants.

LOCATION: VOLUNTEER PARK CONSERVATORY/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$45.00 LIMIT: 18

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

### *Ferns for the Northwest Garden with Richie Steffen*

Foliage is "in" and ferns are hot! Join passionate fern expert Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Botanical Garden, for a look at this amazing and beautiful group of plants. As you tour the garden with Richie you will discover some of the best ferns for the Northwest and learn how to use them effectively in the shade garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

FOR CLASS AND TOUR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL NWHORT  
@AOL.COM OR CALL KARIN KRAVITZ AT 206-780-8172.

## ~ WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES ~

RECEPTION 6:45 PM LECTURE 7:15 PM  
NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE  
MEMBERS \$5.00 NON-MEMBERS \$10.00  
NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN

APRIL 10, 2013

### *Abundance: A Year-Round Guide to Eating Fresh from Your Garden*

LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER

MAY 8, 2013

### *Natural Companions: Inspiring Combinations of Plants that Grow Together and Bloom at the Very Same Time*

KEN DRUSE

JUNE 12, 2013

### *Design by Plagiarism: Why Stealing from the Best Makes Sense*

BILLY GOODNICK

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE  
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG

## ~ MIXED BORDER CLASSES ~

### *Mastering the Ultimate Mixed Border with Daniel Mount*

A series of four classes over the course of a growing season will provide you with the information and inspiration you need to design, install, and maintain the ultimate mixed border. See full description on page 9.

LOCATION: PRIVATE GARDEN/MEDINA

- Wednesday, April 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 7, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

FEE PER CLASS: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 25

SERIES FEE (PAY FOR ALL FOUR CLASSES PRIOR TO FIRST CLASS.)

FEE: MEMBERS: \$100.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$140.00 LIMIT: 25

For those who purchase the full series prior to the first class there will be a bonus class on **Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.**

## ~ MEET THE DESIGNER CLASSES ~

### *Spring at Chihuly Garden and Glass with Richard Hartlage*

SESSION 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

SESSION 2: TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Join Richard Hartlage for a tour and inside view of the design process he and his team undertook to create the 3/4 acre Chihuly Garden and Glass. We'll spend about 90 minutes with Richard, and then you can explore the garden on your own. The fee includes the entrance fee.

LOCATION: CHIHULY GARDEN AND GLASS/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$55.00 LIMIT: 25

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

### *Meet the Designer at Home with Richard Hartlage*

Over the years many of you have seen Richard's work in both public and private gardens in the Pacific Northwest and on the East Coast. This is an opportunity to see how he has designed his personal garden.

LOCATION: HARTLAGE GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$55.00 LIMIT: 10



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREG GRAVES

AS I SIT HERE IN LATE WINTER looking out the window, I already see signs of spring. The snowdrops and hellebores are up and blooming. The buds are starting to swell on a number of trees and shrubs. We managed to get through the winter with very little snow and no major storms. It's a very hopeful time of year.

Fortunately, I do not have to devote as much time this year to garden clean-up because like most of you, I did that last fall (ha ha). There is always something to do, but no trees fell, so I can spend a bit more time in the nursery. All those seeds are coming up and need transplanting.

For NHS, we have been off to an early start with lots going on the past few months and much more to come. One of the big highlights to put on your calendar is **Plant Nerd Night**. It has been moved this year from spring to **July 25** and will be more of a summer party. It will have all of the fun of last year but since it is the driest part of the year we can move part of it outdoors. Tickets for this event will go on sale on **May 1, 2013**, through Brown Paper Tickets. [Editor's note: See page 9 for more information.]

There are three more monthly lectures before we take a summer break. In April, Lorene Edwards Forkner, editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, will talk about her new book: *Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*. In May, Ken Druse will discuss *Natural Companions* telling us about plant combinations that grow together and bloom at the very same time. Following Ken in June will be Billy Goodnick talking about garden design. Billy will tell us how to take what we see in other gardens and use that knowledge in our own.

Throughout the spring and into the summer we will continue to have a number of classes in the garden. You can check the website ([www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org)) for more information on those. You can also keep an eye on the website for local tours. The Tour Committee is hard at work on a few different tours that I'm sure will go fast. Both the tours and classes have become a very popular part of NHS. [See page 3 for more information.]

Another advance notice on an item that the Tour Committee is working on is a fall trip to New York and the Hudson River Valley from **September 27–October 2, 2013**. You might want to note this date for a tour that should be great fun.

Well, that's all the news I know of, so it's time for me to get out into the nursery and get to all those seeds. Happy spring! 🌱

*Greg Graves is the president of NHS.*

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## NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

THANKS TO ALL OF THE MANY enthusiastic volunteers at the combined NHS/PHS booth this year, we sold a record number of memberships and subscriptions. Both **Carol Holloway** and **Robin Wyll** sold six membership/subscriptions and each won a ticket to Plant Nerd Night and an annual membership to NHS with a *Pacific Horticulture* magazine subscription.

The Washington Park Arboretum won the 2013 Pacific Horticulture Award again this year. The judging committee consisted of Valerie Easton, Lorene Edwards Forkner, Keith Geller, and Ray Larson. When asked to elaborate on the committee's choice Valerie Easton said, "The Arboretum's Hobbit inspired New Zealand garden won because of its exciting-but-within-the-realm-of-possibility plant palette, naturalistic topography, and harmonious design. The judges loved the half-hidden

bubbling pools that looked almost like hot springs, and how comfortable the colorful, textural palette of ferns, hebes, and phormiums looked growing together."

The other garden that had horticulturists all abuzz was the exciting plant-rich Founder's Cup award-winning garden designed by NHS member **Riz Reyes**. Everyone who stopped by the booth commented that these two gardens had brought

plants back to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

Again this year, NHS member **Wendy Welch** designed an incredible garden and play environment for the Seattle PlayGarden. Thanks to all the NHS members who volunteered at this garden. Since it was spring break, it was full of the happiest and most passionate flower show attendees. Many tears were shed when they had to leave Robinson Crusoe's island. 🌱



*Winner of the Pacific Horticulture Award:  
A Hobbit's New Zealand Garden created by  
the Arboretum (Judy Redmond)*



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RICHIE STEFFEN, GREAT PLANT PICKS

*Epimedium 'Starlet' and Schizophragma hydrangeoides 'Moonlight'*

*In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours.  
Mark Twain, 1835-1910, American author and humorist*

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