

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2013

~ 2013 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM ~

The New European Garden: Principles and Gardening Practices that Make Sense for Everyone's Garden

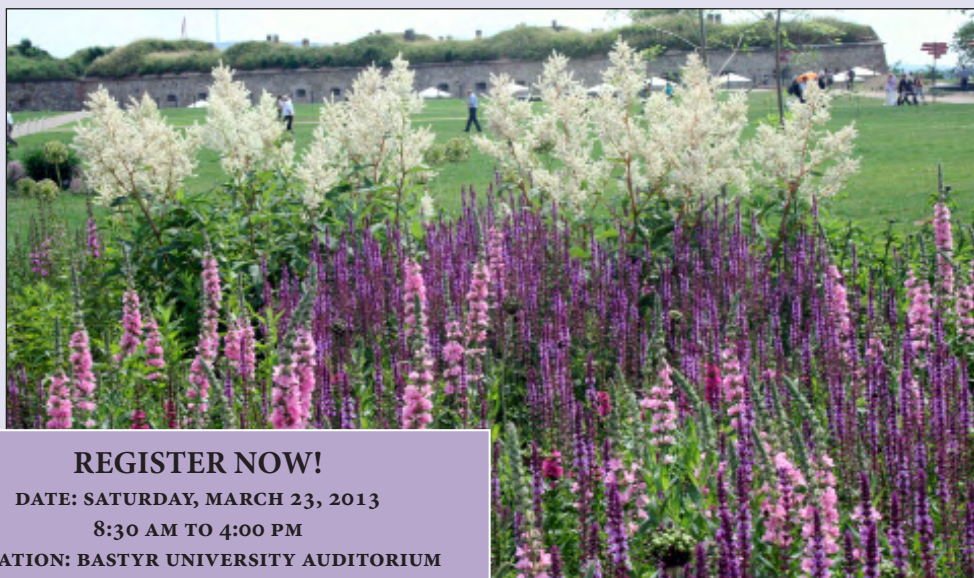
HANS MANDT

IN 1992, AFTER SEEING the perennial plantings at **Weihenstephan** and **Westpark** in Munich and **Hermannshof** in Weinheim, the British garden writer Stephen Lacey coined the phrase, "The New German Style Garden." The new German planting style is to base your perennial garden strictly on ecological rather than on aesthetic principles. In other words, try to imitate nature.

The use of clumping grasses is a hallmark of the German style. Grasses are planted throughout the garden, each in its own natural habitat, and act as foils for other flowering perennials. They impart a naturalistic, meadow-like look to the garden as a whole and provide low maintenance, mixed species "communities" planted on low-fertility soils corresponding to those found in the wild, and dispersed in naturalistic rhythms and repetitions.

Although much of this work has been done relatively recently based on research into perennials published in 1981 by Richard Hansen and Friedrich Stahl, the foundations go back to the early nineteenth century.

Karl Foerster (1874–1970) is con-



REGISTER NOW!

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013

8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

LOCATION: BASTYR UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM
14500 JUANITA DRIVE NE, KENMORE, WA 98028

FEE: MEMBERS \$65.00, NON-MEMBERS \$85.00
(fee includes lunch)

REGISTRATION:

E-MAIL NWHORT@AOL.COM OR PHONE 206-780-8172

sidered the father of the new German garden style. He pioneered the use of grasses in perennial plantings, as well as the development of improved perennial selections. Today, his garden in Potsdam is a mecca for those who appreciate this style of garden.

By 1996, the Dutch had evolved their take on the work in Germany. The

A perennial border designed by Petra Pelz for the 2011 National Garden Show in Koblenz, Germany (Petra Pelz)

designer Piet Oudolf and others developed gardens with more freestyle artistry than in Germany. Their gardens were still centered on grasses and wild perennials, but they were more of a personal evocation of nature rather than being fueled by strict ecology. With this work, the new European garden was expanded and popularized in England and America. ▶

2013 Spring Gardening Symposium . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

To give you an insight into applying these planting and design ideas into your own gardens, the Northwest Horticultural Society, with support from the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation and the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden is bringing some of the leading horticulturists and garden designers from Germany and Holland to Seattle to present *The New European Garden: Principles and Gardening Practices that Make Sense for Everyone's Garden*.

~ SPEAKERS ~

CASSIAN SCHMIDT**THE NEW EUROPEAN GARDEN:
THE INFLUENCE OF THE
"NEW GERMAN STYLE"**

Cassian Schmidt holds a landscape architecture degree and a master's degree in horticulture. Since 1998, he has been the director of Hermannshof—the garden that provides

the inspiration for the new European garden movement—in Weinheim, Germany. In his naturalistic planting design, the so-called "New German Style," Cassian combines nature, art, and ecology into a concept of "enhanced nature."

Professor Schmidt's research is focused on natural plant communities as models for sustainable plant combinations for the urban environment. He has developed habitat-based low maintenance perennial planting combinations. According to Cassian, planting in Europe today is influenced by concern for ecology, attractive garden design, and maintenance requirements.

Cassian's goal is to utilize grasses and ornamental perennials to create plant combinations with the potential to become hardy, robust plant communities.

PETRA PELZ**EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN WITH
GRASSES AND PERENNIALS**

Petra Pelz grew up in the former East Germany, and studied landscape architecture in Erfurt. In 1993, she established her own practice and since 1999, her inspired designs have been showcased at state and federal garden shows throughout Germany.

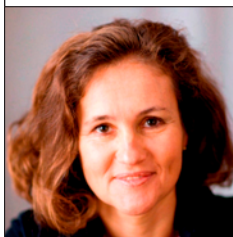


The U.S. Perennial Plant Association awarded Petra their highest landscape design awards in 2005. Her book *Grasses in the Garden* received the German Horticultural Society's Book Prize. Petra is currently overseeing the installation of her garden for the International Garden Show in Hamburg in 2013.

Inspired by the prairie landscape, the grasses, and their communities of perennials, Petra has aspired to transfer the captivating aspects of the prairie to her gardens. Employing relatively few species, she creates a blooming "carpet" interspersed with a few dominant, stately grasses or multi-season shrubs as accents. She believes that gardens should provide refuges from our busy lives: places to slow down, connect with natural cycles, and experience the healing power of plants.

CHRISTINE OREL**HERBACEOUS BORDER DESIGN
INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPE**

Educated in Weihenstephan, **Christine**



Orel has been an independent landscape architect since 1990. Her projects include state garden shows and parks in Germany, Austria,

and Holland. Christine's book *The New Annual and Perennial Flower Garden* won an award for excellence in her profession in 2012. Christine's approach to landscape design goes beyond the theory of plant communities. She tries to establish a connection to the spirit of the location and create designs suited to each site. Her designs are characterized by unusual combinations of color and form. She also utilizes the character of plants to create distinctive combinations. The arrangement of plants and distribution of flowers, leaf sizes, and colors are used to create the atmosphere she seeks.

Developing rhythm and structure throughout the space is as significant as the relationship of foliage and flowers in defining the atmosphere of the garden.

GERT FORTGENS**GARDEN DESIGNERS, PLANTS,
AND PLANTINGS TRENDS IN THE
NETHERLANDS**

Gert Fortgens is a graduate of the Horticultural College at Boskoop, Netherlands. He has done research into the nomenclature and garden

worthiness of perennials and woody ornamentals at the Boskoop Research Station. Since 1996, Gert has been the director and curator of Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum in Rotterdam.

Gert will introduce important Dutch and other European landscape designers, along with their plantings, built on combinations of bulbs, perennials, and woody ornamentals. Additionally, he will discuss some recent plant introductions and their garden worthiness, together with their possible gardens uses. 🌿

Hans Mandt is chair of the Symposium Committee.

NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
**FREE ADMISSION TO THE SHOW—
 WIN A FREE TICKET FOR PLANT NERD NIGHT!**

VOLUNTEER AT THE NHS BOOTH or the Pacific Horticulture booth for a three hour shift **February 20-24** at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show and get free admission to the show on the day of your shift.

Since NHS is the Northwest regional society that sponsors *Pacific Horticulture* magazine we will be combining our booths again this year in a joint effort to sell NHS memberships and *Pacific Horticulture* subscriptions. This will be a great opportunity for us to promote the new face of *Pacific Horticulture*. Volunteering at the booth is a great opportunity to greet NHS



members and make new gardening friends. During the rest of the day of your shift use your free admittance to enjoy all that the show has to offer.

Volunteers who sell six new NHS memberships and/or *Pacific Horticulture* subscriptions will win a ticket to **Plant Nerd Night on July 25, 2013**. The volunteer who sells the most new NHS memberships will be awarded a free one year NHS membership with a subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine.

Volunteer early to secure your first choice of shifts. Contact **Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com or 206 780-8172.** 🌿

NHS MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT GARDEN SHOW

JANET ENDSLEY

EXPERIENCE *EVERYTHING* GARDENING when the Northwest Flower & Garden Show heralds spring for new and well-seasoned gardeners **February 20–24, 2013**, at the Washington State Convention Center. Look for NHS luminaries to delight audiences with their knowledge and passion about plants and gardening in some entertaining seminars, free to all attendees.

Be sure to follow **The Garden Show Blog** to read about all the stars coming to the show. You can win free tickets by following us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/gardenshow, Pinterest: pinterest.com/nwfgs/, and Twitter: twitter.com/nwfgs. The seminar schedule and speaker bios are online at www.gardenshow.com/seminars. 🌿

~ **Wednesday, February 20** ~

Marianne Binetti—

- Drama Without the Drinking
- Lucy Hardiman—Scenes from the Street
- Karen Chapman—Focus on Foliage
- Meghan Fuller—You Planted What?!

~ **Thursday, February 21** ~

Marianne Binetti—

- Easy Answers to Great Gardens
- Gardening 101 Symposium:**
- Indispensible Plants**
- Val Easton—
- Bulbs: Treasures in Small Packages
- Nita-Jo Rountree—
- Annuals: Big Bangs for the Bucks
- Kelly Dodson & Sue Milliken—
- Perennials: From Lust to Must

Lorene Edwards Forkner—Feasting in Winter

~ **Friday, February 22** ~

Lorene Edwards Forkner—Homegrown

Gardening 101 Symposium:

Design Solutions

- Marty Wingate—
- Privacy: Now You See It—Now You Don't
- Lucy Hardiman—Sensational Garden Design for Small Spaces
- Ciscoe Morris—Turn Your Garden into a Wildlife Sanctuary

~ **Saturday, February 23** ~

Gardening 101 Symposium:

Perfect Your Pruning

- Cass Turnbull—
- Renovating Ugly Rhodies

Ciscoe Morris—Good Things Do Come in Small Packages

Debra Prinzing—

- Channel Your Inner Floral Designer
- Riz Reyes—The Big, the Bold, the Bodacious
- Charles Needle—Ready for Your Closeup

~ **Sunday, February 24** ~

- Karen Chapman—Spotlight on Foliage
- Debra Prinzing—The Secret Gardens of Hollywood
- Cass Turnbull—Tuff Luv: Renovate the Overgrown Garden
- Richie Steffen—City Slickers
- Phil Wood—East Meets West

Janet Endsley is the seminar and social media manager for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

A TOUR OF PRIVATE ENGLISH GARDENS

DEBORAH CHEADLE



Gertrude Jekyll garden when Rosamund and John Wallinger bought it. They've faithfully restored it to be the most authentic Jekyll garden in existence. The strictly geometric beds in the Formal Garden were softened by loose plantings of soft pinks and grays. Long side borders backed by yews are planted in "typical Jekyllian drifts with plants whose colors move from cool blues and whites at either end through warm yellows and oranges to central fiery reds," to quote from the brochure.

Eastleach House is the very personal garden of Stephanie Richards who moved there in 1982. She, along with her husband and children, hacked away at acres of brambles to carve out a garden. One outstanding feature of this garden is a vista down

a long, narrow linden tree avenue, extending through an arbor of yews surrounding the statue of a stag, to a field of red-orange poppies.

The garden of **Dr. Christine Facer** was no typical English country house garden. Dr. Facer, formerly a specialist in African malaria and other diseases, is now a landscape designer whose contemporary work is inspired by scientific facts and theories, as well as the numbers and patterns found in nature. The Cosmic Evolution Garden is an enclosed room with walls of hedges clipped into triangles and hexagrams. Inside, on a lawn surrounding a central bed, sat stone balls resting on oval mirrors, each ball carved with a scientific equation.

It was a wonderful opportunity to visit these gardens and to be guided by owners who have created with passion, dedication, and love worlds of color, scent, and pattern. When I'm in these gardens, I have a vague feeling of familiarity. Perhaps this memory is only as old as my childhood reading of nursery rhyme books. I think it may come from a deeper place, one that resonates with a sense of security that gardens have provided to humans from the beginning of civilization and that the English have mastered in their gardens for centuries. 🌿

Deborah Cheadle is a garden designer who gardens on Bainbridge Island. She can be reached at Cheadled@aol.com.

ABOVE LEFT:

Geometrically pruned hedges surround stone balls in the Garden of Cosmic Evolution

ABOVE RIGHT: *A visitor strolls beneath white wisteria*

BELOW RIGHT: *Yew arches frame a stag sculpture with fields of red-orange poppies in the distance*
(Deborah Cheadle)



I'VE BEEN ENAMORED WITH THE IDEA OF ENGLAND and its gardens since I read *The Illustrated Treasury of Children's Literature* as a child and memorized its drawings of eighteenth century children with bonnets and baskets full of flowers.

So I was thrilled to have the chance to participate in a garden tour last summer comprised of private English gardens. We were bussed from a house in the northwest corner of Berkshire to gardens all over the Cotswolds and southern England.

While every garden had trimmed hedges of boxwood and yew, my favorites were huge billowing clouds of boxwood that dwarfed visitors.

A highlight was a tunnel of white wisteria in full dazzle. Many flowering shrubs were at their peak but perhaps most memorable was *Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile'* whose sweet perfume filled the air.

The **Manor House at Upton Grey** was a derelict 1908

CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE: GARDENS AS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES

HILLARY BURGESS

GREGOR MENDEL, A NINETEENTH CENTURY monk and gardener discovered the phenomenon of heredity by growing peas. If we suppose that *observant* gardeners can be considered naturalists, and that *diligent* naturalists can be considered scientists, it's not a stretch to believe that any one of us could be poised for an exciting discovery. Citizen science is a growing movement that empowers individuals, through collective action, to do just that. By collaborating with professional scientists, regular people are making scientific contributions from discovering new planets, to tracking the invasion of scotch broom, to documenting the consequences of climate change.

Citizen science programs are a combination of continuing education and volunteerism. Contributors interact with a community of professional scientists and other citizen scientists, creating a sense of contribution, a deeper understanding of the world around us, and new connections with others.

With support from the NHS Elisabeth C. Miller Scholarship, I've spent the last year working with local gardeners to study the ecology of pollinators in gardens. I am struck by their enthusiasm and the positive outcomes that they expressed about participating. By generously assisting an investigation into how gardening practices influence pollinators, participants took the opportunity to learn and observe new things. They reported a new sense of wonder at the creatures inhabiting their gardens. Volunteers became fascinated by the behavior of the male bumblebee that slept in their flowers, surrounded by a blanket of petals, the honeybee that blew bubbles in their fountains, and the flies that masquerade as bees and also visited flowers.

Armed with a little knowledge and the willingness to observe, participants also made some unintended, surprising, and notable discoveries. Several volunteers documented the presence of a new non-native carder bee, an observation that interested WSU extension agents, the WSDA, and faculty at the UW. Another observed a bumblebee thought to be nearly extinct in our area, an observation of great significance to the Xerces Society, a conservation group that advocates for pollinators.

Though my project has come to a close, I have become passionate about the potential benefits of public involvement in the scientific process for the contributors, the scientists, and science itself. Gardeners in particular have many opportunities for involvement. I outline just a sample of the possibilities below.

If you are a bird lover, The Cornell Lab of Ornithol-

ogy has several programs of interest. For example with **Project Feederwatch**, they want to know what kinds of birds you see at your bird feeder. This information is used to track changes in bird populations and migratory patterns, important for understanding the impacts of climate change and disease.

Folks growing or willing to grow flowers can contribute to a nationwide study on bee pollination. **The Great Sunflower Project** will teach you to identify common bees and how to observe them visiting your flowers. With help from thousands of gardeners, they already have an unprecedented picture of pollination activities and trends in pollinator decline.

Project BudBurst invites participants to record first leaf, bloom, and fruit times of their plants. These recordings are used to track plant responses to local, regional, and global changes in climate. They have fantastic resources that enable participants not only to contribute data, but to observe and explore all of the data in real time.

What these projects have in common is their mission to connect the public with professional science in an effort to better understand our natural world, and, by extension, to conserve it. If you are interested in learning more about these or other citizen science projects, you can visit SciStarter.org or www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit to find resources for a variety of programs. 🐝

Hillary Burgess is a graduate student at the UW Botanic Gardens and was awarded an NHS scholarship in 2011.



ABOVE: The author (left) and Carol Davis (right), a citizen scientist volunteer, count bees. (Andrew Pringle)

LEFT: A drone fly, one of many bee mimics common in the Pacific Northwest (Hillary Burgess)

NHS WANTS YOU . . .TO VOLUNTEER!

ANN LEVASSEUR

ARE THESE PEOPLE HAVING a good time? It certainly looks like it. They're volunteers at the NHS Fall Plant Sale. They and some 75 NHS members produce this sale every September AND have a really good time doing it.

The first time I signed up to work a plant sale was soon after I joined NHS in the 1990s. An announcement for volunteers for the Fall Plant Sale caught my eye. I didn't know many people in the organization and thought I'd like to meet some like-minded people (you know, garden and plant nuts). That was just the beginning of many plant sales I've worked on.

Once you've stuck your toe in the water and determined that this volunteering is a really OK thing to do, you'll find many other opportunities and next thing you know, you could be a board member, on the Education Committee, Library Committee, conducting a class in your garden, helping in the NHS booth at the Northwest Flower &



Debra Prinzing (left) and Suzette Birrell volunteer at the 2012 NHS Fall Plant Sale (Ted Weiler)

Garden Show, and so on. You could even write an article for *Garden Notes*. I'd have to say I've pretty much done all of these things and enjoyed (almost) every minute of it.

I'm also happy to say I have met a lot of like-minded people who are now long-time good friends. This could be true for you, too.

In an organization the size of NHS (about 1,000 strong) there are many of us to do the many jobs that make us the wonderful organization that we are. However, there is always a need and room for new and more energy.

Here are some of the opportunities for you to volunteer coming up in 2013:

- Help maintain the NHS adopted garden on the Pollinator Pathway
- NWFGS Booth (NHS & Pac Hort)
- Spring Plant Sale
- Membership Committee
- Education Committee

- Library Support Committee
- Fall Plant Sale

For further information about any of these opportunities, contact **Karin Kravitz** at 206-780-8172 or nwhort@aol.com. She'll be glad to sign you up! 🌱

Ann LeVasseur is a former NHS board member.

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Jan Barcello
Becky Blackstock
Michelle Blanchette
Nancy Campbell
Julie Davis
Kristine Dillinger
Cheryl Eastberg
Natalie Findlay
Naomi Goodman

Pippa Green
Susan Hawkins
Sarah Hinkley
Mark Josselson
Leslie Jurasek
Gabriel LaValle
Luanne Lemmer
Jody Marx
Linda Rasp

Katherine Read
Koh Shimizu
Magge Soderstrom
Rene Stratton
Jade Waples
Lia Ward
Linda A. Wells
Nancy Wiedhmann
Donita Wilson



HERE COMES THE NHS SPRING PLANT SALE!

DEBORAH HEG

NOW THAT WE'VE PASSED the Winter Solstice, the days, joyfully, are getting longer. Our thoughts begin to shift away from nursery catalog fantasies to actual plants in our hands!

Time to mark our calendars for that early and exciting **NHS Spring Plant Sale: "Ephemerals...and More!"** on **Saturday, March 9, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** at the **Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH)**. It's the third year the Spring Sale is dedicated solely to raising funds for the Miller Library, and we have a fun day of lectures, great plant vendors and plants, plus some special diversions.

Accomplished plantsman **Dan Hinkley** has stepped up again to support the library by presenting two lectures at the sale to enlighten and entertain us. We will witness the season unfolding in Dan's own amazing garden, Windcliff, and learn about good foliage plants that shine in Pacific Northwest gardens.

As a new event this year, we will be convening a panel of local hort-notables for a gardening discussion and Q & A.



Pulsatilla vulgaris (Richie Steffen)

The sale now has two rooms of top-flight sellers increasing the choices and challenges for the plant-obsessed buyer. Additionally, our own **Hans Mandt** will again be making the journey to Oregon to bring back a car full of outstanding hellebores from breeding wizards **Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne** at **Northwest Garden Nursery** in Eugene. These choice plants always go fast. We will again create a beautiful horticultural display

in Merrill Hall to showcase those plants that are noteworthy in the late winter landscape. The Miller Library will be open to answer your gardening questions or recommend good garden reading.

Keep your eyes open for more details to follow as the sale approaches. This has become such a fun event—don't miss it! 🌱

Deborah Heg is an NHS board member and chairs the Miller Library Committee.

LITERARY NOTES FROM THE MILLER LIBRARY

BRIAN THOMPSON

I'M QUITE EXCITED ABOUT the upcoming symposium (see Hans Mandt's article on pages 1-2), especially when remembering my own visit to Westpark in Munich in 1999, which still influences my home garden design. The "New German Style" garden has been described in several books, but most of these are written in German, including the two by speakers Petra Pelz and Christine Orel. However, a couple of books in the Miller Library do provide some connections.

Ornamental Grasses: Wolfgang Oehme and the New American Garden (2009) is primarily a biography of Oehme (1930-2011), the German-born landscape architect who is best known for his work in eastern America, particularly in collaboration with James van Sweden.

But unlike most biographies or books about design, this also includes a list of "Wolfi-plants:" hundreds of Oehme's best plants for this style of garden. Of course, this includes grasses, but there are also many herbaceous perennials, a few ferns, and even swamp and water plants.

Of particular interest for symposium attendees is a chapter by Petra Pelz. She speaks of being inspired by working with Oehme and adopting his ideas to typically smaller German gardens. "The virus had got me. I went on journeys, to meetings [...] learned about other styles of planting and plenty of new plants. These experiences helped me to flesh out Oehme's large scale style and adapt it to our own circumstances."

Hans makes reference to the important early research done by Richard Hansen and Friedrich Stahl. *Perennials and Their Garden Habitats* (1993) is the English translation of their book. While not as eye-appealing as most books on perennials, the detailed information on how plant selections work together and in their setting is unequaled. There are few photographs but there are many line drawings and diagrams. Even if you already have too many books on perennials, this is one you may have overlooked. 🌱

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

THE STORY OF PLANTS: THE YEW

DANIEL MOUNT

ONCE UPON A TIME in a dark valley in western Germany I walked with my friend Eckhard. It was a picturesque valley where you might find the remnants of Hansel and Gretel's bread crumb trail or toadstools. The waters of the Eifgen brook tumble and giggle through this valley on their way to the Rhine. At a curve in the brook stand two ancient European yews (*Taxus baccata*) said by locals to be the site of druidic worship. Eckhard and I thumbed our noses

at the time-worn warning which promised death for those who slept in the sinister shadows of a yew and napped on the roots of those 1,000 year old trees. We woke refreshed in a non-denominational awe.

The name *yew* comes to us from the Old High German *iwe*, a word closely related to the German word for *eternity*. In Germany it was associated with the Winter Solstice, a dark day but also the day the sun began its return. Its association with death and rebirth crosses many cultures from Ireland to Japan. Today we still find ancient yews in church yards and cemeteries. It is hard to ignore the deadly toxicity of all parts of the plant except the red "berry" or aril, when considering these beliefs. It is likewise hard to ignore the longevity of the European yew, up to 5,000 years, and its ability to regenerate.

In the garden, yews have been prized for their easy regeneration from dormant buds, a unique trait among needled-evergreens. This makes them perfect candidates for hedges and topiaries. At Levens Hall in Cumbria, England, the famous yew hedges and topiaries have been sheared yearly ever since their planting in 1692. Even today modernist garden designers like Piet Oudolf and Gilles Clément lend form to their free-flowing designs with the use of clipped yews.

Of the eight species of *Taxus* in the Northern Hemisphere—once considered to be subspecies of *T. baccata*—four species



Taxus cuspidata 'Nana Aurescens' (dwarf golden Japanese yew)

are native to North America. *T. floridana*, one of the rarest conifers, is limited to a 20 mile stretch of the Apalachicola River in northern Florida. Our native Pacific yew (*T. brevifolia*), rare in gardens, has a wide range from southern Alaska to central California. In the last century it had been briefly elevated from its "trash tree" status when the chemical paclitaxel found in the bark was discovered to be an effective treatment for certain cancers.

As a gardener I have retained some of my childhood fear of the dark. I find the patent-leather leaves of black mondo grass funereal and an allée of thundercloud plums oppressive. Yet a dark yew hedge I find exquisite. The most common yew for hedging, the Hicks yew (*T. x media* 'Hicksii') is actually an American interspecific hybrid between *T. baccata* and *T. cuspidata* (Japanese yew). All yews need not be sheared though. I grow the dwarf golden Japanese yew (*T. cuspidata* 'Nana Aurescens') for its small size and year-round cheery dandelion-yellow foliage in my mixed borders. The Dutch cultivar *T. baccata* 'Amersfoort' I keep in a pot at home has stumped most of my gardening friends, who guess it to be a podocarpus or a hebe.

It was a dark day as I wrote this, though the Winter Solstice was a month away. I remembered a fairy tale my German mother used to tell.

"Time goes faster as you get older."

I didn't believe her.

But now that I am older I realize fairy tales do come true, and I know the darkness of winter will move on as fast as our splendid summer did. 🌿

Read more of Daniel's reflections on plants and gardens at www.mountgardens.com.

GARDEN NOTES SURVEY RESULTS

JUDY REDMOND

AN ONLINE SURVEY ABOUT *GARDEN NOTES* was open from August 2 to September 19, 2012. Fifty-eight NHS members responded. SurveyMonkey (www.surveymonkey.com) was used to create, convey, and collect the responses. Why was this survey done? The *Garden Notes* Committee consisting of Judy Redmond, Karin Kravitz, Nita-Jo Rountree, Ann LeVasseur, Daniel Mount, Ray Larson, and Greg Graves was curious to know if *Garden Notes* was meeting the needs of NHS members and to see if any changes needed to be made.

Below are some typical/summarized responses:

1. *How do you receive Garden Notes?* Approximately 52% of respondents read both the print and e-mail versions, 27% read the print only version, and 21% read the e-mail only version.
2. *What feature/article do you like the most in Garden Notes?* Articles about plants, local gardens or places to visit, and design topics were the top three responses.
3. *What feature/article do you like the least in Garden Notes?* Many respondents didn't have a least favorite article, but the volunteer profile, the president's column, and the Miller



Library News articles were mentioned by 11 respondents as being their least favorite.

4. *What type of content would you like to see added to Garden Notes?* The five most popular topics were: General articles about plants, horticultural tips, horticultural how to's, different types of garden design, and general essays about gardening.
5. *What ideas/content would you like to see in Garden Notes?* A smattering of ideas were: Follow-up on our scholarship students [Editor's note: See page 5 for an article on citizen scientists from 2011 NHS scholarship winner Hillary Burgess], design articles, before and after photos of plant installations, companion planting, and tips on propagation.

The *Garden Notes* Committee wants to thank everyone who responded to this invaluable survey. As always, if you have an idea or want to write something for *Garden Notes*, please contact the editor, Judy Redmond. 🌱

Judy Redmond is the editor of Garden Notes. She can be reached at judyredmond@frontier.com

NHS GRANTS AWARDED

DANIEL SPARLER

THE NHS GRANTS COMMITTEE is delighted to announce the recipients of awards for 2012. NHS annually makes grants available to nonprofit organizations in our region in order to further horticultural education and related activities in accordance with Northwest Horticultural Society objectives.

Grant awards this year go to four organizations for the following projects:

1. **University of Washington Press (\$5,000)** to help support the publication of a new, revised and expanded, full-color edition of *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. For 30 years this book has been the go-to source manual for novice and seasoned gardeners alike. We are delighted to play a role in the updating of Arthur Kruckeberg's 1996 second edition with UW Press's expanded and revised third edition, co-authored with Linda Chalker-Scott.
2. **Seattle Tilth Association (\$1,500)** to support expansion of the association's Intern Project that aims to provide additional formal training to its interns. NHS has funded Tilth and its associated projects, such as Seattle Youth



Garden Works, on several occasions in the past, and we are happy to do so again.

3. **Friends of Lakewold Gardens (\$750)** to the nonprofit organization that preserves the 10-acre garden estate in Pierce County for the purchase of 60 yards of pea gravel and crushed rock to be used for renovation of garden paths.
4. **Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens (\$500)** to help support educational events to commemorate the Everett garden's 50th anniversary in 2013. The Evergreen Arboretum, with its 10 themed display gardens has a proven track record of public education. We are thrilled to support a public garden in our region.

The Grants Committee, consisting of Ray Larson, Ann LeVasseur, Toni Loomis, Dolores Ranhofer, and Daniel Sparler, would like to thank all of this year's applicants, and we encourage other groups to apply for awards next year. 🌱

Daniel Sparler is an NHS board member and also chairs the Grants Committee.

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

~ 2013 WINTER CLASSES ~

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM ***Gardening Tools with Bob Lilly***

Join Bob Lilly, well-known horticulturist, plantsman, and garden designer to learn everything you need to know about types, uses for, and maintenance of every tool necessary to make gardening easy. Every attendee is required to bring his/her pruning shears.

LOCATION: HOME OF SHELAGH TUCKER/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 12

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM ***Soup's On! with Susan Carter***

When she's not in her garden, you'll find this former cooking school apprentice, caterer, and co-author of the award-winning book, *Perennials: The Gardener's Reference*, in her kitchen. Susan will demonstrate cooking techniques for several types of sumptuous soups. She will inspire you to think outside the "can" by demonstrating some of her favorite soup recipes. Tastings will abound.

LOCATION: CARTER KITCHEN/BELLEVUE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$30.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$40.00 LIMIT: 8

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2:30 PM–4:30 PM ***Botanical Latin with Daniel Sparler***

Have you ever wanted to have a better grasp on the use of botanical Latin? Daniel Sparler, linguist and gardener extraordinaire has agreed to reprise his popular class to demystify pronunciations of, and reasons for, botanical plant nomenclature. You will learn how you can use your knowledge of plant names to enhance your selection and use of plants.

LOCATION: ROUNDTREE HOME/BELLEVUE

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

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

~ 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

JANUARY 9, 2013

Plant Nerds in Plant Heaven
Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Small Conifers for Small Gardens
Robert Fincham

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG

SPRING PLANT SALE TO BENEFIT THE MILLER LIBRARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2013

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture



Over 15 specialty growers will be bringing a wonderful assortment of spring ephemerals and companion plants, plus two lectures by Dan Hinkley, and many additional features. See page 7 for more information.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

Plant Nerd
NIGHT

Thursday, July 25, 2013 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

MORE INFORMATION TO COME ON OUR WEBSITE, VIA E-MAIL, AND IN THE NEXT EDITION OF *GARDEN NOTES*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

G R E G G R A V E S

WELL IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK, not that I ever left. I was off the NHS board for a few years but was busy with a transition from working at the Miller Garden to retirement.

In my so called "retirement" I have been busy with the Pacific Horticulture Society which produces the magazine that many of you receive with your membership. I have been president of that board for the last few years and have helped oversee big changes

there. We have a new editor, Lorene Edwards Forkner, who is a past board member of NHS and active member. We also have a new staff, a new format for the magazine, and a brand new expanded website. If you don't get the new magazine it is definitely worth a new look.

I have also been partnering with the Garden Conservancy and the Chase Garden. I have worked with them on a project to add more summer interest in the Chase Garden this past year. What a treasure to have that garden just five minutes away from my home and nursery.

Add all that with expanding the garden and nursery at Old Goat Farm and that sums up my "retirement" so far.

Many of you have probably seen me at the NHS plant sales as one of the vendors. I always enjoy those sales because I get to see so many people I have come to know over the years at NHS events. The **Spring Plant Sale** is coming up **March 9**, so I hope you will put that on your calendar.

Also on **March 23** will be our annual **symposium**. This year it features German garden styles. Please see pages 1-2 in this publication for more information. The symposium has been a few years in the making and will tie into an **NHS tour of Germany** from **June 14-29**. You can get more details about the tour on our website: www.northwesthort.org.

The monthly lecture series is all set for the coming year and we will start it off with **Kelly Dodson** and **Sue Milliken** from **Far Reaches Farm** in **January**. In **February**, **Bob Fincham** from **Coenosium Gardens** will talk about small conifers. We'll also be involved in the **Northwest Flower & Garden Show** on **February 20-24**. Please see page 3 for news on our booth and the NHS members who are speaking at the show. In March we won't have a lecture because of these other activities.

It looks like the year will be packed with great events, and I hope you are able to participate in many of them. I'm looking forward to seeing you around. 🌱

Greg Graves is the president of NHS.

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MEET THE BOARD TOUR WINNERS

D O M I N I Q U E E M E R S O N

THE NHS MEET THE BOARD TOUR earned rave reviews this year for its variety of gardens located in close proximity to each other. Members loved being able to spend their time viewing a range of landscapes from urban farm to voluptuous Victorian while visiting with board members and owners on a lovely August afternoon. Two attendees, **Charlotte Kochanek** and **Diane Adams**, were the lucky winners of the one year free NHS membership for a current member and non-member, respectively. It always pays to bring your friends—doesn't it!

All the hard work put in by the garden owners was appreciated by the many NHS members who toured the gardens. NHS is grateful for all the effort and time put in by both owners and board members to make this day so special. And we would like to give special thanks to **Gillian Mathews**, **Karin Kravitz**, and **Judy Redmond** for their help in orchestrating another success. 🌱

Dominique Emerson is an NHS board member and is also the membership chair.

CORRECTION: The photo caption of Emily Dexter on page six of the 2012 fall issue of *Garden Notes* was incorrectly noted. The photo was taken by **Judith Thornton**. We regret the error. 🌱

Judy Redmond, editor, Garden Notes.



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Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena', *Erica x darleyensis* 'Mary Helen', *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina',
Carex morrowii 'Variegata', *Senecio greyi*, and *Viburnum davidii*

O, wind/If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?
Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792–1822, English Romantic poet

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