

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2008

2008 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

THE ORNAMENTAL PLANT: FROM THIRD CENTURY ATHENS TO YOUR GARDEN

G R E G G R A V E S

DO YOU EVER wonder how one of your favorite plants got from some faraway place into your garden? I love to look at an unusual plant and know that it comes from a mountainside in China, a high plain in Turkey, or the edge of a pond in South Africa. It makes me feel as if I were there.

A lot of plants that we consider common have their origins in faraway places. They have become part of our everyday plant palette thanks to the efforts of plant hunters and collectors over the years. To help you learn more about this process, the Northwest Horticultural Society, with support from the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation, the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, and Pacific Horticulture magazine, is pleased to present our 2008 Spring Gardening Symposium, "The Ornamental Plant: From Third Century Athens to Your Garden."

REGISTER NOW!

• TIME: Saturday, March 29, 2008

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

• LOCATION:

Bastyr University Auditorium
14500 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore, 98028

• FEE: \$45 NHS Members

\$65 Non-members (Fee includes lunch)

www.northwesthort.org

NHS would like to thank the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation for their generous support of NHS's educational programs, including this symposium.



Dan Hinkley in a South African field of Kniphofia caulescens

We have combined Anna Pavord, a British plant historian, with three of the Northwest's most enthusiastic plant collectors, Dan Hinkley, Kelly Dodson, and Richie Steffen, to provide an in-depth look at how so many remarkable plants make it to our gardens. ➤

Don't miss our biggest, most exciting Flower and Garden Show display ever! See pages 4 and 5 for details.

KETZEL LEVINE

2008 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1

ANITA MEULEMAN

Anna Pavord sorts through plant names in her own garden

ANNA PAVORD is the gardening correspondent for *The Independent*—a British newspaper—and the author of several books, including the internationally acclaimed bestseller *The Tulip*. She has contributed to several magazines and is currently an associate editor of *Gardens Illustrated*. Drawing on research from her latest book, *The Naming of Names: The Search for Order in the World of Plants*, Anna will take us on an armchair adventure through two thousand years of history, exploring the classification and naming of plants.

UPCOMING NHS TOURS

**SEPTEMBER 2008:
EAST COAST TOUR
(NEW YORK TO
PHILADELPHIA)**

**OCTOBER 2009:
AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY,
MELBOURNE, TASMANIA)**

Look for more information in the next edition of *Garden Notes*. Email nwhort@aol.com if you would like to be on the notification list for details on either tour.



KEVIN CARBARIANE

Dan Hinkley in Sikkim with Mt. Everest in the far background

DAN HINKLEY, plantsman, collector, author, and lecturer, is probably the most well-known horticulturalist in the Northwest. His nursery, Heronswood, opened the door for many of us to the world of plants. When he is not plant collecting, he lectures extensively, writes for garden publications, and consults on design projects. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including The Medal of Honor from the Garden Club of America, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticultural Society, and the Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain. In Dan's talk titled, "Where to Collect, What to Collect, How to Collect, and Should I Collect?" he will share some of his experiences.



SUE MILLIKEN

Kelly Dodson revels in a China spring

KELLY DODSON, along with his partner Sue Milliken, is the proprietor of Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend,

Washington. This nursery specializes in heart-palpitation caliber plants. The hardest part of visiting Far Reaches Farm isn't finding something wonderful; it is getting Kelly to agree to sell it. Kelly has traveled and collected plants in many parts of the world. Don't miss his talk, "The Yin and Yang of Plant Hunting in China and India."

*Richie Steffen at the Miller Garden*

RICHIE STEFFEN is curator of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, where he is responsible for plant acquisitions and developing the garden's collections. He has traveled to England, Germany, Turkey, Chile, Costa Rica, and the Siskiyou mountains, collecting seeds and plant material for the Miller Garden. His background in plant propagation and the retail end of the nursery business, along with his well-known wit, promise to make "From Kashmir to Kmart" an entertaining look at how a plant works its way into a retail center and into our gardens.

I hope you will come join us for the 2008 Spring Symposium. It should be an interesting journey into the world of plant collecting. 📷

Greg Graves is past-president of NHS, the chairperson of the education committee, and head gardener at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

2007 NHS GRANT RECIPIENTS

PETE LUCAS


THE NHS BOARD of directors has selected the 2007 NHS grant recipients. A number of interesting and high-quality applications were received, all of which met the basic criteria that the project "further horticultural education or provide inspiration and support to the Northwest gardening community." The NHS Grant recipients for 2007 are:

- **The Seattle Youth Garden Works, \$2,500.** The SYGW is a garden-to-market program that provides garden-based education and employment to homeless and underserved youth. This grant will help implement a winter pilot project focusing on native plant restoration. The project's goal is to expand the curriculum to include information about native plants and provide youth with new opportunities for winter employment.

- **The Elisabeth C. Miller Library, \$2,500.** This grant will help the library enhance the Children's Collection. The goal is to have a significant collection of curriculum-related materials, all available to check out, to assist parents and teachers working with children.

- **The Seattle Children's Play Garden, \$2,500.** Play Garden is developing a facility at Colman Playfield in Seattle for children with physical or mental disabilities. It will provide safe outdoor recreation space and inclusive programs to encourage the children's potential. This grant will help develop the Lee and John Neff Growing Garden at that facility.

- **Ballard High School, \$2,000.** The Ballard High School greenhouse classroom was opened to students two years ago. This grant will support a student-designed community garden north of the greenhouse that will include perennials, Northwest natives, and edible plants. The garden will provide students educational opportunities and new ways to connect with the community.

- **The Rhododendron Species Foundation, \$500.** The RSF has maintained an Intern Program since 1986. A total of 53 students have trained at the RSF. Many have gone on to work in the horticultural industry. This grant will help fund the RSF intern program for 2008. 

Pete Lucas, an outgoing NHS board member, chaired the 2007 grant committee. Committee members were Sue Clark, Greg Graves, Hans Mandt, Renee Montgelas, and Kathy Norsworthy.

NHS MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT GARDEN SHOW

JANET ENDSLEY

NHS MEMBERS will be entertaining attendees at the 20th annual Northwest Flower & Garden Show, February 20-24, at the Washington State Convention Center. Visit the show's website at www.gardenshow.com for a complete schedule of the 120 seminars, plus speaker bios, the book-signing schedule, and interviews with featured speakers.

– WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 –

Lorene Edwards Forkner	"Hortus Miscellaneous"
Mary Gutierrez	"Growing These Beautiful, Unusual Bulbs"
Dan Hinkley	"Windcliff Revisited"
Arthur Kruckeberg	"Asian Influences on NW Gardens"
Debra Prinzing	"Interior Design Secrets"
Mary Robson	"Digging into Books"
Wendy Welch	"A Crash Course on Container Gardening"
Wendy Welch	"Designing Successful Container Combinations"

– THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 –

Bess Bronstein	"No Water? No Problem!"
Susan Goetz	"Any Herb!"
Carolyn Jones	"The 'Well-Dressed' Garden"
Linda McDonald	"New Zealand Plants in NW Gardens"
Ciscoe Morris	"Gardening in Margaritaville"
Terry Moyemont	"The Gardener as Artist"
Marty Wingate	"Color Matters"
Phil Wood	"Using Stone Well"

– FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22 –

Val Easton	"Orange is Just Peachy"
Mary Gutierrez	"Making Water Features in Containers"
Charles Price & Glenn Withey	"Bold & Bodacious Color"
Terri Stanley	"Garden Fusion in the Northwest"
Cass Turnbull	"Extreme Makeover for Rhodies"
Marty Wingate	"The Return of the Perennial"
Phil Wood	"Personal Style"

– SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 –

Judith Jones & Friends	"Toad's Dilemma"
Ciscoe Morris	"Meet Ciscoe's Favorite Plants!"
Wendy Welch	"Designing Successful Container Combinations"
Wendy Welch	"A Crash Course on Container Gardening"

– SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 –

Betsy Fitzgerald	"A Gardener's Bag of Tricks"
Judith Jones & Friends	"Toad's Dilemma"
Mary Robson	"Daffodils: Best for the West"

Janet Endsley is an NHS member and the seminar manager for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

NHS PRESENTS EAT YOUR VEGETABLES! GARDEN TO TABLE

*Northwest Flower and Garden Show
February 20–24, 2008
Washington State Convention Center*

NITA-JO ROUNTREE

ALL OVER AMERICA, people are rediscovering the pleasures and benefits of eating locally grown food, and what could be more local than eating food grown at home? In Eat Your Vegetables! Garden to Table, visitors to the 2008 Northwest Flower and Garden Show will see a happy fusion of two huge lifestyle trends all in one display—the return to growing vegetables and cooking “fresh.” Advantages of home-grown produce are wholesome, chemical-free food; reduced transportation costs and pollution; and, of course, more fun for the family gardeners and cooks as they take food from the garden to the table.

In this year's display, the Northwest Horticultural Society aims to fulfill its mission of educating gardeners in the Pacific Northwest by showcasing three different styles of edible gardens. In addition, the display will include the show's first ever “demonstration kitchen” where daily presentations will feature renowned chefs from Puget Sound area restaurants, as well as local gardening experts. The goal for the display is to show visitors that edible plants are easy to grow, attractive in the landscape, and with a few simple preparations, ready to go from the garden to the dinner table.

The 1200-square-foot display will be divided into four sections—three garden areas and a demonstration area. The gardens of primarily edible plants will



A rich harvest of colorful vegetables brings pleasure to gardeners and cooks.

provide ideas for three different styles of garden design, combining edibles with ornamentals.


The first, a patio garden, will include a to-die-for outdoor kitchen supplied by Aqua Quip. Beautiful furnishings from Ravenna Gardens will enhance the area, making it the perfect place to host intimate gatherings or lavish dinner parties.

In the second area, Wendy Welch Garden Design will create a contem-

porary garden suitable for a balcony or rooftop, with plantings in containers of varying shapes and sizes. While this style is useful for any size garden, it will be of particular interest to condo and apartment dwellers or others with limited outdoor living space.

And completing the triumvirate of gardens will be a formal French potager, created primarily by Robyn Cannon. In this garden, stone parterres built by Lakeview Stone & Garden will combine with lavish urns, pots, and a walled water feature from Lucca Statuary to complete a Classical look.

In the fourth area, ongoing gardening and cooking demonstrations will be held throughout the show. Show-goers can receive practical gardening advice on everything from seed starting to container growing to harvesting, from local experts including Ciscoe Morris and Marty Wingate. Ann Lovejoy will talk about finding and preparing organic food, and several local chefs, including Jerry Traunfeld, formerly of The Herb Farm, Russell Lowell of Russell's, Bo Maisano of Madison Park Café, and David Hanhe of Enotria will be on hand to demonstrate recipes using locally grown food.

The NHS display will be located in the south lobby of the Washington State Convention Center. For directions and show hours, go to our website at www.northwesthort.org. 

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

THE NORTHWEST FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW TEAM

NITA-JO ROUNTREE



BECAUSE NHS is a non-profit organization, we depend almost entirely upon the time and resources of generous volunteers to produce our exhibits at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. There isn't room in this article to name everyone who has and will (we hope!) volunteer this year, but we would like to recognize and thank some of the NHS members and vendors who have already made significant contributions.

Co-chairs **Gillian Mathews, Wendy Welch**, and I began preparations last May, spending countless hours brainstorming vegetable garden designs. Marketing expert and NHS member **Cindy Combs** joined the project early on, agreeing to handle the publicity for the exhibit. **Barry Latter** helped with the photos. Debra Prinzing suggested we consult **Rose Marie Nichols McGee** of Nichols Garden Seeds—a gold medal winner for vegetable gardens in past flower shows. Rose Marie gave us hundreds of free seeds and advice, and will do a demonstration for us during the show; **Renee Shepard** of Renee's Seeds responded in kind. We appreciate their support—forcing vegetables for a February show is tricky!

The horticultural students at **Lake Washington Technical College** agreed to grow many of the vegetables for us under the guidance of **Don Marshall**. Additional vegetable plants are growing in greenhouses at CUH with board members **Riz Reyes, Lorene Forkner,**

Renee Montgelas, and me providing much of the care. Thanks to the NHS members who volunteered during seed-starting sessions to get these plants started, and to **Kathy Fries** for donating plants from her garden.

Once the vegetables were started, we needed to find ways to implement the hardscape portion of the design. Board Member **Lois Willman** and her husband **David Ouellette** agreed to build two massive, intersecting walls 40 feet long that will divide the exhibit into four sections. **Joyce Hawkins**, another board member, and NHS members **Ben Hammontree** and **Cindy** and **David Fairbrook** will assist with the project, along with the co-chairs and anyone else who would like to help.

Several vendors have already volunteered their goods and services: **Lakeview Stone and Garden** will provide over seven tons of rock for flooring and raised beds; **Acclaim Sign and Display** will donate four eight-by-three-foot signs and four eight-by-two-foot banners that will be hung from the ceiling; **Lucca Statuary** will furnish fabulous urns, pots, and a water feature; **Aqua Quip** will supply an entire outdoor kitchen; **Ravenna Gardens** will donate plant material, decorative furnishings, and the use of their truck; and **Wendy Welch Garden Design** will bring a collection of planted contemporary pots worth over \$2000.

Radishes are an easy and quick-growing vegetable, making them an ideal crop for beginning gardeners.

Chefs who have volunteered to do organic cooking demonstrations in our presentation area include **Jerry Traunfeld, Russell Lowell, Bo Maisano, David Hahne, Cynthia Lair**, and NHS member **Chitra Parpia**.

Speakers include well-known author and lecturer **Ann Lovejoy**, radio and TV personality **Ciscoe Morris**, author and lecturer **Marty Wingate**, writer and landscape designer **Sue Goetz, Willi Evans Galloway**—the West Coast editor for *Organic Gardening* magazine, and **Renee Shepard** and **Rose Marie Nichols McGee**, our seed experts.

We still need volunteers to drive trucks, run errands, and set up and break down the exhibit. As usual, we also need people to staff our exhibit to answer questions and sign up new members for NHS. Volunteers working during the show get free admission, and this year the volunteer who garners the most new members will win two beautiful pots handmade by Guy Wolfe.

Watch NHS e-news for opportunities to participate. To sign up, email Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com, or call 206.780.8172. Don't miss out on being a part of this exciting display! 📸

Nita-Jo Rountree is president of NHS.

SPRING EPHEMERALS— LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

LISA IRWIN

PICTURE THIS: One cold, dark, early-spring morning, you take your first garden stroll of the day, and discover that woodland fairies have sown their magic overnight. Peeping out of the damp soil are diminutive shoots, ready to awaken into a flowering carpet. Here, it will be the sunny beauty of *Hacquetia epipactis*, whose yellow-centered chartreuse flowers precede the low-growing trifoliate foliage. There, the nodding white bells of snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*). And over there, a sea of delicate ferny foliage topped with sky-blue flowers—*Anemone nemerosa* ‘Blue Eyes’.

Behold the spring ephemerals—those woodland species that have adapted to take advantage of just the right mix of sun, moisture, and warmth, emerging early in the season, rapidly gathering energy, flowering, and setting seed before the leafy canopy closes. The true spring ephemerals then go dormant as light and moisture diminish. Most spring ephemerals arise from tubers, bulbs, corms, or rhizomes, using these tidy packages to retreat into and store energy till their next spring awakening.

I love gardening with the ephemerals, though it took me a while to get there. My early gardening loves were limited to plants with “more bang for the buck”—fast-growing, large-flowered, and long-blooming species—but as they took over garden bed after garden bed, my tastes matured and moved toward the more sublime, the more transitory, the more, well, pricey. I now love elongating and differentiating the seasons and the spring ephemerals can’t be beat for



▲ *Galanthus nivalis* is in full bloom by mid February.

Yellow flowers of Erythronium ‘Pagoda’ brighten up the early spring garden.

▼ *Foliage of Cyclamen coum is attractive all winter. Tiny flowers in shades of white to pink to magenta put on a show for Valentine’s Day.*



GREAT PLANT PICKS/RICHIE STEFFEN



Trillium ovatum is a spring ephemeral native to the Pacific Northwest.

bringing a rapid visual end to winter.

As our friend Greg Graves has noted, "I like to use them because they are some of the first signs of spring and they fill in around where later perennials will come up." A few of his favorites are *Erythronium 'Pagoda'*, *Arisarum proboscideum*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Cardamine enneaphylla*, *Primula sieboldii*, *Ranunculus*

ficaria 'Brazen Hussy', *Dicentra spectabilis 'Gold Heart'*, and a number of *cyclamen*. I'll attempt to describe several of these plants.

The yellow fawn lily, *Erythronium 'Pagoda'*, is also a Great Plant Pick, and described as "vigorous and easy to grow in the garden. Glossy, green leaves with a chocolate-splashed overlay appear in early spring. Soon afterwards, dainty spires of flowers arrive, opening to nodding, star-like, bright yellow blooms."

Ranunculus ficaria 'Brazen Hussy' emerges in late winter with rounded, glossy-black foliage in a rosette that hugs the ground. Next the clumps are topped with brilliant yellow-rayed flowers that offer great contrast to the foliage. But look quick, all goes dormant by early summer.

It was instant love when I first encountered the white flowers of *Sanguinaria canadensis*, bloodroot, rising above glorious deep-green lobed leaves, in the VanDusen Garden of Vancouver, BC. Though swiftly fleeting, the flowers are spectacular, and in my Whidbey garden they are survivors that light up the foot of a tall Douglas fir.

Arisarum proboscideum, mouse plant, has low spreading arrow-shaped leaves that conceal fat little mouse-tailed spathes that are chocolate-maroon with deer-mouse-belly white. It will be easy

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, March 14th, 2008

AN NHS SPRING PLANT SALE

"Spring Ephemerals and Companion Plants"

At CUH, Noon till 8:00 P.M.

We will have 12 or so specialty nurseries featuring must-have early spring plants.

to get down, probe the foliage, and see the flowers while you are hunting those woodland fairies in the garden.

There are too many great spring ephemerals to describe, much less all those choice companions that light up the early spring garden with fabulous foliage or flowers such as *epimediums*, *hepatica*, *corydalis*, *paeonia*, and *pulmonaria*. Look for all these and more rare and hard-to-find spring plants at our "Spring Ephemerals and Companion Plants" sale, on March 14th at CUH.

Also, look on the NHS website to see if the spring ephemerals class that Greg Graves and Richie Stephen co-teach with Charles Price and Glenn Withey is being offered again this year. I took the class a few years back, and it's a terrific opportunity to learn about and see so many of these plants *in situ*. 📖

Lisa Irwin is an NHS board member and co-chair of the 2008 Fall Plant Sale.

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Judith Adams
Christine Alar
Joanne Amiri
Christine Anderson
Leisa Baker
John Barber
Lia Brazil
Walt Bubelis
Barbara Chin
Cristine Conner
& Tom Naylor
Anne Curtis
Gabriele Dickmann
Julie Dillon

Carolyn & Michael Evered
Jessica Farmer
Pamela E. Felts
Beverly Fletcher
Barbara Freeman
Jerry Gettel
Gail Gladwell
Josh Goldfinger
Gwen Goodbee
Kate Gormley
Christina Gould
Harry J. Green
Alice Grette

Debra Groth
Laurie Gulian
Kyle Ann Henegar
Jennifer Higinbotham
Cindy Hoover
Anne C. Hopkins
David Jensen
Sharon Kleinnen
Cindy A. Klett
Kathleen Kramer
Linda Leadley
Sallie Lin
Cindy Loitsch
Sharon Lowe

Kristin Mandt
Sheryl Martinis
Lee McMaster
Pam & Roger McNair
Lila Muller
Bill Munro
Kay Nelson
Maria Nelson
Ryan O'Rourke
Susanna Pearson
Mary Powell
Anne Roda
Jean Savory

Tia Scarce
Jason Schneier
Lawson Sebris
Shirley Sidell
Laura Siebens
Bob Smaus
Debbie Sokvitne
Shirley Stanley
Carol Stewart
Vicki Stone
Laurel Lynn Swol
Ellyn Thoreen
Judy Thornton
Myrna Torrie

Nancy Totton
Anne Tuominen
Lois Vania
Jessica Vania
H. Watters
Barbara Wentz
Debbie Wheeler
Mary Whitmore
Jan Whitner
Alison Wysong
Vickii Wytenbach
Jacklynn Zorich

N H S L E C T U R E

DATE, DAY & TIME	EVENT NAME	FEATURED SPEAKER	TYPE OF EVENT
January 9 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	The Flora of Seattle in 1850: The Landscape Before Urban Development	Raymond J. Larson	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
March 12 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Behind Every Good Plant . . Is A Great Story	Alice Doyle	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
March 14 (Fri) Noon – 8:00 p.m.	SPRING EPHEMERAL		
March 29 (Sat) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	The Ornamental Plant: From Third Century Athens to Your Garden	Anna Pavord Dan Hinkley Kelly Dodson Richie Steffen	Spring Gardening Symposium
April 9 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Making Chicken Salad from Chicken Sh*t	Judith & Dick Knott Tyler	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
May 14 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Garden Exposures	Andrea Jones	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
June 11 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	New & Useful Plants for the Landscape & Garden	Don Shadow	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
October 8 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	The Synergy that Creates Great Gardens	Richard W. Hartlage	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required
November 12 (Wed) Lecture immediately following the annual meeting	Classic Northwest Garden Gems: Japanese Maples and their Conifer Counterparts	Fran Sharp	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series No reservation required

ELISABETH C. MILLER LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 5:00

DESCRIPTION	MEMBER /NON	LOCATION
Ray Larson, lead gardener at the residence of the UW president, will discuss his master's thesis—the first comprehensive attempt to research major plant species and ecosystems that existed in Seattle before it was settled by Euro-Americans. His lecture will provide a look at the past to help gardeners identify garden-worthy plants that once thrived locally and deserve more use today.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
Alice Doyle, co-founder of Log House Plants, has pioneered programs that have introduced two generations of gardeners to new and uncommon plants. Alice will share the intriguing tales behind some exceptional plants from around the world and describe the experience of horticultural discovery—the people, the places, the plants, the hunt, and the community that cares.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
PLANT SALE		NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
This year's symposium is again co-sponsored by the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation and the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden. Follow the journey of plants we find in our gardens from their earliest moments in history, through their collection and propagation, and finally, into the retail nursery where gardeners buy the plants.	\$45/\$65	Bastyr University Auditorium 14500 Juanita Dr. NE Kenmore, 98028
Judith and Dick Knott Tyler are the owners of Pine Knot Farms, a hellebore nursery in Virginia, and the co-curators of the Garden of Winter Delights at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC. Judith is the co-author of <i>Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide</i> , which features Dick's remarkable photographs. They will share with us how to build, plant, and furnish a garden, using the imagination rather than a big pocketbook.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
Andrea Jones is one of the world's leading plant, garden, and landscape photographers. Her pictures have appeared in many books, magazines, and newspapers worldwide. She will talk about photographing gardens around the world, including her travels with renowned Welsh plant hunters Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones in which she documented their expeditions and some of their unusual discoveries.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
Don Shadow is owner of Shadow Nursery, a wholesale nursery in Winchester, Tennessee, specializing in woody ornamentals and rare and unusual plants. He is the co-author with Paul Cappelletto of <i>Dogwoods</i> . He will share with us his choice of new North American native and Asian plants appropriate for American landscapes and gardens.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
Richard Hartlage, manager of the Landscape Architecture Group at AHBL, will demonstrate how equal parts horticulture and landscape architecture create a synergy that makes for great gardens. His work crosses several styles—playful, serious, dramatic, tranquil, or exuberant—and is always unexpected. He uses materials ranging from the familiar to the newest on the market.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
Fran Sharp, West Coast sales representative for Iseli Nursery in Boring, Oregon, was the sales manager of Brigg's Nursery for many years. Iseli Nursery is a wholesale grower of rare and beautiful dwarf conifers, Japanese maples, bonsai, and other ornamental trees and shrubs. Fran will show us how to use these wonderful plants in our landscapes.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

LOIS PENDLETON

January Preview

RAYMOND J. LARSON

THE FLORA OF SEATTLE IN 1850:
THE LANDSCAPE BEFORE
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, January 9, 2008



I OFTEN SIT AT MY KITCHEN window looking out to downtown Seattle and wonder what that view was like 100 years ago. What stood in the place of all those glass and steel buildings? How was the waterfront configured before it started being shaped by landfill? The city's profile has changed so dramatically in the 20 years that I've been watching it, I can only imagine what I would see

if I could beam myself back another 80 or more years.

Ray Larson, NHS board member and lead gardener at UW President Mark Emmert's residence, will help beam us back those many years as he describes for us the ecosystems that might have existed in and around Seattle and what major plant species might have grown in these areas before the high-rises and the gazillion Starbucks store fronts existed.

Even before he started his thesis on Flora of Seattle in 1850, Ray was interested and involved in natural-area restoration projects that were going on around the city. He was curious about what governed the plant choices that were being made for the various projects. Based on what he already knew about plants and horticulture, it was clear to him that plants weren't being selected for projects because they might have been grown there in the past. He believed that if the goal was really to "restore" a location, then there needed to be some historical information about the area. With an undergraduate degree in history and the insight into resources for better information, Ray began his research.

In a colorful retrospective, Ray will take us through the historical diversity that was represented in the city, through the changes brought on by urbanization, to what gardeners can look for today as garden-worthy plants for the Northwest. In addition to many non-native plants, Ray has his native favorites: evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), low Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)—and the list goes on. Ray really likes plants! 🌱

March Preview

ALICE DOYLE

BEHIND EVERY
GOOD PLANT...
IS A GREAT STORY

Wednesday, March 12, 2008



AS IMPLIED BY ITS NAME, Log House Plants is an old-fashioned nursery. Old-fashioned in the sense that plants are still grown in wooden flats with large trays. And, probably somewhat old-fashioned in that all of its products are developed with the customer in mind. For 30 years, Log House Plants in Cottage Grove, Oregon has specialized in quality plant production and

consumer education. Started by Alice Doyle and her partner, Greg Lee, in the mid-'70s, the nursery is known as a pioneering wholesale grower that starts trends and inspires excitement about new plants. Unique introductions from Log House include, for example, a Mexican sour gherkin cucumber (*Melothria scabra*) with fruits like little striped watermelon and a centaurea that smells like chocolate.

Alice provides much of the creative inspiration to this laboratory of innovative plant production. "A whirling dervish of enthusiasm, she peruses old reference books and travels the world in search of the coolest plants," is how Val Easton describes her. Alice's travels, contacts with growers worldwide, and persistent curiosity have resulted in unusual plant collections for Log House Plants, such as the Butterfly Bed-and-Breakfast grouping. The accompanying, colorful labels describe the plants, their origins, and cultural needs. All reflect Alice's commitment to consumer education.

Alice will share many of her intriguing stories behind some of the exceptional plants she has collected from around the world for Log House Plants. She will describe her experiences of horticultural discovery—the people, the places, the plants, and the hunt. She might even share tales of the piano planted in an octave of color. Be prepared to be entertained, educated, and inspired 🌱

Lois Pendleton is an NHS board member and part of the education committee.

All lectures are held at NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle. Fee is \$5 for NHS members, \$10 for guests.

WINTER TREASURES FROM THE WILD

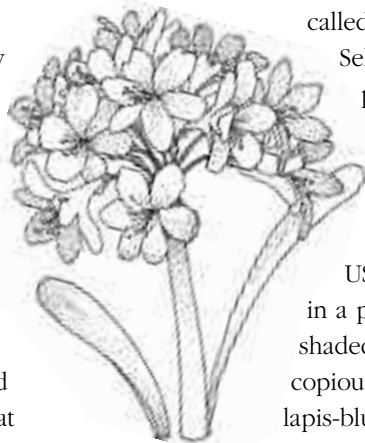
RIZANIÑO REYES

AS MY SELECTIONS of wild Chinese perennials humbly rest for the season, a wide assortment of trees and shrubs become the focal points in the dark gloomy days of winter. For many of us, there is an almost obsessive quest for plants to fill the visual void during this time of year that dampens our motivation to go out and garden. With that in mind, I thought of two shrubs I encountered during my recent trip to Sichuan Province that just might lure us out.

Hiking up into mountainous forests, I noticed a delicious aroma permeating the air. On the trail, my companions and I encountered an elderly woman gingerly walking down the mountain carrying a basket of blooming branches. Upon closer inspection, I couldn't help but admire the translucent buttery-yellow, richly fragrant blossoms of the native wintersweet she had gathered to sell. Botanically known as

Chimonanthus praecox var. *luteus*, this striking shrub makes an outstanding winter-blooming subject for full sun or part shade. Some gardeners complain about its poor growth habit and appearance outside of the winter months, but this could be easily solved with minimal pruning after bloom or by planting it with a flowering vine to add interest throughout the rest of the season.

On that same hike, I came upon a stunningly beautiful *Hydrangea* relative



called *Dichroa febrifuga*.

Selected forms have proven to be semi-evergreen (but marginally hardy for those in cooler microclimates of USDA Zone 7). Grown in a protected moist and shaded location, it produces copious clusters of metallic, lapis-blue fruit that, much like *Hydrangea*, have shown to be color-influenced by acidic soils. I first encountered this plant at the former Heronswood Nursery. Strolling through the woodland during their memorable Hellebore Open, I dropped to my knees in awe of this stunning winter jewel growing in the shade.

If only there were room to list more: from common garden favorites to new species being described to science, the wealth of garden plants from the wild will continue to excite and amaze us, in winter as in every other season. 🌱

NURSERY SOURCES

Dichroa febrifuga—UBC Form:
Cistus Nursery (www.cistus.com)

Chimonanthus praecox var. *luteus*:
Forestfarm Nursery (www.forestfarm.com)

Riz Reyes is the Soest Gardener at the UW Botanic Gardens (CUH), the owner of RHR Horticulture, and an NHS board member.

~ THANKS TO OUR 2008 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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Donations to the 2008 Patrons Program received after December 6, 2007 will be acknowledged beginning in the spring 2008 issue.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BOTANICAL LATIN

Genuses—I Mean Genera!

DANIEL SPARLER

AS PROMISED—or threatened—in the last issue of this august publication, here is the next installment of “An Introduction to Botanical Latin.” The segment that follows will attempt to answer, or at least approach the question, “where do the darn names come from, anyway?” We established last time around that scientific nomenclature of living things consists of two parts, the *genus* and the *species*. Today we shall examine the former. Before we take the plunge, however, we should clarify exactly what a genus is. Here is the skinny according to Mark Griffith’s encyclopedic and authoritative tome, *Index of Garden Plants* (Timber Press, 1994):

Genus (plural genera)—the principal rank in the taxonomic hierarchy between Family and species. The genus represents a single highly distinctive species such as Ginkgo or, more often, a number of species united by a common suite of distinctive characters. The genus or generic name is italicized and takes a capital letter.

Now that we’ve settled on a definition, it behooves us to ascertain just how generic nomenclature is established. The scientific names of our beloved plants are confirmed by the International Botanical Congress (IBC) that meets every six years. The last was held in Vienna in July of 2005, and just a few months ago they published their official record, dubbed *The Vienna Code*, which will have the final word until the next IBC is held in Melbourne in 2011. Here, dear readers, hot off the presses, is the official designation of

our topic of inquiry:

The name of a genus is a noun in the nominative singular, or a word treated as such, and is written with an initial capital letter. It may be taken from any source whatever, and may even be composed in an absolutely arbitrary manner, but it must not end in -virus.

That last bit is apparently intended to avoid confusion with nasty microorganisms, but what are we to make of the bewildering laxity of such phrases as “taken from any source whatever” and “in an absolutely arbitrary manner”? Where, oh where, is the Linnaean certainty that we have been promised if only we learn to employ the classical order of the Latin tongue? Lest we think all has gone to the dogs, if not to the dogwoods, all *Cornus* lovers should consult the IBC’s set of guiding principles, of which there are six. Number Five is as follows: “Scientific names of taxonomic groups are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation.” Whew! We can rest assured that Latin names are safe, at least for the time being.

At this juncture a creeping uncertainty may start to worm its way into the suddenly addled brain of the average hort-head. *Just how Latin is this so-called Botanical Latin?* Shaken to the core, this author set out to survey the scene. Recognizing the futility of attempting to research the vast universe of tens of thousands of generic names, he opted to tackle something closer to home—the jumbled collection of plants in his notoriously undisciplined Seward Park garden.

A close analysis of the 840 some-odd genera (from *Abelia* to *Zingiber*) he has grown over the last 15 years yielded the following: Only 166 names (just under 20%) are of Latin origin! What, then, of the others? Honorifics of famous persons claimed 23%, mythological deities another 4%, and about 6% originated in various and sundry languages ranging from Arabic to Turkish. However, the big boy on the block proved to be Greek, which accounted for a whopping 375 names, or 45% of the total. The remaining 2% are lost in the mists of obscurity. (All right! I confess! I couldn’t readily come up with a derivation for them.)

Here is a feeble attempt at demystification of the preceding mumbo-jumbo: Since the days of Linnaeus, botanists have crafted generic names in great part from Greek word roots (even though their grammatical declensions conform to Latin strictures) in much the same way that scientists coined terms for innovations such as *telephone*, *phonograph*, and *biotechnology* from Greek components. Thus we gardeners now plant *Agapanthus* (love flower), *Amorophoballus* (shaped like a you-know-what), *Hemerocallis* (beautiful for a day), *Meliantbus* (honey flower) and *Streptocarpus* (twisted fruit). Think you’ve detected a salacious theme here? Shame on you! Get your mind out of the dirt and stay tuned for the next chapter of botanical edification. 🏰

Daniel Sparler has gallantly taken on the task of un-muddying the waters of botanical nomenclature. See page 15 for details about his class on March 27.

THE STORY OF PLANTS: ARBORVITAE

DANIEL MOUNT

MY TOUR GUIDE was 12. She conducted the tour of her family's nursery, nestled in a park in Lajpat Nagar south of Delhi, in verbless English. "God. Temple," she said as she pointed to the peepul tree with a small stone altar at its base. "Orange," she said as she picked handfuls of calamondins from another tree. Then with wordless enthusiasm she led me to a back corner of the nursery. She gestured toward a pint-sized plant. "Christmas Tree," she said.

The tree was the North American native, eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), also known as arborvitae. Pride bubbled to her face. She was finally able to show this sacred plant of the north to a blond-haired blue-eyed northerner.

In our part of the world, one hardly thinks of *Thuja occidentalis* as sacred. Useful, perhaps, for hedging trailer parks or as corkscrew centerpieces for gas-station pots, but definitely not sacred. Enthusiasm for arborvitae among savvy Northwest gardeners is tepid at best. On the other hand, the cultivar "Emerald Green," used en masse in every cul-de-sac from here to the east coast, is the darling of the landscaping trade.

Arborvitae's popularity began differently, though. For millennia the American "Indians" of the Northeast, the Onondaga, held this tree above all others as sacred, not only for its rot-resistant wood used for everything from baskets to canoes, but as an incense to drive away malevolent ghosts. They also drank a fortifying tea of the needles.

This tea, which saved countless 16th century French explorers from scurvy,



A view of the large arborvitae collection at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

earned the eastern white cedar fame in Europe. Said to be the first North American tree to be planted in the old world, it stood as a focal point in the physic garden of King Frances I. He promptly named it *l'abre de vie* which was later latinized to *arbor vitae*. The tree the Onondaga simply called *oo-soo ha'tah* (feather leaf) became the Tree of Life.

This enlivening tea remained popular for centuries among the white settlers who used it to treat rheumatism, fevers, and coughs. Loggers drank great quantities of this bitter stimulating tea, praising it in their camp songs. To this day, the leaves are used to prepare homeopathic remedies to stimulate heart rate and respiration.

Yet arborvitae is the last plant gardeners turn to as a stimulating garden element. A formidable tree in its native habitat, *Thuja occidentalis* can reach 65 feet. Eastern white cedar, like the western red cedar, *Thuja plicata*, thrives in moist habitats, though it can also be found on the lime bluffs along the

Mississippi or in sand dunes around the Great Lakes. Young trees can survive in the shade of larger trees for years. With no insect or disease problems and this rather versatile nature, arborvitae was destined to be a big player in horticulture.

The *RHS Plant Finder* lists 74 cultivars. From 'Midget' to 'Green Giant', from 'Smokey' to 'Sunkist', from 'Globosa' to 'Fastigiata', there is truly an arborvitae for every garden. I like the mustardy yellow 'Rheingold', which retains its color

through winter, and the lemony candle-like grace of 'Yellow Ribbon.' I have even reluctantly planted a cheap and quick 'Emerald Green' hedge and have slowly come to enjoy its carefree nature and ferny texture.

A few months after I was in India, I was traveling again, driving through the rolling hills of Wisconsin. Each small town I passed had a small cemetery, and each cemetery a sentry of arborvitae. Maybe they were there to ward off malevolent ghosts, maybe to point expectantly toward heaven. Certainly, as all the deciduous trees had dropped their leaves, they seemed to be the only thing alive. Though you would hardly think to cut one down for the holidays, you can certainly understand why a twelve-year-old Indian girl might honor the hopeful green Tree of Life as we exalt the Christmas tree. 🌲

Daniel Mount writes regularly for Garden Notes, exploring the relationships between plants and people. He works as a gardener and designer in the Seattle area. You can reach Daniel at daniel@mountgardens.com.

MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON



NHS Grant—Thank you!

WE ARE VERY EXCITED to be one of this year's recipients of an NHS grant. Our thanks go to the grant committee, the NHS board, and the entire membership for this honor. Here's how we are planning to put the grant to work:

The Miller Library currently has a Children's Collection of some 400 lending books for kids ranging from pre-school to high school. Subjects include the basics of gardening, growing common vegetables and flowers, animals and the ecology of the garden, and plants in their natural setting. There are both fiction and non-fiction titles but all have been selected for their educational value.

While this is an excellent collection, few of these books address the specific needs of teachers, parents, or other adults working with children. Our goal is to expand the collection with books and other materials to help local educators develop plant-focused curriculum.

These will include step-by-step guides to student projects and activities, worksheets and sample study plans, selected readings for students, and tools for teachers to evaluate learning. Other media will also be considered, including models, posters, movies,

music, and games.

The additions will also support the educational programs of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. These include the Seedlings Preschool and Saplings School programs at the Washington Park Arboretum, which reach 5,000 children a year.

While the focus will be on the classroom setting, these books would also provide excellent methods for parents or other family members in teaching about plants, or simply enjoying a garden with their children.

The project is expected to be complete by March 1, 2008 and will include an annotated list of the new books and other materials, available both in print and on the library's website. Everything in this collection will be available to check out.



Save The Date! 3rd Annual Garden Lovers' Book Sale—April 4 and 5, 2008

THIS IS YOUR once-a-year chance to select from thousands of used gardening, horticulture, botany, and landscape design books, and help support the Miller Library at the same time.

We need your books for the sale! A

The Elisabeth C. Miller Library is open:
Monday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.,
Tuesday–Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.,
and Saturday 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
(Closed Saturdays in August)


full preview of the sale will be included in the next issue of *Garden Notes*, but now is the time to clean your shelves of

gently used gardening books you no longer need and bring them to the Miller Library. We welcome all your donations of plant books—sorry, no magazines or romance novels—so we can make sure this is the best sale ever!



Winter Exhibit—Cut, Dried, and Dyed

VISIT THE MILLER LIBRARY during January and February to see the artwork of Jenny Craig, local botanical artist *and* librarian. Using natural dyes and dehydrated plant matter, she creates surprising and delightful prints and displays, which afford a new way of seeing familiar fruits and vegetables. In Jenny's words, "It's flat fruit. It's neat. I like it because it's like looking through a window into the internal structure of the object."


Jenny holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Fine Arts in Book Arts and Printmaking from Philadelphia's University of the Arts. 

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

2007 NHS FALL PLANT SALE—A BIG SUCCESS

ANN LEVASSEUR

ONCE AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER, the hanger at Magnuson Park was filled with the region's finest nurseries and their fantastic selection of plants. The occasion, of course, was the NHS Annual Fall Plant Sale. The final outcome netted nearly \$15,000. Of this amount, \$3000 was due to the generous donation of pots from Gail and Ty Hongladarom from the closure of their business, A Garden of Distinction.

Over a hundred NHS members donated their time to volunteer for the many jobs it takes to put on the sale, from putting up tables and helping the vendors unload their plants (a favorite job, sign up early), to putting out signs and cashing, and last of all, the clean up. We couldn't do it without the volunteers. Many, many thanks. 

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

Who is This Mystery Man?



WHY, IT'S RICHIE STEFFEN, the new staff photographer for *Garden Notes*. Richie's photos have appeared regularly in *Garden Notes* over the past few years, and we are looking forward to seeing even more of them in future issues. Thanks, Richie! 📷

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR to each of you! The promise of a new spring means it's time for another NHS display at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and we have been working hard to make it the most spectacular display ever.

I love the community support that goes into putting on this event. In this year's display, for example, we are relying on NHS members, horticultural students, local gardening and cooking experts, garden shops, landscape supply firms, and a variety of other retailers and service providers to make it a success. Even spouses and siblings get pulled into action: my husband, Randy, has "volunteered" as seed starter, truck driver, and digger. So far.

It really is amazing to see the show come together each year, and there is still time to get involved. We'd love to have you join us. See page 5 for volunteer opportunities.

The New Year also brings a change to the NHS board. I'd like to thank outgoing board members: Barbara Asmervig, who was lecture and PR chair; Lynn Davis, recording secretary; Pete Lucas, grant committee chair; Maryann Pember, organizer of NHS classes; and Kate Poole, scholarship committee chair. Their loyalty and talents have greatly contributed to making NHS an outstanding organization. We are deeply indebted to them.

Speaking of contributions, I'd like to extend a big thank-you to the co-chairs and volunteers who worked tirelessly on our most successful plant sale ever. I'm especially excited that in addition to record plant sales, we signed up 45 new members!

And I'd like to welcome an exceptional group of incoming board members: Dan Corson, Sue Dickson, Colette Highberger, Mary Palmer, Rizaniño Reyes, and Wendy Welch. We are looking forward to working with you!

I look forward to getting to know and to working with even more of you in 2008. We have a great group of members. 📷

Happy planting,
Nita-Jo

— 2008 CLASSES —

January

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.

Garden Writing with Steve Lorton

LOCATION: ANDREWS HOME/THE HIGHLANDS, SEATTLE

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

JOIN STEVE LORTON at the home of Alison Andrews to learn more about garden writing. Steve is the retired Northwest editor for *Sunset* magazine. In this class, Steve will discuss ideas for writing well and getting your work in print.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 6:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Outdoor Lighting with David Leigh

LOCATION: PEMBER GARDEN/MEDINA

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

LEARN HOW TO brighten your winter evenings and create dramatic lighting effects in your garden year-round.

February

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Small Garden Design with Glenn Withey & Charles Price

LOCATION: DUNN GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS \$65.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$85.00
(LUNCH INCLUDED)

GLENN AND CHARLES will talk about what they go through when they have a new space to design: the many questions they ask, the photographs they take, and the impressions they get from the home's interior if it is furnished.

March

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.

Spring Ephemerals at the Miller Garden

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/THE HIGHLANDS, SEATTLE

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

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES of the early spring garden and learn how to use these early bloomers in your own garden, while enjoying the combinations and plantings in the Miller Garden.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1:30 P.M.—3:30 P.M.

Botanical Latin with Daniel Sparler

LOCATION: SPARLER HOME/SEATTLE

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

Join Daniel for a slide lecture to learn more about botanical Latin and how you can use your knowledge of plant names to enhance your selection and use of plants. A brief garden tour will follow the class.

For more information about these classes, visit www.northwesthort.org. To register, contact Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com or (206) 780-8172. 📷



EAT YOUR VEGETABLES!

Garden to Table

*NHS's display at the 2008 Northwest Flower & Garden Show, February 20-24,
will demonstrate three fun way ways to grow vegetables at home.
Read more about the exhibit on pages 4 and 5.*

Garden NOTES

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