

Garden NOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2008

“COME GENTLE SPRING, ETHEREAL MILDNESS! COME.”

LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER

FUNNY, I ALWAYS REMEMBER this quote as “ethereal madness” . . . and am surprised to look it up and find that Mr. Thomson, a florid-tongued eighteenth-century Scottish poet, regards spring, however gentle, as a season of mildness: perhaps he had staff. More commonly, spring finds your average passionate garden enthusiast—you and I—possessed of something more akin to madness, filled with hope and dreams, armed with our horticultural resolutions, and possessing as much vigor and energy as the awakening garden outside our windows. Even “normal” people—you know, the ones whose manicures are intact and the treads of their soles aren’t caked in mud—participate in this spiritual snowmelt and register the rising sap of spring. The result of all this equinoctial arousal can be seen in the increased frequency of early morning garden strolls of focused scrutiny, followed by a sudden surge in nursery sales, the throwing open of windows, and the utter collapse of discipline for indoor responsibilities. But maybe that’s just me.

The season sneaks up on us with an escalating stealth. We’ve gone from fawning over the first flush of precocious snowdrops and celebrating



ANN LEVASSIUR

Lorene welcomes the season’s first snowdrops.

the whiff of a common violet’s old fashioned fragrance as it wafts through the still chilly air, to whirling and twirling through our demanding round of spring chores, whose number outlasts daylight hours. At our feet plump primroses, gentian blue corydalis, bleeding hearts, trillium, and waves of lively daffodils lap our ankles as we go about cleaning and tidying up winter’s

debris. Blowsy Oriental poppies, slender foxgloves, and the blood red herbaceous stems of stout peonies supporting fat, sticky, spherical buds rapidly approach their spring climax. Meanwhile, we rush to complete thinning volunteer seedlings and the division of late-season perennials while we can still make our way into quickly filling garden beds. Spring vines ►

COME GENTLE SPRING . . . continued from page 1

weave and tangle to create a bower of bloom seemingly overnight, while blossoming trees shower our heads with delicate petals as we finish spring pruning, deftly filching a few promising branches for our bedside table.

In the vegetable garden an emerald carpet of chickweed sprouts in the blink of an eye, a beacon of rising soil temperatures and a tasty addition to spring salads as well. We revel in the luxury of sufficient moisture; the dusty, dry, parched days of late summer seem a long way off from dewy, dripping, showery—some would say sodden—spring. It is time to lay the literal nourishing groundwork, to feed and build the soil so it will support the burgeoning biomass accumulating at an alarming rate as the days lengthen and the sun warms. We mix and concoct fertilizers, mulches, and composts, all in pursuit of the elusive “fertile well-drained loam” that is every backyard soil scientist’s dream. Such chores waken our winter-dulled senses and stretch muscles knotted with months of inactivity. Who but a gardener finds the sweet stench of ripened manure bracing and hopeful? We detect an increase in earthworm activity and celebrate the fact.

“April showers bring May flowers,” goes the childhood rhyme, but as



It's spring! Time to play outside.

experienced Northwest gardeners we recognize that the floral show begins far earlier than that cruellest of months, as surely as the rains continue far beyond its close. I am, and I know many of you are too, a geeky weather wonk. My eye, when not on the ground at my feet watching for each emerging bulb and seasonal marker, is trained on the sky. Wind direction, cloud formation, temperature, rainfall, or lack thereof, is never far from the mind of a garden zealot. We may complain—all gardeners do—but we know we are blessed with a supremely benign climate. Nevertheless,

here in our Pacific paradise, hail, late freezes, sapping winds, even the sudden unexpected warm sunny day can mean the difference between weeks of lingering sweet vernal romance and the abrupt end to this most ephemeral of seasons that is defined more by barometric conditions than a calendar construct. Spring’s capricious weather is most often a mix of tonic rain, wan sun, and a constant nippy breeze that keeps us in layers.

Just as the turning earth brings us the dawn and lunar cycles fix our months, the constant orbit of our planet brings us the promise of another gardening season as we enter into the familiar cycle of waking, gaining warmth, growth, and ripening mellowness followed by dormancy, and back to warmth and growth. Right now all is heady, busy, bustling, and yes, sometimes frantic—“Ethereal Madness” as it were. Summer’s languor and repose, shade, and rest are right around the corner, hopefully culminating in a fruitful harvest only to be followed by another dark and fallow winter, at which point we’ll do it all over again next year. I love it! 🌱

Lorene Edwards Forkner is an NHS board member, freelance writer, and garden designer. Follow her seasonal adventures at Plantedathome.com.

ANN LEVASSOUR

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Rollo Adams
 Lisa Albert
 Barb Archer
 Michael Arndt Jr
 Marilyn Arnoldi
 Rose Mary Bacina
 Kerri Bailey
 Lynn Barrett
 Carrie Bauer
 Karen Behling
 John Blair
 Richard Blaisdell
 Florence M Bliss
 Joe Blu
 Laura Blumhagen
 Bill Boris

Diane Bowlin
 Judith Bracik
 Susannah Braff
 Sherry Bunn
 Alicia Burkybile
 Carol T Burton
 Greg Butler
 Angela Camp
 Valerie Cansler
 Will Chase
 Jennifer
 Christensen
 Heather &
 Terry Chubb
 Rosita Colatrella
 Marilyn S Cramer

Katherine Currit
 Vicki Cushman
 Paula Dailly
 Darcy Daniels
 Laureen Davis
 Kathleen DeMaria
 Pat deSilva
 Christy Dowd
 Laura Downey
 Claudia Drucker-Berg
 Elaine Eigeman &
 Daniel Schalke
 Laura Enstrom
 Gary C Epperley &
 Marcus Phelps
 Munson

Michelle &
 Christopher Epping
 Kristina M Erickson
 Nancy Evans
 Sherwin Ferguson
 Ruth Anne Ferris
 Suzanne Ferris
 David Fishman
 Sally Fox
 Lindy Friesen
 Sarah Garrison
 Heather Gibbs
 Nancy Goldman
 Verna Gratton
 David B Grimes
 Barbara Guthrie

Ross & Carla Haddow
 Judie Hansen
 Marie H Hansen
 Lucy Hardiman
 Colleen Headley
 Holly Hedges
 Florence Helliesen
 Diane Henning
 Samantha Hicks
 Lori R Hogan
 Anastasia Hollenbach
 Martha Holschen
 Deborah Horn
 June Jo
 Pat Johnson
 DeAnn Kachman

Blossom Kroman
 Nancy Kuelz
 Sonja Kvamme
 Kurt Laidlaw
 Karen Lamp
 Norma Larshus
 Karen Larson
 Peggy Larson
 Deborah Leslie
 Dorothy J Loudon
 Sherry Luckey
 Sarah Makar
 Susan Maki
 Jean Marshall
 Andrea Matus-Magee
 & Charles Magee

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JEAN HANSON

ROBIN FARRAR MAASS

NHS MEMBER JEAN HANSON has gardened in Vancouver, Sammamish, and Snohomish, and she is certain of one thing—the “yummy, grape Kool-Aid smelling irises” and the Cécile Brünner rose from her mother’s garden have moved with her from garden to garden—and they’ll keep moving,” says Jean.

Jean’s mother was a lifelong gardener in Portland, Oregon where Jean grew up. Not only that, but she has a copy of a 1917 story from the *Portland Oregonian* about her grandmother’s use of “scientific methods” in her six-acre garden on the Columbia River.

“Love of gardening is something we just pass on,” says Jean. She cites the story of how the grape Kool-Aid irises traveled from coast to coast and back again: from her mother’s garden in Portland to her sister’s garden in Concord, Massachusetts to Jean’s garden (at the time) in Sammamish. They’re with her now in Snohomish too. “My sister and I agree that we’re both recreating Mom’s garden in our gardens,” says Jean.

Despite her strong gardening

heritage, Jean says she didn’t really begin gardening till she and her husband were married in 1990. In 1996 she took the Oregon Master Gardener class because she wanted to learn more about the technical side of gardening.

“It was just fun to learn that stuff,” she says, “though I’m still no good with trees!” She enjoyed the volunteer projects she worked on as part of her Master Gardener training, though more than anything else, she applied what she had learned to her own garden.

In 1997 Jean and her husband moved to Sammamish to a house with a lovely garden in deer territory where finding plants deer wouldn’t eat was an education in itself. Four years ago they moved to a new house in Snohomish with no landscaping, so Jean was able to design the garden herself.

Jean became an NHS member at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in 2001, and she tries to never miss a meeting. “Even if it’s a topic I’m not especially interested in, I always come



away with a concept or design that I might be able to incorporate into my own garden.” Now she is an enthusiastic volunteer for NHS at the Flower and Garden Show. “It’s just so

fun being around other gardeners and talking to people about NHS,” she says. “It really meets a need for me.”

She muses on her evolution as a gardener, from annuals in a pot, to flowers, to an interest in foliage, and now to a preoccupation with structure. “I tend to start with plants and stick them places and I don’t have an underlying structure,” she confesses. “I’m trying to design a lower-maintenance garden, one that doesn’t take up all my life and actually leaves me time for other summer pursuits like boating.”

Jean is already looking ahead to her next garden, which will be in the Bow-Edison area on land where she and her husband are getting ready to build a house. “My next garden will be a great opportunity to restrain myself,” she laughs. “I’m going to try to resist buying cool plants when I see them.”

Gardeners everywhere know how difficult that can be. Let’s check back with her in a couple of years and see how she’s doing. 📷

Robin Farrar Maass is a regular contributor to Garden Notes who enjoys writing, painting, and gardening.

PHOTO: JEAN HANSON

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Cecilia P McGowan
Helen Meeker
Sheila Moore
Joe Musielak
Bill Nashem
Penelope E Nichols
Lisa Osgood
Michael Oxman
Karen Penello
Dara Penello
Kimberley Penney
Jody Peters
Charles Pluckhahn
Linda Pyles
Linda Rantala

Susan Raunig & Greg Roeben
David Rehfeld
Lisa Reid
Marge Reif
Elisabeth Revell
Judy Reynolds
Judy Rivas
Susan C Roberts
Jacqueline Robertson
Dawn Robinson
Tanya Roll
Bonnie Sanders
Sarah Schaar
Kathy Schneider
Michael J Sidell

Ken Simkins
Melinda Simon
Christine Simonton
Debra Smith
Sandy Smith
Norma S Smith
Richard H Sodergren
Linda Swanson
Victoria Stocker
Betty Stover
Manaji Suzuki
Ruth Swanson
Michael J Swassing
Penny Talbot
Kathleen Tehada
Mary Alice Tennant

Angela Terry
Sharyn Thimmesch
Jamie Thurner
Terry Timberlake
Gretchen Van Brunt
Rose Velikanje
Penny Vernie
Susan Walker
Deborah Walker
Lucy Weinberg
Jackie White
Allison Wilhelm
Karin Williamson
Lynn Wilmet
Linda Wright & Lenn Basaraba

FLORA AND FAUNA BOOKS

ANN LEVASSEUR

REMEMBER THE BOOKSTORE that used to be in Pioneer Square where you could find any horticultural book? Where did it go? Flora and Fauna Books and its owner, David Hutchinson, are alive and well in Magnolia near the main entrance to Discovery Park.

Flora and Fauna Books got its start in 1983 at the Seattle Book Center in Belltown with a group of specialized booksellers. At the same time David was working as a gardener at Discovery Park where he continued to develop his interest in the park, gardening, wildlife habitat, and birding—all of which greatly influence his bookstore. In 1987 David opened Flora and Fauna on First Avenue South in Pioneer Square, where he remained until 2006 when soaring rents closed many of the small businesses operating in that area. Since David had bought a house near Discovery Park a few years earlier, he reopened in retail space near his home. After a year he decided to just use space in the house and turn it into a bookstore, which brings us to the present. In addition to Flora and Fauna Books, David also operates Discovery Gardens, a native plant nursery that is just outside the front door.

As indicated by the name of the store, Flora and Fauna, it is not limited to horticultural titles. The basis of organization is Biogeography, a system developed by Alfred Russell Wallace, a colleague of Darwin. It organizes the world by faunal regions according to the plants and animals that are found there. You will find titles about flora and fauna worldwide. No matter what or where your area of interest may be, David can help you find it, including a full



ANN LEVASSEUR



selection of books on Pacific Northwest gardening and related subjects.

In addition to operating a bookstore and nursery, David continues his intense interest in Discovery Park and wildlife habitat. His home is adjacent to a greenbelt owned by the city. He and a group of Earthcorps volunteers have been rehabilitating the ravine behind his house, which was completely overgrown with blackberries and other non-native

plants. He has been deeply involved with Discovery Park, including the acquisition of land within the park still owned by the US Army.

You will do yourself a favor to pay a visit to this Seattle treasure. Until you get there, check out the website at www.ffbooks.net for more information and directions to the store. 📍

FLORA AND FAUNA BOOKS
3212 W GOVERNMENT WAY
SEATTLE WA 98199
PHONE: 206-623-4727
OPEN FRI, SAT, SUN 11 TO 5
AND BY APPOINTMENT.

Ann LeVasseur is an NHS board member who dabbles in gardening, art, and photography and lives with Sparky the Wonder Cat.



SPRING KICKOFF WEEKEND TO BENEFIT NHS

Thursday, April 3 through Sunday, April 6
 13625 NE 175th St. Woodinville

JOIN MOLBAK'S for their annual kickoff-to-spring celebration and gather supplies for the warm days ahead. Along with a tempting selection of plants and garden accessories, Molbaks will present an inspirational line-up of speakers to help get your garden energy flowing. *Best of all, Molbak's will donate a portion of the weekend's proceeds to NHS.*

LECTURE SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, 4 PM to 5 PM and 6 PM to 7 PM: *The Latest on Clematis for Small Spaces* (Raymond Evison)**
- **Friday, 6 PM to 7 PM: *A Springtime Container Gardening Kickoff* (Tina Dixon)**
- **Saturday, 11 AM to Noon: *A Pattern Garden: The Essential Elements of Garden Making* (Valerie Easton)**
- **Sunday, 1 PM to 2 PM: *Ciscoe's Favorite Perennials of All Time* (Ciscoe Morris)**

Event details are available at www.molbaks.com
 and on our own website at www.northwesthort.org.

GARDENING WITH BAMBI AND THUMPER

LISA IRWIN

WE HAVE A CABIN on Whidbey Island where I garden part time. I love the wildlife present under the limbed-up Douglas firs and in the adjoining marsh—songbirds, raptors, owls, coyote, deer, and rabbits. Yet the deer and rabbits drive me nuts when it comes to their diets of specimen shrubs, trees, grasses, and perennials. So I thought I would share some tidbits of my experiences.

My Whidbey yard is mostly shady, sandy-soiled, and dryish from more than 25 tall firs. When we first bought the property it was a “low-maintenance” yard with lawn surrounded by rhodies, juniper, forsythia, and salal. As I’ve added new perennials, shrubs, and understory trees, I’ve had to contend with more visiting deer and rabbits.

I have read many lists of deer- and rabbit-resistant plants and tried to limit my plant selections to them. Trouble is, when the animals are young, they will try a wide variety of delicacies, and when food is scarce they will eat nearly anything. It also seems that when my supposedly resistant plants are young and tender, they are very palatable to Bambi and Thumper. And then there are those must-have plants you have to try anyway.

WHAT HASN’T WORKED

Fencing: We’ve not fenced our yard—the cost and aesthetics were not attractive.

Repellants: I’ve tried some foul-smelling repellants such as Liquid Fence. This worked for a couple of weeks, but I am not around enough for repeated applications, and the applicator itself keeps getting jammed with smidgens of rotten egg. Also, what is the fun of gardening when your yard stinks to high heaven?

Dogs: I used to love letting the dogs out to run free in the yard, to spray their scent all over and scare the deer. Trouble was, our springer spaniel had his own agenda of supping from the area’s trash cans, and the shi-tzu liked to bark at my neighbors’ cat under their bedroom window. So I nixed the dogs as deterrents.

WHAT WORKS FOR ME

Baskets: Since I’d done well with some of the larger-leaved varieties of hosta (slug damage excluded), I added more varieties. After a couple of weeks the leaves were being chomped. Up went the wire baskets, a great tip I got from another Whidbey gardener, Cheryl Kamera. (Place large, green wire hanging-baskets upside down over individual plants and secure these with a few bent wires.) They are great for starter plants, grasses, ferns, and smaller perennials. I order these a case at a time

from Stueber Distributing in Snohomish. Also now under the wire baskets, after initial munching, are *Liriope*, *Carex morrowii*, *Polystichum setigerum*, and *Brunnera*.

Cages: To keep deer away from young shrubs and trees, I build individual cages out of chicken wire or deer fencing and secure them with bamboo stakes. For some plants such as camellia, Japanese maple, and oak-leaf hydrangea, I took the cages away after a few years and the plants have managed (thus far). The supposedly deer-resistant *Cornus alba* ‘Elegantissima’ had to go in a cage—I’ll try to set her free this year and see what happens.

Plants: So, here are some of my best survivors—tolerant of shade, drought, deer, rabbits, and some neglect. Enjoy! 🍷

Lisa Irwin is an NHS board member and the owner of Dru Gardens, a local design business.

Ferns

<i>Blechnum</i> spp.	Deer Fern
<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	Autumn Fern
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Sword Fern
Groundcovers	
<i>Asarum caudatum</i>	Native Ginger
<i>Cotula squalida</i>	Brass Buttons
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	Barrenwort
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Gaultheria sballon</i>	Salal
<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Lithodora
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Cascades Mahonia

Perennials

<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady’s Mantle
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Columbine
<i>Aster</i> spp.	Aster
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Harebell
<i>Crocsmia</i>	Montbretia
<i>Cyclamen coum</i>	Hardy Cyclamen
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Hardy Cyclamen
<i>Dicentra</i>	Bleeding Heart
<i>Geranium</i> spp.	Hardy Geranium
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Hellebore
<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Daylily
<i>Iris</i> spp.	Iris
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	Narcissus
<i>Polygonatum</i>	Solomon’s Seal
<i>Saxifraga</i> spp.	Saxifrage

Shrubs

<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Aucuba
<i>Berberis</i> spp.	Barberry
<i>Camellia</i> spp.	Camellia
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince
<i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican Orange
<i>Elaeagnus x ebbingei</i>	Elaeagnus
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Redvein Enkianthus
<i>Escallonia</i>	Escallonia
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Japanese Aralia
<i>Fuchsia</i>	Hardy Fuchsia
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Coast Leucothoe
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Box Honeysuckle
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo
<i>Osmanthus</i> spp.	Osmanthus
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese Andromeda
<i>Rhododendron</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Sarcococca</i> spp.	Vanilla Shrub
<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Skimmia
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Evergreen Huckleberry
Trees	
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Madrona Tree
<i>Arbutus umedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Korean Dogwood
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Plume Japanese Cedar

SPECIES AND HEIRLOOM GLADIOLUS

MARY GUTIERREZ

I'VE NEVER LIKED GLADIOLI—those ungainly stalks, ubiquitous in front of the altar at weddings and funerals. Their colors are often gaudy and their bolt-upright form has no grace, to my eye. And any plant that requires me to stake each flower stem is more work than it's worth.

So it's with trepidation that I now confess to admiring a few members of the genus *Gladiolus*. Before you judge me, I invite you to meet some of the species and heirloom varieties that I appreciate.

When I was in South Africa a while back, some of the native spring-bloomers were up. The one that first caught my eye was *Gladiolus alatus*, called *kalkoentjies*—"turkey chicks"—in Afrikaans. Only six inches tall, it sports vibrant orange and yellow flowers. While the flower color is hot, its small stature makes it cute rather than overbearing. *G. alatus* would be perfect in a rockery among other tiny treasures.

Lovely *Gladiolus tristis* and its hybrids grow knee-high, and in spring produce pale yellow flowers, sometimes flushed with orange, brown, or purple. Last year, when *G. tristis* bloomed in my greenhouse I visited it every morning while its nighttime fragrance lingered.

The diminutive *G. venustus* and *G. scullyi* have greenish-yellow flowers marked with lavender and brownish-red, respectively. They feature the distinctive "hooded" flower of some species and are unassuming enough to be appreciated by the gardener who is more foliage- than floral-oriented.

After seeing these beauties in the wild, my mission now is to determine which of the South African gladioli are adaptable to the Pacific Northwest—and

which ones I can even find to buy.

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES

A couple of gladiolus species from northern Africa and the Mediterranean are easier to purchase and grow. Corms of the Abyssinian glad, *Gladiolus callianthus* (known as *G. callianthus* 'Murielae', *Acidanthera murielae*, or a dozen other monikers) are found in nurseries each spring. Its fragrant white flowers splashed with purple open on three-foot stems in late summer.

Or, turn up the color dial—try *Gladiolus communis* var. *byzantinus*, the Byzantine glad. It has bold magenta flowers with white nectar guides. If anyone questions your taste, tell them that Christopher Lloyd enjoyed these at Great Dixter. If your Byzantines are just a foot tall with small, pale flowers, you have the "fakes," imported from the Netherlands and sold cheaply by some bulb companies. The genuine article stands two to three feet tall—and a plump corm costs an arm and a leg (OK, \$13.50!).

HEIRLOOMS

Heirloom cultivars of *Gladiolus dalenii* (syn. *G. primulinus*) have retained the hooded blossom of their ancestors, but picked up some color along the way. One lovely member of this group is *G. 'Boone'*, whose flowers are a delicate yellow and apricot atop two-foot stems.



G. tristis and its hybrids can be highly fragrant.

One—the only—downright lurid cultivar that I enjoy is *G. 'Atom'*. Its petals are stop-sign red with a white picotee edge. I grow this in a bed anchored by *Tetrapanax papyrifera*, bright-leaved cannas, a restio, and some grasses. It's loud, true, but is just plain fun.

CULTIVATION

The South African and Byzantine gladioli begin growth in winter, bloom in late winter or spring, and are summer-dormant. Both are planted in fall in well-drained soil and dislike summer irrigation. The Abyssinian and heirloom gladioli are planted in spring and watered through the season. Most species and heirlooms are hardy; the Abyssinian often is not. I treat it as an annual and replant as needed.

I hope I've redeemed myself—though that last one might have blown it. And it might be too much to hope, but perhaps I've helped another gardener over their aversion to gladioli. 🌱

PLANT SOURCES

Telos Rare Bulbs: www.telosrarebulbs.com
Annie's Annuals: www.anniesannuals.com
Old House Gardens:
www.oldhousegardens.com

Mary Gutierrez is the editor of Northwest Garden News, www.northwestgarden-news.com or 206-725-2394.

THE STORY OF PLANTS: TURK'S CAP LILY

DANIEL MOUNT

MEHMED I, A SULTAN in the Ottoman Empire, was a lover of beauty. I see him in his palace gardens wearing a *martagan*—the turban, they say, that gave *Lilium martagon* its name. I believe this sultan, inspired by the lily's graceful curves, had the turban designed after it. The "Martagon of Constantinople," as the flower was known before Linnaeus put it in the genus *Lilium*, is native to the hills of Mehmed's homeland Turkey.

Considering the 3000 years of lily cultivation, *Lilium martagon* is a relatively new introduction, first recorded in European gardens in the 1550s. But martagons, or turk's cap lilies, didn't experience their heyday until the early nineteenth century. Catalogs listed as many as 20 cultivars, but the new lilies from East Asia eclipsed this popularity by the end of century. Maybe the curious fragrance, which I find chocolatey with a twist of bleach, deterred lily lovers from continuing to grow martagons. The showy and fragrant asiatic and oriental lilies took center stage. By 1901 Gertrude Jekyll was referring to martagons simply as "old garden favorites" worthy of mention because of their place in "old English gardens." The martagon, like turbans, had gone out of fashion. Yet in the background, hybridizations have continued between turk's cap lilies, in particular *L. hansonii* from Japan and *L. martagon*, producing beautiful favorites like *Lilium* 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' and *L.* 'Attiwaw'.

The species *Lilium martagon* has a vast range from Portugal to Siberia, some say even into Great Britain, though these populations may be garden escapees. This sub-alpine lily is found in meadows, woods, and waste places. Its

cosmopolitan range has produced a large number of naturally occurring varieties. *L. martagon* var. *album* is a garden classic. Yet the wine-colored *L. martagon* var. *cattaniae* fell out of lily catalogs years ago. All lilies with back-curved petals are in the group called the martagons—the turk's cap lilies—though not all are *Lilium martagon*. Even our native *Lilium columbianum* is considered a martagon.



Lillium Martagon *against a fence*

Seven years ago I planted ten small yellow bulbs of the mauve-flowered species that a client ordered from a discount catalog. Without much hope, I planted the dry meager bulbs shallowly and mulched them. Martagons root at the bottom, unlike other lilies with stem roots, so should be shallowly planted. I ignored them as they rested dormant for a full year after planting. I was too busy slug-baiting the hostas and deadheading geraniums. One or two years of minimal flowering left me unimpressed. But their consistent increase in size and flower number has won me over. They have proven to be worth the wait. In the woodland setting where I grow martagons, they have never once been

bothered by the deer or slugs that have not allowed one oriental lily to bloom. They remain disease free. Though contrary to recommendation, I planted them in the full shade and acidic duff of a hemlock and offer no summer water. Still, they have bloomed reliably and increasingly for seven years. Producing up to 25 flowers per stem, they begin blooming in mid-June and continue into August. A cluster of seedlings has sprung up around the original plants in the last year—a hope I had never entertained when planting those first bulbs.

I have since grown martagons under more favorable conditions. From the pagoda-like whorls of foliage and the fuzzy flower buds, to the scepter-like grace of ascending seed pods holding well into winter, I find them always of interest and never demanding. My favorite cultivar 'Mahogany Bells' has nearly black stems and waxy devil's food red flowers, making it hard to ignore.

Having once inspired a Turkish sultan to make a fashion statement, the unfashionable turk's cap lily has remained worthy of mention. But fashions change and our desire for undemanding, long-lived and disease-free plants may see the martagons make a comeback. 🏡

PLANT SOURCES

The Lily Nook: www.lilynook.mb.ca

Klemh's Song Sparrow:

www.songsparrow.com

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.

N H S L E C T U R E

DATE, DAY & TIME	EVENT NAME	FEATURED SPEAKER	TYPE OF EVENT
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 RESERVATION REQUIRED
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
July 9 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	New Zealand Garden Seminar—Three Lectures	Margaret Barker Bev McConnell Penny Zino	Slides & Lecture Wednesday Evening Lecture Series RESERVATION REQUIRED
September 12 (Fri) 12:00 Noon – 6:30 p.m. September 13 (Sat) 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	NHS ANNUAL FALL		
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) 6:30 p.m. Reception 7:00 p.m. Meeting 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
<p>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.</p>	<p>\$45/\$65</p>	<p>Bastyr University Auditorium 14500 Juanita Dr. NE Kenmore, 98028</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>\$5/\$10</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>\$5/\$10</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>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 Cappiello 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.</p>	<p>\$5/\$10</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>Come meet three of the gardeners who hosted NHS members during a recent tour to New Zealand, and take an armchair tour of their gardens from the comfort of NHS Hall. Co-sponsored by the Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation and the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden.</p>	<p>FREE/ \$15</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<h2>PLANT SALE</h2>	<p>FREE</p>	<p>Warren G. Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>\$5/\$10</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>\$5/\$10</p>	<p>NHS Hall / UW Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

LOIS PENDLETON

April Preview

JUDITH KNOTT TYLER
and DICK TYLERMAKING CHICKEN SALAD
FROM CHICKEN SH*T

Wednesday, April 9, 2008



JUDITH KNOTT TYLER AND DICK TYLER have owned and operated Pine Knot Farms since 1982 on land that has been in Judith's family for six generations. Early on, Pine Knot Farms focused on plants that thrive in shade, particularly the genus *Hellebore*.

Both Judith and Dick fell under the intoxicating influence of hellebores in the early 1990s, and have been breeding and collecting the plants ever since. They devote each winter to collecting the best hellebore stock from around the world. Their travels have taken them to Europe and the Balkan Islands, and they trade with growers from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Enthusiasts are growing Pine Knot Farm hellebores in 49 of the 50 United States—everywhere but Hawaii! Judith is the author, with C. Coleston Burrell, of the Timber Press title, *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*, which also features some of Dick's remarkable photographs.

The Tylers combine their diverse talents to keep the Pine Knot Farms fresh and thriving. Dick, who was a building contractor for 20 years, is primarily responsible for the hardscape and soil preparation at the nursery. He is also the chief electrician, plumber, carpenter, and mechanic. Judith, a former art student, channels her energy into creating gardens, combining forms and textures to form living sculptures that change with the seasons. She also writes the Pine Knot Farm's catalog.

Starting with the "Great Easter Freeze" and continuing with the "Summer from Hell," 2007 was a difficult year for Pine Knot Farms. Judith and Dick will tell us how their hellebores and epimediums survived the record hottest and record driest summer on record, as well as how to build, plant, and furnish a garden using the imagination instead of a big pocketbook. 📖



May Preview

ANDREA JONES

GARDEN EXPOSURES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008



IF YOU ARE LOOKING for photographic prints of plants, gardens, or landscapes to brighten up your home or office, check out Garden Exposures, a photo library that stocks more than 150,000 photographs, from contemporary plant portraits to classic garden images. Leading garden photographer Andrea Jones established the library, which is located on a spacious rural property in the scenic hills of Ayrshire, South West Scotland, more than 20 years ago.

Jones' exquisite photographs of plants, gardens and landscapes have appeared in *Gardens Illustrated*, *Garden Design*, *House and Garden*, and *National Geographic*. In addition to her work for the press, she has illustrated a number of books, including *Bold Plants and Grasses* and *Bamboos* by Noel Kingsbury, *Lost Gardens* by Jennifer Potter, and *Virgin Gardener* by Paul Thompson. Her first solo book project, *Plantworlds*, is a remarkable photographic collection of the intimate details of plant life.

"One of the great privileges of my work as a garden photographer is being given access to beautiful places before the public is allowed in—or in some cases, before the owners wake up," says Jones. She prefers to be in a place before dawn, ready and waiting when the light comes through. In winter, that means she can sleep in, but in summer, it means being in the garden by 4 a.m. "It can be quite an emotional thing—being there all alone," Jones adds.

Andrea Jones will talk about photographing gardens around the world, and share the experience of capturing the first light as it filters through the leaves, gradually becoming more intense. She will describe her travels with renowned Welsh plant hunters Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones in which she documented their expeditions and some of their unusual discoveries. Perhaps she will even talk about the high point of her career: "Photographing chimpanzees with Jane Goodall in Tanzania." 📖

June Preview

DON SHADOW

NEW & USEFUL PLANTS FOR THE
LANDSCAPE & GARDEN

Wednesday, June 11, 2008



DON SHADOW DOESN'T LIKE to use the word "unique" to describe the plants that he grows. But the word certainly applies to Don himself.

A fourth-generation nurseryman, Don has operated Shadow Nursery in south-central Tennessee since 1973. In addition to the quality liners, flowering dogwoods, and hard-to-find natives, he cares for more than 600 exotic animals from 60 different species. Camels, zebras, an assortment of deer and cattle, red pandas, tapirs, and many more fascinating creatures thrive in the natural 800-acre landscape encompassed by the nursery. Like I said, Don Shadow is "unique."

He travels extensively and has noticed that Americans are beginning to move towards planting styles already popular in Japan and England. "Smaller spaces need trees and shrubs that match the scale of those spaces," he points out. "Large, majestic trees just don't work in the smaller landscapes we're seeing around newly-constructed homes."

Another trend that Don sees is the increased use of edible plants in the landscape: fruit trees and bushes, berries and brambles. "They're decorative as well as very useful to the home chef," he notes.

Color is an important aspect of the plants that Don develops. "Colorful blossoms and foliage continue to be important," he says. "But I'm also seeing interest in trees with colorful barks that add color to the landscape in the winter." And, according to Don, there's a renewed interest in what he calls "heirloom plants"—trees and perennials that were popular with our grandparents.

Whether it's growing tender bamboo for his pandas or developing new varieties of fruit trees, he continues to demonstrate his passion for cultivating interesting plants. "I focus on varieties that I describe as new and useful," explains Don. "These could be plants that are ideally suited to a particular location due to color, form, or habit." 🏡

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

~ 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!

Mr. & Mrs. Don G. Abel
Gail Adams
Phoebe Andrew
Lois Andrews
Alison Andrews
Barbara Asmervig
Charlotte L. Behnke
Mr. & Mrs. Birrell
Susan Bogert
Constance Bollen
Mrs. Edgar O. Bottler
Shelly & Paul Capeloto
Whit Carhart
G. Maria Carlos
Deborah Cheadle
Christianson's Nursery
Michael J. Coie
Tam Crocker
Stacie Crooks
Nancy Daar
Lynn & Ralph Davis
Marsha Davis-Thomsen
Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson
Bobbie DeVore
Sue Dickson
Tina Dixon
Dragonfly Farms Nursery
Anita Dunn
Mrs. Phil Duryee
Dominique Emerson
Janet & Mike Endsley
Dave & Cindy Fairbrook
Far Reaches Farm
Betsy Fitzgerald
Lorene Edwards Forkner
Kathleen Fries
Noreen R. Frink
Marilyn Glenn
Greg Graves
Pamela K. Green
Joanne Harding
Joyce Hawkins
Nancy Heckler
Deborah Heg
Colette Highberger, Upright
Construction, Inc.
Cathy Hillenbrand
Melody Hooper
Jocelyn Horder
Darlene & Dan Huntington
Lisa Irwin
Becky Johnson
Ann E. Keller
Harold Kempen
Kemper/Iversen, Ltd.
Sydney Kohlmeier
Karin Kravitz
Mary Helen Krock
& John MacKean
Laura Kvasnosky
Denise Lane
Raymond J. Larson
Barry & Susan Latter
Alice Lauber
Julie Lawrence
Jeanne Marie Lee
Dorothy Lennard

Ann LeVasseur
Janet Lewinsohn
KiKi & Dave Lewis
Martha Lindberg
Robin F Maass
Theresa Malmanger
Hans & Tina Mandt
James K. Marshall
Judy Massong
McComb Road Nursery
Myra McEwan
Pam & Roger McNair
Kathy Meislahn
Renee Montgelas
Maureen Morris
Ciscoe Morris
Alexandra & Charles Morse
Sue Moss Garden Design
Lee & John Neff
Chuck Ogburn
Ann Ormsby
Mary Palmer
Chitra & Zakir Parpia
Janet & Keith Patrick
Norma Patterson
Rose Peck
Peg Pearson
Maryann & Charles Pember
Lois Pendleton
Susan Picquelle
Phyllis Pierce
Beverly Pierson
Dianne Polson
Kate Poole
Sashi Raghupathy
Ravenna Gardens
Barbara Reisinger
M. Gayle Richardson
Pat Riehl
Nita Jo Rountree
Michelle Scannell
Gale & Marcel Schwarb
Steve Scott
Barbara Sheldon
Jean Skerlong
Peggy Stanlick
Richie Steffen
Rebecca Stewart
Phillip & Susan Stoller
Nancy Strahle
Sunnyside Nursery
Mary Kay Talbot
Lynne Thompson
Shelagh & Phil Tucker
Mary M. Turner
Ralene Walls
Marie Weiler
Wells Medina Nursery
Wendy Welch
Joanne White
Carolyn & Art Whittlesey
Madeleine Wilde
Lois Willman
Martha Woodman
John A. Wott PhD
Jennifer Wyatt
Kathy Yerke

A STYLISH SHED—ALL YOUR OWN

DEBRA PRINZING

DO YOU DREAM about a place of escape? Consider designing a private retreat in your own backyard, a tranquil space where you can pursue your heart's desires.

During the past few years, while working with Seattle photographer William Wright to create *Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways*, I've visited close to one hundred garden sheds in North American cities, suburbs, and rural settings. Each of these highly personal destinations provided ideas and inspiration for creating a dream shed. There are infinite ideas to explore, depending upon your space and ambition. Here are some general tips:

What activity draws you outdoors? Are you creating art, making music, writing poetry, growing flowers, playing with children, stargazing, entertaining friends, or seeking solitude with meditation? Virtually any personal passion can find a home in a small, but distinct garden shed.

Consider the shed's architectural role in the landscape. Select a style and materials to complement your home. Is the shed a focal point or intentionally hidden from view? Will it be a "wall" to support vines or climbing roses? Will you use it for displaying collections, mirrors, and salvaged artifacts? Will it camouflage an unsightly view? Is it for pure function or pure folly—or a little bit of both?

Placement choices are also important. Where will you site the structure? Can you orient it to invite sunlight to stream through the windows or French doors? How about essential utilities, such as electricity, water, or heat? As for size and placement, check local building codes to determine the maximum size (often

around 100 square feet) or setback not requiring a construction permit.



Meet Debra at two Seattle area signings for *Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways*.

- *Molbak's, Woodinville:*
Sunday, May 18th, 1–2 P.M.
- *Ravenna Gardens, University Village:* Sunday, May 18th, 3–4 P.M.

Think carefully about the interiors. So many people build architectural wonders but then leave the shed's inner space looking rather ordinary. Treat the interior space as you would any room of your house. One couple we met in Austin, Texas built a teahouse using their dining room measurements, because to them, its proportions were comfortable.

Windows are essential to your design. Make sure there's a deep ledge for displaying potted herbs or anything else that makes you happy. Windows should be operable so you can adjust temperatures, create ventilation and—most importantly—hear the sounds of your garden while inside.

Just as with your home, make sure the doorway, threshold, and portal linking the "external world" and your "inner sanctum" are symbolic of powerful and nurturing emotions: shelter, safety, and haven. Don't settle for an ordinary door from the big-box home center when you can find something special. A salvaged door, especially one with glass, is a nice choice. Punctuate it with a brilliant color or allow it to age gracefully.

Even if your shed will house mainly gardening projects, designate one corner for R&R: Include a bench with cushions or a wicker chair, along with a good reading lamp (of course, this means electricity), and a desk for your reference books, correspondence, or even a small tea party.

In the end, your shed should be designed for your private and personal delight. It is the place where you will feel safe, free to create and contemplate, and take refuge from the everyday demands of life. While "shed" is a *noun* that evokes an alluring garden destination, it is also a verb with several meanings, most of which imply the notion of "letting go" (as in shedding tears, sending forth, losing by a natural process). Think about this imagery: We "shed" our burdens, our cares, the demands of the world, when we escape to our secret backyard place. 🏡

NHS member Debra Prinzing (www.debraprinzing.com) is a former Seattle garden and design writer who moved to Southern California in 2006. Her work appears in the Los Angeles Times, Sunset, Fine Gardening, and other publications. Stylish Sheds and Elegant Hideaways will be available April 29, 2008.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BOTANICAL LATIN

The Origin of Species

DANIEL SPARLER

IN THE LAST EDITION of *Garden Notes* we looked briefly at the genus. Now comes an opportunity to ponder the more basic unit of nomenclature, the species, also known as the specific epithet. Again, we turn to Mark Griffith's *Index of Garden Plants* (Timber Press, 1994) for a stimulating definition:

The species (abbreviated sp., plural ssp.) is the lowest principal taxonomic rank. It usually describes very closely related, morphologically similar individuals often found within a distinct geographical range. Otherwise put, the species can be viewed as a population . . . exhibiting a suite of characters . . . which consistently distinguish it from other populations.

Distinctive populations within a species are sometimes divided further into subspecies, varieties, and forms, but that is a topic for another day. For the moment we shall attempt to shed a little light on the structure of those seemingly inscrutable names—in other words, on the origin of species (with apologies to Charles Darwin). Let us try to wrap our brains around the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature's explanation:

The name of a species is a binary combination consisting of the name of the genus followed by a single specific epithet in the form of an adjective, a noun in the genitive, or a word in apposition, or several words. . . . If an epithet consists of two or more words, these are to be united or hyphenated. . . . The specific epithet, when adjectival in form and not used as a noun, agrees

grammatically with the generic name; when it is a noun in apposition or a genitive noun, it retains its own gender and termination irrespective of the gender of the generic name. Epithets not conforming to this rule are to be corrected.

Got that? Not quite? The essential import is that the humble specific epithet has one of three grammatical functions. Remember that it is treated as Latin regardless of word origin. Moreover, if it is an **adjective** (such as *foetidus*—smelly, *fumosus*—smoky, *funestus*—deadly), its ending must harmonize with that of its genus, but again, such tender gender identity questions (Is it masculine, feminine, or neuter?) are better left to explore at a later date. As a preview, however, here's a little tease that may have you tearing your hair out: plants described as "somewhat hairy" include the masculine *Lupinus hirsutulus*, the feminine *Viola hirsutula*, and the neuter *Polypodium hirsutulum*.

Such adjectival species names are the most common type. As noted above, these are usually descriptive in nature, as in *Rosa glauca* (gleaming, gray), *Penstemon glaber* (hairless, smooth), or *Campanula glomerata* (clustered). If you care to parse your parsley, *Petroselinum crispum*, the generic name means "stone celery" in Greek, while the specific epithet is Latin for "curly." Other adjectival epithets recall places of origin, as in *barcinensis* (from Barcelona), *mauritanicus* (from North Africa), and *australis* (from the Southern Hemisphere—not to be confused with "from Australia," which is *australiensis*).

Specific epithets that are nouns in the **genitive** (a grammatical case denoting possession or other close relationship) often involve a plant's traditional use, as for sugar cane, *Saccharum officinarum* (of the apothecary or herbal pharmacy), or its natural habitat, as with *Aquilegia desertorum* (of deserts).

Noteworthy people are also honored in specific names, and these too are usually treated with genitive case endings, as in *Acer davidii* (for French plant collector Pere David), *Dodecatheon jeffryi* (for Scottish botanist John Jeffrey), or *Corylopsis willmottiae* (after British plantswoman Ellen Willmott). Honorific titles are also reflected in this manner, as with the bird of paradise, *Strelitzia reginae* (of the queen).

For the **positionally** challenged, the third category refers to two nouns standing side by side, as in "my brother Joel." These come in four categories: defunct generic names now used at the specific level, as in *Cucuma melo* (cantaloupes and related melons); valid generic names used as specific epithet, as in the wiry New Zealand shrub *Corokia cotoneaster*; common names in their original language, as in another Kiwi shrub, *Podocarpus totara*, which honors the plant's Maori name; and finally, common names translated into Latin, as in *Erythronium dens-canis* for the so-called dogtooth violet. Now that we have scratched the surface, in the summer issue we shall dig a bit deeper. 📖

Daniel Sparler is an NHS board member who has gallantly taken on the task of un-muddying the waters of botanical nomenclature.

MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON



Garden Lovers' Book Sale Botanical Art Exhibit & Sale

**Wine and Cheese
Preview Party & Book Sale**
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 5:00 TO 8:00 PM,
TICKETS: \$15

Public Book Sale
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 9:00 AM
TO 3:00 PM, FREE ADMISSION

ALREADY ONE OF THE major dates on a gardener's calendar, the third annual Elisabeth C. Miller Library book sale is not to be missed. Thousands of books will inspire your garden design, teach you how to select and grow the best herbs, and enhance your appreciation of plants and their role in nature around us.

This year we are very pleased to have the book sale coincide with the opening of an exhibit and sale by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). The library will double as gallery to display the recent work of several excellent local artists working in various media.

To get the best choice of both books and art, come to the Preview Party and Book Sale. A great time is ensured, as the most dedicated garden book lovers will all be there. A silent auction for the choicest titles will add to the fun, but the best part will be getting first dibs on table after table of books on all things plants. (No Gothic romances allowed.)

If you miss the party, on Saturday you get another chance. There will still be plenty of books left and—who knows—we may reduce prices by the end of the day. Members of ASBA will be on hand both days to talk about their artwork, and many of their pieces will



*Marty Wingate and Virginia Hand
enjoying the book selection
at the 2007 sale.*

be for sale. The art exhibit will remain on display through May 4.

We still have room for more used books! Check your shelves and bring in your extras—so you have room to buy more. Please bring them to the library during our open hours (Monday, 9 to 8; Tuesday through Friday, 9 to 5; Saturday, 9 to 3), preferably by April 1 to allow processing time. If you have any questions, call us at 206-543-0415.



NHS Grant for Curriculum Collection— Come Check It Out!

THE NEW CURRICULUM Collection (see the winter *Garden Notes*) is complete and ready for you to see. We are displaying the new books in the library through March 27. Afterwards, they will be available to check out by parents, teachers, and other adults working with children.

**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)

We are very grateful to NHS for making this collection possible. We now have one of the finest collections of plant-related materials for creating study plans for school teachers, developing projects to engage science clubs, or just having a good time learning with your grandkids. To see a complete, annotated list of the new collection, visit our website at www.millerlibrary.org.




Miller Library Gardening Answers Knowledgebase

THE MILLER LIBRARY Knowledgebase is full of great questions and—even better—the answers to hundreds of questions received by the library's Plant Answer Line in the last few years. Here's an example:

Question: Do you know the name of a dictionary of Latin plant names? I think the author was Stearns. Do you know where it might be available?

Answer: The Miller Library has *Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners* (by William T. Stearn, published by Cassell in London, 1992). We also have Stearn's book, *Botanical Latin: History, Grammar Syntax, Terminology and Vocabulary* (David & Charles Publishers, UK, 1992). For both we have a lending copy (anyone can check out our books) and a reference copy for library use.

To see more Q&A, visit www.millerlibrary.org and click on Gardening Answers Knowledgebase. 

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

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

New NHS Members at Show

HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS signed up 112 new members at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in February. Congratulations to Anne Roda for signing up eight new members and winning two hand-thrown Guy Wolff garden pots. 📷

Camano Island Tour

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS: \$55.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$75.00

JOIN NHS FOR AN all-day tour to see artists in their gardens. Visit five to six gardens and a local nursery while exploring Camano Island. Fee includes lunch in one of the gardens. 📷

Summer Solstice Garden Tour & Wine Reception

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 5:30 P.M. to Dusk

Patrick & Garvey Gardens

MEMBERS: \$65.00

NON-MEMBERS: \$85.00

CELEBRATE THE SOLSTICE in the neighboring Bellevue gardens of Lynn & Mike Garvey and Jan & Keith Patrick with a tour of these spectacular gardens and a midsummer repast of wine and gourmet hors d'oeuvres. 📷



New Zealand Garden Seminar – Three Lectures

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 6:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

3501 NE 41ST, SEATTLE

MEMBERS: FREE NON-MEMBERS: \$15.00

COME MEET Margaret Barker, Bev McConnell, and Penny Zino, three of the gardeners who hosted NHS members during a recent tour to New Zealand, and take an armchair tour of their gardens from the comfort of NHS Hall.

This lecture, free to members, is co-sponsored by the Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation & the Miller Botanical Garden.

Reservations required. 📷

— 2008 SPRING CLASSES —

April

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 10:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Indian Cuisine with Chitra Parpia

LOCATION: PARPIA HOME/KIRKLAND

FEE: MEMBERS \$65.00 NON-MEMBERS \$85.00

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Alpine Containers with Richie Steffen

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/HIGHLANDS

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

May

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 10:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Photography Workshop with Andrea Jones

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/HIGHLANDS

FEE: MEMBERS \$150.00 NON-MEMBERS \$185.00

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Streetside Gardens with Cindy Combs

LOCATION: COMBS GARDEN/MAGNOLIA

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

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Summer Containers with Gary Waller

LOCATION: OLD GOAT FARM/ORTING

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

June

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Fern Stumpery with Martin Rickard,

Sue Olsen, Richie Steffen

LOCATION: RIEHL STUMPERY/VASHON

FEE: MEMBERS \$65.00 NON-MEMBERS \$90.00

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Dry Shade with Richie Steffen

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/HIGHLANDS

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

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

Looking for something a little different?

VISIT WWW.WNGD.ORG to learn more about World Naked Gardening Day on May 3, 2008. 📷

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Garden NOTES

GARDEN NOTES EDITOR

Melody Hooper
melody.hooper@verizon.net

DESIGNER

Constance Bollen,
cb graphics,
cbg@speakeasy.net

CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:

Lorene Edwards Forkner

Mary Gutierrez

Fred Hanson

Lisa Irwin

Karin Kravitz

Ann LeVasseur

Robin Farrar Maass

Julie Martinson

Daniel Mount

Lois Pendleton

Debra Prinzing

Nita-Jo Rountree

Daniel Sparler

Brian Thompson

PRINTER

Mike Klinke,
Impression Printing

UNBE-E-L-I-E-E-E-V-A-B-L-E!!!! We have the most amazingly incredible group of member volunteers who make NHS the absolutely best organization in the whole world.

Because of a wide range of friends, volunteers, and vendors, our three gardens, Eat Your Vegetables! Garden to Table, at this year's Northwest Flower & Garden Show were an overwhelming success. AND we signed up a record number of new NHS members.

From the very beginning of planning our three flower show display gardens, we had hard-working volunteers who started seeds, transplanted, watered, nursed our veggie plants, built walls, textured and painted those walls, assembled a 40-foot-long wall that was 12 feet high in the center, laid stone, and finally, planted plants. Oh yes, and then there was the clean up—lots and lots of clean up. There are too many names to list, but this display would never have received *rave reviews* without these wonderful people. From my co-chairs, Gillian Mathews, Wendy Welch and I, along with all the members of NHS, we extend a HUGE thank you.

Thanks also to our vendors who so generously supplied essential parts of the garden: Acclaim Sign and Display, Aqua Quip, Classic Courtyards Design, Lakeview Stone and Garden, Lucca Statuary, Ravenna Gardens, and Wendy Welch Garden Design.

Our presentations held in the fourth quadrant of our display were standing room only. Crowds loved our container garden, seed starting, garden design, and how-to-grow demonstrators. Then there were the incredibly talented chefs who made us all hungry. What a wonderful learning experience from so many avenues.

I have never been a part of anything that received so much support and enthusiasm from so many people. Thank you for letting me be a part of this process. 📷



NITA-JO ROUNTREE

Nita-Jo

☎ Telephone: (206) 527-1794 🌐 Web: www.northwesthort.org ✉ E-mail: nwhort@aol.com



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4597

ROLLING BAY, WA 98061-4597

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