

GardenNOTES

 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2007

~ THIRD ANNUAL MEET THE BOARD TOUR ~ SOUTH SOUND GARDENS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 12-5

SUMMERTIME—AT LAST! And what could be more summery than a day trip to the country, with gardening friends and a lavish picnic lunch in tow? The traveling companions and food are up to you, but we've got the perfect destination: three private South Sound gardens—open exclusively to NHS members and guests on August 12—promise to give you good reason to hit the road and leave the watering and weeding behind for a day. Board members also invite you to visit the earth-friendly, ornamental demonstration garden at Thurston County's Closed Loop Park near Olympia.

Come see what these energetic gardeners have done with plants, soil, and great ideas. Highlights include perennial borders brimming with rare treasures at Old Goat Farm, impeccably maintained koi ponds at the Hawkins Garden, an organic garden filled with fruits and vegetables at the Willman Garden, and trial plots for the Great Plant Picks program at Closed Loop Park.

Best of all, this is a great opportunity to share in conversations about plants and gardens with other NHS members. Charles and Maryann Pember, organizers extraor-

Continues on next page

*Rooster Amidst Lilies at Old Goat Farm,
painted by Robin Farrar Maass*



SOUTH SOUND GARDENS Continued from Page 1

dinaire of NHS classes, and NHS president Nita-Jo Rountree will rotate between the three gardens, answering any questions you have about past and upcoming events. Other board members will be there as well, eager to meet you. So, spread out that picnic lunch under a shady tree, get settled with new and old friends, and let the talking begin.

We encourage you to bring along non-members to introduce them to the benefits of NHS membership. Don't forget to sign in at each garden; you and your guests will have a chance to win a free year of NHS membership. Congratulations to our two winners from the May tour, Jan Reed (member) and Pete & Hannelore Maas (guest).

Directions to the tour gardens will be mailed to members later this summer.

OLD GOAT FARM THE GRAVES GARDEN

**20021 ORTING KAPOWSIN HWY E
GRAHAM 98338**

Old Goat Farm is the two-acre home and nursery of Greg Graves and his partner, Gary Waller. The two have been combining their Capitol Hill plant collection with the existing gardens for just over two years now, and the effect is spectacular. A turn-of-the-century Victorian home, quaint vintage outbuildings, and a menagerie of pet farm animals make this garden worth the trip. The nursery will be open for those who wish to shop.

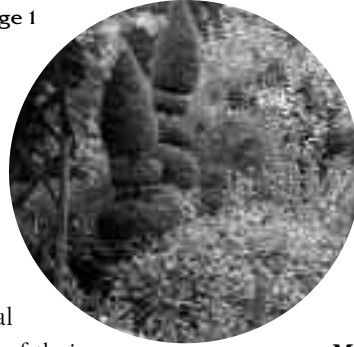
THE HAWKINS GARDEN 4817 PALERMO DR SW OLYMPIA 98512

Explore this young but rapidly developing one-acre garden and share ideas with Joyce Hawkins and her son

Ken Ness. The *pièce de résistance* features two beautiful large Japanese koi ponds containing 75 multi-colored, jewel-like fish. Ken built these ponds and they are crystal clear year-round because of their excellent filtration systems. Nestled around and between these ponds, meandering along property and fence lines, and circling groupings of evergreen trees are flower beds on wide, raised berms, totaling over 1300 feet in length.

THE WILLMAN GARDEN 4841 CHURCHILL ROAD SE TENINO 98589

Lois Willman began her garden five years ago when she purchased the home. Large areas of 20-year-old Douglas firs were cleared to make way for a fenced, one-acre vegetable, berry, and fruit garden, an 80-foot greenhouse, and ornamental planting areas. A pond was added four years ago. The most recent addition is a large



woodland planting with a 7 x 50 foot cement garden-art wall.

CLOSED LOOP PARK THURSTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS (Including NHS board members Tam Crocker, Joyce Hawkins, and Lois Willman) 2418 HOGUM BAY ROAD LACEY 98516

Closed Loop Park began life as a garbage dump. Now it is a one-and-a-half-acre demonstration garden that teaches green gardening practices. In recent years Closed Loop Park has partnered with a number of local organizations to showcase ornamental plants that can be easily grown in this region, including a large selection of native plants, hardy fuchsias, and over 90 peony varieties. A major focus since 2002 has been trialing plants for the Great Plant Picks program. Trials underway include *Sambucus nigra*, *Berberis thunbergii*, *Sedums*, *Viburnums*, *Heucheras*, and *Geums*. 🏠

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

JOYCE HAWKINS AND LOIS WILLMAN

BARBARA REISINGER

KENNETH NESS

JOYCE HAWKINS says that “volunteering is what kept her sane when she left the work force to raise four children,” and she could write a novel on how this has affected her life. Her political volunteerism led to employment with the state legislature in



Olympia. She subsequently worked as personal secretary to Attorney General Ken Eikenberry for 12 years, and finished off her career working 10 years with the Washington State Patrol.

After retirement in 2004, Joyce decided that her Japanese koi pond needed better landscaping—and never one to be involved halfway—she applied for the Master Gardener program in Thurston County to learn more. It is no wonder that after attending a few NHS lectures and activities in her ongoing quest for information, she became an NHS board member in 2006. Now she serves on the membership committee, co-chairs the volunteer committee for the plant sale and other events, and works with Lois Willman in providing day trips to the South Sound.

Currently, Joyce gardens one acre on her five-acre property. She relishes the mental and physical exercise that gardening provides, feeling a closer relationship to the garden by doing the work herself. “I haven’t been bored for one second since retiring,” says Joyce. “Sometimes I stop and think that I must be the happiest woman on the

planet. As a result of my fairly new interest in gardening, I am now involved in so many things. My fellow board member Lois Willman and I are starting a small hobby business of casting concrete leaves and dinosaur eggs, and selling them at plant sales and bazaars. I can

hardly wait to discover what happens next. Life is good!”

Empowering energy is just one of the diverse traits that **LOIS WILLMAN** brings to the NHS Board—a good trait to have since one of her roles as an NHS board member is co-chairing the volunteer committee for NHS activities, including the plant sale. She sings praises about the professionalism of NHS and strongly supports the organization’s focus on education and philanthropic programs.

Lois has a long gardening history. She grew up on a 500-acre farm in the Midwest, which continues to influence her. While working for the state of California, she grew 400 almond trees in her garden along with other plants. Now retired and enjoying the volunteer life here in the Northwest, she gardens two of her six acres, including a one-acre



fenced vegetable, berry, and fruit garden that is the love of her gardening life.

Influenced and inspired by Eliot Coleman, a frontiersman in the organic and sustainable food movement, Lois practices and promotes self-sustainable gardening. She is proud to report that her family is able to live out of their garden year-round. Her enthusiasm motivates others: once you have spoken with her, you are determined to try growing a small portion of your own food. Lois also encourages people to purchase food from local organic farmers. She works with the South Sound Seed Stewards to support the collection of heirloom and open-

pollinated vegetable seeds. As she stated, “Seeds are my gold.”

Some of Lois’s favorite vegetables are cabbages and cauliflowers. Not only are they good to eat, she and Joyce Hawkins enjoy using the leaves of these vegetables (some as large as two feet in diameter) to create cement leaf castings that they sell through their business, LOJO Leaves.

Joyce and Lois will open their gardens to NHS members as part of the South Sound Meet the Board Tour on August 12. They are eager to meet you! 📍

Barbara Reisinger loves learning about all aspects of gardening and horticulture. Sharing this knowledge with others enriches her experience.

DAVID OUELLETTE

NHS PLANT SALE COMING IN SEPTEMBER

BY ROBIN FARRAR MAASS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for one of the gardening highlights of fall, the Northwest Horticultural Society's annual Fall Plant Sale, September 14 and 15 at Warren G. Magnuson Park in Seattle.

"Fall is the best time to plant," Ann LeVasseur, co-chair with Anita Dunn of this year's sale, reminds us. "Planting in the fall allows plants to establish their roots and luxuriate in all the wonderful winter rain."

The sale will take place on Friday the 14th, from 12 noon to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday the 15th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Magnuson Park (the former Sand Point Naval Air Station), 7400 Sand Point Way, Seattle. Plenty of parking is available.

This year's sale will highlight plants that are part of the Great Plant Picks program, with identifying signs at the various vendor tables. Volunteers from the GPP program will also have an information table set up at the sale.

New this year is a "Walking Hold Area." If you're tired of carrying plants around or can't find a wagon to load up with all your treasures, volunteers will be available to collect your boxes and take them to this hold area, so you can get on with your shopping.


You'll also find bargain-priced treasures NHS members have



Treasure-filled wagons kept NHS cashiers busy at last year's plant sale.

dug or propagated from their own gardens, as well as resources to help you learn more about the plants for sale. Be sure to pot up any generous offerings from your garden to help support NHS. Contact Carol Edmondson at edcatlick@yahoo.com for more information.

To pull off this event, we need about 100 volunteers to set up and take down the sale, distribute and pick up signs in the neighborhood, write sales slips, cashier, work the hold and member donations areas, and help at the membership table. This is a great way to meet other NHS members and make wonderful gardening friendships. Volunteer coordinators Lois Willman and Joyce Hawkins welcome your help. Contact Lois at merriam@scattercreek.com or Joyce at scorpiojh@comcast.net.

Watch the NHS website, www.northwesthort.org, and the fall issue of Garden Notes for a complete list of vendors. Proceeds from the sale fund NHS programs, scholarships, and grants. 

Robin Farrar Maass is a regular contributor to Garden Notes who enjoys writing, painting, gardening. She also makes a great cup of tea.

~ THANKS TO OUR 2007 DONORS ~

We wish to thank our Donor Members for their generous support.

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ANITA DUNN

OLD GOAT MUSINGS

ADVENTURES WITH SOIL

THE GARDENER FORMERLY KNOWN AS OGC

I GARDENED in sandy soil for five years on a beach in West Seattle, on a mound of clay for 13 years on Capitol Hill, and now, for the ultimate in soil challenges, I'm trying to garden on glacial till. Is there anyone with perfect soil?

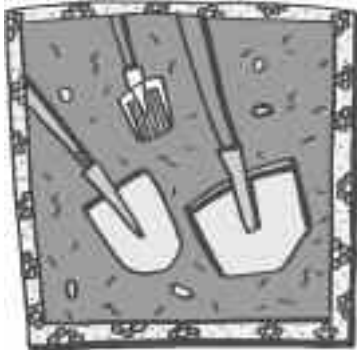
When I lived on the beach, I kept adding organic amendments to enrich the soil and hold water. I don't know where it all went: I'd add about six inches of compost in the spring, but by the next year it would seem like plain old sand again. I was young then, and not very diligent about creating the perfect soil. I assumed Miracle-Grow would make up for any shortcomings.

My next attempt at gardening was on Capitol Hill where a couple inches of topsoil frosted a mass of dense, blue clay. Clay is more difficult to amend than sand. I tried mixing organic material and sand into the clay, but it turned into a lumpy mess. A rototiller just got clogged

in the clay, and digging with a shovel yielded giant blue clods that didn't want to mix with anything. I thought that layering in the amendments would be okay—or at least better than nothing—but I was wrong. There is a reason they use clay to make bricks, and my garden in August was a testament to that. After killing a lot of plants that happen to like good drainage, I decided raised beds would be the answer. I spent the next 13 years making beds from bricks, timbers, and broken concrete, and bringing in perfect loamy soil to fill them (all of which had to be dragged down

80 stairs to my garden—a story for a later day). The plants grew well in these beds, as long as they were not too deeply rooted.

I've now moved on to my third garden and, I hope, my last. It sits above one of the richest agricultural valleys in the state. Volcanic mudflows that took place 150 years ago produced 30 feet of dark, rich, loamy topsoil. You can push a shovel into the ground without using your foot. Shockingly, this soil is being paved over by roads, housing developments, warehouses, and strip malls. As I pass all this construction, I'm tempted to pull alongside the mounds of black gold




and load up my back seat with soil before heading home. You see, I live above the valley and my soil is only two inches deep. Glacial till, filled with rocks ranging in size from pea gravel to two-foot boulders, defines

my garden. I have a collection of broken shovels from the previous owner, which kind of amazes me. How many shovels do you need to break before you use a pick?

Along with the shovel collection, I inherited several large mounds of rock from earlier digging efforts. So, falling back on old habits, I decided to build raised beds with them. But things are improving. This time around, I don't have to carry the rocks down 80 stairs to get them into the garden, and I have a tractor to help me distribute the new topsoil. Composted manure from my

goats and chickens will continue to improve the soil over time.

Life is getting so much easier. 

The Gardener, formerly known as OGC, is a member of NHS who wishes to remain anonymous but probably isn't.

BRINGING IN “PERFECT SOIL”

MANY COMPANIES offer two different three-way mixes—both are suitable for filling raised beds. One mix includes loamy soil, compost, and peat; the other includes loamy soil, compost, and sand. The mix with the peat will retain water longer and is good for plants like vegetables that need steady soil moisture. The mix with sand is better suited for plants that like to dry out a bit between watering. Some of these companies also offer specialty blends such as alpine mixes for plants requiring especially sharp drainage.

A few of the local companies I have tried and liked are Pacific Topsoil, Sawdust Supply, Cedar Grove Composting, and Iddings. Mixes from these companies seem to be comparably priced.

MAINTENANCE TIP:

After the first year, add compost to the beds annually to keep the soil healthy.

NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S ARCTOSTAPHYLOS...

J A S O N K I B B E Y

SEVERAL YEARS AGO I was helping a friend with some yard work, after which he suggested we take a look at a garden a couple of blocks away. My friend, whom I'll refer to as 'Jim,' is a self-described plant collector. It was many years before he let me see his garden because he kept trying to convince me it wasn't really a garden—just a random collection of plants. So if he said a garden was worth looking at, it was sure to have some cool and unusual plant specimens. When we rounded the corner of the block, our destination became obvious.

Plants were bursting from the sidewalk strip, every square inch filled to capacity. Not the least of which was an 8' tall echium! My head reeled as the garden owner proudly toured us from one plant treat to the next. But of all the rare and unusual specimens I saw that day, the one that stands out in my memory is *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn', a manzanita. It was 5' tall by 4' wide, with a beautiful branch structure that was upright, open, and airy. The mature shrub had red, flaking bark that positively radiated in the spring sun.

When most people hear the word *Arctostaphylos* they probably think first of kinnikinick (*A. uva-ursi*), the evergreen northwest native groundcover. But they probably don't think it that unusual or extraordinary. *A. densiflora*, while it may not be rare, is certainly unusual in the Northwest. It shares many characteristics of the Ericaceae family with kinnikinick: pinkish white, urn-shaped, pendulous flowers; evergreen leaves; and reddish brown, smooth bark. Its form, however, is quite different.

Many clusters of flowers are borne in small terminal racemes in early spring. These show very nicely against mid-green, glossy leaves, which are held distinctly upright on stout branches. Young leaves, petioles, and branches are covered in soft gray pubescence. Small red fruits ripen in summer, often persisting into fall if birds don't get to them first. Though *Cornucopia: A Source Book of Edible Plants* does not list this species, it does list several other species of manzanita that produce edible drupes including *A. columbiana*, *A. glauca*, *A. patula*, and *A. strandfordiana*. I have found *A. densiflora* listed elsewhere as having edible drupes, but perhaps they are not very palatable.

When deciding where to place *A. densiflora*, consider its native habitat in Sonoma County, California. There it grows on open roadside banks, often in acid marine sand. Though it grows in sandy soil in the wild, it tolerates average, well-drained soil conditions in



Arctostaphylos densiflora

the garden. It definitely requires full sun. Average moisture is important as the plant establishes itself in the first several years; then it is quite drought tolerant.

In general, I think the best word to describe the overall feel of the plant is diaphanous: its airy structure makes it wonderfully suited for a low profile screen that still allows light to pass through. Again, I can't stress enough the eye-catching quality of the smooth, red bark that is highlighted by the shrub's upright, open habit.

Jason Kibbey has worked in horticulture for nine years. He also writes for the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society's newsletter.

VICTORIA GARDEN TOUR

JULY 27-29, 2007

RENEE MONTGELAS and GILLIAN MATHEWS

JOIN US JULY 27-29 for a tour of private and public gardens in Victoria, B.C. and its environs. We will leave Seattle early Friday morning and travel by bus to Victoria, via BC Ferries from Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island. During the three days, we will visit the most innovative gardens on the island, including two gardens recently awarded "Best Garden" by *Canadian Gardening*.

Price for double occupancy: Members: \$495, Non-members: \$550. Price includes accommodations, transportation, breakfasts, lunch on Saturday, and admission fees to gardens. We will stay two nights in the historic James Bay neighborhood—just a block from the Inner Harbour—and within walking distance of all that downtown Victoria has to offer. A Saturday evening dinner (optional) is in the works.

*At the time of printing, the tour is sold out. To place your name on the waiting list, contact Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com or 206-780-8172.

FRILLY ECHEVERIAS

THE FAIREST SUCCULENTS OF THEM ALL

DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

THE QUESTION I'm asked most often, now that *Designing with Succulents* has come out, is: "Which one is your favorite?"

It's like asking someone to choose among her children. Fountain-shaped aloes, bead-like senecios, columnar euphorbias... each has its own unique beauty. And even among a single genus, there is astounding variety.

That said, I doubt anyone would argue if I picked echeverias. They're native to Mexico, and their colors are as red as salsa, as opalescent as a south-of-the-border sunset, and as blue as the Sea of Cortez. Echeveria leaves overlap to form rosettes, suggesting fleshy roses, water lilies, camellias, and more. But unlike flowers, there's no fade factor. Echeverias look the same, day in and day out. Unless, of course, they're in bloom.

Talk about gilding the lily. Not only do echeverias resemble flowers, they also produce them. A cereal-bowl-sized rosette will send forth bloom spikes a foot long or longer, in cream, yellow, orange, red, pastel pink, or combinations thereof. And because the stem is juicy and the flowers waxy, echeveria blooms last a long time.

Echeverias are tougher than they look. They make ideal potted plants, but will grow in flowerbeds, and are fairly tolerant of wet and cold. Like most succulents, they do best in coarse, well-drained soil that is allowed to go dry between waterings.

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

Do I have a favorite among the many kinds of echeveria? Some contenders:



- *Echeveria imbricata*.

Rosettes suggest satiny blue, teacup-sized camellias. These produce offsets (smaller versions of the mother plant that cluster around its base). Once a colony gets going, the rosettes squash together,

creating concentric circles that resemble raindrops on water. Flower spikes are multiple question marks dotted with orange, acorn-shaped blossoms.

- *Echeveria agavoides*. As the name suggests, this looks like an agave. Leaves are bright green, wedge-shaped, and come to a sharp point. If other echeverias are frilly ingénues, this is their edgy, lounge-singer sister. The most showy variety, *E. agavoides* 'Lipstick', has crimson edges.

- *Echeveria pulvinata*.

This mounding, multi-branched shrub of loose rosettes has velvety leaves that each come to a rounded point. Leaves are silvery green edged in—I'm not kidding—fuchsia pink. You have to see the plant backlit to fully appreciate it; its fine, translucent hairs glow. Flowers are bright orange, tipped in red.

- Fancy ruffled hybrids. Nurseryman Dick Wright of De Luz, now retired, hybridized what are arguably the showiest succulents. Wright's echeverias resemble crinkly-leaved roses, are as big as heads of lettuce, and come in red, blue, pink, lavender, metallic hues, and blends. Their arched



Echeveria imbricata

flower spikes, fluffy with buds, resemble ostrich plumes.

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS

The downside to echeverias is that they can be hard to come by, although succulent specialty nurseries do sell them, and they can be found online. The good news is that once you have one, you'll have more. The hen-and-chicks types (such as *Echeveria imbricata* and *E. agavoides*) form ever-enlarging clumps. Others, such as *E. pulvinata*, grow readily from cuttings.

And even the fancy ruffled hybrids, which don't pup or branch, are surprisingly simple to propagate, once you know how. It sounds shocking (and fatal), but the secret is to behead them regularly. The rosette grows atop an ever-lengthening stem, which over time becomes unsightly, unless you

like looking at a goose neck.

Using a sharp knife, sever the head two inches below the lower leaves. Rest the head atop an empty pot, in the shade. In a few weeks, roots will sprout from the cut end. Replant the head so its short stem is buried in soil and its lower leaves are flush with

the edge of the pot. Don't discard the old plant with the headless trunk. Give it bright light and regular water, and one or more baby rosettes will sprout from its bumpy nodes. Remove them, if you like, and pot them.

... And before you know it, you'll have more of my favorite succulents than you know what to do with. 📷

Debra Lee Baldwin is author of Designing with Succulents, a spring 2007 release from Timber Press. For more photos and ideas, visit her website at www.debraleebaldwin.com.

MOVING

LEE NEFF

“You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.” —Yogi Berra

1996 (from an earlier article, “More”): *Packing up every dish and book and plant that can be justified, to move two-and-a-half miles, might seem wise if the move were prompted by some sort of exalted purpose: saving the planet or being able to walk to work, for instance. But when such a move is prompted by the mere notion of having more, one must work earnestly to explain such extravagance. For the truth—more or less—is that I just wanted more land to garden. My talent for coveting was well developed. So, finally, (in May of 1992,) we moved to three-quarters of an acre of old holly farm in Seward Park.*

2007: Some time this year, John and I will hand our Seward Park garden over to its next owners. It goes with the house. Now we want “less.” But what we are “handing over” is much more than “more land to garden.” We now know the garden was begun when the house was built in 1916. And even before the land was part of a nineteenth-century holly farm, it was part of a sacred Indian gathering ground. Then, when I began editing Washington Park Arboretum’s *Bulletin*, I learned that Mrs. Loren Grinstead, the Arboretum’s first plant acquisitions chair, once lived here. She planted the trees that still give the garden character.

1996: *Yogi Berra is right. Not having known exactly where I was going, I am now determined to get there. But the journey has just begun: gardening here is a kind of pilgrimage. From the acquis-*

itive present the journey moves both backward and forward in time, for finding room for more requires either making do with less of it, or doing away with more of the past.

Yogi Berra probably knew that most folks who don’t know where they are going plan to get there somehow anyway. And so we have continued down the ill-lit path, cautiously deciding which steps to take. Some haven’t been so difficult. The hundred-year-old big leaf maple, sixty-year-old Himalayan white pine and Camperdown elm were priorities from the start.

2007: But even carefully protected priorities can prove vulnerable. Three years ago the Camperdown elm died of Dutch elm disease. Once I finished grieving, I realized that the elm’s death had provided opportunity for new creativity. It had taken nine years to design the entire garden, all the while editing parts that just weren’t quite right (and still aren’t). But suddenly there was blank canvas!

In *Growing Pains*, Emily Carr records what Lawren Harris wrote her about the process of painting: “I don’t suppose you do know precisely what you are after. I don’t think in the creative process anyone quite knows. They have a vague idea—a beckoning, an inkling of some truth—it is only in the process that it comes to any clarity. Sometimes, indeed



often, we work on a theme with an unformed idea and, when it has passed through the process, its final result is something we could never have predicted when we commenced....”

So a new patio and plants from the Southern Hemisphere have taken the Camperdown’s place. Lawns devolve. Borders creep.

Companions change. Colors dissatisfy. The end result is always less important than the process of trying something new. The path I have walked has led me to create a garden reflective of my growth as a gardener, including my growing awareness of plants’ needs and the needs of the earth. And I lack the humility to think that my time here won’t matter.

So what do I want of the garden’s new owners? I want them to find the garden “a beckoning,” to acknowledge the past and then go right on creating “more.” I hope they enjoy the journey, even if they don’t know where they are going. As for John and me, we will “pack up every dish and book and plant that can be justified” and continue the pilgrimage. We are full of gratefulness for the blessing of gardening here, and we look forward to the inklings of ideas that will keep us creating more. 📷


Lee Neff is an NHS board member and editor of the Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin.

THE BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN

CELEBRATING THE FIRST 15 YEARS

THIS SUMMER, THE BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN marks its fifteenth year, and Marty Wingate's latest book (with a forward by Dan Hinkley) celebrates the vision, the gardens, and the experience that have made this park a popular destination for garden lovers.

The Garden, which opened in 1992, draws about 300,000 visitors a year, and anyone who has been there will enjoy Marty's beautiful collection of garden memorabilia documenting its birth and progress. Anyone who hasn't visited the Garden will certainly want to after reading this book. Along with Marty's text, it includes more than 160 full-color photos featuring the people, the plants, and the displays that have become a part of the Garden's rich history. The book reads like a well-crafted 15-year version of a high school yearbook, a real treat for those who consider themselves students in the great school of horticulture.

Books may be purchased for \$19.95 at upcoming NHS lectures, in the Bellevue Botanical Garden's Trillium Gift Shop, or through the Bellevue Botanical Garden website at www.bellevuebotanical.org. 




THANK YOU, MOLBAK'S!

NITA - J O R OUNTREE

MOLBAK'S HOSTED THEIR ANNUAL "Spring into Action" weekend this past April and donated a percentage of their sales for the entire weekend to NHS. Due to their generous support, we now have an extra \$3510.00 to support NHS programs. Wow!!!

The weekend provided a wonderful opportunity to introduce people to NHS. During the event, NHS volunteers staffed a membership table to share information about our organization and sign-up new members. Marty Wingate, keynote speaker for the event, told everyone about the benefits of NHS membership before her talk and book signing. Volunteers had a great time meeting potential new members while enjoying the workshops and special events held throughout the weekend. We appreciate all who helped and all of you who attended.

Molbak's nursery, located in Woodinville, has a long history of supporting the greater Seattle community with fundraisers and contributions. We are indeed grateful for their support of NHS! 

~ THANKS TO OUR 2007 PATRONS ~

The educational series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our wonderful patrons. Their generosity enables NHS to provide a world-class educational program for Northwest gardeners.
Thank you, patrons!

Mrs. Don G. Abel in memory of Jeanette Michel	Raymond J. Larson Alice Lauber Julie Lawrence
Phoebe Andrew	Jeanne Marie Lee
Alison S. Andrews	Ann LeVasseur
Barbara Asmervig	Susan & John Lewicki
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MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

KAREN PREUSS



A Pattern Garden with Valerie Easton Event Gets Rave Reviews!

MARCH 6 SEEMS like such a long time ago, yet here at the Miller Library we're still hearing from folks who attended the hugely successful NHS fundraiser. Speaking for all of the library staff, we can't thank NHS enough for a truly delightful—and successful—evening. We think everyone in the sell-out crowd would agree...Barbara Asmervig and Ann LeVasseur know how to throw a great party! Perfect summerlike weather greeted the over 200 people who attended the evening's event. Master wine stewards Ralph Davis, Charles Pember, and Rick Poole kept the wine and good conversation flowing in the lobby of Merrill Hall, with tasty treats nearby for all to enjoy. Bidding was fierce on some 35 silent auction items, masterfully arranged by Barbara and Ann and their crew. In keeping with the theme and purpose of the evening, the silent auction had a distinct books-and-plants focus.

After some lively bidding, we all moved indoors to NHS Hall for the main event, where Steve Lorton warmed up the audience with his introductory remarks, before turning the microphone over to Valerie Easton, the guest speaker for the evening. Val's talents as a writer, speaker, and gardener were apparent to all as we learned about her latest book, *A Pattern Garden*. From all reports, the book is selling like hotcakes.

Special thanks must go to a number of people. First: Ann LeVasseur and Barbara Asmervig, it was a delight to work with you on this fundraiser; you're



The merry bartenders: Rick Poole, Charles Pember, and Ralph Davis

both magnificent! Thanks to Val, my predecessor, friend and mentor, for donating your time and talents to support the library. Thanks to Ralph and Lynn Davis for their most generous donation of marvelous wines, and to Ralph, Charles, and Rick for greeting everyone with a smile and a full glass. To all of the individuals and businesses who donated the wonderful auction items, we thank you. And thanks especially to all of you who attended the evening's event in support of the Miller Library. You are the reason \$17,000 is being added to the NHS Endowment Fund for the Miller Library. Many, many thanks!



A Little Bit of Miscellany

I KNOW THAT the last place you want to be in the summer is inside the library or sitting in front of your computer. But just in case it rains and you find yourself at loose ends, here are a few things that might interest you.

Did you know that you can recommend books for the Miller Library


to purchase? Every month the Library Committee meets to discuss lists of books under consideration, and we want to know what you'd like to find on our shelves. Just go to the Library's website (www.millerlibrary.org), click on Collections and Services, and then on Recommend a Book. If we don't already own it, we'll add it to our list for consideration, and chances are good we'll purchase it.

Be sure to check out our Gardening Answers Knowledge Base (again, you can access it from the website). We've had a small cadre of volunteers from the

UW's Information School—future librarians, all—entering hundreds of the questions we get daily through our Plant Answer Line into 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)

searchable database, along with the research we've done to answer the question. You can browse randomly, or type in keywords to get to specific topics. There's a wealth of information right at your fingertips, with more questions being added all the time.

And finally, here's a link to a great website from the Missouri Botanical Garden: www.botanicus.org. If you're into old books, you'll love this site. Missouri is digitizing historic botanical literature; currently, they've input 188 titles for your reading pleasure. From our website, click on Resources, then Directory of Recommended Web Sites, then Libraries. You'll find the Botanicus Digital Library at the top of the list. 

Karen Preuss is manager of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

— SAVE THE DATE —

2008 NHS Spring Symposium

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008, 9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.

BASTYR UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM

MEMBERS: \$45.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$65.00

The Ornamental Plant:

From Third Century Athens to Your Garden

SPEAKERS

Anna Pavord

Kelly Dodson

Dan Hinkley

Richie Steffen

CO-SPONSORED BY Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller
Charitable Foundation and the Elisabeth Carey Miller
Botanical Garden

Garden Party at the Bloedel Reserve

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007 1:00 P.M. — 3:30 P.M.


TICKETS—\$75 PER PERSON PATRON TICKET—\$250

SPONSORED BY WELLS FARGO

THE PRIVATE BANK


SPEND A SUMMER AFTERNOON with friends and stroll the picturesque grounds of the Bloedel Reserve. Enjoy a variety of teas, petit sandwiches, and pastries as you wind through the beautifully landscaped paths wearing your favorite summer hat. All contributions help the Reserve continue to maintain the gardens and buildings for the benefit of the Puget Sound region.



To purchase tickets call Pete Atha 206-842-7631 or patha@bloedelreserve.org. 

If you haven't been getting our eNewsletter or email notification of classes and tours, be sure your spam filter is not rejecting them. They will be coming from northwhorth@northwhorth.org.

Elisabeth C. Miller Scholarship Awarded

AN ADDITIONAL ELISABETH C. MILLER Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to Caren Crandell to help finance the completion of her doctoral research on maintaining the sustainability of *Schoenoplectus pungens*. We look forward to hearing from Caren when her research is completed. 

— 2007 SUMMER CLASSES —

July

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 8:30 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Snobomish Nursery Tour with Mark Henry

LOCATION: Henry Garden/Snobomish

FEE: Members \$35.00 Non-members: \$45.00

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Sustainable Gardening Practices with Greg Graves

LOCATION: Miller Botanical Garden/Shoreline

FEE: Members \$25.00 Non-members: \$35.00

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Dressing the Garden with Sharalyn Ferrel

LOCATION: Ferrel Garden/Bellevue

FEE: Members \$25.00 Non-members: \$35.00

September

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON

Water-wise Gardening with Shelagh Tucker & Phil Wood

LOCATION: Tucker Garden/West Seattle


FEE: Members \$25.00 Non-members: \$35.00

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON


Xeric Gardening with Shon Robinson

LOCATION: Center for Urban Horticulture
& Mandt Garden/Seattle

FEE: Members \$25.00 Non-members: \$35.00

To register, contact Karin Kravitz:
nwhort@aol.com or 206-780-8172. 

Call for Grant Applications

THE NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is committed to horticultural endeavors in the Northwest. We support this commitment by financially enabling qualified individuals, organizations, or institutions to further this goal. This year's deadline for grant proposals is August 31, 2007. Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by October 15, 2007. Grants will be awarded at the annual meeting on November 14, 2007. For more information, visit www.northwhorth.org/Grants.htm 

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NATURE CERTAINLY CAN THROW US some curves. After a busy year with NHS lectures, the flower show, hosting the sensational salvia class, attending other inspirational and fun-filled NHS classes, our Sustainable Gardening Symposium, planning our first New Members' Pizza Party and Lecture, board meetings, and a host of other NHS activities, I was finally able to focus on my neglected garden to get ready for the Meet the Board Garden Tour. Of course, after the ravages of last winter and the below-normal temperatures of spring, that meant frantically



RANDY ROUNTREE

going to nurseries and plant sales to find the perfect treasures to fill in gaps. The garden finally began to take shape, but alas! Two days before the tour, Randy discovered a robin's nest with beautiful blue eggs in a tree next to the sidewalk, the only access from the front of the house to the back. I couldn't allow that robin to be disturbed by attendees on the tour! What to do?? The only answer was to turn my garden into a "Home and Garden" tour by asking everyone to go through the house. It was great fun meeting many of you, and the robin says, "thank you."

Speaking of the Tour, I'd like to extend a hearty thank you to board members who generously shared their gardens. Before I joined the board, it never occurred to me to consider how all of the NHS offerings came about. Now I know. We have an incredibly hard working board that makes NHS one of the best organizations in the nation. Additionally, we couldn't succeed without all of our wonderful member volunteers.

There are many more NHS events to choose from for the remainder of the year, so be sure to read our monthly eNewsletter, and check our website at www.northwesthort.org so that you don't miss anything! 📧

Enthusiastically,
Nita-Jo

Garden NOTES

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