

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2008

~ FOURTH ANNUAL TOUR ~

NHS BOARD MEMBERS OPEN THEIR GARDENS

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 12–5 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 12–5 P.M.

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, gardeners are paying more for gas, food, and supplies, so you will be pleased to know that the price of NHS's Meet the Board Tour remains the same: it is still free to members and their guests. In this year's grouping of nine private gardens, you will see everything from small city lots with fabulous views to large country estates with farm animals. The unifying factors are, of course, plants and the people who love them.

In 2005, Nita-Jo Rountree and her membership committee dreamed up the tour as a way for board members to socialize with other members. This is a special treat for visitors because many of these gardens are not open to the public any other time. We encourage you to share the fun with your friends, so bring along non-members to introduce them to the benefits of NHS membership. Be sure to sign in at each garden for a chance to win a free one-year membership—one will go to a member and one to a guest.

As we have done in the past, the event will be spread over two days to provide ample time for exploring and




DAN CORSON

The Corson/Stugger garden is one of six that will open to NHS members on July 20.

visiting in each garden. On July 20, there will be six gardens open in the Seattle area: four in Seattle, one in Shoreline, and one in Lake Forest Park. On August 17, there will be three gardens open in Pierce and Thurston Counties. In these South Sound gardens, tour hosts will provide comfortable seating for those who want to picnic during their stay.

Whether you have questions about NHS or an idea for a lecture, class, or *Garden Notes* article—or you just want to match faces to gardens—we hope you will join us for the tour this summer.

Descriptions of each garden are on pages 2 and 3. Directions to the gardens will be mailed to members later this summer. 

BOARD TOUR PARTICIPANTS, 2008

JULY 20 SEATTLE AREA GARDENS



THE CORSON/STUGGER GARDEN
RAVENNA NEIGHBORHOOD
5707 29TH AVE NE
SEATTLE 98105

OUR GARDEN WAS designed to give the impression of flowing serenity punctuated with drama. The front of the house uses traditional “neighborhood plants” that are arranged in dramatic swoops and dynamic landforms. The long southern-facing side garden snakes through a richly textured temperate tropical garden. Many unique specimens and dramatic color groupings create a luscious jungle-like feel. The waterfall in the back of the garden links the tropical garden to our Jurassic landscape. Fascinated by primeval plants, we attempted to give the back a “gondwana-esque” look and feel with a beautiful specimen of *Gunnera tintoria*, a large collection of sizable tree ferns,

and bog areas of carnivorous plants. This spring we added a fence and reconfigured some areas, so it is a year of transition for us.



THE HIGHBERGER GARDEN
18827 53RD AVE NE
LAKE FOREST PARK 98155

OUR GARDEN IS a good example of what can be done with a small, irregularly shaped lot. We built our home in 2000 on a small triangle of property on a corner. Thank goodness we are bordered on one side by a great swath of green that is the Tolt River pipeline. It gives the illusion of a much larger property. Somehow we have found room for outdoor entertainment areas, a vegetable garden, a woodland shade garden, a sunny perennial garden, and all the must-have collectibles. This garden is in a constant state of flux due to my ever-changing design sense. At present you will see the slow change taking place from a boisterous over-the-

top perennial garden to a calmer, more shrub-based evergreen garden.



THE IRWIN GARDEN
MAGNOLIA NEIGHBORHOOD
2514 W MCGRAW ST
SEATTLE 98199

MY MAGNOLIA HILLSIDE garden provides a living lab for observing new and garden-worthy plants that I can often recommend in my design business. I have three primary zones—a lush and enveloping shade garden, a bright and bold summer garden with tropical hints, and a drought-tolerant, all-season entry garden. I intersperse whimsical art, funky furniture, and birdhouses amid plantings that provide texture and color while attracting wildlife.



THE MASSONG/BUTLER GARDEN
QUEEN ANNE NEIGHBORHOOD
470 MCGRAW ST, SEATTLE 98109

PERIODICALLY MY GARDEN demonstrates evidence of human intelligence, but most of the time it is a reflection of my personality.

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Alice Aeschbacher	Ella Marie Gray	Pam McAlpine	Barbara Sherry
Erika Arndt	Barbara Guthrie	Nancy McConnell	Michael J Sidell
William Baldwin	Christie Hammond	Gale Mengle	Carol Sjogren
Bruce Bennett	Sarah Han	Nancy Moore	Jacquie Skolnik
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Penny Fields	Pamela Lund	Pam Roy	Laura Westbrook
Melodye Gold	Mari Malcolm	Marilou Rush	Carol T Worsham



**LANDWAVE GARDENS
THE REYES GARDEN
15745 DAYTON AVE N
SHORELINE 98133**

THIS WORK-IN-PROGRESS reflects a growing ambition, an insatiable obsession, and a never-ending quest for outstanding garden plants. While I have yet to develop a firm design, I hope you will enjoy my collection of plants and their enchanting stories. Enter through the shade garden that takes you to a Chinese woodland featuring my personal collections from “the mother of gardens.” Mixed raised beds showcase a wide assortment of hardy herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, and tropical accents. Peruse the paths, note your favorites, and then inquire if you could possibly come home with some of them!



**THE SPARLER/SCHOUTEN GARDEN
SEWARD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
5920 SEWARD PARK AVE S
SEATTLE 98118**

AFTER THE RECORD CHILL of April and the sizzling heat of May, it’s anybody’s guess how this outrageous collector’s garden will appear in the dog days of July. All the better for the adventurous sort! Come check out the towering

acacias, eucalyptus, pittosporums, pseudopanax, and other denizens of the Southern Hemisphere. Traditionalists need not despair: dahlias, hardy fuchsias, and roses round out the panoply of plants on parade. New this year is a viewing pavilion from which you can survey the scene. Daniel and Jeff’s garden, now entering its 16th year, has been featured in several newspapers, magazines, and books over the years.

**AUGUST 17
SOUTH SOUND GARDENS**



**OLD GOAT FARM
THE GRAVES GARDEN
20021 ORTING KAPOWSIN HWY E
GRAHAM 98338**

OLD GOAT FARM is the three-acre home and nursery of Greg Graves and Gary Waller. We have been combining our Capitol Hill plant collection with the existing gardens for just over three 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**

TWO BEAUTIFUL LARGE Japanese Koi ponds containing seventy-five multi-colored fish are the *piece de resistance* in our one-plus-acre garden. Examples of my special concrete leaf castings and “dinosaur eggs” are on display throughout the area, which also showcases several patios, a new gazebo and 60-foot-long garden-themed cedar wall, stunning tropical plants, and a collector’s variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials. Visitors have commented that they experience a very peaceful, almost spiritual-like feeling while touring this unique garden.



**THE WILLMAN/OUELLETTE GARDEN
4841 CHURCHILL ROAD SE
TENINO 98589**

WE BEGAN OUR GARDEN seven years ago when we purchased a home on six acres. 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. The most recent addition is a large woodland planting with a 7 by 50 foot cement garden-art wall. Our garden mixes the beauty of ornamental landscaping with sustainable vegetable and fruit plantings. 🌱

~ THANKS TO OUR 2008 DONORS ~

*We wish to thank our donor members
for their generous support.*

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Ralph & Lynn Davis
Pete & Midge Lucas
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NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Kristin Mandt
Susan Neill

HEADS UP FOR THE NHS FALL PLANT SALE

LISA IRWIN



Stock up on hard-to-find plants at the sale on September 12 and 13.

When you come in from your garden this week after finally enjoying some fine weather, make sure to mark your calendar for the annual Northwest Horticultural Society Fall Plant Sale. It is a fun event for all, and the proceeds support NHS programs, scholarships, and grants.

Almost forty of the region's best specialty nurseries will offer a wide array of terrific plants suitable for fall planting. We'll also have many great plant bargains available at the member donations area. Once again we will feature Great Plant Picks throughout the sale, and program staff will be on hand to provide information.

According to Hoyle, fall is one of the best times to plant. Roots have a chance to settle in with fall and winter rains, ready to burst forth next spring, playing their trump cards. And according to Dr.

Seuss, fall planting keeps our bodies in shape for that strenuous winter activity of seed catalog browsing—why we are known as all-season gardeners here in the Northwest.

When you're out in the garden and wondering what to do with some of those extra plants, be sure to divide and pot them up for the member donations area at the Fall Sale. That's also a great way to make more room for some of the new and unusual plants you will want to pick up at the sale.

Attention new members: many past volunteers have said this is one of the best opportunities to get to know other NHS members and meet the knowledgeable growers. Lots of volunteers are needed 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. No experience needed, but smiles are always appreciated. To volunteer, please contact Lois Willman at merriam@scattercreek.com or (360) 264-6683.

Watch the NHS website, www.northwesthort.org, and the fall issue of *Garden Notes* for more information and a complete list of vendors. 🏠

Lisa Irwin is co-chair of the 2008 Fall Plant Sale. She is also an NHS board member and the owner of Dru Gardens, a local design business.

FRIDAY: September 12 from Noon to 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY: September 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Warren G. Magnuson Park (Sand Point) in Seattle

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DANIEL SPARLER

LEE C. NEFF

Don't succumb to Daniel!—John Neff

JOHN'S FORLORN "Don't succumb to Daniel" has been a regular admonition every time Daniel Sparler and I set out on a plant-purchasing foray. And for good reason! If Daniel is your gardening buddy, you inevitably succumb: he knows more plants that you just *have to have* than anyone else you could possibly go plant-hunting with. (Of course, once you succumb, he makes sure you know how to pronounce their names correctly.) And just how did Daniel become this know-it-all, find-it-all, seen-it-all in South Africa or Australia or the Canary Islands mentor?

It began when he was a child in Arkansas and knew, at age six or seven, that he needed to live somewhere else. He would lock himself in the bathroom with all the road maps he could find, then the family globe, and finally an atlas of the world, and dream about escaping work on his father's acre-sized vegetable garden. Daniel's father "grew enough okra, sweet potatoes, and peanuts to feed ten thousand people, and every type of pea and bean and melon."

Daniel first "escaped" by helping his mother with her flower garden—all annuals and iris. His infatuation with flowers was first evident when he saved his ten-cents-a-week allowance long enough to purchase by mail order fifty purple tulips for \$2.50. When he was fifteen, he ran away—clear across the state of Arkansas. And when he was sixteen, Daniel ran all the way to Seattle: "as far away as you could get from Arkansas and still be within the continental United States." It wasn't

flowers he was after then but the gloom, mist, and clouds of the Northwest's big trees.

Daniel's love of language began in middle school and continues today with teaching and writing about botanical nomenclature for NHS members. His middle school Spanish teacher sparked his love of words; she wrote him a letter saying she expected him to learn at least seven languages, including Chinese, Hindi, Russian, and Arabic. From this list he has only studied Chinese, but he does know something of seven languages, including Spanish and German, which he studied in college. He almost completed a graduate degree in comparative literature but went to Japan on a yearlong scholarship instead of taking his oral exams. His "back door" approach to learning Latin began with his study of the Spanish language's evolution.

Travel has become an "avocation," rather than an "escape" from his current commitments as a teacher, and Daniel



usually plans three or four trips a year, often in pursuit of wonderful botanical gardens. Among the best: Kirstenbosch in Cape Town and those in Melbourne, "one of the best run and designed," and Perth, full of Western Australia's indigenous plants.

Daniel's travel and acquisitiveness have led to his collecting and growing literally thousands of plants. His current challenge: "uncollecting"—a drastic reduction in the number of plants in his garden. 📷

Lee Neff is an NHS board member, the board chair of the Pacific Northwest Horticultural Conservancy, and the owner of a new garden in Kingston. Her interest in Southern Hemisphere plants can squarely be blamed on succumbing to Daniel's influence, and rather than "uncollect" in Seattle, she decided to move.

FIVE FAVORITE PLANTS

Clivia miniata: This native of South Africa is usually considered a house plant, but Daniel's specimen—a bit more red in color than the plant's usual vivid orange—has lived outside in a sheltered corner for twelve years. In coldest weather, he covers it with burlap.

Acacia pravissima: A native of Australia, this tree grows to 15 feet tall with a 25-foot spread. It has bronze-gold buds all winter and bursts into bright yellow blooms in spring. If, like Daniel, you live in the city, you may not care that *A. pravissima* is deer resistant, but everyone will treasure the fact that it needs not a drop of summer water.

In 2007, Daniel visited the island of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, where the two-hundred-year-old botanical garden, La Orotava, has subtropical plants from around the world. His favorites: the *Aeoniums*, indigenous to the Canary Islands.

Acer palmatum 'Shishigashira': A mature lion's mane maple is one of the stars of Daniel's garden, and he rightly loves it. But he says he finds our native vine maple, *Acer circinatum*, just as desirable.

A final favorite is a second native plant, *Ribes sanguineum*, which Daniel particularly values for its early spring show and its attractiveness to birds.

Pacific Horticulture

THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST COAST GARDENERS

G R E G G R A V E S

WHAT SETS THE Pacific Coast apart from the rest of the country, horticulturally, is our distinctive Mediterranean climate, common to only five regions of the world. Here in the Pacific Northwest it is a modified Mediterranean climate because our winters are colder and our summers are cooler, but we still share the defining characteristic of the type—wet winters and dry summers.

Most of the information available to American gardeners in the early half of the 1900s came from the East Coast, which has summer rains and much colder winter temperatures. With this in mind, avid gardeners on the West Coast began publishing *The Journal of the California Horticultural Society* in the early forties. In 1968, representatives of the California Horticultural Society, the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (formerly Strybing Arboretum Society), and the Western Horticultural Society founded the Pacific Horticultural Foundation to support this journal. In 1975, with enthusiasm and little more, they redesigned the journal, and in 1976 it began its new life as *Pacific Horticulture*.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific Northwest, another organization was forming. In 1973, Friends of the Arboretum, led by Betty Miller, reorganized under the name Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society (NOHS). They began publishing their own journal, *Ornamentals Northwest*. A few years later, NOHS dropped the word ornamental from its name, becoming simply NHS. About this time, Betty Miller received the inaugural copy of *Pacific Horticulture* from its first editor, George Waters. Betty contacted

George to tell him how much she enjoyed the new publication, and recognizing more similarities than differences between the two publications, along with a desire to reduce publishing costs, they held discussions to consider how NHS could become a sponsoring organization of the Pacific Horticultural Foundation. Soon after, *Pacific Horticulture* replaced *Ornamentals Northwest* as the journal of NHS. The Southern California Horticultural Society and the San Diego Horticultural Society have also joined the Foundation.

The mission of *Pacific Horticulture* is to stimulate and inspire gardeners in the art and science of horticulture on the West Coast through quality publications and related activities. The mission of NHS is to provide a forum for gardeners and plant lovers in the Pacific Northwest to share their interests and learn about horticulture. It is easy to see that both organizations are headed in the same direction. As an NHS member, besides receiving a substantial discount on *Pacific Horticulture*, you also have access to other educational opportunities. Like NHS, the Pacific Horticultural Foundation offers symposiums (Gardening Under the Mediterranean Skies series), tours (several each year) and a very informative website, www.pacifichorticulture.org.



The Pacific Horticultural

Foundation, like NHS, is a non-profit organization. The magazine relies on generous and talented writers, artists, and photographers who give freely to make this magazine possible. This pool of talented people along with a very small and very dedicated staff makes this one of the best horticultural magazines around. You can tell by reading just one issue that everyone contributes their best. The quality of this journal has remained consistently high.

About half of the NHS membership takes advantage of the opportunity to subscribe to *Pacific Horticulture*. If you don't receive the magazine, you might want to take a look at it and see what you are missing. It has a wealth of information for Northwest gardeners and inspiration from the whole length of the West Coast.

If you do receive *Pacific Horticulture* and really enjoy the magazine, you might want to consider becoming a "Friend of Pacific Horticulture." You can get further information on the website.

Keep gardening, keep reading, and keep being inspired. 🏡

Greg Graves is past president of NHS and a Pacific Horticulture board member. He is head gardener at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle and co-owner of the Old Goat Farm in Graham.

The Story of Plants: OXALIS

DANIEL MOUNT

PATIENCE MAY BE A VIRTUE, but luck is indispensable to the gardener. I was new to the Pacific Northwest and lucky enough to visit Ann Lovejoy's Bainbridge Island garden. Her lush mixed borders were a revelation. But what impressed me more than the seemingly miles-long border, or the towering brugmansia I stood under to smell, was the generous clump of creeping yellow sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata* var. *atropurpurea*) that Ann had left to grow wild.

I had just spent a mind- and finger-numbing day trying to eradicate that same oxalis from a client's rockery. In my tense mission I did not stop to admire the culprit's purple heart-shaped leaflets and bright yellow flowers. My attitude was a weeder's attitude. And oxalis was the weed. *Oxalis* is the largest genus in Oxalidaceae with 850 mostly tropical and subtropical species. Many are worldwide weeds. Four invasive species are recorded in our area, though none have made it onto the state's noxious weed list.

In addition to the weeds, Hitchcock and Cronquist (*Flora of the Pacific Northwest*) list three natives: redwood sorrel (*O. oregana*), western yellow oxalis (*O. suksdorfii*), and trillium-leaved wood sorrel (*O. trilliifolia*), ranging from northern California to Vancouver Island. Redwood sorrel, or Oregon oxalis, is often found in Puget Sound gardens. I grow the pink form of *O. oregana* under cedars where it is an unflinching ground cover with large, soft pink flowers. When it starts to bloom in March, groceries line up little pots of "shamrocks." You can buy the good luck clover (*O. tetraphylla*) or many cultivars of purple shamrock (*O. triangularis* subsp. *papilionacea*). Both



Oxalis oregano is a native that grows well under cedars.

are native to Central and South America, not Ireland.

The word "shamrock" appears early on in Arabic as *shamrabbk*, a type of clover and also the heraldic trefoil, and in Celtic as *se'amrog*, meaning "young clover." The Germans call oxalis *sauerklee*, or sour clover, evidence of the continual confusion between oxalis and clovers. When St. Patrick demonstrated the trinity to the early Irish he plucked a clover (*Trifolium repens*), so botanists believe. This simple symbol, which converted multitudes and stands as a symbol of Ireland today, was already a powerful talisman for the druids. They believed the three leaves represented totality: past, present, and future. It seems the herbalist of seventeenth-century Ireland called common wood sorrel (*O. acetosella*) "shamrog," finally shifting the name away from clover.

Wood sorrels, rarely eaten now, were part of many apothecaries and diets from the Mediterranean to the Pacific Northwest. The leaves have a sharp lemony flavor, as their name in many languages indicates. The Quinault call it

quoi'ets'stap, meaning simply sour. The French call it *surelle*, little sour one. The genus name comes from the Greek *oxys*, meaning sharp or sour. High levels of oxalic acid, toxic if eaten in great quantity, give it the sour flavor. This oxalic tang can also be found in star fruit (*Averrhoa carambola*), an arboreal member of the oxalis family.

You might not want to eat oxalis, or you might not feel particularly Irish, but there are oxalis species for you.

Beyond the thuggish natives or invasives lie many of value. I use *O. 'Sunset Velvet'* as an edger in my perennial borders. It is my pot of gold in the fall. When the other annuals have backed off, it steps forward. The golden orange color complements the changing leaves and continues to glow after the leaves have fallen. I use the charmingly miniscule *O. magellanica* 'Nelson' in containers under small trees. The almost black *O. 'Charmed Wine'*, the graceful palmlike *O. palmifrons*, and the orange-flowered *O. massoniana*, rare and curious, are useful for containers.

I still weed the lovely yet obnoxious creeping yellow sorrel from my clients' gardens, though less vehemently. I got lucky when I visited Ann Lovejoy's garden seventeen years ago; I got an attitude adjustment better than a shot of Irish whiskey.

And ended up a little drunk on the genus *Oxalis*. 🍷

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.

AN EXPERIMENT IN DRY SHADE GARDENING

RIZANIÑO REYES

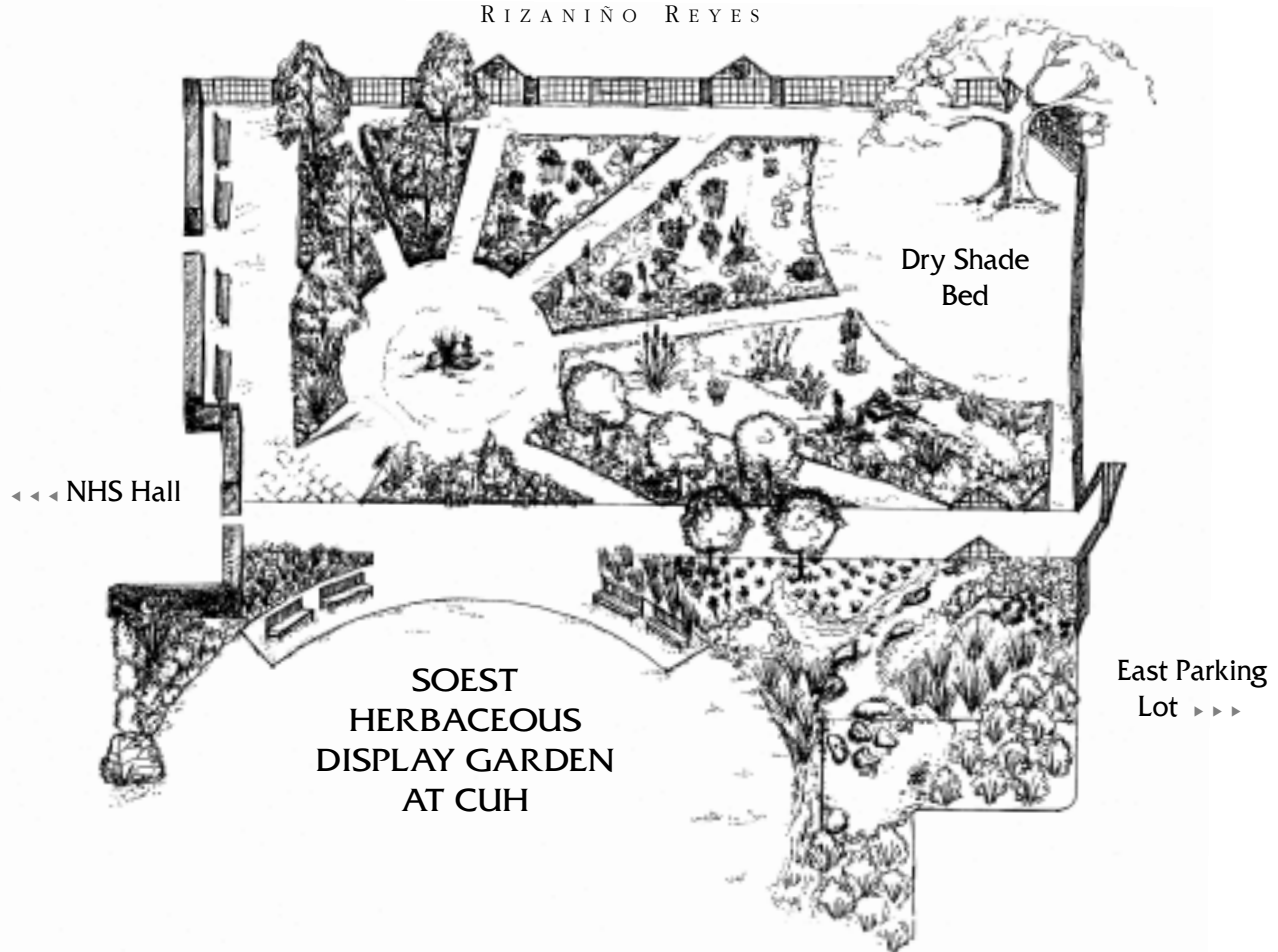


IMAGE COURTESY UW BOTANIC GARDENS

AS MANY OF YOU know, gardening success is often achieved through endless trials and embarrassing errors that we'd rather keep secret. Bountiful books, publications, lectures, and tips from the local master gardener or garden center provide a wealth of information to help us get started, but in the end we will always rely on our personal experience and that ever fascinating element of chance.

THE RED OAK BED

When I started working as the Soest perennial gardener at UW Botanic Garden here at the Center for Urban Horticulture about a year ago, I was

On the way to your next NHS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture, you can see how the dry shade bed is progressing as you walk from the east parking lot to NHS Hall.

asked to figure out a more aesthetic solution to a space that, while quite comfortable to visitors, lacked visual interest. A large red oak resides on the northeast corner of the garden, creating a fairly dense canopy of filtered shade. The base of the tree was inhabited by moss and lichens mulched over with woodchips, and a wooden bench had been recently installed. Double-flowered wood anemones (*Anemone nemorosa* 'Vestal') and dwarf blue columbines (*Aquilegia* sp.) seeded themselves

amongst the overly aggressive sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*). Besides rainfall, the only water source is overspray from the adjacent lawn that's irrigated twice a week.

PLANTING STRATEGY

Designing and planting a garden under this massive oak presented several challenges: lack of sunlight, the oak tree's sensitivity to root disturbance and the lack of soil in which to actually dig and plant, and minimal water. To

address these issues, I developed a two-part plan: I would identify plants that will thrive with minimal sun, soil, and irrigation; and in those areas where plants absolutely will not grow, I would recycle some rough stone pavers and river rocks to create an attractive dry stream bed alongside the plantings. In addition, I planned to follow the well-known guidelines for planting underneath any established tree or shrub: start with small plants with young root systems, and keep them well watered until they are rooted in well. To prepare the bed, I added a one- to two-inch layer of compost to the sections that would host new plants, and I covered the rest of the area with woodchips to continue protecting the tree.

PLANTS TO TRY

Wanting to fill in these areas with a diverse palette of plants that would tolerate dry shade, I consulted Judith Jones of Fancy Fronds nursery for advice. She generously donated a few select ferns that would withstand these tough conditions, including *Polystichum munitum*, *Polystichum setiferum* 'Congestum', *Dryopteris affinis* subsp. *affinis*, *Dryopteris x separabilis*, and *Dryopteris marginalis*. Several epimediums were added to the mix, which included the Great Plant Pick's selection *Epimedium x perralchicum* 'Frohnleiten', *Epimedium acuminatum*, and a generous donation of Asian species hybrids from the former Heronswood Nursery. And a shade garden wouldn't be complete without spring ephemerals such as creeping forget-me-nots (*Omphalodes verna*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and bulbous plants such as erythronium and clumps of *Cyclamen hederifolium* and *C. coum*.

Although we had a fairly cold winter and extended cool temperatures this spring, the plantings seem to be thriving. Their true drought- and shade-tolerance will be put to the test this year, as I plan to cut back on watering and simply let them take off. So far the oak is leafing out normally with no major signs of stress, which is a positive sign.

While the plants appear to be establishing well in their new homes, it will be an ongoing process to determine if they will continue to develop. Based on my personal experience, you will win some and lose some, but that's what seems to be the fun of gardening in difficult situations such as dry shade. Begin with what works for you, slowly add and edit, and finally, take a chance. You might be pleasantly surprised, as I've been so far. 🌱

Rizaniño "Riz" Reyes is an NHS Board Member and the perennial gardener at UW Botanic Gardens. For a complete listing of plants in this garden and to offer ideas and suggestions on his experiments, email Riz at rhr2382@u.washington.edu.

~ THANKS TO OUR 2008 PATRONS ~

The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide a world-class educational program for Northwest gardeners. Thank you, patrons!

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Darlene & Dan Huntington	Nancy Strahle
Lisa Irwin	Sunnyside Nursery
Becky Johnson	Mary Kay Talbot
Ann E. Keller	Lynne Thompson
Harold Kempen	Shelagh & Phil Tucker
Kemper/Iversen, Ltd.	Mary M. Turner
Sydney Kohlmeier	Florence Valentine
Karin Kravitz	Ralene Walls
Mary Helen Krock	Marie Weiler
& John MacKean	Wells Medina Nursery
Laura Kvasnosky	Wendy Welch
Denise Lane	Joanne White
Raymond J. Larson	Carolyn & Art Whittlesey
Barry & Susan Latter	Madeleine Wilde
Alice Lauber	Lois Willman
Julie Lawrence	Martha Woodman
Jeanne Marie Lee	John A. Wott PhD
Dorothy Lennard	Jennifer Wyatt
Ann LeVasseur	Kathy Yerke

MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON



Work in Progress—An Exhibit of Student Projects

ARE RARE PLANTS more susceptible to insect damage? Why is one of our native fritillarias (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*) becoming rare? What planting methods will increase the survival rate of newly planted conifers in an urban forest?

Fourteen UW Botanic Gardens graduate students are trying to find answers to these questions and more, and they present their research in the current exhibit at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. Work in Progress aptly describes these small posters that capture many months or even years of hard research.

Do wordy displays turn you off? These won't. Colorful and informative, the succinct posters allow the students to hone their skills at presenting highly technical and detailed information to a general audience.

Wendy DesCamp, collections manager of the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium, is reviewing the invasive qualities of the garden ornamental, yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). While listed in 2007 as a Class C weed on the King County Noxious List, more needs to be known about its "potential spread and possible methods of eradication." Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is another invasive plant—Hannah Kinmonth-Schultz asks if the effects of climate change will increase or curb this tendency.

The Washington Park Arboretum is being scanned using an aerial laser (LiDAR or Light Detection and Ranging). What will this discover? Jeff Richardson is hoping to determine how effective this urban forest is at removing carbon

dioxide and pollution from the air, and at slowing runoff from rainfall.

Most of the projects only hint at the potential answers, but some are already yielding tangible, usable results. Amy Lambert's PhD research has identified ways to improve the chances of survival for the very rare—thought to be extinct for over ninety years—*island marble butterfly* (*Euchloe ausonides insulanus*) found on only a couple of the San Juan Islands. Introducing more of the native host plants for the larvae, and protecting the plants from deer, may save this endangered and quite attractive butterfly.

All the work in the world won't do much good if it isn't coordinated with similar efforts by others. Justin Howell is researching the development of a web-based depository for all restoration projects—over 350 are registered—within the city of Seattle. His hope is to create a "clearing house for best management practices as well as a forum for open communication."

These students are all based at the Center for Urban Horticulture, and many have benefited from NHS student grants. The exhibit runs through July 3, but if you miss it in person, it will remain as a virtual exhibit on the Miller Library website at www.millerlibrary.org. Look for the link under "What's New at the Miller Library?"



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)



Bits 'n Pieces

THE NHS GRANT for a **Curriculum Collection** (see the Spring 2008 *Garden Notes*) has been instrumental in generating expanded interest in the children's collection. Larry Howard and Nancy Winder recently gave a complementary gift of \$500 for the purchase of thirty-five new books for children. Larry and Nancy can be seen here relaxing at the Preview Party for the **Garden Lovers' Book Sale** (itself a big success, raising over \$7,000 for the library's book buying budget).

Who said summer was quiet? This July and August we will present two evening editions of our popular Story Time family programs. Pajama Stories will present *Seeds, Wonderful Seeds* on Monday, July 14, followed by *Last Splash of Summer* on Monday, August 11. Both programs will run from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and are perfect for children aged 2 to 8 and their entire families.

Looking ahead, the Miller Library will be a beneficiary of the **West Seattle Garden Tour** (www.westseattlegardentour.com) and will staff an information table at one of the tour gardens on Sunday, July 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. And mark your calendars now for the **Elisabeth Carey Miller Memorial Lecture** on Thursday, October 23, which will feature world-renowned landscape architect Kathryn Gustafson. 📖

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

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

Brunch in the Garden with Ciscoe

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008


10 A.M. TO NOON AND 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

The Home of Ciscoe and Mary Morris


TICKETS: \$85.00

NHS BOARD MEMBER CISCOE MORRIS will host two small groups of NHS members for a champagne brunch on July 27. Guests will enjoy champagne, wine, and fabulous food, along with a personal tour of Ciscoe's exuberant garden. Proceeds benefit the NHS endowment fund for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

Ciscoe, a popular radio and television personality, is well known for his encyclopedic horticultural knowledge. But not everyone knows he has a passion for unusual and exotic plants. This is a rare chance to visit his garden and hear the stories behind his favorite plants.

Tickets are \$85.00 per person, and each group is limited to twenty people. Have fun and support the library by registering at nwhort@aol.com or calling (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. Our intent is to receive, evaluate, and fund environmental, educational, and horticultural proposals. This year's deadline for grant proposals is August 29, 2008. Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by October 15, 2008. Grants will be awarded at the annual meeting on November 12, 2008. 



Thank you, Molbak's!

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, Molbak's chose NHS as the beneficiary for their "Kick-off to Spring" weekend wherein Molbak's donates a percentage of their profits to a non-profit group. This year, despite lower-than-normal attendance due to cold temperatures and relentless rain, they donated \$2,931.00 to us. Amazing!

A big thank you to the volunteers who staffed the NHS membership tables and to our many members who came to shop that weekend. 

— 2008 SUMMER CLASSES —

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 10:00 A.M.—NOON

Dutch Colonial Meets Modern Architecture

LOCATION: PRIVATE CAPITOL HILL GARDEN, SEATTLE

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

Architect Holden Withington designed a modern addition to this Dutch colonial home. The garden, designed by Richard Hartlage, links the two styles of architecture, physically and visually, in a bold style embracing modern construction materials and a rich, complex planting scheme. Come tour this home and garden to see how careful blending of architecture and garden design can create comfortable living and play space for a young family.


THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 10:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.

New Construction Landscape with Colette Highbarger

LOCATION: GARDEN & CONSTRUCTION SITE/LAKE FOREST PARK

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

You have just bought a beautiful new home and it looks like the contractor ran out of money when it came time to landscape—a few dying plants, compacted soil, poor drainage, steep slopes, and little in the way of design. Colette Highbarger of Upright Construction, Inc. will help you tackle these all too common problems.


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. 

Wanted: Airline Miles

IN 2003, DEBORAH HEG generously donated airline miles to fly Christopher Lloyd from London to Seattle so that members of NHS would have the privilege of hearing him speak. Now we have the opportunity to hear one of the all time greats of horticulture: Roy Lancaster! We want to bring him to Seattle to speak here in September 2009, and to speak in conjunction with our fundraiser at Windcliff, but we need your help.

In order to provide business-class tickets for Roy and his wife, we are seeking a member-or group of members-willing to donate 240,000 frequent-flyer miles from Alaska Airlines (for a flight on British Airways) or 200,000 frequent-flyer miles from Delta Airlines (for a flight on Northwest Airlines). In appreciation for your miles, you will be given VIP status at our events during Roy's stay.

Roy is a well-known writer, plant explorer, and broadcaster on BBC radio and television in England.

For more information, please email Nita-Jo Rountree at nitajo77@comcast.net or call (425) 889-2023. 


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year NHS has already had, and we're not finished yet!

- For the Northwest Flower & Garden show, we built a fabulous display garden that made our members proud to be a part of our organization and helped recruit 120 new members.
- We held our first yearly spring ephemerals plant sale, and it was a smashing success. A special thanks to Wells Medina Nursery for donating boxes for yet another one of our plant sales—those boxes that we all take for granted are not cheap.
- Our spring symposium, "The Ornamental Plant: From Third Century Athens to Your Garden," was one of the best ever, thanks to the Miller Foundation's support. We laughed and learned all day long.
- In April, Molbak's generously hosted us in their store for their Kickoff-to-Spring event and donated \$2,931.00 to NHS. Wow!

Then there was the fern stumpery class on Vashon Island and the artists' gardens tour on Camano Island, the pizza party and lecture for new members, and the summer solstice fundraiser—all in addition to our Wednesday night lecture series and creative classes.

Coming attractions include our annual Meet-the-Board Garden tour, a Bainbridge Island tour, and a garden party with Ciscoe to benefit the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. In the fall, we look forward to the East Coast garden tour, our annual plant sale extravaganza, and more wonderful classes and lectures.

Put our website at www.northwesthort.org on your "favorites" list and read your NHS e-news for late breaking opportunities. And stay tuned for 2009... 

Nita-Jo



Visit the Sparler/Schouten garden during our Meet-the-Board Tour.

DANIEL SPARLER

Garden NOTES

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