

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2011

NHS FALL PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, NOON TO 6:00 PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

LOIS WILLMAN AND MARIE WEILER

WE MAY NOT HAVE HAD the greatest summer, but you can get warmed up for autumn by shopping for the coolest plants at the NHS Fall Plant Sale, **September 16–17**. This two-day event is a fabulous way to view plant selections from about 30 of the Pacific Northwest's great wholesale and specialty nurseries.

From Anemonopsis to Ypsilandra, from Abutilon to Zauschneria, from bamboo to rhododendrons, our vendors will have the most unusual collector's plants and the hippest new introductions as well as many old standbys and Great Plant Picks—all bursting with health and ready for you to pop into your garden at this, the most opportune planting time of the year.

As you've probably heard, the hangar at Magnuson Park is no longer available, so this year's sale will take place at **North Seattle Community College**. (See driving directions on page 11.) We've reserved the cafeteria and the student center as well as two large rooms at the front of the complex—space enough to accommodate the same number of vendors as in previous years. We guarantee, you will not be disappointed!

A couple of things to note:

We will not be able to use the wagons indoors, so if you have a luggage cart or



A wide selection of beautiful perennials is available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 16 and 17 (Ann LeVasseur)

what I like to call an “old lady shopping cart,” be sure to bring it. We will have “quick hold” tables scattered about and, as usual, the area for longer holds.

Also, because we'll be indoors, dogs will not be allowed, so remember to leave your pooch at home.

In addition to the wide selection of plants, there is also a wide variety of volunteer positions available to support

the sale. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and take-down; distribute and pick up signs in the neighborhood; cashier; and work the hold, tally, plant donations, and will call areas. Volunteers benefit greatly by becoming some of the first shoppers, plus they receive a discount coupon good toward a plant purchase. What volunteers seem to enjoy most, however, is the opportunity to see ▶

NHS FALL PLANT SALE . . . continued from page 1

all those wonderful plants up close while working at their job stations. Those wanting to help can contact **Lois Willman** at loiswillman@gmail.com.

Another great way to support the sale is through member donations. If you have plants you would like to donate, they can be dropped off at the sale Friday, September 16, between 9 am and noon. If you have questions or need any help with plant delivery, contact **Emily Dexter** at edexter4@comcast.net or **206-526-2927**. Plants should be potted, labeled with the plant name (botanical as well if you have it), and priced. Any additional information about the plant, which would help it thrive in its new home, would be helpful.

The plant sale is a critical fundraiser for NHS. Proceeds go toward funding NHS programs, scholarships, and grants.

So come to the sale, check out great plants, reconnect with old friends, and support our nursery owners and community. 🌱

For further information on the plant sale and directions to North Seattle Community College, visit our website at www.northwesthort.org. Directions are also printed on page 11.

Lois Willman and Marie Weiler are the co-chairs for the NHS Fall Plant Sale.

2011 NHS PLANT SALE VENDORS

Blue Frog Garden Nursery: Perennials, groundcovers, shrubs, trees, azaleas

Botanica: Uncommon and underused perennials

Bouquet Banque Nursery: Fat, juicy, healthy, 2-gallon perennials

Chimacum Woods: Species rhododendrons

DeGro Flower & Garden: Uncommon perennials and some temperennials

Elemental Plants: Predominantly PNW native plants, specializing in trees and shrubs

Fairmeadow Nursery: Evergreen oaks, perennials, Northwest native trees, and shrubs

Far Reaches Farm: Unusual perennials and bulbs, drifting into a few woodies and alpines

Foliage Gardens: Ferns and related plants

Glenwood Gardens: Shrubs, dwarf stuff, conifers, and perennials

Keeping It Green Nursery: Hardy orchids, unusual woodlanders, and hard-to-find natives

Lael's Moon Garden Nursery: Trees, shrubs, edibles, and select perennials

Lee Farm & Nursery: Trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and hardy fuchsias

Madrona Nursery: Special perennials and some native plants

Mount Forest Farm/Robyn's Nest Nursery: Hostas, ferns, and shade perennials

MSK Rare Plant Nursery: Native and rare plants adaptable to the Pacific Northwest

Munro's Nursery: Hardy perennials, trees, shrubs, and shade-tolerant plants

Naylor Creek Nursery: Hostas, epimediums, asarums, cimicifugas, and shade perennials

Old Goat Farm: Perennials for sun or shade

Overland Enterprises: Drought-tolerant perennials for sun or shade

Pan's Garden: Sedums, sempervivums, and specialty perennials

Perennial Pleasures: Ferns, sempervivums, ground covers, and other perennials

Ramble on Rose Perennials: Perennials

Rhododendron Species Foundation: Species rhododendrons

Robinwood Nursery: Eclectic selection of perennials, grasses, fuchsias, and shrubs

Steamboat Island Nursery: Temperennials, uncommon perennials, shrubs, vines, and grasses

Taking Root Nursery: Unusual perennials, hostas, ornamental grasses, and ferns

The Desert Northwest: Cold-hardy desert plants, Southern Hemisphere natives, and subtropicals

White Picket Gardens: Unusual perennials, drought-tolerant plants, salvias, and hebes

Wind Poppy Farm & Nursery: Grasses, sedges, rushes, water plants, and perennials



More beautiful plants that are available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 16 and 17 (Ann LeVasseur)

PLANTS TO SEEK OUT AT THE NHS FALL PLANT SALE

MARTY WINGATE



ABOVE: *Grevillea victoriae*
'Marshall Olbrich'

RIGHT: *Poncirus trifoliata*
'Flying Dragon'



YOU HAVE A LIST IN YOUR HEAD—what to look for at the NHS Fall Plant Sale—but it's incomplete. Allow me to help. Here are just a few more plants you might consider buying.

The hardy Australian mint bush, *Prostanthera cuneata*, has tiny mint-scented evergreen leaves growing in a congested fashion on a fairly tidy mound to about three feet; small white flowers with a purple brush mark appear in spring. It needs full sun, and has sailed through every one of the last eight winters in our garden.

Look for *P. cuneata* on the tables of **Overland Enterprises** where you'll also find *Gentiana ternifolia* which has wispy foliage with pale blue flowers in fall, and a half dozen varieties of Colchicum.

Dry shade and poor soil is a recipe for disaster. And yet, here comes the silvervein creeper vine (*Parthenocissus henryana*) to the rescue. **Steamboat Island Nursery** will be selling this deciduous vine that gets fabulous fall color as well as bronze-red new growth in spring. It's not bad as a ground cover, either.

Also on offer from Steamboat is deer-resistant *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Duke Garden'. A low-growing selection of the Japanese plum yew, it reaches only about four feet high and wide. Also look for *Daphne bholua*, which has fragrant, late-winter flowers and *Dichroa febrifuga*, a semi-evergreen sprawling hydrangea relative with blue or pink flowers followed by eye-catching blue fruit.

You can also find *Dichroa* at **Bouquet Banque Nursery** along with *Epimedium*, silverleaf hardy cyclamen, and woodland plants including *Podophyllum*.

Botanica will have large specimens of the gorgeous tree peony *Paeonia lutea* var. *ludlowii*. Picture its five-inch wide lemon-yellow flowers on seven-foot stems in your garden. Also at the Botanica table is the California native *Darmera peltata*, perfect for pondside. Its hairy stalks topped with a mound of pink flowers emerge in May, followed by the umbrella leaves.

Anticipate spring with Botanica's *Primula capitata* var. *mooreana*. Its purple flowers, arranged in a pincushion style with a dusting of white called "farina" is a long-bloomer from April to June. Look for *Thalictrum delavayi* var. *decorum*, the delicate, summer-flowering meadow rue with "parasols" of lilac flowers followed by ornamental seedpods.

Lael's Moon Garden Nursery will have the hardy contorted orange (*Poncirus trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon')—fragrant white flowers followed by small, bitter orange fruit, on contorted branches. Yikes, the thorns! For those overwintering Anna's hummingbirds, get *Grevillea victoriae* 'Marshall Olbrich' with tubular deep red-orange clusters beginning in winter.

From **Far Reaches Farm**, look for *Begonia emeiensis*. You'll delight in late-season pink flowers in the shade and won't mind mulching it in winter. You must buy *Lobelia tupa*. I'm surprised our resident hummingbird doesn't buzz up and give us a big fat kiss every summer when this tall herbaceous perennial starts blooming. It has coral-colored beaked flowers on tall stalks.

Among the dwarf conifers at the **Old Goat Farm**, look for woodland perennials including *Trachystemon orientalis*. I planted mine in dry shade several years ago, and have barely given it a thought since except to admire its stems of blue flowers in spring following by enormous heart-shaped leaves.

I hope to see you at the Fall Plant Sale on September 16-17. And let me apologize in advance for butting into your conversation about which plant to buy; as a self-appointed personal shopper, I can't help myself. 🌱

Marty Wingate is a Seattle-based writer and speaker about gardens and travel. She is also an NHS board member.

DISCOVERING BRAZIL'S INHOTIM INSTITUTO CULTURAL

DANIEL SPARLER

YOU KNOW YOU'RE not in Kansas—or Kennewick—any more the moment you approach the entrance to the gardens of the Inhotim Instituto Cultural near the city of Belo Horizonte in Brazil. After the vexations of negotiating a few confusing kilometers of meandering lanes through the nondescript market town of Brumadinho the road broadens and you suddenly come upon a vast and mesmerizing border of pulsating blue agaves

rising from a bed of luridly red *Alternanthera dentata* set in a grove of towering, improbably lithe palms. I am not a religious person, but the experience for me was akin to approaching the pearly gates of horticultural heaven and for the next few hours (until politely ushered out by staff 30 minutes after the official closing time) I was in a state of unparalleled botanical bliss.

Called "Inhotim" for short (roughly pronounced een-yo-CHEEM), the garden opened to the public in 2006 after two decades of preparation. The brainchild of Bernardo Paz, an iron-mining magnate turned visionary art impresario, Inhotim is actually better known—hard as it is for this plant aficionado to grasp—for its cutting edge collection of hundreds of pieces of contemporary art on view in 17 architecturally significant pavilions that grace the 240 acre intensively landscaped grounds as well as numerous free-standing, monumental outdoor pieces peppered throughout the site. Imagine the best works of London's Tate Modern displayed in one of the world's loveliest tropical garden estates and you begin to get the picture.

The garden's basic structure, laid out by iconic modernist landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx in the last decade of his long life, is a naturalistic Eden with a set of five lakes at its core surrounded by the massed and majestic plant collections, some open and airy, others dense and mysterious, each seemingly more lovely to behold than the last. Following the ser-



Water feature on the roof of the Inhotim library with massed Colocasia 'Black Magic' and silver gazing balls. (Daniel Sparler)

pentine paths brings the viewer face to face with ever more startling, site specific sculpture amidst the botanical splendor, by artists such as Chris Burden, Hélio Oiticica, Zhang Huan, and Cildo Meireles. Enveloping and sheltering the entire estate is a 1,500 acre nature reserve.

According to Inhotim's user-friendly website (go to www.inhotim.org.br and click on the English tab at the top) the plant collection represents "181 botanical families,

953 genera, and approximately 4,300 species of vascular plants." Highlights include what is said to be the world's largest collection of palms (more than 1,500 varieties) as well as the Southern Hemisphere's largest collection of Araceae (philodendrons and their kin) and more than 300 orchid species.

Environmental research work, preservation of endangered species, and education are hallmarks of the institute's mission and these are in evidence everywhere, from the polished, impossibly long benches salvaged from the destruction of Amazon forests to the stunningly designed research library to the omnipresent fresh-faced, eager, and well-informed guides, many of whom are graduate students in botany or environmental science at the nearby Federal University of Minas Gerais.

When the contemplation of so much beauty threatens to overwhelm, you can repair to one of five excellent open-air restaurants, bars, or cafes to recover your strength, but you won't be able to rest your eyes—the magnetic, unrelenting allure of the surrounding lush vegetation will continue to enthrall.

Inhotim is located about 40 miles southwest of Belo Horizonte (locally known as BH), Brazil's third largest city and the capital of the state of Minas Gerais. You can also go by car from São Paulo; it's a six hour drive on a well-maintained highway. 📍

Daniel Sparler is an NHS board member.

RELIABLE, PERENNIAL TULIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN

RIZANIÑO “RIZ” REYES

FALL IS THE TIME TO PLAN ahead and splurge on some tulip bulbs! No early season landscape is complete without them, but it bewilders many gardeners why most varieties that they plant only bloom once and fail to return and perform equally well in subsequent years as perennial bulbs. Instead, they are treated as annuals, and gardeners spend time and money planting them each fall. This article will showcase a handful of tulips that have reliably rebloomed each year and a few ideas on how to use them effectively in your garden.

To ensure that tulips do return and flower each spring, there are a few things you should do.

1. Use a specific variety or species.
2. Have good drainage. This is probably the most important cultural factor as wet feet will rot your bulbs.
3. Plant deeply. Some of the varieties mentioned here naturally produce teeny little bulbs; they should still be planted 6-8 inches down.
4. Make sure you snap off the spent blossoms so they don't go to seed.
5. Wait for the foliage to turn mostly brown and wilted before cleaning it up.

Follow these simple tips, and you should be successful.

Early season species tulips (March)

Species tulips have historically been tricky to grow. Keen gardeners aim to recreate their natural habitat in the wild, but for the common selections made available each fall, many are quite adaptable to average garden settings provided that they are sited and planted properly.

Some of the earliest to bloom are the Kaufmanniana types. *Tulipa* 'Ancilla' is a personal favorite of mine. It is so incredibly eye-catching with its creamy white blooms suffused in yellow at the base and accented by a bright red ring in the center. The Greigii group follows because their distinctive purple mottling and striping on their undulating foliage and variable flowers make them unique and very distinct in the garden. These early season varieties just come and go and are great with early emerging perennials that will conceal their browning stems.



LEFT: *Tulipa batalinii* 'Bright Gem'

RIGHT: *Tulipa kaufmanniana* 'Ancilla' ("Riz" Reyes)

Mid-season types (Late March-April)

The Clusiana types are another group of wonderful perennials with their slim stems and bi-colored blooms. *T.* 'Cynthia' is a lovely bright yellow with red and is reliably perennial in different parts of the United States. For something large and extremely showy, the infamous Darwin hybrids have been developed for bedding, cut flowers, and forcing. It's an all-around tulip that's been dubbed as the "long term perennial" group. Look for cultivars with the words 'Apeldoorn' and 'Impression' in the name for reliable performance.

Late blooming selections (Late April into May)

I'm most fond of late blooming *Tulipa batalinii*. The cultivar 'Bright Gem' would be my choice, but most cultivars are very vigorous with greenish-gray, almost silvery foliage with a fine texture setting off a short, but elegantly formed flower that's best admired as a mass grouping. They will come back every year and multiply if left undisturbed.

With the proper conditions and the recommended selections above, you can plant your tulips once, follow a few simple steps in their planting and maintenance, and you'll be rewarded with a spectacular show each spring that doesn't have to cost a small fortune nor take up more of your precious time. 🌷

Rizaniño "Riz" Reyes is a former NHS board member and is a gardener at the Center for Urban Horticulture where you can see most of these selections in bloom come spring.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: SUE GOETZ

CINDY COMBS

GARDENS BETTER START EARNING their keep if garden designer, coach, lecturer, and writer Susan Goetz has anything to say about it.

If there is one garden design principle that Sue passionately practices and preaches it is that “gardens should give back.”

Sue explains, “It’s easy to understand the concept of a garden giving back when you are growing food. But sometimes we don’t think of this when we design ornamental gardens.”

According to Sue, reaping the garden’s bounty is not that difficult when you think about what you want the garden to give you. For instance: fragrant flowers and foliage engage our noses, a patio or seating area provides a place to entertain, a view out the window delights on a winter’s day, a native area becomes a respite for both gardener and wildlife. She also reminds us that the ornamental garden can be a source of materials for a potpourri, a bouquet, a holiday wreath, or a child’s tea party.

You may have seen one of Sue’s gardens that have been inspired by this



Alexis, Sue’s granddaughter, shows off fresh picked peas she planted in the spring. (Sue Goetz)

philosophy. Her personal garden, a laboratory for design and plant experimentation, is frequently open for tours. More likely, you may have visited one or more of her exuberant display gardens at recent Northwest Flower & Garden Shows.

Sue believes that gardeners should give back, too. She shares her passion, time, and expertise with the horticultural community of greater Puget Sound as a volunteer extraordinaire.

NHS benefits from this generosity. Sue has been an active member of NHS since 2005 and is currently serving as recording secretary on the NHS Board. You’ll also see her pitching in at plant sales and staffing the NHS booth at the flower and garden show.

What gives Sue the greatest sense of accomplishment? It is to nurture future generations of gardeners. She beams with pride when recounting her 17-year-old daughter Courtney’s award-winning display garden at the 2011 Northwest Flower & Garden Show. And, nothing makes her happier than time spent in the garden with four-year-old granddaughter, Alexis. 🌱

Cindy Combs has been gardening in the Magnolia neighborhood for 15 years and is now expecting some garden payback.

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MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON



BOOKS CELEBRATING SPRING, SUMMER, AND EVEN WINTER are plentiful on the shelves of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. But only a few highlight the fall.

One of the classics is *My Garden in Autumn and Winter* by E. A. Bowles. Published in 1915, it has remained widely available because of the author's keen garden observations and his charming writing style: "...the good gardener should have no time to look back on departing joys" he writes before listing all the advantages of gardening projects in September and October.

The chapter "After the Frost" is sited two-thirds of the way through the book, highlighting Bowles's attitude to "...the unwelcome presence of Winter in the garden." Despite its inclusive title, this is a book about the fall, its glorious bulbs (crocus and Colchicum primarily), fine composites, and "autumnal tints" of everything including trees, shrubs, and vines.

Later writers rely on photographs (Bowles has none) to supplement their stories. Allen Lacy (*The Garden in Autumn*) is also an excellent writer and his 1990 book distinguishes between those plants with blooms that linger from summer, and those that don't hit their stride until cooler weather. A chapter I find particularly fascinating is "Annuals in the Autumn Garden" a look at late sowings to ensure fall flowers.

Fallscaping: Extending your Garden Season into Autumn (Nancy Ondra and Stephanie Cohen, 2007) is more of a gardening handbook with features on design, propagation, and fall planting. But it still has luscious photographs highlighting vivid colors in riotous combinations. *Bulbs in the Basement, Geraniums on the Windowsill: How to Grow & Overwinter 165 Tender Plants* (Alice and Brian McGowan, 2008) is all about carrying over the summer into next year with lots of tips and strategies for overwintering.

Finally, another glory of the fall are the pumpkins (see Daniel Mount's excellent article on page 8) and related gourds and squashes. There are few books with a presentation equal to that of *The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds* (Amy Goldman, 2004). Page after page of colorful and often bizarre forms are backed up with lots of description and history too. If all this isn't mouth-watering enough, turn to the last pages for some "soul-satisfying" recipes. 🍂

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

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THE STORY OF PLANTS: PUMPKIN

DANIEL MOUNT

AS I WRITE, WE ARE HAVING ONE OF THE FIRST WARM WEEKENDS of the summer: hot by our standards, in the upper 70s. The pumpkins are starting to swell on the vines in our field, a happy anticipation swells in me too, and a strange ominous feeling of dread. Not the dread of the coming fall rains with winter, a headless horseman, close behind, but the dread of pumpkin traffic. I am not talking about a parade of those orange autumnal fruits converted into golden carriages by a fairy godmother, but a fleet of SUVs, hybrids, and jalopies headed down our usually quiet country road to the fields pregnant with pumpkins. I can hardly blame the hundreds of pilgrims in their search for the best pumpkin for carving Jack-o-lanterns. Like them I become as earnest as Charlie Brown's friend Linus in my search for a Great Pumpkin, that magical giant fruit with a long and fecund history.

The cultivation of pumpkins can be traced as far back as 10,000 years to Central Mexico. The first pumpkins were probably cultivated for their nutritious seeds. By the time Europeans arrived on this continent, pumpkins and their close kin the squashes were widely cultivated from the Andes to New England. Already a large variety of forms were grown for their seed and their flesh which was eaten green or ripe. As a gift from the Native Americans to first settlers they quickly became a staple in the colonial diet. The early colonists filled the ripe fruits with spices, honey, and milk and baked them whole. This precursor to the modern pumpkin pie was on the table at the first Thanksgiving feast, making pumpkin pie truly more American than apple pie.

Pumpkins are in the genus *Cucurbita*, a genus of about 14 species, five of which have been in cultivation for millennia. The search for the original wild pumpkin has led some botanists to *Cucurbita texana*, though there is still debate as to whether this species is a reverted escapee from cultivation. Most pumpkins, along with the summer squashes, gourds, and acorn squashes, are cultivars of the species *C. pepo*. The Cinderella pumpkin, or 'Rouge Vif d'Etampes' and 'Atlantic Giant' pumpkin are actually winter squashes, cultivars of *C. maxima*, which produces the largest fruits on earth. The record pumpkin weighed in at 1,810 lbs. and 8 oz. in Minnesota last October.

The word *squash* is derived nearly intact from the Algonquin word *askoot-asquash* meaning "eaten green." The word *pumpkin*, I prefer the lazy vernacular *punkin*, has gone through many changes from the ancient Greek word *pepon*, meaning large ripe fruit, referring to melons and cucumbers, both Old World members of the Cucurbitaceae, or the pumpkin family.

In her definitive book *The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds* Amy Goldman coins the term *Cucurbitacean* for people "who regard pumpkins or squash with deep often rapturous love." The ceramic and gold replicas of squashes found in archaeological sites throughout the New World attest to the fact that this is not a new phenomenon. Michael and I, confirmed Cucurbitaceans, have planted over 25 varieties of pumpkins and squash this year. From the miniature white 'Lil' Pump-ke-mon' to the monstrous 'Wyatt's Wonder' the range of form and utility is wondrous. We love growing the beautiful Styrian pumpkins of Austrian origin 'Kakai' and 'Lady Godiva'. They produce copious amounts of "naked" seeds, known as *pepitas*, for roasting. We eat handfuls each October watching the parade of pumpkin heads on our road as we wait for November 1st and the return of normalcy to our sleepy hollow. 🍂

Read more of Daniel's thoughts on plants and gardening on his blog
www.danielmountgardens.blogspot.com.

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. SARAH REICHARD

RAY LARSON AND DR. SARAH REICHARD

RECENTLY I ASKED the new director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Dr. Sarah Reichard, to share some of her thoughts about her new job overseeing the Washington Park Arboretum and Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH). Sarah actually has a long connection with NHS. In addition to being a member for many years, she was one of the first to receive the NHS Elisabeth C. Miller Scholarship way back in 1988. When I arrived at her office for our interview, she suggested we go outside to the Soest Perennial Garden and enjoy the view of the garden. What follows is an abbreviated version of our wide-ranging conversation.

• **Ray Larson:** *What are you most excited about as director?*

• **Sarah Reichard:** Strengthening our ties to academics at both locations. I'm excited to bring more students in to do projects here: landscape architecture students, museology students, those in the arts and music. I enjoy the vitality and energy of students in both places, and we are working to find linkages besides the typical sciences. Recently we brought the "UW Farm" here—they are a group of students from all disciplines interested in growing their own food. They use just under an acre at CUH and have partnered with us and Seattle Tilth's Seattle Youth Garden Works program. We provide the land and they spend 40 hours a month helping out in some area of UWBG.

• **RL:** *What is the biggest challenge?*

• **SR:** Money. We have too much reliance on the state. It's always been a problem. I was doing some research and found that even in 1938 there was a great concern



Dr. Sarah Reichard (Jennifer Leach)

about insufficient funding from the state and city. To do what we want to do we need to find other ways to raise funds. We'll be doing more grant writing, working on growing our endowments, and finding a stable funding source. More academic involvement here also makes it easier to make our case to the UW and the state.

• **RL:** *What about from a collection or horticultural point of view?*

• **SR:** We want displays to be aesthetically pleasing and we also want them to be scientifically valid and useful for teaching and research.

• **RL:** *What do you see as the role of public gardens today?*

• **SR:** There is a conservation value—we are losing species at an ever increasing rate in the wild, and we can be a partner in conserving them. From an educational perspective, botany departments have been lost at most universities and increasingly botanical gardens are

important in teaching people about plants. There's still so much we still don't know about plants. Botanical gardens are also important for linking us back to nature. In recent years and especially after 9/11, public gardens have seen how they can be places that help restore people's spirit and soul by connecting them with beauty. It's an important role.

• **RL:** *What are some of your favorite areas in the gardens?*

• **SR:** At CUH I really enjoy the Soest Garden. At the Arboretum, the Winter Garden has always been a favorite, and it's just so well designed. I'm excited

about the new Pacific Connections Gardens. I love Azalea way, of course, and enjoy visiting some of the places off the beaten path like the viburnum collection.

• **RL:** *What are some things you'd like to accomplish during your time as director?*

• **SR:** We need to have better integration with campus and we need to do a better job of marketing ourselves. Financial stability is critical. And we want to strengthen and grow our existing programs.

• **RL:** *How can people promote and help the gardens?*

• **SR:** It's a unique place where people can see plants from all over the world. Raising our visibility is important. When people find out about the gardens and some of the other things we do it really helps—they see the value in it and support it. 🌱

Ray Larson is the president of NHS. Dr. Sarah Reichard is the new director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens.

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

~ 2011 FALL CLASSES AND TOUR ~

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Great Plant Picks with Rick Peterson and Holly Zipp

Visit the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and learn about Great Plant Picks (GPP), the educational plant awards program of outstanding plants for the maritime Pacific Northwest. Join Rick Peterson, GPP program coordinator, and Holly Zipp, head gardener, for a walk through the Miller Garden to see the use of this year's theme and focus on plants that perform in sunny and dry conditions.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 15

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meet the Designer Tour with Stacie Crooks

We've invited some of our local designers to show us their work, discuss their projects, and introduce us to their personal style. Meet Stacie Crooks and see her own beautiful drought-tolerant garden and another garden she designed.

LOCATION: NORTH SEATTLE/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$55.00 LIMIT: 18

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Fall & Holiday Container Design with Barbara Libner

Join Barbara Libner, Ravenna Gardens' container designer and visual merchandiser for a demonstration of container designs for fall and winter. The class will focus on containers for year-round interest with an emphasis on the upcoming season.

LOCATION: RAVENNA GARDENS/KIRKLAND

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Autumn Highlights with Glenn Withey and Charles Price

This is your opportunity to enjoy a fall tour of the Dunn Gardens with the Dunn Gardens' curators, Glenn Withey and Charles Price. Glenn and Charles will demonstrate a host of fall garden chores including dividing perennials.

LOCATION: DUNN GARDENS/SEATTLE

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Putting the Garden to Bed with Holly Zipp

As cold weather approaches it is time to think about a whole list of garden tasks in preparation for winter and spring. These include fall garden clean up, planting bulbs, planning winter containers, and dividing and moving plants. Holly Zipp, head gardener at the Miller Botanical Garden will discuss these subjects and more, using maintenance practices at the Miller Garden as an example of what you can do in your home garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 15

~ WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES ~

LECTURE 7:15 PM RECEPTION 6:45 PM
NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE
MEMBERS \$5.00 NON-MEMBERS \$10.00

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN

OCTOBER 12, 2011

Stunning Stewartia: A Tree for All Seasons Tim Boland

NOVEMBER 9, 2011

Container Confidential Wendy Welch

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG

~ 2011 MILLER LECTURE ~

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7:30 PM

Parks, Plants & People Lynden B. Miller

LOCATION: MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
RSVP TO THE MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN AT 206-362-8612
OR INFO@MILLERGARDEN.ORG

~ SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN GIVE & GROW LUNCHEON ~

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

Honoring John & Kelly Olerud, Jordan Fund and Stan McNaughton, CEO PEMCO

LOCATION: FOUR SEASONS WATERFRONT HOTEL

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON
DONATIONS WILL BE REQUESTED
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 AM

Join NHS at our member's table for this event to raise funds for innovative programs for children with special needs and their families.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RAY LARSON



WHEN I WAS A KID GROWING UP IN SEATTLE, I didn't really enjoy fall that much. Mostly it meant the return of school, the inevitable slide into darker days, and the onset of steady rains for what seemed like weeks on end. And if it wasn't raining it was often just cloudy and gray, which, when combined with homework, tended to

dampen the mood. Slowly this began to change, and my growing appreciation for plants was the main reason. As an undergraduate in small town Wisconsin I was close to several forested areas, and the onset of fall meant not just relief from the hot and humid temperatures of late summer but the arrival of a new world of fall color. Never before had I seen what fall color truly could be or why some people seemed to love fall above other seasons (especially back in the Midwest). The oaks and maples, hickory and birch, and many other great deciduous denizens of the landscape took on fiery shades of red, orange, and yellow that quickly intensified as October advanced. It was truly a revelation.

Of course, for most other aspects of gardening I far prefer to live in the Pacific Northwest and for reasons obvious to most of you. The temperatures are mild year-round (though often a bit too mild for this "summer"), and we are comparatively, and blessedly, free of biting insects. But most of all, we can grow a lot more plant species than most places, and grow them well to boot. However, fall color can be elusive here and certainly doesn't have the large scale effect of those less evergreen climes back East. Here, conifers dominate and the deciduous trees are mostly free of intense colors. Alders, though abundant, don't color at all. And while I personally appreciate the pale shades of gold found in bigleaf maples, they don't compare with the colors found in other species in the genus. The only native tree that produces the oranges and reds so often associated with fall elsewhere in the county is the vine maple, though sadly it is of relatively small stature and occurs in lesser abundance. So adding trees and shrubs with reliable fall color to our gardens is a worthy pursuit.

Given the dry summers of our lovely corner of the continent, and the relatively constant—though generally light—showers of much of the rest of the year, fall really is the best time to plant, especially for shrubs and trees. Fortunately, the NHS Fall Plant Sale provides relief on two counts: we can see and select plants beginning to show their autumn colors, and we can plant them at the time of year when successful establishment is most assured. This year we have a new location, North Seattle Community College, just off I-5 west of Northgate, and I hope you will spread the word among your friends and acquaintances about the sale and where to find it. There is plenty of parking, covered sales areas, a great array of vendors, and easy access to the freeway and major arterials. It's always a lot of fun, and I look forward to seeing you there! 🇺🇸

Ray Larson is the president of NHS.

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DIRECTIONS TO NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE is next to I-5, just four miles north of downtown Seattle. If you are coming to the college from the 520 or I-90 bridges, you should be traveling north on I-5 to reach the campus.

Heading North on I-5

1. Take exit #173 (Northgate exit)
2. Turn right (south) onto 1st Avenue NE
3. Turn right again at N. 92nd Street
4. Turn right onto College Way N.
5. The college is on the right.

Heading South on I-5

1. Take exit #173 *westbound* (Northgate exit)
2. Turn right onto N. Northgate Way
3. Turn left onto Meridian Avenue N. (becomes College Way N.)
4. The college is on the left.

Parking is free in any of the lots or on the street. After paying for your plants, you can swing through the covered entranceway in your car to pick them up.



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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RICHELIEU STEFFEN/GREAT PLANT PICKS

*The Miller Botanical Garden stone terrace with *Molinia caerulea* ssp. *caerulea* 'Heidebraut' and *Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'*
"Summer ends, and Autumn comes, and he who would have it otherwise would have high tide always and a full moon every night."
Hal Borland, 1900–1978, American author and journalist