

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2010

HAVE YOUR GARDEN AND EAT IT TOO

LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER

WITH TODAY'S MEDIA COVERAGE, celebrity buzz, and prevailing economic uncertainty, you'd think the notion of growing our own food was recently invented. Here's a little historical perspective: In the beginning all gardens were vegetable gardens; everything else was nature!

As history is wont to do, we can see it repeating itself. Medieval walled gardens provided both food and medicine; showy, formal potagers of the Renaissance were indicators of great wealth; World War II era Victory gardens had an economic incentive, while much of our current return to the vegetable garden is based on a 21st century awareness of food security, health, and nutrition. Gardeners have been feeding themselves for some time.

We're all trying to live a little more lightly on this planet. Newly aware of threatened pollinators, human rights abuses, and the miles clocked on factory food, we're taking ownership of our dinner plates and looking to be a part of a more sustainable, healthy food network. No longer simply a matter of aesthetics and décor, garden-making today is associated with good health and building community. And, by the way, the eating is delicious.

In the collective rush to produce homegrown food you may have discovered how easy it is to let the vegetable garden turn our landscapes



Ornamentals and edibles mix it up in the garden of Johanna Nitzke Marquis. Photo taken on last summer's Whidbey Island summer garden tour. (Lorene Edwards Forkner)

into something loosely resembling an earnest farmstead, somewhat at odds with our more refined plantings.

Here are my tips for how to marry good design with digestibles, sound horticulture, and an abundant harvest.

Structure

Ornamental edible landscapes benefit from a degree of formality. The rough and tumble of riotous crops in high season can easily dissolve into an unstructured tangle

in the absence of an underlying organization. Strong lines, raised beds, and pathways provide a constant framework to carry the design through seasonal shifts and accommodate gaps left by harvesting.

Formality and structure are not limited to hardscape elements when productive woody plants are worked into the mix. Columnar apples and pears were a curiosity when they first appeared in nurseries but have proven to be incredibly productive and striking design elements. ►

HAVE YOUR GARDEN AND EAT IT TOO . . .

continued from page 1

LEFT: *Purple-podded peas*

BELOW: *Swiss chard*
(Forkner)



Plants trained as cordons and espaliers, living fences, arbors, and tunnels are a venerable garden art form which provide formality, structure, and make efficient use of space in small city gardens.

Vertical interest

Most of the “action” in vegetable gardens takes place at ground level. Tepees, trellis supports, arches, and fences provide valuable height and scale. At the same time these architectural elements provide vertical growing space for beans, peas, squashes, and flowering vines. These add a decorative touch as well, satisfying those of us more accustomed to training clematis and sweet peas than cucumbers and snap peas.

Container plantings offer myriad opportunities to introduce height and scale as well as a distinctive style to your garden. The popular use of galvanized troughs looks both gleamingly modern as well as offering an agricultural nod to our efforts. Stone raised beds lend gravitas and elegant form throughout the year.

Color

Mother Nature by no means left color out of the edible garden. Select varieties in vibrant hues and place them in the same way that we use perennials and other ornamentals to create contrast and pleasing combinations. Plant both red and green lettuces for variety in the garden and on your plate; bell peppers come in a veritable rainbow of colors as do beans.

Take this concept one step further and integrate edibles within perennial compositions. During my nursery-owning years, I offered several varieties of showy, tender, ornamental *Solanum*. Large fuzzy leaves and shockingly orange or purple thorns made these plants the darling of garden designers and plant collectors alike who couldn't get enough of their exotic, if somewhat pain-

ful, good looks. Last summer, looking to grow more heat-loving summer crops, I cast a new eye on my heretofore strictly perennial beds. I tucked Japanese eggplant starts (a *Solanum* family member) among flowering *Salvia nemerosa* ‘Caradonna’ and intensely blue *Geranium pratense* ‘Victor Reiter’. With the addition of a few small scale ornamental grasses this combination pleased me for months. My yield was a beautiful composition of texture, foliage, and nearly constant flowers which resulted in fantastic pollination and a bounty of ripe fruit for my table.

These days I'm on a mission to get gardeners to reframe how we look at, and what we consider, to be an ornamental garden. Incorporating fruits, vegetables, and herbs paints a pretty and delectable picture, but it also necessitates a shift in our expectations. If we simply stand back admiring our finished plantings and attempt to prolong their beautiful effect, our lettuce will go bitter and the birds will get our berries! Our goal must be to harvest, savor, and fully participate every day of the season.

Passionate gardeners, avid cooks, enthusiastic eaters—we're all after the same thing. Good, clean, healthy food is as close as our own backyard and as beautiful as any prized perennial, tree, or shrub. This year, take the ornamental edibles challenge and see how many delicious and attractive crops you can tuck into your existing landscape. Just as in any garden, discovery and wonder, as well as the occasional disappointment and frustration, await us in a constantly revolving and delicious trip around the sun. 🌞

Lorene Edwards Forkner seeks a harmonious and balanced life of family, friends, travel, and good food together with all things horticultural. Read more about her work at Plantedathome.com.

More on edible landscaping

- Employ only organic controls in your “productive” landscape to maintain nutrition levels, soil health, and non-toxic conditions.
- Site crops to gain a full measure of necessary sun for maximum flavor, efficient growth, and the greatest production.
- Build healthy soil with compost, manures, and slow release organic fertilizers.
- Practice water-wise procedures; utilize mulches, and proper spacing to make the best use of this resource.
- Select seed varieties that you know to do well in our cool springs, moderate summers, and mild fall conditions.
- Purchase locally grown organic vegetable starts at independent nurseries, farmers' markets, and plant sales.
- Plan and plant to avoid waste. When you have extras donate to your local food bank and share the bounty.

GREAT PLANT PICKS 2010:

FOLIAGE COMBINATIONS USING GPPS IN THE GARDEN

ALEX LAVILLA

THERE IS NOTHING MORE SATISFYING than seeing a group of plants sync together in a seemingly effortless yet dynamic whole. When I visit many gardens, even if I am impressed with innovative hardscape, the placement of art in beds and borders, or the sheer volume of cool plants in a collector's garden, I continually find myself drawn back to well-placed, well-executed combinations of flowers and foliage.

Almost unconsciously, I capture images of entwined branches, leaves, and flowers both in their full prime or hopelessly past bloom in the glory of their death throes. It is almost as if I can't fully appreciate a plant without knowing it in the context of the community of plants around it; the story it's telling by its subtle, or not so subtle, interactions.

This year the 2010 Great Plant Picks Program of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden has addressed my obsession head on with the introduction of this year's picks with the theme of "Fabulous Foliage." The beautifully designed poster entices us with the "Bright and Shiny, Bold and Beautiful, Fine and Frilly." It inspires me to explore the possibilities of each selection and start the process of creative jumbling that may, with time, effort, and oh so many dismal failures, actually yield that elusive combination that makes all the work worthwhile.

I find it easiest to establish a central figure with one plant and then begin to build with a second and third selection to let the story unfold.

In a partially shaded location, start with *Forsythia 'Fiesta'* with its gold and green variegated leaves and striking red stems, adding directly beneath it



ABOVE: *Narcissus 'Thalia'*
LEFT: *Forsythia 'Fiesta'* (Richie Steffen)

the tawny, gold and orange fronds of *Dryopteris lepidopoda*, the sunset fern, to play off the stem color. Next should be two to three clumps of the radiant *Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold'* to add a spark and bring a touch of movement to the scene.

In a larger space, a nice specimen of *Acer palmatum 'Emperor I'* or *Acer palmatum 'Aconitifolium'* would do nicely. Around its base, triangulate a cluster of three *Disporum cantoniense 'Night Heron'*. They will eventually obscure the tree's lower trunk with their drooping black heads nodding gracefully below the burgundy leaves. As an anchor bringing the eye to the ground plane, fill the area with as much *Blechnum penna-marina* as you can afford. The dense, congested fronds with reddish tips will echo back to the crown of the maple leaves above creating a play of color and texture. The fabulous burgundy-tinted, ginger-like foliage of *Beesia deltophylla* could easily be substituted for the fern with similar effect. Fragrant white *Narcissus 'Thalia'* poking up in spring could

be an added highlight. It may seem all a bit somber, but I have seen it work to subtle and wondrous effect.

One last combo to ponder for late summer and fall is the two-toned *Physocarpus opulifolius 'Coppertina'*™ surrounded by arching, feathery sprays of *Amsonia hubrichtii* as it leans into autumn color. The mounded, shiny forms of *Hebe 'New Zealand Gold'* might give a dose of solidity around the base. It could be quite effective to strategically plant a *Clematis 'Roguchi'* to find its way up into the dark coppery centered leaves; its waxy, blue bells hanging above the tawny, drying drumstick heads of *Allium aflatunense 'Purple Sensation'* as they sway lazily in the breeze.

The abundance of options in the GPP selections is enough to inspire anyone to experiment. Don't be shy. There must be one place in the garden that could use a makeover! 🌱

Alex LaVilla is the perennials buyer at Swanson's Nursery and is the Great Plant Picks Perennials and Bulbs Committee chair.

SUMMER DAY TOURS

TOURS COMMITTEE

A VARIETY OF LOCAL DAY TOURS are planned for this summer to explore the many gardening environments of Puget Sound. We will be visiting Vashon Island, Whidbey Island, Gig Harbor, and the Kitsap Peninsula. Still in the planning stages is a vegetable tour of Seattle gardens in late summer.

VASHON ISLAND, JUNE 24

Tour five gardens and visit DIG Nursery. See details on page 10.

SUSTAINABLE SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND, JULY 16

Visit four gardens, including The Raven and the Spade, the organic potager garden of member Camille LaTray recently featured in *The Seattle Times*, and the garden at Hedgebrook, a retreat for women writers. Lunch on the tour will be locally-sourced from Whidbey Island gardens.

GIG HARBOR, JULY 28

Join garden designer Sue Goetz for this tour and visit a landscape chosen by the Smithsonian Institute as an outstanding American garden, a unique waterfront hillside garden, a local landscaper's



*Organic potager at The Raven and the Spade
(Photo courtesy The Raven and the Spade)*

private garden showing off his masterful stonework skills, and more.

KITSAP PENINSULA, SEPTEMBER 20

The first stop will be a 10-acre garden in Hansville overlooking Puget Sound. It features over 200 container gardens, a vegetable garden, an ornamental garden, and a woodland trail. The next garden, also overlooking the Sound, has a spectacular vegetable garden and unique hedgerow. The tour will also include a visit to a bed and breakfast garden and Dragonfly Nursery.

All of the day tours include lunch, but do not include transportation or ferry fares. However, we will try to arrange as much carpooling as possible.

Fee: Members: \$48.00, non-members: \$68.00, limit: 30. For reservations e-mail nwhort@aol.com or call Karin Kravitz at 206-780-8172. 📞

Gillian Mathews, Renee Montgelas, and Mary Palmer serve on the NHS Tours Committee.

GARDENS AND GARDENERS OF AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 6, 2010

If you missed the 2009 NHS Australia tour you can join Jo Connor as she repeats the tour this fall. Visit private and public gardens in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania with a wide variety of terrain from coastal to alpine and from arid to rain forest. Experience the vibrant cities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart. Good local food and wine is a given! **For more details, please contact Jo Connor at connorjosephine@gmail.com.** 📧



Little and Lewis ruin in Denise Lane's garden (Roger McDonald)

IMAGINE LUNCH IN A FABULOUS GARDEN WITH CISCOE AND RICHIE

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

JOIN CISCOE MORRIS IN DENISE LANE's enchanting Medina Garden for lunch, tours, and a plant auction. While you enjoy a wonderful selection of salads, breads, and desserts, Ciscoe will give a presentation on some of his favorite plants. After lunch, Richie Steffen will serve as our auctioneer for a few plants that you can't live without; bring your checkbooks! Then tour Denise's acre plus garden including a Stanley Rill hand-carved tree trunk, a Little and Lewis ruin, and water features. Tickets are \$65.00. Contact Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com or 206-780-8172. 📞

A GARDEN OF THERAPY

SUE GOETZ

IN ALMOST EVERY empire of the ancient world there was a Garden of Paradise, from writings recorded in the book of Genesis to the physic gardens of Greek doctors and monasteries. Look up the words “paradise” or “Eden” and you will find the word “garden” in the definition alongside terms that describe a happy or highly pleasing place. Many gardeners describe their garden as “therapy.” Digging in soil and smelling the fragrance of fresh turned earth soothes and works muscles and the mind like a healing balm. Clipping, caring, and pruning work joints to agility and healthy freedom. Bright, warm rays of sun fill the brain with serotonin to lighten a mood. Gardeners feel the healing power of their work and the real sense of a therapy session after a day of outdoor tasks. It doesn’t take a scientist to tell a gardener the healing powers of a garden.

The art and science of horticultural therapy bring the healing powers that gardeners feel to mainstream medical and therapy practices. Studies show hospital patients recover more quickly when they have the view of a garden. The rise in popularity of healing gardens is evident in the way that hospitals are landscaping their grounds. A newly constructed hospital in Gig Harbor, Washington, was designed in a modified “L” shape around a large, healing garden. Waiting rooms and critical care spaces overlook the garden filled with lush grasses, large rockery, and a water feature. The cafeteria and conference rooms all have ground level full views of the garden. Landscape architects worked closely to incorporate all the elements of a healing garden seamlessly into the overall building layout.

Healing and therapeutic gardens are not always constructed for emotional healing. Long term care facilities are incorporating interactive gardens into their outdoor activity and public areas. The professional description of horticultural therapy is the




*The Healing Garden at St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor, Washington
(Photoshop rendering by Mike Martin)*

practice of directed gardening and nature activities for the purpose of improving human well-being. Notice the difference between a healing garden and one used for horticultural therapy. A healing garden offers the senses a way to build inner strength and benefit from it by simply walking through or finding a place of meditation. Healing gardens include elements that capture and soothe the senses. The sound of grasses rustling in the breeze, calming colors, fragrance, touch-

able plants, and the sight and sound of water features soothe the soul. There is a true link of the garden elements to the five senses. A horticultural therapy garden encourages active involvement. The physical work of deadheading, weeding, pruning, and watering are the activities of the garden that promote physical healing. A therapeutic garden is planned for all levels of work including ergonomic, user-friendly gardening supplies, widened pathways for wheelchairs, and walking aids. Beds are structured for ease of movement and reach. All the tasks of the garden are refined to achieve a therapeutic “working” garden. It is the means to a physical therapy session without the typical clinical setting. Horticultural therapy gardens find creative ways to meet needs of patients of all abilities.

So that “feel good” state of mind and physical wellness we all get from a day in the garden does have more than just a bit of folklore behind it.

For more on therapeutic gardens, explore the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. Look at the booklists to find information and online resources for *Horticulture Therapy and Accessible Gardening*. 

Sue Goetz is an NHS board member, garden designer, speaker, and freelance writer who owns Creative Gardener, www.thecreativegardener.com.

THE (UNAUTHORIZED) VOLUNTEER PROFILE: RICHIE STEFFEN

LEE NEFF

"WELL, RICHIE STEFFEN, if you had one bit of gardening advice to give your admirers, what might it be?"

The Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden Curator and NHS board member thought for a moment and said, "Don't let killing plants hold you back. Good gardeners kill many and kill often. Judging by my kill rate, I should soon receive that Fulbright grant I've been waiting for."

Steffen began gardening at the tender age of 18 months (unless he was six or seven; he is a bit unsure) when he was given a plot of dreadful soil next to a gravel drive. There he grew cherry tomatoes and sunflowers, sweet peas, a smattering of brilliant blue *Commelina* paired with orange marigolds, and a mass of "very good weeds." Things died right and left!

When asked what he was most proud of growing successfully, he said *Cassiope mertensiana*, a Washington native commonly known as Western moss heather. "I

killed dozens of them on the way to success. They need well-drained soil that includes lots of sand-screw sand. They can't ever dry out. They need morning sun but no hot afternoon sun. I now have a few at the Miller Garden that are still alive."

Besides being a gardener with enviable "kill" and "survival" records, Richie Steffen is also a darned nice guy. Watching him meet and greet the crowds surrounding the Great Plant Picks booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Miller Garden intern Naoaki Donuma was heard muttering, "Richie, you know everybody."

None of us would guess that Steffen was extremely shy as a youngster and ultimately made a conscious decision to be more sociable. "Whenever I decided that, I would have been about 14."



The fact is that he "knows everybody" because he always says, "Yes." He shares photographs and plants, writes articles, offers classes. And he is patient! "You know, Lee, I tell you the name of the same fern every time I visit your garden: it's *Polystichum setiferum* 'Plumosomul-tilobum Group.'" My attention

span just isn't that long!

When I asked Richie if he had any other interests beyond gardening, he said, "I bake, like I garden, to excess. But gardening usually gets in the way of the cakes." How disappointing! 🍰

Lee Neff has long relied on Richie's vast knowledge and advice.

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MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON

CBHL Meeting

CAN YOU IMAGINE 75 LIBRARIANS—all who specialize in horticulture or botany—in one place? It happens every year at the annual meeting of The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. For five days, this professional organization gathers to promote the “collecting, preserving, and making accessible the accumulated knowledge about plants for present and future generations” (from the CBHL mission statement).

This year, the gang is coming to Seattle. From May 18–22, the Miller Library and the UW Botanic Gardens, along with our co-hosts from the UW Libraries and The Seattle Public Library, will put on a series of presentations, workshops, tours, and social gatherings. We'll be on the go from early morning until late in the evening.

It's exhausting but lots of fun, and gives the Miller Library staff easy access to a tremendous network of expertise.

News and Events

THE FIFTH ANNUAL **Garden Lovers' Book Sale** is coming up fast. Buy your tickets (\$20—call 206-543-0415) now for the wine and cheese party on **Friday, April 2**, from 5:00-8:00 pm for the best selection of books. Or plan to come on **Saturday, April 3**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for the best bargains.

Northwest Horticultural Society has been very generous in their support of the Miller Library in the last year. Because of that generosity, we will **resume our full Monday hours** for the busy spring season. From March 22 through June 14, we will be open Mondays from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, expanded from the current 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Be sure to stop by to see the current art exhibit by **Katie Murphy**, *The Nature of Clay*, a collection of ceramic artwork with botanical inspiration, up through March 31. Beginning the weekend of the book sale, we will have our annual exhibit and sale by local members of the American Society of Botanical Artists. 🌱

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



Katie Murphy artwork

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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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THE STORY OF PLANTS: HELLEBORES

DANIEL MOUNT

ILLUSTRATION BY SYLVIA PORTILLO

NOT THAT MANY YEARS AGO we were all rushing off to Heronswood for the Hellebore Open. Well, everyone but me. I am not easily smitten, balk at fashions, and have even been called reticent. I was lounging at home yawning “helleboring” to my friends who were crazily obsessed with catching a ferry and the chance of acquiring the newest, the blackest, and thus, the most expensive hellebores possible.

The 20 or so species in the genus *Helleborus*, distributed from Central Europe to Western Asia, are in the Ranunculaceae, or buttercup family. This family contains many garden favorites like clematis, columbine, anemones, and monkshood. It unfortunately also contains many toxic genera, hellebores being one of them. In their long history of cultivation they have only relatively recently emerged from the apothecary garden and into the ornamental garden. The ancient Greeks, who gave the genus its name meaning “food that kills,” used the toxic roots of what is thought to be the black hellebore, *H. niger*, to cure mental disorders, especially mania. Millennia later, in 1926, *The Dispensary of the United States of America* declared that the dangerously toxic hellebore “has justly passed out of vogue.”

In the mid-1850s the Germans and English began inter-specific hybridizing hellebores. Over the following decades the ease of cross pollination created scores of hellebores difficult to classify. Of these the tough *H. x nigercors* and the subtle beauty *H. x sternii* have emerged classics. But it is the hybrid



Lenten roses, or *Orientalis* hybrids, *H. x hybridus*, which sent the genus on flights of fancy. The wide variety of forms and colors have made them the darlings of the winter garden. From the purest white to sooty black, picoteed and speckled, ruffled and doubled, they nearly rival pansies with their kaleidoscopic range. By the 1990s what had once cured mania was set to create a mania when Heronswood began creating and offering numerous cultivars closer to home.

Yet I remained boringly faithful to one species, the stinking hellebore, *H. foetidus*, which Mr. Hinkley claims as one of his favorites. After seeing large colonies of *Stinkende-niezwurz* (German for stinking hellebore) on the banks of the Rhine blooming among the bronzy leaf litter of beech and oak I was smitten. As the hellebore with the widest and northern most natural distribution it is truly a versatile plant. It can take full sun or full shade and is not too par-

ticular about soil, though it has not performed well in our heavy alluvial soils in the Snoqualmie Valley. It will not hybridize with other species and has remained out of breeding programs. Yet many selections have been made from the large wild populations. ‘Wester Flisk’ with its narrow pewter brushed foliage and reddened stems is as standard as a little black dress. I am letting the screamingly yellow ‘Gold Bullion’ colonize, my tribute to the Rhineland, in a shady corner of a client’s garden.

With Heronswood gone and the hellebore craze ebbing, I have learned to loosen my reticence towards the *Orientalis* hybrids. I

love to plant the iciest whites *en masse*, to create a “snow field.” I marched sinuous lines of ‘Mardi Gras Maroon Red’ through the burnished foliage of red barrenwort, *Epimedium rubrum*, and *Bergenia* ‘Winterglut’. And I break my New Year’s resolution to stop buying plants each year when the hellebores show up in February; this year it was ‘Mellow Yellow’.

Though I may still glibly believe along with Coco Chanel that, “Passion always goes, and boredom stays,” I also can’t help myself from getting a little excited when the hellebores show up. 🌸

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

Sylvia Portillo is a botanical illustrator and student at South Seattle Community College. She can be reached at sportil@comcast.net.

SOUTH SOUND MEET THE BOARD TOUR

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 12:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

NITA-JO ROUNTREE

BACK BY POPULAR demand, the NHS Meet the Board tour will be in its fifth consecutive year. The tour was conceived as an avenue for NHS members to meet and interact with board members in their private gardens, and it is only for members and their friends touring with them. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 13**, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm for the South Sound area tour. The Seattle area tour will be announced closer to the tour date, and directions will be mailed out in late May.

RICHIE STEFFEN

After many years of acquiring exotic species rhododendrons selected for unusual foliage along with choice collector plants, Richie and his partner, Rick Peterson, will host their first ever garden tour. Special features include a fernery, an alpine garden, and a striking log terraced hillside. NHS members and their friends can be among the first to follow soft, informal paths exposing hidden treasures including a wealth of ferns, epimediums, hostas, and more.

JOYCE HAWKINS

The transformation of this garden created by Joyce and her son, Ken Ness, defies description. Named "The Koi Garden," it features two ponds, one 6,000 gallons and the other 16,000 gallons, and 75 huge gorgeous Japanese koi. Carefully placed throughout the garden among exuberant plantings are examples of Joyce's hand-made concrete leaves, dinosaur egg orbs, and planters. This garden has been highlighted on the Garden Conservancy Tour for the past three years.



*Joyce Hawkins' garden
in Olympia (Don E. Meyer)*

RIGHT: *Sue Goetz's
potager garden in Gig
Harbor (Sue Goetz)*



GREG GRAVES

During the five short years that Greg and his partner, Gary Waller, have owned the Old Goat Farm, it has become a legend. A lushly planted one acre display garden with rare and unusual plants where flowers are not forgotten and foliage abounds is attached to a wonderful specialty nursery. Behind the garden is a pasture with a variety of birds including peacocks and an assortment of beautiful chickens as well as two old goats. If you're lucky, you may see some baby chicks.

SUE GOETZ

Sue is a garden designer, writer, speaker,

and consultant, and she uses her garden as a learning lab for her topics. Highlights include a *jardin de poulet* (chicken garden), a small herbal knot garden, a potager filled with food for the body and flowers for the soul, a lavender hill of over 50 plants for harvesting, and a water feature that breaks through a rock wall onto a pathway. 🏡

*Nita-Jo Rountree is the chair of the NHS
Membership Committee.*

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

~ UPCOMING CLASSES & DAY TOUR ~

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Creating a Garden Habitat and Bird ID with Keith Geller

Landscape architect Keith Geller will talk about garden design concepts as you tour his woodland garden. He will discuss how to define and link garden rooms to create different habitats for birds and people. See how to make plant choices for a successful birding habitat that attracts numerous birds during spring migration in May.

LOCATION: GELLER GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

The Art of Sustainable Gardening With EagleSong

An avid herbalist and kitchen gardener, EagleSong is the head gardener at Willows Lodge in Woodinville. She will illustrate how she implements sustainable practices, integrated pest management, and nutrient cycling in the working kitchen and display gardens at Willows Lodge. Included in the price is a special lunch prepared by Chef Bobby of Barking Frog Restaurant.

LOCATION: WILLOWS LODGE/WOODINVILLE

FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$55.00 LIMIT: 15

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Ferns with Richie Steffen

Join Richie Steffen, curator of the Miller Botanical Garden and past president of the Hardy Fern Foundation, for a tour of the ferns in the Miller Garden. He will discuss the best ferns for our climate and how to use them.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM

Day Tour of Gardens on Vashon Island

These gardens run the gamut from the stumpery of Pat and Walt Riehl to a large English estate-inspired garden. The day will include a stop at DIG Nursery and a visit to the "industrial chic" garden of the owners, Sylvia Matlock and Ross Johnson. You will also have the rare opportunity of visiting the garden of award-winning designer David Pfeiffer.

LOCATION: VASHON ISLAND

FEE: MEMBERS: \$48.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$68.00 LIMIT: 30

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cooking from the Garden with Joan Caine

Come to Joan Caine's vegetable garden featured in Valerie Easton's column last June. Cameron Scott of Exteriorscapes designed weathered-steel raised beds for her to grow herbs, lettuces, and vegetables. Joan, a former cooking instructor, and her friends Poppy and Sally who write the blog *Mixed Greens* will give a cooking demonstration.

LOCATION: CAINE GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

FOR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL NWHORT@AOL.COM

OR CALL KARIN KRAVITZ 206-780-8172

~ 2010 WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES ~

LECTURE 7:15 PM RECEPTION 6:45 PM

NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

MEMBERS \$5.00 NON-MEMBERS \$10.00

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN

APRIL 14, 2010

Visionary Landscapes—Paul Miskovsky

MAY 12, 2010

The World of Pearl: Topiary as Art—Pearl Fryar

JUNE 9, 2010

**Chanticleer Garden: The Art and Artistry of the Staff
Dan Benarcik**

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

~ SPECIAL LECTURE ~

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

Gardeners' Guide to Global Warming

Patty Glick

Patty Glick, Senior Global Warming Specialist for the National Wildlife Federation will discuss the impacts of global warming and climate change in the Northwest, what it means for gardeners, and what people can do in their own gardens and communities to be a part of the solution.

Co-sponsored with the Dunn Garden, the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, and the Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation

LECTURE 7:15 PM RECEPTION 6:45 PM

NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE FEE: \$10.00

RESERVATIONS: WWW.DUNNGARDENS.ORG

OR CALL 206-362-0933

~NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS~

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN AUCTION

MAY 22, 2010, 5:00 PM-9:00 PM

NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

Join us for a horticulture-inspired evening filled with local garden celebrities, food and wine, and auction items. Proceeds will benefit the Seattle Children's PlayGarden.

TICKETS: \$65.00

RESERVATIONS: WWW.CHILDRENSPLAYGARDEN.ORG

OR CALL LIZ BULLARD 206-227-5458

~ TOUR THE TIBETAN PLATEAU WITH NHS AND PACIFIC HORTICULTURE ~

JUNE 27-JULY 13, 2010

Tibet trip fee: \$4,395 per person twin share + air fare of approximately \$1,495 + fuel surcharge + tax San Francisco to Chengdu, China, round trip, and in-tour flights \$695 per person. For a brochure e-mail nwhort@aol.com or call Karin Kravitz at 206-780-8172.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HANS MANDT

SO FAR, THIS WINTER has been quite a change from last. One of the mildest Januarys on record has our garden blooming early. We're all waiting for a late frost, but so far so good. I still haven't unwrapped our tree ferns, but will soon. The several hundred snowdrops from the Dunn Garden that I planted on our back hillside last spring are in full bloom and add early interest until the grasses take over later in the season. Our collection of hellebores is looking spectacular. Hellebores planted last season may seem disappointing right now. I've found that after teasing the roots apart, especially if root bound in the container, it takes at least a year, sometimes two, to get back to full vigorous growth, but then you have a magnificent plant that will live up to fifty years.

I have not had nearly the success with hepaticas. I must have planted upwards of eighty plants over the last ten years, and estimate that I've lost at least half of them. It seems that the American species and the European species from the Balkans are hardy here, but the Japanese species don't easily thrive in the garden, at least not in our garden. Summer heat and moisture requirements seem to do them in. To do something about this, I'm going to volunteer to help with breeding a more robust hepatica that is a reliable garden plant. Richie Steffen, who nurtures the hepatica collection at the Miller Garden, will patiently mentor me as he continues his breeding work on the genus.

We have just finished this year's flower and garden show and by all accounts, it was a great success. In fact, if you hadn't been aware that the show was to have been shut down and then bought at the last minute last summer, you could not tell the difference. One difference you would have noticed, however, was that the lecture venues were staffed with volunteers from NHS. Given the late notice of the request from the show asking us to staff this, I was amazed and gratified that we came through with flying colors. It is truly a testament to the generosity and commitment of our membership that we were able to manage such a large undertaking on short notice. We also had many members working in our booth and in the Pacific Horticulture booth next to us. Special thanks to **Karin Kravitz**, **Nita-Jo Rountree**, and **Wendy Welch** for all their work for NHS during the entire show.

I am always aware of the fact that we are, at the core, a members' organization and rely on our membership to be successful. One of the best things you can do to keep NHS healthy and significant in the horticultural community is to share our events with your friends and help them also become NHS members. Thanks for your support. 🌱

Hans Mandt is the president of NHS.

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A FUN-FILLED FLOWER SHOW!

NITA-JO ROUNTREE



THE NHS BOOTH at this year's Northwest Flower and Garden Show was filled with much merriment. The life-sized cut outs of Dan Hinkley and Ciscoe Morris drew raves from all age groups

and genders, gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Our excellent volunteers recruited new members and snapped pictures of people anxious to be photographed with our cardboard

celebrities. Congratulations to Mary Emel who won a gorgeous 3-gallon double hellebore for signing up the most new members at the show!

Gardeners from all over the region oohed and awed at the fabulous rare and unusual plants loaned to us by **Steamboat Island Nursery** and **Swanson's Nursery**—many thanks!

Additionally, NHS co-sponsored the flower show's seminar series by providing volunteers to work the ticket desk, take tickets, and monitor the lecture rooms. It was a very busy five days, but our volunteers had fun doing a wonderful job.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's show a big success for NHS! 🌱

Nita-Jo Rountree is the chair of the NHS Membership Committee.



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RICHEL STEFFEN/GREAT PLANT PICKS

Primula sieboldii 'Purple Plum' and *Euphorbia polychroma*

"O, wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?"—Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792–1822, English poet