Galanthus ‘Hallelujah’ with 
Galanthus ‘Ophelia’

Photo by Richie Steffen
Manzanitas typically evoke visions of California’s chaparral—rocky, dry, shrubby hillsides dotted with evergreen shrubs—even though we do have a few native to Western Washington. Those gardeners interested in native plants and looking for something beyond sword ferns and salal have tried some of these native species but often with disappointing results. Our Puget Sound native manzanitas can all have serious flaws in the garden, ranging from leaf spot, insect pests, and root rot susceptibility to sensitivity to shade. Surprisingly, several species and hybrids from southern Oregon and California are shaping up to be much better plants for our maritime climate.

Over the last 10 to 15 years there has been a revival of these interesting shrubs,
with new cultivars and species showing up in nurseries and Northwest gardens. Due to this interest, the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, a USDA research facility in Aurora, Oregon, has planted a trial of about 80 different manzanitas. As these test shrubs mature, great selections are coming to light. An added bonus for these shrubs is their winter flowering from January to March, making them especially attractive to overwintering Anna’s hummingbirds, and, with age, the striking smooth mahogany-colored bark adds a beautiful structural element throughout the year.

There are a few selections that have been grown in the Northwest for years, and certainly one of the best performers is *Arctostaphylos densiflora* ‘Howard McMinn’. This hardy and beautiful shrub will reach 4 to 5 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide in 10 years, and old mature specimens can top out at 7 to 8 feet tall with a spread of 15 feet. The small urn-shaped flowers start opening in January and are pink in bud, opening to white. The other widely grown selection is *Arctostaphylos* ‘Sunset’. This seems to grow slightly more compact with 10-year-old plants reaching 4 feet tall. Mature shrubs can attain 6 feet with age, but will tend to spread wide, reaching 10 feet or so. This selection has bright green foliage with bronze-colored new growth. The flowers are pinker than ‘Howard McMinn’, but I have seen them damaged by sharp freezes. The bark has a rugged shredded look that is unusual and interesting.

The trials in Oregon have brought several great selections to the attention of Northwest nurseries. I love the taller tree-like manzanitas; these types will show off their gorgeous bark and muscular trunks the best. My two favorites are *Arctostaphylos* ‘Monica’ and *Arctostaphylos* ‘Austin Griffiths’. Both of these can easily reach 10 to 12 feet tall in 10 years with a slightly narrower spread of 8 to 10 feet. *Arctostaphylos* ‘Austin Griffiths’ will start flowering before ‘Monica’ and with larger pink blooms. About the time ‘Austin Griffiths’ starts to fade, the rich pink flowers of ‘Monica’ steal the show. Make sure both of these selections have well-drained soil and little-to-no summer water once established.

There are several smaller forms of manzanita that are showing promise as well. *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* ‘Warren Roberts’ and the similar *Arctostaphylos* ‘Lester Rowntree’ have rich pink flowers in February, striking blue-green leaves, and handsome bronze new growth and will reach 3 to 4 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide in 5 to 7 years. ‘Lester Rowntree’ may grow taller over time, but ‘Warren Roberts’ seems very slow to reach even 5 feet tall. Two other cultivars that are not readily available now but should come to market in the next year or two are *Arctostaphylos* ‘White Lanterns’ and *Arctostaphylos edmundsii* ‘Big Sur’. Both form compact mounds, staying about 3 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide. These low forms are heavy bloomers with a pink-blushed bud opening to pure white.

This is only a small sampling of what is being evaluated for our climate. Many other cultivars are available that are well worth trying, especially as drought tolerance becomes more important in our gardening.

Richie Steffen is the Director/Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.
The Pacific Rim, also known as the Ring of Fire, is a geologic area that creates a horseshoe shape around the Pacific Ocean. It extends from South to North America, then loops west to include the eastern part of the Asian continent and south to the Pacific Islands. Dating back hundreds of years, this area has been ripe for exploration and trade by sea and land. Plants have been a main component of this exploration.

This year’s symposium, to be held Saturday, March 24, will look at some of the influences that being part of the Pacific Rim has had on our Northwest gardens. Our four speakers will help us better understand this connection.

Raymond J. Larson, Curator of Living Collections at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, will present Around the Pacific in a Day: The Pacific Connections Garden at the UW Botanic Gardens. He will talk about plants from five regions around the Pacific Ocean—New Zealand’s South Island, the mountains of western China, southeast Australia, southern Chile, and the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon—that created this garden. In his discussion of each display, Ray will focus on the best-performing plants for our Pacific Northwest gardens.

Nao Donuma, a fourth-generation gardener and the Executive Director at Yoshoen Corporation, which has been involved in garden design, construction, and maintenance for over 70 years in Niigata, Japan, will discuss his cross-cultural gardening experiences in My Experience Both in the Pacific Northwest and Japanese Gardens. Nao trained in Japan and the Pacific...
Northwest, where he interned at the Miller Botanical Garden. After a brief introduction to Japanese gardens, from traditional to contemporary with some traditional garden techniques and design theories, he will compare gardening in the Northwest with Japanese gardening and share with us ideas that can be applied to our gardens.

Douglas Justice, Associate Director and Curator of Collections at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, will present *Southeastern Tibet in the Footsteps of the Plant Explorers*. His lecture will take us on his recent botanical expedition along the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, following in large part the Yarlung Tsangpo River (ultimately the Brahmaputra in India) and its tributaries as they flow through southeastern Tibet. Ascending out of these often-impressive valley bottoms were frequent sorties into the mountains and over high passes along secondary and lesser roads—many, the long-established tracks used by generations of Tibetan herdsmen. In some cases, these were the same routes used by such early 20th-century plant collectors as Frank Kingdon Ward, whose journeys in this area inspired his writing of the classic volume *In the Land of the Blue Poppies*. This plant hunter’s paradise boasts not just a wide diversity of amazing landscapes but an astonishing variety of plants—cypress, *Incarvillea*, jasmines, maples, *Meconopsis*, orchids, and rhododendrons, to name just a few.

Daniel Hinkley, teacher, writer, lecturer, consultant, nurseryman, naturalist, gardener, and plant hunter, will take us to the southern hemisphere with *Chilean Translation*. In general, the flora of the southern Andes dependably translates to cultivation in the Pacific Northwest better than any other in the southern hemisphere. Dan will explore the many plant species native to this long, skinny country that deserve greater recognition in our western slope landscapes.
Following a full program in 2017—during which we organized tours to Portland, the Kitsap Peninsula, Langley on Whidbey Island, and Italy and France—the NHS tour committee is now busy working on tours for 2018. Here’s a sample of what we are currently planning.

**CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY GARDENS OF ENGLAND WITH DAN HINKLEY**

Our ten-day tour of English gardens begins July 13 with four nights in Oxford, where we explore the surrounding countryside. We’ll spend a day in the glorious Cotswolds, where we’ll visit the famous and influential Hidcote Manor Garden, created in the 1930s by Lawrence Johnston, and Kiftsgate Court Gardens, created by Heather Muir and continued by her granddaughter Anne Chambers. We will also visit the Oxford College Gardens, Rousham House & Garden designed by William Kent in 1738, and Broughton Grange, a 200-year-old property of which 6 acres were recently transformed by award-winning designer Tom Stuart-Smith.

From Oxford we travel south, to Royal Tunbridge Wells in Kent, stopping on the way at Bury Court, where Piet Oudolf and Christopher Bradley-Hole have created contrasting gardens. Highlights will include Gravetye Manor, the home of William Robinson, author of *The English Flower Garden* (1883) and the hugely influential *The Wild Garden* (1870); Sissinghurst, home and garden of Vita Sackville-West; and a final private evening at Great Dixter, the garden of Christopher Lloyd, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and now under the care of Fergus Garrett.

The tour will conclude with two nights in London, where we’ll tour RHS Wisley and the contemporary gardens of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the Barbican Centre.

NHS member Gillian Mathews will escort the tour. For more information please contact Earthbound Expeditions at 800-723-8454 or www.earthboundexpeditions.com.
NORTH CAROLINA FALL COLOR TOUR

Word is, because of the greater diversity of deciduous trees in North Carolina, the fall colors of the Smoky Mountains rival those of New England. These claims come from NHS member and landscape designer Tina Nyce, FAPLD, who should know, having worked at the Biltmore Estate.

We start the tour in early October in Asheville, where we’ll tour the Biltmore House & Gardens, visit local private gardens, and, with luck, enjoy the fall colors of the Smoky Mountains. From there we will move on to Raleigh-Durham, an area with well-known botanical and historic gardens and zone 7 climate conditions not unlike our own here in the Pacific Northwest. Here we will tour private, public, and historic gardens, including the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham, the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, and the historic Montrose Gardens in Hillsborough, lovingly restored by Nancy Goodwin and recounted in Montrose: Life in a Garden, her affectionate biography of a year in the garden. We’ll also take a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh. Given time, we may also visit a few notable gardens in Charlotte.

Note that this itinerary is preliminary and subject to change. More information will be available as details of the tour come together. This tour is organized and escorted by NHS members Susan Picquelle and Renée Montgelas.

Also in the works for 2018: In early August, a wildflower hike to be led by Daniel Mount to Mount Rainier’s Berkeley Park.

The NHS Tour Committee: Dominique Emerson, Gillian Mathews, Renée Montgelas, Susan Picquelle, Eileen VanSchaik, and Jackie White.
Gardens That Take Care of Themselves

Words and photos by Sue Goetz

Is there such a thing, a garden that simply takes care of itself? I am an avid collector of old gardening books, and while perusing in a second-hand store, this title caught my eye: “Gardens and Grounds that Take Care of Themselves.” Imagine the wry smile on my face. Can it be that someone in 1958 discovered the secret we all want to know? The book has an illustration on the cover of a shovel and rake with spider webs on them as if they had no use but to collect dust in the back of the garden shed. I did purchase the book to delve deeper. Two hundred and seventy-two pages later, there was nothing weighty. I confess to skimming a few chapters because of time, but really . . . isn’t time what we all want more of? In that vein, here are some starting points toward creating a lower-maintenance garden (by the way, not taken from the book, just real gardening experience).

Get a plan

A good plan, whether basic or extensive, will save time and money. It can be rough sketches or a professional drawing—whichever helps you think through the entire landscape, even if the work will be done in phases. Plot out pathways, beds, lawn spaces, and entertainment areas. A plan will avoid creating hard-to-maintain spaces. Look closely at areas that create awkward mow lines or narrow spaces of lawn that are just too much effort.

Define problems

If there are trouble spots, deal with them first. Poor drainage? Seek the best way to correct it; hire a professional if needed. Wimpy lawn in the shade? Remove it and plant shade-loving easy-care plants.

Plant easy-care plants such as echinacea and sedum
Reduce repetitive tasks

Avoid fussy plants that need deadheading and staking. If you must have some misbehaved perennials, don’t plant so many that all you do is maintain them. Choose easy-care plants. Look for time-saving plants that are disease resistant, hardy, and do not need a lot of care. Save time with lawn maintenance. Identify hard-to-mow spots, like around corners and on hillsides or curves that are too sharp; then remove lawn in these areas and extend planting beds. Create a mow strip along the edges of rock walls and beds to eliminate weed-whacking.

Soil malnourished? Take a close look at the soil and scratch the surface to reveal where the roots of the plants are. Healthy soil equals healthy plants, and healthy plants fight disease and pests better. Taking care of problems may take time and effort at first, but for the long haul, it will make the garden easier to manage.

Sue Goetz is a garden designer, speaker, author, and NHS board member.

www.thecreativeagrdener.com

Soil malnourished? Take a close look at the soil and scratch the surface to reveal where the roots of the plants are. Healthy soil equals healthy plants, and healthy plants fight disease and pests better. Taking care of problems may take time and effort at first, but for the long haul, it will make the garden easier to manage.

Plant properly

Any time a plant is not situated in the correct conditions it will become a maintenance problem or failure. If space is small, choose a labeled dwarf variety. It never works to make a plant fit the space by saying you will prune it. If you try to force a plant to do what you want it to do rather than what it is genetically predisposed to do, you will create a high-maintenance issue. Opt for plants that have beauty in their graceful natural habits and need no intervention with a trimmer to look attractive.

Never let weeds get the upper hand

Do frequent small weed-pulling sessions rather than once-a-month marathon weeding. These are exhausting and the weeds have probably flowered and already dropped seed for future crops between your sessions.

EVENTS

January 10, 2018
Rejuvenating a Tired Garden
Vanessa Gardner Nagel
CUH Lecture 7:15 p.m.
Reception 6:45 p.m.

February 7–11, 2018
Northwest Flower & Garden Festival
Washington State Convention Center

March 3, 2018
Spring Ephemeral Plant Sale
Center for Urban Horticulture
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March 14, 2018
The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving
Lee Buttala
CUH Lecture 7:15 p.m.
Reception 6:45 p.m.

March 24, 2018
Spring Symposium
Gardening on the Pacific Rim
Bastyr University Auditorium
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April 11, 2018
Shall We Dance? Clematis as Garden Partners
Linda Beutler
CUH Lecture 7:15 p.m.
Reception 6:45 p.m.
Nearly everyone has room for a container—whether it be a window box, a pot near the door, or an extravagant containerized medley on the patio. Following this growing trend, Great Plant Picks (GPP) has focused this year’s garden theme on perfect plants for great containers.

Developing an interesting mixed container can seem daunting; however, the principles of garden design apply equally to potted plantings. It is often easier to focus on the framework of the container first, and this is where the new GPP plant lists can help. Using small shrubs, dwarf and slow-growing trees, conifers, and perennials, you can create long-lasting structure that will be perfect on its own or as the background for annuals later in the season. A great way to look at building this structure is by putting emphasis on color, form, and texture.

Using color effectively can make or break a mixed pot. You want something eye-catching as well as bright and long lasting. Several readily obtainable perennials can lend a helping hand. *Aster × frikartii* is a great choice, as the lavender-blue flowers will bloom from midsummer well into autumn, and the stems are strong, resisting flopping with age. Two excellent selections are ‘Mönch’ and the semi-double ‘Jungfrau’. The glowing yellow blades of *Hakonechloa macra ‘All Gold’* are hard to miss, especially if they get a little morning sun! This shade-loving grass has startlingly bright foliage and thrives in a pot. Hostas are stunning in containers, and as an added bonus, situating them in a pot can take them out of the reach of slugs. (Note that the selections on the GPP list tend to be more resistant to the damage of these land mollusks.) My favorites are the large and bold *Hosta ‘Sagae’*, with upright cooling blue-green leaves edged in creamy yellow, and the diminutive *Hosta ‘Blue Mouse Ears’*, a miniature with excellent vigor and attractive gray-blue rounded leaves.

But color is like candy—great while it lasts, but without fulfillment or satisfaction when it is gone. Good plant form provides
the substance that color lacks. It serves as the bones of the design, and it has the features that give interest all season or even all year long. Dwarf conifers are excellent plants to fill this role. For a large pot (24 inches plus), the slim, weeping form of *Cupressus* (formerly *Chamaecyparis* *nootkatensis* ‘Van den Akker’ creates a dramatic and graceful statement. Smaller containers can comfortably hold the slow-growing dwarf Hinoki cypress *Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Nana’. The tiny and shiny leaves of the stiffly branched Japanese holly *Ilex crenata* ‘Mariesii’ provide a lot of character, and the branches respond well to an occasional pruning to refine the shape.

Form may be the structure of the planting, but interesting texture ties all of the elements together. Compelling textures invite one to touch and experience the mix of plants. There are a few small trees that will grow well in a container and have a luxuriant feel. For a shady space, the cut-leaf vine maple *Acer circinatum* ‘Monroe’ is a delicate and sculptural element. The finely divided foliage sways in the lightest of breezes and in autumn the foliage turns a clear primrose yellow. Ferns can also offer a lovely fine texture; two tough evergreen species that are stellar in containers are *Dryopteris erythrosora*, autumn fern, and *Polystichum setiferum* ‘Divisilobum’, the divided soft shield fern. The autumn fern has an upright habit, while the soft shield fern becomes a low arching mound. In sunnier locations, a simple container with the variegated boxwood *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Aureovariegata’ is hard to beat for elegant beauty. If you are a bit more of a plant collector, try the dwarf upright-growing Japanese andromeda *Pieris japonica* ‘Brookside Miniature’. It grows unlike any other Japanese andromeda into a narrow columnar shape with tiny leaves layered around the stems.

These are but a few plants that can take a good container to a great container. Make sure you check out the Great Plant Picks website (www.greatplantpicks.org) for more perfect plants for great containers!

Richie Steffen is the Director/Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

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**SPRING EPHEMERAL PLANT SALE**

Join us for Spring Ephemerals . . . and More! — the eleventh annual spring plant sale — on Saturday, March 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Center for Urban Horticulture. In addition to being a fabulous early spring plant sale, proceeds from the sale benefit the NHS education program and the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

Come enjoy the amazing selection of plants for sale. Those of you who have attended the sale in the past know what a feat it is to bring together this exceptional plant selection from over 20 specialty nurseries. Of course, there will be hellebores, but thousands of other ephemeral delights will also be available.

When you see the exciting display of spring plants, it is always hard to choose, but you can get help with your choices by joining Holly Zipp and Del Brummet at 10:00 a.m. in the library meeting room. They will be sharing their tips about which plants to choose to give your garden more late winter and early spring interest. Their discussion will be illustrated with a selection of plant cuttings from the Miller Botanical Garden.

The plant sale committee is already hard at work to make this happen and will be looking for volunteers to work at the sale. This sale has become a bright spot on the local gardening calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting spring event.
WHAT I PLANTED

WHAT I WON’T

Words and photos by Daniel Mount
“I PLANTED THAT?!”

I was incredulous as I stared down at the small patch of variegated bishop’s weed (*Aegopodium podagraria* ‘Variegatum’).

“Yes, you planted that,” my dear friend, and former landlord, Louis replied, “and I’ve been trying to get rid of it for 20 years now.”

I had to credit myself with choosing a vigorous and tough groundcover for this very urban site: the dark side of a two-story house, with a three-story apartment building to the north blocking any light that might creep in. Still I am ashamed nonetheless.

Like a stroke of instant karma, the next garden I lived in and cared for, in the outskirts of Cologne, Germany, was plagued by green bishop’s weed. The German name for it, *Geissfuss* (nanny-goat foot), bears a strange and telling resemblance to the German word for scourge, *Geissel*. Certainly it was a scourge; it actually was the lawn in parts of the property. At my landlord’s request I mowed it, I buried it with cardboard and wood chips, and I dug it. It is native to damp soils of Germany and actually the whole of Europe; still it is unwanted in any garden there. Eventually I moved, and I imagine the Geissfuss, if unattended, has moved deeper into that garden, too.

Planting and regretting can’t always be resolved by a sudden move.

There is a skill to knowing what to plant. And there is a plethora of books telling us what to plant but few telling us what not to plant. The skill of knowing what not to plant often comes at a very high price, and there are many pitfalls along the way. Some odd years ago I bought a variegated gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides* ‘Geisha’) from Heronswood. I had already had a run-in with the nonvariegated form in a client’s garden and swore I would never plant it. But ‘Geisha’ promised to be well behaved. And I believed . . . until a few years later, when I discovered it had secretly crept under a shrub, reverted, and then leapt out into the bed-at-large. I can barely find a variegated slip anymore, and I will forever be digging at the roots, which have by some miracle, or black magic, woven themselves into every plant in the border.

Not everything I regret planting is an aggressive rhizomatous colonizer. Michael and I planted an empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) at the farm a few years ago. Its rapid growth nearly frightened us at first, and the loss of the flower buds to late spring frost disappointed. But those were the least of the problems. I used the high shade of the tree to protect my nursery from summer heat. Now nearly every pot sprouts an empress tree; it is a persistent invasive in the southeastern United States, and I’m beginning to wonder if it might pose a problem here as well. It also drops many branches, sometimes quite arbitrarily on a sunny July morning, crushing hellebores and hydrangeas below. And those giant leaves! You can’t rake them or blow them or pick them up by hand. We just wait until they crumble with frost and rain.

I don’t want my choices to be lazy, but I must admit you will more often find me mining the nooks and crannies of nostalgia than climbing over the peaks of the Himalayas in search of plants. I am always schlepping home seeds from my mother’s garden that I probably shouldn’t. Three years ago I brought home the Depford pink (*Dianthus armeria*). Its delicate and rambunctious wildflower-like nature was the reason I wanted it for settling into the deliberately weedy stretches of our driveway. They sprouted but hardly flourished.

“Just enough,” I cheered.

Then this past summer I was walking along our road and found it nearly half a mile from where I had scattered the original handful of seeds. Of course it was wedged in among invasive European clovers and grasses, which colonize every highway shoulder in Western Washington. The pink was already part of Washington’s weedy flora before I planted it; I’ve seen it numerous places since. Though it is hardly invasive, it still made me pause and think.

“What have I planted?”

And, what won’t I? 😊

Daniel is a former NHS board member and a frequent contributor to GardenNotes and other publications. You can read his blog at mountgardens.com.
LITERARY NOTES
from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

PACIFIC RIM GARDENING? The Miller Library is on it! Walk through our doors and the first bookshelves you see contain the Pacific Northwest Connections, a collection of books about horticulture in Washington State and around the Pacific, including the gardens and native plants of Australia, Chile, China, Japan, and New Zealand.

This book collection complements gardens found in the Washington Park Arboretum, including the Seattle Japanese Garden and the eco-geographic forests of the Pacific Connections Garden. Even better, these are the best books for you, the Northwest gardener.

We are blessed with many local experts who are familiar with our climate, our soils, our ecosystem, and what plants work—and don’t work—in our gardens. Fortunately, many of them have written books and you will find those here, including the new book by Paul Bonine and Amy Campion (Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: The Complete Homeowner’s Guide). No longer do we need to rely on the garden writers of England or eastern North America for advice.

Other books in this regional collection help you identify wildflowers and other native plants or teach you how to make these flourish in your garden. This is also the place to look for information on urban farming, expanding your kitchen garden, getting to know your wildlife visitors, or planning trips to local public gardens.

Savvy local horticulturists have long known that the countries of the temperate Pacific Rim are sources for some of the best exotics in our gardens. The plants and design styles of China and Japan are almost custom made for us. Many New Zealand and Australia plants have become resident megastars, and both countries are excellent sources of English-language books. While we may not need to chase wallabies from our backyards, much of the gardening know-how from these countries is eminently applicable. The Chilean book collection is still small, and knowing Spanish helps, but I expect it to grow exponentially in the years ahead.

So visit the Miller Library’s Pacific Rim for a few minutes before the next NHS meeting or after you’re fired up from the symposium. Garden tourism was never easier!

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

It was a long wait for the fall rains to kick in, and I’m glad they’ve finally arrived in earnest. I have been busy transplanting more plants from my former Federal Way garden to the Kingston property, and it has been great to not have to worry about watering! Even with all of the rain so far, I’m still surprised that when moving a larger shrub, I can still hit dry soil just 6 to 8 inches down! I guess it will take more rain than what we’ve had so far to erase the lengthy summer drought. We have also been busy at the Miller Garden transplanting a number of mature shrubs and established perennials to make way for a new stone terrace and pathway. This winter project should start soon, and we hope to have it completed by the time tours resume in April. If you do not have a tour booked for the Miller Garden, you should keep an eye out for the NHS/Miller Garden classes. These are a great way to see the new project and learn something interesting about plants and gardening. The first classes should be promoted in mid-winter.

As the year draws to an end, I would like to thank all of you for your support of NHS. Your membership dues and donations to the NHS Patrons’ Fund allow us to continue providing our educational programs and our support of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. We appreciate your enthusiastic support of Plant Nerd Night in July, which helped us provide grants to community horticultural projects. Remember that you can now renew your membership or donate to the 2018 Patrons’ Fund through the NHS website, www.northwesthort.org.

I will be wishing for a short, mild winter and looking forward to the first snowdrops to bloom. I hope you will stop by and visit me at the Great Plant Picks display at the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival!

All the best,
Richie Steffen, NHS President

2017 NHS GRANTS AWARDED

The Northwest Horticultural Society awards grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or educational institutions for environmental, educational, and horticultural projects to further horticultural education in the community. We have been able to continue this grant program in recent years due to the support of our membership for our biannual fundraising event, Plant Nerd Night.

At the annual meeting in November grants were awarded to the following organizations for upcoming projects:

**GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty)** was awarded a grant for $3,000 for their Kitchen Garden Project. This program partners with low-income people and groups to give them the means and education for establishing backyard and community gardens. The funds will go toward staffing and materials including soil, lumber, seeds, and starts for each garden as well as educational materials for both direct mentoring and workshops.

**Mason County Master Gardeners** was awarded a grant for $2,000 to help complete their greenhouse project. These funds will provide them with a space to propagate plants for their annual plant sale—a major source of funding for them—and to hold classes.

**Seattle Children’s PlayGarden** was awarded a grant for $5,000 for garden renovations. The focus of the project is to make the playground more accessible and inclusive. These funds will go to the restoration of the caterpillar hedge, a new trellis, additional plantings, and removals.

NHS has given grants to both GRuB and the Seattle Children’s PlayGarden in the past, and we are very pleased with our ongoing relationships with these community outreach programs. During the upcoming year the grant recipients will be sharing the progress of their projects with us in Garden Notes and at lecture meetings.

A small garden, like a small child, should never be under-estimated.


*Galanthus ‘Hippolyta’*

Photo by Richie Steffen