

# GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2010

## NHS FALL PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, NOON TO 6:00 PM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

LISA IRWIN

HOORAY! IT'S NHS FALL PLANT SALE time again! Come join us on **Friday, September 17, from noon to 6:00 pm** and **Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm** for one of the region's largest fall plant sale extravaganzas. The sale takes place again at **Hangar 30, Warren G. Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand Point Way in Seattle**. We will feature more than 35 specialty nurseries from around the Northwest. Each of our guest nurseries will offer terrific plants, horticultural knowledge, and perhaps even some grower gossip!

Fall is a great time for planting. As the temperatures lessen and the rains begin, plants have a much easier time developing root growth. When spring finally comes the plants will be well on their way. We expect a good selection of plants that will benefit from fall planting, as well as many that will provide an awesome fall display.

As you walk your grounds, look for spots that need some revamping, rejuvenating, or just a dash of pizzazz. Perhaps your pots need their fall frocks, or your friends' gardens need some help. Take some pictures of these spots and pots and bring them with you to the plant sale; then get some great suggestions from our volunteers and growers.



*A wide selection of beautiful perennials is available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale September 17 and 18 (Ann LeVasseur)*

We still need lots of volunteers. By volunteering you can get a first peek at this year's hot plants for fall, make some great purchases, and also have fun working alongside fellow NHS members. Many areas need to be staffed, so whether you're energetic and muscular, or just need a chair to sit in while you work, we definitely have a spot for you. Most of our volunteers at the end of their

shift say, "You can count on me again next year!" As usual, **Lois Willman** will be coordinating our volunteers, so be sure to contact her at **merriam@scattercreek.com** to get signed up.

One of the most popular areas for discovering great plant bargains is the member donations table. Please help us out and bring joy to a gardener's heart by donating your garden treasures. ►

## NHS FALL PLANT SALE . . . continued from page 1

Then watch your kindness grow! Please pot, water, and label your plants. You can deliver them to the sale on Friday, September 17, between 9:00 am and noon.

If you need any help with delivery of plant donations or have any questions, please call **Michelle Scannell** at: **206-226-9899** (cell) or **425-486-0174** (office), or e-mail **GardenDesignz@hotmail.com**. In addition, **Sue Dickson** is our Plant Sale Chair, and her telephone number is **206-799-6513**.

The Fall Plant Sale is NHS's largest fundraiser of the year. The money raised goes to support our education program and allows us to provide grants to the Elisabeth Miller Library and other non-profit organizations that further horticultural education and related activities. 🌱

**For further information on the plant sale and directions to Magnuson Park, visit our website at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org).**

*Lisa Irwin is an NHS board member.*

### 2010 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 (tender perennials often sold as annuals)

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

**Fairmeadow Nursery:** Evergreen oaks, perennials, NW native trees, and shrubs

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

**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 17 and 18 (Ann LeVasseur)*



# PLANTS TO SEEK OUT AT THE NHS FALL PLANT SALE

RIZANIÑO “RIZ” REYES

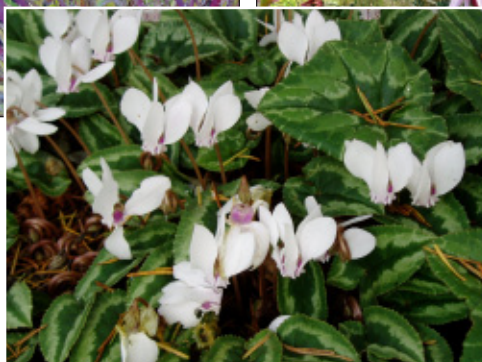
IT'S BEEN STRESSED TIME and again that autumn is the best time to plant so many things. From spring blooming perennials and bulbs, to hardy trees and shrubs, the NHS Fall Plant Sale has traditionally offered some of the finest, most diverse selection of plant material anywhere. But where does a gardener, both novice and professional, even begin? Well, as you wait for the doors to open with your box in hand ready to fill, think about what your current gardening situation is. What's lacking? What did so well that you have to have more of it? And, OK—admit it—what died and left a gap in your design that you either want to try again or find something completely new and different? Here are some plants that I can recommend to anyone.

## Great Grasses Galore!

Early fall is a fabulous time to seek out ornamental grasses because they are in full leaf and, if they are known to flower, their plumes and panicles are seemingly effervescent and simply irresistible. Look out for switchgrasses like *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' with its thin blue-green blades tipped in deep red and the striking *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gold Bar' that is invaluable to light up any spot as a specimen.

## "Mum's" the Word

I can't get enough of the lovely *Chrysanthemum* 'Apricot' as it continues to be sought after when people see it in bloom. Often it's a hard sell when not in flower, but by the end of October, the profusion of single, soft apricot-pink flowers is quite charming. It's so hardy and super easy to



TOP LEFT: *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'  
TOP RIGHT: *Chrysanthemum* 'Apricot'  
BOTTOM: *Cyclamen hederifolium*

grow; you'll enjoy it every single autumn for many years to come.

## Fantastic Foliage and Fruit

Many growers are beginning to carry edibles so seek out some wonderful blueberries to plant this fall. The fall color on some of these plants is astoundingly bright and eye-catching. *Vaccinium* 'Sunshine Blue' and V. 'Top Hat' are two dwarf selections that are ideal for the small garden and even in containers. Get a head start this fall, and you'll have a bumper crop of sweet and nutritious berries next summer!

## Clamoring for Cyclamen

These dainty little treasures are readily available and come in so many different

leaf patterns, it's hard to choose and buy just one. *Cyclamen hederifolium* is outstanding for a tough, dry shade environment where they thrive happily with very little care. You can look for these in bloom during the plant sale.

## Falling for Fothergilla

No one can deny or overlook the intensity of color fothergilla brings to the landscape come fall.

This handsome shrub is easy to grow if given moderate moisture, full sun, and fertile, well-drained soil. Look for the dwarf *Fothergilla gardenii* and the popular variety 'Mt. Airy'.

## A Plea for Peonies

Early fall is prime time for planting and transplanting peonies (both the bush and "tree" forms), but many vendors may not offer plants because they're often just beginning to die down and not look so great. But, if you see them understand that by planting them in the fall you're assured a safe transition into your garden, and you'll be rewarded by those extravagant, late spring flowers for many years.

There is a multitude of things to see at the 2010 NHS Fall Plant Sale. This article just begins to scratch the surface of the fantastic selection that is available. Remember that fall is a wonderful time to plant and really get a head start in the season to make next spring a little less hectic. Happy shopping! 🌱

Rizaniño "Riz" Reyes runs RHR Horticulture and a specialty nursery called Landwave Gardens, in Shoreline, WA. He can be reached at [rhrplants@hotmail.com](mailto:rhrplants@hotmail.com).

# NARCISSUS PLANTING EXPERIMENT









JUDY REDMOND

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

—From *Daffodils* (1804) by William Wordsworth

I HAD ROMANTIC VISIONS about “a host of golden daffodils... fluttering and dancing in the breeze” when I set out last October to plant masses of narcissus under some conifer and deciduous trees on the south end of my 2.5 acre property in bucolic Woodinville, Washington. The four areas, which were later expanded to six, were weedy and slightly bermed and cried out for some bright spring color. One of my friends volunteered to go the Arboretum's Fall Bulb and Plant Sale on their opening day and buy some of their best naturalizing narcissus bulbs for me to try out. I bought between 10 and 20 bulbs of each variety.

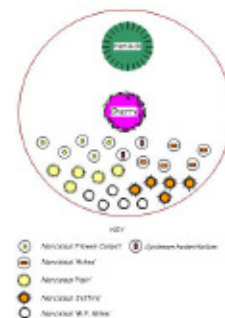
Below is a table that lists the varieties I used with their descriptions and photos. I also assigned each variety a symbol for the planting plan.

NAME	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Flower Carpet'	18-20", midseason, bright yellow trumpet.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Jetfire'	10", early to mid, yellow and orange reflexed petals give blooms a look of "jetting."	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'W.P. Milne'	5-6", early-midseason, creamy white trumpet with twisty petals.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Jack Snipe'	6-8", midseason, intermediate flowers with swept back white petals and a yellow cup.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Pipit'	14-16", midseason, 2-3 yellow flowers per stem, but cup turns white.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Sweetness'	12-14", midseason, golden yellow flower has superb fragrance.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Ice Wings'	10-12", early, 2 or 3 ivory flowers per stem.	
<i>Narcissus</i> 'Actaea'	15-17", mid/late, large white flowers with a red rimmed cup.	

Now for the hard work! I asked my contractor friend Jeff, who had installed my pond in 2004, to help me finish the project. Here are the steps we took.

## Step 1 – Make a Plan

I prepared a planting plan for each area placing the taller narcissus behind the shorter ones in the sunniest spot.



## Step 2 – Prepare the Soil

Jeff used his Kubota tractor to scrape the weeds out of the way. Then he dug some fairly large holes and mixed in some good three-way topsoil consisting of loamy soil, peat moss, and compost processed through a 1/2 inch screen.



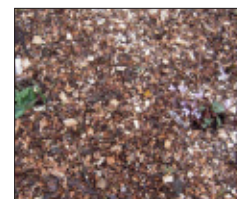
## Step 3 – Fertilize and Plant

Next I added a bulb fertilizer and placed the bulbs in their proper locations.



## Step 4 – Cover with Wood Chips

We had recently had a tree cut down and six stumps ground up so we had about two yards of free wood chips to place over the bermed areas. Wood chips are made from wood debris, limbs, and tree and bush trimmings that have been sent through a chipper. As a mulch, wood chips provide many benefits such as saving money due to less frequent watering, reduction in the amount of weeds, protection of the root structures, and nourishment to the soil as it decomposes.



## Step 5 – Enjoy the Daffodils!

Beginning in late March and blooming into May, we had a succession of colorful daffodils to enjoy. I'm hoping that every year these bulbs will naturalize so I'll have

more and more daffodils to enjoy in the future. The photo above shows 'Sweetness', 'Jet Fire', and 'Actaea'.

So this autumn, try out some different spring bulb plantings; you'll be delighted with the results come springtime. 🌱

*Judy Redmond is the editor of Garden Notes.*



# HORTICULTURE'S HIGHER CALLING

LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER

MOST OF US KNOW THE SOOTHING BALM a garden offers to gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Today hospitals, therapy practices, and a wide variety of retreat centers are also recognizing the power of plants to comfort, calm, and de-stress. I was fortunate to witness the development of two therapeutic garden projects over the past several months.



ABOVE: *Seattle Children's PlayGarden*  
(Kathy Stichin)

RIGHT: *Fisher House*  
(Lorene Edwards Forkner)

Hopefully, you've caught the buzz about the Seattle Children's PlayGarden. In 2002, executive director Liz Bullard, a speech and language pathologist, noting a lack of fun and play in the lives of families with special needs kids, dreamed of an environment devoted to providing children of all abilities full access to the great outdoors with room to safely explore, learn, and create. By 2006, the PlayGarden had entered into a public/private partnership with the Seattle City Council. Master plans were drawn up for the garden and associated facilities by Winterbottom Design Inc., under the leadership of principal Daniel Winterbottom.

This past May, NHS hosted a somewhat-soggy but successful fundraising auction that procured \$30,000 towards "putting the garden in the PlayGarden." Today the gardens are a beautiful, botanical crowning touch to years of creative planning, site development, and building. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony

in June, kids frolicked while grownups chatted and laughed in spite of drizzle and chilly gray skies. Nothing could dampen the infectious good humor and glee as kids and their families explored the newly planted gardens and romped on the rubber-coated, bouncy climbing mount that erupts in a glittering runnel of water spilling down its side that no one, regardless of age, can resist playing in.

Meanwhile, a quieter, peaceful, more soothing, and contemplative healing garden is taking root on the grounds of the Fisher House on the VA's Puget Sound campus. The Fisher House is a private, comfortable, home-like lodging facility for families of veterans being treated at the VA hospital.

Sparked by the energy of Friends of Fisher House board member Pat Norikane-Logerwell, The Healing Garden is a result of the collaborative efforts of Winterbottom's UW landscape architecture design/build class and an advisory committee made up of Fisher House staff, guests, and a small group of landscape design professionals including me. The students were given a design brief to create a landscape that would soothe and help to heal and restore soldiers and their families. Together, we reviewed and worked to formulate the final garden design in a process that was profoundly moving and a privilege to participate in.

In only a few short weeks the formerly sedate and somewhat commercial space around the Fisher House has been utterly transformed. Sensory gardens planted with herbs, fragrant flowers, and cushy groundcovers enliven and soften the new pathways and seating areas. Covered shelters offer privacy and retreat as well as communal gathering space for yoga classes and family time together. Community support and generous in-kind donations, as well as the tireless work of the students, have brought the garden to life.

Gardens are magical. Mother Nature offers a subtle, soothing touch or shocks us with brilliant color and the laughter of children. Powerful stuff we gardeners intuitively know, but perhaps need to be reminded of now and then. For more information on how you can support and sustain these healing gardens check out these websites. 🌱

FISHER HOUSE: [www.fisherhousevaps.org/healing-garden.asp](http://www.fisherhousevaps.org/healing-garden.asp)  
SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN: [www.childrensplaygarden.org/index.php](http://www.childrensplaygarden.org/index.php)

Read more about Lorene Edwards Forkner's work and follow her antics at [plantedathome.com](http://plantedathome.com).

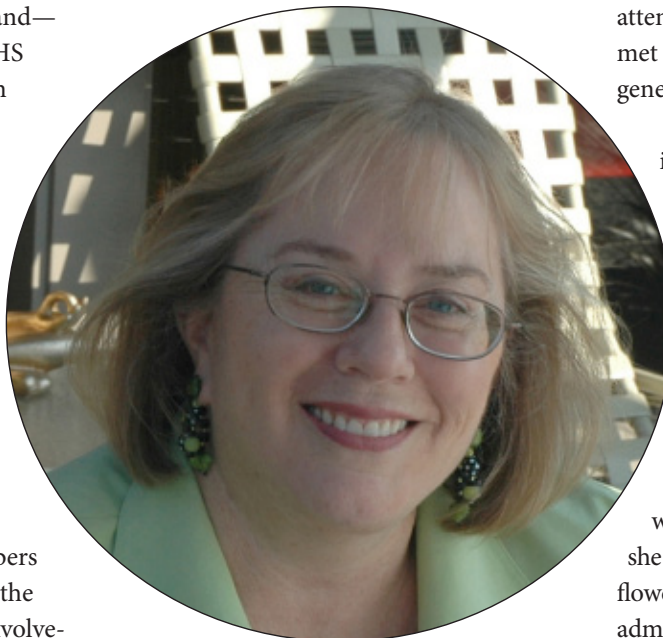
# VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DEBORAH HEG

DOMINIQUE EMERSON

"I'VE ORDERED SEEDS from England—hellebores." And thus another NHS board member has traveled down the slippery slope from ordinary gardener to focused enthusiast. How do they all get like this? To hear it from Deborah Heg, the journey has been a slow adventure with several pauses along the way.

Deborah Heg is chair of the Miller Library Committee, a role she takes seriously. She and her committee work to raise funds to support the library, and endeavor to keep NHS members informed of all the great services the library offers to gardeners. Her involvement with NHS began as a consumer, next as a cashier at plant sales, then as member of the committee for selecting new board members. She came for the plants and stayed because of the people and the organization.

Before moving to the Pacific Northwest, Deborah had a casual interest in gardening, though a gardening grandmother and a father with a forestry degree may have passed on a gardening seed that was waiting for the right



circumstances to sprout. A move to Whidbey Island and a lucky new friendship triggered the gene.

Deborah's muse was Holly Turner, a friend and avid gardener, who challenged her to really learn gardening or be a dilettante (said scornfully). And where did one go in the mid-nineties to learn? Heronswood, of course! She still has all the class notes in their clear binders, complete with menus and class

attendees. Many of the people she has met in NHS were in those classes—a generation of "Heronistas."

Deborah leverages her background in interior design in the garden, mixing texture and leaf color with intriguing discoveries. These design skills emerge in her garden through handsome trellises, unusual pots, and well-placed rocks. Joined by her talented husband Jim, the garden expands beyond unusual trees and shrubs into a playground of art and color. Starting with the strongest design intentions she once exclaimed, "I will have no white flowers in my garden," then sheepishly admitted that some were inevitable.

Garden advice: "Don't cut where you can't see." How many of us have reached into a shrub intent on cutting out the dead areas only to come out with a huge branch with choice blooms.

Current interest: The small genus of hellebores that she might be able to hybridize, but first she has to grow all those seeds from England. 🌱

*Dominique Emerson is a garden designer on Whidbey Island.*

## ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Jean Amick

Elaine Anderson

Vicki Bailey

Renagene Brady

Danielle Ernest

Meagan McManus

Diane Mettler

Joan W. Parks

Leslie Sanderson

Parichehr Takasaki

Wendy Walsh

## HAS YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGED?

Are you getting the monthly e-mail blasts announcing upcoming NHS events? Getting *Garden Notes* via e-mail? (If you signed up to receive it that way.) Also make sure that you don't have a spam filter on blocking [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com). Notify Karin Kravitz of any changes in your address or e-mail address at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com).

# 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

RAY LARSON

THE NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY not only presents a great monthly lecture series, we also feature a plethora of interesting and varied classes, tours, and events. As importantly, we raise funds for the Miller Library and offer grants to other local groups and organizations.



2010 scholarship winner  
David Hays

Another area that sets us apart is our support of graduate level education and research in horticulture. For the last 23 years, NHS has awarded the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship to support graduate student research at the University of Washington. The scholarship is supported by an endowed fund, the accrued interest from which is designated to the following year's award. In most years, one or two scholarships are awarded, but some years have seen as many as five. Past recipients include Scot Medbury, currently CEO of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Sarah Reichard, professor at the UW College of the Environment's UW Botanic Gardens. Nearly 50 other students have gone on to serve at universities, botanic gardens and non-profits, and in business and government agencies. Each year the Scholarship Committee solicits applications from students in horticulture, forest resources, and landscape architecture.

In 2010, we are pleased to announce that **David Hays** of the UW School of Forest Resources Center for Urban Horticulture has been awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. David's research concerns the plant stress physiology of *Rubus armeniacus* (Himalayan blackberry), and aims to provide insights into appropriate methods of control for environmental restoration purposes. His research also applies to horticultural professionals and home gardeners, as management of Himalayan blackberry is something most of us continue to deal with. Additionally, David will be studying propagation methods which may provide insight into more easily growing cultivated blackberries and raspberries without the use of chemicals. David will be giving a presentation of his research to the membership at our annual meeting in November. Congratulations David! 🍷

*Ray Larson is the first vice president of NHS.*

## ~ THANKS TO OUR 2010 PATRONS ~

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

Mr. & Mrs. Don G. Abel	Sandra Lier
Phoebe H. Andrew	Toni Loomis
Alison S. Andrews	John MacKean &
Barbara Asmervig &	Mary Helen Krock
Mike Thanem	Hans and Tina Mandt
Douglas Bayley	Judy Massong
Charlotte Behnke	Gillian Mathews
Matthew Berberich	Pamela McAlpine
Suzette & Jim Birrell	McComb Gardens
Constance Bollen	Shirley McEvoy
Elisabeth Bottler	Renee Montgelas
Sara Bowe	Ciscoe Morris
Jayne Bray	Maureen Morris
Carol Burton	Sue Moss
Whit Carhart	John & Lee Neff
G. Maria Carlos	Charles Ogburn
Barbara Carman	Sue Olsen—Foliage Gardens
Geraldine Cherry	Mary Palmer
Heather & Terry Chubb	Chitra & Zak Parpia
Patricia Lee Church	Janet & Keith Patrick
Michael J. Coie	Peg Pearson
Stacie Crooks	Susan Picquelle
Nancy Daar	Phyllis J. Pierce
Tanya Demarsh-Dodson	Dianne Polson
Tina Dixon	Suzanne Ragen
Joe Dodson	Ravenna Gardens
Mary Drummond	Judy Redmond
Sylvia Duryee	Pat Riehl
Dominique Emerson	Roberta Roberts
Janet & Michael Endsley	Elsa C. Rosenkrantz
Cindy & David Fairbrook	Nita-Jo & Randy Rountree
Carolyn Fisher	Marilou Rush
Betsy Fitzgerald	Liz Sanborn
Kathy Fries	Tia Scarce
Maren Gilliland	Gale Schwarb
Marilyn Glenn	Mary Shane
Sue Goetz	Barbara Sheldon
Greg Graves—Old Goat Farm	Patricia L. Sheppard
Faye Greenlee	Jean Skerlong
Joyce Hawkins	Meredith P. Smith
Deborah Heg	Steve & Pauline Smith—
Jackie Hightower	Sunnyside Nursery
Catherine Hillenbrand	Daniel Sparler
Jocelyn C. Horder	Carrie Sparlin
Darlene & Dan Huntington	Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson
Lisa Irwin	Philip Stoller
Carolyn Jackson	Nancy Strahle
Becky Johnson	Swansons Nursery
Ann E. Keller	Mary Kay Talbot
Kemper/Iversen, Ltd.	Walter Thompson
Ann Keppler	Marie Weiler
Karin Kravitz	Wendy Welch
Antje Kretschmer	Joanne White
Laura Kvasnosky	Carolyn Whittlesey
Denise Lane	Madeleine Wilde
Raymond J. Larson	Lois Willman
Barry & Susan Latter	Withey Price Landscape
Alice Lauber	& Design LLC
Jeanne Marie Lee	Woodinville Garden Club
Dorothy Lennard	John A. Wott
Ann LeVasseur	Ann Wyckoff
Jan Lewinsohn	Kathryn Yerke



**THANKS TO OUR 2010 DONORS**

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

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**

Nancy Alvord  
Joanna Beitel  
Ralph & Lynn Davis  
Cindy & David Fairbrook  
Philip R. Stoller

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS**

Alice Aeschbacher  
Debbie Agee  
Jean Amick  
Phoebe Andrew  
Alison Andrews  
Barbara Asmervig/  
Michael Thanem  
Tiia Barrett  
Charlotte Behnke  
Ginny Brewer  
Tina Dixon  
Danielle Ernest  
Pam Eshelman  
Carolyn Fisher  
Beverly Fletcher  
Susan Goetz  
Lynne Harrison  
Mike Hayes  
Diane M. Hilmo  
Kurt Laidlaw  
Denise Lane  
Raymond Larson  
Camille LaTray  
Jeanne Marie Lee  
Dorothy Lennard  
Toni Loomis  
Janet McIntyre  
Maureen Morris  
Daniel Mount Gardens  
Ann Neel  
Lee C. Neff  
Ann S. Ormsby  
Linda Park  
Barbara Peterson  
Pamela Peterson  
Kirk & Judith Prindle  
Elsa C. Rosenkrantz  
Nita-Jo Rountree  
Marilou Rush  
Jean Skerlong  
Meredith P. Smith  
Daniel Sparler & Jeff Schouten  
Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson  
Pamela J. Trojanoski  
Dennis & Dorene Tully  
Linda Walz  
Marie Weiler  
Wendy Weyerhaeuser  
Joanne White  
Glenn Withey & Charles Price  
Jennifer Wyatt

# THE STORY OF PLANTS: MOSSES

DANIEL MOUNT

LAST SPRING I WAS HIKING in the Sonoran Desert with friends. The abundant winter rains had turned the canyon we hiked verdant with willows, grasses, and mosses.

Yes, mosses.

The mosses are a highly adaptable group of plants found colonizing barren soils, stones, logs, tree trunks, sidewalks, and roofs worldwide. If you climbed Mount Everest you'd find mosses at 20,000 feet, and if you dove into Lake Tahoe you'd find mosses 490 feet below the surface. They even grow shoulder to shoulder with agaves in southwestern deserts.

Most of us, embracing the all inclusive singular "moss," leave their sticky identification to bryologists, the scientists who study mosses. Of the estimated 15,000 mosses worldwide the Northwest is home to 900 making them, without a doubt, *our* plants.

Northwest mosses can be found forming a thin, nearly invisible protective crust on sage land soils. On our side of the mountains they are more dramatic, draping yards-long from trees in the rain forests. In our gardens they can be a nuisance making brick paths slippery, weighing heavily on roofs, and taking over lawns.

Though mosses perform an invaluable role in the development of soils, they are of little economic importance. Peat, being the sole exception, is used both as a soil amendment and as a fuel. Even today, 20% of Ireland's electrical needs are met by seven peat burning power plants. A moss craze among the Victorians had women even trimming their hats with mosses. Beside this madness, mosses found few other uses in industrial nations. Even among more primitive cultures, where they were used as sanitary pads or bedding, mosses were considered an inferior material reserved for the poor.

Paleobotanists speculate mosses, more closely related to algae than vascular plants, emerged from the watery realm nearly 480 million years ago. These "proto mosses," the first living things to inhabit the rocky surface of the young Earth, could survive long periods of desiccation. Most modern mosses have retained this trait, allowing them to "die" and resurrect as moisture returns.

Each fall I celebrate this green swelling of the mosses as much as I celebrate the turning of the leaves. It signals the end of summer's garish triumph, the end of watering. And the beginning of the winter months, like the first snowdrops in February, signals the coming of spring.

In the 1,300-year-old Saiho-ji, known as the Moss Temple, in Kyoto, Japan, 120 different mosses create a muffled serenity. Designed as a dry garden, it is said the colonizing mosses invented the moss garden. I know none of us are planning our gardens to last 1,300 years, so when George Schenk, in his classic book *Moss Gardening*, asks, "How are you equipped with patience?" we might shrink from the task of beginning a moss garden. Mr. Schenk offers five methods for starting a moss garden all of which require a fair amount of passivity balanced with a diligence generally required for roses. And no trips to the nursery.

Most mosses available in nurseries these days are actually not true mosses. Spike moss, or selaginella, is a fern ally. Irish moss is actually a flowering plant. And Spanish moss is neither, but is a bromeliad from the southeastern United States.

Each year I find myself growing more impatient with "hardy" agaves and more enamored with mosses. Flirting with moss gardening is dangerous business for someone as impatient as I am. But I'm hoping these ubiquitous little plants with a long history might teach me something about staying power. 🌱

*Read more of Daniel's thoughts on plants and gardening on his blog  
[www.danielmountgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.danielmountgardens.blogspot.com).*



# “FLAWLESS IN SEATTLE” PLANT LIBRARIANS’ MEETING

BRIAN THOMPSON

WHAT DO HARVARD University, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and Jardin Botanique de Montréal have in common? All of these illustrious institutions, and many more, sent representatives to the 42nd annual meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) hosted by the Miller Library last May.

The 75 attending librarians share a passion for plants and libraries, and many have been members for a long time. Valerie Easton, who managed the Miller Library when it last hosted this meeting in 1993, noted, “It was remarkable and exciting to see so many librarians that I’d met 25 years ago when I attended my first conference.”

## Day 1: The Seattle Public Library

Steve Lorton inspired the CBHL members with a rousing introduction to the people, climate, gardens, flora, and even the humor of the Pacific Northwest. He knew his audience, thanking us on several occasions for the work we do as librarians. To quote one member, “Steve Lorton made me proud to be a bot/hort librarian.”

Marina Princz is the librarian at the VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver, BC. She gave an engaging slide show of that beautiful garden, and its exciting future, which will include a “living building” for the new visitors’ center. The Rem Koolhaas designed Seattle Public Library is itself an amazing building and a tour of the facility was another feature of the day.

## Day 2: Arboretum and Bloedel Reserve

We began a drizzly morning (welcome to Seattle, folks!) at the Arboretum, but



*Librarians converge in the Miller Library for the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries meeting in May (Barney Lipscomb)*

this didn’t dampen the enthusiasm as the group toured from the Visitors’ Center to Pacific Connections. After lunch, it was on board the ferry to Bainbridge Island, the crossing being a high point of the conference for many.

At the charming Indianola Clubhouse, Dan Hinkley educated and entertained us with a presentation on his plant hunting trips in Asia. As one evaluator put it, Dan is “one of our most polished and amusing writers and speakers.”

At the Bloedel Reserve docents were stationed to show off the gardens and other features. A special treat was the display of a private Bainbridge collection of antiquarian botanical books. Even members from libraries rich with rare book collections, such as the Missouri and New York Botanical Gardens, were captivated by this collection.

A reception followed where we mingled with members of the Book Club of Washington and watched an eaglet in the nest through a spotting telescope. A brief rain shower chased us inside, but then cleared to a brilliant double rainbow over

Puget Sound. A perfect PNW moment for our visitors!

## Day 3: Center for Urban Horticulture

Valerie Easton began the morning with an inspirational history of the Miller Library including the horrific days following the 2001 fire. She remarked later, “I was surprised to see tears in the eyes of many of the librarians in the front row . . . and then I realized no one . . . could better understand the horror

and sense of responsibility the library staff felt that day.” This set the stage perfectly for the visit to the new library.

NHS Vice President Ray Larson was the other key speaker of the day describing the plants of Seattle before 1850. Many of the CBHL members are keen to learn about regional floras, so his talk was a big hit, as was the tour of the Union Bay Natural Area that followed. Others visited the Suzzallo Library and the Medicinal Herb Garden on the central UW campus.

## “Flawless in Seattle”

These are only the highlights, as seminars, workshops, business meetings, and all important networking filled many hours. Nearly half participated in post conference tours of Olmsted parks in Seattle, or the Chateau Ste. Michelle gardens and winery in Woodinville.

In summary, the meeting was a great success, as best expressed by an attendee from the Chicago Botanic Garden, “Flawless in Seattle.” 🌸

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

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## ~ 2010 FALL CLASSES AND DAY TOUR ~

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM** **Quick Preserving Projects In One Hour or Less** **with Lorene Edwards Forkner**

Make the most of your garden's harvest and still have time to enjoy these last lingering days of summer with quick and delicious preserving projects. Garden tour, hands-on kitchen work, and yummy samples included... Lorene says she will clean up!

**LOCATION: FORKNER GARDEN/WEST SEATTLE**

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

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 8:30 AM–6:00 PM** **Kitsap Peninsula Tour**

View Puget Sound from two distinct vantage gardens. One is a 10-acre garden with over 200 container gardens, a vegetable garden, an ornamental garden, and a woodland trail and the other has a spectacular vegetable garden and unique hedgerow. The tour will also include a visit to a bed and breakfast garden and Dragonfly Nursery.

**LOCATION: KITSAP PENINSULA**

**FEE: MEMBERS: \$48.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$68.00 LIMIT: 35**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM** **Container Designs for Fall and Winter with Barb Libner**

Join Barbara Libner, Ravenna Gardens' Container Designer & 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/UNIVERSITY VILLAGE SEATTLE**

**FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 20**

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM** **Living Topiary, Hands-On, and How To!** **with Sue Goetz**

Sue will talk about classic garden uses, traditional and not so traditional shapes, how to incorporate topiary in garden design, and the best plant material for shaping and creating. This is a hands-on class; learn how to spiral a small evergreen tree to create a tabletop topiary. Plant included in the supply fee. Dress for the weather; bring gloves and pruners and/or scissors.

**LOCATION: /GOETZ GARDEN/GIG HARBOR**

**FEE: MEMBERS: \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$45.00 LIMIT: 12**

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM** **Putting the Garden to Bed with Greg Graves**

Putting the garden to bed involves much more than just raking leaves. Greg will walk you through the Miller Garden and talk about the many things involved in this process: clean up, protecting plants, spring bulbs, moving plants, and dividing perennials.

**LOCATION: MILLER GARDEN/THE HIGHLANDS, SEATTLE**

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

**FOR RESERVATIONS E-MAIL [NWHORT@AOL.COM](mailto:NWHORT@AOL.COM)  
OR CALL KARIN KRAVITZ AT 206-780-8172**

## ~ WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES ~

**LECTURE 7:15 RECEPTION 6:45**  
**NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE**  
**MEMBERS \$5.00 NON-MEMBERS \$10.00**  
**NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN**

**October 13, 2010**  
**Designing with Elegant Silvers**  
**Karen Bussonlini**

**November 10, 2010**  
**High Concept Design Meets Sustainability**  
**Debra Prinzing**

**January 12, 2011**  
**Gardening Where We Live:**  
**A Pacific Northwest Convergence**  
**Lucy Hardiman**

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE  
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHWESTHORT.ORG)

## ~ 2010 MILLER LECTURE ~

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 PM**  
**Plants Of The Chatham Islands**  
**Gordon Sydney Collier**

**LOCATION: MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
**RSVP TO THE MILLER LIBRARY 206-543-0415 OR**  
**[HORTLIB@UW.EDU](mailto:HORTLIB@UW.EDU)**

## ~ SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN ~ GIVE & GROW LUNCHEON

**Honoring Dr. Pamela Mullens**  
**Thursday, September 30, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**LOCATION: THE W HOTEL, SEATTLE**

NHS will be honored for its contribution to the PlayGarden. Join NHS at a member's table for this event to raise funds for innovative programs for children with special needs and their families.

**CONTACT KARIN KRAVITZ 206-780-8172 OR**  
**[NWHORT@AOL.COM](mailto:NWHORT@AOL.COM)**

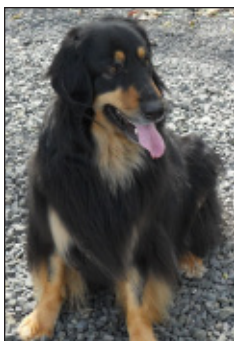
## ~ PACIFIC HORTICULTURE PRESENTS ~

**Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies**  
**VIII Symposium**  
**Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden**

**SEPTEMBER 23–26, 2010**  
**PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

See <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/education-events/gardening-under-mediterranean-skies-viii/>





Sophie

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

H A N S M A N D T

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS, our back hillside is filling out nicely. It has been my attempt at "New Perennial" style using grasses and a selection of prairie perennials. Three years on, *Stipa gigantea* planted in the center of the hillside is becoming a major feature and in another year or two it will steal the show. Other grasses include *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light', *Milium effusum* 'Aureum' (Bowles Golden Grass), and *Calamagrostis arundinacea* var. *brachytricha*. On the left side of the hill is a large "waterfall" of variegated *hakonechloa* which we kept from the previous scheme. Interspersed among the grasses are perennials which include two echinaceas: 'Sundown' (dark orange) and 'Harvest Moon' (yellow), *helianthus* and *heleniums*, *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', *kniphofias*, *perovskia*, and *Geranium* 'Johnson's Blue'. Two selections of *Aster x frikartii* add flowers late into the fall.

In the upper woodland the species lilies have just finished now. *Lilium canadense*, *L. lankongense*, *L. majoense*, *L. nepalense*, *L. primulinum*, and *L. regale* have all been growing into wonderful large clumps over the past several years, and I purchased all of them from vendors at our plant sales. Keep an eye out for them at the fall sale in September. The hydrangeas are at their prime and it is going to be hard to edit them over the next several years as they grow to mature size (4 to 6 feet); however, one that definitely will stay is a spectacular selection from Japan, *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Izu No Hana'. A lace cap hydrangea with discs of fertile deep blue flowers surrounded by double, sterile florets of sky blue, fading to lavender, this is a plant to die for.

Our recent fundraising event, the garden party at Denise Lane's amazing garden in Medina, was a beautifully orchestrated event and very successful. It was sold out at 100 people and NHS benefited to the tune of over \$6,300. Besides the evocative garden, we were treated to a delicious luncheon of salads and salmon followed by desserts that caused me to eat way too much. Thank you, Denise, for your generosity and special thanks to all the board members and volunteers who prepared the food and kept everyone well fed and quaffed.

This is my last President's Message as my term will end before the winter newsletter goes to press. Shortly before becoming president, I gave Tina a birthday present: a wonderful puppy, flown in from Denmark, which she named Sophie. Sophie has become my walking companion every morning as we walk past CUH and through the university campus. She has met the staff of the Miller Library and has also met a number of the members of the board. Sophie helps me garden and has a favorite plant, *hakonechloa*. She never passes one up without taking a bite of it. Good thing I've planted a lot of it. If you see us together, stop and say "Hi" to Sophie; she'll love meeting you.

In closing, let me thank all of our board and the many volunteers who help make NHS function so well. Their dedication is most appreciated. Most of all, let me thank you, our members, who bring your friends and attend our many functions. You help make this organization a thriving horticultural community. 🌱

*Hans Mandt is the president of NHS.*

### EDITOR

Judy Redmond  
judyredmond@verizon.net

### DESIGNERS

Judy Redmond and  
Constance Bollen  
cb graphics,  
cbg@speakeasy.net

### CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:

Lorene Edwards Forkner  
Dominique Emerson  
Lisa Irwin  
Karin Kravitz  
Ray Larson  
Ann LeVasseur  
Hans Mandt  
Daniel Mount  
Judy Redmond  
Riz Reyes  
Nita-Jo Rountree  
Richie Steffen  
Brian Thompson

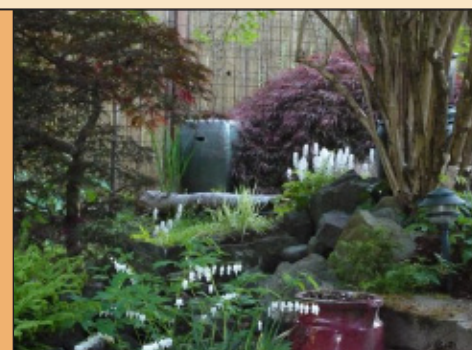
### PRINTER

Mike Klinke,  
Impression Printing

## NHS MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS FLOCK TO MEET THE BOARD TOURS

ONCE AGAIN, THE NHS MEET THE BOARD TOUR delighted crowds of members and their friends who enjoyed the spectacular gardens on both the South Sound and the Seattle area tours. Congratulations to **Virginia Tripp** and **Trish Briggs**, winners of the one year free NHS membership for a current member and non-member, respectively.

Additionally, a big thank you goes to the members who opened their gardens for the tours. As you know, getting a garden ready for a tour followed by greeting guests is exhausting, so we all greatly appreciate their efforts. 🌱



*NHS board member Marie Weiler's  
garden from the Seattle  
Meet the Board Tour*



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 4597  
ROLLING BAY, WA 98061-4597

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 4842



RICHEL STEFFEN/GREAT PLANT PICKS

*Sedum telephium* ssp. *ruprechtii* with *Allium cristophii* and *Eryngium giganteum*

*"For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad."*  
Edwin Way Teale, 1899–1980, American naturalist, photographer, and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer.



Web: [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org)



E-mail: [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)