

GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2011

CHILE: TALL, SKINNY, EXTRA HOT WITH ICE ON THE SIDE

DAN HINKLEY

CHILE IS A COUNTRY OF EXTREMES, from the driest region on earth to temperate rainforests, verdant low valleys to glacially garbed mountains rising to nearly 23,000 feet. Betwixt and between the spine of the southern Andes and umpteen thousand miles of Pacific coastline not only thrives an opulent flora but one—at least from the southern one-third of the country—that translates in a magnificent fashion to the climate of the Pacific Northwest.

In the winter of 2011, I was provided the opportunity to travel for my third time to this country far (far) to the south. The trip was made possible by sponsorship of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens as well as Monrovia Growers, in conjunction with a group of hardy Puget Soundlanders whose participation, in part, benefited the new Chilean geographical exhibit at the Washington Park Arboretum.

Whereas our tour, co-led by Dr. Sarah Reichard of the Center for Urban Horticulture, sampled a delectable assortment of Chilean natural history, culture, landscape design, and cuisine (not to mention the nightly rituals of pisco sour tasting), my primary pleasure outside of enjoying the camaraderie of our group was to observe again this country's remarkable flora and gather seed when possible for integra-



Two Araucaria araucana (monkey puzzle trees) frame the Llaima Volcano in the Conguillio National Park, Chile (Nita-Jo Rountree)

tion into the collections of the arboretum as well as possible introduction into the horticultural industry.

My visit, during the last part of January to mid February, was not ideal in regards to the ripeness of seed. Nonetheless, my collections totaled about 70, with more attention paid to quality and appropriateness to our climate rather than quantity. The following are some of the highlights.

Anarthrophyllum desiteratum

The flora of the Patagonian steppe is

highly adaptive to extremes of weather and harsh winds. Thus, it was not surprising that during our visit to one of the most iconic landscapes of Chile, that of Torres del Paine, we hiked through a vegetation comprised mostly of small leaved shrubs forming dense hummocks. *Anarthrophyllum desiteratum* is a beloved signature plant of the region, forming tight silvery mounds to 2 ft. x 3 ft., capped in spring and summer with a flurry of intensely red “pea” flowers. It will be appropriately grown in poor, rocky, well-drained soils in full sun. ▶

CHILE: TALL, SKINNY, EXTRA HOT WITH ICE ON THE SIDE . . . continued from page 1



ABOVE: *Embotrium coccineum*
RIGHT: *Eucryphia cordifolia* honey
(Both photos by Dan Hinkley)



This grew with a shrubby and showy chartreuse flowered umbellifer, *Mullinum spinosum*, as well as with *Calafate* (*Berberis buxifolia*). It is believed that if one eats the succulent blue fruit of the latter, one will be privileged to return to Patagonia. Not included in this equation is whether you will again be accommodated in 4-star luxury yurts upon your return as we were during this experience.

Eucryphia cordifolia

Of the two species of *Eucryphia* native to Chile (the other being *E. glutinosa*) the most frequently encountered is *E. cordifolia*. So common is this 50 ft. evergreen tree, the volcanic slopes of the southern region of the country will be transformed to swaths of satiny white in mid to late summer. It is used by apiarists to produce monocultural honey, *miel de Ulmo*, considered to be the finest in the world.

Hydrangea serratifolia

The most southerly occurring hydrangea in the world is a robust evergreen climbing species known as *H. serratifolia*. Its glossy green foliage can be seen adhered to immense specimens of Antarctic beech (*Nothofagus spp.*) throughout the mild and wet forests of the southern region. Its white lace caps, opening from globose buds, which are generally produced high above in the canopy, are not easily observed unless

a tree topples, or if it is found growing along a river's edge. This handsome evergreen species is perfectly adaptable to the Pacific Northwest, is fully hardy, and should be grown more frequently than it is.

Embotrium coccineum

One of the most iconic of Chilean trees, the so-called flame tree, needs little introduction to keen gardeners, yet it remains thrilling to observe in blossom in the wild. Unlike the plants in cultivation, the native populations blossom in spring and again in autumn during which entire hillsides of Torres del Paine will be transformed to an inferno of orange-red. Gratifyingly, we observed this species in blossom adjacent to an icy, blue berg resting in Lago Grey.

Drimys andina

Though *Drimys winteri* is a relatively known and grown broadleaved evergreen tree in cultivation in the Pacific Northwest, its much more diminutive higher elevation counterpart is seldom encountered. Its glossy green leaves, undersurfaced in silver, and clusters of white flowers followed by handsome crops of black fruit, are virtually identical to *D. winteri* but for its much more compact growth habit. This 3.5 ft. x 3.5 ft. species is frequently found in the same zone as the monkey puzzle tree. Both *D. winteri* and *D. andina* possess a high concentration of ascorbic acid in the bark and has historically been used for the treatment of scurvy.

Calceolaria uniflora

There are numerous species of *Calceolaria* found throughout Chile with the majority presenting similarly hued glaring yellow pouches that make positive identification a challenge. Thus it was very exciting to come upon *Calceolaria uniflora*, a diminutive species that is perhaps the most ornamental of the genus as well as the easiest to identify. The icing on the cake was not only had I long wished to see it in the wild, but that I was considering it only moments before my hiking companions and I spotted it along the trail. Its butterscotch colored pouches lipped in bright white and rich maroon could scarcely be misidentified.

Ourisia coccinea

During the same day that we encountered *Calceolaria uniflora*, hiking to the base of the "towers" in Torre del Paine, the brilliant carmine flowers of *Ourisia coccinea* made themselves

(Continued on page 11)

THE FLOWERING ONIONS

JIM FOX

ITALIAN AND CHINESE cuisines have garlic. Americans argue about which is sweeter: Maui, Walla Walla, or Vidalia onions. Around the world alliums are embraced as a basic ingredient in cooking. So why do so few gardeners embrace this fragrant, floristic genus into their gardens?

There is no other genus save one, *Echinops*, which provides dramatic round flowers heads as much needed contrast to grasses or spiky plants, or to rise above lower growing perennials. Nor do many genera have such a long flowering season—from earliest spring to late autumn.

For drama and finesse, none is better than my favorite, *Allium* 'Globemaster'. Nearly three feet tall, its flower head increases with size as new layers of flowers push out above the previous one over a period of three to four weeks. A solid purple sphere of delight for our eyes and the bees. Leaves emerge in early March—a pewtery starfish for three months or so until their task of storing winter's food done, they shrivel and die. Planted among geraniums or other ground covers one hardly notices this disappearing act. *Geranium* 'Rozanne', or the lower growing roses, or tall delicate grasses are three good combinations.

There are others with large flower heads such as *A.* 'Purple Sensation' with its rich purple color, tall stems, and smaller flower heads, blooming a couple of weeks after 'Globemaster'.

Two dramatic short alliums are *A. cristophii*, an airy ball of large starry flowers in lavender, drying to beige, and *A. schubertii* in which the flowers have stems of unequal lengths giving a fireworks-like look.

All dry well *in situ*. Some gardeners move them to other parts of the garden, placing them on small stakes for support, spray painting the heads in subtle or wild colors for long season play.



Allium 'Globemaster' (Jim Fox)

Not all flowering onions have large dramatic flower heads. For yellow there is bright *A. moly*. Deadhead right after flowering to prevent excessive seeding, but I've never had this problem that others fear.

Tall and late flowering is the drumstick *A. sphaerocephalum*. The two-inch elongated flower heads in shades of purple and pink look lovely peeking up among old roses. The long, thin stems grow to two and a half feet tall. Its leaves die back as the flowers open which is why I plant them among roses or peonies.

There are many small, rock garden type alliums of a true blue color. The most common and tallest is *A. caeruleum*, suitable for the border. Named for Reginald Farrer is *A. cyathophorum* var. *farrerii*. *A. sikkimensis* comes from Sikkim, India. The nodding allium, *A. cernuum*, comes in good pink forms, so look for them. All make nice clumps and keep their foliage in good shape for a long time.

For the herb garden we have chives, *A. schoenoprasum*. Typically it has mauve pink flowers, but good dark forms like 'Fornsett Forescate' and bright whites exist. Garlic chives with its white star flowers and dark stamens on a slightly flattened head are good for table or garden.

Not all alliums need full sun. Three do well in dappled shade. One does too well and it's a thug. The first of the good duo is *A. zebdanense*. It does exist in a weedy form, but the polite form is often sold at an Eastside nursery. Wire thin stems rise above grassy foliage to a foot or so topped by long-lasting flower heads of little white star flowers in April. The other is *A. paradoxum* var. *normale*. It looks similar to the spring snowflake, *Leucojum aestivum*, with few large white bells on 9–11 inch stems in spring.

(Continued on page 9)

~ SEVENTH ANNUAL MEET THE BOARD TOUR ~

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, NOON TO 5:00 PM

NHS IS PROUD TO PRESENT the seventh annual Meet the Board Garden Tour. August is the month to put down your trowel and see what your fellow gardeners have been up to. This unique member benefit highlights seven wonderful gardens in the Seattle area. Each garden has been developed by a dedicated plantsperson and is owned or hosted by an NHS board member. This is a chance to learn more about the workings of NHS, its volunteer opportunities, and its mission. Take a moment to introduce yourself, and feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions with us.

The tour will be on **Sunday, August 21, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm** with the exception of **Ciscoe's garden which will not open until 12:30 pm.**

Please register on the sign-in sheet at each garden. Enjoy this exclusive tour only for NHS members and their friends.



CISCOE AND MARY MORRIS GARDEN

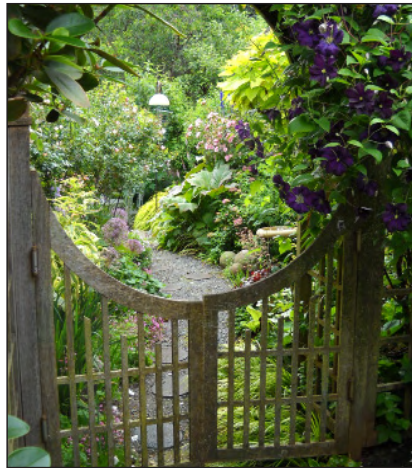
NHS BOARD MEMBER

NHS BOARD HOST: JERRY GETTEL

SPECIAL NOTE: GARDEN WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL 12:30 PM

THE VIBRANT PLANTINGS in Ciscoe's garden reveal a true garden of desire.

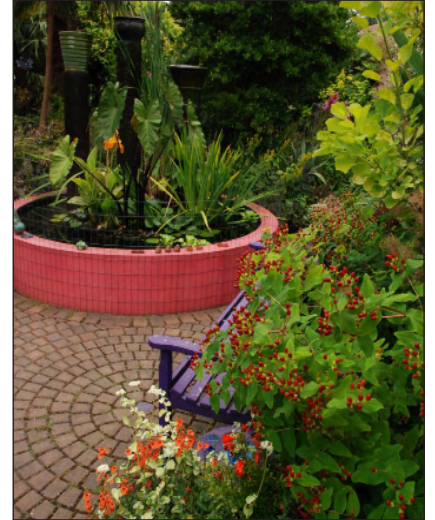
From the rambunctious front plantings through the dining arbor and into the more serene back yard, Ciscoe and his wife Mary's touch bring forth the very best each plant has to offer. In the back yard, a Little and Lewis fountain nests in one corner, while the vegetables get the sunnier side. Here, time management is of the utmost importance as weeding and watering fit in between TV, radio, and personal appearances. Much of Ciscoe's knowledge and philosophy is caught in his book *Ask Ciscoe: Oh, la, la! Your Gardening Questions Answered.*



MARY ELLEN ASMUNDSON AND JOHN BREW GARDEN

NHS BOARD HOST: MARIE WEILER

TRAVELS TO GARDENS around the world shape Mary Ellen's small suburban collector's garden that packs in over a 1,000 varieties of unusual trees, shrubs, and perennials. Visit with another gardener who has replaced her lawn with shady woodland areas, gravel terraces and paths, a small rock garden, and a sunny drought-tolerant slope. Using recycled materials and lovingly constructed gates, Mary Ellen has influenced her microclimate to be opulent, green, and lush.



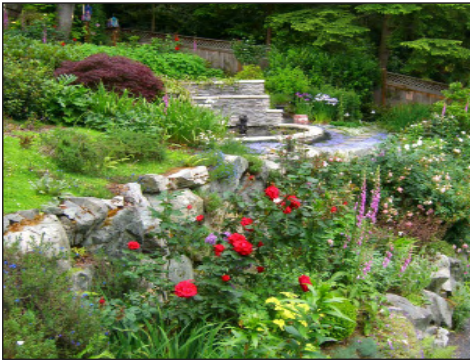
DANIEL SPARLER GARDEN

NHS BOARD MEMBER

NHS BOARD HOST: RAY LARSON

"ENOUGH!" SAYS DANIEL. Out goes a decade-long infatuation with Southern Hemisphere trees and shrubs which have succumbed to three winters of discontent. In with proven winners and collector's choices for the woodland garden. Remaining are all the artful creations inspiring us to perk up our hardscapes—the backbone of any garden. Daniel and his partner, Jeff Schouten, open their garden to horticultural students, professionals, and garden clubs as inspiration and learning experiences. The garden has been featured on HGTV, in *Sunset* magazine, and in Thomas Hobbs's book, *The Jewel Box Garden.*





**NITA-JO AND RANDY
ROUNTREE GARDEN**

NHS BOARD HOST: CHARLES OGBURN

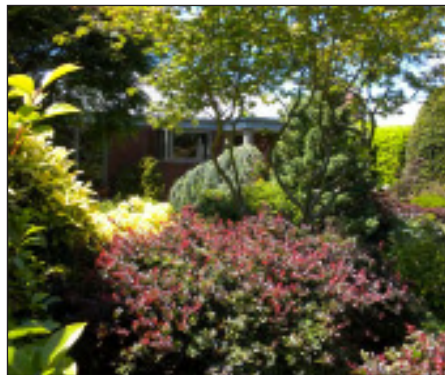
PASSION TEMPERED BY DESIGN governs in NHS past-president Nita-Jo's steeply sloped garden. Beloved koi, fragrant roses, and colorful flowers and foliage mix with the rare and unusual. Husband Randy gets the sunniest spot for his newly expanded vegetable garden. This east-facing garden with limited sun boasts the red rose 'Liebeszauber', *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle', and *H. serrata* 'Izu No Hana'. Between all this gardening the effervescent Nita-Jo organizes NHS classes; speaks on radio and TV; and lectures on designing gardens using roses, planting combinations, and hydrangeas. Come see all this talk in action in her Eastside abode.



**VALHALLA GARDEN
LINDA AND ROGER
MCDONALD GARDEN**

**NHS BOARD HOSTS: MARY PALMER
AND LISA IRWIN**

VALHALLA GARDEN SURROUNDS a suburban contemporary home on the Eastside. The pebble mosaic walk leads to a steeply sloped backyard that includes a boardwalk and native plants near the creek. There are defined areas for Australian and New Zealand plants. Compare more than ten varieties of acanthus along the long walk. Linda started as a plant collector and has developed the garden over the last 20 years. She is known for dynamic plant combinations with her current focus on big leafed plants.



**ROBERT DLUGOSH AND
DON MCKEE GARDEN**

**NHS BOARD HOSTS: EMILY DEXTER
AND DANIEL MOUNT**

CHECK OUT THE GARDEN of Robert Dlugosh and Don McKee for the real deal on hardy, low maintenance gardening for all seasons. The lush layers and superb vistas are organized by paver paths into vignettes, creating a series of garden "events" highlighted by carefully placed pottery and sculpture. Started in 1976, this garden reflects its maker's desire for order and tranquility in the middle of the city with the Asian undertones of a Japanese strolling garden. Need an idea of what to plant that will survive our up and down weather? This shimmering, highly textured garden is it.



**LORENE EDWARDS
FORKNER GARDEN**

NHS BOARD HOST: MARTY WINGATE

VISIT A GARDEN DESIGNED by Lorene, a two-time Northwest Flower & Garden Show gold medalist, for comfort, flavor and year-round color and texture. Berries and fruit trees mingle with ornamental plantings while an expanded, yet still tiny, vegetable garden and areas for relaxing offer an abundant landscape. Home to many of the projects depicted in her forth coming book, *Handmade Garden Projects: Step by Step Instructions for Creative Garden Features, Containers, Lighting & More*, Lorene is especially pleased to have finally furnished the tiny vintage travel trailer that serves as backyard folly and cocktail cabana. Lorene blogs at Plantedathome.com where she explores all things related to "a good and delicious life." 🌿



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MARIE WEILER

LOIS WILLMAN

WHILE MANY PEOPLE LIKE to boast about all of their accomplishments and self-interests, Marie Weiler is humble and reserved. But once I started delving into facets of her life, I loved hearing about her many interests and adventures, including studying abroad in England and Russia, attending the University of Florence, and eventually obtaining a master's degree in art history from the University of Washington.

Like many others, Marie became interested in gardening when she and her husband Ted purchased their Kenmore home. "I was desperate with what to do in the backyard," she said. They started by building a pond, but didn't know exactly where to go from there. So not feeling comfortable taking on that task without professional input, they hired a garden designer for a layout and plant selections. Marie became intrigued with the wonder of plant varieties she never knew existed. "I realized how beautiful your yard could be if you get rid of the lawn!"



Photo courtesy of Ted Weiler

As is a common story, the beautifully developed backyard prompted a makeover of the side yards and then the front. She loves to research and pick out the plants and Ted loves to work on the

hardscape and accent pieces.

When asked what her favorite plant is, she didn't hesitate in responding, "Of all the plants I love, my *Podophyllum delavayi* and *P. 'Spotty Dotty'* are probably my most prized."

And, of course, the love of plants eventually brought Marie to NHS. When she volunteered to work at the Fall Plant Sale several years ago, she quickly caught the eye of the Plant Sale Committee. Since that time, she has become a board member and now co-chairs the Fall Plant Sale. A big challenge she is facing this year is changing the plant sale location from Magnuson Park to North Seattle Community College. So mark **September 16 and 17** on your calendar and come say hello to Marie while you're checking out the new location and buying all those plants you just can't resist. 🌿

Lois Willman is an NHS board member and co-chairs the fall and spring plant sales.

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Judith Bezy
Nicky Bocek
Bouquet Banque
Nursery
Jody Burns
Suzette de Turenne
Debra Dickinson
Carla Fulton

Holly Graves
Barb Gross
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Don & Chris Hoerner
Jim Howard
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Caedmon Liburd

Kirsten Lints
Gail Lovell
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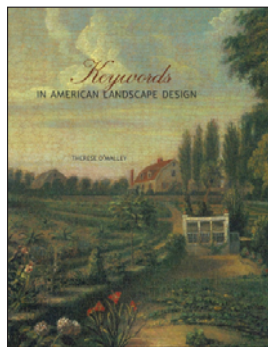
MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON

AS A LIBRARIAN, I HAVE THE PLEASURE of reading lots of books. This is especially true every winter, when the very best new books on horticulture or botany cross my desk.

Why is that? I'm privileged to sit on the review board for—take a deep breath—The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Annual Award for a Significant Work in Botanical or Horticultural Literature.

The CBHL Literature Award was created in 2000 to recognize and promote outstanding writing about plants, both in the wild and in our gardens. I'm pleased to announce the two winners for 2011. *Keywords in American Landscape Design* by Therese O'Malley is, in the broadest terms, a dictionary. But each term is defined with an essay on the history of its usage,



followed by many examples, citations, and excellent illustrations.

While the title may sound dry, I found this to be a fascinating book. For example, what is a border? According to Jane Loudon in *Gardening for Ladies* (1845), "A border differs from a bed in having a walk only on one side." A century earlier, lexicographer Samuel Johnson defines a

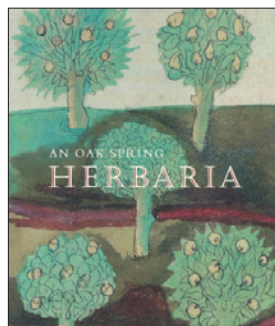
border as "A bank raised round a garden, and set with flowers."

The Oak Spring Garden Library is a private library in rural, northern Virginia that publishes descriptive theme-based catalogs about its rare book collections. The 2009 publication, *An Oak Spring Herbaria*, is our other award winner.

Highly readable and beautifully illustrated, this book tells the rich history of our fascination with medicinal plants. It will come as no surprise to Seattleites that a 1687 French book discovered "coffee was a nutritious and fortifying beverage that also had significant medicinal properties." A principle as easy to appreciate in the seventeenth century as in the twenty-first!

Both books are available for reading at the Miller Library during our summer hours. See www.millerlibrary.org/ for more information. 🌱

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



~ THANKS TO OUR 2011 PATRONS ~

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

| | |
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THE STORY OF PLANTS: FIREWEED

DANIEL MOUNT

A SMARTLY DRESSED RETIREE walked into Seattle Garden Center in 1990. She remained straight forward as she asked me, “Do you sell fireweed seed?” My smile barely suppressed a chuckle. I was a young snobby horticulturist then, to whom the thought of planting fireweed seemed absurd.

Seattle Garden Center in the Pike Place Market had a serious, some said the best on the West Coast, seed selection. Yet we did not sell fireweed seed. If I had been smart I would have spent my weekends in the blast zone of Mount St. Helens, a pink lava flow of fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*), collecting the downy seed. With each plant producing over 80,000 seeds I could have made a killing in the market. You see this smartly dressed retiree was not the first or the last tourist to disembark in Seattle in search of fireweed seed after seeing acres of it blanketing Alaska where it flourishes.

Fireweed, or willowherb as it is also known, is in the Onagraceae, or evening primrose family. Many weedy species in the genus *Epilobium*, with which fireweed was once lumped and with which it shares a common name, are perennial and annual natives to the West Coast. They produce abundant easily airborne seed, so I’m sure you’ve pulled plenty from your gardens. A great deal of research is being conducted on this genus which shares many medicinal properties with evening primrose, *Oenothera biennis*.

When fireweed, which I prefer to call willowherb, seeded into one of my heavily planted mixed borders, I left it. I believe like Piet Oudolf that “willowherb



Fireweed or willowherb

is such a common plant that hardly anyone sees just how beautiful it is.” I find its beauty comparable to other members of the Onagraceae, like the popular fuchsias and California fuchsia (formerly *Zauschneria*, now in the genus *Epilobium*). The few cultivars of *Chamerion* are rarely available in the U.S., even ‘Alba,’ said to be less aggressive and which Beth Chatto calls a “pale, ghostly” beauty, is impossible to find.

Willowherb arrived late to the British Isles and probably as a garden

plant. It is an excellent pot herb: its young shoots and leaves similar to spinach. The often referred to “Orient purple” color of the flowers was coveted by medieval and Renaissance gardeners who gave it names like French willow and Persian willow. Later it became known as rose bay willow or poor man’s oleander, rose bay being the common name for oleander. More recently residents of war torn London named it “bombweed” because after World War II it covered acres of that city.

Speculative botanists believe that willowherb, a Eurasian native, was introduced to the New World a long time ago. The first travelers entering this continent 15,000 years ago may have brought its downy seed stuffed with duck feathers into their bedding, a common practice among indigenous peoples until recent history. Sacred to Siberian shamans who brewed an ale from the pith often mixed with the mushroom fly agaric to induced visions, it may have been deliberately imported, possibly making it one of the first introduced species to Alaska and the lower 48.

I like to believe I’m a smart traveler, light and easily airborne. I like to believe I’m an even smarter gardener. Though I am not smart enough to have a smartphone or support our use of smart bombs, I am smart enough to make mistakes, big and small, even where they end up, like leaving willowherb in my borders, not being mistakes at all. 🌱

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

OLYMPIA AREA TOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

JACKIE WHITE



ABOVE: *Sedum* bed
at Closed Loop Park
(Mary Williams)

RIGHT: Fairbrook Garden
(Cindy Fairbrook)



EACH YEAR WE TRY TO EXPAND OUR HORIZONS and introduce new areas for NHS garden tours. This summer we're showcasing a few special gardens in the Olympia area. Join us on **Thursday, August 4, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** to visit a Great Plant Picks (GPP) demonstration site, a grass-roots neighborhood veggies project, and a private garden with Northwest and European influences.

The tour starts with a visit to Closed Loop Park, a demonstration garden and Great Plant Picks testing ground managed by the Master Gardeners of Thurston County. The Closed Loop Park partnership with GPP began in 2002 and is currently the only demonstration site dedicated to evaluating several plant collections as future Great Plant Picks selections. The trial garden's spectacular sedum collection was recently featured in the September 2010 *Martha Stewart Living* magazine.

A highlight of the tour is Cindy and David Fairbrook's garden. Their spectacular and productive ten-acre property sits atop a hill facing the Olympics. For the past twenty years they have been designing and constructing a number of gardens that reflect both Northwest and European influences, including a potager in the French tradition.

We'll also have a guided tour of GRuB gardens (Garden Raised Bounty), a 2010 NHS grant recipient. GRuB is a grassroots non-profit organization that works with youth and low-income families.

We will also visit one or two private gardens and enjoy an *al fresco* picnic lunch.

To sign up for the tour, e-mail Karin Kravitz at nwhort@aol.com or call 206-780-8172. 📧

Jackie White is an NHS board member and is a member of the Tours Committee.

THE FLOWERING ONIONS . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The shady thug, sold by shameless companies as "good for naturalizing" (meaning "Weed! Don't buy me!"), is *A. triquetrum*. Once planted you'll work very hard to expel it from your garden—if ever. It multiplies by bulbils and seeds. The flower stem has three sides holding up white flowers.

There are many weeds among the genus. Do research and be cautious of a novelty like *A. 'Hair'*, a stinky-headed Medusa. Each little flower makes a bulb. Plant it, and you'll be pulling out your "hair" for years.

Only one book *Alliums: The Ornamental Onions* by Dilys Davies has been published for the general gardener. It is an excellent starting point to learn more. The Pacific Bulb Society has a "wiki" with a great section on alliums. Not all are easy to purchase. Some you'll have to grow from seeds. Check around

at the smaller specialist nurseries for growing plants of the little rarities. Then visit your local nursery/garden centers in September and October for bulbs of various kinds. Enrich your own garden with these bulbous wonders. 📧

Jim Fox is a dedicated plantsman and buyer for an Eastside nursery.

*Right: Allium zebdanense
(Jim Fox)*



NHS BULLETIN BOARD

~ SUMMER CLASSES ~

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Rockin' Around in the Garden with Sue Goetz

From different colors and sizes of gravel to shapes and colors of boulders, this class will help you sort out your options for your hardscape projects. Gravel patios, retaining walls, dry creek beds, and many other design elements in a landscape are defined by the type of rock used and how it is placed. Learn ways to incorporate rock creatively.

LOCATION: MORRISON GRAVEL/PORT ORCHARD

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hillside Gardening with Holly Zipp

Join Holly Zipp, head gardener at the Miller Botanical Garden, for a discussion about planting on garden slopes. This class will include a walk through the Miller Garden with special attention to how the staff has planted and managed the various slopes throughout the garden.

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

MONDAY, JULY 18, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Rebar Bending with Jane Lyman

Rebar garden stakes are indispensable, can be very attractive, and are easy to make. See how they are used throughout the garden and then learn how to make them from expert Jane Lyman. You'll also make at least two stakes to take home. The class will be held in Joanne White's garden that includes three ponds. Rebar benders will also be for sale.

LOCATION: WHITE GARDEN/REDMOND

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Flower Arranging from the Garden with Debra Prinzing

Debra Prinzing, garden writer, speaker, and author of the popular blog and forthcoming book *A Fresh Bouquet* will take us through the fabulous garden of Janet and Keith Patrick cutting appropriate flowers and foliage to demonstrate flower growing and design ideas for arranging in vases. She will create various arrangements as she explains her methods.

LOCATION: PATRICK GARDEN/BELLEVUE

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Seattle PlayGarden with Wendy Welch

Wendy Welch, garden designer for the Seattle Children's PlayGarden, and Liz Bullard, executive director, will give you the history of the PlayGarden and discuss the challenging process of designing a garden for children of all abilities. Wendy will lead a tour of the garden that includes a butterfly garden, living fence, chickens and bunnies, vegetable garden, storm water catchment system, and much more.

LOCATION: SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN/SEATTLE

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Great Plant Picks with Rick Peterson and Holly Zipp

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

LOCATION: MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN/SEATTLE

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

~ SUMMER TOURS & WORKSHOPS ~

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM

Day Hike in Tucquala Meadows with Daniel Mount

Join Daniel in one of his favorite places to view what he terms a "garden without a gardener." This day hike will give you an opportunity to view the wide variety of sub-alpine and herbaceous plants in meadows ranging from wet to dry environments. The hike will not be difficult.

LOCATION: EASTGATE OFF I-90/BELLEVUE

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

(LUNCH INCLUDED) LIMIT: 15

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Olympia Area Tour

The tour starts with a visit to Closed Loop Park, a Great Plant Picks demonstration site. It will also include a visit to GruB, a grassroots non-profit vegetable growing project that works with youth and low-income families, and a tour of a spectacular 10-acre private garden facing the Olympics with Northwest and European influences.

LOCATION: OLYMPIA

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

(LUNCH INCLUDED) LIMIT: 15

Meet the Designer

We've invited some of our local designers to show us their work, discuss their projects, and introduce us to their personal styles.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meet Chip Ragen

LOCATION: MERCER ISLAND

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meet Glenn Withey and Charles Price

Meet Daniel Lowery

LOCATION: QUEEN ANNE/SEATTLE

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

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

Meet Stacie Crooks

LOCATION: NORTH SEATTLE

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

~ SAVE THE DATES! ~

2011 MILLER LECTURE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7:30 PM

Lynden B. Miller, Speaker

LOCATION: MEANY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BEGINNING IN MID-AUGUST.

2011 NHS FALL PLANT SALE

Friday, September 16 noon-6:00 PM

Saturday, September 17 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

NEW LOCATION: NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9600 COLLEGE WAY N., SEATTLE, WA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RAY LARSON

AFTER THE COLDEST APRIL on record, spring has been especially late in arriving this year. One result of the late spring is that it has compressed the flowering season greatly. Some things are weeks late, some just a bit, and others seem pretty much on time. I hope that by the time you read this our days have settled into something of a warmer and sunnier consistency. I've been ready for summer for quite some time after our third bitterly cold winter in a row.

Partly due to the cool and damp weather, I still have several new additions to plant after the enjoyable and successful "NHS Spring Ephemerals...and More" plant sale on March 12. After Dan Hinkley's informative and entertaining lectures at the sale I was tempted into a few more hellebores, and with new and improved selections appearing all the time, I'm not sure I'll ever have enough. But that is another story, and I was more than happy to help support the cause of raising money for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. We doubled our proceeds from last year, and raised over \$10,000 for the library. With a matching grant from the Miller Foundation, the total amount raised for the library was in excess of \$16,000. Special thanks go to Dan Hinkley, Walt Bubelis, and Bob Lilly for their lectures and demonstrations and to the Library Committee and Plant Sale Committee for getting everything organized. We thank you all for your support of this worthy endeavor, and look forward to another fantastic event next year.

In other happy news, the NHS Elisabeth Miller Scholarship in Horticulture entered its 24th year with the awarding of three scholarships for 2011. **Hillary Burgess**, of the Environmental Horticulture and Restoration Ecology program at CUH, received a \$3,000 award to assist with her project that looks at the garden characteristics that influence pollinator abundance and species richness. In the same program, **Katie Murphy** received a \$1,000 award to continue her research into parking strips and their suitability for growing vegetables. From the UW Landscape Architecture department, **Leann Andrews** received a \$1,000 award for her project that investigates and promotes the use of worm composting techniques to build healthy soil in Lomas de Zapallal, an urban slum community near Lima, Peru.

Though it often takes a while to get here, nothing beats summer in the Northwest. Happy gardening! 🌱

Ray Larson is the president of NHS.

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CHILE: TALL, SKINNY, EXTRA HOT WITH ICE ON THE SIDE . . . continued from page 2

readily apparent along a fast-moving mountain stream, growing amidst dense colonies of the diminutive *Gunnera magellanica*. This member of the Scrophularia, or figwort, family shouts from a considerable distance and would be a dazzling component for moist soils in sun or shade.

Viola cotyledon

Though I have encountered *Viola cotyledon* in the past, with mounds of foliage that are dead ringers for that of a sedum or sempervivum, this year's early visit presented the opportunity to observe this species in flower. Growing at moderately high elevations



Viola cotyledon (Dan Hinkley)

in pure volcanic scree, this violet, in full flower, was an alpinist's dream, presenting a mass of large, scented soft lavender flowers that virtually obscured its unconventional folial format. This species has virtually no chance in cultivation except in the hands of the obsessed rock gardener armed with a high tech arsenal of horticultural accoutrements. However, that fact did not prevent me from celebrating its uncanny and perfect beauty. 🌱

Dan Hinkley is a renowned plantsman, author, and lecturer. See his website at www.danielhinkley.com.



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RICHEL STEFFEN

Alstroemeria aurantiaca and *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' taken in Stacie Crooks's garden

"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it."

Russell Baker, 1925— American Pulitzer Prize-winning writer known for his satirical commentary and self-critical prose.

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