



*the* **HPSO**  
*quarterly*  
SPRING 2018

A PUBLICATION  
OF THE HARDY  
PLANT SOCIETY  
OF OREGON



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front cover photo: *Iris* 'Multiplicity' from Xera, photo by Bob Hyland

photo this page: *Teuchrium hyrcanicum*, *Sesleria autumnnalis*, *Aster* "Moench", *Yarrow*, and purple flowering oregano in Dieter Loibner's garden — page 4

# WINTER PROGRAM

Photos by Tom Berreto



Members enjoy the botanical displays at our winter program, where Paul Bonine and Amy Campion presented "Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: What's Trending."

*welcome!*

## TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

December 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

We're pleased that you have recently joined our ranks. We hope HPSO offers you the same gardening inspiration, guidance, and camaraderie that has sustained so many of our longtime members, and we look forward to meeting you at event like our winter program and Nerd Night, and other programs, plant sales, and open gardens.

- |                  |                    |                    |                 |                         |                      |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Judy Ahmann      | Corinna Borgardt   | Paula Dembroski    | Jean Hauge      | Mark Krautmann          | Javier Perez         | Erica Smith       |
| John Ahmann      | Jason Borghardt    | Anna Dudash        | Chris Hembree   | Jolly Krautmann         | Elizabeth Peyton     | Mary Ann          |
| Becky Alex       | Dennis Bottemiller | Michael Edera      | Dale Hickey     | Nancy Kremiller         | Jeffrey Peyton       | Somerset          |
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| MaryAnn Amann    | Katherine Brevik   | Karen Fink         | Wade Hopkins    | Jennie Lai              | Tom Ralley           | Angela Stephan    |
| Ruth Amesbury    | Carole Cahill      | Robin Foley        | Lorraine Hopper | Doreen Larimer          | Jamie Regalado       | Nancy Strange     |
| Erica Amesbury   | Jim Cahill         | Joan Fondell       | Jason Horwege   | Jerry Larimer           | Jade Regalado        | Kyoko Streuber    |
| Merlin Arbor     | Robin Chandler     | Christine Gauf     | Patty Howard    | Cheri Larsen            | Erin Richards        | Thane Stumbaugh   |
| Jerry Arnold     | Jon Chandler       | Al Gauf            | Elaine Hutson   | Patricia Leon           | Christopher Richards | Karen Suher       |
| Jim Ashton       | Joan Chapin        | Wendy Geist        | Maan Jawad      | Bruce Leonard           | Morgan Rider         | Roger Swanson     |
| Jane Ashton      | Linda Cochran      | Jennifer Gold      | Judith Jewell   | Carol Lindsay           | Jill Riechers        | Jill Townley      |
| Marisha Auerbach | Marianne Colgrove  | Noah Gordon        | Keri Johns      | John Long               | Elaine Robin         | Connie Volpi      |
| Rachel Austin    | Nancy Congdon      | Lela Grayum        | Raine Johnstone | Phil Ludu               | Diane Romans         | elizabeth watkins |
| Ken Baker        | Lowell Cordas      | Geri Grieve        | Anna Joyce      | Patty Ludu              | Paul Romans          | Suzinn Weiss      |
| Gillian Baker    | Suzanne Cusick     | Terre Haberland    | Angela Kendrick | Victor Maldonado        | Paul Rosas           | Donna Whalen      |
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|                  |                    |                    |                 | Marilyn Norris          | Kathy Shearin        | Inge Winters      |
|                  |                    |                    |                 | Gretchen Olson          | Joanne Shintani      | Gwynne Woodward   |
|                  |                    |                    |                 | Mike Pajunas            | Robb Sloan           | Teakum Young      |
|                  |                    |                    |                 | Molly Patterson         | Gretchen Smith       | David Young       |
|                  |                    |                    |                 | Allison Pennell         | Nico Smith           | Riley Zarosinski  |
|                  |                    |                    |                 |                         |                      | Janet Kyle Zeider |

Eager to shop after a long winter, HPSO members flocked to "Plant Nerd Night", where six specialty nurseries presented their newest, rarest, and most special plants.



**NERD NIGHT** Photos by Loree Bohl



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Readers:

It's springtime in the great Northwest, so fittingly, the Quarterly is growing. We have two new writers from the HPSO blogging community—Ann Amato and Tamara Paulat. Each tells a wonderful tale of how it is to work with great plantsmen at well known and successful plant nurseries.

We also add Gail Langellotto, the coordinator of Oregon's Master Gardener program. Gail is an entomologist by training, and her work has focused on designing and managing gardens to best promote pollination, pest control, and human health and well-being. In this issue, Gail alerts us to the ongoing Japanese Beetle problem.

As always, Bob Hyland continues to amaze with his extraordinary plant knowledge and his ability to teach us about garden design—this time he helps us understand how to layer the garden for maximum interest throughout the seasons. I for one will refer to his article repeatedly in the future.

Sharon Streeter, one of the founding members of HPSO, shares a relatively newfound passion for rock gardens and the delights they bring. Amy Campion brings us a lovely review of Barbara Blossom's book *Love Letters to My Garden*. And Linda Golaszewski helps us "shop our gardens" to grow and create stunning flower arrangements.

Sadly, spring sometimes brings the need to say goodbye to a beloved favorite in the garden—for the Quarterly it's the fun, informative, and generally delightful Plant Focus articles by Tom Fischer. Tom has been a reliable participant in the HPSO Quarterly since the Spring 2015 issue (with 10 articles to his credit) and he will be sorely missed. His long-term career as editor-in-chief at Timber Press, his writing for such other illustrious publications as *Garden Design*, *Gardens Illustrated*, and *Martha Stewart Living*; his frequent speaking engagements, and his own garden demand his energy and attention now. We thank him for all he has contributed to the Quarterly!

**Would you like to write for the HPSO Quarterly Garden Design series; write about member gardens, become our photo editor; or help out more generally in ways that I haven't thought of yet?** If so, pleasemail me at [a.wilsonchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:a.wilsonchristensen@gmail.com).

Thank you to the dedicated writers who have continued to contribute to the *HPSO Quarterly* and make it the community magazine that it is.

Happy Gardening,  
Annette Wilson Christensen  
Managing Editor HPSO Quarterly

Volume 6, Number 2  
*the* **HPSO**  
*quarterly*  
A publication  
of the Hardy  
Plant Society of Oregon

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To view a pdf of the *Quarterly*, please visit our website.  
4412 SW Barbur Blvd, Suite 260, Portland, OR  
97239 | Office and library hours: Tues-Fri  
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**Hortlandia**

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON'S  
**Plant & Garden Art Sale**

Saturday & Sunday, April 14-15, 2018  
10am to 3pm at Portland Expo Center

# *Orlaya grandiflora*

## Cretan lace flower



It strikes me, hardy planters, that at this time of year we are apt to get a wee bit too focused on perennials. We go into tizzies for the latest epimedium or pulmonaria, forgetting that there is a varied world of hardy annuals begging to be admitted to the sacrosanct precincts of our gardens. The Mediterranean region is particularly rich in species that are beautiful in themselves and excellent companions for emerging perennials and grasses.

One that I have grown with extreme pleasure for several years is *Orlaya grandiflora*, sometimes called Cretan (or Minoan, or white) lace flower. It is a cousin to Queen Anne's lace (which is nothing more than the wild form of the humble carrot, *Daucus carota*) and *Ammi majus*, to name just two of a vast number of white-flowered umbellifers. But while it shares certain characteristics with that brimming assemblage, how different and delicate it is! Around the perimeter of each umbel are several pinwheels of large-petaled, sterile flowers surrounding tight clusters of small-petaled fertile flowers, making the flower head look almost like that of a miniature lacecap hydrangea. Jaded plant cognoscenti have been known to swoon upon first encountering *Orlaya* in its springtime glory. These exquisite flowers (which have a long vase-life, by the way, and are highly attractive to pollinators) appear from April into July, ceasing only when summer's heat and drought kick in. Some English gardeners report continuous bloom from spring until October, but you know what English summers are like. The plant itself is branched and sparsely furnished with finely cut, ferny foliage, reaching about two feet across and high. Because it's so open and airy, other plants can grow easily in its vicinity.

By late summer, the plant will have dried out and turned light brown. This is the time to pull it out and collect seed, which is the only way to propagate it. (Seed can also be obtained from specialty nurseries, and, if you're lucky, you'll encounter young plants at some of our outstanding local nurseries.) Be careful: the seeds are covered with tiny spines that can lodge in your skin. My preferred strategy is simply to pull up an entire dry plant and shake it gently where I want seedlings to appear the following spring. In any case, seed should be sown no later than autumn; it will sprout about the time the first crocuses appear. In my experience, self-sown seedlings have never become a nuisance. In fact, I usually wish I had a few more. Be mindful of the small, ferny seedlings when you're doing your early-spring cleanup.

Almost every reference you see to *Orlaya grandiflora* states that it is "rare and endangered." This is a puzzle. After much online searching, I could find no confirming evidence that it is endangered in its native range (which several sources give as simply "the Mediterranean" rather than Crete specifically). However, I did stumble across an academic journal article that discussed its status as a "rare lime field weed" in continental Europe. The article was in German, but after several hours with my trusty bilingual dictionary (my sacrifices on your behalf, hardy planters, are truly infinite), I was able to suss out that it is only "rare and

endangered" in agricultural settings, where modern farming techniques have led to its decline, along with that of many other annual wildflowers. Even so, there are naturalized populations in almost every country of Europe, from Italy in the south to Sweden in the north.

Farmers may not be friendly to *Orlaya grandiflora*, so it's up to us gardeners to take up the slack. It's a rare burden that is so easily borne and yet yields such delight.



# A West Slope Oasis

story and photos by Dieter Loibner & Lisa Gabel



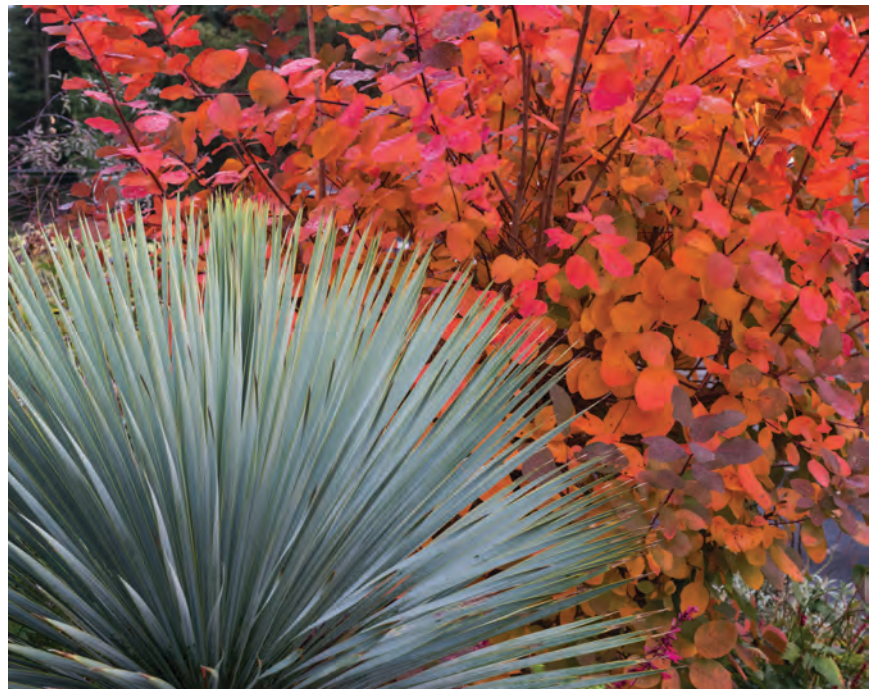
*Teucrium hycranicum*, *Sesleria autumnalis*, *Aster* "Moench", Yarrow, purple flowering oregano



*Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail', *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'



*Yucca gloriosa* 'Tricolor', *Eryngium alpinum*



*Yucca rostrata*, *Cotinus* 'Grace'

It's been better than 10 years since we packed up the U-Haul to move from the Bay area to Portland. It was a big move at a momentous time in our lives: New job, new school, new house, and a new garden. By driving up on I-5 for 10 hours, we went down in botanical zip code, from Zone 9 to 8. Leaving behind California's hustle and jammed freeways was less heartbreaking than saying goodbye to the Meyer lemon tree that grew in in our backyard. But finding the perfect not-so-big house here in the West Slope neighborhood helped with the transition to the Pacific Northwest.



*Teucrium hycranicum, Knautia macidonica*

The work to make this place our own is never done, but from the beginning it had an inalienable quality that still impresses us: It sits on a southwest-facing, 10,000 sq.ft. lot, which is largely level but has a slope in the back and a fortified terrace in the front. It also has plenty of afternoon light and warmth, especially in the summer, when the sun arcs over the maples and pines across the street. Due to the full sun exposure, we decided to stick with the drought tolerant and habitat friendly practice we used in California, where our yard was certified by Alameda County as a Bay Friendly Garden. Continuing in that spirit we incorporated composting, mulching, and the reduction of water use. We also stayed away from chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and an automated irrigation system.

For the various vignettes we chose plants that suit our thermal zone at 500 feet for cold hardy Mediterranean plants. Getting there required serious sweat equity, because the backyard slope initially was a weed patch of epic proportions, with thriving Himalayan blackberries, thistle, and construction debris. After what seemed like an eternity of aggressive digging of the far-flung root systems, we planted three *Cercis canadensis* for structure on the back slope, and for the front terraces *Cotinus* 'Grace', Bloodgood Japanese maple, and *Melianthus major*.

The general approach to our naturalistic garden style is informed and inspired by The High Line in New York and



*Salvia 'Caradonna', Phormium, Bupleurum fruticosum*

Cornerstone Sonoma. It is our interpretation of functional horticulture that pleases the senses and also provides nutrition for our family and food for the birds. From the vegetable garden we harvest tomatoes, salads, shallots, beets, squash, and herbs, along with the fruits of the blueberry bushes, persimmon, and dwarf apple trees. Perennials such as Joe Pye weed, Agastache, Echinacea, milkweed, and various salvias feed birds and insects.

The front terraces are dominated by a pair of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail' (which is not given supplemental water), C. 'Grace', and *Melianthus major*, with rosemary and prairie perennials mixed in. The front patio functions as an outdoor dining area screened by a slatted cedar fence. A nearby large Vietnamese urn is now a soothing fountain. The front yard is anchored by the impressive *Yucca rostrata*. To link the various garden areas around the house, we opted for a looping pathway of sharp ¼ ten gravel edged with cut basalt edgers.

Summer evenings are dominated by the avian antics and aerobatics of hummingbirds chasing each other at breakneck speed and fighting for space amongst orange carpets of *Zauschneria* 'Select Mattole' and numerous *Agastache*. It's decidedly more serene in fall and winter when flocks of red-breasted robins or black-capped chickadees invade the yard as if under military command to methodically pick over the seed heads, which intentionally do not get cleared away.

The garden that surrounds our house on the West Slope pleases many different creatures on many levels by feeding mind, body, and soul. It's not a project with a start and a finish, but a work in progress that keeps us physically active and engaged with our environment. Not much more we could ask for. California and the lemons? A distant memory.



## Layering a Garden: Strategies, Decisions & Plant Selections

story and photos by Bob Hyland



A neutral layer of *Nasella tenuissima* (Mexican feather grass) is sandwiched between *Penstemon 'Enor'* (fore) and *Sedum 'Angelina'* (aft).



*Eucomis 'Sparkling Burgundy'* punctuates our summer hillside plantings with spikes of color.

The comment I most often hear from HPSO members on Open Garden days is "I love the way you layer plants and blend form and foliage." I find that feedback both flattering and revealing. We gardeners are such a visual lot, but we often don't see what others see in our own gardens.

On my website [www.hylandgardendesign](http://www.hylandgardendesign) I describe my garden-making style as naturalistic, rich in plant diversity, and layered in texture, color, and fragrance. Everywhere I've gardened (seven gardens and counting!) from USDA zones 5b-10b, I choreograph and promote a four-season, 365-day approach to garden-making. Why not? Here in the Pacific Northwest we are blessed with a long growing season and relatively short, benign winter. Keeping layers of garden interest going is easy.

Here are the guiding principles I use to achieve a layered garden look.



A layered full sun planting on our hillside. Structural shrubs include *Callistemon*, *Cotoneaster*, *Physocarpus* and *Ozothamnus*. *Amsonia hubrichtii*, *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies', *Nasella tenuissima* (Mexican feathergrass) are predominant fillers. *Kniphofia* 'Shining Sceptre' and cardoons punctuate the design.

### 1. Play topography and slope to advantage.

Work with the existing contours and levels in your garden, what I call the "lay of your land." My partner and I live on a slope with gradients from 30 to 45 degrees. We have tamed the tilt with a "gentle" hand using naturalistic dry-laid Columbia Gorge basalt walls that retain, step, and create flat spaces to garden. When combining plants on our slope, I am ever mindful of point of view and perspective. Will we be looking uphill, downslope, or across the terrain at a plant? What is the habit and form of the plant and how will it lead the eye and behave with bedfellows? Do I want plantings to be visual blocks or see-through to neighboring garden vignettes?



## 2. Plan for multiple seasons of interest.

The framework and year-round structure of woody plants makes a good garden. I have a bank of staple shrubs that I use repeatedly in my designs. Winter gardens always include vibrant color-twig dogwoods (*Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal', *C. alba* 'Baton Rouge', and *C. sanguinea* 'Winter Flame') and willows (*Salix alba* 'Chermesina' and 'Flame') that are cut to the ground or pollarded at varying heights to generate the most vibrant winter stems. Late winter and early spring call for wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*), *Arctostaphylos* 'Austin Griffiths' and numerous other Manzanita cultivars, winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima* and *L. standishii*), and witch hazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia* hybrids). Come spring I lean on flowering currants (*Ribes sanguineum*, *Ribes odoratum*, and the hybrid *Ribes x gordonianum*), *Ceanothus* hybrids, butterfly winterhazels (*Corylopsis pauciflora*), and *Loropetalum chinense*. In summer, small tree and shrub appeal comes with *Albizia julibrissin* 'Summer Chocolate' and crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Natchez', 'Osage', 'Tuscarora', and 'Hopi' among my favorite varieties), *Buddleia lindleyana*, and hydrangeas (*H. aspera* 'Plum Passion,' *Hydrangea quercifolia*, and others).

## 3. Understand plant structure and habit.

Foliage and flower layers should advance and recede in a garden to give depth to plantings. Deciduous shrubs and dormant perennials open space in fall and winter allowing companion plantings to move center stage. In our garden *Mahonia x media* 'Charity', 'Dan Hinkley', *M. eurybracteata* 'Soft Caress', and the

low growing *M. repens*, coast silk-tassel (*Garrya elliptica*), *Magnolia laevifolia*, and *Stachyurus salicifolius* rise to the occasion and are most appreciated in winter and early spring when there is less competition. Another example is *Tetrapanax papyrifera* 'Steroidal Giant' (rice paper plant), which in summer and fall has huge, tropicalesque three-foot diameter, parasol-like leaves that steal attention. Off-season it becomes a sparse grove of vertical clubby stems with lots of visual room around it.

## 4. Use the thriller, filler, spiller formula.

This often-cited rule for container design works for layered in-the-ground plantings. While simplistic in theory, I find it useful when combining plants anywhere. Thomas Rainer and Claudia West elaborate on this planting concept in their recent book, *Planting in a Post-Wild World*. They describe four basic layers to achieve a naturalistic, ecological planting that mimics plant communities in the wild. Layer 1 is the structural framework that forms the backbone of a planting. Layer 2 is made up of seasonal theme plants that take a visual lead at certain times of the year and then fade into the background. Layer 3 is the ground-covering plants that fill in all the in-between spaces down low. And Layer 4 comprises the filler plants that knit a composition and provide harmonious visual interest.

On our hillside garden, we've used snakebark maples (*Acer rufinerve* 'Erythrocladum'), *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Boulevard', shrubby *Cornus*, *Mahonia*, and *Ribes* to form a strong backbone. Seasonal theme plants like Atlantic poppy (*Papaver atlanticum*), *Crocoshmia masoniorum*, meadow foam (*Limnanthes*

*douglasii*), and ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) make strong color statements at certain times. Dependable, long-riding filler plants for color include *Agastache aurantiaca* 'Mandarin', 'Rainbow Sorbet', 'Shades of Orange'; *Catananche caerulea*; *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies', *Penstemon pinifolius*, *Penstemon mexicali* 'Pike's Peak Purple'; and many types of *Salvia*. I use sedges and ornamental grasses with abandon to fill space and knit planting compositions. *Carex testacea*, *C. glauca*, and *C. tenuiculmis* 'Cappuccino' are favorite sedges, while *Chionochloa rubra*, *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light', *Molinia caerulea* 'Variegata', and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' are my go-to grasses. Down low on the ground sun-loving *Ajuga*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Sedum* and *Thymus* knit plants at their feet. In dry shade workhorse ground covers include *Carex*, *Epimedium*, *Luzula*, and *Reineckia*.

## 5. Loosen your controlling hand.

I coach myself on this rule constantly. It is an automatic response to pull a weed, deadhead a perennial, and prune a stray branch looking to step out of bounds. I don't worry so much about plants that reseed, like poppies (*Papaver atlanticum*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), meadow foam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), and mulleins (*Verbascum thapsus*, *V. chaixii*, *V. olympicum*) planted intentionally in certain spots. We allow a few roadside weeds to enter and frolic in our borders from surrounding roadside edges of Forest Park. My favorite weed to pamper and edit is teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*). I allow it to bounce around and punctuate plantings with its sturdy, prickly stems rising four to eight feet tall with colorful combs of lavender flowers opening in whorls from the midsection to top and bottom.

*continued on inside back cover*



A layered shade planting. Clockwise from upper left: *Mukdenia rossii* 'Karasuba' 'Crimson Fans', *Hellebore*, *Polystichum munitum* (western sword fern), *Saxifraga stolonifera*



Perennials with see-through stems add depth and bleed views of surrounding companions. Fleeceflowers, *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Orangefield' and *P. microcephala* 'Red Dragon' do the job in our garden.



photo by Sharon Streeter

# Rock Gardens: The Next Big (Small) Thing

by Sharon Streeter

photo by Christine Ebrahimi

British plantswoman Beth Chatto, headline speaker for the 1984 study weekend that launched the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, stared at *Xerophyllum tenax* on the slopes of Mt. Hood and said, "If I lived in Oregon, I wouldn't have a garden. This," she proclaimed, taking the whole of the Columbia River Gorge and the Cascade Range into her arms, "would be my garden."



*Lewisia cultivar*



troughs

Rock gardeners understand her reaction. They agree that those plants, often no larger than the palm of your hand—plants that could tolerate high altitudes, rocky terrain, and sharp inclines—are delightful. Hike with rock gardeners, and you will stop frequently for flowers no larger than your thumbnail. Unlike Chatto, they are not content to see alpinists in nature alone. They want to grow them in their flatland, low-elevation gardens. These are rock garden people. And now I am one of them.

This hasn't always been so. As a beginning gardener, I was timid about what I perceived as "difficult" plants. My involvement with the Berry Botanic Garden brought an appreciation for troughs and rock gardens, but they were a sideline for me. Hiking into the Columbia River Gorge and the foothills of the Cascade Mountains introduced me to a plethora of wildflowers, but they didn't take hold for me as a gardener. In the early 1980s, when I began attending hardy plant study weekends in Edmonds, I became swept up in the fever for the newest cultivated hardy perennial. Smitten by the likes of *Crocsmia* 'Lucifer' and the lush *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona,' I joined the frenzied ranks of

gardeners hauling new varieties—the bigger the better—from afar into our small corners of the earth. It was much later that I took a serious look at rock garden plants—the jewels in the crown of hardy perennials.

The North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) had its beginnings in 1934 on the East Coast. Hankering to be part of the action, Portland gardener Molly Grothaus contacted local members of NARGS, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and the Alpine Garden Society in 1966. "It can get very lonely out there without a few people with whom to talk plants," she said. Twenty-three avid gardeners responded to her invitation. Within six years, the Columbia-Willamette Chapter had formed for those who live and garden primarily in northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington.

Rock garden plants grow all around us in the Range, the Coast Range, the Columbia River Gorge, the Siskiyou, and the Willows. While gardening options for Chapter members run the gamut from containers to steep hillsides, we all

enjoy the challenge of growing plants whose natural habitats are often found above 6,000 feet, where they may be tucked into rocky crevices or tumble from sun-baked scree, for most of the year under cover of snow.

Many rock gardeners started as I did—filling their personal landscape with desirable trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs until they ran out of space. Those years of experience yielded a breadth of expertise that comes through at Chapter meetings. Interests range from seeing plants in the wild to creating rock gardens on the ground and in containers, although members also tend woodland gardens, sow seed for small bulbs, collect small rhododendrons, and raise hardy orchids.

Increasingly available from local garden centers, rock garden plants mainly come from rock gardeners who are generous with plant stock and information. These plants do not survive in perennial borders. They cannot compete with rampant perennials, and they do not tolerate our clay soil. The challenge is to provide the right growing conditions—exposure, protection,

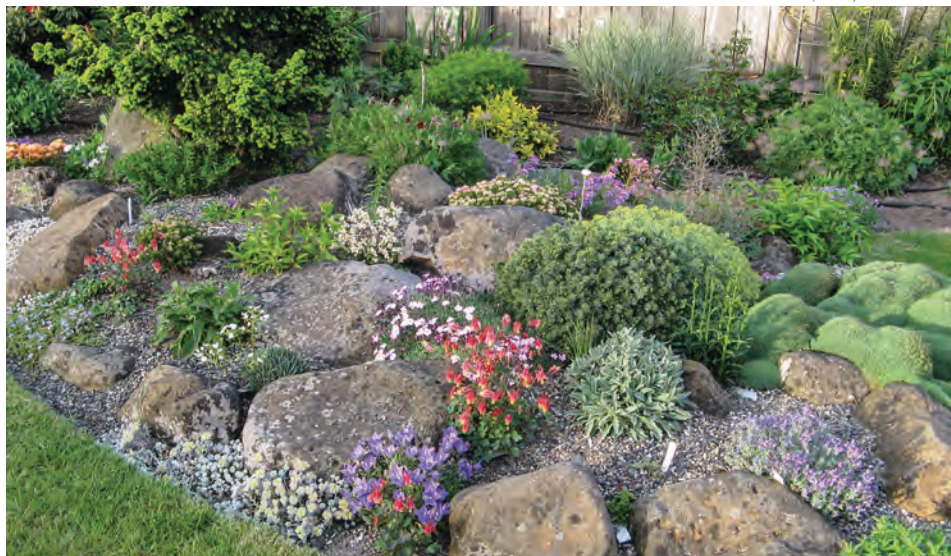
modified soil—nothing that can't be accomplished with care and ingenuity.

A rock garden is NOT a pile of rocks or a big chunky wall. It is a garden in which rocks are incorporated to meet the needs of plants whose habitat is mountainous terrain, glade, or open meadow. Rocks serve as shade, insulation, drainage, and in some cases, a beautiful frame for a particularly desirable specimen. A bit of trickery can accommodate the most finicky of alpinists. Some gardeners go so far as to construct cold frames, cool greenhouses, and tunnels. In fact, for most, alpinists' needs are few, and they are generous of bloom. For a good many rock gardeners, the more difficult the better. The weirder, the fussier, the more fascinating. Rare is exciting. Small is good. Propagation is always a hot topic.

Today, after nearly 50 years of monthly meetings, Chapter members gather monthly in quiet ways to exchange successes and failures; share seeds, cuttings, and plants; and to openly covet plants that may be 1) weird, 2) ornery and insanely hard to grow, and/or 3) just simply beautiful. I say "quiet," because this group does not boast a membership of thousands. And these are not people inclined to toot their own horns. Rock gardeners tend to be humble. Respectful of the knowledge and experience of others, they often assume that what they have learned over the years is known to all. Not true! Rock gardeners are not only observant, patient, and determined, but also, quite often, trailblazers.

Chapter speakers are sometimes local, sometimes nationally renowned, and even sometimes internationally recognized experts. Recent Chapter programs have focused on small clematis, carnivorous plants, and the smallest of small rhododendrons. Members have shared trekking in South Africa; botanizing in the Beartooths, Bighorns, and Rockies; and ferreting out the latest news from the British Isles, fatherland of plant exploration. In a wonderful bonus, members also may gather to package an amazing assortment of donated seeds for the national exchange, with the opportunity to try otherwise unavailable seeds in their own gardens.\*

At our March Pot Show (weather permitting!), tables will be ablaze with blooms. Imagine fully flowered alpinists in tufa, or clay pots giving home to the finicky *Silene acaulis*. Picture a flowering hummock of *Androsace alpina*. Androsaces, according to Duncan Lowe in his



Christine Ebrahimi's garden has seven rock gardens, a sand bed and 20 or so troughs.

photo by Dave Dobak



tufa planting

photo by Terry Laskiewicz



botanizing hike at Volcàn Casablanca, Chile

essential book, *Cushion Plants for the Rock Garden*, have "perfected the ability to live in the most awesome places." Even without flowers, the embroidered leaves of encrusted saxifrages are a perpetual source of fascination. The Pot Show showcases what we can do with these unlikely prospects.

Although I seem to have graduated from large to small, the two are not mutually exclusive. Robust, hardy plants will long be with us, but I predict: rock gardens are the next big small thing. We invite you to see for yourself. Be sure to visit our table at Hortlandia. Come talk plants with us!



*Sharon E. Streeter was a co-founder and first President of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon back in the year 1984, when the society was small and longed for big.*

\* Note: participation in the national seed exchange is available only to members of the national organization. Dues are currently \$45.

The Columbia-Willamette Chapter of NARGS convenes at 7:30 pm, the third Tuesday of the month (except August and the July picnic) at The SMILE Station, 8210 SE 13th Avenue (Sellwood neighborhood). Dues are \$15 a year. Visitors are always welcome. Our April meeting will feature Bellevue gardener and plant collector Claire Cockroft speaking on Asiatic Primulas and her recent plant expedition to India and China.

**Columbia-Willamette Chapter:**  
<http://www.cwnargs.org/>

**Siskiyou Chapter:** <https://siskiyousummits.weebly.com/>

**Northwest Chapter** (Puget Sound area): <https://www.nargsnw.org/>

**North American Rock Garden Society:** <https://nargs.org/>

# Working for Joy Creek Nursery

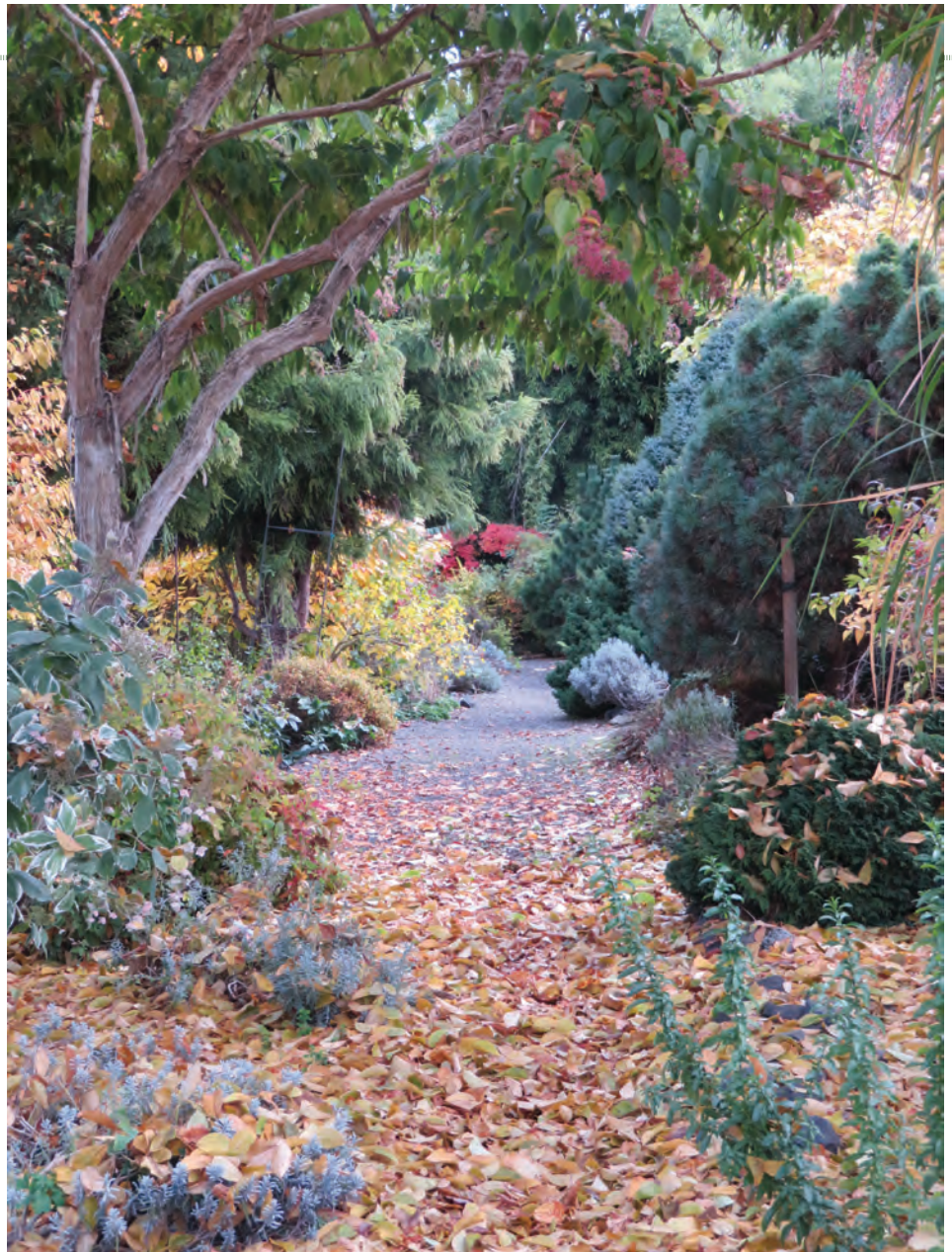
story and photos by Tamara Paulat,  
[chickadeegardens.com](http://chickadeegardens.com)

As an obsessed gardener in the Pacific Northwest, I am especially lucky to have an abundance of world-class nurseries from which to shop; we really are the envy of much of the gardening world in this regard. What if, as the dream goes, I could work at one of those top-notch nurseries and experience gardening not only year-round, but from a completely new platform? Call me double-lucky because after my husband and I moved from Portland to a two-acre property in Saint Helens, I found myself close to one of the most respected nurseries, that is, Joy Creek Nursery near Scappoose.

Would they take me on as a newbie? I'll save you the suspense: Yes, they took me on.

Before I dish the dirt on what it's like to work at a nursery, let's first establish how I pictured what working at a nursery would be. Basking in the warm spring sunshine in a cute sun hat while happily fluffing plants and chatting with customers. No office, just me and the great outdoors. Don't forget to pet the nursery mascot, Yowler, the rotund ginger-cat. No, I would not leave work each day with a carload of plants (as many who know me had predicted). I would demonstrate restraint.

The reality: I basically work for plants. I admit it. I don't think after two years I have ever gone home without at least one plant per day, on average. I won't do the math, but may I remind you that I have two acres to fill? The other reality is that it's really hard work. That warm spring day fluffing plants? Substitute a 38-degree March day with rain going sideways while I try to keep my incredibly muddy jeans from getting any wetter while weeding flats to go out on the tables. Get warm? Well, the barn isn't heated. Two pairs of gloves



A path through the gardens in autumn

might help. Yowler is hiding in the house by the wood stove. Smart kitty. Working in a warm and dry office sounds mighty fine in mid-March.

Then there's August, when the temperatures can exceed 100 degrees. Who shops in 100-degree weather? Folks do. That cute sun hat has turned into a survival garment to mitigate a little of the sunburn I'm sure to experience despite gallons of sunblock. There is no air conditioning outside. Everything in the nursery has to be watered. Three times. By hand. Everything. Yowler is nowhere to be found. He's hiding in the cool places under the barn.

Nearly every day I work at the nursery, I clock an easy five miles minimum on my pedometer. I come home tired, cold, wet, and muddy in spring and fall. In summer, I come home sweaty, scratched up, sunburned, and sore.

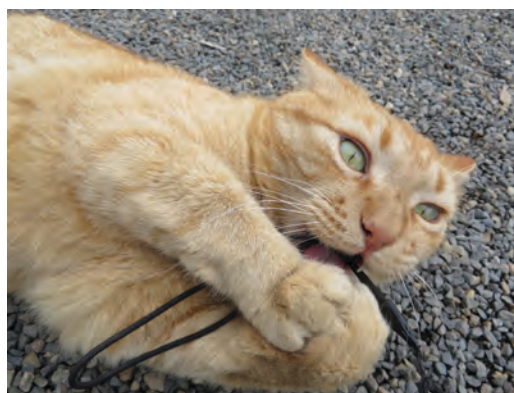
But I love it. I wouldn't trade it for the world. We are privileged to sell amazing plants to amazing gardeners who care about gardening. I learn so much about plants from owners Maurice and Mike, who are so very wonderful and generous with their plant knowledge. I also learn from Ramona and Kathy, plant addicts just like the rest of us, who happen to work in the office. I learn from fellow garden

bloggers Ricki and Anna who also work at Joy Creek. And I learn from customers, for many are far more knowledgeable than I. We have horticulture rock stars and groups and tours from all over the world visit Joy Creek regularly. It's a thrill to meet and learn from them. Ultimately, as a community, we learn from one another.

As employees, each of our strengths is nurtured, and we are trusted to do what we do best. In this spirit and because of my garden blogging experience, I am lucky enough to be the eyes of Joy Creek Nursery via social media, tasked with photographing and writing about the nursery and gardens weekly. Simply observing the same place throughout the year is an education: becoming intimately aware of every change really opens one's eyes.

This is why the car fills up with new purchases every week. "Why don't I have this plant in my garden?" is often the question my colleagues and I ask one another when we come across something interesting. "We all need an evergreen shrub for shade that also has fragrance!" is the chant as we each load up a couple *Sarcococca ruscifolia* into our cars. Ah, yes, it's been a garden stalwart for decades, but to some of us it is brand new and oh-so-exciting. That's what happens at a nursery, the excitement is infectious. When you're able to see a plant in its maturity do its sexy thing, you want one. In my case, you want three. We are all bonded by our common plant nerd-ness.

And, no, I will not go back to an office setting, no matter the pay or air conditioning. In the end, despite the constant weeding, watering, restocking of heavy flats up hill in gravel (both ways!), and basic physical tasks associated with a nursery that grows thousands of species of hardy plants, it is a wonderful community. We are made rich by our combined experiences. It is these experiences and the people that make me come back. It is about our shared knowledge and love of gardening. It is the place we create, Joy Creek Nursery. Yes, my two-acre garden is plant-rich with some amazing acquisitions from the nursery, but more importantly, my soul is richer for the experience.



top: grasses catch the light in late summer

above: *Filipendula* against the retail barn at Joy Creek Nursery

at left: Yowler the cat helps me with photographing the gardens weekly

# Working for Cistus Nursery

story and photos by Ann Amato,  
[amateurbotannist.com](http://amateurbotannist.com)

Where does one begin when talking about Cistus Nursery and its charismatic owner Sean Hogan? Sometimes it's not quite clear where one ends and the other begins, but we all know him and hopefully have at least a handful of his many unusual plants in our gardens. Cistus plants are often propagated from plants that he's selected in the wild for further cultivation in nursery and garden environs. Sean has selected and collected cuttings and seeds from all over the western United States and abroad. He's also coined a few expressions—and is known to be quite clever—so when he asked me one day if I wanted to be the Seedstress at Cistus Nursery it felt awkward to be simultaneously cracking up while also feeling incredibly honored.

My friendship with Sean began over a decade ago when I first visited Cistus on Sauvie Island, northwest of Portland. I was acquiring plants for the landscape at the Gordon House (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) at The Oregon Garden. Sean and I met, chatted about *Cercis occidentalis* trees, and quickly hit it off while talking and joking with one another. We've been friends ever since, and all in all, we've had a lot of fun, and a lot of confusion (on my end at least), with me trying to keep up with his encyclopedic knowledge and experience.

Sean quickly became a resource for me during my search to buy as many plants as possible with an HPSO grant I'd secured for the project at the Gordon House. He gave me ideas about where to source some plants on the list and where to find

*Iris unguicularis* 'Ginny Hunt' blooming in the display garden at Cistus Nursery. (Named for Ginny Hunt, who works at Suncrest Nurseries in CA and is the owner of the online seed shop SEEDHUNT.)



*Sedum obtusatum* along a ridge in the Rogue River—Siskiyou National Forest.



and collect some of the seeds. At that point I'd already been playing with seed propagation at home, and I think that he took note of that during our discussions because over time he's continued to nurture that part of me. At some point I'm sure we talked about my childhood interest in seeds, and that I'd had an elderly soils physicist mentor who taught me about plant science, but honestly I didn't think much of my childhood exploits. He always noticed my seediness though.

Not long after leaving the Gordon House I began my blog Amateur Bot-ann-ist. I was dealing with chronic illness issues and needed to focus on something else. The blog has continued to be something special in my life that has drawn wonderful people to me. I've written about seeds, collecting seeds in the wild, garden visits, the troubles of gardening while being chronically ill, and even about gardening during a divorce.

The Seedstress job at Cistus Nursery began in the fall of 2016, and each week since then I've looked forward to the time I spend there. Our propagation team is one of the best groups of folks I've ever worked with, and I'd like to think we're comrades. Wandering around the display gardens and through the greenhouses looking for seeds is part of my job, but for the most part, either Sean or someone else has already collected seeds for me. I process them before I store them, but that's best left for another article about propagation. Whenever Sean travels, I can always expect labeled seeds to show up afterwards. These seeds always give me extreme wanderlust, and I did get to go on the road with Sean and a group of Cistus folks to the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest during the fall of 2017. I tend to collect in the wild on my own, but it was much more fun to do so with a group of fellow plant lovers.

When I'm at work I usually focus solely on seeds, but I try to help out with anything I can when things need to get done. When it snowed, I shoveled snow. I've propagated *Pelargonium* plants and

succulents. I help to pot things up in the potting area. During a volunteer workday I helped to plan and prepare food for helpers, and one of my other regular activities is to add photos to the Cistus Nursery account on Instagram.

My coworkers are frequently younger than I am, and they're usually full of energy and excitement about the many life adventures ahead of them. What brings us together though is Cistus Nursery and a love of plants and nature. The work environment fostered there isn't just about the labor we do, it's also about the traveling done. We're an eclectic and inquisitive

collection of folks who are all creative wanderers interested in nearly every corner of the planet, but for now, for the time we're together, we're restricted to exploring the nursery as we work. As the plants grow, and move, and change, so do we.



*Polystichum lemmonii* spores collected by Sean Hogan during one of his many plant collection trips in Southern Oregon

*Aristolochia californica* 'Bridge Party' in the display garden at Cistus Nursery





lilies and a few dahlias ready for picking



summer whimsy

the chicken yard



winter line arrangement



# Shopping the Garden

story and photos by Linda Golaszewski,  
Rooms in Bloom

Our desire for a visually pleasing yard/garden has grooved nicely with my growing need to have the garden be a place where I could “shop” flowers and greens in my evolving career as an event planner and floral designer. While I can’t rely on our Northeast Portland garden for everything, I’m getting more and more mileage every year. Designing for weddings and events has been enhanced using the garden’s bounty. Sometimes material hasn’t been available through local markets or growers, other times what I’ve grown has helped keep the cost down for a young bride and groom. And still other times....well the garden has helped me correct ordering mistakes (the wrong color dahlias for instance). And finally, it’s allowed experimentation with different materials and plants.

The garden is not, strictly speaking, a cutting garden. Plants are purchased and sited with some order and attention to place, but often depend on whim (and

plant lust). We’ve learned, as most do, through trial and error. Currently we have three specific areas or rooms and then additional “random” spaces that are less planned out on a 100’ x 100’ foot lot. Every area has something to offer for cutting and use. Let’s take the “chicken yard,” which we specifically redid for our chickens (really). In this part shade/shade area, my cutting flowers and plants include several hydrangeas (both mop head and lace cap), old fashioned calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), *Sarcococca ruscifolia*, plenty of hostas, Chinese fairy bells (*Disporum longistylum* ‘Green Giant’), *Abutilon* (overwintered with protection), and a number of shrubs and vines.

The main flower bed is packed with dahlia, alstroemeria, hardy ginger (*Hedychium*), lilies (both Orientals and Asiatics), and more. This bed, in full sun, is flanked by asparagus and blueberries but also contains a persimmon tree, several clematis, and a few other shrubs. This





arrangement with Chinese lanterns

area is a basic summer cutting spot, with something in bloom (mostly the dahlias) from mid-June til frost. I know not everyone likes dahlias, but I find them a versatile flower in a decent spectrum of color, good for summer weddings.

I do have some strategy. One, I keep an eye out on Pantone color of the year which tends to influence what brides want. Last year it was “Greenery” and that was a joy—pretty much any green in the garden was fair game. This year it’s “Ultra Violet,” a kind of intense periwinkle blue. Unfortunately, flowers of this color are rare. Fortunately, hydrangeas, anemones, carnations, delphiniums and some clematis come in this shade, or close to it. I’m investigating what dahlias might work with this color scheme.

I also try to keep up on European floral trends since those designers tend to use floral materials in interesting ways. Finally, and this is not a strategy, I’m afraid, I buy what appeals to me, almost always keeping in mind how it will look cut and in a vessel.

The next question might be, how do I design? Well, take a walk around the garden with me and we’ll see what there is to pick this time of year (I’m writing in late January): hamamelis, sarcococca, skimmia (including the berries). We have drifts of hellebores in various shady spots, they are not quite ready to be a cut flower. (Note I finally learned the trick of keeping them alive as cut flower thanks to Linda Beutler. Don’t pick them til the seedpods have formed.) Lots of greenery—yew, rhodie,

acanthus, and a few things I can’t name. A very thorny Joseph’s Coat climbing rose in a protected area next to the house has a bloom coming on. So, we’ll take a few bits and bobs and find a container (I have way too many of those!). I can either do

a small massed arrangement or focus on line. I would be hard pressed to outfit an entire wedding this time of year, but I can regularly glean up enough to get a decent bouquet, promising more to come.

It surprises me when gardeners say they can’t arrange flowers. If you garden, you know the rudiments of color and design. You’re just taking these inside. And, if you’re open to being experimental, I believe pretty much anything in the garden is fair game. These flowers may not last as long as florists’ alstroemeria and carnations, but you’ll be pleased to know that your “localvore” Hortlandia-DIY instincts were well played. Go ahead, shop your garden.



*Note: I’ve been very much influenced by what I’ve read and seen through the years. Linda Beutler’s Garden to Vase has been a vast inspiration. The Floral Design Institute offers great training and videos. And our local gardens, especially the Japanese Garden and Lan Su, offer demonstrations and displays. All are ways to get your creative juices flowing for bringing the outside in.*

## The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and the Garden Conservancy

# OPEN GARDENS DAY

Saturday, July 14, 2018

—10am to 4pm—featuring:

- Eight Private Gardens
- Mini-seminars on Succulents at Garden Fever!
- Mini-seminars on Pollinators at thicket
- and a Wrap-up Party at Portland Nursery.

Visit [hardyplantsociety.org](http://hardyplantsociety.org) for more details.

Tickets also available at Garden Fever!, Portland Nursery, and thicket.



This is a fund raiser for the Garden Conservancy and the HPSO Grants Program



## A BOOK REVIEW

review and photos by Amy Campion,  
[amycampion.com](http://amycampion.com)

# Love Letters to My Garden

*Love Letters to My Garden* by Barbara Blossom Ashmun is like homemade mac and cheese and apple pie—comfort food reading for a drizzly winter day.

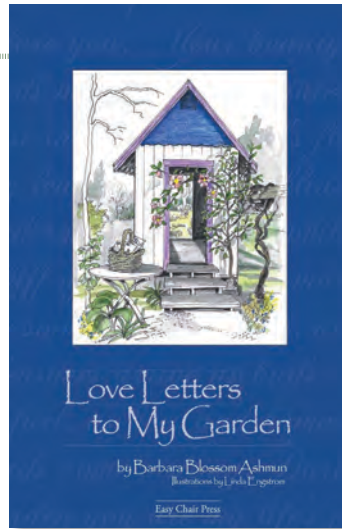
In this, her seventh book, Barbara details her 30-year love affair with her garden, sharing stories that all gardeners can relate to, paying tribute to people who have helped her along the way, and marveling at the garden's ability to heal and soothe us. On this last point, for example, she recalls the consolation she received while working in the garden during a tough time shortly after her divorce:

"Fear would drain away completely, as long as I kept gardening. Anger, too, found release when I dug, when I pruned, when I turned over the ever-growing compost pile behind the big laurel hedge."

Barbara lives here in Portland, and I have had the pleasure to visit her garden, so I have the advantage of being able to picture exactly what she is talking about when she describes the arrival of *The Sunbathers* to the garden, a larger-than-life work by sculptor Katy McFadden.



The 'Rooguchi' clematis that Barbara says she loves so much, she accidentally bought twice. Has this ever happened to you?



The Sunbathers sculpture by Katy McFadden.



A perennial bed in the dappled shade of a knarled tree.

And I have seen firsthand the fine results of her eagle rock patio and pergola that went in after she lost a mature sweet gum tree and the shade it had provided.

But back to the love affair. Barbara writes in *Love Letters to My Garden* that when she bought her property in southwest Portland 30 years ago, the backyard was a huge grassy field with a sawdust path running through it like a freeway. On a sunny slope, she recalls, scorched rhododendrons “looked like survivors of a forest fire.” She admits that most people would have fled the scene, but she thought the one-acre property was full of potential and seemed like a paradise, especially since her previous garden had been crammed into a small city lot.

She was unsure how to begin, but remembered a visit to Alan Bloom’s Bressingham Gardens in England and felt inspired by it. Mr. Bloom had made a curious impression on her: “A tall man with long white hair, bushy eyebrows, two gold hoop earrings, and a fierce look in his eyes, he reminded me of an elderly pirate,” she writes. It was his use of island beds that got her thinking and which are now the hallmark of her own garden, pictured here.

She learned the importance of edging the beds with low, sharp-looking perennials with excellent foliage, such as heucheras.

My favorite essay in the book is “Kali Helps Me Garden,” in which Barbara describes the will for destruction that must be embraced in a mature garden. There are always plants that overstep their bounds or don’t work out as intended, and one must work up the courage to be ruthless in editing them.

“Lately I’ve become Kali, the Hindu goddess of destruction,” she writes. “Wearing a necklace of skulls and a skirt of human arms, holding a severed head in one of her four hands, Kali is a terrifying vision.



island garden beds inspired by Bressingham Gardens in England

Her ferocious energy combats evil and decay—she destroys in order to recreate. And let me tell you, in the garden, I am Kali.”

Barbara also happens to be one of the sweetest, most generous, kindest people you will meet, and she is a pillar of the gardening community in Portland and beyond. She was one of the founding members, in fact, of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, which is a wonderful non-profit gardening group with a membership of 2,500 today. It was through this group that I met her and got to tour her garden.

You can buy *Love Letters to My Garden* on Amazon.

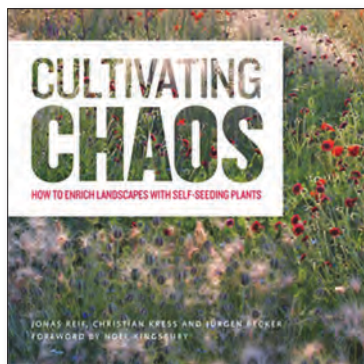


*Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbara Blossom Ashmun.*

Patio and pergola replaced a lost tree.



Here are some great books, many newly published, that are available in the HPSO library. The library/office is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



### **Cultivating Chaos**

by Jonas Reif, Christian Kress, Jürgen Becker

“Self-seeding plants can create naturalistic gardens of great charm, but left to their own devices quickly spiral out of control. Maintaining the balance of plants so that a small number of robust species do not evict the others and developing the structure of the garden are important techniques to acquire.

Taking inspiration from the gardens of Christopher Lloyd, Derek Jarman and Henk Gerritsen. Cultivating Chaos teaches how to prepare your soil for improved germination, guide your planting as it evolves, and create different ecological niches from which will emerge beautiful, species-rich gardens.”—Timber Press



### **Grow a Living Wall**

by Shawna Coronado

“Sometimes called ‘Green Walls’ or ‘Vertical Gardens,’ living walls are easier than ever to plan and grow! *Grow a Living Wall* is the first wall-gardening book to focus exclusively on the needs of home gardeners. Make your vertical garden environmentally friendly and sustainable. It’s easy with author Shawna Coronado’s help! One of her themed vertical gardens is stocked mostly with flowers to make it a haven for bees and other pollinators. Other gardens are filled with vegetables and herbs so anyone with an outdoor wall can grow their own food—beautifully!”—Cool Springs Press



### **The Less is More Garden**

by Susan Morrison

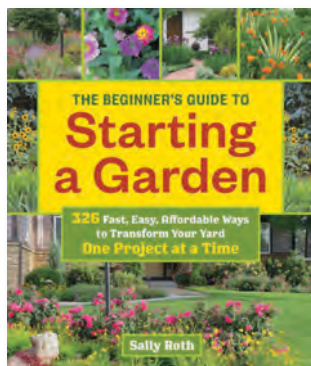
“*The Less Is More Garden* shows you how to take advantage of a small yard. Designer Susan Morrison offers dozens of savvy tips on how to personalize a space to match a specific lifestyle, draws on her years of experience to recommend smart plants that will provide seasonal interest, and suggests hardscape materials that match many different aesthetics. Throughout, tips are supplemented by inspiring photographs that show a variety of successful designs from around the country. Use the tips found in *The Less Is More Garden* to turn your standard lot into a unique space that is lovely, family friendly, and low maintenance.”—Timber Press



### **Garden Renovation**

by Bobbie Swartz

“Gardens, just like houses, sometimes need makeovers. The changes can be as minor as replacing a shrub or as major as pulling everything up and starting from scratch. No matter the size of your space or the scope of the project, the sage advice in *Garden Renovation* will help you turn a problem-filled yard into a paradise. Bobbie Schwartz draws on her years of experience as a garden designer to teach gardeners how to evaluate the plants and features present in their yards, determine what to keep and what to remove, choose the right plants and design plans for successful remodels, and how to know when to hire help.”—Timber Press

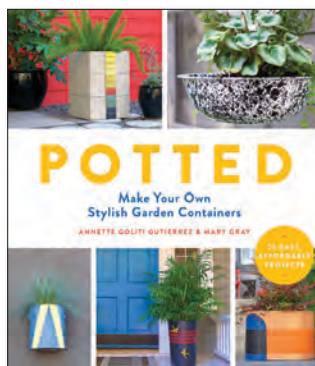


### **Beginner's Guide to Starting a Garden**

by Sally Roth

“The prospect of revamping a yard is daunting. Where do you start? How do all the various areas come together in a beautiful, cohesive way? *The Beginner's Guide to Starting a Garden* simplifies the process by showing you how to spend fewer hours (and a minimal amount of money) in the garden by tackling

one small area at a time. You'll find garden plans for ten unique areas—the entryway, the shady areas under trees, and more—that can be linked together over time to create a unified yard, and plants that are dependable, easy to find, and look good year after year.”—Timber Press



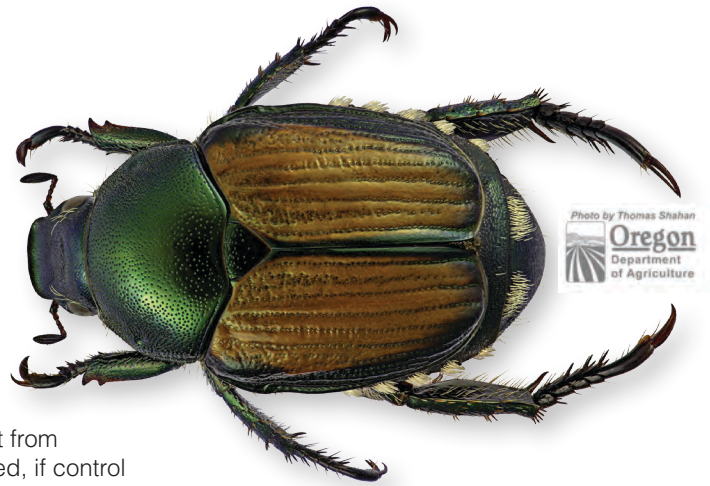
### **Potted**

by Annette Goliti Gutierrez and Mary Gray

“Outdoor style often comes at a high price, but it doesn’t have to. This lushly designed guide empowers you to create your own show-stopping containers made from everyday materials such as concrete, plastic, metal, terracotta, rope, driftwood, and fabric. The 23 step-by-step projects are affordable, made from accessible materials, and most importantly, gorgeous. They include new spins on old favorites, like the cinderblock garden made popular by design blogs or hanging planters made from enamelware bowls, along with never-before-seen ideas like a chimney flue planter and wall planters made from paint cans.”—Timber Press

# INSECTS! DISEASES! OH MY!

## JAPANESE BEETLE SPRING 2018 UPDATE



Hello Hardy Plant Society of Oregon members! My name is Gail Langellotto, and I coordinate the statewide Extension Master Gardener Program at Oregon State University. I hold the HPSO and its members in such high esteem and look forward to sharing garden-specific news and information with you through this column. You can learn more about our garden-related research by visiting: [blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab).

Japanese beetle was detected in Oregon in the summer of 2016. Over the past 30 years, this pest has been detected on multiple occasions within the state. For each prior detection, Japanese beetle was successfully eradicated. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) reacted quickly to the 2016 detection with the intention of again eradicating this serious pest.

If eradication efforts fail and Japanese beetle were to establish in Oregon, it would have wide-ranging impacts in yards and gardens, as well as for commercial agriculture. Japanese Beetles feed on the fruits, flowers, and leaves of various home garden plants and commercial crops, including: roses, grapes, orchard fruits, cane berries, corn, hops, ornamental trees, and a variety of nursery plants. If beetles get into nursery stock, it could impact exports from our state. Since nursery crops were the number one agricultural commodity for Oregon in 2016 (at a value of \$909 million dollars), Japanese beetle establishment would have serious consequences for the state.

Japanese beetle is an invasive pest that has established in most eastern states. By definition, an invasive pest is a non-native organism whose presence in a novel habitat causes economic and/or ecological harm.

There are four stages of invasive species management:

1. Prevention efforts are aimed at keeping novel pests out of an area. Prevention relies heavily on inspections of goods at ports of entry.

2. Eradication is feasible and can keep a pest from becoming established, if control efforts occur soon after a novel pest is detected.
3. Eradication becomes less likely as the pest population increases in size and in the geographic area occupied.
4. After a pest has established and spread, management efforts are aimed at suppressing the pest population in localized areas that might be especially sensitive (economically or ecologically) to the presence of the invasive pest.

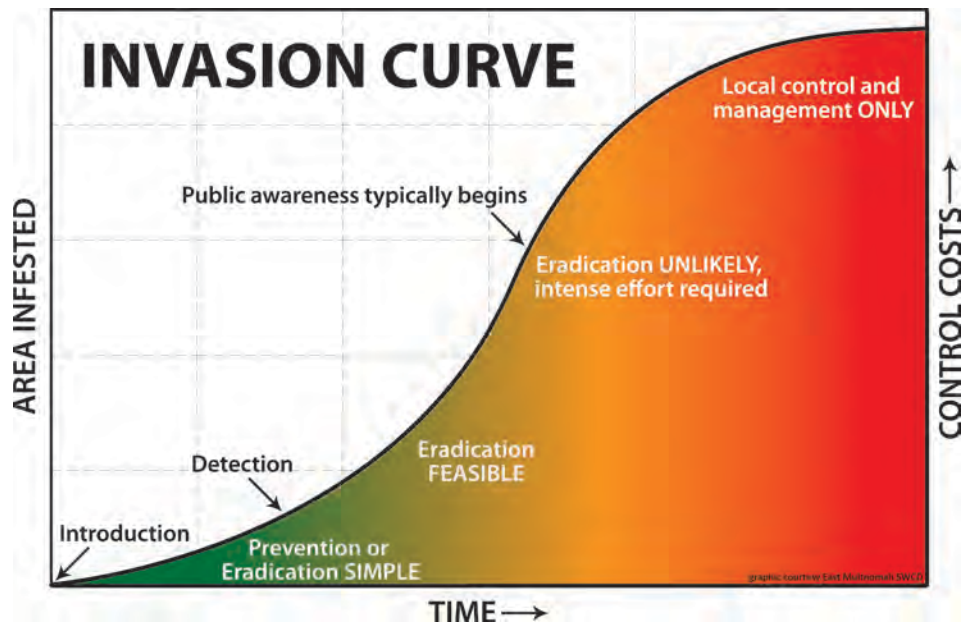
At present, we are at a stage where eradication is feasible. In 2016, the ODA detected 369 beetles in the Cedar Mill and Bethany neighborhoods adjacent to Northwest Portland. Soon after, the ODA kicked off a five-year project to wipe out the beetles, treating 2,121 yards on roughly 1,000 acres in 2017. Yard debris was quarantined and disposed of separately to prevent the insects from getting loose. Later that summer, the ODA detected more than 23,000 beetles, including about

750 beetles from outside the treated areas. Many of the beetles were detected by the same trap, which suggests that this pest is still largely localized. This April and May, the ODA will again treat yards in the Cedar Mill and nearby neighborhoods. Yard debris quarantines remain in effect. Yards within the defined treatment area will be treated with Acelepryn, an insecticide that targets the larval (or grub) stage of the beetle.

The ODA has set up a website to share information about its treatment plan. For more information: <http://www.japanese-beetlepx.info/> to find out whether or not you are in the treatment area, to ask questions, or to share your concerns. Let's all hope that the ODA is successful in its efforts to once again eradicate this pernicious pest from Oregon!



*East Multnomah Soil and Conservation District*





## Terry Wagner

When you talk to gardeners, no matter how diverse and varied their lifestyles, cultural or professional backgrounds, or political passions, there is always common ground. Even when we speak different languages, we can converse in botanical Latin and Greek! My conversation with Terry Wagner, our featured member this month, amplified this idea, and also serves to remind us all that our common humanity can save the planet.

Terry has been an HPSO member for more than 25 years. She recognizes how her relationship with gardening and garden friends has enhanced and supported so many aspects of her life.

Her childhood, on acreage near the community of Forest Grove, Oregon, enabled her to experience natural landscapes, the practical aspects of vegetable gardening and preserving with her grandparents, and having the responsibility of her own horse. Adult-

hood brought its challenges, including raising twin girls as a single parent, but Terry says that as the kids got older, and the demands of her job got tougher, getting out in the garden helped relieve a great deal of the stress—she credits this activity with helping to save her sanity. I bet a lot of us can relate to that!

Terry researched carefully the career paths she might pursue. She wanted a field where she could earn as much as any male could and one that provided good benefits. In the mid-seventies, for a recently divorced woman with small children, this was a tall order, but the Criminal Justice Program offered at Portland Community College fit the bill. During that time, she seized the opportunity to become the investigative aide to a well-known criminologist and reached her goal to become a detective—in five years! Her responsibilities included some of the toughest crimes to investigate. Terry once again emphatically states that gardening helped tremendously to manage the stress related to a difficult caseload. When she retired in 2005, she continued to work part time in the cold case unit, then several years ago she moved forward into full retirement.

Two years ago Terry decided to pursue her Master Gardener certification through Clackamas Community College. We discussed the tremendous benefits and ongoing education requirements the Master Gardener program provides. This led us into a discussion of the training's focus on ecological responsibility. Even the most nonchalant gardener is broadly aware of the climate change discussion, man-made pollutants, and the erosion of wildlife and pollinator habitat. Terry explains that the Master Gardener education program for the public focuses on restorative garden practices and the

overwhelming importance of understanding and managing our soil.

Terry gardens in Southwest Portland and particularly enjoys her raised beds, native habitat area, and certain reliable, easy care plants that provide lots of interest without time consuming and labor intensive attention. These include some euphorbia varieties, sedums, and bulbs. *Spirea* 'Magic Carpet' and *Rosa* 'Sally Holmes' are also her favorites, and they bloom for months.

Her volunteer record at HPSO is formidable. She chaired the Garden Conservancy Program from 2008 to 2016 and remains an active member of the committee. Terry also participates on the Grants and Scholarships Committee, and she especially enjoys the opportunity to showcase the wonderful projects the grantees produce when they present their displays at the HPSO annual program and the Garden Conservancy Open Day. You will find Terry at Hortlandia volunteering with the cashiers, where she loves to chat with the shoppers and see their purchases. She is also an active member of the Westside Interest Group and the Seedy Characters Interest Group. She loves to plant shop, of course, and delights in finding the little bauble nestled on the plant display table, where she can exclaim, "Ooh... Shiny!"

As a life-long gardener, Terry's advice is to bring the young into gardening, to get involved ("If you are not part of the answer, you are part of the problem"), and to remain curious. Terry also conjured up another useful quote: "If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got."

These are certainly ideas that stand firmly on common ground.



**Design: Layering a Garden**, continued from page 7

## 6. Inject aerial drama and doses of surprise.

Pepper your garden designs with surprise elements and aerial drama. A few favorite torches of color are *Asphodeline lutea*, *Digitalis*, foxtail lily (*Eremurus* 'Cleopatra'), pineapple lily (*Eucomis* 'Sparkling Burgundy'), red-hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Timothy', 'Shining Sceptre'), and *Gladiolus* 'Bolivian Peach'. I am forever addicted to perennials that rise and hover over garden borders with globes and orbs of color. You likely won't see any of my gardens without sweeps of *Allium afflatunense* 'Purple Sensation', clumps of lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus* 'Blue Leap', 'Joyful Blue', and 'Summer Nights'), or running stands of our native showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) that offer a nectar source for many butterflies and food source for monarch butterfly larvae. A very good thing!



*Bob Hyland is a Portland-based garden designer, public garden consultant, and owner of Contained Exuberance, a garden pottery and décor shop next to Xera Plants in southeast Portland. He gardens with his partner Andrew Beckman, Timber Press publisher, on the edge of Forest Park in Northwest Portland.*



Layer plantings with a color scheme in mind. Highlights include *Mentha longifolia*, *Nepeta Jr. Walker*, *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', *Agropyron magellanica* (the blue grass pictured).

Layers of unmown grass, *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star', *Diospyros kaki* 'Fuyu' frame our four-foot-diameter cedar sphere.





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*The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and whose mission is to nurture the gardening community.*

## UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

### HORTLANDIA

Saturday & Sunday  
April 14-15

### GEN(I)US PROGRAM Rock Gardening with Truls Jensen

Sunday, April 22

### INVITING VINES GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 26

### STUDY WEEKEND in Seattle, WA

Friday – Sunday  
June 22-24

### HPSO/GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAY TOUR

Saturday, July 14

### PLANT FEST

Saturday, September 15

### OPEN GARDENS

April through October.

For more program  
information visit [www.hardyplantsociety.org](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org)



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Rock Gardens—page 8