



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes
SUMMER 2020



Lilium martagon
Photo by Richie Steffen



Bellevue Botanical Garden



Bloedel Reserve

Puget Sound Gardens

by Rick Peterson

Images by Richie Steffen unless otherwise noted

The Puget Sound region is home to many exemplary botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories and a new website was recently launched to promote many of them. This new website is the inspiration of Sue Nevler who has long championed public gardens, particularly in and near her Seattle home. Sue worked tirelessly to see the idea of a central resource for information on local horticultural institutions and her concept came to fruition

this month. Currently, the following gardens are on the website:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Bloedel Reserve
- Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Dunn Gardens
- Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden



Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden





Dunn Gardens (Wikimedia Commons)

University of Washington Botanic Gardens

- Héronswood
- Kruckeberg Botanical Garden
- Old Goat Farm
- PowellsWood Garden
- Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
- Seattle Chinese Garden
- The Spheres
- University of Washington Botanic Gardens
- Waterfront Seattle

Sue's passion and support for gardens, horticulture, and plants is an enduring aspect of her life. Early on she was involved with agriculture and running a historical landmark farm. More recently she was a long-time volunteer and then first executive director of the Dunn Gardens in 2008. Currently, Sue is a board member of the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable

Foundation and she is also on the advisory councils of Heronswood, the Northwest Horticultural Society, and Bloedel Reserve. In 2017 she established a Puget Sound garden director's roundtable where leading garden staff meet several times a year to share ideas, especially for the promotion of gardens to the public.

Working with Brian Creamer and Myrna Ouglund of Spiderlily Web Design, based in Poulsbo, Washington, Sue gathered information and beautiful images for the new Puget Sound Gardens website. Go to <https://pugetsoundgardens.org/> to discover the many and varied gardens in our area, truly places of respite in our turbulent world. ☺

Rick Peterson is the Education and Events Manager at the Elisabeth Miller Botanical Garden.

University of Washington Botanic Gardens



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Words by Daniel Mount

I HAVE A FEW FRIENDS WHO ARE NAMED AFTER PLANTS. I know three Hollies, an Iris and a Lily. I know two men who named themselves Sequoia. I wonder, sometimes, why more of us don't have plant names: Oak, Orchid, or Potato.

Yet, so many plants are named after us.

Last winter, before the quarantine, I went to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. It was a frigid day and there wasn't a visitor in the garden but me. After dashing here and there to get out of the rain, I ended up in the conservatory.

New growth was emerging on the tender rhododendrons. I was captivated by one, Nuttall's rhododendron, or *Rhododendron nuttallii*.

Now, I know the specific epithet *nuttallii* from my botanical meanderings around Washington. But, I had no idea who Nuttall was.

Thomas Nuttall was an English botanist and zoologist who lived and worked in North America from 1800-1841. As a Yorkshire lad he immigrated

to the New World and settled in Philadelphia where he worked as a printer—his family's trade. He became intrigued by the plants in his new home and began pestering the botanists at the University of Pennsylvania with questions. They quickly saw in him a natural talent for understanding plants.



By 1810, he was making expeditions deep into the interior of the continent—off to the scarcely settled Great Lakes region, down the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. On one trip in 1816, he travelled alone and by foot through Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas. He discovered many new plants and was integral in the early understanding of America's flora.



In 1835, he headed to the Pacific Northwest. Leaving his teaching position at Harvard, he joined the Wyeth Expedition to explore the Columbia Basin. He had a restless curiosity, it is said, and the numbers of new plants he added to the flora was tremendous.

This won him great respect and a place in the annals of botany. It also earned him many honorific plant and animal names. There is a genus of clams called *Nuttallia*, and a Nuttall's Woodpecker



Rhododendron nuttallii – from Flora of Greenhouses and Gardens of Europe, 1845 (Wikimedia Commons)

(*Dryobates nuttallii*).

But, plant names are where we see him honored most. There are upwards of 165 plants worldwide that carry the specific epithet *nuttallii*, or a variation thereof. Twenty-one of them are listed in the revised *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*.

Most of those are weedy-looking little things. But there is a lovely bittercress, *Cardamine nuttallii*, and a showy tall larkspur, *Delphinium nuttallianum*. There is also a rare aquatic fern, Nuttall's quillwort, *Isoetes nuttallii*, which he discovered.

The only plant you might find in your garden from this list is the Pacific dogwood, sometimes called Nuttall's dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*. I don't think anyone plants them anymore, they are terribly vulnerable to anthracnose. The closest you can probably get is the Great Plant Pick 'Eddie's White Wonder', a cross between it and *Cornus florida*.

Nuttall spent his last years on an estate bequeathed to him by

an uncle with the stipulation he stay there 9 months a year. Nuttall longed for the stunning landscapes and fascinating flora of America, and made several shorter trips here before he became too old to travel. I wonder if he grew any of his beloved American plants in his garden. Was there a towering Pacific dogwood over his door? There certainly wasn't his namesake rhododendron, too tender for gardens even in the warmest parts of England, or here.

I planned to revisit the RSBG conservatory in spring to see this rhododendron's showy fragrant flowers, said to be the largest in the genus and often compared to lilies. Alas, conditions did not allow it.

There is always next spring. ∞

Daniel Mount is a former NHS board member and a frequent contributor to GardenNotes and other publications. You can read his blog at mountgardens.com.

GARDEN DESIGN WITH EDIBLES

Words and Images by Sue Goetz unless otherwise noted

Vaccinium 'Sunshine Blue' for an informal hedge – image by Richie Steffen

RECENT EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY HAVE BROUGHT A SURGE of interest in food and flavor gardening. Edibles are a hot commodity in garden stores, and the term Victory Garden is back in our vocabulary. It takes us back in history to gardens that were motivated by the function of food production and less about ornamentation and aesthetics of a “designed” garden.

In this surge of interest comes the questions of longevity and how edibles really fit into our garden lifestyle. Most common edibles, such as tomatoes, peas, and beans, do not fall into the “landscape” plant category. Good garden design relies on structure and plants that give the permanence of hedges, trees, perennials, along with striking colors or textures. A different perspective of adding edibles to a garden is to look for plants that can both add permanence and give something back for flavor and food. It is a more in-depth discovery, beyond annuals, to explore berries, fruits, and perennial herbs. Plants don't have to be in rows or closely guarded

in a prim and proper vegetable garden. They are planted as ornamentals that are nutritionally and environmentally beneficial as well.

Growing edibles is not just about where to put the tomatoes and how far will that squash vine spread out. A garden designed with edible plants has benefits that go beyond only a harvest of something to eat as it forces more interaction with the garden. Edibles teach how to nurture and care for healthy soil for productive crops and a need for non-toxic gardening practices. Deeper learning about plants comes from knowing what part of the plant you eat, as well as how to harvest, cook, and preserve it. It also makes us look at plants that have a relationship with other ornamental plants in the garden, like water requirements and cultural conditions. Plus, it is a win-win for pollinator habitats. Many edible plants also are highly attractive to pollinators because they need pollinators to produce their fruit.



Chive border



Parsley for low edging



Espaliered pear for vertical wall planting

Edible landscape plants produce a part of the plant that can be used for food or flavoring. The next step in design is how they add permeance, color, texture, or something aesthetic to a landscape. Think blueberry hedges for a hedgerow along a property border or lingonberries and highbush cranberries in damp areas. Play up design texture with artichokes, rhubarb, and vining golden hops and give container gardens a theme with colorful leaves like purple basil and a tidy growing patio tomato.

Edibles and herbs that play well in landscaping:

Hedges and Edges

Deciduous blueberries: Shrubs for berries and winter interest with colorful stems – red stems: *Vaccinium* ‘Chandler’, ‘Patriot’, ‘Blueray’, ‘Bluecrop’; yellow stems – *Vaccinium* ‘Northland’, ‘Bluegold’

Evergreen blueberry: *Vaccinium* ‘Sunshine Blue’ makes an excellent low growing hedge.

Highbush cranberry: *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* – formerly known as *Viburnum trilobum*.

Lingonberry: *Vaccinium vitis-idea* ‘Red Pearl’ and ‘Koralle’ make nice, low-growing edges at 12” to 14” tall, prefer moist soils.

Herbal Hedges and Edges

Rosemary: *Rosmarinus officinalis* – upright varieties like ‘Tuscan Blue’, ‘Arp’, ‘Hill Hardy’, and ‘Blue Spires’ reach 5’ to 7’ while the more compact *R. officinalis* ‘Salem’, grows to about 3’ – all are evergreen and drought tolerant.

Lavender: *Lavandula angustifolia* ‘Hidcote’ is 2’ tall × 2’ spread or large cultivars like ‘Grosso’ at 3’ tall × 4’ spread or ‘Phenomenal’ at 3’ tall × 3’ spread.



Rosemary as a herbal edge along a walkway

Chives: *Allium schoenoprasum* is 12” – 20” tall – the stems and flowers of chives create a linear grass-like informal edging that stays evergreen in mild winters.

Curly leaf parsley: *Petroselinum crispum* Crispum Group at 8” to 12” tall, makes a frilly low edging along a cutting garden or in a container garden.

Space-saving Espalier and Vines

Grow vertical with vining plants or horizontal with trained espaliered plants to save space and create living fences or privacy screens.

Apples, pears, and other fruits espaliered are typically grafted with multiple varieties on one plant to save space for pollination.

Columnar or “flagpole” apples are varieties that grow straight up and typically no wider than 3 to 4 feet. Varieties include *Malus domestica* ‘Golden Sentinel’ and ‘Northpole’.

Hops: *Humulus lupulus* is a fast-growing herbaceous vine, needs to be on a trellis or strong support. Leaves of *H. lupulus* ‘Aureus’ are bright chartreuse in springtime.

Flowering quince: *Chaenomeles japonica* is a shrub which can easily be espaliered. The variety ‘Victory’ is one of the cultivars that produce abundant fruit.

Trees and Large Shrubs

Obviously, the idea of fruit trees such as apples, pears, and cherries are common fruit-producing trees in a landscape. Here are some other trees and shrubs that can be planted for structure in garden design.

Bay laurel: *Laurus nobilis* is a large 10’ tall evergreen shrub is attractive and used as a privacy hedge.

Elderberry: *Sambucus nigra* is 8’ to 15’ tall with variegated or col-



Violetto artichoke brings drama with bold foliage



Golden pineapple sage



Foxley thyme and sage in a window box

orful leaf varieties like ‘Madonna’, ‘Black Beauty’, or ‘Black Lace’.

Fig: *Ficus carica* ‘Violette de Bordeaux’, a smaller variety at 6’ to 10’ tall.

Quince: *Cydonia oblonga*, a small tree from 10’ to 15’ tall with an open shape and pink or white flowers.

Drama

Large or colorful leaf edibles that add interest to mixed border plantings or containers.

Artichoke: *Cynara cardunculus* ‘Violetto’, also known as *C. scolymus* ‘Violetto Di Romagna’ has large silver leaves and tiny purple artichokes.

Basil: *Ocimum basilicum*, try ‘Amethyst Improved’ or ‘Purple Opal’ for their stunning dark purple foliage.

Pineapple sage: *Salvia Elegans* ‘Golden Delicious’, a variety with stunning golden foliage.

Culinary rhubarb: sometimes called *Rheum* × *hybridum*, many cultivars with big, bold leaves and colorful stalks.

Shiso: *Perilla frutescens*, “Red Shiso”, a red-leaved variety with a cinnamon or clove flavor and aroma or ‘Britton’, a variety with a mild mint or basil scent and it has larger green leaves and deep burgundy undersides. Both are used ornamentally.

Thyme: *Thymus* ‘Foxley’, a groundcover for ornamental and culinary use. The aromatic foliage has cream and green variegation.

Native Edibles:

Blue Elderberry: *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*

Highbush cranberry: *Viburnum edule*

Huckleberries: *Vaccinium ovatum*

Oregon grape: *Mahonia* sp.

Edibles for Small Spaces and Container Gardens:

Apple Tree: *Malus domestica* ‘Northpole’ or other columnar varieties

Basil: *Ocimum basilicum* ‘Italian Cameo’ or ‘Windowbox Mini’

Berries: *Vaccinium* ‘Top Hat’ and *V. corymbosum* ‘ZF06-179’ JELLY BEAN®, *Rubus idaeus* ‘NR7’ RASPBERRY SHORTCAKE® and *Rubus* ‘APF-236T’ BLACKBERRY BABY CAKES® are newer, compact varieties

Cucumber: *Cucumis sativus* ‘Bush Slicer’, ‘Spacemaster’, ‘Lemon’

Eggplant: *Solanum melongena* ‘Little Prince’, ‘Fairy Tale’

Fig Tree: *Ficus carica* ‘Little Miss Figgy’ is a dwarf cultivar from 4’ to 7’

Melon: *Cucumis melo* ‘Lil’ Loupe’

Peppers: *Capsicum annuum* ‘Baby Belle’, ‘Pizza My Heart’, ‘Miniature Chocolate Bell’

Pumpkins: *Cucurbita pepo* ‘Baby Mini Jack’

Squash: *Cucurbita pepo* ‘Small Wonder’, ‘Bush Delicata’

Tomato: *Solanum lycopersicum* ‘Super Bush’, ‘Window Box Roma’

Zucchini: *Cucurbita pepo* ‘8 Ball’, ‘Patio Star’

Sue Goetz, CPH, eco-PRO, is a garden designer, speaker, author, and NHS board member. www.thecreativegardener.com

Summer Flowering Shrubs, a Must for the Garden

by Richie Steffen

Images by Richie Steffen unless otherwise noted

Heptacodium miconioides

AS I PLANT MY NEW GARDEN IN KINGSTON, WASHINGTON, it has allowed me really to think about this garden's structure and development. After this spring, it is clear that I have the spring color down. I guess that should not be surprising since my last garden had near 300 rhododendrons and many of those were moved to the new property. Many late spring and summer blooming perennials have been added but managing those on a 10-acre piece of land will be time consuming. It has become obvious to me that shrubs are going to be the way to go to

reduce maintenance, provide structure, define spaces, and give long and varied seasonal interest. As the spring bloom fades, I have turned my focus to summer flowering shrubs.

It is easy to plant the obvious choices: hydrangeas (there is now a collection of over 60 cultivars), hardy fuchsia (10 cultivars with more soon to come) and roses (of which there are 3). Although I love these useful plants (and tolerate the roses), I really long for the more obscure to tuck into the garden beds.



Rhododendron 'Weston's Innocence' (Briggs Nursery)



Rhododendron 'Millennium' (Briggs Nursery)

A Familiar Genus with Surprising Bloom Times

One of the first groups of oddball and unique summer-flowering shrubs I have been adding are rhododendrons that bloom from early into mid-summer. Typically thought of as the queens of the spring garden, there are several selections of evergreen rhododendrons and even more deciduous azaleas that add color and often fragrance in June, July and August. Several years ago I purchased two summer-blooming evergreen species: *Rhododendron auriculatum* and *Rh. glanduliferum*. Both produce large trumpet-like flowers with a sweet fragrance; *R. glanduliferum* blooms in July and *R. auriculatum* flowers in late July into August. The first time I saw *R. auriculatum* in flower was at the Washington Park Arboretum, and it was a spectacular

mature specimen with a lovely tiered branching. I knew at that moment that I must have this plant. This plant still thrives on the slopes above Azalea Way as you walk toward the New Zealand Garden. Both of these species are slow to mature and can take 10 to 12 years before you enjoy the first flowers.

The late-blooming deciduous azaleas, fortunately, flower at a much younger age and have another advantage. While so many of the spring-blooming deciduous azaleas offer splashy, brightly colored flowers, they are often followed in the summer by a serious outbreak of powdery mildew. For much of the summer you are left looking at grayish white foliage that just dries up in the fall. Summer-blooming deciduous azaleas are very resistant to powdery mildew and, as a result, have beautiful fall color. Some

of the best of the summer-blooming hybrids have been developed at Weston Nurseries in Hopkins, Massachusetts. Using azalea species native to eastern North America, they developed a series of selections that bloom in June and July, many of which are fragrant. Four of the Weston hybrids that can be found locally are *Rhododendron* 'Weston's Innocence', *R.* 'Weston's Lemon Drop', *R.* 'Weston's Lollipop' and *R.* 'Millennium'. These hybrid azaleas will reach about 4 to 5 feet tall in 10 to 12 years and grow best in full sun to bright open shade. Provide a site with good, well-draining soil which can be watered regularly during periods of dry weather.

Rhododendron 'Weston's Innocence' is thought to be a hybrid of two azalea species known for their fragrant, late-season flowers: *R. arborescens* and *R. viscosum*.

Heptacodium miconioides



Clerodendrum bungei





Clethra barbinervis



Vitex agnus-castus with *Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'

Each of these species is exceptional in its own right with the hybrid combining the best of both parents. Tubular, white flowers open with a touch of yellow in the throat of the flower. The mid-July flowers are sweetly fragrant. The glossy green leaves have a nice bronze flush to the new growth. *R.* 'Weston's Lemon Drop' has light yellow blooms with a delightful citrus fragrance and are peachy pink in bud. The flowers open in July and are nestled in the blue-green foliage. *R.* 'Weston's Lollipop' and *R.* 'Millennium' both have pink flowers; although, *R.* 'Weston's Lollipop' is paler in color with light pink blossoms striped in white with a prominent yellow flare. *R.* 'Millennium' opens after *R.* 'Weston's Lollipop' and has deep reddish pink buds that give way to soft cherry pink flowers tucked into beautiful blue-green foliage. *R.* 'Weston's Lollipop' also tends to be shorter only

reaching 3 to 4 feet.

Summer Fragrance

There are several summer-flowering shrubs that can add fragrance to the garden. *Heptacodium miconioides*, seven-son flower, is a Great Plant Picks selection with clusters of white flowers in late summer giving way to showy reddish pink calyces (the plural of calyx, the sepals (a petal-like structure) that cover the flower while in bud). It is a large growing plant reaching 15 to 20 feet over time and can be limbed up to act as a small tree. Although the fragrance is great, the showy calyces provide a long season of interest through the fall. In winter, the attractive pale tan stems take center stage with their shredded and peeling bark.

Another fragrant, large shrub that can be treated as a small tree is *Clerodendrum trichotomum*, harlequin glorybower. Bold heart-shaped leaves have a distinctive peanut butter smell. In August, clusters of red buds open to reveal white flowers that have a perfume fragrance. After the flowers fade, the calyx turns scarlet red and a bright blue fruit develops extending the show into the autumn. To prevent this shrub from suckering, plant it in an area that is not cultivated to prevent disturbance of the roots. A smaller relative, but very different, is *Clerodendron bungei*, rose glorybower. This suckering shrub typically reaches 4 to 7 feet high as single or sparsely branched stems. Bold, deep green leaves, flushed with purple, are topped by bright purple pink, dense clusters of flowers from mid-summer to early autumn. Stems can be cut to the ground every year to keep a tidy planting.



Vitex agnus-castus (Wikimedia Commons)



Rostrinucula dependens (Wikimedia Commons)

Clethra alnifolia, summer sweet, is a commonly available Eastern US shrub for summer bloom. A less common choice is the larger and more beautiful *Clethra barbinervis*, Japanese summer sweet. Chains of bell-shaped blooms hang from lazy spires in late June or early July giving off a subtle sweet smell to be enjoyed but is not overpowering. These shrubs mature from 10 to 15 feet tall; and, as they age, the sinuous stems develop mottled bark that rivals that of *Stewartia*. A plant to treasure in any garden.

Late Season Spiky Blooms

Spiky flowers offer a contrast to foliage. Even though the individual flowers may be smaller on a spike, their unique appearance and dramatic affect command attention. A common plant in the hot and humid regions of the US is *Vitex agnus-castus*, the chaste tree. It is less commonly planted in the Pacific Northwest because it requires some summer heat to flower; but, with the warmer summers we have had lately, this shrub has flowered more reliably over the last several years. The blue purple flowers are carried on upright spikes from 6 to 10 inches in length. Most of the selections around become large shrubs, 8 to 10 feet tall. A cultivar that was recommended to me by Paul Bonine, co-owner of Xera Plants in Portland, Oregon, is 'Sensational', giving a more reliable bloom with a deeper coloring. A cultivar I would like to try is the recently introduced selection Blue

Puffball chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus* 'PIIVAC-II' BLUE PUFFBALL™)." Over the last few years, I have seen the local availability increase for chaste trees. Perhaps this is due to warmer weather or, I would also dare say, the marijuana-like foliage may play a role in its recent popularity.

A virtually unknown shrub that should be embraced by those in the milder areas of our region is *Rostrinucula dependens*, purple plume or weeping butterfly bush. Its growth and foliage are much like the familiar *Buddleja*; however, the similarities end there. In late summer to early autumn white flower buds droop from branch tips. As the flower spikes mature, clusters of showy, bright orchid-purple stamens make this an eye-catching addition. Over my years of gardening, I have lost this plant twice during cold winters but just bought another because I could not garden without it.

A late-summer favorite is *Caryopteris*, bluebeard, with my current favorite cultivar being *Caryopteris* × *clandonensis* 'Lisaura' HINT OF GOLD™. Low-growing, compact, and late-season bloomers like *Caryopteris* are few and far between. However, at the Miller Garden we have two *Elsholtzia stauntonii*, Chinese mint bush, and these charming shrubs grow much like bluebeard by being compact, mounding shrubs reaching about 3 feet tall and a little wider. In late summer to early autumn 6-inch

spikes of lavender pink add welcome color as autumnal shade creeps into the garden. Another low mounding shrub is *Comanthosphace stellipila* (*Leucoscepttrum stellipilum*), Japanese mint shrub. This genus has recently undergone a name change to an equally unpronounceable one, but don't let that discourage you from acquiring this unusual shrub which has large round leaves similar to a hydrangea but with short mauve flower spikes in late August and September. The cultivar 'October Moon' has beautiful chartreuse yellow and green variegated foliage. Due to the larger-sized leaf, they perform best with protection from the hot afternoon sun and in good soil with regular watering.

Many of these shrubs are not widely available and will take a little searching to find. It is just the kind of plant hunting that is best done on the internet during our ongoing pandemic and we can justify the purchases as doing our part to keep the economy going! I hope you add a few of these garden treasures as they are well worth seeking out and will add a boost to the summer garden. ☺

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and a board member of NHS.

Elsholtzia stauntonii



Comanthosphace stellipila 'October Moon'



LITERARY NOTES

from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

STAYING SAFE AT HOME THIS SPRING, I HAD TIME TO ENJOY THE BOOKS in my personal library. I favor authors who are enthusiasts, have long experience, and are picky. Yes, they effuse about their favorite plants, but I learn more from the plants they reject.

Two of my most-read authors share my love of bulbs: Rob Proctor and Anna Pavord. Both are aficionados, writing about the varieties they know well. They don't list all you could plant, but rather what you should plant – reliable classics that combine beauty with health and garden reliability.

In *Naturalizing Bulbs* (published in 1997), Proctor does not provide the usual alphabetical recital of genus, species, and varieties. Instead, he begins with a series of essays on the aesthetics and practicalities of weaving bulbs into the landscape. These chapters both inspire and provide a dose of reality of what works, based on broad climate zones throughout the United States.

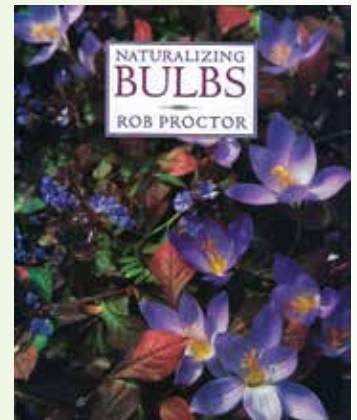
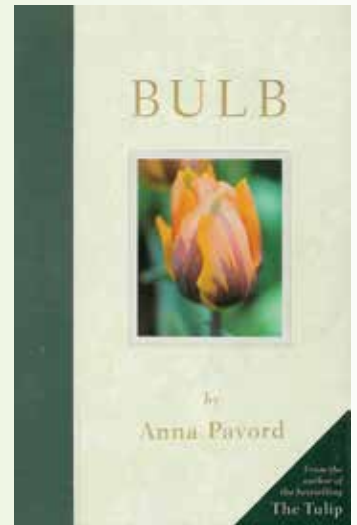
Next, he steps back and looks season to season, again considering the pros and cons of choices for different regions. These two approaches give the reader a clear understanding of the decisions we each need to make for our own gardens.

For pure opulence, nothing matches Anna Pavord's *Bulb* (2009), a compilation of the author's favorites of primarily spring-flowering selections. Each is described with such heartfelt devotion that you know they must be good. She includes some newer varieties, but the treasures are the older, time-tested names that just keep giving every year.

The photographs make this a book to drool over, including several two-page spreads. The text is practical, including observations such as the coloration and texture of the foliage and the ability of the flower to stand inclement weather. Like Proctor, she has a keen eye for what goes well with each selection, including perennials, shrubs, and even trees.

These are both books that I would want to have on my desert island, providing – of course – my island has the climate to accommodate bulbs. Both are available when the Miller Library is again open to the public, but are also worthy of having in your home library.☺

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



Thank you to our patrons. The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide an outstanding educational program for Northwest gardeners. In light of the current events limiting gatherings, these generous contributions allow NHS to explore and implement new options and forums for the dissemination of horticultural information. Thanks for your continued support!

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President's Message



Dear NHS Members,

By the time this newsletter arrives it will be summer; hopefully, the summer weather will have arrived by then as well. I know this past spring has been challenging for so many reasons. Luckily, as I mentioned in my previous newsletter, we know that gardening can and has helped us all during this tough spring. We all have spent endless hours working in our gardens this spring creating a place of solace in these incredibly difficult times. Gardening offers us so much more than planting a seed or cultivating a vegetable patch. Gardening gives us an opportunity to think about the future optimistically, because ultimately as gardeners we are optimists and thinkers. We plant seeds and bulbs, research rare and exotic plants in our gardens and wait. . . wait and hope that those plants grow, bloom, and ultimately thrive. We do this year-round and in both new and mature gardens. Gardeners are also action takers! We are not ones to rest on our laurels.

This year has brought some very tough and thought provoking changes; the way we interact with our families and loved ones, how our organization is working on new ways to engage and educate our members, and how we think, act, and participate in an unfair and unjust world around us. These are serious times, but I know we are up for the challenge. Even before Covid19 and the Black Lives Matter movement, the 2020 NHS Board was researching and planning events to engage with other horticultural communities that will make our organization stronger and more inclusive. One of our long-term goals is to engage and offer support to the local BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) horticultural communities. Our 2020 Spring Symposium was an opportunity to educate, engage, and enlighten our membership to these communities and make positive and meaningful changes in the horticultural world. This will happen. We are tentatively making plans to make this happen, perhaps as a rescheduled 2021 Spring Symposium or as smaller individual lecture series online. Please stay tuned.

What do we do in the meantime? We wait until there is a time we can meet in person, embrace each other again, and talk about our families, gardens, and plants. Gardeners are tough and adaptable people. We continue to garden, stay engaged with our local NHS community, and we listen and educate ourselves about this changing world and how we can make meaningful change. We have all now tried new and different ways of interaction with our NHS community by remote Zoom calls, YouTube online gardening tutorial videos, and engaging in various social media channels like Facebook and Instagram. I encourage everyone to stay engaged with the NHS in all these new ways. If your renewal is due, please renew your membership. We still need your support. Our commitment to our members is paramount. We are creating new online events and programs as well as publishing this quarterly newsletter with your generous support.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, be safe and be strong and we will get through this together. 🌱

Happy Gardening,

Jason Jorgensen
NHS President

GARDENnotes

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“I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars . . .
And the running blackberry would adorn the parlors of heaven.”

— Walt Whitman, 1819-1892

Asplenium scolopendrium Cristata Group, *Polystichum setiferum*
Divisilobum Group, *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Suffruticosa’

Photo by Richie Steffen