

# THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



SPRING 2019 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 2

## Get Growing!

### The NPA Spring Plant Sale is April 28

Celebrate the growing season by attending NPA's annual Spring Plant Sale. This popular event is a highlight of spring; plus it's an important fundraiser for NPA, benefitting our educational programs and the NPA Perennial Border.

A select group of local small nurseries and growers will sell an amazing collection of perennials, shrubs, ferns, grasses, and more. Many of these vendors are not open to the public, and all offer unique plants to delight any plant geek! This is your chance to shop from the best, all in one location, and bring home many new treasures to enhance your garden.

#### NPA SPRING PLANT SALE

Sunday, April 28th

9 am – 3 pm

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Aaron Education Center

12001 Main St., Bellevue 98005

There is plenty of free parking: arrive early for best selections – better yet, volunteer to help at this event and get the inside scoop on your favorite vendors and plants! Contact Diane Dancer at [ronordiane@gmail.com](mailto:ronordiane@gmail.com) to volunteer.



#### FANCY FRONDS

Judith Jones

A choice variety of ferns, plus many plants for miniature, trough, or rock gardens.

#### GROWING GIRLS

Beth Burman

A North Bend nursery offering unusual shade-loving perennials.

#### LEE FARM

Carrie & Dean Lee

Outstanding trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and hardy fuchsias.

#### KEEPING IT GREEN

Arlen Hill

Specializing in hardy orchids, woodland perennials, distinctive foliage and rare native plants.

#### QUEEN'S CUP NURSERY

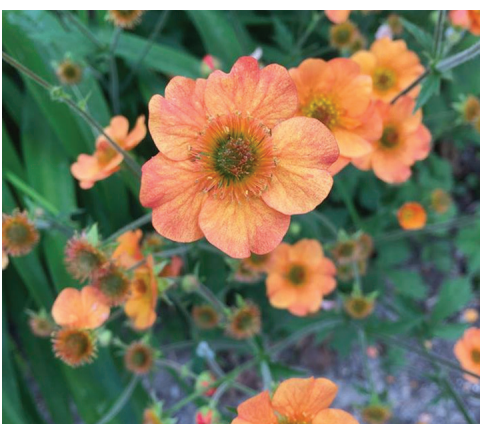
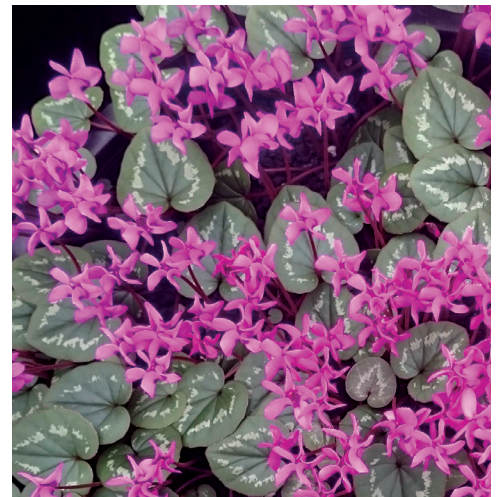
Pat Parks

Puget Sound easy care native perennials, including rare and hard-to-find plants.

#### WINDCLIFF

Dan Hinkley & Robert Jones

Collections from around the world, including unusual vines, perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses.



<p>APRIL 18, MAY 16 JUNE 20, JULY 18 AUG. 15, SEPT. 19</p>	<p><b>Border Weed &amp; Feed</b>, third Thursdays, 10 am – 12 pm. Work two hours in the NPA Perennial Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden, then enjoy a potluck lunch</p>
<p>APRIL 28</p>	<p><b>NPA Spring Plant Sale</b>, Sunday, 9 am – 3 pm, Aaron Education Center, BBG</p>
<p>MAY 8</p>	<p><b>Propagation &amp; Forsythe Pot Workshop</b> with Alison Johnson, Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, East Redmond NPA member's garden, details page 5</p>
<p>MAY 23</p>	<p><b>Iris for Everyone</b> class with Daniel Mount, Thursday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Aaron Education Center, BBG, details page 5</p>
<p>MAY - OCTOBER</p>	<p><b>NPA Open Gardens</b>, Saturdays and Sundays – see your Open Gardens Directory for details (info on page 12)</p>
<p>JUNE 7 - 9</p>	<p><b>Sorticulture</b>, Everett's Garden Arts festival, a Friday-Sunday event, see page 11</p>
<p>AUGUST 9</p>	<p><b>Hypertufa Containers Hands-on Workshop</b> with Lisa McGregor, Friday, 11 am – 2:30 pm, Aaron Education Center, BBG, details page 5</p>
<p>AUGUST 28</p>	<p><b>Winter Flowering Perennials</b> class with Trevor Cameron, Wednesday 11 am – 12 pm, Aaron Education Center, BBG, details page 5</p>
<p>SEPT. 24</p>	<p><b>Grasses</b> class with Daniel Mount, Tuesday, 10 am – 12 pm, in the NPA Perennial Border at BBG, details page 11</p>

\* Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) address: 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

## NPA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

David Aho	Susan Doyle	Anna Klaunder	Margaret Osburn	Kathryn Sheldon
Debbie Angel	Phyllis Dutton	Genene Kluck	Patricia Page	Timothy Signs & Martin Mullin
Janine & Alain Balland	Lorene Edwards-Forkner	Jennifer Knapp	Debbie Palm	Georgianne Sims
John Barber	Janet Egger	Dianne Korotkin	Sandra Parsons	Staci Sirois
Marcia Bartholme	Jeanne & Dan Everts	Brenda Krauth	Jean Pass	Linda Skyler Ethan
Kathy Bartlett	Robert Fairfax	Ronald Kroman	Monica Payne	Susan Smith
Roseann Bartlett	Brad Feilberg	Renee Kuehn	Annette Peck	Patricia Spetz
Rosina Bell-Games Tom	Bob Fincham	Jeanne Leonard	Marcy Plattner	Judith Sroufe
Kay Bennett Harry	Gary & Meg Forster	Paula Liechty	Diane Price Gary Price	Susan Stewart
Terri Boehm	Ann Marie French	Steve Lynch & Dee Hammer	Karen Protti	Carol Straughan
Zane & Melissa Brown	Sarah Garvis	Jayne Manlowe	Barb Purdey	Leslie Swanson
Corinne Brown David	Jill Green	Valerie Martinson Donn	Kate & Gary Randall	Bryan Tapia
Sabina Brych	Linda Hahn Dave	Zin Matheny	Monica Reed	Mary Thorsen
Chris Cady	Paul Hamidi	Alanna Matteson	Patricia Riley	Libby Torrance
Timothy Callahan	Connie Hilton	Genny Matteson	Rita Rossing	Christina Tucker
Margaret Carr	Corinne Hollister	Janet McCammon	K. Frances & Adam Rozyskie	Mari Vainio
Eileen Casper	Lori Hoots	Becky McClurken	Ken Rundle	Sandra Valko
Kathleen Clancy	Kimberly Humbert	Michael Milvich	Kathleen Sabo	Dianna Vaughan
Amy Clark Mark Clark	Sally Hyde	Mary Monfort	Maryann Savina	Susan Weinstein
Carolyn Coe	Jo Iacofano	Patricia Morrison	Leslie Savina	Gail Widell
Penny Coppersmith	Barbara Jensen	Anne Neilson	Karen Scharbau	Nancy Wilder
Pam Cottrell	Frances Joy-Spiers	Elizabeth Nelson Andrew	Margaret Schumacher	Trish Willis
Sally Cross	Shirley Katz	Betty Noland	Sari Seegmiller	Marianna Zimmerman
Trish David	Villa Kerr	David Olszyk	Mark Sevonty	
Julie Dillon				

# We are pleased to announce our fabulous 2019 NPA Business Members

Our business members offer invaluable support to NPA. We encourage our members to show their support in return by patronizing these businesses; many offer a discount to their fellow NPA members. Before you shop for plants, garden decor, landscape design work, or other garden-related services, be sure to check out the Business Spotlight section of our website and Open Gardens directory!

- Alpine Nursery & Landscape**, Puyallup
- Azusa Farm and Gardens**, Mount Vernon
- Bellevue Botanical Garden / NPA Border**
- \* **Bentley Gardens**, Olympic Peninsula (North)/Sequim
- Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens**, Arlington
- Branches Garden Center**, Auburn
- \* **The Brothers Greenhouses**, Port Orchard
- \* **Bryan's Rare Japanese Maples**, Puyallup
- Cascadia Iris Gardens**, Lake Stevens
- Chartreuse Landscape Design**, Seattle
- \* **Chlorophyll and Clay**, Kirkland
- Christianson's Nursery**, Mount Vernon
- City People's Garden Store**, Seattle
- \* **Clinton Inc Bamboo Growers**, Burien
- Country Garden Antiques**, Yakima Valley
- Edgewood Nursery & Garden**, Edgewood/Milton/Fife
- Fancy Fronds**, Gold Bar
- Far Reaches Farm Nursery; Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy**, Port Townsend
- Garden Specialist Real Estate Broker, Cynthia Creasy**, Seattle
- \* **Garden Spot Nursery**, Bellingham
- Gardening GaGa!**, Seattle
- Gartenmeister Plant Shop**, Puyallup
- Geranium Gardening**, Mountlake Terrace
- Hale Company Landscape Gardeners**, Lynnwood
- Hardy Plant Society of Oregon**, Portland
- Héronswood Garden**, Kingston
- \* **Jade Mountain Nursery**, Tacoma/Puyallup
- \* **Keeping It Green Nursery**, Stanwood
- Kent East Hill Nursery**, Kent
- Lakewold Gardens**, Lakewood
- Landscape and Property Services LLC**, Mountlake Terrace
- Magnolia Garden Center**, Seattle

- \* **McLendon Hardware**, 7 local locations
- McMenamins – Gardens at the Anderson School**, Bothell
- Meerkerk Gardens**, Greenbank, Whidbey
- Miller Library @ Center for Urban Horticulture**, Seattle
- Molbak's Garden + Home**, Woodinville
- My Garden Nursery**, Bellingham
- \* **North Shore Garden Design**, Vashon
- Old Goat Farm**, Orting
- \* **Ornamental Grasses of Puget Sound**, Olympia
- PowellsWood Garden**, Federal Way
- The Rhododendron Garden**, Federal Way
- Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden**, Federal Way
- Rosedale Gardens**, Gig Harbor
- Savage Plants and Landscape**, Kingston
- Sky Nursery**, Shoreline
- Streissguth Gardens**, Seattle
- Sundquist Nursery**, Poulsbo
- \* **Sunnycrest Nursery Florist & Decor**, Key Center/Lakebay
- Sunnyside Nursery**, Marysville
- Swansons Nursery**, Seattle
- T&L Nursery**, Redmond
- Tapestry Garden and Farm**, Olympia
- Todd's Nursery & Landscaping**, Puyallup
- Valley Nursery, Inc.**, Poulsbo
- Vassey Nursery**, Puyallup
- \* **Walrath Landscape Supply**, Gig Harbor
- Watson's Greenhouse & Nursery**, Puyallup
- Wells Medina Nursery**, Medina/Bellevue
- West Seattle Nursery**, Seattle
- Westport Winery Garden Resort**, Aberdeen
- Windcliff Plants**, Indianola, Kitsap Peninsula
- \* **Windmill Gardens**, Sumner
- Withey Price Landscape + Design, LLC**, Seattle area
- Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery**, Gig Harbor



\* indicates new member    See NPA website for more details - [https://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/NPA\\_Business\\_Spotlight.php](https://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/NPA_Business_Spotlight.php)



# Thank You to Our Donors!

Sincere thanks to our generous donors for supporting the many educational programs of NPA, including Open Gardens, the NPA Perennial Border, lectures, workshops and student scholarships. Membership dues alone do not cover the cost of providing these benefits; your gift supports our tradition of offering a broad range of activities that can be enjoyed by both new and seasoned gardeners alike.

## \$1000 and up

Anonymous  
Ralene Walls

## \$500 – \$999

Catherine Hayes  
Judith Siddall

## \$100 – \$499

Louise Abbott  
Barbara BonJour  
Diana & Gary Davidson  
Kimberly Englund  
Linda Haas  
Peggy Herron  
Sandi Larsen  
John Longres  
Linda & Roger McDonald  
Linda S. Park  
Camille & Dirk Paulsen  
Gayle Richardson  
Vicki Sorg  
Marcia Zech

## \$50 – \$99

Annette Barca  
Donna Bogumill  
Sandra Booren  
John Bullivant  
Cody Christensen  
Sandy Earnest  
Michael Gillespie  
Carol Glass  
Barbro Hines  
Diane C. Johnson  
JAE & KSH Leonard  
Millie Livingston  
Janet & Mel McIntyre

Linda Meredith

Ajay Mohabeer  
Morning Glories  
NPA group

Elizabeth Post  
Gayle Richardson  
Marilou T. Rush  
Patricia Rytkenon

Diane Sawyer  
Judith A. Silk  
Nils Sundquist,  
Sundquist Nursery  
Myrna Torrie  
Sheila Walter  
Lia Ward  
Betty Willis  
Glenn Withey

## \$25 – \$49

Gretchen Blanchard  
Jean Bowman  
Edna & James Dam  
Shannon Darrow  
Jeffery Dixon  
Sandy Eacker  
Noma Edwards  
Maribeth Johnson  
Wendy Lagozzino  
Michael Lane  
Dineen Moewe  
Betty Noland  
Virginia Olsen  
Peggy Ostrander  
Susan Ramsey  
Patricia Siebens  
Terry Traner  
Joyce Voldal  
Joy Wannamaker

## \$5 – \$24

Ruth Bachrach  
Natanya Bednarski  
Paula Bessette  
Margaret Campbell  
Candy Charlwood  
Everett Chu  
Julia Craig  
Judith Giniger  
Denise Gudwin  
Michele Hamilton  
Cheri Hendricks  
Linda & Edward Kline  
Henri Kruse  
Cheryl Marshall  
Maggie & Myron  
Medearis  
Ramona Okamoto  
Diane Richter  
Dorota Rynkiewicz  
Patricia Stromberg  
Carol Thompson  
Eileen Van Schaik  
MaryAnne Wilkie  
Polly Zehm

## Apply for an NPA Scholarship!

Denise Hartzell

**D**o you know any budding gardeners currently studying horticulture? Most students could use a little help towards their tuition and books, and the NPA has a scholarship to award to any student of horticulture, botany, landscape design/architecture, or environmental science.

Every year the NPA has the pleasure of awarding this scholarship to a student enrolled at a two or four-year accredited college or accredited trade school, to be used within the academic year following receipt of the scholarship. Applicants must be enrolled as matriculated students, and funds are paid directly to the school that the recipient will be attending. These funds may only be used for tuition and books.

The scholarship recipient also receives a one-year membership in the NPA, and will be featured in the Perennial Post for NPA members to learn more about them. Applicants can download the application form on the NPA website at <http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org>. **The deadline for applications is May 15th, and funds are available in June.** Please, encourage anyone who qualifies to apply for this. Don't leave the money on *this* table!



## ATTENTION MEMBERS: NPA Seeds Calling!

Do you have any envelopes tucked away with seeds collected from your 2018 garden successes? NPA Seeds would love to help you share them with other members if you'd like. Just send an e-mail to [seeds@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:seeds@northwestperennialalliance.org).

Thank you,  
Gayle Richardson, Seeds Chair



**Propagation and Forsythe Pot Workshop**

*with Alison Johnson*

**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019

**Time:** 11 am – 1 pm

**Location:** East Redmond NPA Member's Garden

**Fee:** NPA members \$25 Non-members \$35

**Limit:** 20 participants

We will begin with a Powerpoint presentation covering all the aspects of propagation, and then you will get a hands-on demonstration and experience making a Forsythe pot. Next, we'll head to the garden to select fresh materials to practice taking soft wood, hard wood, and heel cuttings and placing them in your pot. You'll get to take home your pot and cuttings. The fee includes all materials needed. Address and directions will be sent to registrants before May 8.

Register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact NPA at 425-647-6004.

**Irises for Everyone**

*with Daniel Mount, Professional gardener and writer*

**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2019

**Time:** 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Location:** Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

**Fee:** NPA members \$25 Non-members \$35

**Limit:** 25 participants

Learn about the many different irises available to gardeners today! After a short introductory session, we will spend time walking through the NPA Border observing irises for wet and dry situations, and learning how to cultivate, propagate, and care for these plants. There will be irises from the Border available for purchase at the end of the class.

Register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact NPA at 425-647-6004.



**Winter Flowering Perennials**

*with Trevor Cameron, President, Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens and General Manager, Sunnyside Nursery*

**Date:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019

**Time:** 11 am – Noon

**Location:** Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

**Fee:** NPA members \$25 Non-members \$35

**Limit:** 50 participants

Register and learn more about the class online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact NPA at 425-647-6004.



**Hypertufa Containers Hands-on Workshop**

*with Lisa McGregor*

**Date:** Friday, August 9, 2019

**Time:** 11 am – 2:30 pm

**Location:** Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

**Fee:** NPA members \$25 Non-members \$35

**Limit:** 20 participants

Lisa will start with a "how to" presentation and some ideas of what you can make out of hypertufa. Then it's time to get your hands dirty as you choose what to make. (We will not be planting up your new container at this event and Lisa will explain why!) Fee includes all the materials needed to make a hypertufa pot for you to take home, and a handout on after-care and planting.

Register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact NPA at 425-647-6004.

*Classes & Workshop continues on page 11*



## Beautiful, Easy Care Plants . . .



Hummingbird in  
*Salvia*

Kit Haesloop

**W**e are constantly looking for good performers in the garden: plants that earn their keep by offering us more than one benefit. For me, that means plants that combine minimal maintenance needs with beautiful blooms, a tolerance for a range of garden conditions, and also serve as a magnet for pollinators. I include in the category of pollinators all varieties of bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects such as hoverflies.

I love listening to the soft humming sounds from the various pollinators while I garden. I work right alongside the bees, as they are too busy collecting pollen to have any interest in me. For sunny areas, a top perennial choice is the upright sedums, now called hylotelephiums. Any of the upright hylotelephiums are loved by bees and attract butterflies: *Hylotelephium* 'Matrona', *Hylotelephium* 'Autumn Charm', or even the old-fashioned favorite *Hylotelephium* 'Autumn Joy' are all bee magnets. If you want to prevent the flopping of the upright hylotelephiums due to their large flower heads, you can cut about one-third off the top of the plant in mid-May. It will delay its flowering, yet the stalks will be shorter and thus sturdier to hold up the large flower heads. Other easy care, sun-loving plants that bring in the pollinators

include *Agastache* 'Blue Boa', *Verbena bonariensis*, and *Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' or *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'.

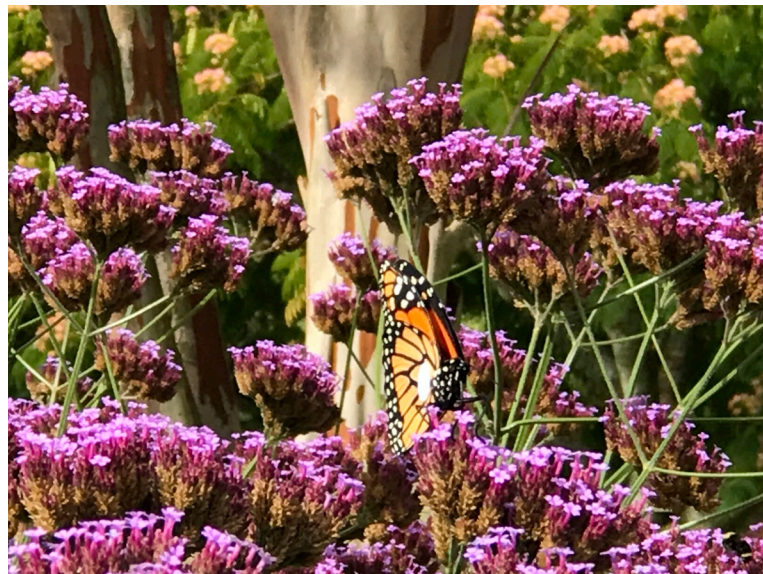
For sunny days in early spring, one of the best plants for bees are heath, the *Erica* genus. They start flowering in winter and continue into spring, providing an important nectar and pollen source for bees that emerge on the warm days, while other plants are still dormant. I grow my heath in full sun along the top of a rock wall. It was unfazed by the snow and was covered in bees on the warm, sunny days that followed. *Erica* varieties are low-maintenance and offer a wide range of bloom colors. They are evergreen with many

that will change foliage colors during cold weather. Shear off the tips of the foliage after flowering to keep the plants in the shape you desire. Don't prune too deep into the foliage, as the plant can't regrow from severe pruning.

If you want to attract hummingbirds, some of their preferred flowering plants that I have seen them visiting repeatedly are crocosmia, fuchsia, and salvia. Red-flowered crocosmia, such as *Crococsmia* 'Lucifer' are always a hummingbird hit.

Crococsmia flowers come in colors from red, scarlet, shades of orange to gold. Even if not red, the hummingbirds will find the flowers and spend time guarding their food source from other hummingbirds. Plant the crocosmia corms in a sunny spot and forget about them. They tolerate heat and drought, once established. Some crocosmia cultivars multiply faster than others and may need to be divided after a few years. Far Reaches Farm, a NPA business member, offers a huge selection of crocosmia.

Another hummingbird favorite are fuchsia flowers. Their delicate flowers and distinct color combinations along with easy care add up to a great plant for the garden. Hardy fuchsia come



*Verbena bonariensis*,  
Monarch butterfly and  
*Lagerstroemia*  
trunk

# for Garden and Pollinator Happiness!

back every year and simply need a quick pruning of the woody stems when you see leaves emerging. You can rejuvenate the plant by cutting the stems to the base when you see new growth



Bumblebee on Heuchera

emerging in the spring, or simply prune off the dead tips on the stems to tidy up the plant. NPA grows a number of different hardy fuchsia in the Border, but just about any one will be a good choice for your garden or in a container.

If you have a partial to full shade garden and still want to have pollinators, try *Pulmonaria* 'Raspberry Splash' to attract hummingbirds. Also, heuchera are a good choice as they tolerate a variety of growing conditions and usually appreciate some shade. They are evergreen and will add winter color to your garden. Heuchera send up a flower stalk covered with tiny bell-shaped flowers, which bees love. My favorite is *Heuchera* 'Spellbound.' In the shade the leaves are silvery

with purple veins. Move the plant into the sun and the leaves change to purple with dark purple veins. Heuchera are happy in the garden or a container and the bees will find its flowers.

All these plants have been evaluated both by their performance in my personal garden and in the NPA Perennial Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. I consider both gardens as a testing ground for what survives and thrives in the Puget Sound region. With climate change occurring, plant selection is an ongoing process with poor performers removed and replacements found.

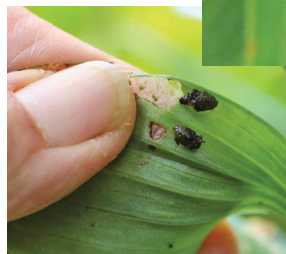
Try some of these carefree plants, which will bring in pollinators to enjoy your garden along with you.

## From the NPA *Border* at BBG

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has issued a "Pest Watch" for the Lily Leaf Beetle aka the Red Lily Beetle. Red Lily Beetle and its larvae are pests of true lilies, (think Oriental and Asiatic lilies, Fritillaria, Cardiocrinum). This insect's native habitat is Eurasia. It traveled to Canada over 60 years ago and now is common in the Northeast United States. Seven years ago it was discovered in Bellevue. Last year it was sighted in Redmond, South Seattle, Maple Valley and all the way to Olympia.

The adults come out of hiding in March, hungry and ready to mate. The female lays tiny (but visible) eggs on the underside of leaves. Eggs hatch in 7-14 days and the larvae start eating for 4 weeks. Larvae travel to the soil where they pupate into hungry adults who then continue the cycle throughout the growing season.

Lily Leaf Beetle  
aka the  
Red Lily Beetle



So, what can gardeners do to help combat this pest and protect our plants? In the NPA Border starting in spring and continuing until fall, as soon as the day starts to warm we do the following tasks:

1. Manually remove adults and larvae and drop into a cup of soapy water. I like to microwave for 3 minutes to

be sure of their demise before disposing in the trash.

2. Check under leaves and squish any eggs.

This summer in the NPA Border, we will be trialing Liliium 'Black Beauty', a recommended resistant lily variety. Other resistant varieties to consider are Liliium henryi 'Madame Butterfly' and Liliium speciosum 'Uchida.'

WSDA and WSU have released two species of parasitic wasps proven to survive in the Pacific Northwest and to be effective against the beetle. We can help their tracking program by entering any sighting (with photo if possible) of the Red Lily Beetle or their larvae on their website <https://agr.wa.gov/Plant-Insects/InsectPests/Exotics>. Additional information on the beetle along with photos are available at the same website.

Contributed by Cheryl Van Blom,  
NPA Border Co-Supervisor Bellevue  
Botanical Garden



## THE WILDEST PLACE ON EARTH: *Italian Gardens and the Invention of Wilderness*

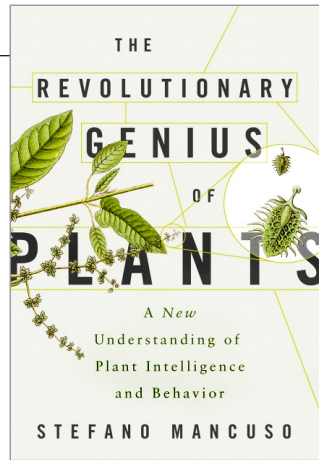
by John Hanson Mitchell



Prize-winning nature writer and avid outdoorsman Mitchell faced a dark night of the soul when on a solo hike in the Bighorns. He more or less lost his faith in 'wilderness', coming to realize that the classic Renaissance garden is the perfect expression of mankind's relationship to wildness. From this he takes off in myriad directions, always thoughtful, always entertaining--and falling deeply under the spell of labyrinths, mazes and Pan. An offbeat book...a mixture of many ideas and tangents, but one that pulled me in ever deeper as I read. Let it pull you in as well. 'Duh' moment/fun fact: ever been bewildered? Well, guess where the word came from. Another fact: ages ago I reviewed here THE SAVAGE GARDEN by Mark Mills, a great mystery that certainly bewilders a 1950s Cambridge grad student doing research on a grand 500-year-old Italian garden. If you didn't read it then, read it now.

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*Legendary librarian Gayle Richardson is past NPA Vice President and an avid NPA volunteer.*



## THE REVOLUTIONARY GENIUS OF PLANTS: *A New Understanding of Plant Intelligence and Behavior*

by Stefano Mancuso

Well, just about the only word I can come up with to describe this book is 'astounding.' Plants that see? Plants that can be taught? Plants that can remember? And all done without that one big advantage we have: a brain? What is it about plants' structure that can allow these, and other amazing survival strategies, to happen? The author has a knack for making it all easily readable and comprehensible, giving lots of entertaining and eye-opening examples, as well as describing cutting edge experiments. Well-illustrated to boot, it is an especially fine piece of bookmaking.

## THE MUSHROOM HUNTERS: *On the Trail of an Underground America*

by Langdon Cook

This is an in-depth look at the unsuspected, at times seamy, and often criminal underbelly of a world that very few of us even suspect exists, and one that is deeply, deeply Washington/Pacific Northwest focused. Who picks these often freakish looking things? And where? The author zeroes in on two guides who lead us in, one a frenetic bicoastal mushroom entrepreneur, the other a down-on-his-luck, hardscrabble backwoodsman whose life seems nothing but a world of hurt. Both of these men are willing to spend endless chunks

of their lives, all year long, rain soaked, and mosquito/blood smeared, in the very wildest and often most inaccessible parts of the PNW. All in search of umami--and with a fierce refusal to ever submit to the 9 to 5 workaday world away from the outdoors they are in thrall to. At times the author can come across as a bit too pretentious...elaborate recitations of meals he has prepared with wild mushrooms come to mind, and maybe a mushroom knife could have been taken to some of the repetition, but every time you look at those perfect little brown and white farm-raised buttons in the vegetable aisle, you will remember this book and know that they are not the whole story.

## SEEING SEEDS: *A Journey Into the World of Seedheads, Pods, and Fruit*

Written by Teri Dunn Chace.

Photographs by Robert Llewellyn



What a treat for gardeners' eyeballs! After a fifty page essay delivering all manner of information about seeds in general, there are then some 200 pages focusing specifically on the seeds of a wide variety of particular plants. Every page sports a spectacular oversize photo. And it's not only gardeners who'll be pleased by this. I recommend it to artists as well...painters, ceramicists and fiber arts folks for starters. Add to this a writer with an entertaining style and a knack for great quotes. All in all, a must-see.



# Splayed

By Wendy Lagazzino

You know how when the blankets come off in the morning, you usually pop up out of bed? Well, that's what I wanted my plants to do after the snow melted. But instead, some of them acted like they were taking a sick day and "splayed" in bed. Especially those lazy ornamental grasses that I left up for winter interest and bird seed. They just laid there like they were taking that sick day. They seemed to be saying, "What's the use? You're just going to cut me down in a few weeks anyway." Well, yes, in early March I will be doing that, but in the meantime, I'd like to see them get back on the job.

Other plants that suffered a severe splay were the Mexican orange, *Choisya ternata*, which is not surprising with its weak stems. Fortunately, it can be pruned severely and will it won't skip a beat. Shrubby germander, *Teucrium fruticans*, looked like maybe Bigfoot slipped in the snow and landed ass-down right on it. He didn't break it however, so it's another one I'll severely prune in spring. It responds well to that and comes back as its beautiful silvery blue self as ever. Lucky break, Bigfoot.

The most common thing I saw broken were *Magnolia grandiflora* trees. Some cultivars are famous for having wimpy branches that break easily. If any limbs do break on the tree, you can prune them out to provide a clean wound for quick and proper healing. The broken branches make great winter arrangements in a vase on your porch. I scouted some in my neighborhood along with some beautiful evergreen tree branches from two huge broken trees. So sad to see, but it sure made a nice bouquet.

My *Carpenteria californica* really bent down, probably because it's in too much shade and grows tall and lanky.

I may have to give up a few branches, but for the most part, it bounced back. My neighbor said her *Daphne* was really looking flat, but didn't break. Plants with stiffer stems tended to break more often such as tips of my *Rhododendron*, my *Salvia officinalis* and *Corokia x virgata* 'Sunsplash.' I did go out with a broom at one point and bang the snow off the branches, but I ended up with so much snow down my back that I had to go inside. I hate that!

My garden sits at 400 feet in "the city" so it is arguably warmer than many other areas. Even so, I was surprised

tells me to stop trying to save them each year. My garden already looks like a ghost convention on Halloween during the extreme cold since I cover so many things with old sheets and then worry about them at night.

I spent the last two years babying my *Echium pininana* 'Tower of Jewels', overwintering it successfully last year. During the warm summer it grew happily and rapidly to over 6' but skipped putting up its magnificent 12' inflorescence of bee-loving, blue flowers. The leaves were over a foot long and I was so excited to know it would probably

bloom in 2019 for my Open Garden. Think of the bragging rights I'd have then! But, I'm afraid our bout with the cold and snow might have killed that dream even when I wrapped it in pink insulation and a plastic bag. I'm still slightly hopeful the growth tip will pull through, but all the other leaves have turned black and fallen off. Hope lives on.



that some annuals survived including my *Iberis umbellata*, *Orlaya grandiflora* (which reseeds), and my *Cerinthe major*. I went to a lot of trouble to cover as many *Cerinthe* as I could, but even some that I didn't looked pretty good once the snow melted off them.

I learned from years past if I cover my *Echeveria* planted in the ground with clear plastic before the fall rains come, I can overwinter them. Most look OK for now, but if they do fail, I might be able to salvage some by cutting the firm stems and re-rooting them.

Obvious losers that were looking great right up until the snow, despite freeze-hovering temps, were my pelargoniums, palm-leafed begonias and *Salvia dorisiana*. But they were dead as a doornail by the end of the snow which

Lastly are the winners that made me smile through my post-apocalyptic tour through the garden. My hellebores were real champs, popping their heads back up like waking from a cat nap. Now that's what I'm talkin' about! My *Abutilon megapotamicum* is hanging in there with even a few flowers still tempting the resident hummingbird. The *Ercilla volubilis* vine way up there in the cold wind is showing promising buds, as is the *Aristolochia californica*, who'd a thought? Primroses are glowing, narcissus are about to pop open, *Scilla mischtschenkoana* are actually continuing to bloom since before the snow as are my *Iris unguicularis*. All that gives me a reason pop out of bed in the morning to see what else the day will bring.

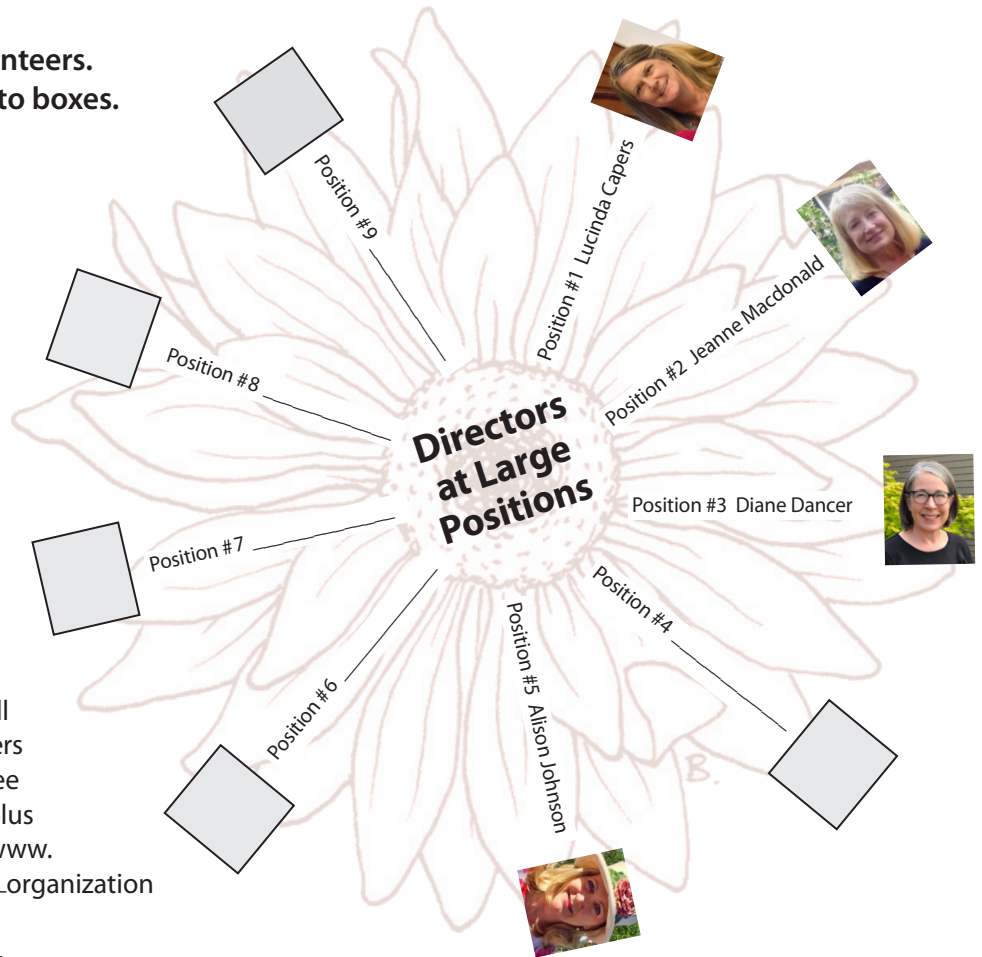


# Add Your Flower Power...

## Fill in Five Director at Large Positions

NPA blooms with lots of great volunteers. Please help us fill in the blank photo boxes.

- The NPA Board, comprised of Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs, are surrounded by enthusiastic, supportive people. New board members are Directors-at-Large who help others, learn the details of running NPA, and soon find their own niche.
- Board members attend monthly two-hour board meetings. Duties vary depending on specific job descriptions, but generally all board members help plan and implement events, conduct the business of the organization, set policy and participate in long range strategic planning.
- How many people does it take to run all the functions of NPA? MANY! Volunteers include board officers, board committee chairs, board directors, project chairs, plus teams of event volunteers. Please see [www.northwestperennialalliance.org/about\\_organization](http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/about_organization) to find out more.
- Are men welcome? Yes! All genders welcome!



For questions, please contact: Kit Haesloop, NPA President at [haesloop.npa@gmail.com](mailto:haesloop.npa@gmail.com) or call NPA at 425-647-6004.

## Thank You Volunteers!

By Joan Baldwin

I hope you had a chance to visit the NPA Booth at the 2019 NW Flower and Garden Festival. It was a big success! Thank you to our great volunteers for promoting the NPA and signing up sixty-six new and renewing members!

Kathleen Neal and I organized volunteers and set up the booth with our always popular bobble-head and border display. The next day the display collapsed—twice! A huge thanks to Jan Jensen, Gabrielle Dickmann, Lucinda and Jerome Capers, and Kathleen who rebuilt it! Lessons learned!

The member drawing of a \$50.00 gift certificate and gardening accessories was won by Jana Nelson of Kingston. Congratulations, Jana!

A most rewarding moment was when NPA member Gary Lindberg stopped by during Denise Hartzell and Robin Thome's shift and said, "Denise, Robin, it's great talking to you wonderful volunteers. My life was changed when I joined the NPA with the help of volunteers like you."





## MEMBERS' CORNER

# Spring



Friday-Sunday Event

**June 7-9  
2019**

Legion Memorial  
Park, Everett

By Kathleen Neal

Spring has sprung, summer is on its way! What a winter it's been. Warm, until January, then winter blizzards and deep freeze! In late February the NW Flower & Garden Festival renewed us, then warm summer temperatures in March, just as spring began.



I'm sooooo ready for summer!  
Open Gardens all season long, plus another year at Everett's wonderful Sorticulture, with hand-crafted garden art, specialty plants, music, and display gardens all celebrating creative outdoor living.

Stop by our NPA booth to chat, and enter the member drawing. And in early May also look for our Sign-Up Genius email asking for volunteers to staff the booth. We can't do any of these events without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you, and see you at Sorticulture!!!

## NPA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS *continued from page 5*

### Grasses

with Daniel Mount

**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019

**Time:** 10 am – Noon

**Location:** In the Borders at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

**Fee:** NPA members \$25  
Non-members \$35

**Limit:** 25 participants

Register and learn more about the class online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact NPA at 425-647-6004.



### NPA Advisory Board

Kelly Dodson	Sue Moss
Val Easton	Chitra Parpia
Roger Gossler	Charles Price
Pam Harper	Debra Prinzing
Dan Hinkley	Barbara Swift
Thomas Hobbs	Joanne White
Nancy Kartes	Glenn Withey
Denise Lane	Barbara Wright
Linda McDonald	

### Northwest Perennial Alliance

*The Northwest Perennial Alliance is a community of friends, neighbors and experts who share a passion for gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Everyone is welcome.*

Website: [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org)

Phone: 425-647-6004

Email: [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org)

#### NPA 2018-2019 Officers:

Kit Haesloop, President: 425-333-6529

Linda Kline, Vice President: 425 643-0182

Denise Hartzell, Secretary: 708-415-5287

Joan Baldwin, Treasurer: 425-485-6889

#### Membership:

Memberships are \$40 - individuals, \$50 - household, \$80 - business memberships, \$25 - student. The membership year runs from January-December. To join, visit [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check payable to NPA, to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number.

#### Donations:

NPA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donations are used to support our educational programs, including Open Gardens, lectures, workshops, the NPA Border and student scholarships.

#### Submissions and Paid Advertisements:

Contact the Post Editor at [post@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:post@northwestperennialalliance.org)

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**NPA SPRING  
 PLANT SALE**  
**Sunday, April 28th**

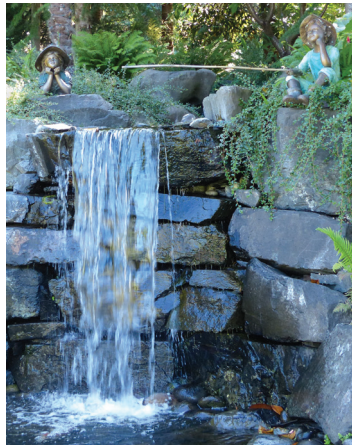
**9 am – 3 pm**  
 Bellevue Botanical Garden  
 Aaron Education Center  
 12001 Main St., Bellevue 98005

## Your 2019 Open Gardens Directory arrives this month!

**G**rab your calendar and start planning a season full of garden tour adventures from May to September. The Open Gardens Directory invites you to visit nearly 100 gardens located throughout Western Washington, east to Yakima, and south to Portland.

The vast majority are unique private gardens not generally open to the public. Also included are special public gardens and nurseries with display gardens.

Experience a wide range of garden sizes and styles. Have fun meeting the garden hosts and seeing their accomplishments and works in progress. You'll come away with lots of new ideas and inspiration for your own piece of paradise.



Top left: Karen & Larry Beck garden. Bottom left: Cody Christensen & Steve Emmer garden. Right: Karen & Sam Brindley garden.