

THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



SUMMER 2012 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 3

Spend a Magical Evening at Windcliff

Michele Cournoyer

SUMMER MAGIC AT WINDCLIFF SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

**Evening tickets, \$175 NPA members
\$200 nonmembers**

Afternoon tickets sold out.

TICKETS ARE GOING FAST for our fundraiser at Windcliff, the famous garden of Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones. The afternoon tours are completely sold out, but there are still tickets available for the evening event, which will run from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on August 4.

Evening ticket holders will enjoy live music, fine wines and a memorable dinner featuring local products served on the terrace. Nibble delicious hors d'oeuvres while exploring Dan's potager and glorious garden, and shop from a special selection of Dan's plants, available for sale during this event. Our hosts Dan and Robert will be on hand to welcome guests, and docents will be present throughout the garden to help identify the many choice and rare plants for strolling visitors.



The Windcliff fundraiser in 2007 was a huge hit.

Photo by Sue Moss

For dinner, take your pick of dinner stations offering a choice of mouthwatering entrees, including fabulous vegetarian and gluten-free options. And be sure to save room for the incredible desserts.

The evening will end with a tour of Dan and Robert's lovely, art-filled home.

Windcliff itself is a feast for the eyes, perched on an isolated bluff overlooking



Your hosts Robert Jones and Dan Hinkley.



Spectacular plants rival the views at Windcliff.

Photo courtesy of Dan Hinkley

Puget Sound, with breathtaking views of Mount Rainier and Seattle. The garden was created in 2005, when Hinkley and Jones moved from their rare plant nursery Heronswood to five sun-soaked acres in Indianola, a short ferry ride from Edmonds.

Purchase tickets online at the NPA website, www.n-p-a.org. Or contact NPA at info@northwestperennialalliance.org. Travel and Edmonds-side parking directions will be mailed out next month with the tickets. Your ferry will be met by shuttle buses that will carry visitors to the event; there is no parking at Windcliff.

NPA EVENTS



JUNE 23	20th Anniversary Celebration at Bellevue Botanical Garden, Saturday, 2-5 pm. Free. Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 main Street, Bellevue.
JULY 11	Sedum Wreaths class with Kathy Norsworthy. Wednesday, 10-1 pm. Details, page 11.
JULY 21	The Glorious Clematis of High Summer class with Laura Watson. Saturday, 10 –noon. Details, page 11.
AUGUST 4	Summer Magic at Windcliff , Saturday. Afternoon tours and evening dinner. Details, page 1.
AUGUST 15	Summer Evening Stroll with George Lasch. Wednesday, 6-8 pm. Free! Details, page 11.
SEPTEMBER 16	Lecture, Myth-Busting in the Garden with Linda Chalker Scott. Sunday, 1 pm. NPA members free/nonmembers \$10. Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
JUNE -SEPTEMBER	Open Gardens every weekend, Saturday-Sunday, 10-4 pm. Grab your little yellow book and go!

Are you ready to join the NPA Board?

NPA is run entirely by volunteers like you. The members of our all-volunteer board help organize plant sales, run lectures, plan new events and brainstorm ways to make NPA fun and rewarding for all. If you're ready to get more involved in NPA,

now's the time! We are currently searching for a handful of people to fill vacancies on the board in September. Interested candidates should contact us at board@northwestperennialalliance.org or call the NPA office at 425-647-6004.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ingrid Baker
Carol T. Burton
Claudia Calderhead
Janet & Bob Casne
Roberta Cheesman
Phyllis Chinn
Rebecca & Adrian Corson
Kaleen Cottingham
Sharon Damron
Diana & Gary Davidson
Dana Davoli
Raeceil Day
Jane Dower

Katrin Fletter
Lorree Go
Lynn Greiner
Betty Haines
Alice Hayes
Rudell Hegnes
Cheryl and Hamo Kalenderian
Kristen Karamatic
Susan Keppler
Teresa Kohn
Cheryl Lawrence
Betsy Leuner
Maureen MacDonald

John McDonald
Barbara McFarren & Stan Noel
Karen McKee
John McWilliams
Ray Megill & Susan Garrett
Denise Read
Kathryn Russell
Georgene Scott
Michell Shaff
Patricia & Steve Siebens
Judith Wayenberg & Robert D. Hall
Patricia Wolozko & Richard Kemp

Myth-Busting in the Garden with Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

Gayle Richardson

OLD HABITS—and old wives' tales—die hard, and goodness knows how many of them we put into practice every time we foray out into our gardens. Coming to help dispel those old, and some not-so-old, myths is Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott. In her talk, she'll be putting a special emphasis on perennials for us.

Dr. Chalker-Scott is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at WSU and Extension Specialist in Urban Horticulture at WSU's Puyallup Research and Extension Center. She describes her work in studying how trees and shrubs function in urban environments as "a sort of horticultural CSI thing," and says she enjoys diagnosing landscape failures. In addition to speaking to garden groups around the country, she plays an active role in landscape rehabilitation projects in the Seattle area, and is one of four people from around the country contributing to

The Garden Professors, a blog of science-based information for gardeners.

In 2009, her "Informed Gardener" was awarded the Silver Award of Achievement by the Garden Writers Association. Its sequel, "The Informed Gardener Blooms Again," came out in 2010. Both are published by the UW Press. If you own her books, bring them along for her to autograph.

Mark your calendar right now so you don't miss out on this presentation that's sure to be enlightening and entertaining. It will be preceded by a brief NPA annual report, recapping the year's events and announcing the NPA board for 2012.

Special plant sale

Overland Enterprises will be offering a special selection of plants at this event, including several pots of that hard-to-find gem, *Hydrangea* 'Little Honey'. Cash or check only. So bring your wallet and take home a new treasure for your fall garden.



Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott will speak on September 16.

**ANNUAL MEETING & LECTURE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1 PM**

**Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle**

Members free/Nonmembers \$10

Calling all cookie bakers

NPA is looking for a few good bakers! We don't want to serve store-bought cookies at the afternoon tours at the Windcliff fundraiser on August 4, and are hoping to find members who would enjoy baking and donating three to four dozen of their favorites. Email: gayle@unforgettablebooks.com for details.

Lucky winners at the NPA Spring Plant Sale

Five lucky people had the winning numbers at the door prize drawings April 22 during the NPA Spring Plant Sale. Free tickets for the drawings were handed out to everyone who came to the sale, and drawings were held every hour. Each winner took home a box full of goodies, including spectacular plants, books and gardening tools. The winners were Ray Nielsen, Barbara LeBrun, Shirley Weber, Kimiyo Ogawa and Lynn Tungseth.



Lynn Tungseth won the 2:00 pm door prize drawing.

Photo by Michele Cournoyer

Writing on the Green World

Gayle Richardson

Two Gardeners: A Friendship In Letters

Edited by Emily H. Wilson. Beacon Press, 2002.

Katherine White was a legendary New Yorker editor from its inception and wife of author E.B. White. Over the course of her marriage, their summer house in Maine became their sole residence. Elizabeth Lawrence was a garden writer and designer living in North Carolina. For years, she wrote a weekly newspaper garden column, as well as several books. She had a nationwide network of correspondents reporting bloom times of countless plants, which she meticulously recorded.

She responded to KW's first "Onward and Upward in the Garden" column in the New Yorker. A review of nursery catalogs, it was apparently a first in the garden-writing world. EL suggested additional catalogs White should seek out. Thus began a warm correspondence that would last for 19 years until White's death in 1977.

One of the book's most charming insights into a past world is the relationship catalog subscribers (you paid a dime or a quarter per issue) seemed to have with the growers. EL worries that she hasn't had a personal letter from a particular grower in quite a while—could he be ill? Yet she doesn't hesitate to call one West Coast rose grower "crazy."

As time passes, they begin to worry more about health, but always, on KW's part, a large seed order goes in. Although wife of a best-selling writer, getting a winter's worth of vegetables put up was a worry and a duty. EL finds herself living alone for the first time in her life at age 60. The reader finds these bits of gardening and life utterly compelling and feels transported right into their worlds.

And the most startling thing about this long, sporadic, affectionate relationship that was immensely important to each



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

woman? They met only once in their lives, for lunch. Try this and then seek out each woman's books for further enlightenment.

The Gap In The Hedge: Dispatches From The Extraordinary World Of British Gardening

by Charles Elliott. Lyons Press, 1998.

Are you a gardener—or a groundskeeper? Charles Elliott will help you decide. Or explain the British mania for garden privacy, or take you on a tour of garden shows at Courson (France) or Hampton Court (which sounds much nicer and more doable than Chelsea). A lament on nettles and the story of the RHS Plant Finder founder are among other topics that will entertain, amuse and enlighten you. If you can't track this one down, try his "The Transplanted Gardener," "The Potting Shed Papers" or "More Papers From The Potting Shed." Just the ticket to take in small gulps before falling asleep after a tough day of gardening—or groundskeeping.

Sweet Breathing Of Plants: Women Writing On The Green World

Edited by Linda Hogan and Brenda Peterson. North Point Press, 2011.

These wide-ranging essays are much more serious than Charles Elliott's, but will evoke a more heart-felt response from the reader. (Just check out all those reader comments at amazon.com).

Some contributors are famous—Rachel Carson, Isabel Allende, Zora Neale Hurston; others far less so. But all have something thoughtful to say on the relationship between women and the "green world."

Interspersed are a handful of poems, this reviewer's favorite being "Mulch" by Linda Hasselstrom: "Robert Redford stared up/between the rhubarb and the lettuce."

Many of the selections have a Pacific Northwest slant. For example, Carolyn Kizer's "Index, A Mountain" and Lesa Quales' "Radioactive Tumbleweeds" (at Hanford). Every young woman—and man—should read Sharon McGrayne's eye-opening and shocking story of corn-geneticist Barbara McClintock's career.

Visions Of Paradise: Themes And Variations On The Garden

by Marina Schinz. Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1985.

Did it stand the test of time?

Decades ago, Marina Schinz produced this gorgeous volume of glossy garden photographs. I slavered over a library copy many times and haunted the remainder tables at bookstores for several years until I found a copy whose price worked for me. Now, I've just pulled it off the shelf to see if it can still captivate me today as thoroughly as it did then. The answer has to be yes.

Most of the gardens are grand, but there are plenty of ideas for modest gardens, and check out pp. 204-205 for a knock-out idea for a simple yet stunning and startling vignette...one totally new and fresh to me, and which would have passed right by me in my less knowledgeable years. Most disconcerting self-discovery from my perusal? The scenes that soothed and captivated me most were the ones with huge swaths of lawn and little else. Me! Who has torn out every scrap of grass on the property!

Pests vs. Plants in the NPA Border

by Glenn Withey

PROGRESS, SLOW AT TIMES, continues in the Border. If it had not been for the *\$^#@! rabbits and deer, the Border would be lush by now.

But, since we have these perennial terrorists to contend with, it has been more of a battle than we'd imagined.

For the most part we've learned that "pest-proof" plant lists aren't worth the paper they're written on (for those of you who still read the old-fashioned way).

This year we are planting a selection of daylilies, ranging from the newest of hybrids to some old, tried but true selections. Many of these plants were bareroot, so it will take several years for them to fill out and reach fruition.

Other new introductions include cultivars of *Baptisia*, *Iris sibirica* and *Nandina*. We selected these plants as they've seemed to be relatively resistant to predation. Let's hope our luck continues!

We've had continued support from T&L Nursery, a local wholesale grower. For the past five years they've donated plants and this has definitely made a difference.

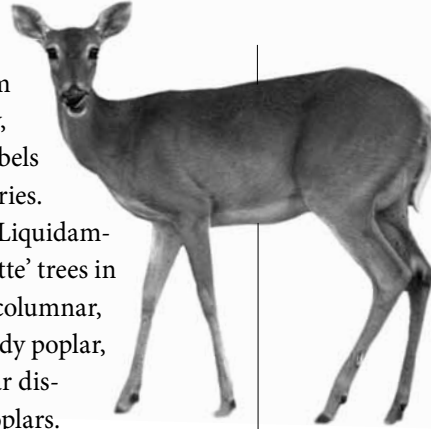
While the general public cannot

purchase plants from this nursery directly, you'll notice their labels at many retail nurseries.

We planted two Liquidambar 'Slender Silhouette' trees in April. This form is columnar, much like a Lombardy poplar, but without the foliar disease affecting the poplars. We hope they provide some fall color. The narrow form will add height and visual interest, while not casting much shade. It seems like this tree would be well suited to an urban garden, and with all of the plants in the Border, we hope to spur interest in the public to try more than the "same old, same old."

We also added a maple hybrid 'Armstrong', which grows tall and narrow as well, and provides good fall color. This is to stand between the orange-red flowers of the Chilean 'Fire Tree' *Embothrium coccineum*, which is down hill, and the pinkish-red of the flowering dogwood 'Heart Throb', uphill of it. While they should not overlap in bloom period, the *Embothrium* species has shown a propensity to change its bloom period rather dramatically from year to year.

The pinkish-red summer flowering dogwood, *Cornus kousa* 'Heart Throb' was planted last year. It will take this tree several years to settle in, and while the flowers will most likely be light pinkish this year, once it has rooted out the petals will be a deeper, richer color. This tree has become one of our favorites, of late, since it offers multiple seasons of interest. There are also *Cornus kousa* 'Satomi' in the Border, which have a similar flower, though usually less of a show of fruit in the late summer than 'Heart Throb'.



We'll continue our experiments with ornamental grasses (not *Hakonechloa* or *Stipa*), seeing which ones perform well. The two species we mentioned are favorites of you know who, and we don't want to encourage Peter Rabbit.

The bulb display this spring was quite nice. Daffodils and hyacinths were untouched, while early crocus and a few other minor bulbs didn't fare so well. For some mysterious reason a patch of tulips at the far north end of the Border were left unscathed by the deer, which was a real treat. In general, we won't plant tulips, since they are such a favored food group. We'll plant more bulbs this fall, but not too many since we don't want to create a tsunami of dying foliage.

George Lasch, the NPA Border supervisor, has been working with our volunteers on weeding, mulching and spreading repellents. So far we've had pretty good luck with repellents, but time will tell if the animals become acclimated to them or not. If you have any time to volunteer, even for a couple of hours, we'd welcome your assistance. Remember, a weed pulled in time saves 159!

Hope to see you at the Border!



Glenn Withey, along with his partner Charles Price, are the resident curators of the historic Dunn Gardens. The two have been members of NPA since its early days. Withey Price Landscape & Design designed the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Shop and save with NPA's nursery discount program.

Save every time you shop at the nurseries listed below. Just show your NPA membership card and confirm the discount before you start shopping.

All Seasons Stone & Landscape Supply

Natural stone, landscape and nursery products. Extremely knowledgeable staff, helpful with any landscape and masonry project.
9020 State Route 203
Monroe, WA 98272
360-863-8801
Email: info@allseasonsstone.com
Website: www.allseasonsstone.com
Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
Various discounts to NPA members; inquire at the checkout desk before shopping.

Blue Frog Garden Nursery

This family owned nursery specializes in quality small trees and shrubs in affordable sizes. They propagate and grow most of their plant material. Selections also include perennials and groundcovers.
12510 110th Street, KPN
Gig Harbor, WA 98329
253-857-0127
Email: russ@bluefrog-nursery.net
Website: www.bluefrog-nursery.net
Hours: by appointment
10% discount on regular-priced merchandise.
Tax is usually included in our regular pricing.

Bouquet Banque Nursery

For 30-some years, this small farm has grown unusual perennials uncommonly well. Specialities include hardy cyclamen, epimedium, Chinese collectibles and woodland garden plants.
8220 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270
360-659-4938
Email: fishsticks@clearwire.net
Website: www.twigtwisters.com
Hours: by appointment, 7 days a week, Mar-Oct
10% on all potted product plus special access to full size mother plants from the gardens!

Boxhill Farm Nursery

Extensive collections of bamboo, daylilies and boxwood. Every spring about 200 perennials, selected from the best hybrids available, are offered. Quirky and fun.
14175 Carnation-Duvall Road

Duvall, WA 98019
425-788-6473
Email: boxhillfarm@mindspring.com
Website: www.boxhillfarm.com
Hours: April-Oct., 10 - 5; Oct.- March, 10 - 5, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon.
10% discount on all merchandise with proof of NPA membership.

Chocolate Flower Farm

"Chocolate" (dark colored) plants and rare perennials. But since gardeners cannot live on chocolate alone, they grow many complementary plants as well, with an emphasis on rare, hard to find perennials.
Nursery: 5040 Saratoga Road
Langley, WA 98260
Store: First Street, Langley, WA
360-221-2464
Email: info@chocolateflowerfarm.com
Website: www.chocolateflowerfarm.com
Hours: Nursery - April-Sept, 10-5 daily. Store - year round 10-5 (often later on Fri & Sat)
10% if ordering online by using the code NWPAA and 15% if shopping in person at the nursery or store.

City People's Garden Store

Popular, locally owned community garden store offering a wide selection of quality products at reasonable prices. A very diverse and fresh plant selection, organic garden products and a gift shop full of fun items.
2939 E Madison
Seattle, WA 98112
206-324-0737
Website: www.citypeoples.com/gardenstore
Hours: Mon-Sat, 9-6; Sun 10-6
10% on regular priced merchandise only, plant and gardening items only; not applicable on landscape services or at the Sandpoint Store.

Cooleen Gardens Nursery & Landscaping Supplies

This family run business offers pretty much "everything for the garden." One of the few full service garden centers that still grow their plant stock on site and design their own color baskets.
2232 NE Sylvan Way
Bremerton, WA 98310
360-377-3209
Email: CooleenGardens@aol.com
Website: www.CooleenGardens.com
Hours: Change by season. Base hours are Mon-Sat, 10am - 4:30pm; Sun noon-4pm. Open later when the days are longer.
15% on all regular priced plant material, hand tools, and pottery. No other discounts apply.

Cultus Bay Nursery

Featured in gardening books, magazines and newspapers. Inspiring display gardens whet your appetite for plants from an evolving selection of perennials, herbs, vines, shrubs and trees, and one-of-a-kind gifts.
7568 Cultus Bay Rd.
Whidbey Island
Clinton, WA 98236
360-579-2329
Email: mfisher@whidbey.com
Website: www.cultusbaynursery.com
Hours: Apr - Sept, Thurs-Mon, 10am - 5pm
10% discount to NPA members paying cash and a 5% discount to those using a credit card.

DIG Nursery

DIG has a well earned reputation for carrying the latest varieties of hot new plants. Restios, Grevilleas, Correas, Astelia and Tetrapanax, to name a few. Plus amazing, artistic containers.
19028 Vashon HWY SW
Vashon Island, WA 98070
206-463-5096
Email: dig@centurytel.net
Website: www.dignursery.com
10% discount to NPA members. Discount does not include artwork and materials such as bulk soils.

Dragonfly Farms Nursery

A neighborhood nursery offering ever-changing display gardens, ponds, grasses, tropicals, great plants, cut flowers and a small café.
34881 Hansville Rd
Kingston, WA 98346
360-638-1292
Email: Dragonflyfarms@centurytel.net
Website: www.dragonflyfarmsnursery.com
Hours: Fri-Sat, 9am - 5pm; Sun, 9am - 4pm, or by appointment
10% discount to NPA members, plants only.

Fairie Gardens, A Perennial and Herb Nursery

Specialty nursery showcasing perennials, herbs, evergreens and groundcovers. Let your imagination run wild in their outstanding display garden and gift shop.
6236 Elm Street SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
360-754-9249
Email: Daveherbs@comcast.net
Website: www.Fairiegardens.net
Hours: Feb 1 - Oct 15 - daily, 10am - 5pm
12% discount to NPA members - does not apply to dwarf Conifers in gallon containers and above.

Falling Water Gardens

Everything you need for your pond, from koi, goldfish and plants, to liners and pumps. Plus a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and numerous display gardens.

17516 SR-203
Monroe, WA 98272
360-863-1400

Email: info@FallingWaterGardens.com
Website: www.FallingWaterGardens.com
Hours: Spring/Summer - daily, 10am - 7pm;
Fall/Winter - Tues-Sun, 10am - 5pm
20% discount to NPA members on regularly-priced plant material only.

Glenwood Gardens

A small, home-based nursery located on 2.5 acres in South Kitsap county. Focuses on easy care plants with all-year interest, hardy and adaptable to the Pacific Northwest.

15155 Glenwood Rd SW
Port Orchard, WA 98367
(follow red arrows, no sign)
360-876-2449

Email: glenwood.gardens@yahoo.com
Website: www.glenwood-gardens.com
Hours: April - October, Mon, 10am - 6pm;
Wed-Thurs, by appt. Also at Silverdale Farmer's Market on Tues and Gig Harbor Farmer's Market on Sat.
10% off regular prices

Kayak Greens

Home and garden of Ted & Sandy Milam
16228 74th Ave. NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

Email: kayakgreens@earthlink.net
Business Hours: By appointment only
10% discount on plants, hypertufa troughs and cast leaves. Not good on sale merchandise.

Laels Moon Garden

The passionate hobby of two plant geeks has grown into a nursery offering more than 1,000 varieties of trees, shrubs, edibles and perennials. Extensive display gardens.

17813 Moon Rd SW
Rochester, WA 98579
360-273-9567

Email: laelsmoon@msn.com
Website: www.laelsmoongarden.com
Hours: March - Oct - Thurs-Sun, 10am - 6pm;
Nov, Dec & Feb - weekends 10am - 5pm; other times by appointment. Closed January.
10% discount to NPA members on regular price merchandise at nursery only, not available on consignment materials, may not be used with other coupons (not cumulative).

Magnolia Garden Center

Some call this Seattle's coolest little garden center, with perennials, shrubs, trees and containers for creating great gardens.

3213 W Smith St.
Seattle, WA 98199

206-284-1161
Email: cherrilaneco@yahoo.com
Website: www.magnoliagarden.com
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:30am - 6pm; Sat 9am - 6pm;
Sun, 10am - 5pm
10% discount on plants and related supplies.
Not good on sale merchandise.

Old Goat Farm Garden and Nursery

Picture perfect, with its 100-year-old farm house, barn, dozens of animals and gardens dotted with topiaries. Shop for well-grown plants that are also showcased in the garden.

20021 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E
Graham, WA 98338
360-893-1261
Email: oldgoatfarm@centurytel.net

Website: www.oldgoatfarm.com
Hours: one weekend per month (please call for open hours) or by appointment
10% discount on regular price merchandise.

Pacific Topsoil's Gray Barn Nursery

A well-known landmark on the eastside, the Gray Barn is a full service nursery offering trees, shrubs, perennials, gifts and gardening tools. They also offer meeting space for garden clubs.

20871 Redmond Fall City Rd.
Redmond, WA 98053
425-898-8265

Email: graybarn@pacifictopsoils.com
Website: www.graybarn.com
Hours: Vary by season, open until at least 6pm weekdays. Call for current times.
10% discount on all regular price merchandise.

Sky Nursery

A year-round garden center with an extensive selection of beautifully cared-for plants. Trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, bulbs and seeds, edibles, indoor plants and garden supplies.

18528 Aurora Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133
206-546-4851

Email: sky@skynursery.com
Website: www.skynursery.com
Hours: Mon-Sat, 9am - 6pm; Sun, 10am - 5pm.
10% discount on regularly priced merchandise only.

Swanson's Nursery

A favorite destination for Seattle gardeners since 1924, with five acres of good sense and great style. Beautiful plants, seasonal color,

garden essentials and a great café.

9701 15th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117
206-782-2543

Email: garden@SwansonsNursery.com
Website: www.SwansonsNursery.com
Hours: Daily 9am - 6 pm. Extended hours until 7pm in May and from Nov 28th to Dec 23rd.
10% discount on regularly priced merchandise. Not valid on Gift Certificates, Cafe purchases, Consigned Ticket Sales, or Delivery Fees.

VanLierop Garden Market

Four seasons of cut flowers, home accents, garden art, colorful summer annuals, European bulbs and unique perennials selected to grow easily in our Northwest climate.

1020 Ryan Ave
Sumner, WA 98390
253-862-8510

Website: www.vanlierops.com and www.sumnerflorist.com
Hours: Mon-Sat, 9:30 am - 6 pm
10% off regular priced plants and merchandise to NPA members upon presenting their card at checkout. Exceptions include: clearance, consignment, or special orders.

Yang's Nursery & Landscaping Inc.

Bamboo, climbing plants and vines, exotics and tropicals, Japanese maples, shrubs and sprinkler systems.

14903 Peacock Hill Avenue NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
253-857-3313

Website: www.yangsnursery.com
Open Weekdays 9 am-5 pm; Sat 10 am-4 pm
10% discount on plants & trees to NPA members.



Photo by Roger McDonald

Adopt a piece of the Border

Michele Cournoyer

FOLLOWING a spectacularly successful renovation, the NPA Border is growing—and so is our need for volunteers. That’s why George Lasch, NPA Border Supervisor, has introduced a new plan: Adoption. There are 14 beds in the Border, and the idea is for each one to be “adopted” by one or two volunteer gardeners willing to work once a week. The volunteers will start out under George’s supervision on Thursdays, but once they get settled in, they’re welcome to drop in and work on their beds anytime.

Gary and Diana Davidson, the first to volunteer, promptly adopted Bed 2, a showy bed bordering the lawn. Retired teachers whose careers included teaching at Department of Defense schools in Japan, the Philippines and Germany, the Davidsons have been volunteering in the Border for the last two years. “It’s cool to see the changes through the seasons,” Gary said. “But you feel a special sense of ownership when you’re given responsibility for one particular bed,” Diana added.

Michele Cournoyer has adopted Bed 3, an area that has not been completely planted yet, but still puts on a colorful show of purples, blues and golds in early summer.

Gayle Richardson has taken Bed 4, which features big luscious peonies, irises and candelabra primroses and a beautiful paperbark maple at one end. Carol Holloway has adopted Bed 5, a circular area with a bench at the top of the Border. It features a *Cornus kousa* ‘Heart Throb’ and masses of hellebores in dark reds and blacks, which contrast nicely with pretty daffodils in the spring. Cheryl van Bloem has adopted Beds 10, 11 and 12, encompassing the shady end of the Border. Signature plants here include mahonia, daphne odora, trilliums, martagon lilies and a towering cardiocrinum.

“ORPHANS” STILL LOOKING FOR ADOPTION INCLUDE:

Bed 1 - This bed contains vestiges of the old border, including a wonderful white crepe myrtle and a large edgeworthia. It’s been extensively replanted with lots of new bulbs and drought tolerant plants. This bed is important because it’s one of the first beds people see when they’re coming along the Lake to Lake Trail.

Bed 6 - Here’s where you’ll find the largest trees in the Border, a ginkgo and the big tulip tree. The bed’s top edge is lined with

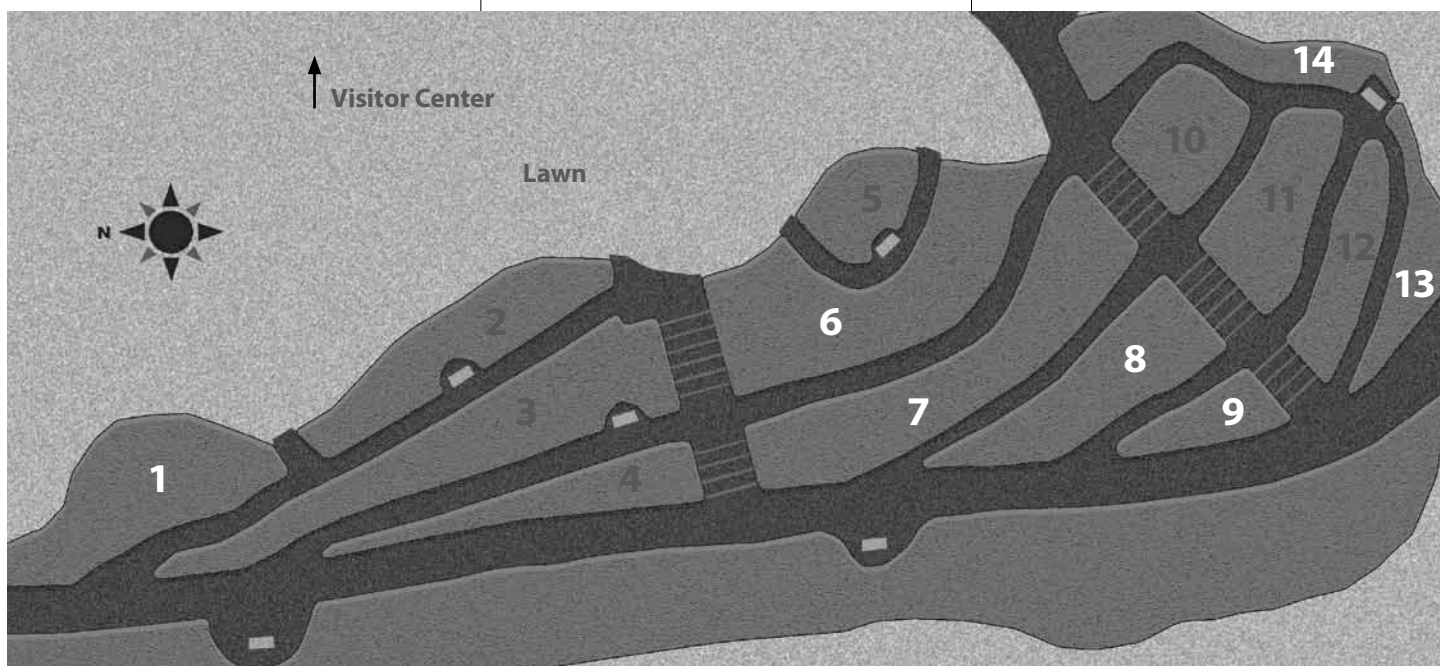
salvias, nepeta, lavenders, peonies, ‘Powis Castle’ artemesia and Coppertina ninebark. It’s the only bed with a large display of chrysanthemums in late summer.

Bed 7 - This long bed runs across the Border from stairway to stairway. It goes from whites and yellows at one end to hot orange at the other, with tall, showy ginger and roses along the way. It’s one of our most photogenic beds for summer color.

Beds 8 & 9 - Little Bed 9 and its companion, Bed 8, provide a transition from shady and wet to sunny and dry. These beds are planted with colorful irises, daffodils and roses, twiggy dogwoods, statuesque eupatorium (Joe Pye weed) and rambunctious ‘Jacob Cline’ monarda.

Beds 13 & 14 - Fertile ground for those interested in shade gardening, these two narrow beds rim the southern edge of the Border where it meets the woodland. These beds have not been completely planted out yet, but they offer a ton of potential in a pleasant shady area.

To adopt a bed, contact George Lasch at border@northwestperennialalliance.org



Summer 2012 in the Border

George Lasch, NPA Border Supervisor



George Lasch in the border

Photo by Michele Cournoyer

As the days grow longer I wonder, when will summer visit us again? We had one frantic week of becoming “aqua-technicians” as the temps soared and the dry winds rolled in for a few days in mid-May, but now we are back to the cooler dewy mornings of life here. Not all bad really – the bulbs lasted for months this year and the summer bloomers are catching up fast. Several of the May regulars have been delayed into summer in this ever so gentle change of seasons.

We have been fortunate this spring with not a lot of heavy rains to wash off the pest repellents. The asters and poppies have actually gotten beyond rabbit browse level (RBL) for the first time in years. The great swathes of bulbs are reduced to puddles of yellowing foliage, but yet, we don't seem to notice them as patches of iris, digitalis and astilbe take our attention. Some of the roses have fared well and a few are struggling to recover from past hard winters. Look for ‘Jude the Obscure’ to take the stage this month with crests of scented buds on big billowy shrubs brushing the path. The hydrangeas also are glad for a milder winter; they are lush with buds and promise a long season of color in the shadier areas. The many lilies have miraculously escaped the

deer browse zone (DBZ) and will provide fireworks in time for the 4th.

We have been busy in the beds pinching. Mums and asters mainly are the focus of nipping fingernails and snipping scissors. We want them to be fuller, lower and more floriferous plants later in the fall when they start to shine. Pinching out the growing tips causes them to branch and make more growing points, and by getting the plants to branch lower on the stems they are often more sturdy and supportive. You can also extend the bloom season of many perennials by pinching some of the stems back – they will bloom about two weeks later than unpinched ones. Joe Pye weed, campanula and phlox also can be managed this way. Come the Summer Solstice, the shortening days trigger the plants to head into flower bud production. So stop pinching about the end of the month.

Summer also brings a new batch of students to the Border through the EDCC Mixed Border Practicum class, one of the many ways the Border is used to educate. This year the class will be learning and working in the Border on Mondays, July through August.

(See box at right)

One thing that some members may not know is that the NPA Border crew sells plants from a cart at the BBG visitor's center all season. This is an asset to the visitors as well the Border. We get to share extra plants from the garden with the people who like them and NPA gets some extra cash. We are indebted to Carol Scheuffele for her keen ability to organize and keep the cart stocked, as well as to keep fresh stock growing in the pipeline. The next time you have some fine plants in your garden that you think others should have, let us know. We may want to pot them up and add them to our ever-changing selection of good garden plants.

We are thinking of scheduling a Potting Up Party this fall to get stock potted up and ready for the spring plant sales and to help keep that plant cart stocked. Look for an announcement soon inviting you to spend some time with a fun group making more plants!

MIXED BORDER PRACTICUM

is a weekly, hands on class in the garden that covers many aspects of managing and maintaining a mixed border. It will meet Mondays at the NPA Border throughout July and August.

George Lasch will also be teaching **HERBACEOUS PLANTS FOR SUMMER.**

This class is all about the best (and worst) plants for our gardens in summer. Weekly visits to a variety of gardens to see and discuss the plants *in situ* are planned. This class will meet Wednesday mornings.

To register, please contact Edmonds Community College before they fill up! www.edcc.edu/getstarted or call 425-640-1459.

Looking for a good time? Give us a call!

by Denise DuBose and Barb Danek, Membership Co-Chairs

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUN in all the wrong places? Did you know that NPA has neighborhood groups all over western Washington? There are groups that meet during the day and also in the evening. Most groups get together once a month to hear lectures, share gardening knowledge, go on outings, and share meals and friendships.

We belong to a group in the Snoqualmie Valley called the Shovels and Hoes. We meet once a month. Each Member selects a month and plans an event for the whole group. We have gone on many field trips, attended a lecture on mason bees, learned about composting and fertilizers, and had a class on pruning. We have invited another group, the Lilies of the Valley, to join us as we opened our gardens to each other, with a picnic afterwards. Recently, the Petal Pushers neighborhood group invited members from all NPA neighborhood groups on a tour of the Rhododendron Species Garden in Federal Way. Meeting members of other groups is great fun, and the best part for us is all of the new friends we have made that share our love of gardening!

If you'd like to see a list of our neighborhood groups, visit the NPA website at www.northwestperennialalliance.org. There are many NPA members looking for a neighborhood group, especially in the South Sound area, Shoreline and around Everett. If you're interested in starting your own group or finding out more about neighborhood groups, contact either Barb Danek at bdaneknb@gmail.com or Denise DuBose at stevedub@comcast.net for information.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.

There are three new neighborhood groups starting up, and they would like to get additional new members. If you are interested in joining one of them, please contact the group's coordinator.

Renton: Email Sondra Shira at shirasondi@gmail.com

Enumclaw: Email Sandy Kanaga at sandy.kanaga44@gmail.com

West Seattle: Email Sandra Bamburg at paulab5050@clearwire.net



Kit Haesloop takes home new plants.

Photo by Barb Danek



Docent Steve Hootman with Katie Padwick.

Photo by Barb Danek



Denise DuBose (left), Barb Danek (in hat) and friends.

Photo by Katie Padwick



Neighborhood groups tour the Rhododendron Species Garden.

Photo by Katie Padwick

NPA CLASSES *Summer*



Wednesday, July 11th, 10-1pm

SEDUM WREATHS

with Kathy Norsworthy

Fee: \$20 (plus \$30 materials payable to instructor)

Class Limit: 15

For a beautiful display of everlasting color and texture, add a living sedum wreath to your garden. Learn tips and tricks to keeping your wreath alive through the seasons. All supplies and tools provided. Class held in Kenmore, WA.

Saturday, July 21, 10 - noon

THE GLORIOUS CLEMATIS OF HIGH SUMMER

with Laura Watson

Fee: \$20 Class Limit: 15

Come learn from clematis expert Laura Watson about some of the easiest clematis to grow and to prune, including the integrifolias, the viticellas, and the texensis.

These summer clematis bloom their hearts out in July, August and September. The class will combine a PowerPoint presentation with a guided tour of Laura's garden where many of these clematis will be in glorious bloom.

Wednesday, August 15, 6 - 8 pm

SUMMER EVENING STROLL

with George Lasch

Fee: FREE! Class Limit: 15

Must preregister! Email NPA at info@northwestperennialalliance.org or call 425-647-6004

Spend an evening in the wonderful NPA Border with Border Supervisor George Lasch. We will explore the best plants for the dog days of summer and how to get the most out of them. The evening is a pleasant time to enjoy the garden, when it basks in the softer light that makes some plants glow. Come prepared to discuss plants—good and bad—and to enjoy the garden.

NPA Advisory Board

Kelly Dodson
Val Easton
Roger Gossler
Pam Harper
Dan Hinkley
Thomas Hobbs
George Johnson
Nancy Kartes
Denise Lane

Chitra Parpia
Charles Price
Debra Prinzing
Barbara Swift
Joanne White
Glenn Withey
Barbara Wright

Northwest Perennial Alliance

The Northwest Perennial Alliance is a group of ardent gardeners with a passionate devotion to herbaceous plants. Members comprise a wide range, professional and amateur, but all with the aim of furthering perennial gardening in the Northwest.

Website: www.n-p-a.org

Phone: 425-647-6004

Email: info@northwestperennialalliance.org

NPA 2011-2012 Officers:

Michele Cournoyer, President: 425-868-5541
Gayle Richardson, Vice President: 206-632-2735
Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820
Chris Wolfe, Treasurer: 425-776-8758

Membership:

The membership year runs from January to December. To join, visit www.n-p-a.org to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check for \$35, payable to NPA, to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA accepts certain credit cards and debit cards by telephone at 425-647-6004.

Donations:

NPA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible. 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

The Perennial Post is published by:
Northwest Perennial Alliance
8522 46th Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Spring 2012
Volume 22, Issue 3

Editor: Michele Cournoyer
Printer: Belgate Printing, Bellevue

All material ©2012 NPA.
Reprint by permission only.



THE PERENNIAL POST

Northwest Perennial Alliance
8522 46th Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLEVUE, WA
PERMIT NO. 168

Guide
to nursery
discounts
pages 6-7

Paid Advertisement

Golden Trowel winning garden for sale



Created by Seattle area professional gardener Tina Dixon, this exceptional garden has been cultivated to have a Mediterranean summer wow factor. Featured in Sunset Magazine, Garden Design, and Seattle Times Pacific Magazine, you may have read about or visited the garden. Amazing plant combinations and textures are accented by thoughtful hardscaping structure. Over 70 outdoor lights extend the garden's magic into the night. The large deck and bluestone patio overlook the garden; a perfect oasis for social gatherings and peaceful moments.

Located in Bothell's Canyon Park area (easy access to I-405, I-5, shopping, restaurants), the house is newly updated throughout. On a .39 acre lot, this 2-story is about 2400 square feet, and has many upgrades, such as a spa-like master suite featuring an oversize clawfoot tub, 5X5 walk-in shower, radiant heat floor, walk-in closet. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, new windows, granite kitchen countertops and stainless steel appliances, 2-car garage with a sunroom, RV parking, dig-proof dog run, fully irrigated garden, fenced main yard, Northshore School District, secluded private drive.

\$399,000

Inquiries please contact Tina at 206-930-2194