



## Fern Frenzy with Judith Jones

Gayle Richardson

**F**EW NORTHWEST garden luminaries are more enthusiastic, lively or passionate about their specialty than Judith Jones--or, as she describes herself, "The Fern Madame." Judith will share her expert knowledge and practical tips about ferns at our fall lecture. (*Please note: the lecture is being held at Molbak's, not at CUH.*)

Judith knows whereof she speaks. Innumerable ferns that she has nurtured and passed along to commercial growers have become standards in the nursery trade, such as the *Dryopteris lepidopoda* pictured here. Introduced into American horticulture in the early 90's, it was chosen as a Great Plant Pick for 2013, one of several ferns introduced by Judith that have been recognized by the program over the years.

Judith has participated in the Northwest Flower & Garden Show ever since its inception, and, with Vanca Lumsden, has won the Founder's Cup twice for their



*Dryopteris lepidopoda*, 2013 Great Plants Pick, introduced into horticulture by Judith Jones. Photo courtesy of Judith Jones

**ANNUAL MEETING & LECTURE  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 1 PM —FREE—  
Special venue: Molbak's Nursery, 13625  
NE 175th Street, Woodinville, WA 98072**

imaginative, dramatic and educational display gardens. She was also instrumental in promoting activities for children at the show, including the Sprout Stage venue, taking advantage of her background in children's theater by writing original scripts, music and lyrics performed by the

Slightly Askew Troupe.

Also noteworthy is Judith's Fronderosa Frolic, described by Val Easton as "the horticultural equivalent of Woodstock," a festival of rare plants, garden art, artifacts and scintillating botanical conversations taking place this year on August 10 at Fancy Fronds Nursery in Gold Bar.

Perhaps most important of all, Judith is one of the founders of the NPA. Many of

the early planning sessions for what our organization was to become took place in her living room. So don't miss this opportunity to come and say "Thanks!" to one of our own and hear a delightful talk as well. As Judith says, "I will gleefully talk ferns with anyone!"

Her talk will be preceded by a brief NPA membership meeting, recapping the year's events and announcing the NPA Board for 2013.

## NPA announces scholarship awards

Kit Haesloop

This year, two deserving students have been awarded \$750 NPA scholarships. Along with the scholarships they also received one-year NPA memberships.

Susan Turner is an Honor Roll student at Edmonds Community College, focused

on Landscape Design. Susan is actively involved with numerous horticultural organizations and volunteer projects, and is dedicated to mentoring new horticultural students. Having already received so much valuable guidance from her instructors and other students at Edmonds, she is very excited to give back. Her career ambitions include owning and operating a landscape design business.

(Continued on page 9)



Susan Turner, NPA Scholarship winner

# NPA EVENTS

# Calendar

JULY 10	<b>Sassy Succulents class</b> Wednesday, 10 – noon (details, page 10)
JULY 31	<b>The Clematis of High Summer class</b> Wednesday, 10 – noon (details, page 10)
AUGUST 3	<b>Tips and Tricks for Garden Photography workshop</b> Saturday, 10 – noon (details, page 10)
AUGUST 14	<b>Jazz Up the Mixed Border with Annuals class</b> Wednesday, 10 – noon (details, page 10)
SEPTEMBER 22	<b>Ferns lecture</b> with Judith Jones, Sunday, 1 pm at Molbaks (details, page 1)
WEEKENDS	<b>Open Gardens season is in full swing!</b> Saturdays & Sundays, 10 am – 4 pm. Grab your Open Gardens directory and go.



NPA Treasurer Ellie Sanchez and President Michele Cournoyer.

## 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](mailto:board@northwestperennialalliance.org) or call the NPA office at 425-647-6004.

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Katharine Allison

Adrian Alvarez

Marina Alvarez

Jennifer Aunan

Kim Bishop

Brenda Bulen

Wendy Coll

Alison Conliffe

Richard Cromer & Jim Johnson

Glenda Curdy & Don Tierney

Zanna Furness

Carol Gillespie

Naomi Goodman

Denise & Andy Gudwin

Elsie Hansen

Elizabeth Helms

Linda Hickman

Gwen Howell

Deborah & Jack Hurley

Maribeth Johnson

Vera Johnson

Penelope Karovsky

Steve Kramer & Ray Krisor

Jeanette Kunnen

Meredith Lillywhite

April Lindner

Michel Martel

Toni McCormick

Lynne & Leann Menzies

Ellen & Rene Minshew

Maxine Mitchell

Diem Nguyen & Genji Terasaki

Mary Obsitnik

Pilani Pang

Dana & Chad Phelan

Denise Pranger

Kathy Pruzan

Sylvia Ringen

Brenda & Jim Sherwood

Randi & Vanch Sibonga

Dean Stahl & Karen Landen

Nancy Stifel

Vicki Stratton

Gregory Vouros

# Flowers Ain't Everything!

Larry Lael

**A**T ITS BEST, GARDENING IS an art form. Unfortunately, some gardeners, particularly new ones, concentrate almost exclusively on flowers. Color provided by flowers is a major design element but experienced gardeners also work (consciously or not) with line, form, texture, sound and scent. When I started gardening almost 70 years ago I didn't know shot weed from Shinola, but over the decades I've learned a few things. In building my gardens, I have moved plants a lot to try for pleasing combinations and to get leaf and flower timing right.

Flowers are fleeting, but foliage lasts much longer and comes in a great variety of colors and textures. Sometimes, foliage color changes during the year for added interest. Japanese maples are famous for changeable foliage—not just fall color. 'Beni Maiko' and 'Shindeshojo' are stand-out maples with bright red new growth that changes to green in summer. There are many other maples that have changing foliage.

*Pieris japonica* has several varieties with brilliant new foliage to rival any flowers. 'Flaming Silver' has bright scarlet new growth that fades to pink, then to cream/ivory and ends up green with white margins. The white flowers are a side show. *Pieris* 'Katsura' has shiny burgundy new growth fading to green with pink flowers.

*Cornus* 'Midwinter Fire' is a shrub dogwood that has brilliant winter bark and many other dogwood varieties have variegated foliage. A standout for variegated foliage is a new kousa dogwood called 'Summer Gold'. It has green leaves edged in gold. In the fall the green leaf center turns burgundy and the gold remains. Striking!

And then there are hostas—easy to grow, come in many colors and textures,



Fabulous foliage at Lael's Moon Garden

Photo by Bethany Lael

and a variety of sizes. My favorite is *Hosta* 'June'. The leaf edges are clear smoky blue and the centers are gold infused with blue. 'June' is uber-cool in a genus with many beautiful varieties.

Line, form and texture are other important design elements. Of course, you can prune your trees Japanese style, but some plants naturally give you beautiful contorted shapes with much less effort. The old standby in this category is 'Harry Lauder's Walking Stick' which has two new rivals, 'Red Majestic' and 'Red Dragon'. The latter two *Corylus* shrubs have the same contortions as 'Harry' but have burgundy foliage and pink winter catkins. Another contorted beauty is *Poncirus* 'Flying Dragon'—smaller size, white flowers and quarter-sized oranges. Unfortunately, the oranges are mega-sour!

Here's more proof that flowers aren't everything. *Azara microphylla* and *Sarcococca ruscifolia* are both evergreen shrubs that emit powerful yard-filling scents all out of proportion to their miniscule flowers. Some of our uninitiated customers stand next to these plants, noses in the air, looking all around for the source of the fragrance and never notice the flowers. We Lael's Moon Garden "moonies" are too polite to point and laugh.

Finally, there is sound. In our garden, birds and frogs are the thing. The trees and

shrubby in our display garden provide nesting and hiding places for birds. (They even occasionally nest in trees we have for sale—oblivious to the fact we can't sell "their" tree until their brood is gone. Talk about biting the hand!) We also provide feeders, water and food plants for the little freeloaders. Our birds are not too fat to fly, but some of them take a long runway! Frogs provide pleasing sounds at night from all the moist hiding places the garden provides. They reduce the bug population too.

It's probably preaching to the choir to emphasize features other than flowers to the readers of the Perennial Post, so I'll get down off my soapbox now and get back to my glass of wine in the shade of my wisteria arbor.



Larry Lael is the Supreme Commander at Lael's Moon Garden Nursery in Rochester, WA. His wife, Bethany, is the Extreme Supreme Commander, so he knuckles under a lot.

# The Great Garden App Challenge

Denise DuBose

**I**F YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE ME, when you go to a nursery and find a great plant, you need a little more information than what's on that tiny tag. Will it freeze or die a slow, diseased death in my garden? Is it going to take over? How big is it really going to get?

I have several great books that can answer all of these questions, but I can't exactly carry my library with me every time I stop by the nursery. After hearing me complain about this problem, my kids decided I needed a tablet computer with apps to do all these things for me. Guess what showed up on my birthday?

Now here is my confession: I am technology-challenged. Everyone says that it's so easy, I can't go wrong. But I am having a hard time finding good gardening apps, especially for those times that I don't have an internet connection. I've asked around and discovered I'm not the only one needing help.

So I'm putting the question to all you brilliant gardeners: What are your favorite garden apps? Suggestions for Android and Apple-based apps are welcome. We will publish a list of your favorites in our next newsletter. Please send your suggestions to [dangrisano1@gmail.com](mailto:dangrisano1@gmail.com) and include as much information about the app as you know, like why you like it and how much it costs.



## Join our NPA Border volunteers

We've got a great group of volunteers maintaining the beautiful NPA Border. They're fun and social—and they get an amazing amount of work done, too. Join them any Thursday morning at Bellevue Botanical Garden starting at 10:00 a.m.



Bill Vrana



Gary Davidson



Linda Gray



Gayle Richardson



Linda Kline



Diana Davidson



Carol Holloway

# NPA Nursery Discount Guide

The nurseries listed below have generously agreed to offer NPA members a discount on purchases at their nurseries during their open season. The discount may vary from one nursery to another and is at the discretion of the owner. To avoid any misunderstanding, please show your NPA membership card and confirm the amount before you start shopping.

## **Blue Frog Garden Nursery**

This family owned and operated nursery specializes in quality small trees and shrubs in affordable sizes. They propagate and grow all of their plant material with the exception of some bare root tree seedlings. Selections include perennials, shrubs and trees.

12510 110th Street, KPN, Gig Harbor, WA 98329

(253) 857-0127

Email: russ@bluefrog nursery.net

Website: www.bluefrog nursery.net

Business hours: by appointment

10% discount on regular-priced merchandise.

Tax is usually included in our regular pricing.

## **Bouquet Banque Nursery**

The husband and wife team of Bill Roederer and Judy Zugisch have built a loyal following among plant collectors over the last 30-some years. The nursery is a small farm which grows unusual perennials uncommonly well. Specialties 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.twig twisters.com

Business hours: by appointment, 7 days a week, Mar-Oct.

10% discount on all potted product plus special access to full-size mother plants from the gardens!

## **Boxhill Farm Nursery**

Located on a former dairy farm, Boxhill has a few special interest categories resulting from the owners' passions, such as an extensive collection of bamboo, over

60 cultivars of daylilies and 27 varieties of 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

Business Hours: Apr-Oct, 10am-5pm;

Oct-March, 10am-5pm, 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

Business hours: Nursery – April-Sept, 10am-5pm daily. Store – year round 10am-5pm (often later on Fri & Sat)

10% discount if ordering online by using the code NWPA and 15% if shopping in person at the nursery or store.

## **City People's Garden Store**

A locally owned and operated community garden store committed to 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

Business hours: Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; Sun

10am-6pm

10% discount 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 and design their own color baskets. Satisfaction guaranteed.

2232 NE Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310  
(360) 377-3209

Email: CooleenGardens@aol.com

Website: www.CooleenGardens.com

Business hours: Change by season. Base hours are Mon-Sat, 10am-4:30pm; Sun noon-4pm. Open later when days are longer. 15% discount 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 always-evolving selection of perennials, herbs, vines, shrubs and trees, and one-of-a-kind gifts.

7568 Cultus Bay Rd. on Whidbey Island  
Clinton, WA 98236

Email: mfisher@whidbey.com

1-360-579-2329

Website: www.cultusbaynursery.com

Business Hours: Apr-Sept, Thurs-Mon, 10am -5pm

10% discount to NPA members paying cash and 5% discount to those using credit card.

### **DIG Nursery**

Be inspired to try something uber-cool. 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: grow@dignursery.com  
Website: www.dignursery.com  
Business hours: Mon-Sun, 10am-5pm  
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 NE, Kingston, WA 98346  
(360) 638-1292  
Email: Dragonflyfarms@centurytel.net  
Website: www.dragonflyfarmsnursery.com  
Business Hours: Thu-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  
Business hours: Feb 1-Oct 31 – daily, 10am-5pm or by appointment.  
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  
Business hours: Spring/Summer – daily, 10am-6pm; Fall/Winter – Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm  
20% discount to NPA members on regular 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: nancy@glenwood-gardens.com  
Website: www.glenwood-gardens.com  
Business Hours: By appointment only  
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 & cast leaves. Not good on sale merchandise.

### **Keeping It Green Nursery**

This nursery propagates and grows garden-worthy perennials from around the world for the avid plant collector. Owned and operated by Arlen Hill, whose passion for hiking in the Pacific Northwest led to an interest in uncommon native plant species.  
19401 96th Avenue NW, Stanwood, WA 98292  
(360) 652-1779

Email: arlen@whidbey.net  
Website: www.keepingitgreennursery.com  
Business hours: Fri-Sun 10am-5 pm in April, May & June. Also by appointment.  
10% discount to NPA members at the nursery. Does not include hardy orchids.

### **Laels Moon Garden**

What began as the passionate hobby of two confirmed plant geeks has grown into a nursery offering more than 1,000 varieties of trees, shrubs, edibles and select perennials. Extensive display and test gardens.  
17813 Moon Rd SW, Rochester, WA 98579  
(360) 273-9567  
Email: laelsmoon@msn.com  
Website: www.laelsmoongarden.com  
Business 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, containers and pottery for creating great gardens.  
3213 W Smith St., Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 284-1161  
Email: cherrilaneco@yahoo.com  
Website: www.magnoliagarden.com  
Business 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 farmhouse, barn, dozens of animals, and gardens dotted with topiaries. Shop for well-grown garden 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

Business Hours: one weekend per month (please call for 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

Business Hours: Vary by season, open until at least 6pm weekdays. Call for current times.

10% discount on 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

Business Hours: Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm;

Sun, 10am-5pm.

10% discount on regular 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

Business Hours: Daily 9am-6 pm. Extended hours until 7pm in May and from Nov 28th to Dec 23rd.

10% discount on regular priced merchandise. Not valid on gift certificates, café purchases, consigned ticket sales, or delivery fees.

### **Taking Root Nursery**

Family owned and operated nursery offering unusual perennials, hostas, ornamental grasses and ferns. Owner Kathy Norsworthy enjoys sharing the fun of growing great gardens with budding gardeners.

15527 81st Ave. NE, Kenmore, WA 98028

(425) 488-9796

Email: takingrootnursery@gmail.com

Website: www.takingrootnursery.com

Find us on Facebook: Taking Root Nursery

20% discount for NPA members.

### **Urban Earth**

A well-stocked nursery in Fremont with great plants and gifts. Owner Susan Petersen also offers garden club meeting space and can provide lectures on a variety of topics.

1051 N 35th St., Seattle, WA 98103

(206) 632-1760

Email: susan@urbanearthnursery.com

Find us on Facebook: Urban Earth

Business hours: Tues-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-5pm

10% discount to NPA members on all regular priced plants.

### **Urban Garden Company**

A shop that inspires gardeners to create, featuring unique plants, vintage garden books, tools, seeds and décor. Includes a design studio offering hands-on advice for your garden by designer Sue Goetz.

311 Puyallup Ave, Tacoma, WA 98421

(253) 265-2209

Email: info@thecreativegardener.com

Website: www.thecreativegardener.com

Find us on Facebook: Urban Garden Company

20% discount off regular priced plants.

### **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

Business 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.

### **Village Green Perennial Nursery**

Organic flowers, plants and edibles. They regularly host events and invite you to plan your own at their nursery.

10223 26th Ave SW, Seattle Wa. 98146

206-767-7735

website: www.villagegreenpn.com

Business hours : Weds-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat/Sun 10am-4:30pm

10% discount on regular priced merchandise. We also host garden club meetings.



### **Yang's Nursery and 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.

## Murder In The Mulch II

Gayle Richardson

**N**OW, REALLY, do any of you actually have time to come in from your gardens at this time of year to kick back and read murder mysteries? Of course you do, so here's a new crop to keep you going for a while.

### HARRIS, ROSEMARY

**"Pushing Up Daisies"** (Minotaur Books, 2009).

Paula Holliday, quick and clever, with a funny or pithy comment on just about everything, is a New Yorker with a backstory who has moved to the suburbs to eke out a living as a landscape gardener. A promising job, renovating the grounds of a derelict mansion in time for a grand re-opening, turns sour at practically the first thrust of her spade as she disinters a small, mummified body. Thrown into the job of amateur sleuth, Paula proves her mettle, as has the author, with this book being nominated for the Edgar and the Anthony for Best First Novel of 2008.

**"Big Dirt Nap"** (Minotaur Books, 2009).

Call me cranky, but I felt this title suffered from "sophomore slump." The gardening aspect is so slight and improbable (a *Titan arum* being brought into bloom for publicity purposes at an Atlantic City casino) as to be non-existent, and most of the tale seemed to consist of people driving back and forth to the casino. Don't despair, though, as number three---

**"Dead Head"** (Minotaur Books, 2010)

is right back on course with a blockbuster of a secret leaking, or rather exploding out, about one of Paula's best clients. Soon ostracized for being falsely suspected as the rat who let the secret out, Paula is forced to discover who really broke the story to the shocked townspeople. You'll really come to enjoy the great secondary



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

characters in these novels, among them Babe, the ex-rocker proprietor of the local greasy spoon.

**"Slugfest"** (Minotaur Books, 2011).

Having just finished many stints at the NPA booth at the Flower and Garden Show, it was fun to read this behind-the-scenes look a big NYC flower show, which didn't even manage to open before there was a body at the foot of an escalator. And what about that backpack left at Paula's booth by a young man who subsequently disappeared? Murder and other nefarious machinations rule the day at the show. Guess I should feel lucky that the only crime I experienced at the convention center was the theft of my stepstool!

### LAVENE, JOYCE AND JIM

**"Pretty Poison"** (Berkeley, 2005)

**"Fruit of the Poisoned Tree"** (Berkeley, 2006)

Peggy Lee, 52 year old widow of a slain police officer, is a botanist and owner of The Potting Shed, a garden business in downtown Charlotte, NC. She has plenty of opinions and pluck, though at times her off-the-wall basement botanical

experiments and oddly flaccid reaction to her rescue dog's destruction of almost \$100,000 of her belongings are distracting. In the first title, Peggy sets out to solve the mystery of the man's body found in her locked shop. Only problem is, if she clears the homeless man she believes innocent, suspicion will next fall on one of her employees. In the second, the horror of witnessing a dreadful auto accident is compounded when she realizes the dying driver is a friend. When the insurance company refuses to pay out to his family, Peggy decides to disprove the ruling of suicide. There are quite a few more titles in this engaging series.

### EGLIN, ANTHONY

**"Garden of Secrets Past"** (Minotaur Books, 2011).

An unsigned note lures retired botanist Lawrence Kingston to a rendezvous at a gentleman's club in Mayfair. He is stunned to discover that it is with...well, no spoilers here. Suffice it to say that he takes on the case of a recent murder at a stately home and soon comes to believe that it has something to do with the centuries-old enigmatic inscription on a stone monument in the garden. To solve the case, he must solve the code. The past turns out to be very much in the present, when famous men from English history as well as family feuds reach into modern lives. As with the other titles in this series, the writing, as well as Kingston himself, can be a wee bit pompous and pretentious, but the tales are as addictive as salted peanuts. The author is a winner of Garden Design Magazine's Golden Trowel Award.





# Floppy Friends

Wendy Lagozzino

**A** MAN WALKS INTO A BAR and his friends say, “How about those Mariners!” An NPA member walks into a bar and friends say, “How about those salvias!” Perennials make great conversation topics. There’s always one to pick from in any given season. Their beauty can be seen in a Monet painting or on the back of a deck of cards. On the one hand, they are diverse, colorful and shapely. On the other, they can be rambunctious, messy or floppy. Take for example the stately *Eupatorium purpureum* or Joe Pye



Photo by Wendy Lagozzino

Weed. By late summer it stands proudly up to nine feet tall, topped with bold, flat clusters of pink flowers adored by bees and dragonflies. These large clumps of majestic kings command attention in the back of

the border, but what if they are too lax for your narrow border? Welcome on stage *Eupatorium dubium* ‘Little Joe’ (4’ x 4’) and his brother ‘Baby Joe’ (2’-2.5’). Give them a big hand!

No matter what their ultimate size, all perennials emerge with promise in late spring. They put on some height in June and July, and by August they are standing proud, at the peak of their glory. Then a few days go by and they get watered or we have a little wind. Or maybe some heavy rain moves in and bam, they fall over like a featherweight fighter in a bad round. You don’t notice right away (you have a life outside your garden, after all). But when you finally do get out there, what do you do? The first thing that comes to mind is obvious: you stake them up. The problem is, by now their heads are lifted up a little, like the knocked-out fighter trying to see what in the world just happened to him. If you tie them upright, they might readjust their perspective in the next day or two, but their necks will still have that odd, twisty, curlycue and never look quite right again.

So what do you do about all those floppy heads, leave them to their own devices? After all, everything else flopped over, so why not go natural and let them all flop together? Perhaps you could resolve to go out next year in late spring and do a Tracy DiSabato-Aust maneuver, cutting them back by a third or a half to make them bloom shorter, stouter, later and smaller. But something tells me even the gardener with oodles of free time won’t get this job completely done. Pea sticks in late winter/early spring? A nice idea. Very English. Now where are all those pea sticks when you need them anyway? Probably not very handy.

I’ve tried a number of staking solutions over the years. I have used English Y stakes with some success, but they tend to rotate, releasing their tender. Bamboo stakes are natural looking and functional if they have enough girth to withstand the weight of the plant. My favorite is probably rebar stakes, which can be bent to various shapes and discolor to an attractive rust.

A less sophisticated method is the tomato cage, which doesn’t look too bad when the foliage covers up the wires. And recently I discovered a use for all those metal election sign frames. They can hold up plants flopping either to the left or right--with no political rhetoric in the process.

I certainly don’t have all the answers. But right now as I sit in the waning sun around 5 pm with a tall drink and a good book, I just give a sigh of pleasure for a day well spent with my floppy friends.

Wendy Lagozzino is an avid gardener on Queen Anne who enjoys sharing her passion for gardening with others.

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## NPA scholarship awards

(continued from page 1)

The second scholarship recipient, Pamela Uhlig, is also enrolled at Edmonds Community College pursuing a Greenhouse Specialization or Sustainable Agriculture degree. Pamela has been involved with an organic CSA farm, and provides landscape and gardening maintenance for several clients on Whidbey Island. She has been active in a broad range of extracurricular activities, including 4-H, skiing and piano instruction, along with being an EMT. Pamela’s goal is to develop a greenhouse business. With her lifelong passion for growing flowers and vegetables, she wants to use her education and skills to teach others to grow healthy food sustainably.

NPA scholarship applicants are evaluated based on their academic record, references, career goals and experience. The scholarships are for students pursuing education in horticulture, botany, landscape design/architecture or environmental science. The funds must be used at a Puget Sound two or four-year accredited college or accredited trade school within the academic year following receipt of the scholarship. To learn more or to apply for a 2014 NPA Scholarship, please visit the NPA website at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org).

# NPA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

# Summer

Wednesday, July 10, 10am–noon

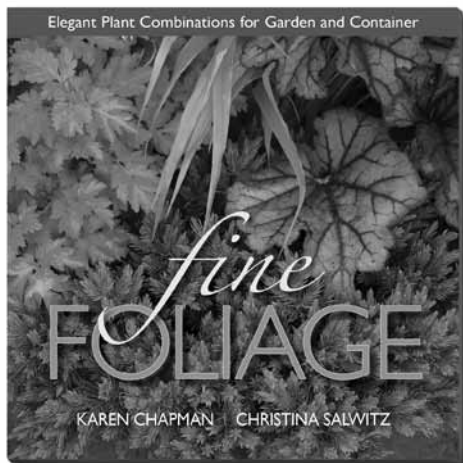
## **SASSY SUCCULENTS**

with Karen Chapman

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 25



Join Karen for a fun-packed morning. Learn how to use succulents in containers and in the landscape by blending colors, playing with texture and considering scale. Get ideas for new combinations in an inspiring PowerPoint presentation which will include designs featured in Karen's new book, "Fine Foliage." This will be followed by a planting demonstration of



an outdoor container garden and a show and tell of some of Karen's favorite hardy and tender succulents. Signed copies of her book will be available.

Wednesday, July 31, 10am–noon

## **THE CLEMATIS OF HIGH SUMMER**

with Laura Watson

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 16

Come and learn from clematarian Laura Watson about the easiest clematis to grow and prune – integrifolias, viticellas and texensis. These 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 in which many of these clematis will be in glorious bloom. Laura has been gleefully



growing clematis for over 20 years, first in her Boston garden where she left behind 50 clematis, and since 2005 in her Seattle garden where she currently has 145 clematis, and counting. See them in trees and shrubs, scrambling over perennials, and on fences, trellises and arbors in her garden. It should be quite a show!

Saturday, August 3, 10am–noon

## **TIPS AND TRICKS FOR GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY**

with Mark Turner

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 11

It's all in where you hold your camera—that's what controls composition and how light interacts with your subject. In this workshop, Mark will demonstrate a variety of garden photographs, from wide landscapes to intimate details, discussing the thought process that goes into each image. Then you'll create your own images of a north Seattle garden, practicing working



with different lighting conditions and composition techniques. Mark will answer your questions and coach you throughout the session. Bring: your camera, spare batteries, extra memory cards. A tripod is recommended, especially for SLR's. If you're not completely familiar with your camera, bring the manual and Mark will be able to help you interpret the settings you need.

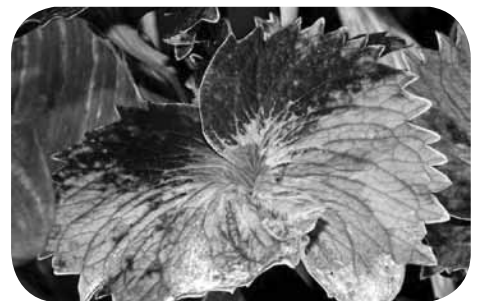
Wednesday, August 14, 10am–noon

## **JAZZ UP THE MIXED BORDER**

**WITH ANNUALS**

with Daniel Mount

Fee: \$25 class limit: 15



Annuals, often dismissed by perennial gardeners as garish, expensive and time consuming, are the stars of this class. Garden designer and writer Daniel Mount will show you how he uses annuals to add volume, texture and color to his mixed borders, which were featured on the summer 2013 cover of Fine Gardening. Learn what makes an annual an annual, their virtues and shortcomings. And see how they can transform the late summer garden.

Wednesday, September 11, 10am–noon  
**CHICKENS 101:  
 CHICKENS, EGGS, GARDEN**  
 with Kathy Fries  
 Fee: \$25 Class limit: 25

Have you always wanted to collect your own fresh eggs? Do you see chickens and wonder what it would be like to have your own? Do you dream of having someone happy to eat leftovers (and weeds to boot)? Do you wonder if you can have a garden with chickens?

If so, this class may be for you! Long-time chicken-owner and gardener Kathy Fries will discuss the reality,



regulations and best practices of chicken ownership at home. Common questions will be addressed, including:

- How much room do I need?
- Where should I keep them?
- How many and what breeds should I get?
- How much care do they need?
- What about roosters?

There will be time to tour the chicken coop and aviaries, see quail and pheasants, and wonder at the three-acre eclectic garden on the shores of Lake Washington.

Wednesday, September 18, 10am–noon  
**RAIN GARDENS**  
 with Aaron Clark  
 Fee: \$25 Class limit: 20



See how an urban rain garden can fit into your own landscape. Join Aaron Clark, PhD, Program Manager for the 12,000 Rain Gardens Project, to learn about urban runoff pollution, low-impact development and rain gardens. We will discuss rain garden design, function and plant choices, and take a walk outside to look at a rain garden that was installed at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Other topics, depending on interest, could include government incentives and the 12,000 Rain Garden Campaign for Puget Sound.

### CLASS REGISTRATION

All classes shown here currently have openings, so sign up now. It's easy to register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) Or call the NPA office at 425-647-6004.

If you have a great idea for a class, contact Sandy Kanaga at [classes@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:classes@northwestperennialalliance.org)



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

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The membership year runs from January to 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 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:

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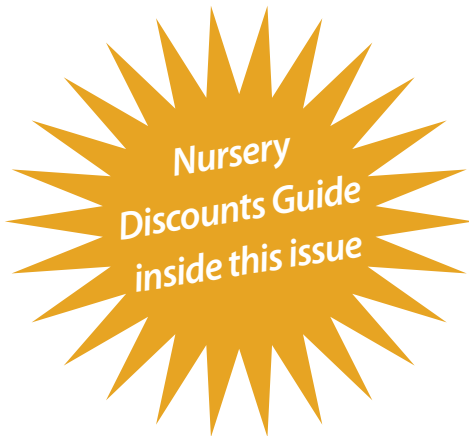
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## THE PERENNIAL POST

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## Showy foliage plants

According to Larry Lael, Supreme Commander at Lael's Moon Garden, "Flowers ain't everything!" See his article, page 3.



Clockwise from top left: *Cornus* 'Midwinter Fire', *Cornus* 'Summer gold', *Pieris japonica* 'Flaming Silver', *Poncirus* 'Flying Dragon', *Hosta* 'June', *Pieris japonica* 'Katsura', *Corylus avellana contorta* 'Red Majestic', *Acer palmatum* 'Shindeshojo'.

Photos by Bethany Lael