

# THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



WINTER 2017 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 1

## March Mania is coming Saturday, March 11!

See page 3 for details.



JANUARY 22	<b>"Re-imagining Your Garden"</b> lecture with Phoebe Fine, Sunday, 1 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden (details, page 3)
MARCH 11	<b>March Mania Plant Sale</b> , Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden (details, page 3)
MARCH 26	<b>Nicolay Lecture "The Triumph of Seeds"</b> , with Thor Hanson, Sunday, 1 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden (details, page 4)
JANUARY 19 FEBRUARY 16 & MARCH 16	<b>Border Weed &amp; Feed</b> , third Thursdays, 10 am - noon. Work two hours in the Border, then enjoy a potluck lunch at Bellevue Botanical Garden.
APRIL 9	<b>Spring Plant Sale</b> , Sunday, 9 am – 2 pm, North Seattle College (details to come in spring issue of the Post)

## Time to renew your NPA membership

*Karen Brighton*

**N**OW'S THE TIME TO RENEW your NPA membership for another year of inspiring garden tours, classes & workshops, lectures and gardening fun with a neighborhood group. Memberships run from January through December. If you've joined or renewed after September 2016, your membership runs through 2017.

Please help us spend your membership dollars wisely by renewing on time. Timely renewal helps us plan the printing of the Open Gardens Directory. The Directory is a fantastic value for your membership buck, and it is expensive to produce. We use current membership numbers to estimate the optimum number of books to print for our renewing and new members. If we overestimate we have extra books, if we underestimate we need to have a second print run. Let me share the numbers with you: One book costs \$10 to print and mail in a large run. If we underestimate the number of books and

need to print more, the price for printing and mailing a directory increases by \$7.50. To offset this increased cost 2017 annual **renewals received after March 15, 2017 will be charged an additional \$5.**

It's easy to renew online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org). You can pay with your credit card, or download a membership form and mail it with a check.

NPA membership is one of the best deals in town at only \$35 for an individual, \$45 for a household which includes two people living at the same address, and \$75 for a business. Student memberships are \$20 with proof of current student status.

The Business Membership is for garden-related businesses. It includes free listing in NPA's Open Gardens Directory in the Business Spotlight section and on the NPA website. Nurseries and businesses that offer a discount to NPA members will also be showcased for free in the Open Gardens Directory in a section of Nurseries and Businesses Offering a Discount to NPA Members along with a similar listing

on the NPA website. Both of these listings will allow NPA Members to easily identify and locate NPA-friendly nurseries and garden-related businesses.

We invite you to consider making a donation to NPA when you renew this year by joining at a higher level. Since NPA is a nonprofit, your gift above the membership rate is usually tax-deductible; please consult your tax advisor. Every year NPA organizes fundraisers to generate enough money to cover the gap between dues income and the cost of running NPA. Imagine the difference it could make if everyone gave just a little bit more at renewal. It would mean less fundraising and less wear and tear on our wonderful volunteers!

NPA was founded in Seattle in 1984, marking 33 years of gardening education and fellowship. Your continued support will help ensure NPA continues into the future as a gathering place for our extended gardening community.



# March Mania is coming Saturday, March 11!

Michele Cournoyer

**MARCH MANIA PLANT SALE**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 9 AM – 3PM  
Aaron Education Center  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

**J**UST WHEN YOU THOUGHT winter would never end, up pop these four magic words: It's March Mania time!

For decades, NPA members have looked forward to this early plant sale, where savvy gardeners can find an amazing selection of spring ephemerals and choice companion plants not readily available at



other times of the year. The sale used to be held outdoors, come rain or snow, but these days offers a much more civilized venue, mostly indoors or under cover at the Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Garden. We'll also be offering our popular kids' table with activities to keep your young gardeners entertained while you shop.

We've put together an exceptional group of unique and exciting vendors for this year's sale—experts who are more than happy to help you learn more about their great plants. Browse wonderful treasures from Bouquet Banque, Growing Girls, Lee Farm, NPA Plants, Windcliff and many more.



NPA member Vicki Katz shops March Mania.

March Mania is one of NPA's most important fundraising events. It's a great opportunity to help support your favorite gardening organization and reward yourself at the same time by shopping for new plants to wake up your garden. Don't miss it.

## "Re-imagining Your Garden: A Practical Guide to Design Ideas and Implementation" with Phoebe Fine

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**  
Doors open at noon for plant sales  
Lecture begins at 1 pm  
NPA members free/Nonmembers \$15  
Aaron Education Center  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main Street, Bellevue 98005

**L**OOKING FOR FRESH IDEAS for your garden this spring? Thinking about installing a new patio, trellis or retaining wall for entertaining and enjoying the long days of summer? Tired of the same old plant combinations that aren't performing well anymore?

Join landscape designer Phoebe Fine in an exploration of design solutions that you can use to enhance your outdoor space and inspire you to live well in your built environment. She'll share projects that are innovative and sustainable, and offer an



Landscape designer Phoebe Fine

updated approach to your garden. With before-and-after photographs, you will see how site design and implementation can improve the way your landscape functions and enhance your experience in your garden.

Phoebe Fine brings over 25 years of creativity and expertise to landscape-related projects. Her approach to garden design is based on responding to her client's needs, vision and budget. With a passion for the residential scale, Phoebe draws inspiration from the integration of existing architecture elements and site characteristics. The success of her projects stem from good structure and form, and with harmonious plant combinations incorporating colorful displays of flowers, foliage and texture. When not designing landscapes Phoebe loves to putter around her garden, bike ride along the water's edge and prepare gourmet food for her friends and family.

Learn more at [phoebefinedesign.com](http://phoebefinedesign.com)

# “The Triumph of Seeds” with Thor Hanson

Kit Haesloop

## NICOLAY MEMORIAL LECTURE SUNDAY, MARCH 26 AT BBG

Doors open at noon for plant sales from Far Reaches Farm and book signing by Thor Hanson

Lecture begins at 1pm

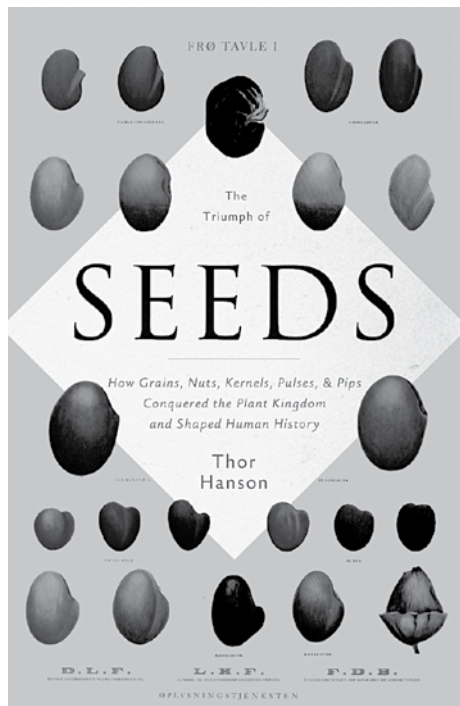
NPA members \$5/Nonmembers \$20

Aaron Education Center  
Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main Street, Bellevue 98005



**W**E LIVE IN A WORLD OF SEEDS. From our morning coffee to the cotton in our clothes, seeds support diets, economies, lifestyles and civilizations around the globe. Join award-winning author and biologist Thor Hanson for an exploration of both the natural and cultural history of seeds—why they are so dominant in nature and why we are so utterly dependent upon them. Drawing on his recent book, “The Triumph of Seeds,” Hanson’s presentation weaves science and culture to show how these common wonders shape our world and touch our



Book signing at the lecture.

lives every day. You’ll never look at a seed the same way again.

Thor Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow and an independent conservation biologist. His research and conservation activities have taken him around the globe. He has studied Central American trees and songbirds, nest predation in Tanzania, and the grisly feeding habits of African vultures. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, where he helped establish the mountain gorilla tourism program in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and he has also helped manage a brown bear tourism project for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He often works at the interface between natural and human systems, and is currently involved in a project assessing the ecological impacts of warfare.

A sought-after public speaker, Hanson also teaches field courses, reviews for academic journals, and consults for conservation groups and government agencies. His many media appearances have included NPR’s Fresh Air, PRI’s Science Friday and The World, The Current on CBC, and Book Lust with Nancy Pearl.

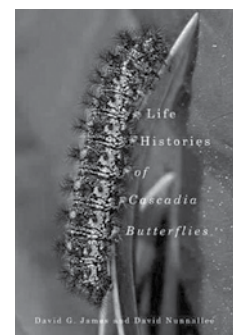
Hanson is the author of numerous books, and his articles and essays have appeared in dozens of popular and scientific publications, including Audubon, BBC Wildlife, Orion, The Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe, The Miami Herald, Bioscience, Conservation Biology, Environmental Conservation, Molecular Ecology, The Wilson Journal of Ornithology, Neotropical Ornithology, The Journal of African Ecology, Biotropica, and The Huffington Post.

Accolades for his prior book “Feathers” included the John Burroughs Medal, the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize, the Pacific Northwest Book Award, and nominations for the Samuel Johnson Prize and the Washington State Book Award.

His recent book, “The Triumph of Seeds,” won the Pacific Northwest Book Award and was a finalist for the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize. (For more about this book, see our Book Reviews on page 8.) Hanson will be signing copies of his book at the Nicolay lecture.

## “Butterflies” lecture rescheduled for April 23

ALL OF YOU looking forward to “Butterflies of Cascadia: Life Histories and Conservation” with Dr. David James, a lecture originally scheduled for October that was canceled due to bad weather, will be happy to hear you can catch this event Sunday, April 23, at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Doors will open at noon at the Aaron Education Center for book signing and plant sales. The lecture will begin at 1 pm.



# CREATING A PERENNIAL TROPICAL BORDER

Steve Smith, the Whistling Gardener

**T**HE MISSUS AND I HAVE a very convenient arrangement. The backyard is hers and the front is mine. So in the backyard she has created a very pleasing cottage garden look. But in the front yard I have gone the tropical route. In fact, I have done the tropical thing for many years and used to use real tropicals that had to be dug and green-housed every winter. It was truly a labor of love and a monumental endeavor. But several years ago I decided that while I like the tropical look I was no longer going to dig up and put everything under cover for the winter. So I started to create a tropical looking border that consisted of plants that were hardy for our northwest winters. The results have been stunning if I do say so myself.



*Kniphofia* (red hot poker)

To create a tropical border one needs to develop an eye for foliage, particularly bold leaves and strong colors like gold or purple. This contrast in colors and textures is what creates drama in our gardens. Hot colors like the reds, oranges and yellows also connote excitement. Hot steamy excitement like one would expect to encounter in the jungles of tropical America. (I should note at this point that having been raised in southern California, hot steamy colors are somewhat of a comfort zone for me.)

So to build your tropical paradise you first need some structure and what better plant to use than a *Musa basjoo*. This is a truly hardy banana plant (sorry folks, no Chiquita bananas here, just foliage) that will grow 12 feet tall in one season. Pair that with a *Paulownia tomentosa* tree that will grow 15 feet in one year (if chopped to



Steve Smith uses perennial plants with bold foliage to create a winter-hardy tropical garden.

the ground the previous winter) and you have the bones of a tropical border.

From here you plant a couple of gold and purple *Cotinus*, a golden *Leycesteria*, some common calla lilies, dark leaved dahlias, red flowering *Crocosmia*, one or two bronze colored *Cimicifugas*, a golden *Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger' (Tiger Eyes sumac), some *Persicaria virginiana* 'Brushstrokes' and of course some ornamental grasses like *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Cabaret' and 'Zebrinus', and you have the makings of a tropical garden. For an added punch of color I like to plant pockets of coleus (there are some wonderful new introductions) and some of the new cultivars of Bolivian begonias like 'Bonfire' or 'California Sunlight'.

I would be remiss not to mention cardoons, *Melianthus major*, *Kniphofia*, *Canna musafolia*, *Hedychium* 'Tara', *Sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace' (elderberry) and the monster of all tropicals, *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Steroidal Giant', the Chinese rice paper plant. All of these plants work together to create the



A giant *Paulownia tomentosa* leaf

illusion of a tropical jungle.

What I find truly amazing is the transformation that takes place between early March and mid-August. During this time my tropical border goes from nuclear waste zone to biomass extraordinaire. Where there was exposed soil in April there is now leaf to leaf vegetation. Plants that were visible in May are now obliterated by adjacent foliage. A border that was virtually transparent in February is now impenetrable. This rampant growth is the essence of a tropical border. It personifies what we think of as a tropical jungle. In a very primal sense, it is intoxicating and sensual in nature.

Over the years, like any garden, my border has evolved. Recently I introduced a hardy *Schefflera taiwaniana* and a *Pseudopanax laetus*, both evergreen shrubs that will help give me a little more structure over the winter. In the end though, the success of this garden is the result of blending trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals into a dynamic combination that changes almost every month of the year.

*Steve Smith (aka the Whistling Gardener) is an NPA business member and a generous supporter of the horticulture community. He and his wife Pauline own Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville. Steve's traffic-stopping front yard garden adjoins their popular nursery.*



# Open Gardens: Wrapping up and opening up

Julia Graham and Donna Bogumill

**T**HE OPEN GARDENS PROGRAM is an absolute favorite of NPA members. Where else would you get the opportunity to tour dozens and dozens of gardens for six months out of the year? We're talking gardens of all styles, big and small, new and old and in progress, throughout western Washington (and sometimes eastern WA). And the greatest part of all: it's by NPA members for NPA members. It's a fun rewarding experience for members who host their garden open, and an inspirational experience for members who visit.



Julia Graham garden



Donna Bogumill garden

## WRAPPING UP 2016

A huge thank you to all the NPA members who graciously opened their gardens in 2016, to the absolute delight of their fellow members and guest visitors. The total tally for the 2016 Open Gardens season: 3,327 visits to 86 open gardens.

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at Wells Medina Nursery, a few lucky

hosts and visitors won gift certificates in a random drawing at the end of the season.

### Garden hosts who won \$50 certificates:

**Carol and Charles Peterson, Snoqualmie**  
**Annette Barca, Greenbank**

**Marie Sever, Seattle**

**Dianne Ferris, Seattle**

### Visitors who won \$25 certificates:

**Deborah Sherwood, North Bend**

**Judy Zugish, Marysville**

**Karen Decker, Renton**

Congratulations, winners and our appreciation to Wells Medina Nursery for their continued support of the NPA Open Gardens program.

## OPENING UP 2017

The call is now out for 2017 Open Garden hosts. Whether you're a seasoned host or a first-timer, other NPA members would love to visit your garden.

Don't worry that your garden may not be "finished" (if there is such a thing). Visitors will learn from and be inspired by what you've done, projects in progress, and what you're planning to do. Your garden is uniquely you and it's so much fun to share your gardening passion with fellow gardeners. *Please see special insert in this Perennial Post edition.*

To open your garden for 2017, complete the registration form on the Open Gardens page of the NPA website at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) and email it to [npaopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:npaopengardens@gmail.com). We'd appreciate receiving your registration as early as possible, preferably in January. The registration deadline is February 28, 2017.

If you have any questions or need the registration form in an alternative format, please send us an email or call NPA at 425-647-6004. We'd love to hear from you.

# Confessions of a first-time garden host

Donna Bogumill

LIKE MANY OF YOU, I thought about opening my garden for NPA tours, but kept putting it off. I wasn't ready. My garden wasn't worthy. Maybe next year, when my plants were more established, when I had the weeds under control, when the paths were finished, when I figured out what to do with that area by the greenhouse, when...

Then last year, I accepted that my garden would never be perfect—but neither were many of the gardens that I so enjoyed visiting on the NPA tours. Gardens are a labor of love, and always a work in progress. So I decided to take the plunge and open my garden. And I'm glad that I did!

I won't lie, it was a lot of work getting the garden ready—weeded, watered and looking its best in the late August heat. And there was no way I could complete all of the projects I wanted to finish.

I didn't get everything done, and my garden wasn't perfect on the day of my garden open. But it was looking the best it ever had, and I received really positive feedback from the 40-plus people who visited that day.

It was so fun to welcome other gardeners who shared my love of plants, understood the effort involved in making a garden, and were genuinely interested in my projects and plans for future development. Many asked to come back in a year or two to see my progress.

When everyone had left and I walked through the garden on my own, I found that I had a whole new appreciation for what I had accomplished and new inspiration for what's next.

Sharing my garden with other NPA members was such a rewarding experience. I made a number of new friends that day and I'm looking forward to opening my garden again in 2017. I hope you'll open yours, too. I'd love to come see your garden.

# Gardening inspiration and techniques gleaned from Open Garden hosts

Kit Haesloop

**V**ISITING NPA OPEN GARDENS is a treat with so much to discover, learn and enjoy in each garden. I always enjoy talking with the garden hosts, as they share their enthusiasm, knowledge and vision for their garden and future projects. I am inspired with ideas for plant combinations, design ideas, garden practices and growing techniques.

Here are a few fun and practical garden tips I learned from garden hosts sharing their wisdom in composting, extending the bloom and organic pest deterrents.



## CREATE A COMPOSTING FENCE

If you want a compost pile, but have limited space or want a multi-functional fence, build a “compost fence.” Jennifer Carlson of Haven Illustrated, LLC built a wire fence between her parking area and backyard. In the fence she stacks her fern fronds and other plant debris. It slowly

composts and feeds the perennials and shrubs at the base of the fence. She adds to the “compost fence” as it decomposes.

## EXTEND THE BLOOM



Love your seed heads, but not the brown color? Wendy Lagozzino paints her poppy seed heads to keep the color going. Spray paint works great to extend the color on your Allium seed heads.

## SAVING YOUR STRAWBERRIES

When growing strawberries, to prevent the birds from eating your berries before you pick them, follow this tip: put a few red-colored rocks or glass in a pile near your strawberries. After a few attempts of tasting the inedible strawberries, the birds will leave your patch alone and go elsewhere.



## STAYING AHEAD OF SLUGS

Is it really possible to have hole-free Hosta leaves in the Pacific Northwest? Yes.

By timing when you apply bait to your garden, you can stay ahead of the slugs. If you wait until your slug-susceptible plants are emerging in the spring to apply bait, you are already behind. The key is to reduce the slug populations by reducing the number of eggs laid. Important time frames for bait application are in the fall after the rains begin and late winter when new slugs are hatching as the weather warms. As usual, protect the newly emerging plant growth in the spring, but hopefully you will have fewer slugs to fend

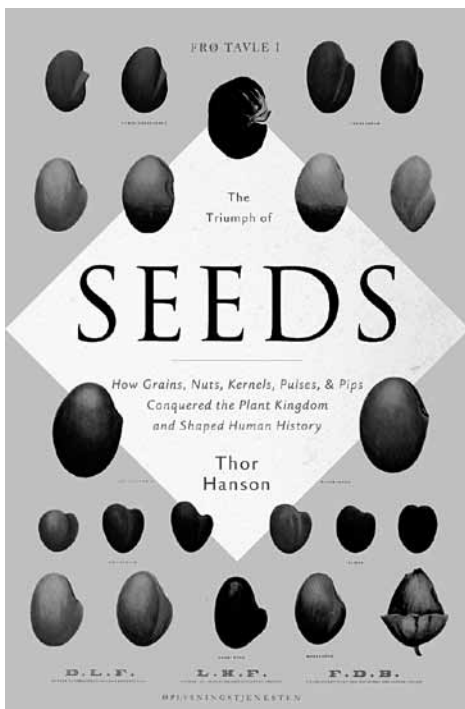


off. Use organic Sluggo or beer traps. If you see birds eating the Sluggo or your dog (mine loves Sluggo) don't worry, as it is iron phosphate, which is safe for our feathered and furry friends.

## From seeds to gardens of awe and folly

Gayle Richardson

### THE TRIUMPH OF SEEDS: HOW GRAINS, NUTS, KERNELS, PULSES & PIPS CONQUERED THE PLANT KINGDOM AND SHAPED HUMAN HISTORY *By Thor Hanson*



Local San Juan Islands author writes amazing book and becomes the NPA Nicolay speaker! See page 4 for lecture details.

Here it is. Just about everything you could want to know about seeds---and more! I recently had three people in ten days harangue me to “get this book and READ it!” Now I can see why. It’s absolutely fascinating. Loads of scientific, evolutionary and historical information about many types of seed is provided to us interested readers, but it’s the author’s style and manner of presentation that shoot the book into the must-read category. Personal anecdotes and experiences are just as important in the telling of the tale as his forays into super-cold seed banks

and university research labs, and an added attraction is the great number of astounding factoids you’ll be able to drop into conversation to the amazement of friends and families alike. So now, I’m the person haranguing YOU to get this book and read it. Comes loaded with various appendices, chapter notes and bibliography.

BONUS BOOK...not horticulture related, but every bit as much of a must-read as the one above.

### WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE WORLD? THE EPIC SAGA OF THE BIRD THAT POWERS CIVILIZATION *By Andrew Lawler*

Put every one of the world’s cats, dogs, pigs, and cows in a big pile and chickens would outnumber them. Toss on all the world’s rats as well, and the chickens would still win! This wonderfully told story of the ubiquitous bird’s journey across the road—well, actually, from Southeast Asian jungles—to its place on uncountable dinner plates around the world is always fascinating and at times mind-boggling. Put it on your menu for sure.

### HOUSEHOLD TIPS OF THE GREAT WRITERS *By Mark Crick*

I happened on Mark Crick’s first collection of literary pastiches, “Kafka’s Soup” (it’s miso!) more than a decade ago and I still crack up whenever I recall any of the short story-like recipes he crafted in the styles of well-known writers. In one of them, Raymond Chandler, making lamb with dill sauce, can’t find his whisk when making the roux for the sauce, so whips out his blackjack and “beat out any lumps until the paste was smooth.”

Now, in this omnibus volume, two more collections are presented as well: GREAT WRITERS’ DIY TIPS (don’t miss Julius Caesar on hanging a kitchen shelf) and, of most interest to us, GREAT WRITERS IN THE GARDEN. Here are a dozen moments with the masters, introduced by a sycophantic Niccolo Machiavelli. Among them, we bury bulbs alongside Sylvia Plath, receive ominous weeding warnings from Emile Zola (“one year seed, seven years weed”) and suffer through Bret Easton Ellis’s gardener’s smug, mind-numbing recitation of the high-end brand names of all his accoutrements. Even when the goings-on are grim or glum (Bertolt Brecht, Raymond Carver) the reader has to smile in recognition of the author’s cleverness and literary knowledge.

### GARDENS OF AWE AND FOLLY: A TRAVELER’S JOURNAL ON THE MEANING OF LIFE AND GARDENING *By Vivian Swift*

Ms. Swift can be a harsh woman (see her chapter on Key West). Ms. Swift can be a demanding woman (she orders us to stop mispronouncing “grocery”) and she can be an opinionated woman (see her somewhat ill-tempered criticism of one who dared make a Japanese stroll garden with too few acres). But not many people manage to be interesting by being bland, so there’s lots to enjoy in this record of her trips to eight gardens around the globe to describe, philosophize about and paint. Virtually every page offers her colorful, naïve watercolors as well as her heart, mind and soul-felt appreciation for what gardens do for us.



# Corporate volunteers help with NPA Border fall cleanup

Diana Davidson

**I**N OCTOBER, as our regular NPA Border volunteers at Bellevue Botanical Garden began preparing the beds for winter, they were delighted to have the help of two groups of corporate volunteers. Most Thursdays, we have about six volunteers. However, with the extra help, a couple of strenuous jobs were like a big party.



Young, energetic people from Microsoft's Day of Caring spread gravel on the paths. Due to continual compacting and Mother Nature pulling gravel downhill, it needs to be renewed every few years. The 15 Microsoft volunteers were so speedy that the gravel was completely dispersed in record time. We then enlisted their help with removing or cutting back grasses that had become too large.

The next week, we benefited from

Wells Fargo Bank's community outreach program. You can imagine our joy at seeing a second group of young, energetic people! They tackled weeding, cut back spent plants and spread mulch.

Both groups demonstrated that they enjoyed having a day outdoors, contributing to the community. We enjoyed interacting with them and sharing our love of the garden. Thank you, Microsoft and Wells Fargo!



Photos by Diana Davidson and Kit Haesloop

## Local businesses show support for NPA

As in years past, we continued to receive support from local businesses in 2016. Special thanks go to Wells Medina



Nursery, whose plant boxes are a regular feature at our plant sales. They have also donated gift certificates to our Open Gardens program for years. Pacific Topsoils once again donated mulch this year for the

NPA Border and the Bellevue Home Depot donated a wheelbarrow. T&L Nursery donated most of the plants around the new Propagation Exhibit at BBG.



# Welcome, Jen Boardman, new NPA Border Supervisor

*Kit Haesloop*

NPA IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE experienced horticulturist Jennifer Boardman, who assumed the responsibilities of running the famous NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden on November 1.

Jen's experience is tailor-made for the job of Border Supervisor. Over the last 15 years she has worked with a wide variety of volunteers, students and clients. She is an expert in plant propagation, which fits in wonderfully with our new plant propagation exhibit, where we've already received many requests for workshops. She also has retail experience, which is ideal



Jennifer Boardman

for the NPA plant stand at BBG and our plant sales.

Jen, who has a Horticulture degree from the University of Washington, loves

both the technical and maintenance sides of working with plants, critical skills in a botanical garden like BBG where keeping plant records updated is key. And of course maintenance is what keeps the Border beautiful.

Our volunteers will find her pleasant, intelligent, organized and thoughtful. Of course, it will take a bit for her to get up to speed on all the plants and conditions in the Border, but no doubt, she will learn fast. We are thrilled she is the new supervisor.

## ***NPA Neighborhood Groups***

Join one of our small garden clubs to make friends with NPA gardeners in your area. For more information, email [groups@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:groups@northwestperennialalliance.org).

***Ballard, Magnolia, Queen Anne  
Dirty Divas***

***Bellevue, Mercer Island  
Eastside Hortaholics***

***Camano Island, Stanwood, Marysville  
Northern Exposure***

***Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mukilteo  
Late Bloomers***

***Gig Harbor  
Harbor Gardeners***

***Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, Duvall  
SnoKing Plant Junkies***

***Maple Leaf, Northgate, Pinehurst,  
Lake City  
Monday Nighters***

***Mercer Island, Bellevue  
Mercerbelles***

***North Bend  
Shovels & Hoes***

***Northeast Seattle, Queen Anne,  
Greenlake  
NE Clump***

***Redmond, Kirkland, Bellevue,  
Woodinville  
Eastside Morning Glories***

***Renton  
Joyful Gardens***

***Snohomish County  
Secateurs of Snohomish County***

***Snoqualmie Valley, Carnation, Fall City,  
Redmond  
Lilies of the Valley***

***South Whidbey Island  
Daylight Group***

***South Whidbey Island  
Twilight Group***

***Tacoma, Puyallup, Lake Tapps  
South Sounders***

***Tacoma, Lakewood, Olympia  
Petal Pushers***

***Vashon Island  
Vashon Island Group***

**NPA volunteer opportunity:**

## **FREE tickets available for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show**

THE NORTHWEST FLOWER AND Garden Show is our best venue for gaining new members. We need enthusiastic volunteers who will encourage visitors to our booth to sign up on the spot. NPA members who work a three-hour shift in the NPA booth get a free admission ticket to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show for the day they volunteer. Two people are assigned per shift, so sign up with an NPA friend! You'll be provided with written instructions and guidance for signing up new members.

To volunteer, email [volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org)

The Wednesday through Sunday show will be held February 22 – 26 at the Seattle Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. If you can't volunteer but plan to visit the show, be sure to stop by the NPA booth (#2501) and sign up for our drawing to win a garden-related prize.



## Meet the NPA office management team

RAMONA HENSRUDE is NPA's office administrator. She enters all membership information on the database, provides membership reports to the board and



Ramona Hensrude

sends out new member packets. Ramona answers or refers questions received on the NPA email at [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org) and the NPA phone number, 425-647-6004. Ramona works from home but often answers questions or returns phone calls from anywhere she happens to be.

NPA contracts with Kristina's Abacus, a professional bookkeeping and accounting business in Lynnwood, where you'll



Kim Fitzgerald and Bonny Cross

find the second member of the team, Bonny Cross. Bonny is our bookkeeper who pays the bills, deposits member checks and manages financial recordkeeping. Ramona often refers members to Bonny for assistance. The third member of the team is Kim Fitzgerald, who assists Bonny with data entry on QuickBooks of new or renewing members who send their applications to NPA by mail. Kim sends

these processed applications to Ramona for data entry into the NPA database. NPA is just one of Kristina's Abacus' clients.

### Here's how you can help the NPA Office Management Team:

1. Our membership year is January-December. Please renew by December or January of the new year. We don't send out reminder postcards. Renew early or you may receive a reminder call from Ramona. If you renew after March 15 you will be charged an additional \$5 to offset the cost of mailing your Open Gardens book.
2. If renewing online, be sure to check that PayPal has your correct name and address, email address and phone number. This is the information Ramona enters on the database.
3. If paying through PayPal on an account not in your name, please send an email to [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org) to specify which name we should enter for the NPA membership.
4. When paying by credit card, provide the three or four-digit security code on the reverse of the card.
5. Print legibly on the membership form.
6. Provide complete information on the membership form – including address, phone number and email address. If you have both a post office box and a street address, please specify which is the mailing address.
7. Keep a record on your computer or a hard copy file of your renewal or when you become a new member. It is important we have your correct email address. You will receive an email receipt from PayPal or an email receipt from our bookkeeper if you pay by check or cash.
8. Membership cards are sent once a year in April with the Open Gardens Directory. If you join after September 1, your membership is for the following year. Until you receive your card, be sure to keep your receipt to show as proof of membership at NPA lectures or to business members who offer a discount to NPA members.

### NPA Advisory Board

Kelly Dodson	Linda McDonald
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

### 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 2016-2017 Officers:

Kit Haesloop, President: 425-333-6529  
Diana Davidson, Vice President: 425-896-8040  
Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820  
Trish Brooks, Treasurer: 360-579-2030

#### Membership:

Memberships are \$35 for individuals, \$45 for household, \$75 for business, \$20 for students. 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. 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 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)

The Perennial Post is published by:  
Northwest Perennial Alliance  
19105 36th Avenue West, Suite 211  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Volume 27, Issue 1  
Winter 2017

Editor: Michele Cournoyer  
Copy Editors: Sara Drogin, Wendy Lagozzino

Printer: Precision Press, Redmond

All material (c)2017 NPA. Reprint by permission only.





**THE PERENNIAL POST**

Northwest Perennial Alliance  
19105 36th Avenue West, Suite 211  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

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



# Inside this issue



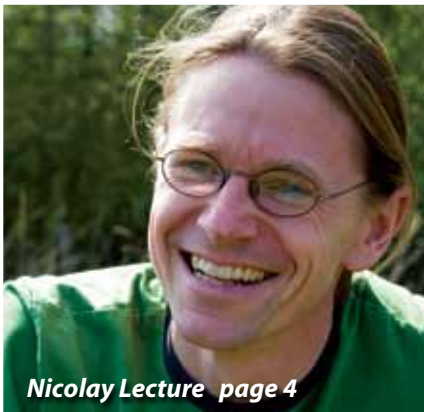
*March Mania Plant Sale page 3*



*Create a hardy tropical garden page 5*



*Open Gardens page 6*



*Nicolay Lecture page 4*



*Gardening inspiration page 7*



*Volunteer news page 9*