



Renew, Refresh, Repurpose with Debra Prinzing

Gayle Richardson

**RENEW, REFRESH, REPURPOSE:
HIGH CONCEPT MEETS SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1 PM

Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle 98105

DEBRA PRINZING, long a byword in the northwest gardening community, will speak to us on how we can successfully blend reality--gardening with an eye always cast at that water meter--with what our minds and hearts tell us we want from our gardens: beautiful spaces that give us satisfaction on many levels. Incorporating the seven elements and six principles she



Debra Prinzing, award-winning author and lecturer

finds indispensable in garden design, and using inspiring examples from gardens she has visited around the West, she'll open us up to casting a new and effective eye on our own properties, whether little or large, and whatever their style.

Debra is working on her seventh book, a sequel to "The 50 Mile Bouquet." We can be proud that her Garden Writers' Association Gold Award-winning "Stylish Sheds and Elegant Retreats" features NPA members' creations. She will be bringing a selection of her books for purchase at the event.

Mark your calendars right now. You won't want to miss this treat.

Summer fundraiser at Windcliff a big hit

Michele Cournoyer



Summer arrived right on cue for Summer Magic at Windcliff on August 4th. Eager participants made the pilgrimage to Indianola under hot and sunny skies, where they were treated to tours of Dan Hinkley's famous garden. At the sold-out

afternoon tours, guests wandered about, oohing and aahing over the rare plants and brilliant blue sweeps of agapanthus.



In the evening, guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at intimate tables scattered throughout the garden.

Many thanks to our gracious hosts, Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones. And a big thank you to our event chair Sue Moss and

her committee, Gayle Richardson, Kathryn Highland and Michele Cournoyer, for staging this very successful fundraiser for NPA. Thanks also to our hardworking docents: Cathy Rooks, Carol Holloway, Barbara Flynn, Louise Abbott, Vanca Lumsden, Jennifer Macuiba, Lisa Irwin, Annie Horton, Jean Whitesavage, Kevine Carrabine, Maria Carlos and Melinda Kubiak.



New Opportunity for NPA Businesses in the 2013 Open Gardens Directory

Mary Shane, Open Gardens Chair

Business owners who are Northwest Perennial Alliance members will have an affordable new advertising opportunity in 2013, thanks to a decision by the NPA board to add a Business Spotlight section to the Open Gardens Directory. The popular, well-used Directory reaches more than 1,000 NPA members, and a member's business can now be included for only \$10.

This is an advertising opportunity for any NPA member whose business is not otherwise eligible for inclusion in the nursery-listings section of the Open Gardens Directory. (Nurseries are listed without charge in exchange for offering at least a 10% discount to their fellow NPA members.)

The new business listing will appear just after the "Gardens Open by Appointment Only" pages and will include contact information and a description of 50 words or less. The fee for a listing in the Business Spotlight section is \$10.

Although they are encouraged to do so, advertising NPA members do not need to

participate in the Open Gardens Program in order to have their business included in the Directory.

Here's how a business listing will appear:

Lulu's Garden Design

2110 Madison Street, Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 580-3424

Email: lulumarie@gmail.com

Website: Lulusgardendesign.com

Find us on Facebook: Lulu's Garden Design

Business Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lulu's Garden Design is a leading full-service landscaping company serving all of Kitsap County. Our service offerings include creative and functional landscape design, exceptional landscape installation and top-quality landscape maintenance.

(The business description will be 50 words or less.)

Look for a registration form with the winter issue of The Perennial Post and start drafting your entry now!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Karen Baretich
June Campbell
Sheila Chidsey
Kathleen Farrell
Elizabeth Hebert
Penny & John Hertzberg
Laurie Dahl Isacson
Karen Jordan
Kay Lagerquist
Kathleen Lassen
Gail Nilsson
Alice Parker
Susan Pavlansky
Karen & Charlie Ricketts
Micheal Robertson
Kathy Svajdlenka & Josh Ring
Diana Washer
Norman West
Janyce Williams

Now's the time to give NPA gift memberships

New members who join NPA in September get the rest of 2012 plus all of 2013. That's an extra four months, free. So now's the perfect time to give an NPA gift membership to a friend or to encourage someone you know to join. You can order an attractive gift card online at www.n-p-a.org or contact the NPA office at info@northwestperennialalliance.org



Not to be missed!

December 5th 2012

PlantAmnesty's once-a-decade, Celebrity Gardener Auction Gala and Dinner

will be held in the evening at the Seattle Golf Club.

Dan, Ciscoe, Marty, Valerie, Marianne, Linda, Cass, Phil, Janet, Lucy, Richie, Little & Lewis, Withey & Price, Lorene, Riz, and Ian will be there.

Will you?

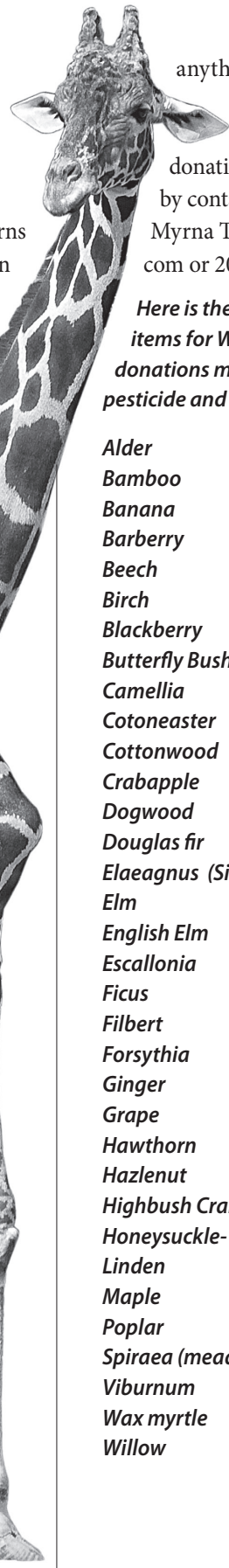
Elegant and bright, delicious and delightfully fun. Join us.

Find details for the Celebrity Gardener Dinner Auction online at plantamnesty.org.

Sponsored by Sky Nursery and Walt's Organic Fertilizer Co.

Please feed the animals

RECENTLY, THE GIRAFFES at Woodland Park Zoo were treated to a gourmet meal of *Elaeagnus* donated by Dianne Ferris, who had decided to remove the overgrown shrub from her garden. It turns out there are many delicacies growing in our gardens which zoo animals would dearly love to eat, so please keep our hungry friends in mind when you're editing or pruning this fall. Donating your clippings adds a bit of variety to the animals' diet and helps the zoo stretch its budget. The zoo prefers larger cuttings and can't accept



anything that's been sprayed with chemicals. They have no way to pick up donations, but you can donate by contacting NPA member Myrna Torrie at mmtorrie@msn.com or 206-524-4316.

Here is the list of approved browse items for Woodland Park Zoo. Plant donations must be herbicide, pesticide and chemical free.

*Alder
Bamboo
Banana
Barberry
Beech
Birch
Blackberry
Butterfly Bush
Camellia
Cotoneaster
Cottonwood
Crabapple
Dogwood
Douglas fir
Elaeagnus (Silverberry or Oleaster)
Elm
English Elm
Escallonia
Ficus
Filbert
Forsythia
Ginger
Grape
Hawthorn
Hazlenut
Highbush Cranberry
Honeysuckle- Common, Twinberry
Linden
Maple
Poplar
Spiraea (meadowsweet)
Viburnum
Wax myrtle
Willow*

Hardy Plant Study Weekend coming to Vancouver June 14-16, 2013

Mark your calendars for "Insight and Inspiration from the Ground Up," a three-day Study Weekend hosted by the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group in 2013. It will be held June 14, 15 and 16 at the University of British Columbia campus. Plans to date include speakers John Massey, Andy Sturgeon, Tom Hobbs, Paddy Wales and more, with an informal reception on Saturday evening at Tom Hobbs' Southland Nursery. Several specialty nurseries from the B.C. area and Washington State will be on site selling plants. One of the joys of Study Weekend, open garden tours, will include the Surrey/Langley area, Vancouver, the North Shore and possibly the Sunshine Coast. Registration will begin on February 1, 2013. More details will be posted towards the end of the year at www.vancouverhardyplant.org

FREE CLASS IN THE BORDER

**AUTUMN WALK & TALK
WITH GEORGE LASCH
SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 10-NOON
FREE! CLASS LIMIT: 15**

See the highlights and lowlights in the NPA Border. Come walk and talk with George to explore what is still looking good and what may not be. George will also point out what tasks need to be done as the weather turns. You must register to participate.

To sign up, email the NPA office at info@northwestperennialalliance.org

Shop the NPA Seed Exchange

GARDENERS ALL OVER America have discovered the NPA Seed Exchange. We try to supply quantities of seed equal to or greater than those given by the major seed houses at a greatly reduced price. All packets, whether they come marked 2011 or 2012 are from the 2011 seed crop. All seeds are open pollinated. Grateful thanks are extended to all our members and volunteers at the NPA Border who spent countless hours collecting and cleaning the donated seed. Seed is available for purchase by NPA members and nonmembers alike at all NPA meetings and plant sales. You can download an order form at www.n-p-a.org

2012 NPA SEED LIST

Acer griseum Paperbark maple
Aconitum cammarum 'Stainless Steel'
Adlumia fungosa
Alcea rugosa Russian Hollyhock pale yellow flowers
Allium aflatumense
Allium christophii Star of Persia
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata 'Elegans'
Amsonia tabernaemontana var. *salicifolia*
Anamanthele lessoniana AKA *Stipa arundinacea*
Anomatheca laxa
Aquilegia 'Chocolate Soldier'
Aquilegia skinneri
Aquilegia vulgaris var. *stellata* parent white with pink, green and cream shadings
Aquilegia vulgaris parent white-flowered
Asphodeline liburnica
Asphodeline lutea
Baptisia australis
Bidens humilis 'Golden Eye'
Billardiera longiflora Tasmanian vine
Brassica oleracea Nero di Toscana kale
Camassia sp. blue flowers
Campanula moesiaca
Campanula primulifolia
Campanula sp. parent was 'Samantha'
Cardiocrinum giganteum
Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Worcester Gold'
Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'
Chenopodium giganteum 'Magentaspreen'
Chelone obliqua
Clematis tangutica

Clematis recta
Clematis recta 'Lime Close'
Codonopsis clematidea
Codonopsis pilosula
Consolida ajacis
Corokia cotoneaster
Crococsmia pottsii 'Culzean Peach'
Crococsmia 'Lucifer'
Dicentra scandens
Dierama pulcherrimum deep rose purple
Digitalis grandiflora AKA *Digitalis ambigua*
Digitalis parviflora
Digitalis purpurea parent was 'Pam's Choice'
Digitalis purpurea white parent
Dioscorea villosa
Eccremocarpus scaber
Elsholtzia stauntonii
Echinacea purpurea mixed colors
Eryngium agavifolium
Eryngium giganteum
Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum'
Gentiana asclepiadea 'Rosea' Willow gentian
Gentiana tibetica
Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'
Hypericum androsaemum 'Tuscan Gold'
Inula helenium
Inula magnifica
Ipomoea purpurea 'Grandpa Ott'
Iris Pacific Coast hybrids parent was white-flowered
Iris Pacific Coast hybrids parent red-violet with maroon and yellow markings
Iris versicolor reddish violet flowers
Kirengeshoma palmata
Lavatera olbia 'Rosea' Tree mallow
Leonotis nepetifolia
Leonotis sibiricus
Limnanthes douglasii
Lobelia syphilitica
Lychnis chalconica
Lychnis chalconica 'Carnea'
Lychnis coronaria 'Oculata'
Lychnis yunnanensis
Lychnis x arkwrightii 'Vesuvius'
Lysimachia ephemerum
Magnolia sieboldii
Malva sylvestris subsp. *mauritiana* pink with purple stripes
Malva sylvestris subsp. *mauritiana* dark purple with near black stripes
Meconopsis cambrica Welsh Poppy
Mimulus cardinalis 'Golden Form'
Mirabilis jalapa 'Limelight Rose Pink'
Nepeta 'Wildcat'

Nicotiana 'Hot Chocolate'
Nicotiana langsdorffii
Nicotiana sylvestris
Omphalodes cappadocica
Orlaya grandiflora
Parahebe perfoliata
Papaver rhoeas parents:
Red, white edge
Dark red-violet
Mixed reds
Red to white center
Double pink, white center
Double orange
Orange, white edge
Orange
Pale-colored
Papaver somniferum Parents:
Deep purple black flowers
Single mixed colors, mostly plum-purple
Paeoniflorum group highly double flowers
Dark purple
Penstemon eatonii
Potentilla atrosanguinea 'Sundermannii'
Pseudofumaria alba syn. *Corydalis ochroleuca*
Ribes sanguineum v. *glutinosum*
Rosa glauca
Salvia argentea
Salvia 'Blaukonigin'
Salvia chamaedryoides
Salvia 'Madeline'
Salvia patens
Silene regia
Smyrnium perfoliatum
Stachys densiflora 'Alba'
Strobilanthes atropurpurea
Stylophorum lasiocarpum
Styrax japonica
Symphandra armena
Symphandra hofmannii
Symphandra wanneri
Thalictrum aquilegifolium
Thalictrum 'Black Stockings'
Thalictrum rochebrunianum
Tolpis barbata
Tovara (Persicaria) virginiana
Tovara (Persicaria) virginiana 'Painter's Palette'
Uncinia uncinata Hook Sedge
Verbascum blattaria
Veronica longifolia lavender blue flowers
Veronica longifolia pale blue flowers
Veronica x 'Pink Diamond'
Zinnia sp. dwarf, burgundy/gold flowers
Zinnia tenuifolia

Swanky Seed Heads

Wendy Lagozzino

AS WINTER APPROACHES and the garden winds down, I try to extend each plant's season by leaving the foliage and spent flowers intact as long as possible. Fall color can come in unexpected places and different seed heads can be recognized and appreciated for their form and color if one only takes the time and effort to do so.

Some perennials are obvious choices to leave up for winter, such as Sedum 'Autumn Joy' and similar cultivars, Alliums, Astilbe, Crocosmia, ornamental grasses, (especially Miscanthus), Yarrow, Phlox, Hydrangea, Eryngium and Echinops. *Monarda didyma* is one of my favorites for the longest seed head to keep its form. They look like a convention of bobbed brunettes that never seem to convene for inclement weather.

I grow a few more I also enjoy for a long season that may not be what you readily consider worth leaving up, but I recommend you adjust your point of view for a more exciting winter garden. Neat and tidy types can skip ahead.

Anemone japonica may be common and often invasive, but come February and March, their seed heads burst into pea-sized cotton balls. If you are lucky enough to have hummingbirds overwinter in your area, they will visit these tufts to plump up their nest for some new family members. Even in May I see them coming back to harvest this material for their nest.

Nectaroscordum siculum emerge early in spring from bulbs to bloom and become spent summer seed heads amongst perennials in their prime. Their tall ballerina legs are topped with a tuft of spent

flowers. They are worth leaving up for what they can later lend to the garden. I spray painted mine a pinkish-purple last summer to compliment some nearby yellow verbascum which I also left up not so much for their attractive seed heads, but for their strong presence near a bird feeder. This gave the birds somewhere to land while waiting their turn at the local diner. Meanwhile, the tinted seed heads of the *Nectaroscordum* made visitors do a double take. You can pretend you have a new allium no one else knows about.

Thalictrum are another plant that I love to leave up. My favorite is 'Elin' which grows very tall and straight in a thick clump like soldiers standing at attention. Their light beige stems echo the form of the Eucalyptus tree behind them which sets them off against its peeling red brown bark. My *Thalictrum rochebruneanum* is just outside my living room window, tall enough to show off its delicate hanging black seed heads all winter and small

enough to not be mistaken for voyeurs.

Rudbekias are especially architecturally prominent during winter. My *R. hirta* have black seed heads that stand up to winter weather especially well. I have picked some and arranged them in a pot to offset the black stems of *Pittosporum* 'Marjorie Channon'. Against its variegated foliage, they show up nicely and give the container a different presentation reflecting the winter landscape. When the black capped Chickadee lands there to find a treat, it's just icing on the cake. Meanwhile, the *R. hirta* 'Irish Eyes' stand tall offering a higher layer of structure as do *Cephalaria gigantea*. Their light yellow scabiosa-like flowers fade to light brown orbs birds like to examine. Their height brings the birds right up to view from my window.

Another favorite are the oriental lilies. Once the lance shaped leaves fall, a bright tan form remains. I call them my coat racks. Various heights occur throughout the garden and can even be cut and placed together for a fuller coat rack display. Is garden art that much different?

Lastly, and possibly surprising, is the great display that *Kirengishoma koreana* provide. Picture pale marbles on tall bright stems lingering until March when they begin to lose their stamina. Then, once again, as everything does, they fold down to the earth to protect the next generation and go to sleep for the long, cold winter.

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



Monarda didyma

The NPA Bus Tour to Portland—garden fever on wheels

Linda Gray, NPA Board Member

THE MORNING OF OUR NPA Bus Tour to Portland dawned clear and, dare I say it, sunny? No “January” gloom for our adventure! I was ready and excited to be going on a trip with fellow gardening enthusiasts. I have always loved to garden but, surprisingly, this was my first experience taking an organized tour of gardens and nurseries. While I won’t be describing plants in detail I would like to leave you with my impressions of this very fun trip.

After a treat of hot beverages and banana bread our group of 25 was whisked away from Bellevue on a comfortable Starline Luxury motor coach. We arrived in Portland, at the home of Lucy Hardiman, for a tour and boxed lunch in her beautiful and relaxing garden. I loved the use of both art and vibrantly colored garden furniture to compliment the lush greenery and lovely flowers. Her garden beds down by the city street corner were striking and inspirational. They were bursting with colorful drought tolerant plants perfect for our dry summer climate.



Happy gardeners at Joy Creek Nursery

Photos by Linda Gray

Our next stop was the fun and eclectic home of Nancy Goldman. Brimming with delightful flowers and intriguing plants the garden also held surprises around every corner. From toys to shoes and tractor parts to bathroom sinks Nancy’s garden showed that absolutely anything can be used in the garden to

highlight plants. It had me thinking of my garden in a whole new way!

To round out the day we visited two plant nurseries. We definitely caught “garden fever” at a wonderful neighborhood nursery appropriately called Garden Fever. With a great selection of gardening tools, art, gifts and plants to choose from we feverishly started filling the coach’s luggage compartment. Pistils Nursery, well known for terrariums and chicken-keeping supplies, indeed had amusing fowl and felines underfoot as well as more choice plants which found their way under our bus.

We freshened up in our clean and modern rooms at the Marriott Portland City Center and then our energetic group of gardeners gathered for dinner at nearby Mother’s Bistro. In the grand dining room we ate and chatted and laughed into the evening. The entrées were fantastic and the desserts divine. I slept like a log and then enjoyed the best Eggs Benedict I’ve ever had!

As we headed off to the uniquely northwest wholesale Xera Plants Nursery



Repurposed shoe at Nancyland

the very nice driver suggested that we move our smaller luggage up to the racks above our seats to free up more room for plant purchases. The thought of more space for more plants freed up our wallets too! I was pleased to find an entire hoop house of dry shade tolerant plants to choose from. A huge selection of plants specifically adapted to our “winter wet and summer dry” climate along with great prices and no sales tax led to a very full bus hold. Could we possibly fit in any more plants?

Before we could find out we stopped at the enchanting home and garden of Cynthia Woodyard. It is a wonderful study of shape, texture and function. Architectural details and focal points, refined plantings, manicured lawns and neatly clipped shrubs result in a tranquil and contemplative experience. We received much food for thought and then we finished off the morning with another tasty boxed lunch (Elephant Deli) at the Hoyt Arboretum.



Author's new plant collection

more plants that we needed to take home. That meant rearranging the plants under the bus for the several tall clematis that were added and now the flats of shorter plants were going under our seats. Thank

vie Island just before closing. They carry exotic plants that thrive locally so we had one last chance to find something unique for our gardens. Tired but happy we left the warm weather behind and drove to Bellevue with our extra plant treasures on our laps. The final bit of excitement came as we unloaded hundreds of plants off the bus and tried to find our names on them in the dark!

A big thank you goes to Carolyn Whittlesey and George Lasch for organizing and hosting the trip. The gardens and nurseries were fantastic but I especially appreciated the camaraderie of this lovely group of gardeners.

Editor's note: Watch for more great NPA bus tours in 2013. Details to come.



Lucy Hardiman's colorful garden

Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose was our next-to-last stop. The wonderful staff treated us to a tour of their lovely display gardens and then we headed over to the diverse plant nursery where we found yet

goodness we had been labeling our pots with our names! After the bus was loaded up one of the enthusiastic owners of Joy Creek waved us on our way.

We made it to Cistus Nursery on Sau-



One of many greenhouses at XeraPlants Nursery

From history to mystery

Gayle Richardson

The Morville Hours

by Katherine Swift. Various editions, 2008, 2009.

Published to much acclaim in England in 2008, this title details the creation of a one-and-a-half acre garden alongside a National Trust house in Shropshire by a woman inspired, a woman driven, a woman even obsessed, but, above all, a woman with no previous gardening experience.

Swift breaks her story down into eight chapters echoing the hours of the Divine Office, (Vigils, Lauds, Prime, Terce, etc.) paying homage to the rich history of abbeys and priories in the area, all with their gardens, and all brought to a crashing end by Henry VIII in 1536. The book, indeed, could be called a history book, but it is also a rich mixture of her own effort, begun, as she says with “no training, no experience, no money, and no income” as well as geological, literary, architectural, linguistic, botanical and art history, to name just a few, as well as the stories of the occupants of Morville House through the centuries and those of her own family.

It’s a grand compendium, whose style often can only be described as poetic and lyrical, but which is just as often totally mundane, as in her rundown of her inventory of garden spades and forks.

Critics have raved over the book, calling it “magical,” “moving” and “the most beautiful book I have read in years.” Do not miss the chance to discover it for yourself and be inspired to praise as well.

And when you’ve done that, you can continue on to its sequel “The Morville Year.”

One quibble: what on earth could the American publisher have been thinking of to change the English edition’s beauti-



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

ful and striking cover art in the style of illuminated medieval books of hours to something bland and totally unrepresentative of the book’s contents?

In And Out of the Garden

by Sara Midda. Workman Publishing, 1981.

This is an elegantly produced collection of watercolor drawings of countless little garden scenes and vignettes, from rows of terra cotta pots on a shelf to plans for knot gardens to lists of garden produce and their attributes to “advertisements” for garden related products such as baldness remedies and “a cure for insomnia and melancholy.” Quoting books from the 1930’s to the 1580’s Midda reminds us that writers have always been keen to give us advice and admonishment, a la William Lawson’s, “The gardener had not need be an idle or lazy lubber, for there will ever be something to do.”

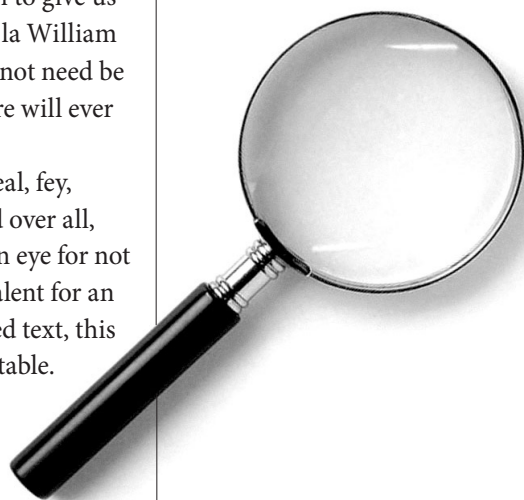
Whimsical, quirky, ethereal, fey, sentimental yet practical, and over all, informed with an artist’s keen eye for not only scenes of nature, but a talent for an amazing array of hand-lettered text, this is one to keep on your coffee table.

The Orchid Shroud: A Novel of Death in the Dordogne

by Michelle Wan.

An aristocratic friend of Mara Dunn, a French-Canadian interior designer living in southwest France, asks her to renovate a room in his family chateau. Construction comes to a sudden halt when the body of a baby is found immured in the walls. Oddly enough, it is wrapped in a cloth embroidered with a botanically accurate depiction of a “lost” orchid of the area, which Mara’s partner, Julian Wood, a landscape designer and orchidologist has been avidly seeking for years to rediscover. While the sparring of the couple, who are trying to accommodate moving in together, becomes a bit wearing, the orchid angle is interesting and will lead the reader to try the two other mysteries in the series.

Note: If you’d like to read a mystery set in nearby Perigord which merits nothing but raves and hurrahs, try “Bruno, Chief of Police” by Martin Walker. No garden interest in this recent best-seller, but a loving depiction of the region and its cuisine will have all readers hankering to go there themselves.





Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Plumbago larpentae)

Dwarf Plumbago is not a pain in the lower back as it sounds. Until it is time to cut it back, that is. Until then, it is a wonder in the garden when the cold weather hits. Growing as a ground cover it starts with bronzy dark green leaves that turn a brilliant reddish orange with frosty weather. Dark red buds open to grape Kool Aid flowers in late summer. Full sun to part shade even in hot, dry soil works, but it is happier and will bloom better with some summer water. This grows 6-12" tall and widens 2 feet or more. It pairs well with early spring bulbs since it emerges a little late, giving the bulb foliage time to cure.



Mukdenia rossii 'Crimson Fans'

Embrace Christmas early with this underused perennial that has great seasonal green and red flushed leaves. It starts out bright green in spring, turns bronzy red in summer and only continues the show into fall. The amount of red in the leaf seems to vary quite a bit and probably depends on how much sun it gets. Included in the Saxifraga family, it rates hardy to zone 2. Native to rocky slopes and ravines in China, Manchuria and Korea, *Mukdenia rossii* likes a woodland setting with regular water but it can take part sun if the soil is moist. This little beauty grows like a heuchera 6-12 inches high and slowly widens. Short creeping rhizomes spread this plant over time. A very neat bloom spike of small white bell shaped flowers occur as early as February and last quite a long time. If you see it labeled as 'Karasuba' that is very similar to 'Crimson Fans'. In Japanese, Karasu means a crow and Ba means feather, so something purplish black like a crow's feather. This certainly doesn't fit with this plant! *Mukdenia rossii* was formerly known as *Aceriphyllum rossii*. Now just say "muck-den-eeah".



Photos by Wendy Lagazzino

Parthenocissus henryana

This deciduous vine grows in a shady spot which is often a difficult place to find a good vine. Also called Silvervein Creeper for its silver veining on the leaves. Foliage turns a rich red in autumn that lasts throughout the cool fall months. It is not recommended to grow against a wooden structure due to its tough tendrils, but this species is less vigorous than others in this family and needs some support for its older woody stems. I have it trained across a cement block wall in one direction, through a *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald and Gold' espaliered on this wall and around the corner to a gate. On the other side, I trained a piece up a stairwell wall, across the gap to a short wire fence and intertwined it in the fence along one entire bed, all from the same plant over 11 years. New growth occurs each year off the main stem. Any new growth I don't want gets clipped short and goes no further. I really enjoy this creepy character.

Dianne Ferris, board member extraordinaire

DIANNE FERRIS, three term board veteran, is stepping down this month. Always an enthusiastic, generous-hearted, imaginative and thoughtful board member, she will go down in NPA history as the one who came up with the idea of Neighborhood Groups, when at a board retreat ways were sought to help members connect with one another on a more personal basis than attending lectures and other events. She volunteered for years on Sue Buckles' crew at the NPA Border at the BBG and was Classes & Workshops Project Chair, where she oversaw the popular stone wall building programs. Her charming "storybook" garden has been open many times over the years. Dianne's next big NPA milestone will be next year when she celebrates her 15th anniversary as a member. Recently, Gayle Richardson sat down with her for an interview which she hopes will help you get to know Dianne a little better.

Q: I know reading is just as great a passion for you as gardening. What authors' works would you want to have with you if you were ever to wash ashore on that mythical desert island?
A: The complete works of Patrick O'Brian and Ben Jonson.

Q: What's the best book you've read this year?
A: Anne Patchett's "State of Wonder."

Q: What's your greatest garden failure?
A: Paying no attention to the ultimate size of plants. I have a podocarpus that yearly shearing can't begin to contain. However, new owners via Plant Amnesty will be taking care of that problem this very weekend.

Q: What's your greatest garden triumph?
A: My *Itea ilicifolia*. I saw it in an English garden on one of Sue Buckles' garden



Dianne Ferris with her daughter, Eleanor Huebler.

Photos by Michele Cournoyer

tours and found one at Wells Medina when I got home. But a close second just might be *Hydrangea 'Taube'*.

Q: What's your latest great plant discovery?
A: *Saruma henryi*.

Q: What advice do you have for us gardeners?

A: Live one day at a time and put in all the plants you lust for. Never pass up a plant you want just because you don't know where to fit it in.

Q: What has been one of the pivotal events of your life (other than the births of your five children)?

A: Completing my college degree at age 41 and then going on to get my Ph.D. Even if I'd never gotten my job teaching English for 15 years at Union College in

Kentucky it would have been worth it. It changed my life forever.

Q: What have you got your fingers crossed for?
A: That I'll continue to work in and enjoy my garden for another 20 years.
 Gayle: That would carry you to 102!

Q: What makes you happy?
A: Seeing my children's and grandchildren's successes.

Q: Any words of wisdom for our incoming new board members?
A: It's fun to be on the inside of things and a privilege to work for such a great organization as the NPA.

Gayle: Enjoy your newfound leisure time, Dianne, and thank you so much for your service.

The 2012 NPA Board

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Join a neighborhood group— or start your own

Denise DuBose

Being part of a neighborhood group is a great way to make friends while doing things together that you all enjoy. I've made so many wonderful friends by being part of an NPA neighborhood group that now I can't imagine not being part of one. If you can't find a group in your area, it's easy to start a new one.

Let me tell you how we started our group. I called three friends who were already members of NPA and asked them if they would want to start a group with me. They said yes, so we then called NPA and told them we were a group. And that was it!

In the beginning, we only had four of us meeting once a month, but it wasn't long before the group ballooned to about 20 people. Once a year, we have a potluck lunch where our group plans the events for the following year. Everybody in the group takes a month to plan one month's activity and they do everything for that month, from arranging speakers to visiting gardens and nurseries. We also have

an annual event in our club where we visit the gardens of two or three of our club members for our own mini-Open Gardens tour.

If you're at a loss for ideas for monthly activities, NPA has a long list of speakers, projects and field trip ideas that have been suggested by other groups. (But let's be honest, gardeners NEVER run out of ideas!)

It's so simple to start a neighborhood group that I can't imagine why more people don't do it. If you're interested in starting a group, give us a call and we can give you some suggestions. There's also a list of our neighborhood groups on our website at www.n-p-a.org

There are four groups forming now that are actively looking for new members in Shoreline, Renton, Enumclaw and West Seattle. Contact either Barb Danek at bdaneknb@gmail.com or me, Denise DuBose, at stevedub@comcast.net if you'd like more information on how to start or find a group.

In Memory Beth Chave 1955-2012

We will not forget your smiles, laughter and insatiable quest for gardening knowledge. You contributed much to our group and were a friend to each one of us. We will miss you.

The Dirty Divas
NPA Neighborhood Group



NPA Advisory Board

Kelly Dodson	Chitra Parpia
Val Easton	Charles Price
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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 2012-2013 Officers:

Michele Cournoyer, President: 425-868-5541
Gayle Richardson, Vice President: 206-632-2735
Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820
Gary Davidson, Treasurer: 425-896-8040

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
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Summer Magic at Windcliff (See story, page 1)

