



The PERENNIAL POST

Northwest Perennial Alliance Winter 2009, Volume 19 Issue 1

Barbara Swift is beginning to get it! by Pam Felts, Education Chair

Landscape architect Barbara Swift will kick off NPA's 2009 program series in January. Her firm, SwiftCompany, Landscape Architects, has been paramount in designing and facilitating public landscapes in the Seattle area. Some of its clients have been the Woodland Park Zoo, University of Washington, Seattle Public Library System and Discovery Park. She collaborated with Kathryn Gustafson on the new Seattle City Hall landscaping. The National Parks System hired Barbara for an ambitious makeover in the Grand Tetons of Wyoming, where all materials were original to the "hermetically sealed" site, including the collection of native seeds and formulations for topsoil and compost.

Despite her vast and varied



Barbara Swift

Courtesy of Barbara Swift

experience, Barbara admits she is just "Beginning to Get It!" For our program on Sunday, January 18, she will connect with gardeners of all ages, enchant with her warm, engaging personality and transmit her passion for each project, whether civic or residential. She will share her knowledge and vision of "landscapes that...connect us sensually through sight and sound, smell and touch." As

past-chair of both the Seattle Art Commission and Design Commission, she appreciates the process of weaving good design, art and smart hardscape into the green spaces we cherish.

Barbara's work spans the personal—her garden in Ballard, "a wild urban refuge" of native plants—to a Jeffersonian-modeled "village" on 100 acres of the University of Puget Sound campus in Tacoma, her company's latest commission. She strives to preserve original environments and choose plants that cohabitate in harmony. We will be inspired by her good design and planting principles and learn how to apply them to our gardens. ■

January Program

Sunday, January 18, 1 pm

Doors open at noon for plant, book and seed sales.

NPA members free/Nonmembers \$5
Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Polar Bear Planting Party

New plants, not bears.

January 8, Thursday,
11 am–4 pm, NPA Border at Bellevue
Botanical Garden

Help us plant the new NPA Border. Hundreds of new plants are ready to go in, along with many treasures saved this summer that are ready to replant. We will also be lifting and potting up peonies from the old section of the Border. As always, each volunteer can take home a treasured

perennial. Bring lunch and bring a friend! Advance registration is not required. For information, contact the NPA Office, info@northwestperennialalliance.org or 425-647-6004.

NPA Website www.n-p-a.org**NPA office** 425-647-6004,

info@northwestperennialalliance.org

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The membership year runs from January to December. To join, visit n-p-a.org to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check for \$35, payable to NPA, to Sharon Stanford, P.O. Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA also accepts credit cards and certain debit cards by telephone, 425-647-6004.

Donations: NPA is glad to accept tax-deductible donations.

Submissions and advertisements:

Editor: Julie King

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or contact the NPA Office, P.O. Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327, 425-647-6004.

Submission deadline for the Spring issue is February 21, 2009.

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Winter Calendar

For updates on NPA events, visit n-p-a.org and click on Calendar.

January 8, Polar Bear Planting Party, Thursday, 11 am–4 pm at the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG), 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. See page 1 for details.

January 18, NPA Program, "Beginning to Get It!" with Barbara Swift, Sunday, 1 pm at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle. NPA members free/Nonmembers \$5. Details on page 1.

January 25, Glass Art for the Garden, Sunday, noon–5 pm at ArtbyFire in Ballard. Details on page 4.

February 1, Glass Art for the Garden, Sunday, noon–5 pm at ArtbyFire in Issaquah. Details on page 4.

February 18–22, Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Wednesday–Sunday. To learn which members are speakers, see page 3.

March 8, NPA March Mania Plant Sale, Sunday, 11 am–3 pm at the BBG Visitor Center. Information on page 3.

March 29, Nicolay Lecture, "The Ten Best Things I Have Learned from My Garden" with Dan Hinkley, Sunday, 1 pm. NPA members \$5/Nonmembers \$10. Location to be determined. Article on page 5.

April 4-5, Spring Garden Fling, Saturday–Sunday, 10 am–4 pm. Seattle and Eastside gardens are open for garden touring.

April 11–12, Spring Garden Fling, Saturday–Sunday, 10 am–4 pm. South Sound gardens are open for visiting.

April 19, NPA's Spring Plant Sale, Sunday, 10 am–3pm at North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way N, Seattle.

April 25–26, Spring Garden Fling, Saturday–Sunday, 10 am–4 pm. Snohomish County and Whidbey Island gardens are open.

May 2, South Sound Lecture, "From the Sublime to the Ridiculous—Ten Years of Favorite Gardens," with Janet Endsley, Chair, Pacific Northwest Gardens Competition, Saturday, 1–4 pm. NPA members free/Nonmembers \$5. Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood.

Save the date

NPA hosts the Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 18–21, 2010, at the Bellevue Hilton. Details will be in *The Perennial Post* and on our web site, n-p-a.org.



Shoppers at last year's sale

Sunday, March 8, 11 am to 3 pm
Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor
Center, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue

March Mania Plant Sale, March 8th

By Jean Walker, Sale Co-Chair

On Sunday, March 8, the NPA March Mania Plant Sale kicks off the local plant sale season. This sale showcases and sells plants from the NPA Borders and the best local vendors who offer early spring perennials. You can select from a great variety of hellebores, pulmonarias, ranunculus, narcissus, epimediums, cyclamen, and a spectacular assortment of primroses.

Formerly known as the Hellebore Open House, this event will include a tour of the newly completed Phase I of the Border renovation.

Freshly dug, unpotted clumps of hellebores from the NPA Border will also be available for sale at bargain prices.

Volunteers are a crucial part of the success of this event. Join an enthusiastic team on Saturday, March 7, or on Sunday, the day of the sale. To volunteer, contact Eileen O'Connor, or Carol Scheuffele at volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org. ■

NPA Members to speak at garden show by Janet Endsley

NPA members will be in the spotlight as speakers at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, February 18–22 in Seattle. Visit the show's web site, www.gardenshow.com, for speaker biographies, book signings and complete schedule.

Wednesday, February 18

Lucy Hardiman, *"Celebrating the Seasons: Gardens with Year-Round Color"*

Tina Dixon, *"Glorious Container Gardens: Elements of Design for Dazzling Pots"*

Linda McDonald, *"Planting for Seasonal Bouquets: Bringing the Outdoor Garden Inside"*

Sandy Milam, *"Container Tips & Tricks: Creating Beautiful Container Gardens"*

Thursday, February 19

Lucy Hardiman, *"The Emerging Front Garden: Breaking the Rules of Boring Lawns"*

Riz Reyes, *"Perennial Propagation Primer: How to Get More of Your Favorite Plants for Free"*

Friday, February 20

Dan Hinkley, *"Drama Queens: Bold Plants for Show-Stopping Effects"*

Dan Hinkley, *"The Garden in Winter: Celebrating Texture, Color & Form"*

Marty Wingate, *"Shrubs for Shade: Great Plants for All Types of Shade"*

Beth Evans-Ramos, *"Salvage Savvy: Garden Art Fun with 'Found' Objects"*

Mary Robson, *"Green Gardening: Ideas for Earth-Friendly Gardening"*

Saturday, February 21

Marty Wingate, *"Water—The Life of the Garden: Water Features for Small Spaces"*

Judith Jones, *"Garden Buccaneers: What Dangers Lurk in Your Garden?"*

Phil Wood, *"Plants with Panache: Spectacular Performers for the Northwest"*

Sunday, February 22

Mary Robson, *"Bodacious Beauties: Problem-Free Plants to Help Gardens Thrive"*

Carolyn Jones, *"Horticultural Headlines: What Today's 'Green' Gardeners Must Know"*

Nita Jo Rountree, *"Creative Planting Combos: What's Hot & What's Not!"*

Susan Goetz, *"In Love with Lavender: Creative Uses for Fragrant Lavender"*

Tina Dixon, *"Glorious Container Gardens: Elements of Design for Dazzling Pots"*

Judith Jones, *"Garden Buccaneers: What Dangers Lurk in Your Garden?"* ■

Janet Endsley is the Seminar Manager for the show and a past chair of NPA.

NPA's booth

is located in a prime corner of the Educational Organizations area, #2366, in the North Hall.

A warm welcome to new members

Denise Angrisano-DuBose
 James Ball
 Kristen Brinks
 Angie Brown
 Barb Danek
 Pat Evans
 Flo Fox
 Stanley Giant
 Carolyn Gutierrez
 Sandy Kanaga
 James Kelsey
 Diane Malone
 Jared Pearce
 Antonia Potter
 Cheryl Prescott
 Connie Purchase
 Kim Rector
 Helen Roberts
 Laurie Shillito
 Sarah Thomas



Study Weekend

The Hardy Plant Group of the Victoria Horticultural Society will host De Vine Visions, the 2009 Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 19–21, in Sidney, British Columbia. Speakers include Dan Heims, Terra Nova Nurseries; Philip MacDougall, plant explorer; Julie Moir Messervy, landscape architect and author of *The Inward Garden*; Dr. Mary Toomey, author and clematis expert. To register, go to www.islandnet.com/~voltaire/HardyPlant.htm.

Michele Cournoyer



Successful Fall Plant Sale

Last October, hardy shoppers braved brisk winds and occasional downpours for our first Fall Plant Sale, held at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. They snapped up pots of towering blue *Aconitum*, flats of groundcovers, *Colchicum* (autumn crocuses), grasses and other

treasures from the Border—then refueled on hot coffee.

The venture was a success thanks to Gayle Richardson, Fall Plant Sale Chair, Carol Scheuffele, Volunteer Chair, and the wonderful volunteers.

—Michele Cournoyer, Co-Chair

Glass art workshops

Truus Lagerman, Co-Chair of Programs, has set up two workshops in January and February. The next *Post* will list later classes and workshops.

To register, contact the NPA Office, c/o Sharon Stanford, PO Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327, 425-647-6004 or info@northwestperennialalliance.org

January 25, Sunday

Glass Art for the Garden, noon - 5 pm at ArtbyFire at 5465 Leary Ave NW, Seattle.

Are the dreary, cold days enough to send you into hibernation? Shake those gardening blues, get close to the fire and join us

at ArtbyFire for hands-on glass blowing. Choose to make a glass float or flower on a support from a multitude of colors. Wear cotton clothing, closed-toe shoes, and bring sunglasses. In other words, dress for gardening on a sunny day! Class fee of \$70 includes all materials and instruction. *We are unable to give refunds for cancellations after January 8.*

February 1, Sunday

Glass Art for the Garden, noon - 5 pm at ArtbyFire at 195 Front St, Suite A, Issaquah.

A repeat of the January class, in a location convenient to Eastsiders. *We are unable to give refunds for cancellations after January 15.*

Dan Hinkley speaks in March

by Pam Felts, Education Chair

“The Ten Best Things I Have Learned from My Garden”

What are the ten best things Dan Hinkley has learned from his new garden, Windcliff? He will tell us at NPA's Nicolay Memorial Program in March.

Kevin Nicolay was a nationally acclaimed botanical illustrator and one of the founders of NPA. ■

Nicolay Memorial Program

Sunday, March 29, 1 pm

Doors open at noon for plant, book and seed sales.

\$5 NPA members/\$10 non-members

Center for Urban Horticulture

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Julie King



Dan Hinkley at Windcliff

Open Gardens program by Katie Padwick, Open Gardens Chair



A perk of NPA membership is visiting gardens for free from April to October. One of the pleasures of opening one's garden is sharing it with all kinds of visitors from beginners to experts.

Spring Garden Fling

In April, NPA's garden touring season begins with the Spring Garden Fling, with gardens open in the South Sound, Seattle/Eastside, and Whidbey/Snohomish. These gardens are especially beautiful

and interesting this time of year. Directions will be mailed to members in mid-March.

A successful year

In 2008, seventy-six gardens were open and visited by over 2434 people. Twenty were open for the first time for the Open Gardens program. Many hosts were surprised and pleased by the number of visitors. After so much time, effort and money into our gardens, it's rewarding to have other gardeners visit.

Wells Medina Nursery again generously donated gift certificates, for two drawings at the November meeting. The four garden hosts who received a \$50 gift certificate are Marian Wade Stone of Gig Harbor, Sylvia Duryee of Seattle, Lynn & Robert Bergelin of Seattle, and Kathleen Neal of Mountlake Terrace.

Three \$25 gift certificates were

awarded to garden visitors. The winners are Carol Holloway, Norma Vogeli, and Mary Ann Bunnell. Carol and Norma were present.

Our thanks also go to the 28 nurseries which offered discounts to our members all year long. They were listed in the Open Gardens book and on the NPA website, n-p-a.org.

The 2009 Open Gardens Invitation and Registration forms

are included with this issue of *The Perennial Post*. Consider sharing your garden, whether it's vast or tiny, gorgeous or still under construction. Fill out the registration form and mail or email it by the deadline, February 15. Instructions are on the form.

To see some of the gardens that have been open, visit our website, n-p-a.org. I hope to see you in your garden next year. ■

Don't move until you tell us your new address.

Tell the NPA Office: Sharon Stanford, PO Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327, 425-647-6004, info@northwestperennialalliance.org.

Clippings from the Borders

Winter is hardly a time to relax by George Lasch, NPA Border Supervisor

The holidays blew in and blustered back out again, just like winter. The season has showed its face, retreated and then reared up and pelted cold wind-driven rain. Yet we must head out into the garden, into discouraging temperatures. While the garden is "asleep", we weeds lurk here and there, ready to burst forth, bloom and set seed. It's hardly a time to relax, but work warms you up!

These are the days of division, when clumps can be ripped and rendered into smaller, more suitable sizes for replanting or dispersal. Remember what that little circle of cut back stems will become, and decide its fate. If you are a really organized gardener, flip through your notes, get out and actually do those things you suggested back when summer was billowing. For the Border, we decided the fate of several thickets, a few specimens and countless clumps. Many are tagged to add to the collections database of BBG. Some are being lifted and stowed for the second phase of the renovated Border. Others are being dug, cleaned of noxious weeds and replanted in the South section, which is ready for new and old acquisitions. Countless other clumps will remain for another year in the North beds, where they have flourished for years and will keep things looking full and inviting. A new year with challenges and rewards is under way. ■



Michele Cournoyer

A crew of enthusiastic students from Bellevue Community College pitched in to help with fall cleanup in the Border.

Border Crew Days

Being part of a crew doesn't mean a monthly obligation. Pick the day that works best for you and come when you can.

Second Sunday, 11 am–3 pm
with Gayle Richardson

Fourth Thursday, 10:30 am–2:30 pm
with Carol Holloway

To join a crew, call the NPA office at 425-647-6004 or visit our web site, www.n-p-a.org. Please bring small gardening tools and water and wear appropriate clothing.

Polar Bear Planting Party

January 8, Thursday, 11 am–4 pm
Details on page 1.

The NPA Border

12001 Main Street, Bellevue.

The NPA Border began in 1991 and is one of the largest demonstration gardens of its kind in the U.S. It is part of the Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG), which is free and open to the public daily, dawn to dusk.

We are embarking on a project to renovate the NPA Border, with the guidance of two of the original designers, Glenn Withey and Charles Price. New paths and stairs will make the Border more accessible.

Perennials wanted

by Michele Cournoyer,
Co-Chair

If you've visited the NPA Border at the BBG recently, you've seen the beautiful new beds on the south end of the Border, still mostly bare earth, crying out for new plants.

Generous nurseries have donated many choice plants, but we are still on the hunt for many more. Do you have any of the following plants in your garden? If you'd like to donate a division, please contact George Lasch at border@northwestperennialalliance.org, or leave a message for him at the NPA office, 425-647-6004.

Cash donations are especially welcome, and will help buy the hard-to-find perennials.

The number refers to how many divisions are needed.

Agapanthus africanus 9
Alcea rugosa 3

<i>Aloe polyphylla</i>	3	<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	5
<i>Aquilegia viridis</i>	3	<i>Helianthemum 'Cheviot'</i>	4
<i>Artemisia 'Powys Castle'</i>	1	<i>Hosta 'Dark Shadows'</i>	1
<i>Artemisia canescens</i>	11	<i>Hosta 'Lakeside Breaking News'</i>	1
<i>Aster 'Alma Potschke'</i>	3	<i>Hosta 'Lord Snowden'</i>	3
<i>Aster 'Little Carlow'</i>	3	<i>Hosta 'Prairie Sky'</i>	1
<i>Aster 'Jungfrau'</i>	3	<i>Hosta tokudama 'Flavo-circinalis'</i>	4
<i>Aster 'Wonder of Staffa'</i>	3	<i>Iris sibirica 'Blue Form'</i>	3
<i>Begonia grandis 'Heron's Pirouette'</i>	3	<i>Iris sibirica 'Penny White'</i>	3
<i>Bergenia 'Ballawley'</i>	8	<i>Kniphofia 'Alcazar'</i>	1
<i>Cardiocrinum giganteum</i>	6	<i>Kniphofia 'Coolknip'</i>	3
<i>Carex 'Green form'</i>	9	<i>Kniphofia 'Goldfinch'</i>	1
<i>Chrysanthemum 'Mary Stoker'</i>	6	<i>Kniphofia 'Green Jade'</i>	1
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	3	<i>Kniphofia 'Percy's Pride'</i>	1
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	3	<i>Kniphofia 'Yellow Cheer'</i>	1
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	3	<i>Kniphofia citrina 'Lime Select'</i>	1
<i>Dahlia 'Destiny Dawn'</i>	1	<i>Leonotis 'Savannah Sunset' (1 gal)</i>	3
<i>Dahlia 'Boone'</i>	1	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i>	1
<i>Delphinium 'Magic Fountain Mix'</i>	8	<i>Miscanthus 'Flamingo'</i>	1
<i>Dianella 'Baby Bliss'</i>	20	<i>Nepeta 'Dropmore'</i>	6
<i>Digitalis 'Spice Islands'</i>	3	<i>Origanum 'Norton's Gold'</i>	18
<i>Digitalis ferruginea</i>	3	<i>Paeonia 'Rozella'</i>	1
<i>Echinops ruthenicus</i>	1	<i>Podophyllum pleianthum</i>	1
<i>Epimedium x versicolor 'Versicolor'</i>	3	<i>Rehmannia elata</i>	3
<i>Francoa sonchifolia</i>	1	<i>Rodgersia henrici</i>	1
<i>Fuchsia 'Hawkshead'</i>	5	<i>Rodgersia pinnata (any cultivar)</i>	3
<i>Fuchsia 'Purple form'</i>	1	<i>Rodgersia pinnata 'Fireworks'</i>	3
		<i>Salvia 'Mystic Spire'</i>	3
		<i>Salvia patens</i>	3
		<i>Sedum 'Hab Gray'</i>	9
		<i>Solidago 'Golden Baby'</i>	3
		<i>Solidago rigida</i>	3
		<i>Thalictrum 'Hewitt's Double'</i>	13
		<i>Tolmeia menziesii 'Taff's Gold' (T. m. 'Variegata', T. m. 'Maculata')</i>	1
		<i>Tricyrtis 'Empress'</i>	3
		<i>Tricyrtis 'Taipei Silk'</i>	3
		<i>Valeriana phu 'Aurea'</i>	3
		<i>Viola 'Etain'</i>	18
		<i>x. Pardancanda 'Sangria'</i>	3
		<i>x. Solidaster 'Lemore'</i>	1

Border Renovation update by Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager, is on page 8.



New stairs and bench in December.

New email address?

If you requested email alerts and updates, they won't get to you unless you provide your new email address to Sharon Stanford, 425-647-6004, info@northwestperennialalliance.org.

Q & A by Irene Mills

Q: Why doesn't my (peony / hydrangea / mock-orange / clematis / wisteria / et cetera) bloom?

The first step in plant problem diagnosis is to accurately identify the correct botanic name of the plant, not the common name. Recently

I was helping

a colleague

brainstorm

why her client's

mock-orange never bloomed, and the first question I asked was what kind of mock-orange—*Philadelphus* or *Choisya*? Even when the common name tells you the botanic name—Hydrangea, say—you still need to know the complete plant name because different species in a genus often have different needs. And you need to know what the plant is to determine whether a perceived problem really is a problem; maybe it's normal for that plant and not a problem at all. Some plants, usually those grown chiefly for their foliage, either don't flower, or the flowers are insignificant. An example is Golden boxleaf honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida* 'Baggesen's Gold'), which is supposed to produce tiny, fragrant white flowers; I used to grow this shrub and I never saw a bloom on it.

Is the plant growing in the right place? The most common mistake is siting plants that need full sun in too much shade. Happens all the time. Roses, for instance, need six hours of full sun each day at a minimum to flower well. Other plants, such as lavender, need more than that. The amount of sun a garden gets is one of those things that is largely out of the gardener's control; it's good to be realistic about what will grow

best in the conditions you have. The non-blooming mock-orange was a *Philadelphus*, a woodland-edge shrub that usually blooms satisfactorily

in conditions ranging

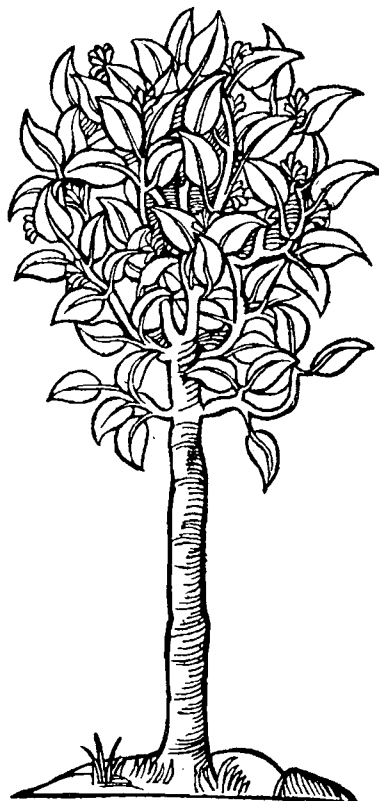
from full sun to part

shade, and it was

correctly sited. So,

onward.

Was the plant pruned at the wrong time of year? Quite a few woody plants bloom in spring on the previous summer's growth. Lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) fall into this group; so do most of the spring-blooming clematis, such as *Clematis armandii*; so does the mock-orange we've been troubleshooting (which had not been pruned). But some summer bloomers



flower on old wood, for instance, bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*). Almost without exception, when someone tells me their hydrangea never blooms, it turns out to be bigleaf hydrangea and they faithfully cut the whole thing back every spring. Lay off with the pruners for a year and see what happens.

Other factors that affect flowering are the age of the plant—some bloom while quite young, others (such as seed-grown wisteria) can take a long time—and the soil conditions: Many of the showy bloomers, such as hybrid roses, lilacs, and peonies, are at their best in fertile loamy soil, moist but well drained, with plenty of organic matter and neutral pH. Wisteria, on the other hand, blooms best in lean growing conditions and produces mostly stems and foliage when the livin' is too easy. (As my former horticulture instructor likes to say, "Plants flower because they think they're gonna die.")

Some plants have their own little quirks. Peonies dislike being planted too deeply; in the Pacific Northwest, they should be planted with the tops about 1" deep. Lilacs, like apple trees, often get into an every-other-year habit, blooming sporadically one year and heavily the next. Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) needs high summer heat to bloom well; in our mild climate, they're a good choice for sites with a lot of reflected heat from walls and pavement.

Having gone through all the

—continued next page

Q & A, continued from page 8

obvious reasons why the mock-orange wouldn't bloom—having determined that it was planted in the right place, receiving the right cultural care, and not being pruned incorrectly—my friend and I were out of ideas. But if you've done everything right and there's still something wrong, darn it, there must be an answer.

It was a mystery. I love mysteries, assembling disparate clues to find a solution. On the Internet was a posting from a gardener in the Midwest who complained of flower buds on mock-orange being killed by late Spring freezes. That triggered a recollection that the *Stewartia pseudocamellia* in my Bonney Lake garden didn't bloom this year, which I had attributed to the unusually hard freeze we experienced in April, with snow that laid for a week. *Stewartia* and *Philadelphus* bloom around the same time; perhaps their flower buds form at the same time, too? And—aha!—it turned out that the garden where the mock-orange is growing is located in Issaquah, another cold area where late freezes in Spring are not uncommon.

Do we know that late freezes are killing the flower buds? No, not definitively—but as Sherlock Holmes, that eminent plant diagnostician, remarked, "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." ■

Border Renovation update

By Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager

Big changes came to the south end of the Border in autumn, and now much of Phase I is complete. New beds have been sculpted, a warm earthy-brown stairway has replaced the slippery grass slope, pathways are finished, the first of several planned benches has been installed, and plant procurement has begun in earnest. Many plants from the original Border that were lifted and saved over the summer are being planted in the new Border beds. These plantings will be augmented by new collections of superb garden plants. Local nurseries are generously donating choice plants to revitalize the collections with new and improved cultivars. Our thanks to White Picket Gardens, Wells-Medina Nursery, and many others for their generosity in donating new plants for the Border.

We welcome your participation in the Border project. There are a variety of ways you can become involved:

Volunteer: The exciting task of planting the new Border began in December and will continue for many months. You'll be amazed how much you will learn from Border Supervisor George Lasch, while enjoying the company of other passionate garden enthusiasts.

Donate: Your generosity will help fund the purchase of plants, Phase II construction, and on-going Border maintenance. For more information about donating to the project, please visit www.n-p-a.org. (See article on page 7.)

Consider a tribute gift: Donating

Michele Cournoyer



South Border under construction

benches and trees is a lovely way to honor a loved one. Please contact Garden Manager Nancy Kartes at 425-452-2749 if you would like to discuss tribute opportunities in the Border.

Shop: Routine division of perennials results in extra border plants, which are available for purchase from the NPA plant carts on the Visitor Center plaza in the spring and summer. Proceeds from these sales support the Border project.

Learn: Discover the amazing world of plants via the BBGS Searchable Online Database at www.bellevuebotanical.org.

Special thanks to Withey-Price Design, Tri-Falls Construction and Carlson Construction for their hard work and care on this project. ■

Thank you

donors in 2008

Silver Shovel

Joe & Kathy Freedman

Cardiocrinum

Barbara BonJour

Mary Ann Byhre

Gerri Cherry

Nancy Darr

Char Davies

Monique Elfman

Melinda Fahy

Cindy & Dave Fairbrook

Pam Felts

Jocelyn Horder

Dan & Darlene

Huntington

Cynthia B Johnson

Sylvia Matlock

Susan McColley

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Sashi Raghupathy

Carol Scheuffele

Lynn Schueler

Doris Vinnedge

Ralene Walls

Joanne White

Marcia & Klaus Zech

Delia Zeutschel

Peony

Terri Boehm

Ilgä Jansons

Janice Kampbell

Kandy Kroll

James Marshall

James Murphy

Nita Jo Rountree

Liz Sanborn

Jean Walker

Horticulture scholarships available

Janet Endsley, Scholarship Chair

The mission of the Northwest Perennial Alliance is horticulture education, which is provided to our members through open gardens, the NPA Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, programs, classes and neighborhood groups. It is also fulfilled through support of students studying horticulture. In today's changing climate and scarcer resources, it has never been more vital to have knowledgeable horticulture professionals and landscape designers who serve as stewards for our private and public landscapes.

Deadline: January 15, 2009

Until January 15, NPA is accepting scholarship applications for study in Spring, Summer or Fall quarters in 2009. The awarded scholarships must be used at a two or four-year accredited college or university or an accredited trade school. Applicants must be enrolled as matriculated students pursuing education in horticulture, botany, landscape design, landscape architecture or environmental science. Funds may be used only for tuition and books, and are paid directly to the school.

The application deadline is January 15, with funds available in March. Submit applications to Northwest Perennial Alliance, Scholarship Chair, PO Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327. Applications can be downloaded at www.n-p-a.org or received by mail by contacting scholarships@northwestperennialalliance.org. ■

KUDOS

Sue Moss' garden was profiled by Val Easton in *The Seattle Times' Pacific Northwest* magazine, in September 2008. Sue is a garden designer and past president of NPA.

An article on the new garden of **Irene and Bob Mills** was in the Fall 2008 issue of *South Sound* magazine, and was showcased on the cover. Irene is a writer, and contributes the Q&A column for the *Post*.

"Autumn Artistry," an article on **Sharon and Ed Stanford's** garden, appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Garden, Deck & Landscape*, a *Better Homes and Gardens* Special Interest Publication.

Perennials: The Gardener's Reference received the 2008 Gold Award for Best Technical Book Writing from The Garden Writers Association. The book was written by **Susan Carter, Carrie Becker** and **Bob Lilly** with photographs by Lynne Harrison.

Gayle Richardson wrote about NPA's Seed Exchange in the Fall issue of *Pacific Horticulture*.



Speakers Bureau

As part of our educational mission, NPA maintains a roster of speakers eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for horticulture in talks to small and large groups. If you would like to add your name to our Speakers Bureau, or would like a copy of our Speakers Bureau list, contact Membership Chair Kathryn Highland at groups@northwestperennialalliance.org. ■

NPA Neighborhood Groups

NPA does not allow use of its members' addresses for any purpose other than NPA activities.

To join a neighborhood group, contact Kathryn Highland at groups@northwestperennialalliance.org

Ballard/Magnolia/Queen Anne

Dirty Divas

4th Tuesday 7 - 9 pm

Bear Creek

3rd Wednesday 1:15 pm

Bellevue/Mercer Island

Eastside Hortaholics

2nd Tuesday evening*

Camano Island/Stanwood/Marysville/Arlington/ Everett

4th Monday 11 - 1 pm*

Edmonds

Late Bloomers

2nd Thursday evening

Gig Harbor

1st Tuesday 1 - 3 pm

Kenmore/Bothell/Woodinville/Duvall

Smoking Plant Junkies

4th Thursday 7 - 9 pm*

Lake Forest Park/Kirkland/Woodinville

Mimosas

2nd Thursday 10 - noon

Maple Leaf/Northgate/Pinehurst/Lake City/ Wedgwood

Monday Nighters

3rd Monday 7 - 9 pm*

Mercer Island/Bellevue

Mercerbelles

3rd Wednesday 7 - 9 pm*

North Bend

Daytime meetings* Just forming

Northeast Seattle/Queen Anne/Greenlake

NE Clump

3rd Thursday 7 - 9 pm

Olympia

Capitol Gang

Last Sunday 5 - 7 pm*

Redmond/Kirkland/Bellevue

Eastside Morning Glories

2nd Wednesday 10 am - noon

South Sound

Dates vary

Sno-Valley

Lilies of the Valley

2nd Wednesday 10 - noon

Tacoma/Gig Harbor/Fox Island

Growin' Wild

4th Thursday 6:30 pm

Vashon Island

4th Thursday 7 - 9 pm*

Whidbey Island

2nd Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm

*Indicates group has openings for new members.

What are neighborhood groups?

A unique aspect of NPA is the opportunity to join one of our 19 neighborhood groups, a popular way to make a large organization feel friendly and inviting.

NPA provides support and guidance through an up-to-date Speaker's Bureau list, group guidelines, regular emails to neighborhood group coordinators with ideas for meetings and outings, and a yearly coordinators' meeting to exchange ideas. Find the NPA garden club nearest you on the list on this page. If there is no group in your area, or the local group is full, and you would like to start a new neighborhood group, email the Membership Chair, Kathryn Highland at groups@northwestperennialalliance.org.



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.

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The Post goes digital by Julie King, Editor

The Perennial Post is now available in an emailable PDF format. Like many of us, NPA is exploring ways to keep expenditures in line with a tight budget. We will save several thousand dollars a year in printing and mailing costs if most of our members elect to receive the publication electronically. The newsletter also will be more timely, reducing the lead time required for publishing.

If you would prefer to receive the PDF version, email the NPA Office at info@northwestperennialalliance.org. If we don't hear from you, you will continue to receive a printed version. You may change your preference at any time by contacting the NPA Office.



Artwork by Kevin Nicolay © NPA

renew your NPA membership

Continue to receive your favorite NPA benefits by renewing today.

Visit n-p-a.org to pay electronically or download a membership form. You also can mail a check for \$35, payable to NPA, to the NPA Office, PO Box 279, Dupont WA 98327. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA also accepts credit cards and certain debit cards at 425-647-6004.

Open Gardens registration inside



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