



The Accidental Chocolate Gardener

Pam Felts, Education Chair

It all started with Marie Lincoln's love of plants, specifically *dark* plants, and husband Bill's love of chocolate - and the rest is history. Marie has accomplished a lot over the past four years! In 2005, Marie and Bill moved onto a 1923 farm on Whidbey Island and opened The Chocolate Flower Farm. Since then the Farm has grown beyond their wildest dreams. On January 24th, Marie will share with us her life as "The Accidental Chocolate Gardener." Her talk will include their new plant introductions, Delphinium 'Kissed by Chocolate' and Nicotiana 'Chocolate Smoke', the darkest Nicotiana in cultivation.

Public acknowledgement of their efforts has been numerous. Val Easton



wrote an 8-page feature article about The Chocolate Flower Farm in *Horticulture* magazine and followed up with an article for *The Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine*. They have been featured in *Sunset*, *Birds and Blooms*, *South Sound Magazine* and *Better Homes & Gardens'* special

interest publication *Perennials* in 2008 and 2009. HGTV aired a segment about them on "Gardening by the Yard" with Paul James, which attracted national attention. Washington State Tourism dubbed them a "Regional Treasure," and *Martha Stewart Living* recognized their unique specialty nursery and gift business. They gained international fame when featured in *SEASONS Magazine*, a high-end Moscow, Russia publication.

Marie and Bill also produce a line of Chocolate Garden Seed Kits and candles that come in chocolate and other scents (www.chocolateflowerfarm.com). In keeping with the farm theme, their "family" includes kid-friendly chickens, ducks, dogs, cats, horses and goats! With their business constantly evolving, Bill still manages to enjoy chocolate three times a day while Marie pursues her passion for unusual and hard-to-find perennials.

NPA January Lecture

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010, 1:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT NOON FOR

PLANT & SEED SALES

NPA MEMBERS, FREE / NONMEMBERS, \$10

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

3501 NE 41ST STREET, SEATTLE ❁

Free Flower Show Tickets!

Get your FREE 2010 Northwest Flower & Garden Show ticket! The NPA has 38 tickets to award to our volunteers. Simply join the NPA team in staffing our 2010 NWFGS Booth. The hours are 9:00 am – 8:00 pm February 3rd – 6th, and 9:00 am – 6:00 pm February 7th. We will have 3-hour shifts with two NPA members per shift, so sign up with a friend! We're looking for enthusiastic people to tell attendees about NPA's Open Gardens, 2010 Study Weekend, lectures, Neighborhood Groups and many other terrific

benefits of NPA membership. We will provide written instructions and a coordinator for each day so you will receive instructions on how to sign up new members, or answer general NPA membership questions.

Be one of the first to volunteer and get your selected time slot, and then you are free to enjoy the rest of the show! Send us your information (Name, phone/email, and preferred day and time you'd like to work) to: volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org. ❁

Special Study Weekend edition!

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NPA EVENTS

Calendar

- JANUARY 15** **Study Weekend Registration** opens exclusively for NPA members! Details and registration form on pages 4 - 6.
- JANUARY 24** **NPA Lecture**, "The Accidental Chocolate Gardener," with Marie Lincoln, Sunday, 1:00 pm at CUH, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle. Details on page 1.
- FEBRUARY 1** **Study Weekend Registration** opens to the general public.
- FEBRUARY 3 - 7** **Northwest Flower & Garden Show**, volunteer for NPA and get in for free! See page 1. Visit www.gardenshow.com.
- MARCH 7** **NPA MARCH MANIA PLANT SALE**, Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue.
- MARCH 21** **Potting Up Party**, Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. Free plants!
- APRIL - OCTOBER** **Docent led tours** every Saturday and Sunday, 2 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden.
- APRIL 15** **NPA Open Gardens Book** mailed to members. Don't forget to renew your membership to receive your 2010 book!
- APRIL 18** **NPA SPRING PLANT SALE**, Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm, North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way North, Seattle.
- APRIL 24 - 25** **Hua Yuan Chinese Floral Art Exhibition**, 9 am - 3 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue.
- APRIL 25** **NPA Nicolay Lecture**, "People, Places & Plants: Inspirational Highlights of My Horticulture Career," with John Elsley, Sunday, 1:00 pm at CUH, 3501 NW 41st Street, Seattle.
- MAY 9** **Mother's Day Social**, Sunday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society.
- MAY 22** **NPA Lecture**, "Garden Art from Found Objects," with Beth Evans-Ramos, Saturday, 1:00 pm at Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelley Lake Drive SW, Lakewood.
- JUNE 18 - 21** **NPA 2010 HARDY PLANT STUDY WEEKEND**, "Four Season Splendor: Design for Year-Round Beauty," Friday - Monday, Details on pages 4 - 6. Registration form included in this issue!

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

March Mania Plant Sale, March 7th

Join us for one of the first plant sales of the spring! Come out of hibernation and wake up your garden with the newest offerings from specialty nurseries and the NPA Border. These spring beauties will be just ready for planting in your garden - the perfect antidote to winter doldrums.

An array of specialty growers will be bringing you delightful spring ephemerals and their companion plants. These are just the plants to lift your spirits after a gray, soggy winter. They herald spring with their delicate blossoms and punch of colors, and many return reliably year after year (see the three choice plants profiles on page 3).

And of course it would not be an early March plant sale without the NPA's signature plant - Hellebores. We will have Hellebores galore, from the softest whites to the richest purples, and every shade in between, with



speckles, ruffles, semi-double flowers, double flowers and more. Hellebores are the perfect plants to grow in Northwest gardens. They tolerate our winters, lay low for our brief summers, and then bring us cheer beginning in December, when *H. niger*, begins to bloom. Next *H. foetidus*, in their various cultivars, opens pale green blossoms, followed by *H. corsicus* and *H. orientalis*, which can flower from late winter well into spring.

There will be hot coffee and tents in case of inclement weather. Sunday, March 7, from 11 am - 3 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue.

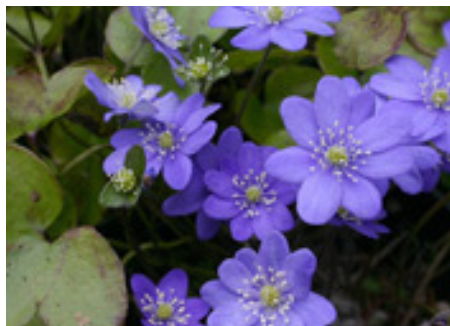
VOLUNTEER FOR THE SALE - Make new friends while volunteering at the NPA March Mania Sale. Volunteers get in early to scope out the best plants. Contact Carol Scheuffele, Volunteer Chair, at 206-545-3797 or email: volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org.



Cyclamen coum BSBE 518 - 2

Of the 23 cyclamen specialties we grow, all are gems, but this one is amazing on dark grey winter days. Discovered on a Bolles expedition in 1963, the leaves are large and brightest silver, nearly white. You'd almost swear the dark green "Christmas tree" pattern in the center is a stencil! The flowers are generous, a deep magenta, held well above the foliage. We've raised these from our original specimens for 10 years, finding this corm to be exceptionally vigorous and faster than most to mature into blooming size. It makes a glorious winter plant, flowering January thru March in the cold, even snow! I like to grow Cyclamen in drifts on the edge of a garden bed visible from the house. They enjoy light in winter, but dappled shade and good drainage in summer, when they will be fully dormant. Mine are planted in front of some old lilacs, teamed with *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' for an unforgettable, all season border.

Judy Zugish, *Bouquet Banque*



Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa

This late winter charmer cheered the homesick hearts of Swedish homesteaders in the deciduous forests from Manitoba to the Carolinas, for it closely resembles the European form of *Hepatica nobilis* they treasured. One of two American varieties long considered separate species, the former *Hepatica americana* occurs in floral colors ranging from white through pink and lilac to blue. The 'petals' are actually petaloid sepals performing the role of petals with competence and verve. Hepaticas in the Seattle garden bloom from late February through April, above the evergreen foliage of the previous year. They perform nicely and look natural among other woodland plants such as trilliums, hostas, ferns and the other usual suspects. Tuck them into the partly-shaded rock garden, or grow as a container plant, where the slow-growing, clumping form is an asset. They can take a sunny spot in western Washington. Hardiness is never a problem, as the plant is listed to zone 4.

Pamela Harlow, *Botanica*



Species Tulips

Have you ever asked yourself what happened to those Tulip bulbs you planted several years ago? You most likely did not plant Species Tulips. Species Tulips, smaller versions of Dutch hybrids, found growing naturally in Eastern Europe, can withstand extreme drought, hot sun, poor soil, and naturalize well. Today's hybrids, with their large flowers, are bred for size, and usually do not last in the garden for more than a few years. If you're worried about squirrels eating your Tulips, just plant them among sun-loving groundcovers like creeping thyme, aubrietia, or Alyssum. Discover the ease of cultivation, reliability, and beauty of Species Tulips by planting the multi-flowering Tulip *turkestanica* (soft yellow) or the single flowering Tulips 'Lilac Wonder' (hot pink) and 'Persian Pearl' (purple with yellow center). Planting Species Tulips in your landscape will insure a faithful and trouble-free spring return of this popular bulb every year. 🌷

Mark Overholt, *Overland Enterprise*

These plants and many more will be available at the NPA March Mania Plant Sale, Sunday, March 7th at the BBG

A warm welcome to our new members!

Janis Arthur
Delphine Briand
Sharon Brinley
Robert Brown
Nancy and Charlie Evans
Debbie Frank
Sara Gilbert

Connie Hokanson
Virginia Jenkins
Donna Kellogg
Carolyn Keneipp
Sandi Larsen
Kirsten Lints
Judy Maginnis

Stuart Mandel
Susie Marglin
Cynthia Marrett
Marcy Maurer
Linda Meredith
April Mulcahy
Margot Narvarre

Molly Polk
Fiona Pyle
Judy Quackenbush
Larry & Robin Root
James
Melissa Schafer
Clifford Sharples

Gloria Sherman
Phyllis Sloan
Lucy Sullivan
Bryan Vergato
Anthony Vincent
Hege Watkins
Mary Anne Wilkie

Hardy Plant Study Weekend

JUNE 18 – 21, 2010

Janet Endsley, Study Weekend Chair

With little more than six months to go before NPA hosts the Hardy Plant Study Weekend, the organizing team is gearing up for a memorable event. If you're new to NPA, you may be wondering what 'Study Weekend' is all about. Simply put, it's a chance to indulge your passion for gardening: fabulous speakers, inspiring gardens, irresistible plants for sale, and lots of garden talk for four whirlwind days in June. Our theme, *Four Season Splendor: Design for Year-Round Beauty* will be dedicated to contemporary design and plant influences to help you create a year-round visual feast in your garden.

Plant Market & Book Nook

Make room in your car as the region's finest specialty nurseries are invited to Study Weekend, bringing their choicest plants for our discerning plant collectors. You can shop every day at the **Plant Market** before and after the lectures, with secure storage & phyto inspection. We'll also have a **Book Nook**, where you can browse new releases and have the latest tome signed by the Study Weekend authors.

Open Gardens

Our 22 open gardens will be making their Study Weekend debut. These are gardens with award-winning design,



incredible plant collections (including some great veggie gardens), and an abundance of ideas for sustainable gardening and year-round beauty. On Friday, visit gardens in the North Seattle or South Sound areas. Eastside gardens are open on Saturday, along with a **Tea at the NPA Border** at the BBG. Sunday afternoon we head to West Seattle. Friday's gardens in the North Seattle and South Sound areas are repeated, so you can get to those you might have missed.

Solstice Celebration

On Saturday evening we're combining two of our favorite things: delicious desserts and lighthearted

laughs. Enjoy fine wines, coffee drinks, desserts and fruits as you enjoy the camaraderie with fellow gardening enthusiasts. Then relax as Steve Lorton shares the premier sequel to his acclaimed monologue, "My Life in Other People's Gardens," with all new experiences of people and places. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll eat chocolate. What's not to love?

Creative Workshops

For those who want to tap into their creative side, we are offering two outstanding workshops on Friday afternoon: **'Introduction to Garden Writing'** with Steve Lorton, and **'Introduction to Botanical Illustration'** with artist Louise Smith. If you want to learn a professional's insights on garden writing or botanical illustration, these 3-hour courses are just the thing to enable you to get started, or polish your work.

Register Now!

Registration opens exclusively for NPA members beginning January 15. Use the form in this *Perennial Post* or register on our website. For a detailed schedule go to www.n-p-a.org. Registration for nonmembers opens February 1. But don't wait to register – in 2006 this conference was sold out within five weeks and we soon had a 100-person waiting list. ❁

Study Weekend Accommodations

The Bellevue Hilton offers lodging for \$99 per night (double occupancy) with free parking. Reserve your room no later than June 1, online or by calling, using reservation code "NWP" to obtain the group rate. Or make your reservations directly from the NPA website when you register for the conference. Just click on "Group Reservations" for a link to our Hilton reservation page.

Phone: 425-455-1300

Website: www.bellevuehilton.com

Address: 300 112th Ave. Bellevue, WA 98004

Hotel registrations not cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival date will be charged for one night's stay. Friday's Open Gardens directions and details, directions to the Bellevue Hilton and other information will be sent to you in your pre-attendance packet. ❁

STUDY WEEKEND SPEAKERS



Adrian Bloom - Nurseryman, gardener, writer, and president of the Blooms of Bressingham nursery in Norfolk, England, Adrian is the author of many best-selling books. His latest, *The Best Perennials and Ornamental Grasses*, will be released by Timber Press in spring, 2010.



Rosalind Creasy - Author and designer Ros Creasy has been considered the leading authority on edible landscaping since her groundbreaking 1991 book, *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, named one of the 75 Great American Garden Books by the AHS. A fully updated new edition will be released in January.



Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA - Award-winning designer, along with her husband Hugh Dargan, of Atlanta's Dargan Landscape Architects, Mary is coauthor of their new book, *Timeless Landscape Design: The Four-Part Master Plan*.



Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd - Partners in North Hill, the garden design firm they founded in 1977, and creators of Vermont's celebrated North Hill garden, Joe and Wayne are the authors of *Our Life in Gardens* and many other books and articles.



Steve Lorton - Steve Lorton, a masterful storyteller, was at *Sunset Magazine* for 33 years, most recently as the Northwest Bureau Chief. Steve headlines our 'Solstice Celebration,' premiering his all new presentation about memorable gardens and gardeners around the world.



Charles Price & Glenn Withey - Best known for their innovative and bold use of color, their extravagant container gardens, and their knowledge of perennials in their garden design, Charles and Glenn have served as curators and caretakers for Seattle's E.B. Dunn Historic Garden since 1997.



Nicholas Staddon - Director of New Plant Introductions for Monrovia Growers, Nicholas travels extensively and works closely with breeders, hybridizers, and professional plant hunters who scour the globe for new plant discoveries for our gardens.



Riz Reyes - Next generation horticulturist and designer, Riz owns Landwave Gardens and RHR Horticulture, and also serves part-time as the Soest Perennial Display Gardener at UW Botanic Gardens. Riz will serve as the weekend moderator.

Study Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, June 18

- 10:00 - 4:00 pm Tour of North Seattle and South Sound gardens
- 2:00 - 5:00 pm Creative Workshops (*Reservations required; limited space*)
- 3:30 - 6:45 pm Registration begins, Plant Market & Book Nook open
- 7:00 - 9:30 pm Conference opens with 2 lectures
- ✿ Charles Price & Glenn Withey
 - ✿ Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd

Saturday, June 19

- 8:00 - 8:45 am Plant Market and Book Nook open
- 9:00 - 12:30 pm Conference continues with 3 lectures (with mid-morning break)
- ✿ Adrian Bloom
 - ✿ Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA
 - ✿ Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm Plant Market and Book Nook open
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm Tour of Bellevue and Redmond gardens
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm 'Tea at the Border' at the BBG

- 7:00 - 9:00 pm Solstice Celebration (*Reservations required*)
- ✿ Steve Lorton

Sunday, June 20

- 8:00 - 8:45 am Plant Market and Book Nook open; Phytosanitary inspection available
- 9:00 - 12:30 pm Conference continues with 3 lectures (with mid-morning break)
- ✿ Rosalind Creasy
 - ✿ Nicholas Staddon
 - ✿ Adrian Bloom

- 12:30 - 1:30 pm Plant Market and Book Nook open
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm Tour of West Seattle gardens

Monday, June 21

- 10:00 - 4:00 pm Tour of North Seattle and South Sound gardens

(*Study Weekend schedule subject to change. Visit www.n-p-a.org for the current detailed schedule and other important information.*)

HARDY PLANT STUDY WEEKEND REGISTRATION

*Registration opens exclusively for NPA members on January 15, 2010, by mail or online at www.n-p-a.org.
Use this form to register and volunteer to help! Registration for the general public begins February 1, 2010.*

Name _____

Name _____

Second person in same household only

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone (____) _____

Required for credit card payments (Country code if non-USA)

Email _____

Required for registration confirmation - will not be published

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION **AMOUNT**

\$140 per person before May 1, 2010 \$ _____

\$155 per person after May 1, 2010

Solstice Celebration

\$35 per person (Includes 1 beverage) \$ _____

Gourmet Box Lunches \$15 each \$ _____

Specify quantity: Regular Vegetarian

Saturday _____

Sunday _____

Creative Workshops (Limited space)

Botanical Illustration \$40 per person \$ _____

Garden Writing \$40 per person \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check (payable to NPA in US funds only)

Visa/MasterCard # _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____ CSC # _____

Signature _____

Required for credit card payments

Register online at **www.n-p-a.org** or mail this registration form to:

Northwest Perennial Alliance

P.O. Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327

There is a \$15 fee for all cancellations. Cancellations prior to May 24 will receive a refund of the balance. After that date your registration will be considered a donation to the Northwest Perennial Alliance. VE

Bloom Where You're Planted! Be a Study Weekend Volunteer!

Enjoy the camaraderie that comes from producing this stellar event. We have many areas where you can share your talents and be part of the team. Volunteer needs are for advance work or during the actual conference, helping to ensure it all runs smoothly. (Volunteers working the actual dates of Study Weekend from June 18 - 20 need to be registered attendees of the weekend.) Below is a summary of where help is needed. To volunteer: Simply return this form with your volunteer preferences circled and mail it with your registration. Or email info@northwestperennialalliance.org, call 425-647-6004, or contact Carol Scheuffele, Volunteer Chair, at tecumseh@msn.com to learn more.

Volunteer Job	Friday, June 18	Saturday, June 19	Sunday, June 20
Registration – Packet Prep	Meeting in early June	**	**
Registration - Registration Table	3 pm – 5 pm & 5 pm - 7:00 pm	8 am – 8:45 am	**
Plant Market – Set-up Vendors	10 am – 1 pm & 1 - 3:30 pm	**	**
Plant Market – Holding area	3 pm – 5 pm & 5 pm - 7:00 pm	8 – 8:45 am & 12:30 – 1:30 pm	8 – 8:45 am & 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Plant Market – Strike Vendors	**	**	1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Plant Market – Phyto Inspection Area	3 pm – 5 pm & 5 pm - 7:00 pm	8 – 8:45 am & 12:30 – 1:30 pm	8 - 8:45 am & 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Book Nook – Set up Books/Strike Books	12 pm – 3:30 pm	**	1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Book Nook – Cashier & Author Signings	3 pm – 5 pm & 5 pm - 7:00 pm	8 – 8:45 am & 12:30 – 1:30 pm	8 – 8:45 am & 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Tea at the Border – Set-up & Hostess	**	1:30 - 3:00 pm & 3:00 – 4:30 pm	**
Horticulture Display Set-up	1 pm – 3 pm	**	**
Horticulture Display Cleanup	**	**	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Open Gardens – Drive & check routes	Drive routes before April 1st		

THE BOOK *Garden*

SUE GOETZ

One of the most recognizable faces of the garden book circuit is Tracy DiSabato-Aust. Her flair for garden writing extends well beyond the frills of a “coffee table” book. Tracy’s books have all but become an institution on garden maintenance. Her best-selling title, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* (Timber Press, 2006) is a bounty of information on perennials and how best to care for them. It not only answers basic questions such as plant height and sun exposure, it gives Tracy’s insights on the stuff we really want to know, such as “Does this plant flop?” or “Is it long-lived?” and especially, “When do I cut it down?”

So when a book shows up with the title **50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants**, it sounds intriguing, right? How about when you note the author; this is the very reason I chose to take a look

at this book. Once again, we get a hefty dose of Tracy’s no nonsense information. The plants have criteria to meet; there are no slackers here, the book is sprinkled with Tracy’s personal insights. I loved the comment in the *Paeonia obovata* section about her grandparents being “rockin’ plant nerds.”

Alongside each plant visual, there is an easy-to-read check list that notes how the plants Tracy has chosen meet certain criteria, such as: Multi-season interest, colorful foliage, long-lasting blooms, cold-hardy, deer-proof, pest free, little-to-no deadheading, no staking, no frequent division, infrequent pruning, not invasive or overly aggressive, tolerates drought and more.

Sounds like the dream list, doesn’t it? This alphabetical reference-style book includes trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses. Look at your

garden for the gaps of color, texture and empty spaces, then choose new varieties to plant that add interest, but subtract maintenance. In a garden of choices where there are thousands of varieties of plants to grow, this book will help you cut to the chase and choose some top-notch performers.

50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants

By Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Pub Date: February 2009

Timber Press, Portland, Oregon

www.timberpress.com

ISBN 978-0-88192-950-8

168 pages, 135 color photographs

Paperback, \$16.95 ❁

Sue Goetz is a designer and owner of The Creative Gardener. Visit her website at www.thecreativegardener.com

GOT BLOGS?

Janet Endsley

If you can’t curl up with a good book, you can still keep up with what’s happening in the gardening world. Simply log into the blogosphere. If you’re not familiar with some of the blogs written by the region’s most entertaining garden writers, here’s a sampling of some of my favorites:

www.plantedathome.com/blog/ - Lorene Edwards Forkner’s enthusiasm for food and gardening jump off her blog pages. Her latest books are *Growing Your Own Vegetables* and *Preserving the Harvest* (Sasquatch, 2009), so she is really into edible gardening. Her blog is stuffed with delicious advice for getting started in the foodie craze. It’s spiced up with cool garden photos, garden art and sharing about her family and friends.

<http://www.gardenprofessors.com> - Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has teamed up

with fellow scientists to dispel gardening myths in an easy-to-read, accessible fashion. It’s a ‘hort-geek’ blog called “Garden Professors” with reads such as “Veggie gardening science – waddya know?”

<http://www.digginfood.com/> is another great blog for anyone wanting to grow their own delicious vegetables. Willie Evans Galloway packs her blog full of recipes and practical gardening advice, such as building a trellis, correct planting of fruit trees or putting in a greenhouse.

<http://nextgenerationgardener.blogspot.com/> - Follow Riz Reyes as he shares his travails in the garden, and his travels around the world. Riz is a certified ‘hort head,’ so you’ll get glimpses of hot plants from very cool and interesting places.

<http://www.valeaston.com/> - When Val Easton writes her *Seattle Times Pacific Northwest* magazine weekly column, she has to limit herself to the space allowed. Not so in her blog, “Plant Talk,” where Val can go into detail about people, places and plants. I love her vivid photos of the bouquets from her garden and the edible plants intermixed with ornamentals in her new garden experiment on Whidbey Island.

<http://www.passportsandseedpackets.com/> - If you can’t get to Europe to visit some of the world’s finest gardens, the next best thing is to read Marty Wingate’s blog about “Gardens and Gardeners Abroad.” She shares photos and stories from the tours she organizes to gardens such as Hidcote and Great Dixter, as well as recommendations for outings to fun local destinations. ❁

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Many thanks to our generous 2009 Donors for supporting NPA's fine educational programs, including the Open Gardens, the NPA Border at the BBG, student scholarships, EdCC classes, lectures, workshops and our popular Neighborhood Groups. Membership dues alone do not cover the cost of providing these benefits; your gift supports our 25-year tradition of offering quality horticulture education to be enjoyed by both new and seasoned gardeners alike.

PLATINUM PERENNIAL (\$500 and up) Keith & Janet Patrick Chitra Z. Parpia	Delia Zeuschel	Eileen Crawford Barb Danek Bonita Dennison Sara & Jesse Drogin Carin Dugowson Pat & Cathy Eakin Nancy and Charlie Evans Cindy & Dave Fairbrook Jo Ann Farwell Sharalyn Ferrel Jorin File Cynthia Flood Shannon Flynn Highline Botanical Garden Foundation Linda Fraser Patricia Gibbon Marjorie & Thurman Gillespy Rama Gopinath Sandy Gordon Jeff Graham Julia & Ernie Graham Jane Groppenberger Louise Guryan Cheri Hansen Nancy Hansen Joanne Harding Margaret Hayes Terry Hayes Kyle Henegar Debbie Hewlett Robert Jones & Daniel Hinkley Mary Hjorth Connie Hokanson Marji Lynn and Sue Hopkins Donald Howe Patricia Huntsman Keith Geller & Richard	Irvine Sally Isaiou Monika Jackson Lori C. Jacobsen Cynthia B. Johnson Miriam Keller Terri Kimball John MacKean & Mary H. Krock Melanie Davies & Alex LaVilla Dorothy Lennard Cynthia Lenz Sue Lewicki Mary Lignana John Takami & Roger Lorenzen Linda Hall & Mike Lubrecht Sue Madison John Albers & Santica Marcovina Cheryl Marshall Nancy & Jerry Marshall Marcy Maurer Dorothy & Richard Mehrer Linda Meredith Jane & Conrad Messmer Kelly Dodson & Sue Milliken Irene & Bob Mills Teresa Minato Carol Anne Modena Lisa Moscatel Daniel Mount Marianne Mulcahey Margot Narvarre Ilse Nethercutt Jill Norling Kristine Northcutt Penny O'Byrne Robin Parer	Jan Peterson Susan Picquelle Phyllis Pierce Terry Pottmeyer Fiona Pyle Dolores Ranhofer Barbara Reisinger Zari Rennie Kathy Riley Mary Ann & Jack Roberts Barry & Jan Rodda Jim & Barbara Rogers Elizabeth Rolfe Barbara Saario Betty B. Sanders Melissa Schafer Gary Schuldt Steve & Pauline Smith Lavonne Stewart Campbell Tina Dixon & Paul Stredwick Liann Sundquist Mickey Sweeney Barbara Asmervig & Michael Thanem Myrna Torrie Nancy Utter Carol Van Winkle Scott VanGerpen Mary L. Walsh Hege Watkins R. Gene Wheeler Susana Wiehle June Willard Sherri Wilson Jenny Wyatt Kathy Yerke Marcia & Klaus Zech Polly Zehm Jean Zook
GOLDEN SHOVEL (\$250-499) Barbara BonJour Janet & Michael Endsley Charles Price & Glenn Withey	PEONY (\$75-\$99) E. Marlin Cram Kathleen C. Dial Mrs. Phil Duryee Pamela E. Felts Betsy Fitzgerald Christine Hansen Carrie L. Hill Irene & Leonard Peyton Liz Sanborn Lucy Sullivan			
SILVER TROWEL (\$100-\$249) Mary Ann Byhre Darrel & Pam Coney Michele Cournoyer Nancy Daar Dianne Ferris Joe & Kathy Freedman Karen Herman Peggy Hinman Caroline Holloway Jocelyn Horder Darlene & Dan Huntington Denise Lane Linda & Roger McDonald Janet & Mel McIntyre Sarah Navarre Linda S. Park Judith & Kirk Prindle Sashi Raghupathy Gayle Richardson Elsa Rosenkrantz Carol Scheuffele Louise Schultz Clifford Sharples Jean Skerlong Doris Vinnedge Ralene Walls Joanne White Nancy Wieland	HELLEBORE (\$50-\$74) Karen Baer Lacia Lynne Bailey Christa Balk Susan Beecham Cassandra Fall Benz Deanna Berry Chris Bigham Nicola Bocek Terri Boehm Constance Bollen Sandra Booren Martha Bosma Walt & Dona Bubelis Michael Burgett Rod Parke & Dale Burke Jeanne Carpenter Dianne L. Carreri Candy Charlwood Toni & John Christianson Stephanie Rodden & John Cienki Ria Claassen Laurie Colman Cyrilla Cook Kathleen Cook			

WELCOME NEW OPEN GARDENS EDITOR

The best benefit of NPA membership is receiving that bright yellow booklet in your mailbox every April - your ticket to garden touring nirvana, with an incredible lineup of inspirational gardens open for touring from May through October. The NPA is pleased to welcome Mickey Sweeney as our new Open Gardens Editor.

Mickey is a native of Seattle and remembers accompanying her father to Malmo's Nursery, which was the only business around where University Village now stands. She has lived in many parts of the U.S. and Seattle was by far the prettiest, with its green yards and trimmed beds. One summer Mickey was invited to accompany friends for a day of visiting NPA gardens, and was in awe of all the wonderful gardens.

Although she has space for a big garden of her own, Mickey leaves the yard for now for baseball games and water gun tag with her four grandkids. Perhaps when they put away these childish things she'll start to cultivate something different. In the meantime, she continues to appreciate the privilege of viewing other members' creations and, since her retirement from event planning, happily volunteers her time to our great organization.

Mickey is looking forward to reading all the tantalizing garden descriptions during the wet and gray months of January and February, as NPA members send in their Open Gardens registration forms. She hopes to hear from you! Let's give her a warm welcome. ❁

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your NPA membership so you can reap another terrific year of garden tours, lectures, Neighborhood Groups, nursery discounts, educational opportunities at the NPA Border and Edmonds Community College, and much more. The \$35 membership fee is the best bargain in horticulture education. Many clubs and organizations are now charging extra for lectures, and also charging \$20 – \$45 for tours of perhaps a half-dozen gardens for one day. We don't charge you extra for membership meeting lectures, and we don't charge you extra for the Open Gardens book. We give you garden touring enjoyment from early spring through late autumn, over 70 gardens each year, with your \$35 membership.

But as with most things these days, the cost of all these member benefits keeps going up. We're holding our membership dues steady at \$35, but we hope you'll show your support

for NPA and make an extra donation when you renew your membership. NPA is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so your gift

gardening industry. Our Open Gardens program is unsurpassed, enabling you to visit some of the finest private gardens in the region, and learn from the gardening artists who created them. We offer free lectures that put you in touch with today's best minds in garden design. And we provide invaluable, hands-on education working directly with plants (and the people who know them!) at the NPA Border.

And don't forget, this summer NPA hosts the Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 18 – 21 at the Bellevue Hilton. NPA members get the exclusive opportunity to register for this conference starting January 15 – before registration opens to the public on February 1. Study Weekend sells out quickly, so make sure your friends are NPA members so they can register this month along with you. NPA gift certificates also make thoughtful gifts to your garden-loving friends, so you can enjoy touring our many Open Gardens together. 🌸



Photo by Roger McDonald

Members enjoy a plant sale at one of NPA's free membership lectures.

above the \$35 membership level is tax deductible and supports our mission of horticultural education for gardeners of all skill levels. We fund horticulture scholarships and student education to help people find new careers in the

OUR WARMEST THANKS

Dianne Ferris

Jean Walker deserves our heartfelt thanks for her many contributions to NPA as she 'retires' from her Board service. If there were such a thing as a Hall of Fame for Head Cashiers, **Jean Walker's** name would surely be there in a prominent location. For many years now the NPA has been fortunate in having Jean mastermind the cashier's table at our plant sales. Blessed as she is with tact and machine-savvy, a rare combination indeed, she has overseen our ever-changing cadre of cashiers time after time, and on many occasions sat behind a cash register herself.

I remember the Tuesday years ago when Jean showed up at a board meeting as what she described as "an ordinary citizen" interested in learning what the board does. Within a few months she was recruited to serve on the board. Jean quickly made herself indispensable, serving for three years as Volunteer

Chair, and then three more years as Board Development Committee chair, charged with finding new members to serve on the board and developing Board orientation materials. They are 'out of the spotlight' jobs and typically, Jean never failed to give them her all.

Yet gratitude cannot stop there. Sunday after Sunday grateful Border crews were rewarded for their labors with Jean's homemade cookies, rain or shine. And last, but surely not least, she served as the Board liaison and the hostess for the task force assigned to study issues at the Border. We shall all miss her services, her utter reliability, and her unfailing good nature. But we expect to see her as a lady of well-earned leisure at future meetings and plant sales. Hail and Farewell dear friend, but we shall see you soon! 🌸

Uncluttering the Garden

Lynn Bergelin

It seems we have a clutter problem in the garden. It must be a problem as there are dozens of books detailing techniques on how to deal with it. For my house, my simple solution is to put things away when not being used and if there is no space to store it, I get rid of it. It is a no brainer, but if we have less stuff, we will have less clutter.

One of the principles of uncluttering a household is to purge all the things you have not used in the past year. The same principle applied to the garden might mean digging out a plant that is not growing well, or no longer fits its space. Just like the sweater that no longer fits – it’s not easy to let go, but when it’s gone you feel better.

I thought a quick solution to uncluttering my garden might be to remove plants I don’t like, but it didn’t take long to realize that there are very few plants I dislike. Only two come to mind – *Meconopsis cambrica* and *Aquilegia* – and that is mostly because they seed around too much. So discarding my disliked plants is not the quick solution I had hoped for.

Getting Started

I decided that the first step to uncluttering is to take out or move plants that are not growing well. If plants aren’t holding themselves upright, climbing or covering, depending on their growth habit, they should be moved or removed. Another location might allow them to be the plant they can be. If you know your garden, you can match a plant to a specific location or, alternatively, put it in a pot to recover. My slug and snail magnet, *Ligularia dentata* “Othello” is now in a pot

surrounded by a ring of pennies (which deters but does not stop the snails) and the plant definitely looks better. And *Fuchsia* Papoose, which was in too much shade, now thrives in its new, sunnier location.

Cutting back plants as soon as they need it is quick and easy, and often you’ll be rewarded by fresh foliage and a second bloom. Shearing hardy geranium foliage to the ground, as soon as it flops, instantly looks better. The same is true with *hostas* that have been riddled by slugs. Just deadheading spent blooms helps unclutter things and the plant will most likely continue to bloom, or a least not be stressed by producing seeds.

Dividing perennials before they need it keeps them looking good. This is as effective as discarding some plants because the remaining plants are smaller. Perennials always grow better when not overcrowded, producing more flowers and more luxuriant foliage.

Fine Tuning

To keep things interesting, neighboring plants need to both contrast with, and complement each other. Consider combining spiky leaf shapes with fine textured leaves, or planting lacy leaves next to smooth leaves, or a round-shaped plant near a tall vertical one. Besides contrast, these neighbors need something in common – color, foliage, bloom or stem – a common thread that visually ties them together. These contrasts and complements keep your eye from wandering, and that

creates a calmness and orderliness. Using this rule, I got rid of the *aucuba* which was next to the *escallonia* – pink next to yellow – yuk!

We all subconsciously acquire plants with similar characteristics when we bring home only those plants that we really like. Because these similarities tie the plants together, visual clutter is reduced. That is the reason my two color-themed gardens work well.

The yellow garden consists of foliage and bloom of various yellows, while in the white garden there is a succession of white blossoms and lots of green foliage, accented with variegation.

Plants that are “invasive” or overly vigorous require extra work, which often doesn’t get done before it all becomes overgrown. You have to decide if it is too much bother to constantly be pulling back or digging out. I pull back lamium to keep it away from the path, but other plants like columbine are not easy to pull, so I don’t want them in my garden at all.

In the end, it all comes down to the gardener. You can have a zillion plants, and they can all work together without feeling cluttered if they are plants you like, you grow them well, and you have the courage to get rid of those that just don’t fit in. Like the brilliant orange lily that goes with absolutely nothing else in my garden – out with it! 🌸

Lynn Bergelin writes about all that happens in her NE Seattle garden which benefits from continuous uncluttering.

“One of the principles of uncluttering is to purge all the things you have not used in the past year.”

Q&A Gardening

IRENE MILLS

Q: I keep hearing that native plants are more drought tolerant and disease resistant, and need less maintenance than non-natives. Is this true?

A: If only it were! Native plants and soils evolve together over hundreds of years in interconnected communities that are self-sustaining—unless something happens to disturb the balance. Climate change is an obvious example of the kind of environmental disturbance that is impacting native plant communities worldwide, and is one of those huge problems that can be overwhelming to contemplate.

How can one person make a difference? By dealing with your own disturbed site, which (aside from a few rare examples) is what every developed property is.

When acreage is cleared to develop home sites, removing most (if not all) of the existing trees and understory, plus the native soil, what remains is truly a blank slate. By the time the homes are built, the subsoil will have been compacted by heavy grading and construction equipment. On top of that, building crews are notorious for leaving construction debris behind, such as chunks of concrete and pieces of pipe buried in convenient holes. Once the house is finished, in comes the landscape crew—working on a miniscule budget—to level the ground (more compaction), put down an inch or two of brown sand (to call it “sandy loam” is an overstatement), install sod and a few shrubs, and get the heck out of Dodge. Needless to say, the plants rarely thrive, and the homeowners usually don’t have the faintest idea why everything keeps

dying. Whether the house was built last week or five years ago, poor soil conditions don’t improve on their own. Human intervention created the poor soil, and human intervention is needed to improve it, since most of us don’t have a hundred years to wait until falling leaves and garden debris becomes a rich, healthy compost for our landscape plants.

When To Use Natives

To get to the point: Native plants are no better equipped, and often are

It doesn’t have to be back-breaking. This past spring, my husband and I, and our neighbors on either side, addressed a drainage problem caused by the combination of a hillside behind us and soil compaction during construction (the neighborhood was built in 2004-2005). We rented a stand-on trencher from a local big-box store that came equipped with power augers, and used the 2’ wide by 4’ deep auger (think of a huge drill bit) to punch a series of holes through the layers of compacted soil. While we were at it,

we installed several in-ground catchment basins to capture excess storm water and allow it to percolate back into the ground. The trencher was narrow enough to fit through the neighbor’s 3-foot-wide gate, and the full day’s rental was less than \$200.

Resources for Plants

After any drainage issues are taken care of and the planting areas prepared with good topsoil, focus on

putting the right plant in the right place. The Great Plant Picks website (www.greatplantpicks.org) is a good place to start looking for plants that grow well in the maritime Northwest—non-invasive, pest and disease-resistant, well adapted to wet winters and dry summers. The list of GPP selections includes many of our iconic plants—vine maple, mahonia, mountain hemlock, flowering currant, sword and deer ferns, camas—plus non-natives that mingle naturally with native plants to create an enduring sense of place. ❁

Irene Mills is a former NPA Board member, Master Gardener, and Certified Professional Horticulturist.



Photo by Richie Steffen

Mahonia aquafolium is an ideal evergreen shrub for Northwest gardens.

less well equipped, than plants from other regions, to handle this kind of situation. It would be better to consider the overall site conditions - sun or shade, slope, drainage, existing trees, etc.—and plan a landscape using plants that are well suited to the site. If, for example, your home were on sloping ground with a hot southern and western exposure, Mediterranean plants (to give just one example) would probably be a better choice than Northwest natives. If you have your heart set on plants that need deep, moist, well-drained soil with organic matter, then the best approach is to fix the soil first.

Things are moving quickly with the second phase of the Border renovation. The central staircase has now been added, beckoning visitors across the lawn and into the Border. The north-end beds have been shaped, and new paths now take you from one end to the other.

Many plants removed from the Border are in a holding area, awaiting warmer weather to join their brethren. The new beds will be open and sunny, with well-prepared soil to encourage strong root growth. There will no doubt be many emails and phone calls throughout the winter, as we get ready for a steady push of planting when spring (finally) returns.

Meanwhile, alas, the paperwork must be done! Like many of you, I am not nearly as interested in the pesky details of a plant (where purchased, how many, planting location, etc.) as I am in the plant itself. I am often overheard saying, "No roots, no leaves - not my department!" Truth be told, it is not paperwork but computer work that keeps piling up. One of the more mundane tasks of the Border renovation project has been to bring the plant records up to the highest standards. Accurate record keeping is crucial to botanical garden curation, so I am spending many rainy days typing away, with field trips on drier days to check the plants on site. The results are worth it.

As plants are added they are 'accessioned', just like a museum, and assigned a unique number with a data entry. Far from tedious, I think of it more as a scavenger hunt. Find the plant itself. Match it to a number or assign it a new one. Was the plant formerly in the Border? Or has it passed on to that great compost pile in the sky?

To me the fun part is identifying the plant. Is the name correct, the spelling correct, and the cultivar identified? (Am I *sure*?) Some botanical names might change at the whim of dedicated botanists.

Someday soon we hope each plant will have a tag large enough to have a name on it, but still small enough to disappear into the landscape. Larger, readable black labels will be placed next to a plant while it is in bloom, or showing seasonal interest. Visitors to the NPA Border will be able to examine ➤

The NPA Border is a great way to learn about something we all love—plants! Participating in a crew day combines camaraderie and education all in one, in an ever-changing outdoor classroom! Every month there's something new to learn and we welcome volunteers of all gardening skill levels. We have regularly scheduled crews each month on the 2nd Sunday from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm and on the 4th Thursday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Come for an hour or all day. Or let us know if you and your friends would like to come at a different time. We hope to see you!

Champagne Gala a Success

It was a gorgeous August evening when NPA held its Champagne Gala in Denise Lane's spectacular Medina garden, where guests were feted with fine wines, savory canapés and tempting desserts. The real dessert was the chance to feast our eyes on bold color combinations, unusual plants, and imaginative art, all perfectly placed, while strolling the elegant garden. The gentle music of a harp and cello duo completed the ambiance.

Glenn Withey and Charles Price, designers of the new NPA Border, shared with guests the challenging design goals to work seamlessly with the long-range plans of Bellevue Botanical Garden, the City of Bellevue Parks Planning Department, and the NPA for this collaborative effort. They also laughed at a more recent complication - an exploding population of bunnies and deer - requiring some changes in plant selections.



Photo by Roger McDonald

L to R: Denise Lane, BBGS co-president; Nancy Kartes, BBG garden manager & Michele Cournoyer, NPA president.

BBG Garden Manager Nancy Kartes conveyed the many positive reactions from visitors. "Long time visitors are thrilled that they will be able to study plants up close, even as they mature. We frequently see people relaxing on the new garden benches, and families can easily push wheelchairs along the paths that now make the steep site so welcoming."

The Champagne Gala raised over \$10,000 for the NPA's Border Renovation Project, to be completed in June. Special thanks go to committee members Barbara Conta, chair; Kathryn Highland, Gayle Richardson, Kathy Gehrt and Chitra Parpia; and to all who helped make the evening a

success. And a very heartfelt **Thank you** to our gracious hostess, Denise Lane, for sharing her labor of love with us all.

Those wishing to support the NPA Border renovation may do so on our website at www.n-p-a.org. 🌸

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR BORDER BENEFACTORS

We'd like to thank the generous individuals and businesses who've supported the renovation of the NPA Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden through their donations of funds and plants. Without their support, the project would not have been possible.

\$35,000 OR MORE
Bellevue Botanical Garden Society

\$20,000 AND \$18,000
(2) Anonymous

\$2,500 - \$10,000
Chitra Parpia

\$1,000 - \$2499
Dan & Darlene Huntington
Denise Lane
Ken Lauerman, Kathleen Smith-Lauerman & Nadine Marie Smith-Tannas

Sue and Bob Moss
Vicki Sween & Bruce Watson
Woodinville Garden Club
Delia Zeutschel

\$500 - \$999
In Memory of Angelita Cordero Byrnes by Paul Brynes
Roger and Linda McDonald
Gayle Richardson
Gretchen Stengel

\$250 - \$499
Michele and Paul Cournoyer
Tina Dixon
Janet Endsley
Elana Russell
Barbara Webb

\$100 - \$249
Jan & Earl Anderson
Anonymous
Barbara Bonjour
Walt & Dona Bubelis

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Dianne Ferris
Lynn Garvey
Catherine Gibbins
R. Augustus & Ann Hart
Lyle Hassebroeck
Kathryn Highland
C. David Hughbanks
Nancy Kartes
Teresa Kluver
Joyce and Steve Kormanys
Glenn & Sue Kost
In Honor of Denise Lane by Jerry Hillis & Diana Gale

Anna Littlewood
Mel and Janet McIntyre
Sarah Navarre
Cornelius & Sara Ann Ough
Lynn Rowland
Marilou Rush
Carol Scheuffele
Louise Schultz
Laurie Shillito
Cynthia Thomas
Jean Walker
Ralene Walls
Betty Willis
Stephen Winslow

\$50 - \$99
Cassandra Fall Benz
Mary Ann Byhre
Barbara Conta
Luann Cunningham
Carolyn & Peter Curtis
Suzanne Davis
Kathleen Day
Gloria Derbawka

Constance Dunn
Joe & Kathy Freedman
Kathy Gehrt
Rama Gopinath
Bud and Sue Grieff
Christine Hansen
Norm & Pat Hansen
Catherine Hillenbrand
Bob Hoshide of Hoshide, Williams Architects
Allen Howard
Larry & Robin James
Suzanne Kalish
John MacKean & Mary Krock
Stuart Mandel
Larry & Marje Mattson
Lila Woodruff May
Susan A. Miller
Keith & Janet Patrick
Shirley Phinney
Susan Piquelle
Carol Presson
Glenn Withey & Charles Price
Linda Pyles
Sashi Raghupathy
Virginia Ryning
Patricia Rytkonen
Liz Sanborn
Kathleen Searcy
Sue Shilley
Linda Stalzer
Peter Teutsch
Molly and Dirk van der Burch
Scott Vangerpen
Doris Vinnedge
Carolyn Whittlesey
Molly Wolfe
Kathy Yerke

\$25 - \$49
Carol Ager
Jutta Bolz
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Pam Felts
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Sarah Green
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Cindy Johnson
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Kirsten Lints
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Susie Marglin
Cheryl Marshall
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Lee Scrivanich
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Joan Thompson
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Sunbreak Nursery
Swansons Nursery
T&L Nursery
The Lily Garden
Village Green Perennial Nursery
Wells Medina
White Picket Gardens
Wiggin's Nursery

Border News - Continued from page 12

the plants on the welcoming new paths, and identify those that pique their interest. So be sure to bring your notebook and pencil the next time you visit. You'll want to have them!

Every plant is placed on a map of the Border. This summer I had a great intern named Sara McKay to record the first layers on the maps. The good news is, these maps are now live online at the BBG website, www.bellevuebotanical.org.

The garden docents have already been using the new maps and accompanying plant lists to help educate visitors. We are hoping to build a small and dedicated group of "Labelers" to organize and maintain plant labels, oversee their placement and retrieval, and keep on top of new accessions. This is a fun and easy task that is vitally needed as our plant lists blossom by the hundreds. It's a great way to learn about new plants!

As we await fleeting signs of spring renewal in our own gardens, think of all the new life that is awakening at the Border. Now that you have enjoyed the seasonal highlight of Garden d'Lights, visit in the daytime to see the winter interest and new horticultural delights. Regardless of whether the new Camellias will welcome you with flowers or frozen buds, their shining foliage is always heartening. ❁

POTTING UP PARTY! Sunday, March 21, 10 am - 2 pm.
Join us for potting up perennials, refreshments, garden talk and camaraderie. There are tasks for all skill levels, and choice free plants for volunteers!

If you'd like to volunteer to work with George, please contact him through the NPA office at 425-647-6004 or info@northwestperennialalliance.org.

Open Gardens Invitation

Mickey Sweeney, Open Gardens Chair

Like lingering guests at a gala summer soiree, late blooms remind us of the bountiful season of open gardens that delighted us with their perfumed scents and voluptuous textures. We were treated to a runway of designers' finest in every genre, from the classic and traditional, to the contemporary and stylistic - vibrant colors, subtle contrasts, mix and match - ranging in all sizes from XL to Petite.



To those who opened their gardens with generous hospitality, hear our ovation. We were moved by your expressions of imagination and passion for the gardens you created. What a showcase season!

Ninety-four NPA members opened their gardens - 29 were newcomers to the tour and 21 were nurseries. These were viewed by over 2,444 visitors who registered for a chance to win a Wells Medina gift certificate.

Join the 2010 Tour Now!

Now as we edge past the earliest days of winter, we dream of a good, deep massage and a big reduction in our water bills. But wait, did I mention that we have enclosed your invitation for **Open Gardens 2010** in this newsletter? While the glow of satisfaction from this year still remains, please consider the upcoming year, and the opportunity to share your garden with our members. To both new members and NPA veterans, you are invited to sign up and reward your gardening efforts with the appreciation of fellow NPA members.

We love to watch your gardens grow, and are enthralled at your new inventions for both small spaces and wide expanses. Please accept a big thank you in advance for this privilege.

Spring Garden Fling will lead off the 2010 tour season. Open your garden by emailing me no later than January 15. We're looking for gardens in the north end, central area and the south sound to open on separate weekends. This roster of beautiful harbingers of the new season will be mailed

to members mid-March, with driving directions.

In an effort to embrace the principles of eco-sound, self-sufficient plantings of home-grown vegetables, herbs and fruits, we would like to feature several edible gardens on the 2010 Open Gardens tour. For those that take local food to a personal level, are you interested? Do you have a friend or neighbor who is committed to green or organic vegetable gardening for healthy eating? Let me hear from you!

Fill out the registration form by mail or email and send it to:

Mickey Sweeney, 2929 Queen Anne Ave. N., Seattle WA 98109 or email msweeneym@comcast.net

Instructions are on the form, but if you have questions, please call me at 206-283-5608. **Reminder: The deadline is February 15.**

More Applause

Another standing ovation to **Wells Medina Nursery** which, once again, generously donated gift certificates for

Open Gardens drawings at the November meeting.

The lucky garden hosts who received a \$50 certificate were:

Renee Harvey, Puyallup; **Susan & Pat Wheeler**, Bellevue; **Douglas & Jeanne Zook**, Clinton; and **Sara & Emanuel Schroeter**, Fox Island. Congratulations all! Thank you for sharing your gardens!

The three garden visitors who won \$25 gift certificates were: **Neve Norton**, Gig Harbor; **Susan Picquelle**, Seattle, and **Sue Grieff**, Bellevue. Enjoy!

More kudos go to the 21 nurseries which offered discounts to our membership. You'll find them listed in the Open Gardens book and on our website. Continue to take advantage of this added benefit all year long.

The concept of NPA's Open Gardens attests to the effort and love that goes into creating every unique "little corner of the world." Each year the tour binds members in an act of sharing and exploring, to inspire, educate and inform. The gardening spirit nurtures the whole community on many levels of involvement and in magical ways. We look forward to seeing your garden next year. 🌸

Education Committee Needs You!

NPA needs a **Classes & Workshops Chair** to organize fun, hands-on classes for its members. The outgoing chair has an instruction manual and lots of ideas and people to contact. They also are in need of a few people to serve as **Hostesses** at our four membership lectures each year (making coffee, serving cookies, etc.) Interested members can contact NPA at info@northwest-perennialalliance.org. 🌸

NEIGHBORHOOD *Groups*

KATHRYN HIGHLAND

Neighborhood Groups

What do the *Day Lilies*, *Morning Glories*, and *Dirty Divas* all have in common? They are all go-getting **NPA Neighborhood Groups**, three of 19 groups across Puget Sound. It is a great way to connect with other NPA members, learn about horticulture, try creative garden crafts, carpool to gardens, nurseries and lectures, improve your gardening skills and stay informed about NPA events. We support members wishing to start a new group, including zip code lists of potential members, meeting ideas, and our "How to Start a Neighborhood Group" handbook that walks you through the process.

Be a part of our neighborhood groups! The only requirement is that

all group members are current NPA members. Is your group in need of an entertaining speaker? The Membership Committee has put together a **Speaker's Bureau** and offers it to any interested group. To see if there's a group in your area go to www.n-p-a.org/groups. To start your own group with other NPA members, email Kathryn Highland at kathrynhighland@msn.com or call 425-895-1178.

THE NORTHERN EXPOSURES

Gardening obsessions were furthered by visits to the garden of artist Robert Fairfax in Monroe and plantsman Riz Reyes, who led us through his garden in Shoreline; then Northern Exposure gardens were

shared in August. Recently we had a private tour at Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend. Our annual wreath making day was in late November, when we headed to Snohomish to use the wreath making machine of a friend. In December we held our annual luncheon meeting where we plan our monthly calendar for the following year – and 2010 looks like a lot of fun!

~ Sandy Schumacher

EASTSIDE MORNING GLORIES

The Eastside Morning Glories gathered for a fun day creating sedum

baskets at the home of Vicki Katz this summer. Everyone brought a wire basket and some sedums to use and to share. The club provided the cactus soil and the moss to line the baskets. Each basket was different from the next, quite amazing!! The

nice thing is that they don't need much water and they can be easily moved about the garden!

~ Vicki Katz

THE LATE BLOOMERS

This past seven months the **Late Bloomers** neighborhood group enjoyed a mix of speakers who shared their knowledge of backyard habitats, pollinators, succulents, bulbs, and gardens of Great Britain. Along with visiting our members' gardens we also gleaned ideas from touring three other private Edmonds gardens. Two members also demonstrated how to make glass art for the yard with commonly available dishes. ~ Laura Siebens ❁



Photo by Vicki Katz

L to R: Beth Munsen, Marilyn Dapses, Jan Drummond, Marsha Clarkson, Peggy Ostrander, Carol Holloway, Virginia Bohannon, and Jan Miller.

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 gardening in the Northwest.

Website: www.n-p-a.org

Phone: 425-647-6004

Email: info@northwestperennialalliance.org

NPA 2009 Officers:

Louise Schultz, President: 206-784-2565

Roger McDonald, Vice President: 425-488-9748

Chris Niblack, Secretary: 425-647-6004

Michele Cournoyer, Past President,

425-868-5541

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, neighborhood groups, the NPA Border at the BBG, classes at Edmonds Community College and student scholarships.

Submissions:

Contact the Perennial Post Editor at post@northwestperennialalliance.org

Submission deadline for the Spring issue is February 1, 2010.

The Perennial Post is published by:
Northwest Perennial Alliance
P.O. Box 279
Dupont, WA 98327

Winter, 2010
Volume 20, Issue 1
Editor: Janet Endsley
Designers: Janet Endsley &
Constance Bollan/cb graphics
Printer: Belgate Printing, Bellevue
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The Perennial Post
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Horticulture Scholarships Available

NPA is now accepting scholarship applications for 2010. Scholarships must be used at a two-or-four-year accredited college or university or an accredited trade school for study in Spring, Summer or Fall quarters, 2010. Applicants must be enrolled as matriculated students pursuing education in horticulture, botany, landscape design, landscape architecture or environmental science.

The application deadline is January 15, 2010, with funds available March, 2010. Download an application at www.n-p-a.org or email scholarships@northwestperennialalliance.org. Submit applications to: NPA Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 279, Dupont, WA 98327 ❁

