



April 14 Spring Plant Sale is plant shoppers' heaven

Michele Cournoyer

THE NPA SPRING PLANT SALE is pure heaven for gardeners on the hunt for the newest and coolest plants, as well as the tried and true garden performers. It's held at North Seattle Community College in the cafeteria, a comfortable indoor location crammed to the rafters with an amazing assortment of perennials, natives, succulents, evergreens, shrubs, small trees and more.

This is our biggest plant sale of the year and an important fundraiser for NPA. For extra fun, this year's sale also includes garden art, a couple of student organizations and a record variety of NPA Seeds.

Many of the small nurseries and local growers who participate aren't open to

the public, so sales like ours are your only chance to browse their unique selections of plants. As an added bonus, you can shop tax-free, saving almost 10 percent, while you help support the educational programs of NPA.

PLANTS WORTH A SPECIAL MENTION:

Colvos Creek will be selling **royal grevillea** (*Grevillea victoriae*), one of the best shrubs for our area, with spidery orange-red flowers that hummingbirds love. Hardy and easy to grow, it has beautiful green and velvety gray leaves all year. They're also offering **'Silver Dollar' hebe**, a neat little shrub that sailed unscathed through the bad freezes a few years ago. It's very showy

in fall and winter, when the leaf edges turn bright pink.

You'll find gorgeous **Chinese mayapple** (*Dysosma difformis* aka *Podophyllum difforme*) at Bouquet Banque. This dramatic perennial sports large leaves in camouflage patterns of green, purple, black and brown—each plant, indeed each plate-sized leaf, varies. They also have **rosy crabapple kiwi vine** (*Actinidia tetramera* var. *maloides*), rarely seen in the garden. It is deciduous, grows to 25 feet and has pink flower clusters in spring. The leaves are deep green with white coloration beginning at the tips. This clone originated many years ago with Dan Hinkley at Heronswood and is male, thus no fruit.

(Continued on page 3)



Chinese mayapple courtesy of Bouquet Banque



Hardy Sedum courtesy of Clearwater Gardens



Checkermallow courtesy of Queen's Cup

NPA SPRING PLANT SALE
 Sunday, April 14, 9-3 PM
 North Seattle Community College
 9600 College Way North, Seattle
 Plenty of free parking.



Trillium courtesy of Queen's Cup

- APRIL 14 **Spring Plant Sale** , Sunday, 9 am – 3 pm, at North Seattle Community College, Seattle (details, page 1)
- APRIL 23 **Groundbreaking Ceremony** Tuesday, 3:30 pm at the Bellevue Botanical Garden's visitor center (details, page 8)
- MAY WEEKENDS **Open Gardens season begins** Saturdays & Sundays, 10 am– 4 pm. Watch your mailbox for your yellow Open Gardens directory.
- JUNE 19 **Japanese Maples in the Landscape class** Wednesday, 10-noon (classes page 5)
- JULY 10 **Sassy Succulents class** Wednesday, 10-noon (classes page 5)

A warm welcome to our new members

Debra Ady
Christine & Karl Anderson
Phyllis Andrew
Avery Armstrong
Joanna Asaro & Bert Bradley
Maryann Ballard
Amandalei Bennett
Becky Biondi
Margie Boughner
Sigrid Broderson & Alan Ehrlich
Linda Broun
Marian Bulger
Theresa Burciaga & Geof Miller
Darcy Carlson
Ian Cleadle
Karlyn Collins
Carla Delducco
Davida Dillingham
Donna Driver & Jon Kummen
Sandy & Jim Earnest
Karen Eliassen & Glenda Pearson
Diane Everson
Margo Fagerholm
Linda & John Finkas
Zenaida Fletcher
Deborah & Stephen Foisie
R. Sue Folkerts
Sherril Gerell & David Hatch
Nancy Gjovaag

Ellen Hargrave
Mark Herkert
Peter Herpst
Francine Herrgott
Joan Hitchcock
Tim Kalman
Penelope Karovsky
Cary & Hank Knaack
Frank Koontz
Susan Krogh
Bonnie & Robert Lambert
Leslye Lewis
Mariella Lewis
Pam Linder
Mona Margolis
Bill McGee
Leslie McNeilus
Carolyn Mercer
Marilyn Miller
Manuel Montenegro & Susan Cooper
Sandra Moon
Doraine Mosich
Pamela Mullinax
Janet Nazy
Richard Newman & Danny Jung
Donna Ogden
Nancy & Mark Oliansky
Holly Osbourne
Larisa Palanchuk

Melissa & Ted Pardike
Pat & Gil Pauley
Catherine Pitts
Chrsiiane Ranegger
Corrine & James Richey
Joyia Rubens
Paula Rutan
Steve Scott
Elaine Senft
Kathleen Sessler
Helen Shawcroft
Koh Shimizu & Jack Rodman
Jerry Simon
Kristine Smith
Elizabeth Stonehill
John Sykes
Mary LeClaire & Mickey Turcotte
Janet Tursich
Gudrun Utz
Becky Vacanti
Karen VanDruff
Susie Venable
Pat Voss
Sheree Wen
James Wiggins
Florence Williams
Patricia & Robert Wilshusen
Darlene & Allan Wing
Jo Wyatt

Spring Plant Sale *continued from page 1*

From Glenwood Gardens come two unusual choices: '**Pacific Fire**' vine maple (*Acer circinatum* 'Pacific Fire') is a stunning twist on our native vine maple. This dwarf tree is named for its brilliant red new growth. During spring and summer, fiery twigs and branches peek through yellow-green leaves and in autumn, brilliant yellow foliage punches up the contrast even more. **Grey-White huckleberry** (*Vaccinium glauco-album*) was discovered in the 1800's but unknown to gardeners until it received the Award of Garden Merit in 1993. Evergreen leaves are blue-green on top (*glauco*) and gray-white (*album*) beneath, and turn a beautiful plum color in winter.

Shop a stunning selection of hardy **sedums** and succulents at Clearwater

Gardens, including unique sedum combination planters that won't need constant watering this summer to look their best.



Rosy crabapple kiwi vine courtesy of Bouquet Banque

Gum plant (*Grindelia integrifolia*) will be one of the great native plants featured by Queen's Cup. This cheerful bloomer forms a shrub-like plant smothered in sunny yellow flowers in late summer. They'll also have the charming wildflower **Henderson's checkermallow** (*Sidalcea hendersonii*), with showy magenta-pink flowers, and a purple **Cascade penstemon** (*Penstemon serrulatus*) native to the Northwest.

Find the holy grail of blue flowers at Ramble on Rose Perennials. **Blue Himalayan poppies** (*Meconopsis grandis* and *M. sheldonii*) produce large saucer flowers of gorgeous pure blue. Quite perennial when they're happy. For a beautiful blue perennial that's easy to grow, try **willow gentian** (*Gentiana asclepiadea*), one of the wonders of late summer.

NPA Spring Plant Sale Vendors

BLUE FROG NURSERY

Russ & Miriam Smith

A tempting assortment of perennials, ground covers, shrubs, trees and azaleas
www.bluefrognurseries.net

BOUQUET BANQUE

Judy Zugish & Bill Roeder

Fat, juicy, healthy, 2-gallon perennials
www.twigtwisters.com

CLEARWATER GARDENS

Dan Flax

Specializing in hardy sedums and succulents, including many unique sedum combination planters
www.clearwater-gardens.com

COLVOS CREEK

Michael Lee

A great variety of natives, drought-hardy and hard-to-find plants
www.colvoscreekdesigns.com

ELEMENTAL PLANTS

Susan McDougall & David Biek

Wonderful PNW native plants, specializing in shrubs and trees.
<http://treeslivehere.com/elemental-plants.html>

GLENWOOD GARDENS

Nancy Hansen

Discover new and unusual perennials, dwarf conifers and shrubs
www.glenwood-gardens.com

GROWING GIRLS

Beth Burman

A North Bend nursery offering unusual shade loving perennials

KEEPING IT GREEN

Arlen Hill

Ooh and aah over hardy orchids, unusual woodlanders and hard-to-find natives
info@keepingitgreennursery.com

LEE FARM

Carrie Lee

Outstanding trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and hardy fuchsias
www.leefarmandnursery.com

OVERLAND ENTERPRISES

Mark & Susan Overholt

A waterwise selection of drought tolerant perennials for sun or shade
(206) 246-5584

QUEEN'S CUP NURSERY

Pat Parks

Puget Sound easy care native perennials, including rare and hard to find plants
pat@queenscupnursery.com

RAMBLE ON ROSE PERENNIALS

Marta Gorny

Perennials, perennials and more perennials!
rorp@wavecable.com

TAKING ROOT

Kathy Norsworthy

Unusual perennials, hostas, ornamental grasses and ferns
www.takingrootnursery.com

WHITE PICKET

Kristi Fina

Unusual perennials, drought tolerant plants, salvias and hebes
(360) 629-0131

WIND POPPY

Sara & John Burns

Grasses, sedges, rushes, water plants and perennials
www.windpoppy.com

Wrangling Botanical Latin

Anne Nelson

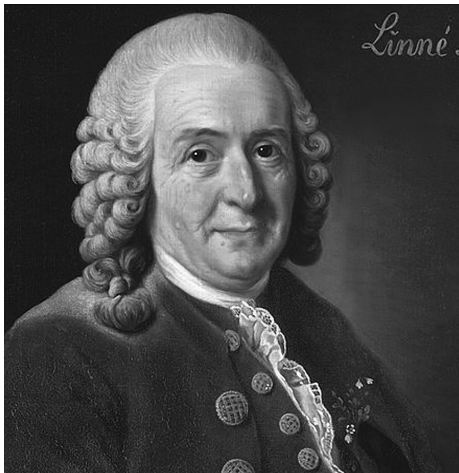
FOR A NEWBIE TO THE GARDEN, the botanical naming of plants is a realm of mystery: intimidating, or annoying, or terrifying to navigate. It's not always so great for the experienced gardener, either, when a plant gets re-classified and acquires a new name.

As English speakers, we have mastered a most capricious and arbitrary language. With a few rules, and a couple of secrets, botanical Latin can be mastered, too.

Classical Latinists can leave the room now. The rest of us can take a deep breath.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Secret #1: Botanical Latin is not truly Latin at all, but a classification structure. It's a survival from the early study of inherited botanical traits, conducted by



Carl Linnaeus, the father of botanical Latin

the monk Linnaeus – in Latin, naturally. Turns out, it can be useful.

Botanical names follow a formal construction. Genus, the first name, is always capitalized. Species, the second name, is always lower case.

There are several species name qualifiers: spp – subspecies; var—naturally occurring variety of plant; cv – unnaturally occurring cultivar; f – forma, a particular form of a variety or cultivar.

The letter X indicates that the plant was crossbred. X in front of the Genus indicates a new Genus, created by crossing

two plants of different Genera. There aren't a whole lot of those. X in front of the species name indicates a new species created by crossing two different species. That's a whole lot easier, and there a lot of those.

The species name usually describes some particular characteristic of the plant. Perhaps the shape of the leaf: 'latifolia', the habit of the plant: 'horizontalis', the original habitat: 'chinensis', or an attribute of the plant: 'odora'. Sometimes, it's pretty obvious what the name means. If the species name sounds like a word in English, it very often is. Read plant labels, check the plants with the same species name, and you'll pick up the meanings quickly. The meanings of the Latin words turn out to be consistent and useful.

Latin grammar accounts for the myriad of endings for both Genus and species names.

Secret #2: That's not important, unless you're the person naming the plant.

THAT'S PRONOUNCED HOW?

Rule #1: Every letter is pronounced separately. This is a Latin holdover, and the first step when approaching a terrifying four-syllable name. When there are two consonants together, each is pronounced. When there are two vowels together, each is pronounced. For example, Cotoneaster: cot-own-ee-as-ter

Exception #1 to Rule #1: Drop the first of two consonants at the beginning of the word. 'Ps' is 'S', 'Pn' is 'N'

Exception #2 to Rule #1: Diphthongs, double-vowel combinations, are pronounced as one sound:

- ae – pronounced "ee" or "aye" or "ay" (as in bay), your choice
- au – pronounced "aw," as in shawl
- eu – pronounced "you"
- oi—pronounced "oy," as in boy

Rule #2: Every syllable is pronounced. Menziesii: men-zies –e-e or men-zies –e-eye, your choice. But not men-zies-e.

Rule #3: The word is stressed on the next-to-last syllable. Cotoneaster: cot-own-ee-AS-ter. Except when there are two vowels at the end.

Rule #4: Pronounce consonants as you would in English. A classical Latinist would pronounce 'v' as 'w', or 'j' as 'i', or 'c' as 'k' always. Gardeners don't, unless they are also Latinists. We did ask them to leave.

Which brings us to:

Secret #3: There is no precise standard for pronouncing botanical names. Pronunciation varies with the sounds of a speaker's native language, and what we hear spoken. Pronounce all the letters, and feel comfortable that we're all figuring out the variations, too.

WHO MAKES THIS STUFF UP? WHY?

They're called taxonomists, they enjoy organizing things into categories, and they work with an organization in Brussels.

The scientific purpose is more than just naming a plant, though. Plants of the same classification may have similar uses, cultivation needs, disease susceptibility or medicinal properties. And that is very useful information.

TO LEARN MORE, CHECK OUT:

Fine Gardening Magazine's audio resource: <http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx>

Dave's Garden's guide to Latin meanings: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botany/>

The International Society for Horticultural Science publication, The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants ("Cultivated Plant Code" or ICNCP): <http://www.ishs.org/sci/icracpco.htm>

Anne Nelson gardens in an uncivilized quarter acre in Seattle, in the company of a patient spouse and their dog, Bonkers.

NPA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS *Summer*

Wednesday, June 19, 10-noon
**JAPANESE MAPLES IN THE
 LANDSCAPE—SPECTACULAR
 DESIGN, AND TIPS ON CARE**

with *Charlie Morgan*

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 25

Charlie Morgan, owner of Amazing Maples in Mukilteo, has more than 600 Japanese maples on his half-acre property, in pots and boxes large enough to see their beautiful structure. His collection is a wonderland of rare and unusual maples, both ancient and new. Learn the differences in the cultivars and the rules associated with Japanese maples. Get tips on how to maintain the trees along with a primer on pruning. Charlie will offer up some basic information about who he is and how he got into collecting Japanese maples. Most important of all, he'll answer everyone's questions about these wonderful trees.



Wednesday, July 10, 10-noon
SASSY SUCCULENTS

with *Karen Chapman*

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 25



Join Karen for a fun-packed morning. Learn how to use succulents in containers and in the landscape by blending colors,

playing with texture and considering scale. Get ideas for new combinations in an inspiring PowerPoint presentation which will include some designs featured in her new book, "Fine Foliage." This will be followed by a planting demonstration of an outdoor container garden and a show and tell of some of Karen's favorite

hardy and tender succulents. Signed copies of her book will be available.

Wednesday, July 31, 10-noon
THE CLEMATIS OF HIGH SUMMER

with *Laura Watson*

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 16

Come and learn from clematarian Laura Watson about the easiest clematis to grow and prune – integrifolias, viticellas and texensis. These clematis bloom their hearts out in July, August and September. The class will combine a PowerPoint presentation with a guided tour of Laura's garden in which many of these clematis will be in glorious bloom. Laura has been gleefully growing clematis for over 20 years, first in her Boston garden where



she left behind 50 clematis, and since 2005 in her Seattle garden where she currently has 145 clematis, and counting. See

them in trees and shrubs, scrambling over perennials, and on fences, trellises and arbors in her garden. It should be quite a show!

Saturday, August 3, 10-noon
**TIPS AND TRICKS FOR GARDEN
 PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

with *Mark Turner*

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 11

It's all in where you hold your camera. That's what controls composition and how light interacts with your subject. Mark will



demonstrate setting up a variety of garden photographs from wide landscapes to intimate details, discussing the thought process that goes into each image. Then

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

Wednesday, August 14, 2013
**JAZZ UP THE MIXED BORDER
 WITH ANNUALS**

with *Daniel Mount*

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 15

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

CLASS REGISTRATION

All classes shown here currently have openings, so sign up now. It's easy to register online at www.n-p-a.org Or call the NPA office at 425-647-6004. If you have a great idea for a class, contact Sandy Kanaga at classes@northwestperennialalliance.org



Defining your Style with Foliage

Karen Chapman

I'M A FIRM BELIEVER that your garden should be a reflection of who you are. I consider it a great compliment when visitors say, "I knew it was your home because of the garden." (Or at least I think that's a compliment...). So what sort of gardener are you?

SASSY

This is not the design style for the faint of heart – we're talking wild abandon here! For example, team the monstrously oversized black foliage of **'Diamond Head' elephant ears** (*Colocasia esculenta*) with zesty orange **bromeliads** and hot pink **Caladiums** skirted with a ruffle of **'All Gold' Japanese forest grass** (*Hakonechloa*



macra). Stud the whole caboodle with **'Purple Queen' wandering Jew** (*Setcreasea pallida*). Who needs flowers?

Stick to hot color schemes and funky plants which bring traffic to a screeching halt, e.g. **'Sunrise' lobster claw** (*Heliconia aurea*) that looks like it stepped right out of a Dr. Seuss book with its bright yellow claws dipped in scarlet. Consider adding wild accents such as iridescent peacock feathers exploding from a clump of grasses.

Let folks know you are ready for some *serious* partying!



Karen Chapman is the co-author of "Fine Foliage" (St. Lynn's Press, March 2013), written with Christina Salwitz. Learn more about Karen at her website www.lejardinetdesigns.com

CLASSY

Perhaps you consider yourself more sophisticated than sassy? You'll be more at home with a clean, monochromatic palette, focusing on beautiful foliage textures and form. The soothing blue-green duo of **'Glacier Blue' spurge** (*Euphorbia characias*) with **'Quicksilver' hebe** (*Hebe pimeleoides*) shows restraint while still being an eye catching combination for the garden or container.

Avoid prairie style plantings which can appear too wild and fussy but rather repeat strong shapes such as clipped **boxwood** domes or mounding green and white variegated **hostas** to create a peaceful rhythm.

THE ROMANTIC

As beautiful as an English garden may be it is also a lot of work, so learning how to use foliage to create a backdrop for a floral extravaganza will help hold the design together in the quiet season, as well as reducing maintenance.

The romantic gardener loves a soft, wispy look and grasses can fill this role with ease. **Mexican feather grass** (*Stipa tenuissima* syn. *Nassella tenuissima*) is one of the best and its self-seeding is a bonus

for this easy going style. Lacy ferns play a similar role in the shade garden—our native **Lady's fern** (*Athyrium filix-femina*) is especially beautiful or for a groundcover consider **Himalayan maidenhair fern** (*Adiantum venustum*), which is evergreen and slowly spreads to form a delicate carpet. I love this in containers too.

Variegated foliage is a wonderful addition to any garden and can be used to enhance your beloved flowers. The crisp green and white variegation of **'Magical Fantasy' weigela** (*Weigela florida*) adds substance to the delicate waving stems of white **Indian feather** (*Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling butterflies') whose white flowers dance all summer long in a hot, sunny border. As the nights become cooler, the weigela takes on a rosy blush which picks up on the pink sepals and buds of this delightful perennial.

THE LAID BACK PNW GARDENER

One thing I love about the PNW is the easy going attitude.

These gardeners appreciate the simple beauty of nature and their gardens reflect that. Shady spots are filled with a glorious medley of **maples, hostas, ferns** and **wild ginger**. No frills or flounces here, although you'll probably find a few exciting new **coral bells** (*Heuchera*) introductions because we're all plant geeks at heart!

However this is more likely to be a deconstructed design where informal paths weave through swathes of evergreen groundcovers. The small leathery leaves of **wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*) are a favorite, especially when studded with red berries in winter, while the glossy fronds of **deer fern** (*Blechnum spicant*) are allowed to multiply at will, pierced in spring by the fern-like foliage of **Western bleeding heart** (*Dicentra formosa*).

Whatever your style, there are plenty of luscious leaves to make a statement which is uniquely yours. What sort of gardener are you?

From the smashing to the unexpected

Gayle Richardson

“YOU’RE SUCH A GOOD COOK!”

someone said to me at March Mania, after eating the yogurt soup and sesame cookies I traditionally bring to every plant sale for the vendors’ and volunteers’ lunch. Wrong! I have zero talent for creating recipes, and a total disinterest in tweaking and refining others’ creations to make them my own. What I do do is follow instructions slavishly. If the recipe is good, smashing results are guaranteed.

So imagine my delight to discover Lorene Edwards-Forkner’s new book, **“Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest”** (Timber Press 2012). Almost half the book comprises a month-by-month listing of exactly what to plan, prepare, maintain, sow and harvest in order to achieve success as a vegetable and berry grower in our part of the world, from BC down through Oregon. Other parts of the book include Gardening 101 and an A-Z listing of specific varieties that do well in the PNW. Be sure to check out the interesting varieties she suggests for tomatoes.

As you can see, it’s all intensely practical, but the book is also laugh-out-loud funny at times. For example, on one of her Ten Uses for Soap in the Garden, hanging intensely scented bars of soap on vulnerable shrubs, she adds, “The trick is to make the bar soap ornaments look better than deer damage.”

Can’t wait for the smashing results to come in this gardening year.

Tovah Martin has changed my life!

Who, you might ask, is Tovah Martin? Well, she’s a Connecticut-based garden writer/dynamo who loves her plants. I stumbled across **“The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for**



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

Every Spot in Your Home” (Timber Press 2012) on the library’s new book shelf and brought it home. I became an instant convert after having more or less abandoned houseplants since my apartment days in the 1970’s.

Sure she embraces the standards: ivies, bromeliads, and mother-in-law’s tongue, but Martin’s imagination takes her much, much farther: Euphorbias and conifers! Poppies and Tiarella! Bleeding heart and Eucomis! Kangaroo paws and ornamental grasses! Which of us actually has Heucheras inside our house?

And, by the way, congratulations to Timber Press. This is a beautiful piece of book-making. The touch of the paper, the spectacular photographs, the neat size and shape, a great layout. I bought this baby and cherish it as much for that as for Martin’s hugely entertaining writing style.

But buying the book wasn’t enough. When I saw Tovah Martin was speaking at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, I knew I had to hear her, and now she’s converted me a second time to something I wasn’t vaguely interested in before—terrariums. **“The New Terrarium: Creating Beautiful Displays for Plants and Nature”** (Potter 2009) has given me the perfect

reason to pull out that glass cake stand wedding present that’s been sitting unused for 27 years and give it a place of honor on the dining room table. Tovah’s gift is to make it all seem eminently doable.

Another great talk at the garden show was given by Billy Goodnick, ex-rock and roll drummer who has long practiced garden design in Santa Barbara, and whose book **“Yards: Turn Any Outdoor Space into the Garden of Your Dreams”** (St. Lynn’s Press 2013) is a practical, commonsense short course in getting what you want. He was chock-full of great ideas and advice, but I’ll remember him forever for his hilarious photos of mangled gardens and his giveaway: rolls of yellow police tape with the phrase “Crime Against Horticulture.” We all need to arm ourselves with some for midnight forays in the fight for truth, justice and no more garden eyesores. There are two on my block alone!

Next issue, back by popular demand: Murder in the Mulch, Part II.



What to expect when you're expecting—a new building!

Nancy Kartes, Garden Manager

BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL has awarded the contract for the Bellevue Botanical Garden's new Education Center and Visitor Center project. Please join us at the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the Shorts Visitor Center.

The Garden will remain open during construction, expected to begin on May 1. The Garden's Interim Management Plan will ensure that programs and operations continue as smoothly as possible for the expected 18-month construction period.

What you can expect during construction:

ACCESS

- All staff, visitors and volunteers will park at the Wilburton Hill Park and walk into the BBG on the Lake-to-Lake trail.
- Wilburton Hill Park is located at the intersection of Main St. and 124th Ave. NE. The best route is NE 8th St. to 124th Ave. NE and head south. This will take you directly to the park entrance.
- Restrooms are available year-round in

Wilburton Hill Park and in the Shorts Visitor Center.

- The Garden's temporary entrance will be through the back gate in Yao Garden. The information kiosk will move to this location. It is 1/3 mi. from the parking lot to the entrance. Fun new signs along the Lake-to-Lake trail will help you find us.
- Visitors will still be able to access the Shorts Visitor Center for restrooms, plant database kiosk, maps, and general information. Shorts Visitor Center will be open daily from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

OPERATIONS

- The Trillium gift shop closed on January 1, 2013. This space will house administrative staff until the new buildings are ready. The new buildings will feature a shop roughly double the size of the old shop.
- Grounds staff offices will be in a portable near the maintenance area.
- Garden hours will remain dawn to dusk, but people should plan to be back to their

cars by dusk, as the trail to Wilburton Hill Park is unlit.

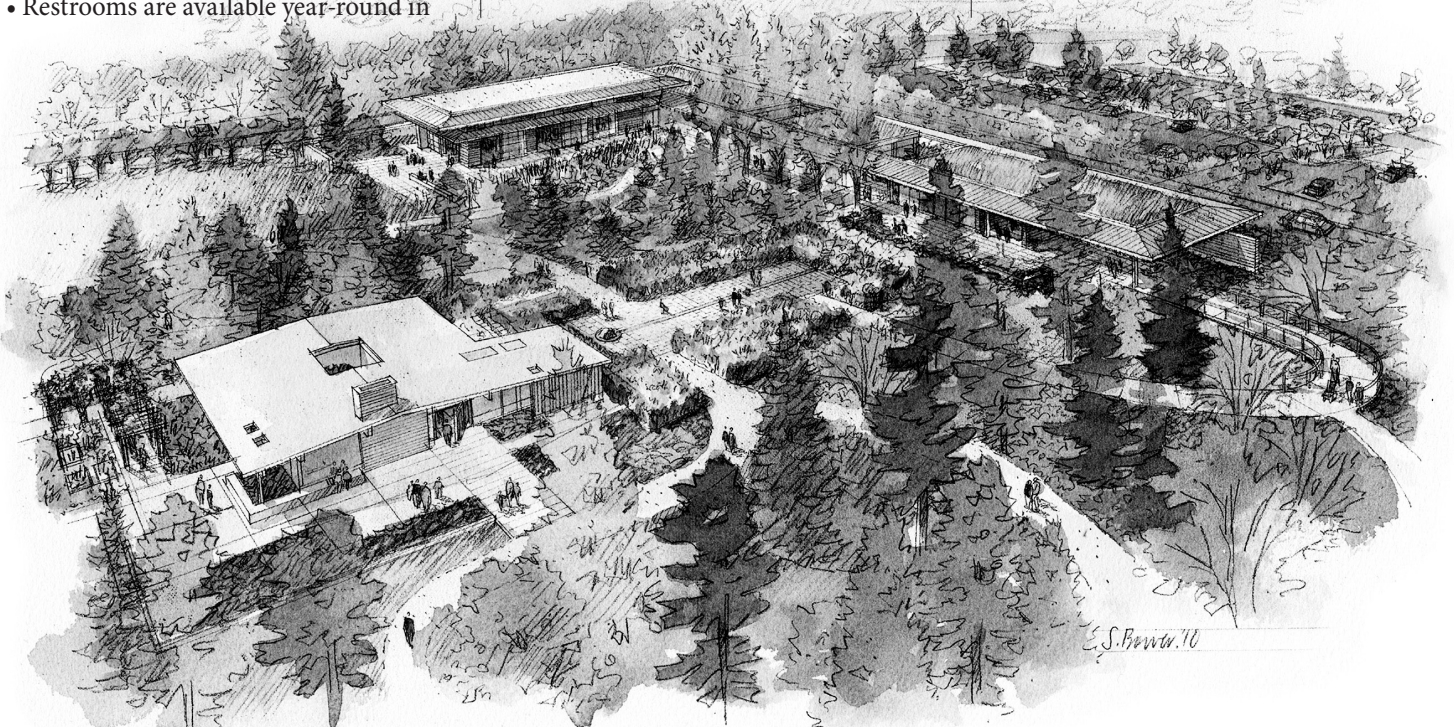
- NPA Border volunteers and other partner group efforts will continue throughout construction.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- The Mother's Day Social will be held at the Garden on May 12 from 1 p.m.–4 p.m.
- A "Special Edition" Garden d'Lights will be a must see! November 30, 2013–January 4, 2014
- Docent tours will be available on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. from April through October, and by appointment. Tours will meet at the Shorts Visitor Center.

Follow construction progress at:
www.bellevuebotanical.org.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society continues to raise funds for the project through the Growing a Living Legacy capital campaign. Please visit www.growingalivinglegacy.org to be part of this extraordinary effort.



After years of planning and fundraising, the Bellevue Botanical Garden will break ground May 1 on a new \$10 million visitor center with meeting rooms, offices, restrooms and a gift shop. The expanded facilities also will include space for lectures and workshops, much like CUH. A new parking lot will offer twice as much parking. The current visitor center, the Shorts house, will be restored to its residential décor.

Spotlight on the NPA booth

Diana Davidson

The NPA booth, strategically located at the end of an aisle, drew many visitors at February's Northwest Flower & Garden Show. They were undoubtedly attracted by our auricula theater, a plant display designed by Gayle Richardson. A big thank you goes to our enthusiastic volunteers, who kept busy sharing information about our organization and signing up lots of new members.

Many NPA members stopped by, picked up reminders of upcoming plant sales, chatted with other members and



Neal Pulham, a friendly visitor, Gary D'Amato and Gayle Richardson in the NPA booth.

signed up for the drawing for the potted plant. The pot wore a "tuxedo" in keeping with the Hollywood theme of the show. The

winner is Donna Ogden, a new member from Rochester, Washington. Congratulations, Donna, and welcome to NPA!

Thank you to all NPA Neighborhood Group Coordinators

Barb Danek & Denise DuBose

In February, NPA held its annual thank you luncheon for all the neighborhood group coordinators. This was a chance to thank all the coordinators for their dedication to their groups. Without these wonderful people we would not have such an active, busy bunch of gardening neighborhood groups. The luncheon was an opportunity for coordinators to share ideas – everything from places that are great to visit and speakers that they have enjoyed, to how each group is organized. We are making a list of all of the ideas and contacts that were brought up at the meeting and will be sending it out to all of the neighborhood coordinators. Be sure to ask your group coordinator for the list if you're looking for an idea.

We have been working hard to start new groups as there are many members in different areas of Western Washington looking for a group to join. This year we have welcomed new groups in Renton, Enumclaw and West Seattle. If you would

like to join a group near you, go to www.n-p-a.org and click on neighborhood groups to see what groups are available.

Occasionally groups are full or there isn't one in your area, but don't fret! It's very easy to start a new group, and we can help you find others who might be interested in joining you. Send us an email at groups@northwestperennialalliance.org, and we'll get you started.

SHARING A DAY TOGETHER

In January, when the weather was wet, the Shovels and Hoes invited the Lilies of the Valley to join them at Squak Mt. Nursery for a lecture by Ann Chandler on garden design. In February, these two groups got together again to share a lecture on pruning with Cass Turnbull.

If your neighborhood group would like to share an activity with other neighborhood groups, please let us know so we can help you coordinate your event.

New Open Gardens chair wanted

Do you love touring other people's gardens, and also happen to know something about desktop publishing? Perhaps you're just the person we're looking for! Our wonderful Open Gardens chair, Mary Shane, is ready to pass the torch to someone new who will take over publication of our famous yellow Open Gardens directory. We'll gladly provide advice and coaching to a volunteer with the following qualifications:

- Must be an organized person.
- Should have a good working knowledge of desktop publishing software and know a bit about photo image enhancing software.
- Previous experience producing a newsletter or other publication strongly advised.
- Knowledge and appreciation of gardening and NPA.
- Willingness to communicate frequently and extensively with garden hosts by email and phone.

If you're interested, please email NPA at info@northwestperennialalliance.org or call 425-647-6004.

Thank you to our donors

Many thanks to our generous 2013 Donors for supporting the many programs of NPA, including Open Gardens, the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden, student scholarships, lectures, classes & workshops and horticulture classes at Edmonds Community College. Membership dues alone do not cover the cost of providing these benefits; your gift supports our tradition of offering a broad range of activities that can be enjoyed by both new and seasoned gardeners alike.

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Photos by Carol Hart and Michele Cournoyer

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Northwest Perennial Alliance

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

Website: www.n-p-a.org
 Phone: 425-647-6004
 Email: info@northwestperennialalliance.org

NPA 2012-2013 Officers:

Michele Cournoyer, President: 425-868-5541
 Gayle Richardson, Vice President: 206-632-2735
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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.

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NPA Open Gardens begin in May

Look for your copy of the 2013 Open Gardens directory, arriving in mailboxes in April. This year's edition features 87 gardens, beautiful color photography and a special new Business Spotlight section. Your 2013 NPA membership card is also included with the book. Use it to get in free to NPA lectures and to get a discount whenever you shop at the nurseries listed in the Nursery Discount section at the back of the book.

