



## Northwest Perennial Alliance 2014 Hardy Plant Study Weekend

**W**E ALL LOVE OUR GARDENS. We are deeply committed to them. We spend most of our free time nurturing them and adoring them, and when a moment of floral perfection arrives, we bask in the glory of their reflected love. A beautiful relationship.

Then come the little nagging signs that there might be trouble in paradise.

Some of us are out of control and need serious addiction counseling to save the relationship.

For others the relationship has gone sour: Too much garden or too little. Too demanding or impossibly wrong. Too many aches and pains for the aging gardener. Is it time to divorce? Simplify? Move on?

Please join us as we consider a few ways to restructure the terms of the relationship we have with the loves of our lives.

### ABOUT STUDY WEEKEND

Once every four years, NPA hosts Hardy Plant Study Weekend, an annual four-day conference that rotates with our friends in the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon in Portland and the Hardy Plant Groups of Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia. In six months, NPA will be bringing this event to the Hilton Bellevue, where we invite you to join us for four days of total immersion in the wonderful world of gardening, from Friday, June 20 through Monday, June 23.

This is your chance to indulge your passion. See top-notch speakers; tour

MARRIED TO YOUR GARDEN:  
*How to Save the Relationship*



**JUNE 20-23 BELLEVUE HILTON**

beautiful gardens open specially for this event; shop for plants, garden art, unusual seeds and beautiful books; and attend a doozy of a Saturday night party. Get all the details in the following pages of this Study Weekend edition of the Perennial Post. We've also posted the information on our website at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org).

### REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 15, 2014

Registration opens to NPA members only on January 15 and to the public on February 1. Your registration fee will include the lectures, coffee breaks, Tea at the Border and access to all the private gardens open only to Study Weekend attendees.

We set aside the fourth day, Monday, for touring the open gardens you didn't get to on Friday.

### MORE STUDY WEEKEND NEWS INSIDE, STARTING ON PAGE 8:

Schedule of Events	page 8
Speakers	pages 9-10
Gardens	page 11
Classes	page 12
Party	page 13
Registration	page 14
Plant Sales	page 15

# NPA EVENTS

## Calendar

- JANUARY 15** | **Study Weekend** registration opens for NPA members only at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org).
- JANUARY 19** | **Lecture with Marianne Binetti**, Sunday, 1 pm, Center for Urban Horticulture (details, page 3)
- FEBRUARY 5-9** | **Northwest Flower & Garden Show**, Wednesday – Saturday, 9 am – 9 pm; Sunday, 9 am – 6 pm, at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle
- MARCH 5** | **Spring Pruning Class** with George Lasch, Wednesday, 10 – noon. (details, page 7)
- MARCH 8** | **March Mania Plant Sale**, Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm, Wilburton Education Center at Main Street & 124th Ave. NE, Bellevue (next to Bellevue Botanical Garden)
- MARCH 16** | **Nicolay Memorial Lecture** with Kirk Brown (aka Mr. Frederick Olmsted) Sunday, 1 pm. Members \$5/nonmembers \$10. Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle. (details, page 5)
- MARCH 22** | **Potting Up Party**, Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Street, Bellevue

## Time to renew your NPA membership



Photo by Michele Courmoyer

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

renewed anytime after September 2013, you're good for all of 2014.

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

We hope you'll make a donation to NPA when you renew this year by joining at a higher level, above the basic \$35 level. Every year NPA has to work hard to organize fundraisers that will generate enough money to cover the gap between dues income and the cost of running NPA. Imagine the difference it could make if everyone gave just a little bit more at renewal. It would mean less fundraising and less wear and tear on our wonderful volunteers!

NPA was founded in Seattle in 1984, making this year our 30th Anniversary. It's also our turn to host Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 20-23 at the Bellevue Hilton, an event that only comes to Seattle once every four years. So don't miss out on the chance to support your favorite gardening organization during a milestone year! And of course one of the big benefits of membership is the opportunity to score your Study Weekend tickets two weeks before registration opens to the public.

# “Inspiration Is Where You Find It: From Ireland to Enumclaw” with Marianne Binetti

**MARIANNE BINETTI LECTURE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1 PM**  
Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle  
*NPA members free/Nonmembers \$10*

Want to learn some shortcuts to a show garden look? Marianne Binetti will teach you how to enjoy “stealing beauty” by looking with a fresh eye at gorgeous gardens from around the world and

adapting these ideas to your own home garden. Learn how to add symmetry and clean lines from the Italians, how to adapt the perennial rainbow border from the English, and be innovative with classic design using inspiration from Helen Dillon. Choose a color theme in the fashion of Vita Sackville West’s Sissinghurst and grab some Monet moments in your own garden design using annuals and perennials. Marianne wrote the book on carefree gardening and gardening shortcuts (actually several books), so her ideas are practical as well as pretty. She lives in Enumclaw and gardens on two acres, tending theme gardens in her own backyard influenced by the group travels that she leads all over the world.



*Photo by Marianne Binetti*

*A popular author and lecturer, Marianne is the author of ten books, including “Perennials for Washington and Oregon,” hosts a new local TV show “Dig In Seattle,” and writes a syndicated newspaper garden column. Her website is [www.binettigarden.com](http://www.binettigarden.com).*

## OPEN YOUR GARDEN

*Carol Hart*

NPA OPEN GARDENS offer both garden host and visitor alike the opportunity to learn from one another. Through this shared experience we realize that whether we are seasoned gardeners or enthusiastic beginners, we are all students in the garden. This aha moment is the reason Open Gardens are such a popular benefit of membership in the Northwest Perennial Alliance.

The Open Gardens program is well supported by all our members. In 2013, members paid more than 1,650 visits to 84

gardens opened by other NPA gardeners. But now it’s time to turn our attention to the year ahead. The Open Gardens registration form is included with this edition of the Perennial Post. Please take a moment to fill it out and make 2014 the year you discover what a profound experience it can be to open your garden.

### THANK YOU, WELLS MEDINA

Many thanks to our wonderful friends at Wells Medina for once again generously donating gift certificates for Open Gardens drawings at the November lecture.

The lucky garden hosts who received a \$50 certificate this year were: Scott and Pat Bergford, Russ and Miriam Smith, Sondra Shira, and Jim and Paula Umbeck.



*Photo by Carol Hart*

The three garden visitors who received \$25 certificates were: Wendy Lagozzino, Jan Mote and Peggy Wood.

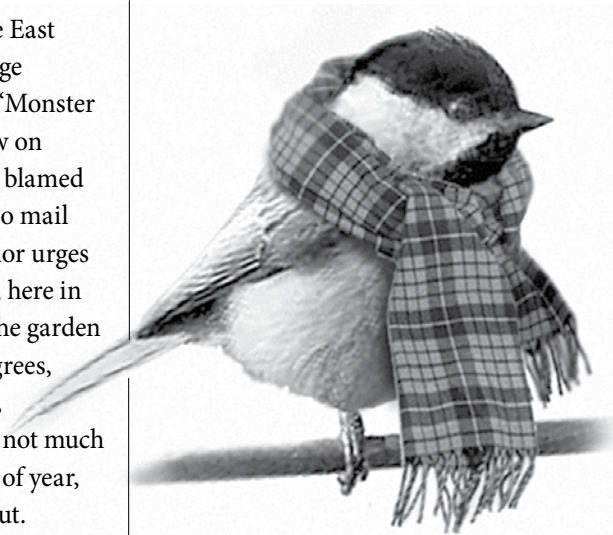
# BUNDLE UP AND HEAD OUT

Wendy Lagozzino

**I**T'S FEBRUARY 9, 2013. The East Coast has been hit with a huge snowstorm. Headlines read "Monster Storm Dumps 2 Feet of Snow on Northeast." At least three deaths blamed (which later turn out to be 18). No mail delivery and Connecticut governor urges residents to stay put. Meanwhile, here in the Northwest, I've been out in the garden to see what's going on. It's 45 degrees, very gray as usual, but dry today, always a bonus. You might think not much would be happening at this time of year, but come with me and check it out.

It's time to clean out the birdhouses. Inside, I find the nests are primarily made out of moss found in my lawn (who says we don't like moss in our lawn?) and cat fur that I stuff into a suet cage and hang under the eave of the shed. Strands of fur are woven into the moss creating a mattress of downy softness. One nest has 6 tiny unfertilized Chickadee eggs in it, off-white with small brown specks. As I hang the house back in the tree, a Chickadee stands ready on the next branch to claim her new house, all cleaned up by her own Merry Maid.

Now I need to water the soil under the eaves of the house that doesn't get rain. I cherish every square inch of garden space I can get, and I find I can grow things in that dry deserted strip if I keep after it all year. I am rewarded with *Adiantum venustum* all the way up against the house and filling in under the shrubs. It is also time to cut its slender black stems back to allow for the new growth. At the same time, I cut all the old tattered foliage off my *Omphalodes* 'Starry Eyes.' My reward will be beautiful white flowers with a blue stripe next to my blue *Corydalis flexuosa* 'Pere David.'



After many winter walks in the garden, I am finally rewarded with the first bit of color on my *Aster carolinianus*. I've been told they grow here, but it has taken up room on my tuteur for two years now without rewarding me with a flower. The leaves are rather wilted even though we've had a mild winter and it grows under the protection of the eaves. They bloom on old wood and usually die in one of our freezes, so I've taken cuttings and replanted it for a few years hoping to see a flower. I already have plans to replace it with a *Clematis texensis* 'Princess Diana', so of course, it panics and now I see the first bit of purple on one flower. Its days are numbered, however, as I plan to try something else with my Lady Di that is more fit for a princess.

Believe it or not, I can pick a bouquet of *Iris unguicularis*. Some are just in bud and will open tonight in a small vase for a dinnertime unfurling. Too bad there's no one coming to dinner to impress.

Slowly as I walk the paths through the garden, I pass *Sarcococca* in full fragrant bloom with the resident hummingbird looking lasciviously at it from the nearby Mock Orange. Further on, the Snowdrops

are delicately showing off their bright little white lanterns so welcome in the drab gray daylight. I stop to tip them up and admire their sweet faces. Around the next corner, my newest *Helleborus niger* HCG 'Jacob' is still making a much appreciated show of clean white flowers. I pick a few to float in a dish. Next, I pass a small crowd of a tough annual I grow called *Fedia*. It has tiny pink edible flowers that can only compete at this time of year. I pick a few to add to my next salad. As I return to the front of the house, I pass some bright red-orange rose hips and a glorious *Miscanthus* waving hello with its khaki flowers in the breeze.

Certainly there's no lack of interest here in the February garden, just enough to entertain you until your toes feel--or don't feel—and your fingers are like the icicles in the northeast blizzard.

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

# Olmsted Lives! Step back in time to meet the father of American landscape design

Gayle Richardson

## MARCH 16, SUNDAY NICOLAY MEMORIAL LECTURE WITH KIRK BROWN

1 pm - Doors open at noon for plant and seed sales

Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

NPA members \$5/Nonmembers \$10

**M**ANY MOTORISTS driving around Seattle may have wondered, “What is it with these brown street signs all of a sudden, instead of the normal green?” What they have done is come upon a section of the nearly 20 miles of landscaped boulevards that link the city’s parks. The brown signs are placed as both indicators and homage to them. While a handful of Seattle parks already existed, it was the city’s decision in 1903 to hire John Charles Olmsted, of the Olmsted Brothers firm, that created one of the best designed and maintained city park systems in the nation today.

Now, at the Kevin Nicolay Memorial Lecture, NPA members and their guests will have the chance to step back yet a further generation in time and meet the distinguished brothers’ even more distinguished father, Frederick Law Olmsted. Most Jeopardy watchers could come up with the question for “Along with Calvert Vaux, he designed Central Park,” but most people surely know very little more about the amazing series of accomplishments this true renaissance man achieved in a career that began long before the Civil War.

Coming from Pennsylvania to bring it all to life is Kirk Brown, who will don the 19th century suit and persona of Frederick L. in a one-man show called “Olmsted Lives.”

This dramatic presentation, tailored specifically for us, explores the extraordinary life and times of the founding father of American landscape design.

Mr. Brown, a noted East Coast author, horticulturalist, garden designer, lecturer and teacher, is vice president of the Garden



Kirk Brown, noted author and garden designer

Writers’ Association and has served as a judge of major exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Lucky viewers of his historical presentations (he also appears as Charles Bartram, early American plant hunter) have described his performances as “Perfect: educational, entertaining and historical” and “an amazing, eye-opening and inspiring” experience.

Mark your calendars now for this unique and enthralling program.



Kirk Brown dressed as Frederick Law Olmsted in the woods is a take-off on the famous John Singer Sargent portrait of Olmsted.

Photo courtesy of Kirk Brown

## Garden Crime, Latin and Love

Gayle Richardson

### “COMMON OR GARDEN CRIME”

by Sheila Pim (Rue Morgue Press, 2001)

“Have you thought of having a (judging) class for wildflowers?” Miss FitzEustace asked. “To the seeing eye, a common dandelion is as beautiful as a chrysanthemum.” “Somehow,” said Lucy Bex, “I don’t think you can be a gardener.”

World War II may be raging elsewhere in Europe, but in Clonmeen, on the outskirts of Dublin, the biggest shadow on the horizon is the coming Garden Show--and the village politics that threaten it. Lucy’s mind soon turns to more disturbing matters when *Aconitum ferox* from her own garden is used to poison a prominent inhabitant. Thus begins a charming cozy which in addition to an agreeable story, some delightfully wry and skewering writing, and sympathetic characters, gives a picture of what life was like in Ireland during the war: Among other things, shortages cause dreadful food creations and “very Anglo” Irish men who go to England to enlist are prohibited from wearing their British uniforms in the neutral country.

Before returning the book to the library, I made sure to photocopy the list of other Rue Morgue reprints at the back. Their inclusion of some of my all-time favorites (Manning Coles and Marlys Millhiser’s “THE MIRROR”) pretty much guarantees that I’ll enjoy all their other selections, as well as the three remaining Pim murders, all written in the late 40’s and early 50’s.



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

### “GARDENER’S LATIN: A LEXICON”

by Bill Neal (Algonquin Books, 1992)

When this little treasure came out in 1992, a dear friend and I both gave it to each other for Christmas (she’s always so easy to shop for: I just give her what I want. Obviously, she feels the same). Twenty years and an edition or two later, it still remains my favorite go-to title for tracking down the meaning of species names. I pretty much always find what I’m looking for, and have discovered lots of adjectives that tickle my funnybone as well. I’d love to create a bed with nothing but what sound like disasters in it: *confusus*, *fatuus*, *frigidus*, *horridus*, *neglectus*, *nervosus*, *obsoletus*, *senilis*, *sordidus* and *syphiliticus*, plus one we can all identify with: *praemorsus*, which means “appearing to have been nibbled on.” It’s not only a handy reference, but a delightful piece of bookmaking which, in addition to many old botanical illustrations, sports a clever approach to the bibliographic information page as well.

If you’d like to explore the genre further you could investigate:

“LATIN FOR GARDENERS: OVER 3,000 PLANT NAMES EXPLAINED AND EXPLORED” by Lorraine Harrison (University of Chicago Press, 2012)

“FEARLESS LATIN: A GARDENER’S INTRODUCTION TO BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE” by Sara G. Mauritz (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011)

### “THE MEN WHO LOVED EVELYN COTTON”

by Frank Ronan (Pantheon Books, 1989)

Hmm, you might wonder, why does a novel which has not too much gardening within find a place in this column? Well, the author, Frank Ronan, monthly columnist for *Gardens Illustrated*, is our keynote speaker at the Hardy Plant Study Weekend, and I got curious. It’s the tale of a mesmerizing woman, told by a narrator at times personal, at others omniscient, who has never stopped loving Evelyn Cotton as she works her way through a series of mostly disastrous mates. Several thoughts remain with me upon finishing it: I sure wish I’d kept a pad and pen handy to write down all the great lines and observations the author produces. The author’s writing style brings to mind one of my all-time favorites, Robertson Davies, who, I have always felt, so clearly thinks deeply before he writes. That, and some of the subsidiary characters are absolutely and enjoyably horrid and awful. Ronan has written six other books, all prize-winners or otherwise lavishly praised. Can’t wait to get through them all. If you don’t find them at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), try [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk).

# NPA WORKSHOPS & *Classes*

Wednesday, March 5, 10 am - noon  
**SPRING PRUNING**  
 with *George Lasch*  
 Bellevue Botanical Garden  
 Fee: \$25 Class Limit: 12

George Lasch will again present his ever-popular, usually sold-out pruning class at Bellevue Botanical Garden. If you've ever wondered when and where to make the cut, bring your pruning questions to this class, where George will help you explore the right and wrong way to prune shrubs and small trees. Learn the reasons for and against pruning, the right timing and how various plants react to pruning. Class goes rain or shine – dress accordingly and bring a pair of bypass pruners.



Photo by Michele Courmoyer

Saturday, May 10, 10 am – 1 pm  
**TEA AND TRILLIUMS**  
 with *Susie Egan*  
 Cottage Lake Gardens, Woodinville  
 Fee: \$25 Class limit: 20

Trilliums are beautiful wildflowers that often bring back memories of walking through the Northwest woods in early spring. This fun event takes place at Cottage Lake Gardens, a two-acre botanical garden on the east shore of Cottage Lake in Woodinville. Owner Susie Egan is in the process of establishing a National Trillium Collection and now has all 48 species of trillium that exist in the world.



Photo by Carol Hart

The event begins at 10 am with an indoor tea and sweets using Susie's vintage trillium china. You'll enjoy a presentation about trilliums and their fascinating evolution, plus descriptions and photos of the more popular trillium species.

We'll also learn about how to care for and propagate them.

Afterwards we'll see the trilliums and companion plants in Susie's stunning garden and how she's designed them into her landscape. Trilliums and other trillium companion plants will be available



Photo by Carol Hart

to purchase. Note that the entire event including tea, talk and tour usually takes three hours depending on how much time is spent shopping for plants.

## CLASS REGISTRATION

It's easy to register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) Or contact the NPA Office at 425-647-6004.

We'll be adding more classes throughout the spring and summer. Watch your emails and future editions of *The Perennial Post* for details. And if you have a great idea for a class or workshop, contact Classes & Workshops Chair Sandy Kanaga at: [classes@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:classes@northwestperennialalliance.org)

## Free tickets to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

*Diana Davidson*

NPA MEMBERS who volunteer to work a three-hour shift in the NPA booth get a free admission ticket to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show. Our enthusiastic volunteers talk to people about NPA and all it has to offer. Two people are assigned per shift, so sign up with a friend! You'll be provided with written instructions and guidance for signing up new members.

To volunteer, contact the NPA office at [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org) or 425-647-6004.

This year's show will be held February 5-9 at the Seattle Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. If you can't volunteer but plan to visit the show, be sure to stop by the NPA booth (#2501, same as the last two years) and register to win a garden-related prize.



MARRIED TO YOUR GARDEN:  
*How to Save the Relationship*



## Study Weekend Schedule of Events

### FRIDAY, JUNE 20

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Tour of Whidbey Island or Georgetown/  
Normandy Park gardens

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Workshops—David Perry & Beth Evans-  
Ramos

**3:30 pm – 6:45 pm**

Registration / Plant Market & Book Nook  
open

**6:45 pm**

Conference opens with prizes &  
announcements

**7:00 pm**

Nancy Pearl

**8:00 pm**

Frank Ronan

**9:00 pm**

Adjourn for evening

### SATURDAY, JUNE 21

**8:00 – 8:45 am**

Registration/ Plant Market & Book Nook  
open / Author book signings

**8:45 am**

Door prizes

**9:00 am**

Annie Hayes

**10:00 – 10:25 am**

Coffee break with author book signings

**10:25 am**

Door prizes

**10:30 am**

Billy Goodnick

**11:30 am**

Debra Prinzing

**12:30 – 1:30 pm**

Plant Market & Book Nook open / Author  
book signings / Pick up box lunches

**1:00 – 5:00 pm**

Tour of Eastside gardens

**6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Saturday night party at Wells Medina  
“Fifty Shades of Green”  
with broVo and Debra Prinzing

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

**8:00 – 9:00 am**

Plant Market and Book Nook open /  
Final drop-off of plants to be inspected  
for Canada

**9:00 am**

Door prizes & announcements

**9:15 am**

Ciscoe & Mary Flewelling Morris

**10:00 – 10:25 am**

Coffee break and author book signings

**10:25 am**

Door prizes

**10:30 am**

Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson

**11:30 am**

Frank Ronan

**12:30 pm**

Closing remarks & HPSO 2015  
announcement

**12:45 – 1:30 pm**

Plant Market & Book Nook open /  
Author book signings / Pick up box  
lunches / Pick up inspected plants.

**1:00 – 5:00 pm**

Tour of gardens from Laurelhurst to  
East Shoreline

### MONDAY, JUNE 23

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Tour Whidbey Island or Georgetown/  
Normandy Park gardens



# Meet Our Study Weekend Speakers



## Frank Ronan

The Irish novelist Frank Ronan has moonlighted as a garden writer in the back pages of *Gardens Illustrated* for the past eight years. His complete lack of qualification seems not only to have gone unnoticed, but to have been rewarded by being named both garden columnist and garden journalist of the year on separate occasions. What passes for his garden is a third of an acre on a hill in the back end of Worcestershire, England. He divides his time between there and Amsterdam.



## Billy Goodnick

Born in Brooklyn, Billy's family moved him to L.A. at age eight where he studied music and became an in-demand Hollywood studio drummer. As fate would

have it, he stumbled upon the exquisite art of bonsai. He turned his life on a dime, dropped his drumsticks, and started a journey into the world of plants.

As an award-winning designer and writer who has worked his way up from swinging a pick to flourishing as a landscape architect, Billy calls upon his earlier life as an entertainer and his decades of professional design practice to animate and enrich his gardens, writing and talks. Billy lives, practices and writes from paradise, aka Santa Barbara, California.



## Debra Prinzing

Debra Prinzing writes and lectures on gardens and home design, and is an impassioned advocate for a more sustainable flower industry. She is the award-winning author of seven books, including "Slow Flowers" and "The 50 Mile Bouquet," created with photographer David Perry (who'll be teaching our iPhone workshop). Debra is based in Seattle and Los Angeles. Her avid "helpers" in her Seattle garden efforts are sons Benjamin and Alexander, who love to learn the botanical names for plants. Her husband, Bruce Brooks, pushes a mean lawnmower and can't quite figure out how this all happened.



## Annie Hayes

From her humble beginnings as a backyard hobbyist over 20 years ago, Annie Hayes has built a worldwide following for Annie's Annuals and Perennials, located in Richmond, California. The self-proclaimed "Flower Floozie" has a keen interest in rare and unusual annuals and perennials, including heirloom cottage garden plants. She's partial to the old-fashioned annuals because they self-sow so easily (unlike modern hybrids), delighting gardeners with lots of free plants each year, along with the serendipitous and surprising flowering combinations they provide. She also specializes in Mediterranean-climate varieties from all over the world, including wondrous South African annuals, perennials and shrubs.

*Continued on page 10*

## Study Weekend Speakers *cont'd from page 9*



### Ciscoe Morris and Mary Flewelling Morris

Seattle's most popular gardening personality and his wife talk about how they've gardened together for 30 years and stayed married...so far. Ciscoe and Mary are proof that opposites do attract. They met at Seattle University when Mary, a student of mathematics, applied for a job on the grounds crew. They live and garden in the Wedgwood neighborhood of Seattle, where they share their garden with Fred, who likes to pee on valuable evergreens and Ruby, who prefers to lounge in perennial beds. Ciscoe's show, "Gardening with Ciscoe" airs on KING TV, his weekly garden column is a favorite in the Seattle Times and his book, "Ask Ciscoe," is one of the top selling garden books nationwide.



### Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson

Kelly and Sue, the plant obsessed owners of Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, specialize in fabulous plants from faraway places. These two met and fell in love on a seed-collecting expedition to China. They've combined their talents to create a nursery with the largest collection of uncommon ornamentals in the state and their mail order business has gained a national following. Their emphasis is on perennials but they have an ever-increasing selection of bulbs, alpines, trees and shrubs. Their expanding plant palette includes a wide range of plants that can tantalize even the most jaded gardener.



### Nancy Pearl

Legendary Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl is surely the only speaker in Study Weekend history to have her own action-figure doll, complete with shushing action. Arriv-

ing in Seattle in 1993, she brought such unbridled enthusiasm and innovative ideas for recommending and discussing books that she quickly developed a local fan base. This went national when she started what is now generally known as the One City, One Book program, which has swept the nation. Nancy is a regular on NPR's Morning Edition and her best-selling "Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason" tempts us with thousands of titles we shouldn't get through life without reading.



### Susie Egan, moderator

Susie Egan is a landscape designer, garden coach, speaker and owner of Cottage Lake Gardens, a private plant nursery and two-acre display garden located on Cottage Lake in Woodinville, Washington. In recent years her focus has been the study and propagation of native and woodland shade plants, particularly of trilliums, an endangered wildflower. Susie is currently working towards establishing a National Trillium Collection whose purpose will be to conserve, grow, propagate, and make available the many species of trilliums. So far Cottage Lake Gardens has all 48 species of trilliums in the world.

# Study Weekend Open Gardens

OUR OPEN GARDENS marry passionate owners' ideas to unique garden sites throughout the Puget Sound region. Selected gardens range from compact to expansive and everything in between, each with its own flair for local style. We start and end our tours with two rather different garden areas: Georgetown and Whidbey Island. Pick one to do on Friday and tour the other on Monday. Georgetown is known for its eclectic, artful, design-driven small homes and gardens. We've combined this group with

a special feature to the south in Normandy Park: two gardens right next door to each other representing two generations, one urban chic and the other Old World grandmother.

Meanwhile, up at the other end of the Sound, prepare to be gobsmacked by a pack of gardens that will inspire and vistas that will awe. Whidbey Island has long been known as a retreat for artists and fun seekers. Come savor the beauty of island life expressed through some very talented gardeners.

On Saturday get your walking shoes on as we trek the eastside of Lake Washington, where a bevy of beauties awaits closer inspection. Visit large, manicured estates and fun backyard retreats--you'll find garden relationships in all their permutations in the suburbs.

Sunday afternoon brings a trail of jewels across North Seattle, with a tour of designers' own home gardens. From a pitch-perfect plot of multi-purpose land to a garden that has matured for decades to feel expansive, the variety is astonishing.

**Friday AND Monday, June 20 and 23, 10 am - 4 pm  
SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND**



**Saturday, June 21, 1 - 5 pm  
EASTSIDE SPLENDOR**



**Friday AND Monday, June 20 and 23, 10 am - 4 pm  
GEORGETOWN & NORMANDY PARK**



**Sunday, June 22, 1 - 5 pm  
NORTH SEATTLE JEWELS**



# Study Weekend Workshops

Friday, June 20, 2 – 5:00 pm

## **“THE IPHONE GARDENER: SEEING, PICTURING & SHARING GARDEN MAGIC WITH YOUR SMART PHONE”**

with David Perry

Class fee: \$45



The cameras within smart phones these days are miniature wonders. They are nearly always within our reach and are delightfully capable of making magical photographs that can quickly and easily be shared.

Spend an hour with photographer, longtime blogger and storyteller, David E. Perry as he demonstrates some of the amazing potential that these smart phone cameras offer, as he helps you both master their wonders and sidestep some of their inherent pitfalls. David explains why, in addition to the pictures he captures on his iPhone camera, he also regularly imports photos made with other cameras, even his professional cameras, into his iPhone to work on them there. He'll show several inexpensive and creative iPhone apps that can give photos beautiful 'looks' difficult to achieve otherwise.

Learn simple processes and tricks to enhance your own smart phone photography and learn about which apps offer the most zing for \$1.99. You may find yourself as amazed as he and many other pho-

tographers are, at all that is possible and easily achievable within this brave new world of smart phone cameras today.

**David Perry** is a Seattle-based photographer and storyteller with a keen knack for observation and a twinkle in his eye. His thoughtful reverence for beauty is apparent in the pictures he makes, and his playful, sometimes irreverent manner of speaking about it keeps audiences on the edge of their seats. He has made his living authoring photographs for more than 30 years, and in that time completed assignments for books, magazines, annual reports and ad campaigns in all 50 states and around the world. In the past year David's work has been featured in *Fine Gardening*, *Sunset*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Flower, Leaf, Garden Design*, *Pacific Horticulture* and *Cut Flower Quarterly*. David is the photographer and co-creator of "The 50 Mile Bouquet" with Debra Prinzing.

Friday, June 20, 2 – 4:00 pm

## **“THE JOY OF GARTENDING” (GARDENING + BARTENDING)**

Mixology merriment

with Beth Evans-Ramos

Class fee: \$40

Long a byword in the Northwest's reuse/recreate community for making charming and useful possessions from others' cast-offs, Beth Evans-Ramos has moved on to an even more delightful career---creating refreshing, relaxing and remarkable cocktails made from plants in your garden.

In this two hour hands-on class, you'll create your own bitters, tinctures and

elixirs while you sip on a refreshing, sparkling herbal water. Master the tips and techniques of using organic herbs, fruits, vegetables and edible flowers. Learn about herbal salts and scented sugars, and what to plant in your own cocktail garden.

You'll be taking home goodies, as well as a host of ideas and new recipes to add boozy botanical bliss and non-alcoholic sparkle to your life. As the summer sun sets in your garden, those cocktails will never be the same, now that you're the gartender.

Class fee includes all supplies.



**Beth Evans-Ramos** is an enthusiastic gartender - gardener + bartender - in Seattle, Washington. As "Mama Knows Her Cocktails," she shares her original garden cocktail creations and happy hours research from around the globe on her website, [www.mamaknowshercocktails.com](http://www.mamaknowshercocktails.com). Beth loves to spread her hot tips on crafting botanical bliss, using organic and sustainable ingredients, through public speaking engagements, workshops and special events. Adding a little more happiness to others' lives is her goal.

# Saturday Night Party: Fifty Shades of Green



Photo courtesy of Wells Medina

## “FIFTY SHADES OF GREEN”

Wells Medina Nursery  
Saturday, June 21  
6:00-9:00 pm

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of Study Weekend is the Saturday night party filled with great food, drinks and gardening friends at Wells Medina Nursery, a setting guaranteed to arouse your plant lust. You'll be able to shop the nursery's amazing selection and purchase plants during the party, while you mix, mingle and shoot selfies. We're calling it "Fifty Shades of Green." You'll call it an evening to remember. Enjoy organically grown botanical liqueurs by celebrated broVo Spirits and watch award-winning author Debra Prinzing demonstrate the marriage of ornamentals and edibles in the vase.

Since there will be no parking available at Wells Medina and parking is not allowed on the surrounding streets, everyone will be asked to hop on one of



Photo by Susan Picquelle

our free buses, which will make the ten-minute run between the Hilton Bellevue and the nursery. The Hilton offers loads of free parking.

Wells Medina was established more than 40 years ago on five pastoral acres

in Medina, just minutes from downtown Bellevue. It is family owned and dedicated to unique and hard-to-find plants of exceptional quality.

Tickets are \$55 per person and include broVo cocktails, wines donated by Chateau Ste. Michelle, and a tempting array of food: Thai peanut chicken satay, grilled salmon bites, Angus beef sliders, vegan rolls, wild mushroom wontons, twice baked potatoes, fresh tomato bruschetta, tomato/basil/mozzarella skewers, a selection of desserts and coffee.

Due to the location, there are only 200 party tickets available. Buy early, don't miss out!

Registration begins for January 15 for NPA members.

# Study Weekend Registration

## 2014 HARDY PLANT STUDY WEEKEND

June 20-23, 2014

Hilton Bellevue —300 112th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98004



**Registration begins on January 15 for NPA members only and opens to the public on February 1.**

**You must register online for this event.** Watch for the NPA January email or register online beginning January 15 at the NPA website: [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org).

Basic registration fee includes lectures, coffee breaks, garden tours, Tea at the Border, and access to plant sales, book sales and author book signings.

Registration on or before May 1, 2014.....\$150

Registration after May 1, 2014.....\$180

**Box lunch Saturday & Sunday..... each / \$18**

Choice of grilled chicken sandwich, roast beef sandwich or vegetarian wrap, each served with whole fruit, chips, pasta salad, cookie and bottled water.

**Saturday night party at Wells Medina..... \$55**

**Workshops.....\$45 & \$40**

“The iPhone Gardener” with David Perry

Friday, 2 – 5 pm \$45

“The Joy of Gardening” with Beth Evans-Ramos

Friday, 2 – 4 pm \$40

Registration confirmation will be sent by email.

Cancellation policy – There is a \$15 fee for all cancellations.

Cancellations prior to May 20 will receive a refund of the balance.

After that date your registration will be considered a donation to the NPA.

## Accommodations

THE HILTON BELLEVUE offers convenient access to I-405 to get you off to the garden tours with ease, along with high-speed internet access, coffee makers, plus Hilton “Serenity Beds,” Basil’s Restaurant & Bar and a Tully’s coffee lounge. The conference is on the first floor of the Hilton.

Study Weekend attendees can enjoy lodging for the low group rate of \$119 per night (rate is the same for single, double, triple or quad occupancy), with plenty of free parking. Reserve your room no later than June 1, online or by calling, using reservation code “NWPCI” to obtain the NPA group rate.

You can make your hotel reservations directly from the NPA website when you register for the conference. Just click on “Group Reservations” for a direct link to our own Hilton reservation page.

Hotel registrations not canceled 72 hours prior to arrival date will be charged for one night’s stay.

Central Reservations Phone: 800-643-7907

Website: [www.bellevuehilton.com](http://www.bellevuehilton.com)

Address: 300 112th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98004



# Retail Therapy: Plant Market and Book Nook

FEW EVENTS pack the emotional wallop of a really good plant sale. We've gathered several outstanding specialty nurseries for this event, each one determined to seduce you with new, unusual and sexy plants. For extra sizzle, we've also added a couple of exciting art vendors to the mix.

Seed enthusiasts will be over the moon with the selection at NPA Mercantile, which be offering hundreds of varieties of choice rarities and Pacific Northwest natives for sale at unheard-of low prices. Plan to shop early for the best selection of seeds and other useful gardening items.

Please note that vendors do their own cashiering and many don't accept credit cards, so be sure to bring your checkbook and cash. There's also an ATM on the premises.

## PLANT VENDORS:

- Bouquet Banque**
- Collector's Nursery**
- Fancy Fronds**
- Far Reaches Farm**
- Gossler Farms**
- Keeping It Green Nursery**
- Lee Farm**
- Taking Root**
- Windcliff**
- White Picket Gardens**

## ART VENDORS:

- Maya Radoczy Glass**
- Wilburton Pottery**

## NPA MERCANTILE - SEEDS

## THE BOOK NOOK

University Book Store will be on hand with a wonderful selection of gardening books. Practical, inspirational or pure garden porn—you'll find it all here. We'll have speakers' books for sale and author book signings as well.

## PHYTO INSPECTION

For our Canadian guests, we'll be offering a special holding area for your plants in the Hilton's Kirkland Room, just off the foyer. Before leaving your plants, complete an Inspection Application and pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard only) or US dollars. You can add more plants to the application as you purchase them. The fee for one certificate is \$15 to cover WA State and federal fees. (If you carpoled across the border, combine your plants on one inspection form to save money.) Phyto inspection is Sunday morning. Pick up your inspected plants after the lectures on Sunday at 12:30 pm.



## NPA Advisory Board

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kelly Dodson   | Chitra Parpia  |
| Val Easton     | Charles Price  |
| Roger Gossler  | Debra Prinzing |
| Pam Harper     | Barbara Swift  |
| Dan Hinkley    | Joanne White   |
| Thomas Hobbs   | Glenn Withey   |
| George Johnson | Barbara Wright |
| Nancy Kartes   |                |
| Denise Lane    |                |

## 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](http://www.n-p-a.org)  
Phone: 425-647-6004  
Email: [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org)

## NPA 2013-2014 Officers:

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

## Membership:

The membership year runs from January to December. To join, visit [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check for \$35, payable to NPA, to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA accepts certain credit cards and debit cards by telephone at 425-647-6004.

## Donations:

NPA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Donations are used to support our educational programs, including Open Gardens, lectures, workshops, the NPA Border and student scholarships.

## Submissions and paid advertisements:

Contact the Post Editor at [post@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:post@northwestperennialalliance.org)

The Perennial Post is published by:  
Northwest Perennial Alliance  
8522 46th Street NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

WINTER 2014  
Volume 24, Issue 1  
Editor: Michele Cournoyer  
Copy Editors: Sara Drogin, Wendy Lagozzino

Printer: Precision Press, Redmond

All material ©2014 NPA Reprint by permission only.



## THE PERENNIAL POST

Northwest Perennial Alliance  
8522 46th Street NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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



# March Mania is coming Saturday, March 8!

## MARCH MANIA PLANT SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 9-2 PM

*Wilburton Education Center (1/2 block east of Bellevue Botanical Garden)  
Main Street & 124th Ave. NE, Bellevue*

The first big plant sale of the year in the Seattle area, March Mania attracts hordes of hardcore Northwest gardeners who never let a little chill or rain keep them from checking out this year's coolest new plants. Come share the excitement and take home the must-have plants for your garden.

Please note that due to construction at Bellevue Botanical Garden, the sale has moved a half block east to the Wilburton Education Center, where you'll find plenty of free parking. As always, there'll be tents, free coffee and loads of fun.



**SHOP THESE GREAT VENDORS:** *Botanica, Bouquet Banque, Glenwood Gardens, Growing Girls, Keeping It Green, Lael's Moon Garden, Lee Farm, NPA, Taking Root, White Picket, Wind Poppy*