

# THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



SPRING 2015 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 2

## NPA Spring Plant Sale Is April 19

Craig Wagner

*“Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,  
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;  
And ‘tis my faith that every flower  
Enjoys the air it breathes.”*

Wordsworth, from “Lines Written in Early Spring”

**M**OST OF US HAVE OUR OWN sweet visions of spring and the nuanced gifts it unwraps for us in our gardens. The eager anticipation of these images should be all the motivation one needs to come join us at the NPA Spring Plant Sale on Sunday, April 19, at North Seattle College. This is our biggest plant sale of the year, which is sure to include unique, unmatched collections of perennials, evergreens,

shrubs, succulents and more. There will be plants for the beginning gardener as well as the connoisseur, offered by knowledgeable, friendly and helpful growers who do not typically open their businesses to the public. What’s more, at this sale you shop tax free, a way to stretch your gardening dollars by almost 10%! Please join us for this exciting, once a year event. Proceeds help fund our education programs, including the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

### SPECIAL PLANTS FROM SOME OF OUR SPECIAL GROWERS

Lee Farm has several exciting plants to offer at this year’s sale. The *Cunninghamia*

*lanceolata* ‘China Fir’ is a hardy, slow growing, drought tolerant evergreen that works well in small gardens or containers, providing great texture and visual interest. Check out *Edgeworthia papyrifera* ‘Paper Bush’, a native to China. As its name suggests, the bark is used to make special papers in Japan. It loves full sun and produces enchanting, exotic looking pale yellow blossoms on bare wood. They will also be showing *Solanum crispum* ‘Glasnevin’, a Chilean potato vine with fragrant, lavender-blue blossoms. It will do well on a south facing wall or can be trained as a shrub.

Continued on page 3



*Dysosma versipelle*, Bouquet Banque

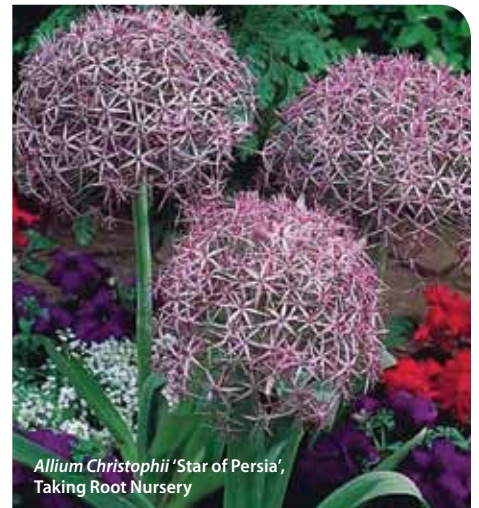


*Dichroa febrifuga* ‘UBC Clone’ fruit, Bouquet Banque

**NPA SPRING PLANT SALE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 9 AM – 3 PM**  
North Seattle College  
9600 College Way North, Seattle  
Plenty of free parking



*Saxifraga fortunei* ‘Rubrifolia’, Growing Girls



*Allium Christophii* ‘Star of Persia’,  
Taking Root Nursery



*Solanum crispum* ‘Glasnevin’, Lee Farm

- APRIL 19 | **NPA Spring Plant Sale**, Sunday, 9 am – 3 pm, North Seattle College, 9600 College Way North, Seattle.  
(details, pages 1 & 3)
- APRIL 21 | **“Planting Decisions”** class with Walt Bubelis, Tuesday, 10 am – noon. (details, page 5)
- MAY 1 | **Open Gardens season begins**. Free! Tour private gardens almost every weekend. See your Open Gardens directory for details.
- JUNE 26-28 | **Hardy Plant Study Weekend**, Friday-Sunday, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, with the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon. Register at [www.hardyplantsociety.org/studyweekend](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org/studyweekend).
- AUGUST 1 | **“Make A Concrete Garden Leaf”** class with Connie Reagan, Saturday, August 1, 10 am - noon. (details, page 5)
- AUGUST 15 | **“Making Memorable Plant Combinations”** class with Linda McDonald, Saturday, 10 am – noon. (details, page 5)

## A warm welcome to our new members

Alice Dionne  
Alinda Page  
Alta Hofstetter  
Angela & James Clarke  
Arlene West  
Barbara & Robert Conta  
Barbara Bosse  
Barbara Starr  
Becky & John Lewis  
Beth & Bruce Weir  
Beverly & Andy Brown  
Brian Jacob  
Caleb Chaundy  
Carol Barany  
Carol Murray  
Caroline R. Mass  
Carolyn Burningham  
Cathy Haynes  
Cheryl Burner  
Cheryl Durham  
Christa & David VanderSluis  
Colby Collier  
Colette Swan  
Connie Adams  
Danielle de Clercq  
Dannie & Craig McLaughlin  
Daria Frank  
David & Lori Gibson  
David Husch  
Debby Winskill  
Dianne Riter  
Dyann Provenzano  
Eleanor Ferris  
Elise Haavik  
Ellen Cressey  
Erica Knowles  
Eve Dilores

Fran Mackert  
Gayla Morrison  
Gerry Sue Pallas  
Gordon Hogenson  
Ingrid Mager  
Jan & Mike Fitzgerald  
Jane Strom  
Janice Tallman  
Jean Pawluk  
Jeanne & Robin Cronce  
Jeannie & Warren Moskowitz  
Jillian Glaser  
Jo Sullivan  
Joan Helbacka  
Joan Wilder  
Johnnie & Byron Ingalls  
Jouce Butler  
Joy Blake  
Judith & Robert Scott  
Julie Douglas  
Justin Galicic  
Karen Miller  
Karin Youngberg  
Kathleen Warren  
Kathy Dart  
Kathy Engell  
Kathy Hawkins  
Katie Keller  
Kelly & Jeff Hall  
Kim Desilet  
Kristi Andersen  
Kristie Fritz  
Laura Emnolt  
Lee Ann Roddy  
Linda Lightfeldt  
Liz Axford  
Lorene Edwards Forkner

Lori Dougan  
Louise Shultz  
Lucie Hamner  
Margaret Brooks  
Marie Panesko  
Marilyn & Lance Kilgove  
Marilyn Sandau  
Mary Craft  
Mary Ruhmann  
Matt Freed  
Michael Preble  
Michelle Wyles  
Molly Malecki  
Myrl Venter  
Nancy Dawson  
Nancy Fehrman  
Pamela Meyer  
Patty Hieb  
Pauline O'Rourke  
Penelope Douglas  
Penny Beane  
Rebecca L. Person  
Rick & Judy Davis  
Rick Main & Kim Brewer  
Robin Thome  
Roylynn Ware  
Sally Kinsey  
Sandie Jones  
Sandy Arildson  
Sandy Marcus  
Satish Thatte  
Shannon Thompson  
Sherre Pruden  
Sherri Woods  
Stanley Giant  
Susan Cook  
Terry Rickey

Tinku Basu  
Victoria Czaplewski  
Willemijn de Clercq  
Wolfgang Mueller

### Business Members

Azusa Farm  
Bassetti Crooked Arbor Gardens  
Bayernmoor Farms  
Botanica by Heather McGilvray  
Christianson's Nursery  
City People's Garden Store  
Garden Design Magazine  
Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation  
Lee Farm and Nursery  
Magnolia Garden Center  
Meerkerk Gardens  
Molbak's garden + home  
Northwest Landscape Supply  
Seattle Container Gardens  
Swansons Nursery  
The Daily Plant-It  
Valley Nursery, Inc.  
Westport Winery  
Wights Home & Garden  
Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery  
Zenith Holland Gardens

## PLANT SALE *Continued*

A consistent favorite in the Growing Girls palette is the *Saxifraga fortunei* 'Rubrifolia', an easy shade lover with shiny bronzy leaves that reveal a bright rose red underside, and create a late summer eruption of clouds of white flowers. And look for a great garden mate to the *S. fortunei*, *Actaea pachypoda* 'Dolls Eyes', where the red and white of each plant seems to naturally compliment the other.

Among the perennials and shrubs Bloomquist Nursery will be bringing are two stars: East Coast mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and *Poncirus* 'Flying Dragon'. They'll also have *Trachystemon orientalis*, a great ground cover for dense shade, with striking blue flowers and large leaves.



*Allium sphaerocephalum* 'Drumsticks', Taking Root Nursery

The focus for Taking Root Nursery will be Alliums, which always provide incredible summer interest with their large showy flowers that catch the eye and attract butterflies to the garden. Fresh cut or dried, they make excellent indoor arrangements. Look for *Allium christophii* 'Star of Persia' which will produce enormous, 12-inch blooms with hundreds of metallic blue-purple star shaped florets. Or as a contrast you might like *Allium karataviense* 'Ivory Queen' with its three-inch globular pinkish-white to cream blooms. Also check out *Allium sphaerocephalum* 'Drumsticks', "team players" that happily bring a splash of rich wine and a graceful oval form that grows to 30-36 inches.

Bouquet Banque has some shade garden favorites ready for this year, including their wide variety of Chinese podophyllums like *Dysosma versipelle* with its enormous leaves and "secret" blooms

under its umbrella. The native *Iris tenax* is an absolute charmer for the garden edge, especially when naturalized into clumps. For an exotic yet hardy plant, look for *Lycoris radiata* with its spidery, coral-

red, late summer blooms. Finally, don't miss the *Dichroa febrifuga* 'UBC clone', a perfect introduction to the deep shade garden, with metallic blue berries.

## NPA Spring Plant Sale Vendors

### BLOOMQUIST NURSERY

Philip Bloomquist  
Unusual perennials and shrubs  
pbplantguy@gmail.com

### BLUE FROG NURSERY

Russ & Miriam Smith  
A tempting assortment of perennials,  
ground covers, shrubs, trees and azaleas  
www.bluefrognursery.net

### BOUQUET BANQUE

Judy Zugish & Bill Roeder  
Fat, juicy, healthy, 2-gallon perennials  
www.twigtwisters.com/nursery.html

### CELESTIAL DREAM GARDENS

Celeste Erickson  
Healthy, well-grown plants, both tried and  
true or rare and few  
celestialdreamgardens@hotmail.com

### EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HORTICULTURE PROGRAM)

Linda Toccoli  
Perennials, shrubs, broadleaf evergreens  
and cactus  
Linda.toccoli@edcc.edu, 425-275-1763

### ELEMENTAL PLANTS

Susan McDougall & David Biek  
Wonderful PNW native plants, specializing  
in shrubs and trees  
http://treeslivehere.com/elemental-plants.  
html

### FANCY FRONDS

Judith Jones  
Planted up miniature gardens, plus many  
plants for miniature, trough or rock  
gardens, unique *Abutilon* hybrids and a  
choice variety of ferns  
www.fancyfronds-nursery.com

### GROWING GIRLS

Beth Burman  
A North Bend nursery offering unusual  
shade-loving perennials  
425-888-0960

### LEE FARM

Carrie & Dean Lee  
Outstanding trees, shrubs, perennials,  
grasses and hardy fuchsias  
www.leefarmandnursery.com

### NPA PLANTS

Wonderful plants from the NPA Border at  
BBG and our members' gardens  
www.n-p-a.org

### QUEEN'S CUP NURSERY

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

### RIZ REYES

A selection from Riz's former Landwave  
Gardens, including rare woodland trea-  
sures, perennials/bulbs, clumping bamboo  
and the tried and true classics  
riz@rhrhorticulture.com

### TAKING ROOT

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

### WHITE PICKET GARDENS

Kristi Fina  
Unusual perennials, drought tolerant  
plants, salvias and hebes  
plant@snohomish.net

### WIND POPPY FARM

Sara & John Burns  
Grasses, sedges, rushes, water plants and  
perennials  
www.windpoppy.com

# Thank you to our donors

*Sincere thanks to our generous donors for supporting the many educational programs of NPA, including Open Gardens, the NPA Border, lectures, workshops and student scholarships. 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.*

## **\$500 AND UP**

Gayle Richardson

## **\$250-\$499**

Delia Zeutschel

## **\$100-\$249**

Elizabeth Axford  
Nancy Daar  
Sylvia Duryee  
Donna Johnson  
Charles Price & Glenn Withey  
Marcia Zech  
Woodinville Garden Club

## **\$51-\$75**

Michele & Paul Cournoyer  
Michelle & Christopher Epping  
Wendy Wells & Lisa Freed  
Marjorie & Thurman Gillespy  
Jan Goetz  
Jeff Graham & John Longres  
Carol Glass and Jeff Haley  
Margaret Hayes-Thombre  
Daniel & Darlene Huntington  
Janet & Mel McIntyre  
Katie & Gordon Padwick  
Linda S. Park  
Rod Parke & Dale Burke  
Chitra & Zak Parpia  
Gayle Peach  
Judith & Kirk Prindle  
Barbara Sanderson  
Nils Sundquist  
Ellen Wanless  
Joanne White  
Betty Willis

## **\$26-\$50**

Annette Barca  
Suzanne Britsch  
Brenda Bulen  
Candy Charlwood  
Cynthia Creasey  
Kathryn Crosby  
Luann Cunningham  
Sandy Earnest  
Dorothea Feek  
Michael & Leslie Gillespie  
Carol A. Hart  
Denise Lane  
Terri Lausten

Linda & Roger McDonald

Sarah Navarre  
Ilse Heidi Nethercutt  
Peggy Ostrander  
Laurel Parshall  
Stephanie Rodden  
Marilou Rush  
Millie Russell  
Patricia Stensel  
Amy Truex  
Amanda Uhry  
Sheila Walter

## **\$5-\$25**

Louise Abbott  
Christine Anderson  
Jo Anne Wyatt  
Karen Baer  
Sue Betts  
Darla & David Bodily  
Donna Bogumill  
Jean Bowman  
Heather Brandt  
Rebecca Brennehan  
Alice Brewer  
Virginia Brewer  
Robin Bruins  
Walt & Dona Bubelis  
Ellen Carnwath  
Kayler Clarke-Willson  
Kathleen Cook  
Janis & Bob Cunningham  
Gail Cunningham & Sara Wood  
Meg Curnutt  
Suzanne & Robert Davis  
Agna de Clercq  
Terra Design  
Kelly Dodson & Sue Milliken  
Sara & Jesse Drogin  
Mary Drummond  
Lisa Dufour  
Carin Dugowson  
Kenneth J. Little & Diane Ecklor  
Udell Fresk  
Margaret Garber  
Cathy Gibbins  
Judy Giniger  
Bonnie Godfred  
Lelia Gooding  
Sandy Gordon  
Sarah Green  
Lynn Greiner

Denise Gudwin Consulting  
Norm & Pat Hansen  
Cheri & Bill Hansen  
Laurel Harrington  
Margie Harrison  
Catherine Hayes  
Elizabeth Hebert  
Nancy Heckler  
Carol Heeren  
Mary Hegdahl  
Elizabeth Hensley  
Carrie L. Hill  
Barbro Hines  
Robert Jones & Daniel Hinkley  
Patricia Huntsman  
Deborah Hurley  
Heather Hyde  
Johnnie & Byron Ingalls  
Suzy Jamieson  
Bob & Iris Jewett  
Don Johnsen  
Cathy Johnson  
Suzanne Kalish  
Sandy Kanaga  
Arlene Kazala  
Sandy Keathley  
Ann Aahl & Jim Kemmish  
Carolyn Keneipp  
Marilyn & Lance Kilgove  
Genene Kluck & Douglas Pook  
Teresa Kluver  
Janet Lewinsohn  
Linda Lightfeldt  
Linda Hall & Mike Lubrecht  
Scott Manning  
Cheryl Marshall  
Larry & Marje Mattson  
Patricia McFerran  
Bill McJohn  
Anita & David Mellor  
Joyce & Bob Meredith  
Nancy & Matti Mero  
Jane & Conrad Messmer  
Peggy Milburn  
Sandra Moon  
Jean Moore  
James J Murphy  
Rick & Jana Nelson  
Eileen O'Connor-King  
Mary Olavarria  
Virginia Olsen  
Patricia Parks

Elizabeth Post  
Mary Powell  
Judith Pruitt  
Connie Purchase  
Linda & Thomas Reeder  
Zari Renne  
Diane Richter  
Elizabeth Ringwald  
Barbara Saario  
Jean Savory  
Tia Scarce  
Jeanne Schollmeyer  
Gale & Marcel Schwarb  
Elaine Sherbrooke  
Sue Shilley  
Laura Siebens  
Judith Silk  
Deborah & Robert Smith  
Eric Smith  
Steve & Pauline Smith  
Sylvia Soholt  
Frances D. Spicer  
Nancy Stifel  
Florence Stiles  
Sarah Thomas  
Catherine Thompson  
Sharon Tighe  
Judi Tockston  
Myrna Torrie  
Mary LeClair Turcotte  
Becky Vacanti  
Debbie Vaught  
Marguerite Volz  
Livia E. Walker  
Nita Waller  
Ralene Walls  
Mary Walsh  
Jean Weaver  
Marie D Webster  
Linda Wells  
Karen Wetmore  
Cynthia Wheaton  
MaryAnne & Bob Wilkie  
Patricia & Bob Wilshusen  
Michael VanHorn & Patty Wittmann  
Jenny Wyatt  
Polly Zehm  
Jean Zook

# NPA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

# Spring

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 10 AM - NOON**  
**PLANTING DECISIONS—WHAT GOES WHERE AND WHY IN A GARDEN?**  
*with Walt Bubelis*  
*Fee: Members \$25, nonmembers \$40*  
*Class limit: 15*



As gardeners, some of our toughest decisions are where to put plants to ensure we are happy and they are happy, but all too often plant placement is mere experimentation and the results leave us wanting. Let Walt take you on a tour of his own botanical treasure collector's garden in North Seattle, developed and grown over 40 years. Learn from his insights about the interplay of house, hardscape, environmental conditions and plants.

Walt Bubelis is the founder of Edmonds Community College's Horticulture program and taught classes on plant identification, soils, insects, diseases, pruning and propagation. He also had a landscape company for 26 years (mainly in the summer!). Currently, he is on the NPA Board of Directors, the Editorial Board of the Arboretum Bulletin, the

UW Botanic Garden Advisory Committee and the Garden Committee of the Kruckeberg Garden. He continues to teach short classes, write articles, travel and give garden walks for his grads.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 10 AM - NOON**  
**MAKE A CONCRETE GARDEN LEAF**  
*with Connie Reagan*  
*Fee: \$35, includes materials. Class limit: 8*



Learn how to make a concrete rhubarb leaf. Connie will teach you her technique at her home in North Bend, using platter-sized rhubarb leaves from her plant. She will show you the different ways she adds color and character to her leaves. The concrete will have to set and cure, thus will be ready to take home about a week after class. You will also be able to tour Connie's dahlia collection of over 200 varieties.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 10 AM - NOON**  
**MAKING MEMORABLE PLANT COMBINATIONS**  
*with Linda McDonald*  
*Fee: Members \$25, nonmembers \$40*  
*Class limit: 8*



You are invited to Linda McDonald's Valhalla Garden in Bothell for an on-site discussion on how she puts together her plant combinations. From the visual presentation you will see and hear an analysis of the uniting and stimulating elements involved. While Linda pays attention to plant color and form, she emphasizes texture. Layering, repetition, massing, the power of big leaf plants and verticality are considered in forming her groupings. Come and hear the thinking of a senior garden maker who was initiated into gardening in the early days of the NPA.

Valhalla Garden was recently pictured in the Garden Gate's special interest book "Great Gardens Made Easy" in an article titled "Wow with a stunning front yard!"

**REGISTER FOR CLASSES NOW AT:** [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or email [classes@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:classes@northwestperennialalliance.org)

## NPA Booth Wins Award at Flower and Garden Show

NPA received the Outstanding Educational Display award at February's Northwest Flower and Garden Show. The display featured a three-dimensional panorama of the NPA Border, made with cutouts of beautiful plant and animal photos. Kudos to Linda Gray and Craig Wagner for the design and construction. And thanks to Diana Davidson, Gayle Richardson and George Lasch for carefully transporting the pieces and installing the display.

Many thanks also go to the 37 volunteers who worked three-hour shifts in the booth, netting 68 new members and renewals for NPA. It was a great team effort by all.



Gayle Richardson holds NPA's award with volunteer Carol Atkinson.

# Volunteers: NPA's Lifeblood

*Diana Davidson*

**F**EATURED HERE are a few of the many volunteers who keep our organization vital. Some work behind the scenes, others are easy to recognize by their cheerful green aprons, working at plant sales or at the NPA booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show. Regardless of whether a member participates in just one plant sale a year, or seems to live NPA 24/7, every contribution is highly appreciated. This widespread involvement makes the NPA what it is today. If you're not already one of our esteemed volunteers, the next opportunity to help is the Spring Plant Sale on Sunday, April 19, at North Seattle College. Volunteer at [volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org).

## Linda Gray



Our NPA plant stand at BBG, located just beyond the Trillium Gift Shop, reflects the hard work of Linda Gray, project chair for the stand and the on-site nursery that supports it. Behind the scenes, Linda, Carol Scheuffele, and other volunteers work with plant divisions from the NPA Border and plant donations from members' gardens. They nurture the plants' growth in the nursery, repotting, weeding, watering and fertilizing. Linda maintains a log of plants sold and endeavors to provide visitors with a variety of interesting choices.

We often find Linda in the NPA Border, installing labels near plants during their time of peak interest. She and her

husband, Jan, created a spreadsheet to track when to place and remove the labels. Armed with her camera, Linda also snaps stunning Border plant photos, many of which are on our NPA Facebook page.

Linda's interest in plants goes back to her childhood, when her family visited botanical gardens on holiday trips. While completing her Bachelor of Science with an emphasis on plant studies, she worked in an herbarium, mounting dried plant specimens on archival paper for research and preservation. Later, she worked with a botanist on foraging trips, seeking wild violets, and making scientific drawings of the plants.

Linda has also served on the NPA Board, helped with plant sales, and during the NPA Hardy Plant Study Weekend last June, was responsible for arranging the Phyto sanitary inspection, allowing Canadians to take plants north across the border.

## Jeff Graham & John Longres



Many of us have visited Jeff and John's Green Lake area home garden and marveled at the magic it brings to their part of the city. Eight years ago, they moved into the "haunted house of the neighborhood," with its overgrown plantings, blackberries, and ivy. Everything was removed, including trees and shrubs, providing a blank

slate for them to work on. A landscape designer helped them with the hardscape and initial plant selection and planting. Since then, Jeff and John have enhanced the property with their own ideas, such as changing the front entrance and reworking the back porch and stairs. There is no lawn and even the 12 foot wide parking strips are planted. They are on a corner lot, so their handiwork can be enjoyed from multiple directions.

Jeff and John enjoy being part of our Open Gardens program, as it's an incentive to get the garden into shape, and add to or change some of it. They certainly appreciate the positive comments of the garden visitors and the help some provide with identifying plants whose tags have disappeared.

NPA events have been a great venue for meeting with their gardening friends. They have taken advantage of the plant sales, where they have also volunteered. Like many of us, they appreciate the excellent lectures, taking home ideas to try.

## Sara Drogin



Sara is a relatively new gardener, with lots of questions, and she likes that she gets answers from fellow NPA members with different backgrounds and viewpoints. She enjoys the variety of classes and lectures, where she is constantly learning something new. She finds NPA members to be very approachable, so she never feels out

of place or alone at our events. It's been a great place to make new friends.

Sara's garden is "Well...a work in progress." She and her husband started from scratch in late 2010. It's been a big project, and they're doing all the work themselves. The front yard is full sun; their goal is to make it as low maintenance and low water as possible. With a three-year-old and a six-month-old, they certainly don't want to spend time fussing over marginally hardy or overly thirsty plants! The back yard has a mix of sun and shade. It's used for fruits and vegetables, flowers for pollinators, and a grass area for the children.

During Sara's nine years of membership, she has volunteered at plant sales, and is a member of the NPA Board. She has served as Publicity Chair since 2012. Sara has been able to do a lot of work from home, which she greatly appreciates as the mother of two little ones. When you open the NPA Facebook page, you're viewing the results of Sara's skills.

### Lynda Raymond



When Lynda moved to Seattle's Maple Leaf neighborhood from Vancouver, BC in 2010, she visited our booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and joined NPA. Wasting no time, she jumped right in sharing her perennial smile at plant sales, posting street signage and helping in the "hold" area. NPA has helped Lynda increase her knowledge of plants and gardening through her neighborhood group, the NE Seattle Monday Nighters, open gardens, lectures, and the NPA Border. She thoroughly enjoys

meeting and interacting with other NPA members.

We're lucky Lynda finds time for us. Besides being active with NPA, she volunteers as an interpretive guide for the National Park Service Trails and Rails program on Amtrak's Coast Starlight between Seattle and Portland. She audits classes at the UW and takes advantage of other courses for retirees. Before traveling to Cuba last spring, she took Spanish classes for several months.

### Joan and Jim Killingbeck



Those of us who have partaken of the delicious treats at our lectures or plant sales have benefitted from the dedication and talents of Joan Killingbeck and her son, Jim. Joan's mouth-watering cookies and Jim's Amish Friendship Bread are always big hits.

Upon joining NPA eight years ago, Joan regretted that she was unable to volunteer at the Border, but when volunteers were solicited to provide goodies for lectures, Joan knew she'd found her niche. She talked Jim into joining her; they make a great team! Joan has encouraged friends to join NPA, and some have contributed by bringing treats and helping set up. That's the spirit of NPA—many hands contributing for the benefit of all.

Both Joan and Jim thoroughly enjoy garden tours; Joan considers them to be part of her summer vacation. Jim, a physicist with the Washington State

Department of Health, is impressed that many of our lecturers are world-class. He was once watching a PBS documentary about the worldwide flower industry, involving flower trading warehouses in the Netherlands, and recognized one of the experts because she had recently spoken at an NPA lecture.

### Pat Rytkonen



A member of the Mercerbelles neighborhood group, Pat has been their co-leader twice. She is also a regular at NPA plant sales, usually at the tally station. Being a part of NPA and the Mercerbelles has provided Pat with opportunities to work with great people and benefit from their knowledge of plants. During her more than ten years with us, she has enjoyed the lectures and visiting members' gardens.

Pat describes her personal garden as a 35-year work in progress. It reflects her changing interests as a plant collector—green flowers one year, hybrid Pacific Coast irises the next. This year, her challenge has been contending with deer; she never thought she would see a two-point buck nibbling hostas in her small, suburban Bellevue garden!

Pat is also a Bellevue Botanical Garden volunteer: she helps create Garden d'Lights displays and works as a greeter during its run. She also researches plant information for the BBG plant database.

## Spring reading for those who enjoy 'fiddling around on the earth's crust'

Gayle Richardson

### THE ROOTS OF MY OBSESSION: THIRTY GREAT GARDENERS REVEAL WHY THEY GARDEN

*Edited by Thomas C. Cooper*

Avent, Creasy, Dillon, Lancaster...from the famous to the lesser known, but also adept. You might think that these 30 gardeners would cough up about 15 different reasons and that would be that. Not so. I stopped counting at around 60+ without ever having felt there was repetition or lack of freshness. Each writer's approach and style are so varied and imaginative that these little three- or four-page essays go down as easily as Girl Scout Thin Mints. Odd facts pop up: who'd have guessed that Fergus Garrett grew up in Istanbul, or how fitting that the Latin for earth or ground (humus) has given us gardeners the word "humility." We Pacific Northwesterners can take special pride in Tom Hobbs' nabbing the prize for best title and first sentence, and Dan Hinkley's getting the nod for the most wildly imaginative and entertaining tale. Great for yourself and great as a gift for any of your friends who also enjoy "fiddling around on the earth's crust."

### MY GARDEN, THE CITY AND ME: ROOFTOP ADVENTURES IN THE WILDS OF LONDON

*By Helen Babbs*

Here we make the acquaintance of an enthusiastic beginning gardener who is thoughtful, determined, curious, an avid joiner and in her 20s. The kind of person and demographic the NPA would be THRILLED to lure in. Too bad she lives 4800 miles away. Helen is determined to



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

transform her 90 square feet of rooftop into an "idyll in chaos," and we cheer her along as she agonizes over just what she can cram into pots, planters, grow bags and a lone hanging basket. During the course of the year she discovers, in addition to a new "room" in her flat, that she's learned a great deal about gardening, wild London and, of course, herself as well. A charming memoir that any one of us could be proud to have produced. In addition to a list of further reading, she gives us lists of her "Most Beautiful Moments" and "A Few Things I Grew and How They Fared." A pleasing bonus is the great quantity of atmospheric black pen and wash illustrations by James Nunn.

### SEEING FLOWERS: DISCOVER THE HIDDEN LIFE OF FLOWERS

*Written by Teri Dunn Chace, photography by Robert Llewellyn*

You could say about this book: a survey of 18 plant families, with two- or three-page descriptions of their characteristics, accompanied by photos of representatives of each family. What you actually do say about this book is WOW! The text is indeed informative and readable,

but oh, those photographs! Llewellyn uses a technique based on software developed for work with microscopes to produce spectacular, gorgeous, ethereal works of art, which despite their apparent simplicity, demand the attention and study one would give to portraits by Ingres or Sargent. You will never forget the blue morning glory or think of a grape hyacinth the same way again. A book to relish over many viewings, and the perfect introduction to the next title...

### FAIRIE-ALITY: THE FASHION COLLECTION

*From the House of Ellwand*

Because I've been beggared for words for more than a dozen years in my feeble attempts to describe this astounding book, I can do no better than quote the blurb: "Enclosed within these covers is the latest collection from the top fairie couturier, the House of Ellwand. Whether you're heading to a cotillion or a picnic, a parade or a comet counting party, Ellwand is the look." The fashion "collection" then presented is a mindboggling combination of paper doll clothes, Project Runway and the flower photographs from the previous book--placed on steroids. The construction of the ensembles for fashionable fairies, out of parts of some 80 plants, is surely the single most imaginative work this reviewer has ever seen in her life. And just when you think there could be nothing more extraordinary than the garments, you come to the teeny tiny fairy SHOES! And your jaw drops even further. A must for every coffee table, with hours of enjoyment for every nature-loving family member aged three to 93.



# FASCINATING FASCINATION

Wendy Lagozzino

**S**OME THINGS you just want flat. The road ahead of your bicycle. The TV in your small living room. The putting green for a possible eagle. Your stomach in that new bikini. Other things you don't want flat. Your feet, your tire, your soda and your plant stems! Or do you?

Some of the most popular new variations of recent plants are mutations that cause the stem and other plant parts to grow wide and flat. Also, shoots can appear to be composed of several fused parts, flattened, elongated or misshapen flower heads with numerous flowers. This is called fasciation.

Last summer I bought a *Celosia argentea* var. *crinata* (Cockscomb.) This *Celosia* had the most unique bridge of a bright magenta, furry flower. I put it in a pot and displayed it in a prominent location. The bloom was long-lasting and I'm sure visitors who saw it secretly thought "alien acquisition." This annual plant carries its fasciation via seed, being a genetically mutated tetraploid plant (having four sets of chromosomes instead of two.) The fasciated growth may be caused by a permanent change in the genome of the celosia, possibly triggered by a phytoplasma infection at some point in the distant past. If so, this is a case of natural genetic engineering. In some cases, seed-borne fasciation can be transmitted in the cell sap from the female parent to the offspring. You also see the fasciated willow *Salix udensis* 'Sekka' that is propagated from cuttings and used in exotic flower arrangements that give the

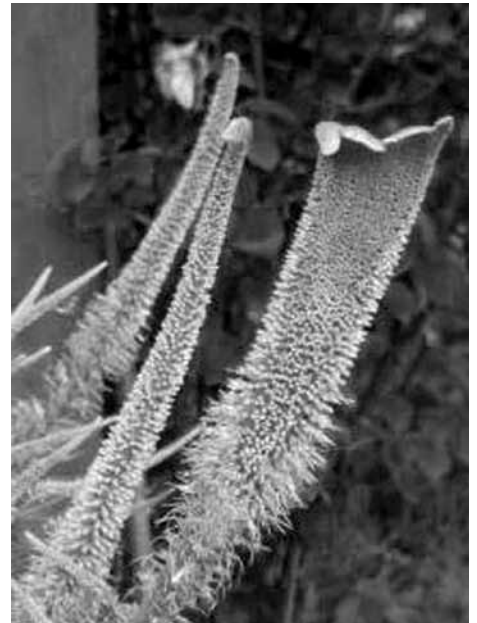
bouquet a dramatic look with its wide, flat, reddish stems.

Plants commonly affected with fasciation include delphiniums, euphorbias, forsythias, foxgloves, lilies, primulas and veronicastrums. Ferns with fasciated tips often have names such as 'monstrosa' and 'crinata' and always look cool in the garden.

But what causes this? Lots of things can cause the mutation to occur. It could be a random genetic mutation or, in other cases, induced by one or more environmental factors including bacteria, fungi, virus, insects, frost and physical damage to the growing point such as radiation or chemical mutagens. Even hoeing or forking around the plant has been implicated. But in nature it has been attributed to infection with various disease agents or insect infestation.

Of the disease-causing agents, the most commonly associated pathogen is a relatively new group of organisms known as phytoplasmas. It's likely that the association of insects with fasciation is due to their role as a vector for these or other pathogens.

Fasciation can occur in about any kind of plant. Everything from weeds to trees will produce this unusual growth given the right circumstances. Gardeners who love oddball plants have propagated some of these rarities. Grafting or cutting propagation is the usual means horticulturists use to propagate fasciated plants. Fasciation is especially common in cacti and succulents, but willows, cockscomb and foxgloves also frequently show this abnormality.



Fasciated *Veronicastrum virginatum*

I bought a new Stonecrop last spring at the Arboretum sale called *Sedum ochroleucum* 'Crested Centaurus'. It was a beautiful mound of green foliage rimmed in red that looked more like something you'd expect to see on a coral reef. However, the raccoons thoroughly destroyed it during the summer while determining if it was a new tasty meal I had left for them in the garden. That would be the day.

Fasciation itself is not usually contagious, spreading through a planting. And just because a particular plant exhibited fasciation one season does not necessarily mean it will again in the future. In most cases, it is just a random oddity. However, some plants, such as *Forsythia* and *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination' do suffer repeat occurrences, perhaps indicating a genetic tendency to this problem. And you thought *Forsythia* was just a boring old shrub.

So next time you see a fasciation occur in your garden, just be glad it is a flat stem and not you, flat broke after buying another flat of plants.



Fasciated Cockscomb *Celosia* cultivars. Photos by Susan Mahr, University of Wisconsin, Madison

# NPA Launches Plant Inventory at the Border

Kit Haesloop and Craig Wagner

**E**VER WONDER WHAT PLANTS are in the NPA Border at BBG? Well, so do we.

Though in existence since 1992, the current Border really had its new beginning in 2008. At that time almost all of the original plants were removed, hardscaping was added and the beds were redesigned to make the garden more accessible to visitors as well as gardeners. New plants were selected for desirable attributes such as health, low maintenance and year-round beauty. Thousands of perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees were added to the reconfigured beds, and the newly renovated Border debuted in May 2010. Plants have continued to be added since.

Historically, the Plant Records department of the Bellevue Botanical Garden has striven valiantly to maintain a database of accurate plant names, locations, accession numbers and basic horticultural and botanical characteristics, along with photos of each plant in the Border. This

information, though incomplete, is currently available at [www.bellevuebotanical.org](http://www.bellevuebotanical.org) under the Collections Search or, as you tour the Border, you can now use your phone to click on the QR codes mounted on small stanchions in the Border to access information about the plants in that particular bed. Unfortunately, time and incremental changes have left gaps in this database. Some plants actually in the garden do not show up in the Plant Records and others that no longer exist may appear on the list.

In 2015, the NPA and BBG decided it was time to conduct a completely new and thorough inventory of the plants in the Border. Starting in mid-February, teams of volunteers, armed with plant lists and maps for all twelve beds, began the long process of identifying, locating and evaluating the existence of every plant in the Border. The teams will also be evaluating bloom times and other noteworthy characteristics. George Lasch, Border Supervisor, will be on hand to provide the

horticultural expertise and knowledge of the Border plants.

This is a huge, detailed and important undertaking, but one that has proved to be fun and educational for our volunteers. Imagine seeing *Grevillea juniperina* 'Lava Cascade' blooming complete with a visiting Anna's hummingbird. This plant normally blooms in April and May, so our warm winter has coaxed it into flowering early. A few more volunteers are needed, so now is your chance to get involved in something worthwhile, enjoy meeting other gardeners and have a real "hands on" horticultural experience. Teams will meet weekly over the course of the year with the bulk of the workload in the spring and summer seasons, when plants are blooming and most recognizable. One team meets on Mondays and the other two teams meet on Wednesdays. If you would like to volunteer for this educational and interesting project, please contact NPA at 425-647-6004 or [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org).



Volunteers with maps and trowels in hand, working on the project.

## Under Milk Wood

Lorree Go, Northern Exposure

I was recently asked to put together a list of our group's favorite activities of 2014, and the trip to Milkwood Art Studio and Garden, on beautiful Guemes Island, is at the top of that list. Milkwood is just a short ferry ride from Anacortes, across the Guemes Channel, and is the home of Leo Osborne, sculptor, painter, poet and gardener extraordinaire.

The name of the studio was inspired by a play written by Dylan Thomas titled "Under Milk Wood." Discovering and reading the play, Leo was inspired by the line "We are not wholly bad or good, who live our lives under Milk Wood." A strong spiritual connection defines his way of life, and this spiritual bond is evident in both his garden and his art.

When Leo first moved to Guemes Island in 2002, the old cottage on the property needed a lot of renovation, and the yard was "landscaped" with grass, weeds and a big, muddy hole in the front yard. After several months of hard work, the cottage transitioned into a warm, beautiful home, and then Leo began the painstaking process of turning the yard into a beautiful, spiritual oasis.

The tour begins by entering the garden under a twenty foot driftwood arch, wrapped with evergreen clematis, and guarded by sentinels of vibrant pink hollyhocks, the seeds a gift from a dear friend in Taos, New Mexico. Immediately

to the left is the transformed "hole in the ground," now a stunning pond framed by fragrant phlox, lavender, crocosmia, dahlias, hydrangeas, poppies, sunflowers and verbasicum.

Warm breezes from the channel persuade the towering hollyhocks and verbasicum to give us a welcoming wave, and butterflies dance over what Leo calls his "Monet" nasturtiums, the seeds a long ago gift from hanging pots in Ballard,



In the studio with Leo Osborne, artist, poet and gardener.

which fell from the trailing vines, into his eager outstretched hands. The faint hum of bees amidst the native Guemes roses and the soft splash of a bronze fountain compel you to bide awhile.

The tour continues further into the garden and we wander past weathered driftwood sculptures into a shady grove of bamboo, the shade most welcome in the rising heat of the late afternoon. At the end of the day we'll return to our own gardens inspired by all we see, but for now, Adirondack chairs beckon, and we choose to sit and rest awhile, under Milk Wood.

To learn more, visit the artist's website at [www.leoosborne.com](http://www.leoosborne.com).



A driftwood arch forms the entrance to Milkwood Art Studio & Garden on Guemes Island.

### 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 community of friends, neighbors and experts who share a passion for gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Everyone is welcome.*

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 2014-2015 Officers:

Kit Haesloop, President: 425-333-6529  
Diana Davidson, Vice President: 425-896-8040  
Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820  
Gary Davidson, Treasurer: 425-896-8040

#### Membership:

Memberships are \$35 for individuals, \$45 for household, \$75 for business, \$20 for students. The membership year runs from January-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 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 to the extent allowable by law. 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  
19105 36th Avenue West, Suite 211  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Volume 25, Issue 2  
Spring 2015

Editor: Michele Cournoyer  
Copy Editors: Sara Drogin, Wendy Lagozzino

Printer: Precision Press, Redmond

All material (c)2015 NPA. Reprint by permission only.



## THE PERENNIAL POST

Northwest Perennial Alliance  
19105 36th Ave W., Suite 211  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

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



## Your 2015 Open Gardens Directory arrives this month

Watch for it in your mailbox. Starting with the season opener on May 1, and going on through September 19, must-see private and public gardens and fabulous nurseries are vying for your attention. With 140 destinations, divided into 33 tours, there is something for everyone! You are invited to see and experience our beautiful state, garden by garden, from our popular tried-and-true destinations to many new or seldom seen areas. Travel from Mount Vernon to Rochester and Aberdeen, from Port Townsend to Yakima, around the Sound, and don't forget the islands. There are just too many fabulous places to choose from to mention them here. Open your Directory, and discover them for yourself!



Shown above: The gardens of Sundquist Nursery, Debbie Sokvitne, and Peggy and Bill Fox