

THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



WINTER 2012 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1

Creating Successful Container Gardens with Tina Dixon

Gayle Richardson, Education Chair

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1 P.M.

Doors open at noon for plant and seed sales

Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

NPA members free/Nonmembers \$10

Drop Dead Gorgeous! That's pretty much anyone's response to seeing Tina Dixon's planted containers, whether in her own Bothell garden or in numerous books and magazine spreads. Now Tina is going to share her knowledge with NPA members so that our containers, too, can be the talk of the town. In her program, she'll show us how to choose the right soil, containers and plants, and discuss design principles and elements as well.

What brought Tina to her current status as Queen of Containers? She admits gardening is in her genes. Her childhood family gatherings were spent in her grandparents' postage stamp sized garden in Seattle's View Ridge neighborhood. Even

though it was small, it was well planned, meticulously kept and filled with love. "I remember helping my grandma weed as she taught me plant names," Tina said.

After their passing, Tina learned the work behind that love when she moved into their home--and how she felt the



January speaker Tina Dixon

duty to keep it up. "I sort of faked my way through it, watching Ed Hume and glean-ing what I could from other gardeners."

Fast forward 30 plus years: A degree in Environmental Horticulture from Lake Washington Technical College, membership in NPA, countless garden tours, lectures, classes, lots of trial and error, all while building her business, Plants a la Cart.

Her creations have been featured in Sunset magazine, where her designs were heralded as "richly textural & inventive"; Garden Design, where her home garden earned their prestigious Golden Trowel award; Pacific magazine, and numerous books. She has created a garden, been a speaker at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show and the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show.

Tina's doing what she loves, digging in the dirt, and sharing her passion and knowledge of gardening with others. Her grandparents would be proud.

March Mania coming March 10th to BBG

March Mania, one of the first big plant sales of the year in our area, will return to its traditional location at Bellevue Botanical Garden on Saturday, March 10th. The sale will open earlier this year, starting at 9:00 a.m. and running until 2:00 p.m.

March Mania features spring ephemerals, which are plants that are unique to early spring. You won't see these beauties at later sales—as we all know, spring is fleeting—so don't miss this opportunity.

This year's sale will bring together a dozen outstanding specialty nurseries from all over Puget Sound, each one featuring its best of the season. If you're a collector, come discover what's new and different. If you're starting a new garden, shop for the tried and true favorites. Proceeds from the sale will benefit NPA's many popular educational programs, including the NPA Border.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE SALE.

Volunteers get in early to scope out the best plants. To sign up, email volunteers@northwestperennialalliance.org

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2012 Open Gardens registration inside!

- JANUARY 14** | **A Winter Walk with George Lasch**, Saturday, 10 – noon. Free! Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. See page 4 for details.
- JANUARY 15** | **“Creating Successful Container Gardens” lecture with Tina Dixon**, Sunday, 1 pm. NPA members free/nonmembers \$10, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
- FEBRUARY 8 – 12** | **Northwest Flower & Garden Show**, 9 am – 9 pm. Visit our booth #2501.
- FEBRUARY 15** | **Making More Plants class with Kathy Norsworthy**, Wednesday, 10 – noon, \$20. See page 4 for details.
- FEBRUARY 18** | **Soup and Snowdrops class with Barbara Flynn**, Saturday, 11 – 2 pm, \$30. See page 4 for details.
- MARCH 10** | **March Mania Plant Sale**, Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm. Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue.
- MARCH 14** | **Hydrangeas class with George Lasch**, Wednesday, 10 – noon, \$20. See page 4 for details.
- MARCH 18** | **Nicolay lecture & art auction**, Sunday, 1 pm, NPA members \$5/nonmembers \$10. Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
- MARCH 24** | **Potting Up Party**, Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm. Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Chris Bacigalupi
 Jennifer Baechler
 Carol Betts
 Cora D. Bock
 Judith Bruk
 Chanda Carlson
 Nan Colton
 Phyllis & Don Evans
 Kent & Valerie Ferris
 Kathy Fieldstad
 Terry Foss & Clayton Mahan
 Mary E. Fry
 Meg & Rodney Graddon

Deborah Greenfeld
 Sharon Hempler & Ken King
 Sandra Hodge
 Jacqueline Houston
 Kathy Juracek
 Karen Kirchoff
 Susie & Mike Korling
 Elizabeth Malle & Steven Cook
 Julia Marconi
 Marty Matthews
 Kyle Max
 Jean Moore
 D Kaye Moreton

Shirley M. & Mike Murphy
 Lucy Nesse
 Monica Payne
 Lynn Peterson
 Elizabeth Post
 Megan Pulkkinen
 Ron Ratko
 Patty Roberts
 Jill Roseen-Czaplicki
 Sondra D. Shira
 Trang D. Tu
 MaryAnne Wilkie
 Tammy Williams

Don't Miss Our Nicolay Memorial Lecture and Art Auction on March 18th

Lecture: "PNW Native Plants at Our Fingertips"

Gayle Richardson Education Chair

Fed up with failed phormiums? Had it with ex-hebes? Thinking about finally doing something about that Zonal Denial Syndrome you've had for so long? If so, relax, because help is on the way.

Pacific Northwest native plants expert Greg Rabourn is our Kevin Nicolay Memorial Lecture speaker for 2012, and



Radio and TV personality Greg Rabourn

he will tell us what we need to know about those perennials and shrubs that will actually make it through our "new" climate. A Pacific Northwest native himself, Greg works for King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, restoring and protecting native habitat. He has been thinking about what yards and gardens can become ever since he threw in the towel on mowing some years ago. Now he practices—and preaches—native plant gardening.

You can see him, with Doug Rice, on KCTV's prize-winning natural gardening TV show "Yardtalk," and hear him live, fielding gardening questions at 94.9 FM KUOW radio's "Greendays" gardening

panel with cohorts Willie Galloway and Marty Wingate. But better still, don't miss enjoying him in person. Mark those new 2012 calendars right now for this not-to-be-missed event.

The Nicolay Art Auction

Sue Moss, Fundraising Chair

If owning a Kevin Nicolay painting is not in your future, you will at least want to attend this lecture presented in his honor to see and enjoy the work of this much celebrated botanical artist and founding member of NPA. A generous supporter of NPA has donated this painting as a fundraiser for the organization. All in attendance will enjoy seeing Nicolay's exquisite work. One lucky person will take it home. Mark your calendar. You won't want to miss the 2012 Kevin Nicolay Lecture!

Nicolay, a renowned plantsman, introduced hundreds of plants to American gardens. In addition, he was one of the best contemporary American botanical illustrators of his time, whose work is still admired and collected today.

He was a self-taught artist, who developed his famed technique from studying medieval flower paintings. His minutely-detailed drawings and watercolors appeared in museums and art galleries, and were a regular feature in the pages of Horticulture magazine. He taught occasional classes at the Center for Urban Horticulture and returned to New York annually to teach classes at the New York Botanical Garden. Nicolay gave a few of his black and white illustrations to NPA, and they are still in use today.

Many of the plants Nicolay drew were taken from his own garden on Queen Anne Hill, which featured masses of old rambler roses, rare perennials and small

flowering shrubs. The late Rosemary Verey, the famous British gardener and writer, called it "the best small garden I've seen in America." She dedicated her book, "The American Man's Garden," to him.



Bid on this original painting by Kevin Nicolay.
Photo by Roger McDonald

Kevin Nicolay was an Ohio native who also lived in New York, London and Victoria before settling in Seattle in 1983. His extraordinary life was cut short in 1990, when he died of complications from AIDS. He was 33. The NPA holds the annual Kevin Nicolay Memorial Lecture to honor this extraordinary plantsman and artist. Watch for further information in upcoming NPA emails. You may view the painting in advance at the Miller Library beginning on March 1st, 2012.

**NICOLAY MEMORIAL
LECTURE & ART AUCTION
WITH GREG RABOURN
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1PM**

Doors open at noon for plant & seed sales

Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

NPA members \$5/Nonmembers \$10

Saturday, January 14th, 10 - noon
A WINTER WALK
 with George Lasch
 Fee: FREE Class limit: 20
 must preregister!



Get out and enjoy the wonders of the garden in the quiet season of Winter. Short days are not so bad when you garden in a climate that accommodates some interesting ornamentals. We will stroll through the Bellevue Botanical Garden's many areas discussing the features of different types of plants and how to best use them for winter effect.

Wednesday, February 15th, 10 - noon
MAKING MORE PLANTS
 with Kathy Norsworthy
 Fee: \$20.00 Class Limit: 12



Discover how easy it is to make more plants in this hands on workshop. Kathy will discuss and demonstrate how to do three methods of propagation in late

winter and early spring – basal plate cuttings or division, plant divisions and root cuttings. Learn which plants are best to use, soils, fertilizer, watering, heat and timing. It's a great way for beginning gardeners to get hands on experience and a nice reminder on tools and techniques for knowledgeable gardeners. Each participant will take home plants that they have made, using all three methods. Class will be held in a cool greenhouse so dress warm!

Saturday, February 18th 11-2pm
SOUP AND SNOWDROPS
 with Barbara Flynn
 Fee: \$30.00 Class limit: 15



Join Barbara as she shares her passion for gardening with Galanthus. This class will include a tour of Barbara's garden, which should be in full Galanthus glory! You will learn about the differences between species and the areas in which they are endemic. Which ones are easy to grow and which ones difficult—Barbara will cover that, too. Division and propagation will also be discussed. Lunch will be provided.

Class will be held in Sammamish.

Wednesday, March 14th, 10 - noon
HYDRANGEAS with George Lasch
 Fee: \$20.00 Class limit: 15



Back by popular demand! Hydrangeas are one of the most asked about plants in the Border. Spend a couple of hours learning about the different species and how to manage them in your garden. We will get in and prune a few plants as well.

Wednesday, April 4th, 9am-12noon
PRUNING
 with Walt Bubelis
 Fee \$30.00 Class limit: 15



Walt will show you how to prune shrubs and small trees, both deciduous and evergreen. Regular maintenance and how to manage overgrown plants will be covered. This class will focus on demonstrating techniques from a diverse group of plants so that you can transfer the pruning principles to your own garden. Brief discussion on tools and safety. The class will be held in a garden in north Seattle. Come prepared for inclement weather. Gloves would be helpful for picking up pruning debris.

Winter Garden “To Do” List

George Lasch, NPA Border Supervisor

Saturday, April 7th, 11 – 1 pm
GROWING DAZZLING DAHLIAS
with Aimee Sherrill
Fee: \$20.00 Class limit: 20



You’ve seen them at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, now visit The Dahlia Barn for firsthand lessons on growing dahlias from owner Aimee Sherrill. The class includes detailed instructions on dahlia care, growing and overwintering your dahlias, plus a lesson on dividing your dahlia clumps. Established in 2002, The Dahlia Barn is located on an old horse farm in scenic North Bend.

CLASS REGISTRATION

We urge you to sign up early for the classes you want, since class sizes are limited.

It’s easy to register online at www.n-p-a.org

Or contact the NPA Office at 425-647-6004

Or classes@northwestperennialalliance.org

Details and driving directions for each class will be sent following your registration.

What will I be heading out into the garden to do during winter? Plenty! Fall through early spring are the busiest months.

WEED. Yep, there is a bumper crop, already up and growing, fueled by the rains and cool temperatures. These winter weeds are usually annuals, easy to pull out or smother under a thick mulch. Get them before it warms up in spring, when they bloom and set seeds by the millions.

PRUNE. Go for it. Most everything can be pruned while dormant. Renovating vines and shrubs is easier when you can get in there and clean them out, and stepping into planted beds is less scary, too. Evergreens or colorful bark can be enjoyed as cut bouquets inside or out. Early bloomers cut after the new year are excellent for indoor forcing.

EDIT! Every week of the year! Now is a great time to delete that off-colored or

overly vigorous specimen. Move that conifer that is never going to be seen in the back of the border. On the cold wet days review all your notes and pictures from the lush times. Take advantage of the sunny calm days to make your changes.

ADD. It has been said that if you can make a garden that looks good in the winter it will look good all year. Think of a few areas that could use some life—add plants with evergreen leaves, interesting shapes or colorful bark. I like to plant the entrance areas with winter interest because the fact is, most days in winter one doesn’t look out on the garden while the sun is up. If “bark lit by headlights” is the look you come home to, remember that most better nurseries stock fine plants all year.

VISIT OTHER GARDENS. Spend some time with friends visiting a public garden or walking a neighborhood to see what speaks to you in the winterscape. Enjoy the season!



Free gardening videos at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

We’ll be giving away a free DVD featuring more than a dozen of our popular “how to” gardening videos with every new membership or membership renewal at this year’s Northwest Flower & Garden Show. So be sure to stop by, and bring your friends!

You’ll find NPA in booth #2501. The show runs February 8-12 at the Washington State Convention Center. This year’s theme is “A Floral Symphony.”

Free tickets available for volunteers.

NPA members who volunteer to work a three-hour shift in the NPA booth get a free admission ticket. Volunteers have the happy job of talking to people about NPA and all it has to offer. We assign two people per shift and provide written instructions and a coordinator for each day. If you’d like to volunteer, contact the NPA office at: info@northwestperennialalliance.org or 425-647-6004.

Lessons From An Open Garden

Wendy Lagozzino

WAIT ALL YEAR for the time to start touring open gardens. Seeing what others are growing, how they have designed their gardens and eyeing the jewels that have been bought and set in place is always exciting. So I picked a beautiful day and set off to see three gardens far from my neighborhood.

As I drove up to the first house, the expanse of the property with the house set inside a wide curve of green grass surrounded by beds filled with textures and intriguing colors heightened my desire to explore this garden. Stepping out of the car, I stopped to take in the whole picture of the garden setting. Seeing a garden from a distance makes me appreciate the blend of shapes and colors that form the whole garden. I knew right away where I wanted to start my tour. The space allowed adequate room for each plant to show off at its best, something I couldn't do in my small garden. Specimens of plants that I had failed to grow successfully flourished. I encountered one amazing display after another as I slowly made my way around the property. Colors were combined in black and silvers, reds and oranges with brown grasses and expanses of huge leaves in a boggy area. Unusual tropical and tender plants were placed in the garden as if they had been growing there for years.

Then I was on to the next garden, which was equally captivating. Plants that had not survived the arctic blasts of years back were growing happily as if I was in another part of the country. Pieces of colorful art were combined with complimentary flowers blooming right below. Whimsical art was tucked into crevices, giving me small surprises around every corner. My wish list was expanding beyond my capacity.

The last garden of the day was such



Wendy Lagozzino lives and gardens on Queen Anne in Seattle.

an overwhelming collection of rare and unusual plants, I became dazed as a kid in a candy store and resigned myself to the fact that it was no use writing them down, since I would never be able to incorporate them into my already crowded garden now scheduled for too many new additions. I roamed through, just enjoying the experience and taking it all in as well as could be expected for an avid gardener on overdrive.

As I returned home, I felt dissatisfied and disappointed with my own garden. I looked around and saw the all too familiar landscape and felt none of the excitement I experienced during the tour. My garden felt small and confined, limited and lacking that exotic appeal. I decided it was time for a break from my garden and retreated into the house.

A respite from my garden ensued after working inside all week. When I finally walked outside on a clear day to see how things looked, I suddenly saw my garden through new eyes. My bright gold and rusty red *Rudbeckia hirta* were in peak bloom, the bright orange 'Fornsett Furnace' dahlias were smiling their gold centered faces right in my direction as if to say, hey, we just arrived in town, aren't you glad to see us? My bright red, bat

faced *Cuphea* was laughing out loud, the 'Killer Clown' coleus was twirling her skirts, and the gold 'Geneii' fuchsia was ringing its hanging bells. Many more annuals in containers that needed a bit of summer heat were warming up for a rock and roll dance under the sun. I enjoyed walking around seeing what more was happening, and not just with the plants, but with the birds, bees and insects, too. I could smell fragrance on the breeze as the afternoon sun warmed the plants. Maybe, just maybe, my garden wasn't so bad after all. Upon further reflection, I came to an understanding about my garden.

When I opened my garden for other members earlier in the year, they gave me lots of compliments about all the facets of the garden they enjoyed. They seemed to be seeing the wonder in my garden that I saw in the gardens I had visited. Could it be elusive to me in my own garden when I am there to see it every day? Garden lovers visiting my garden had actually enhanced my appreciation of my own garden.

Gardens are a reflection of our own personality and tastes. Each one is unique with its own style and grace, just like people. It is a place meant to entertain and sustain, to please and tease. It is wonderful to see what others do with their garden, but maybe that shouldn't detract from my own style. Maybe I just needed to join the party that was happening all around me.

Those open gardens seemed like grand symphony orchestras, but there's nothing wrong with country or jazz either. Maybe my garden isn't singing the blues after all.



Hand Painted Tiles from Our Fall Classes

Congratulations to the participants in our Wilburton Pottery classes in November. The beautiful results of their hand painted garden tiles speak for themselves. And many thanks to Iris and Bob Jewett, the talented owners of Wilburton Pottery, for donating all the proceeds from the classes to NPA.



Wells Medina Open Garden Winners

Last September, seven people received a nice surprise in their mailbox—a gift certificate from Wells Medina Nursery. They were each the lucky recipients of the Open Gardens drawing, which was held at the September annual meeting. The winners each year include four garden hosts and three visitors.

The four garden host winners were: Cathy Johnson, Olympia; Jennifer Carlson, Seattle; Rod Parke & Dale Burke, Seattle; and Barbara Flynn, Sammamish. They each received a \$50 gift certificate to Wells Medina Nursery. The winning names were drawn by Katie Padwick, past Open Gardens Chair.

All of you who regularly visit the delightful gardens in the Open Gardens Directory know to look for the goldenrod sign-in sheets to add your name to the drawing. These sheets are cut up at the end of the season, and all the visitors' names are entered in our drawing. This year's winners included Philomena Kedzioriski, Shoreline; Lilian Broekhoven, Mercer Island; and one member who was present at the meeting

(whose name we forgot to record, sorry!) Each received a \$25 Wells Medina gift certificate.

We want to thank everyone who participated in the 2011 Open Gardens program. We hope that little yellow book gave you many hours of garden touring pleasure, provided loads of ideas for your own garden and brought new friends into your lives.

We especially want to thank Wendy Wells at Wells Medina for her continued generosity and support. Wells Medina has been a staunch supporter of the NPA Open Gardens program for many, many years. The nursery also donates hundreds of boxes to use at our plant sales every year.

If you've ever mulled over the idea of opening your garden, why not make 2012 the year? The registration form is included in this issue, so now's the time to fill it out and send it in. Your 2012 Open Gardens directory will be in your mailbox in late April. We hope to visit you in your garden next year!



Far-Flung Gardens

Gayle Richardson

IN THIS ISSUE, we take a whirlwind tour of gardeners and gardens around the world. Some of you may know George Schenk from his long-closed Seattle nursery, The Wild Garden, or perhaps his classic book “The Complete Shade Gardener,” voted by the American Horticultural Society as one of 75 Great American Garden Books. But in “Gardening with Friends” (various editions) we discover a lesser known side of him: a man who has carved out a truly unique niche, one that fulfills his desire for gardening adventures around the world and the ability to get to know “plants native to all latitudes and life zones.”



“In my travels, I visit friends whose properties are clearly in need of my improving hand, or so I convince them.” He tames all their problems in exchange for home-cooked meals, a place to stay and the pleasure of their company for four months a year. And so he has found spots to garden in Manila, where jackbooted drunken Marcos guards drop by, in Auckland, where he creates a garden over vast areas of concrete left by a previous contractor owner, and along balcony edges in Vancouver. I couldn’t begin to count the times I laughed out loud, and can’t wait to use his phrase, “I love to lurk in leafage.” Please, Mr. Schenk, come knocking at my door.



Another book with a Canadian slant is “The Gardening Letters” by Elspeth Bradbury and Judy Maddocks (Polestar Press, 1995). Elspeth and Judy were good friends who gardened in Hampton, New Brun-



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

wick for many years. But then Elspeth and her husband decided to up stakes and move to Vancouver to start life anew and be near their grown children. (Oh, for the heady days of the mid-90’s when you could do so and find immediate work as landscape designer and architect).



What ensues is fifteen months of ‘garden letters’ between Elspeth and Judy, illustrated by both women’s pen and ink sketches---fifteen months worth of garden triumphs and travails, memorable moments and simple pleasures. Who won’t laugh at Judy’s report of painting her toenails red one day “and a hummingbird zoomed right down at them.” Elspeth faced a long hard slog to make something of her new property. “How can I describe the garden---a jungle? A joke? A joy? It must contain at least one of every plant known to horticulture, and possibly a

few besides.” They garden in casts, they garden in the night with flashlights, but always they garden in hope.



And now for one not quite so distant, just on the other side of the country: “A Man Named Pearl,” a documentary film by Scott Galloway and Brent Pierson. Sometimes you come across something that is just so good, so fulfilling, that you don’t want to reveal a thing about it, so as not to spoil the surprise and pleasure others will have in discovering it, fresh and unknown, for themselves. This is one of those times. Just trust me. You NEED to get your hands on “A Man Named Pearl.” The story starts out with prejudice and pride. When a newly retired couple were looking to buy a home in Bishopville, SC in the early 80’s, they were told the neighbors weren’t too happy, as blacks “wouldn’t keep up their yard.” Pearl Fryar and his wife Metra did purchase the three acre property, and Pearl, who freely admits that he didn’t know a thing about horticulture, became determined to become the first African-American in town to win the local garden club’s Garden of the Month award.



Today, Pearl’s name and garden are known around the world, and it’s all because of topiary. Now, you may say that topiary isn’t your thing. Just forget that--because this uplifting, inspiring, unforgettable movie is about a lot more than shaped bushes. (Note to Neighborhood Groups: Watching this together makes for a great monthly program. It’s widely available in local library systems and for purchase online).

Hail & Farewell to Our Open Gardens Chairs

Michele Cournoyer, NPA President

We're happy to announce that Mary Shane has taken on the challenging job of Open Gardens Chair this year, assuming responsibility for publishing our Open Gardens directory, the little yellow book that is the number one reason gardeners join NPA.



Mary Shane, new Open Gardens Chair

Mary comes to the job with years of experience as editor of the state WSU Master Gardener Foundation quarterly newsletter, *Seeds For Thought*. She is a stickler for accuracy, well organized and a very good writer.

An avid gardener, Mary lives and gardens in Montesano, which is just west of Olympia. She's looking forward to reading all the tantalizing garden descriptions during the wet and gray months of January and February, as NPA members send in their Open Gardens registration forms. She hopes to hear from you! Let's give her a warm welcome. (An Open Gardens registration form is included in this issue for your convenience.)



Katie Padwick, past Open Gardens Chair

Mary follows in the footsteps of Katie Padwick, who has guided Open Gardens to new heights over the last six years. Katie added photography to the directory, and introduced our Nursery Discount program, which offers discounts for NPA shoppers year round at

participating nurseries. For four years running, Katie produced a Spring Fling, three weekends of garden tours in early spring.

For more than a year, Katie has also managed to find the time to volunteer as NPA office administrator, refusing to take a penny for the job, which has saved NPA thousands of dollars. She'll be relinquishing that job in the spring.

We don't know how Katie's managed to do so much for NPA the last few years, but she's definitely ready to scale back a bit. Her husband Gordon wants her back!

INTRODUCING THE NPA BOARD FOR 2012

Many thanks to the members who've volunteered to donate their time, energy and expertise to serve on the NPA Board. This year the board is pleased to welcome three new directors: Anusha Sharma, Treasurer, is a CPA who will oversee NPA's book-keeping while she eagerly soaks up gardening knowledge from her new NPA friends. Karen DuBose, whose mother Denise is also on the board, has been an avid volunteer, and brings an infusion of new ideas and energy. Linda Gray has been a welcome regular on Border volunteer crews where her passion for gardening shines, and her creativity will make her a welcome addition to the board. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

Other changes: NPA Vice President Gayle Richardson, who already wears several hats, including Seed Exchange Chair, NPA Archivist and Vendor Liaison for our plant sales, has taken on the added responsibilities of Education Chair, finding and booking speakers for our lectures. Denise DuBose and Barb Danek, now into their second year on the board, have stepped forward to serve as Membership Co-Chairs, welcoming new members and providing guidance and support for our Neighborhood Groups program. Carol Scheuffele, formerly our Volunteer Chair, has switched gears to tackle Classes & Workshops, producing an exciting new schedule for winter (see page 4).

If you're interested in joining the board, or have a talented friend you'd like to recommend, please contact the NPA office at info@northwestperennialalliance.org or 425-647-6004.

Michele Cournoyer, *President*
Gayle Richardson, *Vice President*
Ellie Sanchez, *Recording Secretary*
Anusha Sharma, *Treasurer*
Dianne Ferris, *Board Development*
Gloria Derbawka, *Publicity*
Denise DuBose, *Membership Co-Chair*
Barb Danek, *Membership Co-Chair*

Directors At Large:

Walt Bubelis
Karen DuBose
Linda Gray
Kathryn Highland
Carol Holloway
Carol Scheuffele
Carolyn Whittlesey

WOW! What a change of seasons we have had recently. The Border has seen a busy late summer and autumn. Several new plants were added throughout the beds. One area of special interest is bed number 3, “the big blank area” in the center of the Border. It has been filled with a range of shrubs and grasses to add color and interest in all seasons. A group of Hamamelis ‘Diane’ are the foundation of the group – with their hot fall color and enticing winter blooms, they should make a good draw from the Visitor’s Center.

We added even more bulbs this fall to augment the existing sweeps planted in the fall of 2010. A nice group of our regular volunteers turned out on a cold November day to plant hundreds of bulbs from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. Plan to visit the Border in spring to see the expanded collections of Allium, Hyacinth and unusual Narcissus.

I have to say that the beds look pretty good this year, thanks to a wonderful group of people who are the best at hunting weeds. The beds also got a nice dose of mulch courtesy of Lowe’s in Bellevue.

Lowe’s not only donated \$1200 in materials, they also sent us a hardworking group of volunteers. They spent a morning hauling and spreading mulch, as well as adding irrigation and edging beds. We hope to make them a regular community contributor.

One of the most common questions I get when working in the Border is, “What is that?” These past few months I have spent many hours working with BBG’s wonderful intern to get the new “dogtag” labels out. These metal tags have the plant name as well as its collection number. Next time you are strolling through, look for these shiny new tags – but please leave them securely in the ground. Keeping with international protocol they are placed on the north side of the plant to make searching for them under the mulch a bit easier.

On order are 200 new black display labels due to arrive soon. These are the regular metal display labels that have the botanical and common names clearly printed on them. They stand up on aluminum stakes for the visitors to see and read easily. We had held off on ordering them until things had settled in and we were sure of what was going to perform and be

popular. The hope is to add more labels each year as budgets allow and get most everything labeled. Now that would mean hundreds of labels out in the garden all the time, and we all know what that would look like – a bulb graveyard perhaps. But we would like the cool new Alliums to be labeled so we can share them with garden visitors.

This calls for a whole new team of volunteers, a Tag Team, if you will. We need 3-4 dedicated people to keep on top of what is blooming in the Border and get the labels placed, and then removed when the plant is past its prime. It should be a fun, educational job that’s not too strenuous, with a flexible schedule. If being part of a fun, dynamic group appeals to you, please contact me at border@northwestperennialalliance.org

**THANK YOU***Donors*

Special thanks to our generous donors for supporting NPA. Your donations benefit a wide array of NPA educational programs, including student scholarships, lectures, Open Gardens, the NPA Border, classes & workshops and the Perennial Post.

Walt Bubelis
Ellen Carnwath
Luann Cunningham
Gloria Derbawka
Noma Edwards
Linda Gray
George & Carol Johnson
Denise Lane
Sue Moss
Jan & Randy Mote
Beverly Munsen

Ann Ormsby
Peggy & Richard Ostranderm
Louanne Peyton
Gayle Richardson
Kathleen Riley
Liz Sanborn
Carol Scheuffele
Ralene Walls
Joanne White
Carolyn & Art Whittlesey

Memorials

In memory of Sue Buckles
Dianne Ferris
In memory of Sue Buckles
Glenn Withey & Charles Price
In memory of Bonnie McKenna
Michele Cournoyer
In memory of Phil Tucker
Shelagh Tucker

Remembering Sue Buckles, A Founder and Leader of NPA



Sue Buckles, January 13, 1934-September 8, 2011

Photo by Michele Cournoyer

Sue Buckles was a founding member of NPA and one of its brightest stars. She was instrumental in establishing the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden, and led a monthly volunteer Border crew for 18 years. An incredible plantswoman, Sue was the expert to whom all looked for knowledge about perennials before they became popular. She was funny, smart and generous. She taught workshops, opened her garden and led amazingly wonderful NPA garden tours abroad. Botanical treasures from those trips still fill members' gardens.

In 2010 NPA presented Sue with its first, and only, Lifetime Membership in recognition of her 25-plus years of inspiring gardeners and her unwavering support for NPA and our signature project, the Border. NPA held an open house to remember Sue at Bellevue Botanical Garden on October 23.

Please donate to the Sue Buckles Memorial Fund in Support of the Border.

Since Sue worked so tirelessly in the Border and was such an extremely knowledgeable plantswoman, NPA will be designating all funds donated in her name to this new fund, which will be used exclusively to purchase new and rare plant introductions for the Border.

Yes! I want to donate to the Sue Buckles Memorial Fund in Support of the Border.

Enclosed is my donation of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$

Enclosed is my check payable to NPA

Please charge my Master Card Visa

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Your Name (First, Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to: NPA, 8522 46th Street NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

The Northwest Perennial Alliance is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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|----------------|----------------|
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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 2011-2012 Officers:

Michele Cournoyer, President: 425-868-5541

Gayle Richardson, Vice President: 206-632-2735

Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820

Anusha Sharma, Treasurer: 425-427-6095

Membership:

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

Donations:

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

Submissions:

Contact the Post Editor at post@northwestperennialalliance.org

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PART-TIME PAID POSITION AVAILABLE

Here's a wonderful opportunity to work from home and be involved with one of the Northwest's most respected horticulture organizations. The NPA is seeking an organized person with good people skills to serve as the new **NPA Office Administrator**, beginning in April.

This job requires an efficient working knowledge of Excel, Access, and Word, plus the willingness to learn Constant Contact. Tasks include handling

member requests, maintaining the membership database, sending out the monthly email to members and producing mailing lists. We provide an NPA cell phone and a Pitney Bowes mail station, you provide the computer and printer. NPA's mailing address becomes a P.O. Box convenient to you or your own home address.

The OA works closely with the NPA President, the Treasurer and a book-keeper. The job takes an average of 1-2

hours a day and pays \$600 a month. Being a "plant person" is not required. But having a warm and friendly manner, along with an enthusiasm for NPA, are very important.

Interested individuals should send their resume via email to the NPA Office at info@northwestperennialalliance.org or mail it to NPA, 8522 46th Street NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Questions? Call NPA at 425- 647-6004.