



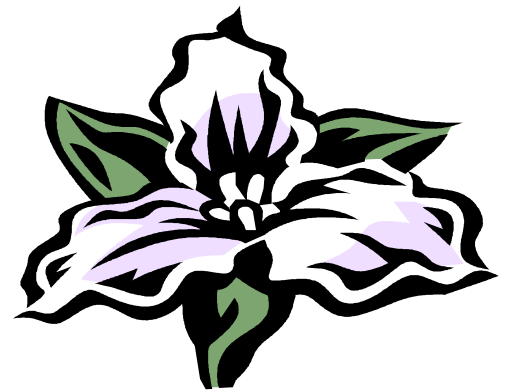
2010 Open Gardens Invitation

The Northwest Perennial Alliance Invites You To Open Your Garden

Touring private gardens and sharing ideas with fellow gardeners is one of the favorite pastimes of NPA members, and a popular benefit of membership in this unique organization. Fortunately the NPA has many generous members graciously willing to share the beauty of their personal garden creations with us. We are grateful to them for making the Open Gardens educational program a continuing success.

Last year was another successful year for the NPA Open Gardens, with 73 garden members (29 were new to the tour!) and 21 specialty nurseries joining in. The drawing for the members had 2,444 names in the basket. That's a lot of avid gardeners enjoying this benefit of their NPA membership.

Our good friends at **Wells Medina Nursery** are again sponsoring the Open Gardens. Every host who opens their private garden in 2010 will be entered in a drawing for one of **four \$50 gift certificates from Wells Medina Nursery**. And when you visit any private NPA Open Garden, sign the NPA Member Log to enter a drawing for **one of three \$25 gift certificates from Wells Medina Nursery**. The drawings will be held at the November 2010 membership meeting. Don't miss it!



Anyone who gardens passionately knows that a garden is a constantly evolving form of art. If you think your garden needs to be "finished" to hold it open, consider that we always learn as much from works-in-progress as from the "final" version (if there ever is one). It is rewarding to watch gardens and gardeners develop year by year, both as artist and space develop. As we explore new gardening preferences and stretch our creative boundaries, so do our gardens become more of an artful reflection of our inner spirit.

We'd like to thank you now for inviting us into your garden and sharing your private space and personal creation. We're looking forward to the privilege of a visit.



Who Should Open Their Garden?



Everyone who loves to garden, share their garden and talk to other gardeners!

The NPA has an abundance of talented garden artists, with as many diverse styles as there are members. We love to visit them all, so please consider opening yours.

Large & Small **Formal** & *Chaotic* **Beginning** & **Mature** **Exotic** & "*Garden Variety*"
Asian & **Woodland** **Urban** & **Rural** **Water** & *Cottage* **Whimsical** & **BOLD**

We gladly accept photographs of your garden, both for inclusion on our website and/or in the 2010 Open Gardens book (space allowing). Please send a high-quality image electronically to msweeneym@comcast.net. Remember, it will be printed in B/W in the book.

2010 Open Gardens Helpful Information

I'd like to open my garden, what's next?

- First, **renew your membership**, because only current members of the NPA are eligible to be in the Open Gardens Directory.
- Then, complete both sides of the attached form. Post or email by **February 15, 2010** to:
NPA, Mickey Sweeney
2929 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle WA 98109
- Do call other NPA members near you, suggest they open their gardens also, and coordinate dates. We make every effort to promote grouped gardens as a special "tours" or "duos" to increase visitors.
- Briefly describe your garden style, mentioning plants and garden features you think we'd especially enjoy.
- Provide accurate directions, especially from the nearest major cross street.
- Are there any particular difficulties we should know about (such as a steep garden site, parking limitations, obedience-challenged dogs, etc.)?
- Is your garden partially or fully handicapped accessible?

Will anyone come?


Most likely, but consider the following:

- Centrally located gardens tend to have the most visitors. Groups of gardens get more traffic than isolated single gardens, so call your NPA friends!
- Gardens which have been open in the past develop a following and a strong word-of-mouth reputation. Visiting other gardens helps to make friends who may then visit your garden!

- Some gardens get just a handful of visitors their first year, while established gardens may get 75 + If you've just had one open garden, try again!

Open Garden ideas and advice:

- Ask some gardening friends for help preparing your garden and during the tour. If chocolate is involved you're sure to have volunteers!
- Names of plants on markers is not necessary but do make it easier for visitors to identify a plant if you're busy with other guests.
- Post the "NPA" sign we will send you at your street. We'll know what it means but passersby won't know your garden is open. We ask that *garden tours be reserved for members, their guests and your invited guest.*
- Some folks serve light refreshments like lemonade, tea, cookies. Making water available, at least, is a good idea.
- Don't be shy. If your visitors can't find you, you'll miss the enjoyment and many compliments. You're not expected to be able to answer every question, of course. In fact, if a plant name flies right out of your head the moment someone asks about it, you're in very good company!
- If you find you have extra plants when you divide this spring, or your garden produced more seedlings than you can use, consider potting them up and giving them away to your guests free, or holding a small plant sale.
- If you're flexible about your dates, indicate on your registration form that you'd like to be paired with other gardens in your area.
- Schedule your open garden during the standard hours.

 **Register by Email!** If you prefer, you may register your garden for the 2010 Directory by email. The address is msweeneym@comcast.net. Please put **NPA Registration** in the subject line. Here's what we need:

- Full Names(s) and Business Name, if any
- Home address and mailing address (if other than home address) / Area Code and Phone number
- Dates you would like to have your garden open, or if you're flexible, preferred month (we'll get back to you)
- Hours your garden will be open (if other than the standard 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.)
- Does your garden have easy access for people with limited mobility? Yes or No
- Description of your garden. If your garden has been open before, may we use the most recent description?
- Directions to your garden. If your garden has been open before, may we use the most recent directions?
- You can provide all of the above information to us by email on this document. We'd love that!
- Now—**This Is Important!** We will confirm that we have received your email within 72 hours. If we do not confirm, please mail us the form (to the above address), or you may be left out of the directory. Please do not assume we've received your form. Or, you can pick up the phone and call us at (206) 283-5608. It's that simple.


2010 Open Gardens Registration Form

Please print clearly and complete both sides of this form. Mail or email by **February 15, 2010** to:
NPA, Mickey Sweeney, 2929 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle WA 98109 msweeneym@comcast.net

Name(s): _____ Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP _____

Best Day Telephone: () _____ Email address _____

Are you a first time open garden? () No () Yes  (We put this cool little trowel by your name.)

Would you like to be featured as an edible vegetable garden? _____ 

Please check any below which apply:

PRIVATE GARDEN

_____ *Open on specific date(s) circled below*

_____ *Open by appointment and specific date(s)*

NURSERY OR COMMERCIAL SITE

_____ *Have a demonstration or display garden*

_____ *Special events on dates circled below*

DATES OPEN: Circle the date(s) below for your open garden. The **2nd Sundays** marked with an asterisk* are crew days at the Border.

Are your dates flexible? We'll pair you with nearby gardens and confirm the date(s) with you for approval.

Tell us your preferred week(s): _____

	May			June			July			August			September			October		
	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su
week 1			1 2	4 5 6			2 3 4					1	3 4 5			1 2 3		
week 2	7	8	9*	11 12 13*			9 10 11*			6 7 8*			10 11 12*			8 9 10*		
week 3	14	15	16	18 19 20			16 17 18			13 14 15			17 18 Meeting			15 16 17		
week 4	21	22	23	25 26 27			23 24 25			20 21 22			24 25 26					
week 5	28	29	30				30 31			27 28 29								

Open with (list names) _____

Dates *not* available: _____

NOTE: We will call or email you to let you know of possible dates for grouped "tours" in your area.

HOURS OPEN: Private garden standard open hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday and 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Friday.


Garden open hours: _____ a.m. to _____ p.m. on _____ (indicate date).

NURSERY HOURS: _____

PHOTOGRAPHS: Permission to use photos of your garden for NPA use only: () YES () No
 Your high resolution garden photo sent electronically will be used as space allows. Remember, we only print in Black/White.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE? () Yes () Partially () No

Gardens opened anytime between 1999 to 2009 are in our database. Please indicate your preference:

() Use the most recent published description as is OR () see new description 

2010 Open Gardens Registration Form

Name(s): _____

If you are opening for the first time, describe your garden, including style, special features, plants, structures, challenges. Be enticing! We edit for length and clarity. Please limit your garden description to 250 words.

If Heronswood could do it in 51 words, the rest of us can keep it under 250. There is a maximum limit of 10 Latin words per description. (Spellcheck doesn't know Latin.)

Garden description – Print clearly below, attach a typed description or email the registration form.

Driving directions from downtown Seattle. Include mileage, if possible, and parking limitations.

PLEASE READ THE FINE PRINT: Be sure you have renewed your membership for the 2010 year before you mail in this form. Only current members of the NPA are eligible to be in the 2010 Open Gardens Directory. NPA insurance covers members should some incident occur in your garden during your open day(s); non-members are not covered. We really appreciate your timely response, so don't delay! Entries received after the deadline may not be included in the book unless you have a very ingenious excuse. If you have questions please feel free to call (206) 283-5608 or email me at msweeneym@comcast.net. NPA sincerely thanks you for your participation. And, did I mention that your name goes into our drawing for one of four \$50 gift certificates from Wells Medina Nursery? Odds of winning if you don't open your garden? Zero, zip, nada! Mail your form today – we'd all love to see your garden!