

THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



SPRING 2011 | VOLUME 21 | ISSUE 2

October fundraiser stars HGTV's Erica Glasener

**NPA FUNDRAISER AT LAKEWOLD
Saturday, October 1**

Morning program 11:00

**Afternoon program & reception 3:00
Lakewold Gardens, Lakewood**

NPA and Lakewold Gardens, in cooperation with Interlaken Garden Club, are proud to present this special fundraiser, "Enriching Our Lives in the Garden," featuring Erica Glasener, former award-winning host of HGTV's "A Gardener's Diary." Erica is an author and lecturer whose columns and articles have been featured in Fine Gardening, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the New York Times and even The Farmer's Almanac. She has written several books that speak to hobby gardeners, horticultural professionals and plant lovers from coast to coast.

Erica's morning lecture, "Designing a Garden for Year-round Pleasure," will include coffee/tea service, raffle drawings and



Erica Glasener, of HGTV's "A Gardener's Diary."

the opportunity to stroll the beautiful grounds of our host, Lakewold Gardens. The afternoon program, "Highlights of a Year-Round Garden; Lessons from A Gardener's Diary," will also feature a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, in addition to raffles and a tour of the gardens. Tickets for the morning program are \$20 NPA members/\$30 nonmembers. Tickets for the afternoon program and reception are \$30 NPA members/\$40 nonmembers. To order, send your check or money order to Lakewold Gardens, PO box 39780, Lakewood, WA 98496-3780. Or contact Stephanie Walsh at 253/584-4106 ext. 109 or swalsh@lakewoldgardens.org You will receive an email confirmation (please include address). Tickets will be mailed this month. Sorry, no refunds will be issued for this fundraising event.

Wicked Plants— The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom

Pam Felts, Education Chair

**NPA ANNUAL MEETING & LECTURE
Sunday, September 25, 1 pm**

**NPA members free/Nonmembers \$10
Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH)
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle**

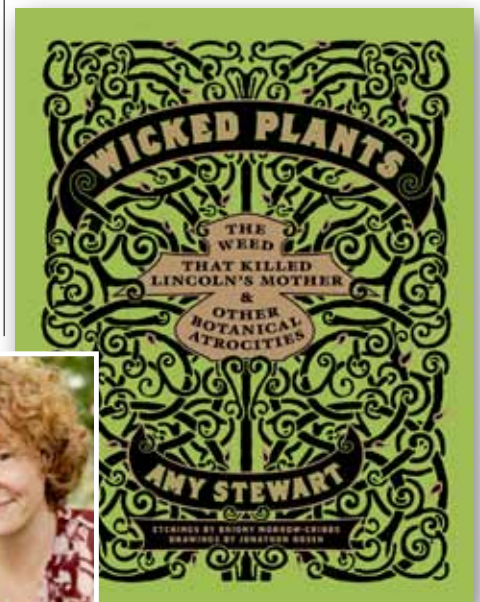
Doors open at noon for plant & seed sales

Don't miss this wickedly entertaining lecture by Amy Stewart, based on her best selling book, "Wicked Plants." Join Amy as she explores the dark side of the

plant world, investigating plants, poisons and popular legends, and learn about the little-known side of botany. For instance, do you know which favorite Northwest perennial is believed, by some historians, to have affected the outcome of a Greek conquest in the ancient city of Kirrha? How about the source of the illness that caused the death of Abraham Lincoln's mother?

We'll learn the answer to these interesting queries and hear a few juicy details about how some very common plants have helped shape history and our perceptions, both in and out of the garden. While we won't be selling her books at this event, if you bring your own copy of

"Wicked Plants," Amy will be happy to sign it after the lecture.



- SEPTEMBER 10** Fall Plant Sale, Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue
- SEPTEMBER 17** Lavender class, “10 Secrets for Using Lavender” with Kathy Gehrt, Saturday, 10 am – noon at Kathy’s home in Seattle. *See page 7.*
- SEPTEMBER 23** “Alice in Garden Land” Dinner and Auction, Friday, 5:30 pm, Harbor Club, Bellevue. Presented by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. Order tickets online at www.bellevuebotanical.org or call 425-451-3755.
- SEPTEMBER 25** NPA Annual Meeting & Lecture, “Wicked Plants—the Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom” with Amy Stewart, Sunday, 1 pm, at CUH, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
- OCTOBER 1** Fundraiser at Lakewold with HGTV gardening host Erica Glasener, Saturday, 11 & 3 pm, Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood
- OCTOBER 8** Hardy Fuchsia class “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Hardy Fuchsias” with Fuchsia guru Frankie Dennison. Saturday, 10 – noon, Bellevue Botanical Garden. *See page 7.*
- NOVEMBER 9** NPA class “Gifts from Your Kitchen” with Kathy Gehrt, 10 am – noon, Wednesday, at Kathy’s home in Seattle. *See page 7.*
- NOVEMBER 13** NPA lecture “Handmade Garden Style” with Lorene Edwards Forkner, Sunday, 1 pm at CUH, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
- NOVEMBER 26** Garden d’Lights begins, 5 – 10 pm daily through the end of December at Bellevue Botanical Garden

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Viv Adcock | Suzy Jamieson | Katie Sicorra |
| Catherine L. & Thomas M. Allan | Stewart Jay | Sylvia Soholt |
| Deena Austin | Karrin Jensen | Louise Sportelli |
| Jennifer Becker | Everett Keithcart | Angela Stephens |
| David Billick | Roger Kelem & Margaret Brennan | Chong & J. Stewart |
| Hope Bloesch | Alice Kirman | Deborah Stuart |
| Tom & Sissy Bouchard | Kim Laney | David Traylor |
| Elizabeth Brinkley | Christa Leathers | Sara Trimble & Pei-Te Kao |
| Clint Ceder | Ellyn Martin | Ilka Van Waasen |
| Cheryl Conklin | Julie Martin | Scott Vergara |
| Patricia Custer | Karen Mashburn | Sharon Weber |
| Nancy Davenport | Michele L. Maurer | Linda Wells & Keith Kriebel |
| Joan Eklof | Karen McEwen | Karen Wetmore |
| Rebecca & Todd Evans | Bruce Harvey McIvor | Mary Ann Wiley |
| Dana Fare | Joy Lynn Mourant | Melissa Williams |
| Jacklyn Feeley | Diana Neely | Bobbi & Brian Wilson |
| Carol Ferch & Dan Willsie | Barbara Nourse | Patty & Bill Wilson |
| Shawn & Owen Fowler | Geraldine M. Passage | |
| Carole Gallimore | David Paterson | |
| Andrea Garcia | Elizabeth Ringwald | |
| Linda Gray | Ruth & John Rugh | |
| Penelope Harger | Jean Schy | |
| Cheri Hendricks | Anusha & Parag Sharma | |
| Joyce Holloway | Caroline Sias | |

The NPA Fall Plant Sale is for savvy plant collectors

**NPA FALL PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 10 AM – 2 PM**

Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main Street, Bellevue

Ten carefully selected specialty nurseries will be bringing their “collector’s best” to NPA’s Fall Plant Sale on September 10th, giving you a unique opportunity to add real depth to your garden.

Pick your passion: Push the envelope with Mediterranean plants and Southern Hemisphere natives hand-picked for Pacific Northwest gardens. Choose a few of the newest, brightest stars for your cottage garden. Discover unusual perennials to add panache to your border and hard-to-find natives to light up your woodland. Or, for that special place in your rockery, shop the finest Alpine plants this side of Denver.

As always, there will be a selection of some of the finest plants from the NPA Border and members’ gardens—and fun, knowledgeable people will be on hand to help you choose wisely.



Last year’s NPA Fall Plant Sale brought savvy plant collectors from around the region.

Experienced gardeners know that fall is the best time of the year to plant in the

Northwest, so stop by and see what you need to add to your collection.

FALL PLANT SALE VENDORS

De Gro Nursery

Desert Northwest

Glenwood Gardens

Jordan Nursery Greenhouses

Keeping It Green

Lee Farms

Mt. Tahoma Nursery

NPA

Overland Enterprises

Ramble On Rose Perennials

White Picket Nursery

Our Volunteers’ Favorite Soup

Gayle Richardson



Many’s the time I’ve brought this yogurt soup for vendors and volunteers at NPA Plant Sales, and many’s the time I’ve been asked for the recipe, so here it is:

PLATEAU SOUP (YAYLA CORBASI) FROM TURKEY

4 cups broth *beef or vegetarian, according to your preference. I use cubes to make.*

½ cup rice

1 ½ cups yogurt *the looser and goopier the better. (I use Trader Joe’s European Style Plain Whole Milk Yogurt.)*

1+ tbsp. dried mint *Spearmint, if you can get it.*

1 tbsp. butter

Bring broth to a boil. Add rice. Cook at a simmer until done. (Don’t overcook). Add yogurt bit by bit if it’s cold. Saute mint in butter for half a minute or so. Add to soup. Don’t try to cut corners by just throwing in the dry mint. It really takes the sauteing in butter to make the soup great.

It’s very easy to multiply this soup for large groups. Just don’t add exact multiples of the rice or it’ll be more like porridge. Make each rice multiple less than ½ cup.

The Bishop's Bottom

Dianne Ferris

ONE OF THE HAZARDS of doing the Open Garden mambo (for me at least) is that someone is sure to ask at some point “what is that?” and my treacherous memory will just as surely fail me. I know this doesn’t happen to some of my friends, but equally well I know it happens to others (or so they compassionately assure me). For some reason I have particular trouble with the c’s—cyclamen, corydalis, coreopsis, cerinthe, etc. And this is why my ears pricked and wallet opened when I read a New York Times book review about a young man who describes spending just one year training his very average memory sufficiently to win the US Memory Championship! (Yes, there is such a contest and Joshua Foer describes his experience in “Moonwalking With Einstein.”)

How did he do it? Lots and lots of hard work and a big chunk of his life that

“The brain remembers best with images. Furthermore, the racier the image, the easier to remember.”

year. But for the purposes of a red faced gardener, with too big a garden and too many plants and no hope of curing the horticultural habit, some aspects are worth heeding. The brain remembers best with images. So to memorize a deck of cards, make the king of hearts, say, Prince Edward, and the queen of spades, perhaps, Lady Gaga and so on through the whole deck. Furthermore, the racier the image the easier to remember. So, if you are



memorizing the order of a random shuffle of the deck and the king of hearts follows the queen of spades, well you guessed it!

Now, how does this apply to those pesky plant names? This is where the bishop’s bottom comes in. I have no problem with remembering “bishop’s hat” but in the past I’ve blanked on “epimedium” over and over. No more! For what is a bishop’s bottom but “epidermis,” lovely pink skin (I assume, having never seen one). As for cyclamen, I envision the vivid colors of cyclists’ helmets (nothing racy here except the Tour de France). Likewise, I always remembered “Flying Dragon” but blanked on poncirus. But now my dragon is anointing the pagoda beneath him! (My son-in-law tells me that poncirus has been replaced by something to do with citrus but I know there is a particularly ghastly afterlife awaiting those who change plant names).

Memory, “the great betrayer,” also betrays me with some of my favorite plants. A hornbeam with silvery leaves and lovely white blossoms, is a case in point. It is fully as beautiful as *Cercis* ‘Forest Pansy,’

yet time and again I stumble over *Sorbus aria* ‘Lutescens’ when I have no problem remembering *Itea illicifolia* or *Acer pennsylvanicum* ‘White Tigress.’ When one is blessed with a sloping rocky scree, perfect for *Lewisia*, surely the word “*Lewisia*” should come trippingly to the tongue. But it doesn’t. Maybe I should rely on the formula I used to use on spelling impaired students—“loose women lose their virtue.” Maybe “loose soil is good for *Lewisia*” will do the trick. And of course the intemperate weather deities have conspired to wipe out two daphnes that were firmly lodged right in the front of

“I know there is a particularly ghastly afterlife awaiting those who change plant names.”

my brain, *Daphne bholua* and d. ‘Brigg’s Moonlight.’ There is no justice! But that doesn’t stop us from reveling in that great array of exotic and unpronounceable but endlessly rewarding part of creation called the plant world.

In conclusion, let me throw out this challenge to readers of The Perennial Post. What image would you conjure for “cordyline”? What are your favorite, most frequent lapses? How would you remedy them?




Dianne Ferris gardens with her dog Humphrey in the Ravenna area of Seattle. She is a member of the NPA Board, founder of the Neighborhood Groups program and an inspiration to all.

Volunteers wanted

NPA is run entirely by volunteers and right now we're short on help. If you'd like to get involved, here are a few suggestions:

Join a committee. We have committees for Education (plan lectures), Membership (staff the NPA table at events), and plant sales (help run March Mania, the Spring Plant Sale or the Fall Plant Sale). For details, email our office at info@northwestperennialalliance.

NPA Border. Our famous perennial garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden attracts 300,000 visitors a year. It's our gift to the community, and it's a big commitment—more than 21,000 square feet and thousands of perennials that need care year round. Just show up any Thursday around 10 a.m. and join in.

The Perennial Post is always on the hunt for interesting gardening articles and photographs. Contact michelemc@comcast.net to contribute something to our next issue. 

Bring Out Your Big Guns!

Gayle Richardson, NPA Vice President

In years past at its annual Spring Plant Sale, NPA has featured several tables chock full of unusual, hard-to-find, or otherwise covetable plants donated by members. The higher-than-normal prices obtained for these choice items was a welcome supplement to the bottom line for the sale, but the plants also helped cement NPA's reputation as an organization where discerning gardeners can find noteworthy plants.

We'd like to re-establish this tradition at our Spring Plant Sale in April 2012 and are asking for your help.

As you divide and propagate in your garden this fall, remember the specialty table and pot up one or more of your treasures to donate to the sale. It's an easy and effective way to volunteer for the NPA. I know what I'm selecting--watch for my *Achillea grandiflora*, a spectacular seven-



A volunteer pots up plants for NPA.

footer that will stop traffic in your garden.

Bring your donations to any NPA meeting at CUH, or contact info@northwestperennialalliance to arrange transfer.

Hail & Farewell to our Education Chairs

Michele Cournoyer, NPA President

This month we're bidding a fond farewell to our Education Chair, Pam Felts, who is leaving the NPA board after four great years. It's been Pam's responsibility to put together the NPA lecture programs at CUH and Lakewold, a job she's handled with great aplomb. Pam has a knack for putting people at ease, and took such wonderful care of our guest speakers, it couldn't help but confirm NPA's reputation as a first-rate gardening organization. She negotiated contracts, handled travel arrangements, solved equipment snafus and wrote many, many publicity articles. Needless to say, everyone on the NPA board will miss her. But we're happy to report that Pam plans to stay very



Pam Felts, NPA Education Chair 2007-2011.



Gayle Richardson, new NPA Education Chair.

involved in NPA activities in the South Sound area, as she settles into her new home in Tumwater.

NPA Vice President Gayle Richardson will take over from Pam this month as the new Education Chair. The amazing Gayle, who seems to be everywhere at once for NPA, has also served several years on the Education Committee, so it promises to be a seamless transition. A

member of the NPA board for eight years, Gayle has run our Seed Exchange for the last six years and is our vendor liaison for the NPA plant sales. She's a regular volunteer in the NPA Border and is also NPA's de facto historian, serving as archivist since 2004.

Gardeners With Gumption

Gayle Richardson

AT TIMES, MY LITTLE 40'x100' lot seems to me to be too much garden to handle, so I can only stand in awe of gardening folks who envision—and act—on an enormous scale. These three examples of that have stayed in my mind for decades after first reading them, and proved equally enjoyable the second time around.

George Courtauld

An Axe, A Spade And Ten Acres

Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. 1985

“To the editor of the Morning Post: Dear Sir, In view of the recent gloom about falling standards of living, I suggest that there are only three necessities and three luxuries which are needed in life: The former being an axe, a spade and ten acres; the latter being an adequate supply of hot water, books and lavatory paper.” So begins Courtauld’s saga of his attempt with the three necessities to “transform a hodgepodge into a united garden and nature reserve.” As an example of how overgrown his property was, it took two years to break through and discover a large pond just 100 yards from his back door.

Though obviously born to money and privilege (think Courtauld’s Bank), the author was not afraid of hard work and roughing it. A tremendous amount of the clearing and hauling and burning was done by the writer himself. His help over the years was mainly two gardeners, both well into their seventies: Bell, who was convinced his nose would bleed if he smelt a poppy, and then Hart, who treated his sore feet by putting gin and pepper into his boots.

In addition to telling an absorbing story, Courtauld has a real way with words and made this reader laugh out loud many, many times.



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

Tim Smit

The Lost Gardens Of Heligan

Multiple editions.

Talk about a man with an obsession! Tim Smit, who admits he was never much of a one for flowers and gardens, nevertheless relished a challenge. And he found one of the great ones of twentieth century British gardening when he and a companion stumbled across the ruins of the gardens at Heligan, near Mevagissey, in Cornwall. A list of the men who worked there, penciled on the wall of the gardeners’ loo and poignantly dated “August 1914,” served as the impetus to restore the gardens and make the work of the people who labored to create them known to today’s world.

Almost insurmountable obstacles, both natural (the virtually destroyed gardens and buildings) and manmade (the almost venomous resistance from misled locals) nearly spelled doom. But Smit was dogged. Stumbling block after stumbling block fell and a small cadre of volunteers started the work. Visitors came long before there was really anything to see, prompted by a ten-minute segment on a national gardening program, and they now number in the hundreds of thousands. In one poll for Britain’s favorite garden, it came in second only to Kew (sorry, Sissinghurst!)

and the story of the pineapples alone could bring a tear to the most hard-hearted gardener’s eye. Today, the restoration is a triumph, the local economy has been revitalized and Smit has become a legend in his own time. Read the book, then start saving your pennies for a visit.

Norman Thelwell

A Plank Bridge By A Pool

Charles Scribner’s and Sons. 1978.

Most Americans won’t be familiar with Thelwell’s name (which, fittingly, in Old English means “a plank bridge by a pool”) but for some 60 years he was one of Britain’s premier cartoonists and nature painters. His love of flora and fauna began as a child, when, for a penny, he could take a bus trip into the country and rent a boat on Raby Mere, where he spent hours feeling he was one with nature.

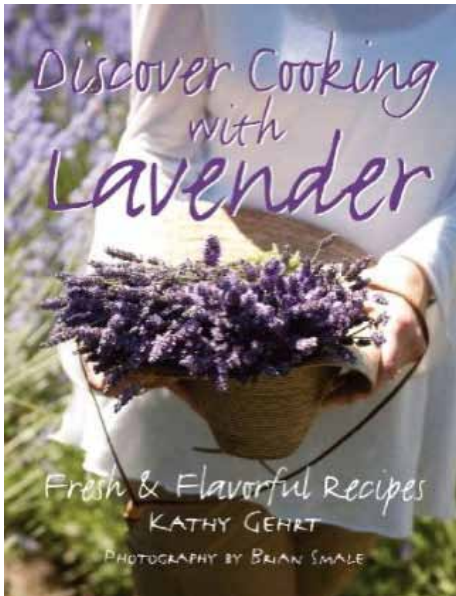
It became a lifelong goal to have a bit of water of his own, and the chance came when he and his wife purchased Heron’s Meade, an old cottage on two acres in the Test Valley of Hampshire. Here was his “chance to make my own little lake and recapture the faraway dreams of childhood.” What follows is a detailed description of the lake’s creation, copiously illustrated with maps and drawings of the multitude of wildlife that soon made it their home. The author’s style is an easy mix of the practical and the poetic. His deep knowledge and love of nature, in both its beauty and ugliness, shine forth from every page.

Note: These titles can be found in a few Puget Sound library systems, but are easily available online for \$.01/\$1.00 and up (plus postage).

Next issue: Farflung Gardens and Gardeners

Saturday, September 17, 10 – noon
10 SECRETS FOR USING LAVENDER
 with Kathy Gehrt
 Fee: \$35 Class Limit: 15

Join cookbook author Kathy Gehrt in her own Seattle kitchen for a hands-on workshop to discover ten secrets for using lavender to create flavorful seasonings, infused sugar and fabulous gifts. You will learn the best lavender cultivars for culinary use, growing techniques, and how to harvest lavender, dry it, and package buds to flavor everything from lemonade to Latin salsa. Take home samples of Lavender-Ginger Sugar and Latin Lavender Seasoning. Discover packaging techniques to give your homemade gifts that special touch.



Saturday, October 8th, 10 – noon
EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HARDY FUCHSIAS
 Madeline "Frankie" Dennison
 Fee: \$20 Class Limit: 15



Join Fuchsia guru Madeline "Frankie" Dennison for a morning of learning about Fuchsias. Showing slides, Madeline will discuss the how to's of Fuchsia care, emphasizing winterization and propagation. A demonstration on propagation will be given and participants will have the opportunity to try their own hand at propagating. Class will be held in the Garden Office at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Wednesday, November 9, 10 – noon
GIFTS FROM YOUR KITCHEN
 with Kathy Gehrt
 Fee: \$35 Class Limit: 15

Looking to save time and money, and still give unforgettable gifts to friends and family? Join Kathy Gehrt, cookbook author, in her Seattle kitchen for a demonstration of five of her favorite gifts you can make at home.



FALL CLASS REGISTRATION

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.

NPA Scholarship Recipient Heather N. Harris

Chitra Parpia, Scholarship Chair

We're proud to announce that Heather Harris is this year's recipient of an NPA scholarship. Heather is an enthusiastic, fully engaged gardener currently enrolled at Lake Washington Technical College in their Environmental Horticulture program. This love of horticulture has prompted her to qualify as a Master Gardener and volunteer with Friends of the Cedar River Watershed and

the Lake Wilderness Arboretum. She is on the Dean's list at the college. Prior to her horticultural pursuits, Heather graduated from Western Washington University with a B.A. in Psychology in 1999. Her goal is to pursue a career in nursery or greenhouse propagation with an emphasis on sustainable gardening.

We wish her continued success!

THANK YOU *Donors*

Many thanks to our generous 2011 Donors for supporting the many programs of NPA, including Open Gardens, the NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden, student scholarships, lectures, workshops and horticulture classes at Edmonds Community College. Membership dues alone do not cover the cost of providing these benefits; your gift supports our tradition of offering a broad range of activities and events that can be enjoyed by both new and seasoned gardeners alike.

PLATINUM

Lynn Garvey
Sue Moss
Keith & Janet Patrick

GOLDEN SHOVEL

Christopher & Michelle Epping
Charles Price & Glenn Withey

SILVER TROWEL

Nicola Bocek
Wallis Bolz
Mary Ann Byhre
Michele & Paul Cournoyer
Nancy Daar
Margaret Hayes-Thombre & Rahul Thombre *
Karen Herman
Carrie L. Hill
Jocelyn Horder
Scott Manning
Janet & Mel McIntyre
Jan & Randy Mote
Ann S. Ormsby
Linda S. Park
Rod Parke & Dale Burke
Irene & Leonard Peyton
Judith & Kirk Prindle
Carol Scheuffele & Percy Tierney
Jean Skerlong
Ralene Walls
Sheila Walter & Bob McNully
Delia Zeuschel

PEONY

Sandra Booren
Renagene Brady
Luanne Coachman
Shannon Flynn
Jeff Graham
Christine Hansen
Linda & Roger McDonald
Sharon & Jared McLaughlin
Sarah Navarre
Louanne Peyton
Rosalie Preble
Bonnie & Gary Remlinger
Liz Sanborn
Joanne White

HELLEBORE

Catherine L. & Thomas M. Allan
April Mulcahy Angelo & Vas Angelo
Karen Baer
Paula Bamburg
Heather Barbieri
Kay & Lynden Baum
Susan Bayes
June Beckerman
David Billick
Jean Bowman
Alice Brewer
Patricia Bringardner
Robin Bruins
Walt & Dona Bubelis
Valerie Ann Bystrom
Ellen Carnwath
Connie Carroll
Jade Chan
Cyrilla Cook
Julia Craig
Luann Cunningham
Bob & Janis Cunningham
Carolyn & Peter Curtis
Jan Drummond
Sylvia Duryee
Mitch Evans
Jacklyn Feeley
Pamela E. Felts
Betsy Fitzgerald
Peggy Fox
Udell Fresk
Marjorie Gillespy
Judy Giniger
Carol Glass
Sandy Gordon
Linda Gray
Sarah Green
Carolyn Gutierrez
Linda Hall
Kathryn Highland
Ingrid Hines
Daniel Hinkley & Robert Jones
Mary Hjorth
Sigrid Hokanson
Caroline Holloway
Annie Horton
Dan & Darlene Huntington
Patricia & Henry Huntsman
Lisa Irwin
Cynthia B. Johnson
Wendy Lagazzino

Nancy Lechner
Cynthia Lenz
Janet Lewinsohn
Kathryn Jo Lowe
Mary MacFarlane
John MacKean & Mary H. Krock
Cheryl Marshall
Zin Marie Matheny & Beau Bailey
Jennifer McLellan
Conrad & Jane Messmer
Jan & Brian Miller
Karen Moore
Bruce Moulton
Margot Navarre
Jana & Rick Nelson
Ilse Nethercutt
Sue O'Donnell
Peggy Ostrander
Katie & Gordon Padwick
Jan Peterson
Mary Powell
Suzanne & John Price
Judith & Chris Pruitt
Fiona Pyle
Barbara Reisinger
Zari Rennie
Elaine & Chris Richards
Kathy Riley
Ruth & John Rugh
Marilou T. Rush
Jean Savory
Sue Shilley
Judith Silk
Steve & Pauline Smith
Michael Thanem & Barbara Asmervig
Shelagh Tucker
Jane G Urner
Nancy Utter
Doris Vinnedge
Norma Vogeli
Mary L. Walsh
Cheri Walters
Donna Walzer & Peter Ormiston
Susana Wiehle
Betty Willis
Molly Wolfe
Polly Zehm

* Matching from Microsoft \$65

AS WE TUMBLE from the droughty vagaries of summer into the tempered days of fall, the Border lands softly on its new feet.

Many of the earlier plantings are growing well and new acquisitions establishing quite quickly. The drip irrigation system is performing admirably by soaking the beds and helping the plants deal with some stress by rooting deeper. We did use a few sprinklers to ease the frying of some of the newer additions. With the addition of water came a new flush of weeds – some new ones from the compost-based mulch that a large corporate group purchased and spread for us. Again our Thursday crew of volunteers quickly dispatched most of them. We have been very fortunate that BBG has sent new volunteers our way.

With the end of summer comes the end of our time with interns – our regular Parks intern was very handy with covering the watering and mapping. We also

had the talents of a T.I.P.S. (Teens In Public Service) intern for a few months who made Thursday mornings fun and productive.

We are pleasantly surprised by a few plants this year. A standout was *Echi-*



Thanks to great volunteers like Diana Davidson, the Border was well weeded and cared for all summer.

nacea ‘Hot Papaya’ with flame orange petals crowning its flower heads. From a notoriously weak color group that seems to disappear in winter, ‘Hot Papaya’ was planted late last season and all three returned and bloomed with a tropical twang that was noticed by many visitors. Perhaps the breeders have finally figured out what it takes to make a true perennial here. As the season slopes into winter look for a big cutback and clean up before a large community service corporate group comes in to spread mulch over the rest of the Border in October. And keep an eye on the most talked-about area in the garden, the bare area just to the north of the main stairs--sometimes it takes time for the really good stuff to settle in.

**“See you at the
NPA Fall Plant Sale
September 10th.”**



NPA plant cart open all day, every day

Carol Scheuffele

As many of you may know, the NPA sells plants outside the visitor center at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The plants are donations from members, divisions from the NPA Border, and some grown from seed.

Until last February, BBG visitors could only buy our plants when the visitor center’s gift shop was open. We fixed this by installing a weather resistant box of labeled envelopes on the plant cart, with instructions for purchasers to put their envelope with payment into the donation slot in either “Goldywarts,” the bronze garden toad, or in the visitor center’s interior donation box. Now the plant cart is ready for business even if the gift shop is closed, and provides a more secure payment method. No more money stuffed under locked doors, or dropped in the donation

box without a clue that the money was for the sale of NPA plants! Some of our best selling plants are divisions from NPA members’ gardens. We love to get member donated plants! Do you have some treasures to share with us? We want to spread those great perennials around to more people.

Plants can be dropped off on Thursdays between 10 am and noon at the BBG work yard. Need to make other arrangements? Call Carol at 206-545-3797.



We love our Neighborhood Groups!

Kathryn Highland, Membership Chair

DESPITE OUR COOL, wet spring and summer, our 18 Neighborhood Groups haven't missed a beat. Here are some highlights from a few:

EASTSIDE MORNING GLORIES

What do you do when your monthly program suddenly has to change dates, leaving you with a hole in your schedule? The Morning Glories found a happy solution with this last minute substitution:



Exploring Kathryn Highland's garden.

Everyone was asked to come prepared to talk about a nagging problem area in their own garden. The group brought pictures (one did a panorama!) and a description of the area (i.e., sun/shade, slope/flat & water needs). We all have a spot in the garden that defies a creative solution. The Morning Glories sat in a loose circle and brainstormed suggestions. There was a lot of discussion and some real creative solutions brought forth during this sharing time. We all enjoyed it and asked ourselves why we hadn't done this before. Our hostess, Kathryn Highland, made a luscious lunch. We sat out on her deck enjoying the weather, birds and each other. It started to rain just as we finished dessert. Back inside we went to complete our last few problem areas. —Jan Miller

SOUTH SOUND NPA

It's been an interesting year for our South Sound NPA group. We decided as a group to not meet every month, and to take more time to view local open gardens and nurseries. We met in January for a catalog exchange and made wire plant name holders for the garden. Several members enjoyed the garden show in Seattle in February. We invited Mary Henry to do a talk for us on seed saving, followed by a potluck lunch in June. Mary's talk was excellent and inspiring. Greg Graves gave an excellent talk for us on Great Plant Picks for 2011 at the Old Goat Farm in July. We are planning a carpool and caravan road trip on September 17th to Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend followed by a visit to Dragonfly Nursery in Kingston. We have a planning/pot luck scheduled for November at a member's home, when we'll review the year and list suggestions for 2012. —Toni Smith

LILIES OF THE VALLEY

The Lilies visited Susie Egan's Cottage Lake Gardens in May. She impressed the group with her knowledge of Trilliums, explaining the many varieties, how to cultivate them patiently from seed (Trilliums take seven years to flower),



and their amazing migration. Trilliums started on the East Coast, making their way across the country to us in Washington, and further yet, over the ancient land bridge to Asia where several unique



Trillium photos by Laura Scholten

varieties exist today. After the lecture we walked her beautiful gardens, enjoying the dozens of specimens she has there, as well as beautiful perennial borders and a tremendous variety of native woodland plants along lovely nature trails. We ended the tour with many pictures and plants to enjoy in our own gardens. If your group is interested, Susie hosts many private garden club tours and talks ranging from "Trilliums" to "Winter Color and Interest," a talk and tour we enjoyed one winter as well. www.cottagelakegardens.com —Laura Scholten

THE NORTHEAST CLUMP

We are a cohesive group, enjoying each other's company and finding our mutual gardens very intriguing. Our programs this year have included:

- A slide show of the garden of Helen Dillon, a well known Irish gardener put on by a member who traveled there on a garden tour with Marty Wingate.
- Critique and show and tell of the NW Flower & Garden show, and for those who did not attend, bring something blooming in their garden in late March and talk about it. A lively discussion always ensues of the likes and dislikes of the show.
- A speaker on Rain Gardens gave a great lecture in a local rain garden complete with handouts and a brief tour of additional rain gardens in the area.

- The group met at the garden of our newest member to give her ideas for renovation planning in her garden. I think we talked her out of removing all her lawn due to the maintenance of such a large plot of bare dirt.

- A meeting at the site of the Streissguth garden on Capitol Hill complete with a personal tour by the family who created it.

- Lastly, a rained out picnic rescheduled in a member's home where we were all chilled, but nevertheless nourished well with many delicious dishes from members. —Wendy Lagozzino

THE HORTIHOLICS

Over the last few months, our Mercer Island/Bellevue neighborhood group, The Hortiholics, have taken numerous field trips. Recently we enjoyed a beautiful sunny day on a guided tour of the South Seattle Arboretum campus, followed by box lunches provided by the culinary school. It was a very scrumptious, entertaining and educational afternoon. We've also shared fabulous evenings at each others houses with presentations focused on many varieties of plants. Monthly meetings have included Susie Egan of Cottage Gardens on "Wonderful Plants with Winter Interest"; Linda Ellis on "Native Plant Gardening"; Bamboo Mary (Mary Palmer) of Box Hill Nursery on bamboo; Daniel Lowery, Lead Designer, Queen Anne Gardens LLC on how to weave both woody plants and hardscapes to balance 'Long-Term Investments' and 'Short-Term Investments' for the garden;

and many other lovely and fascinating topics. —Charlie Brakebill

GROWIN' WILD

On a cold, wet, and blustery day in May, members of the Growin' Wild neighborhood group spent two hours touring the rhododendron garden in University Place with Dr. Gary Becker.



Photo by Katie Padwick

Want to join an NPA neighborhood group or start one of your own? Email Kathryn at kathrynhighland@msn.com for information. She'll give you the contact information for the neighborhood group coordinator nearest you, so you can find out if there is an opening in your area.



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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.

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

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Submissions:

Contact the Post Editor at post@northwestperennialalliance.org

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Inside this issue:

NPA Fall Plant Sale, September 10

"Wicked Plants" lecture, September 25

NPA fundraiser at Lakewold, October 1

Plus:

Favorite soup recipe, page 3

"The Bishop's Bottom," page 4

"Bring Out Your Big Guns," page 5

Book reviews: "Gardeners with Gumption," page 6

Classes & Workshops, page 7

2011 Scholarship winner, page 7

NPA Border report, page 9

Neighborhood Groups news, page 10