

# GardenNOTES



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2009

## 2009 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

# The New Gardening Approach: Great Design for Sustainability, Habitat, and Biodiversity

HANS MANDT

SINCE THE MID 1990s, a lot has been written about the “New Perennial” movement, the more naturalistic and ecological approach to planting pioneered by designers in Germany and Holland. The origins of these planting styles in Germany lie in the idea of designing and planting using habitat as an ecological approach to combining perennials. The method is to analyze specific sub-habitats within the garden and match plants to that habitat.

Since the early 1990s, gardens designed by Piet Oudolf have been at the forefront of the movement and the new perennial design style is still the most exciting look today, consisting of massed perennial plants and grasses laid out in naturalistic drifts that look their best in late summer.

In recent years, more high-profile gardeners including Noel Kingsbury, Dan Pearson, and Tom Stuart-Smith have adapted the new perennials approach in their garden designs. Dan Pearson’s designs epitomize the naturalistic approach to designing gardens, combining an instinctive sense of place with natural planting style.



### REGISTER NOW!

**TIME:** Saturday, March 21, 2009,  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Bastyr University Auditorium,  
14500 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore, WA 98028

**FEE:** Members \$45 Non-members \$65  
(Fee includes lunch)

**REGISTRATION:**  
E-mail [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com) or phone 206-780-8172

Here on the West Coast, we have taken this concept and are adding desires for sustainability, resource and habitat conservation, and biodiversity to our gardens. To give you insights into the history behind the plant selections

*A new pond at The Old Rectory, Gloucestershire, is planted with Iris robusta ‘Gerald Darby’. (Dan Pearson)*

and the development of this new gardening approach and the work of contemporary garden designers, the Northwest Horticultural Society, with support from the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation, the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, and *Pacific* ►

## 2009 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM . . . continued from page 1

*Horticulture* magazine, is pleased to present our 2009 Spring Gardening Symposium, **The New Gardening Approach: Great Design for Sustainability, Habitat and Biodiversity.**

### SPEAKERS

#### **ROBERT HERMAN** **Selecting Planting** **Combinations by** **Habitat**

**ROBERT HERMAN** has over 30 years of experience as a professional horticulturist, seven of which were spent in Europe as garden master for the Countess von Zeppelin Nursery in Germany. He was director of horticulture at White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut. Mr. Herman currently teaches in the Horticulture Department at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Designing and planting by habitat is a German ecological approach to combining perennials. Robust, low maintenance plants are selected and grouped according to their ideal growing situation. This lecture will explain the habitat concept and design strategy, and feature some of the American native perennials that have played a significant role in plant selection.



#### **JOHN GREENLEE** **Meadows by** **Design**

**JOHN GREENLEE** is a skilled horticulturist and landscape designer and founder of Greenlee Nursery, the largest native and



ornamental grass nursery on the West Coast. John holds a degree in ornamental horticulture from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona.

Ornamental grasses are now playing an important role in the greening of the American garden. A huge selection of grasses is now readily available from nurseries for inclusion in a broad array of planting schemes. This interest in creating grass ecologies and the growing knowledge of how to do it right is leading to what John calls the "Meadow Revolution." John will explore the art and science of designing, planting, and maintaining meadows and natural lawns. He will show examples of meadow plantings and look at the future of grasses in both ecology and horticulture.

#### **KATE FREY** **The Contemporary** **Garden Today: A** **Manifestation of** **Our Desires, or a** **Participant in the** **Larger Eco-System**

**KATE FREY** was the managing horticulturist and designer of the organic gardens at Fetzer Vineyards in Mendocino, California for 18 years. Kate speaks and writes on gardening and sustainability. In May 2003 her garden at the Chelsea Flower Show in London won a silver/gilt medal, and in 2005 and 2007 her gardens, illustrating many elements of biodiversity and sustainability, won gold medals.

What challenges do we and our gardens face today? Our gardens should generate happiness, but should also sit lightly on the planet and be sustainable. Sustainability is more than what the name implies. Sustainable gardening is not a matter of simply procuring an array of plants that are adapted to local



climate and soil conditions. Kate will demonstrate how we must create these sustainable systems ourselves.

#### **DAN PEARSON** **Emotional** **Landscapes**

**DAN PEARSON** is a landscape and garden designer with an international reputation for design and planting excellence founded on horticultural expertise, an informed and intuitive approach to the organization of space, and the practice of ecological and sustainable design principles. Dan trained at the RHS Gardens' Wisley and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, before starting his professional career as a designer in 1987. Dan is a weekly gardening columnist for *The Observer Magazine*, has authored two books, and has designed five award-winning Chelsea Flower Show gardens.

Ever since childhood, Dan has been fascinated by the idea of sense of place. Over the years Dan has learned to "read" the landscape to find the clues that identify sense of place to create a space with authenticity, integrity, and meaning and uses the local ecology to tell him what should be growing there. The gardens and landscapes that Dan creates always relate to a feeling or emotional state suggested by the site. They are identifiable by a strong connection with nature and the natural environment. You will see how his gardens use these inspirations to create spaces where the experience of being within them is uniquely site specific, sensual, contemplative, and thought-provoking. 🌱



*Hans Mandt is the new president of NHS.*

## ASK THE DESIGNER


NITA-JO ROUNTREE

EVERY YEAR, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show provides a joyful respite from the dark, dreary days of winter. Beautifully landscaped gardens, incredible educational seminars, lots and lots of retail goodies, and fabulously choice plants for sale enlighten the spirits.

This year, NHS will host a booth in the educational section, #2400-2402, close to the Plant Market. We will feature container gardens designed exclusively with plant material chosen as Great Plant Picks by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, and our booth will be adjacent to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, a partnership fostered by Elisabeth Miller (who also started NHS).

Additionally, we will offer free 20-minute design consultations with well-known garden designers such as writer and speaker Marty Wingate, Wendy Welch Garden Design, Phil Wood Garden Design, and more! Make an appointment then bring pictures and your questions about a problem section of your garden, and the designers will give you free ideas and advice. We will also feature "Ask Ciscoe" sessions with our own radio and TV personality, Ciscoe Morris. Check our website at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org) for times and reservation information.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help with our booth set up February 17, man the booth during show hours February 18-22, and tear down on February 23. To volunteer, contact Karin at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com).

So come by the NHS booth February 18-22 at the Washington State Convention Center for a visual treat. 

*Nita-Jo Rountree is the immediate past president of NHS.*

## NHS MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT GARDEN SHOW

JANET ENDSLEY

NHS MEMBERS WILL BE entertaining attendees at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, February 18-22 at the Washington State Convention Center. Visit the show's website at <http://www.gardenshow.com/seattle/index/index.asp> for a complete seminar schedule, plus speaker bios, the book signing schedule, and the weekly "Featured Speakers."

### – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 –

Lucy Hardiman	"Celebrating the Seasons"
Tina Dixon	"Glorious Container Gardens"
Meghan Fuller	"Pruning 101"
Linda McDonald	"Planting for Seasonal Bouquets"
Sandy Milam	"Container Tips & Tricks"

### – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 –

Lucy Hardiman	"The Emerging Front Garden"
Debra Prinzing	"Your Private Escape"
Polly Hankin	"History Repeats Itself"
Riz Reyes	"Perennial Propagation Primer"

### – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 –

<b>"PLANT LUST" SYMPOSIUM:</b>	
• Val Easton	"Decisions, Decisions, Decisions"
• Richie Steffen	"Great Plant Picks for 2009"
• Dan Hinkley	"Drama Queens"
Polly Hankin	"Hardscape: Know Your Options"
Dan Hinkley	"The Garden in Winter"
Marty Wingate	"Shrubs for Shade"
Wendy Welch	"Your Private Escape"
Lorene Edwards Forkner	"Backyard Bountiful"
Beth Evans-Ramos	"Salvage Savvy"
Mary Robson	"Green Gardening"
Meghan Fuller	"Building Healthy Soil"

### – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 –

Marty Wingate	"Water—The Life of the Garden"
Marianne Binetti	"New Plants for Old Gardens"
Judith Jones	"Garden Buccaneers"
Ciscoe Morris	"Ciscoe & Meeghan Live!"
Nobuko Relnick	"What is Ikebana?"
Greg Butler	"The Green Side Goes Up!"
Cass Turnbull	"Solutions for Overgrown Gardens"
Phil Wood	"Plants with Panache"

### – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 –

Mary Robson	"Bodacious Beauties"
Ciscoe Morris	"The Good, the Bad, & the Bloopers"
Sue Olsen	"The Magic of Ferns"
Carolyn Jones	"Horticultural Headlines"
Nita-Jo Rountree	"Creative Planting Combos"
Marianne Binetti	"Garden Thunder from Down Under"
Susan Goetz	"In Love with Lavender"
Tina Dixon	"Glorious Container Gardens"
Judith Jones	"Garden Buccaneers"

*Janet Endsley is an NHS member and the seminar manager for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.*

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: GREG GRAVES

MELODY HOOPER

**GREG GRAVES** will tell you he doesn't like children, but he'll spend the next two hours giving piggyback rides to a line-up of giggling nieces and nephews. He'll tell you that the Northwest Horticultural Society is just a garden club with a fancy name, but he'll spend countless hours arranging top-quality lecture programs and symposiums for the rest of us. Sometimes, he will even tell you he is sick of gardening. But don't believe it. He is, after all, our beloved Garden Curmudgeon, the cranky gardener featured a few years ago in a series of articles written for *Garden Notes*.

That crankiness is mostly myth, but his talent for getting things done is not. I remember visiting Greg's old garden in Capitol Hill for a party and marveling at his ability to greet arrivals, lead garden tours, and barbecue ribs for fifty people, all in one comfortable dance. The welcome is just as warm and the preparation just as complete for those



*Greg Graves (Ann LeVasseur)*

who visit Old Goat Farm, Greg's current home and nursery. No wonder Greg is one of NHS's most treasured volunteers.

Greg's involvement with NHS began when he started working at the

Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in 1998. As head gardener, Greg works to strengthen the bonds between Betty Miller's garden and NHS, the organization she founded. Greg teaches classes for NHS, chairs the education committee, and has served as president. From grant writing to garden shows, Greg is there to lend a hand.

Not so long ago, I heard someone compare Greg to a foundation shrub. Hmm. I think the speaker was trying to say that Greg brings integrity and grace to any project, in the garden or elsewhere. Things work better—and look better—because of Greg. But perhaps it would be more accurate and flattering to compare him to something more notable, something like a sublime hundred-year-old redwood tree.

Oops. I think I just insulted you again, Greg. You aren't *that* old. 🍷

*Melody Hooper is the recently retired editor of Garden Notes.*

### ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

Mary Anne Adams  
Sally Andrada  
Tana R. Arisman  
Marlin Ayotte  
Nisreen Azar  
Robert & Mary Barrett  
Gale A. Baullinger  
Karen A. Benson  
Michelle Berman  
Alison Bodle  
Magnhild Braithwaite  
& Dennis Haldane  
Jennifer Brockway  
Blair Brooke-Weiss  
Kim Carter  
Cristina Cartledge

Alicia Cerri  
Tues D. Chambers  
Angela Christensen  
Brenda Colgan  
Leslie DiMaio  
Sharon L. Dwight  
Cheryl Estes  
Sue Ewens  
Mary Toulouse Fett  
Steve Hardy  
Maria Herberg  
Cindy Hoover  
Debbie Howard  
Josie Johnson  
Joan Karceck  
Lisa King

Joan Kropf  
Cheryl Lawrence  
Patricia Ann Lee  
Michelle LeMoine  
JoAnn Mahaffey  
Linda Marie  
C. Martinez  
Jean McCall  
Toni McCormick  
Hilary McDevitt  
Marie Mentor  
Kathie Miners  
Kaye Moreton  
Francine Nelson  
Julie Nichols  
Lois Padgett

Janell &  
Kevin Patrick  
Lynn Prunhuber  
Karen Robertson  
Linelle Russ  
Margaret Sedensky  
Anne Seidel  
Julie Snyder  
Robert Stewart  
Susan G. Stone  
Susie Thorness  
Reeta Tollefson  
Phyllis Tyson  
Susan Wallace  
Karhryn Warma  
Susan Waterfall

Lynn Watkins  
Cynthia &  
David Welte  
Nancy Wildin  
Jill Williamson  
Mary Wilson  
Jo Anne & Earl L.  
Wilson  
Sandy Winston  
Kathy Wolfe  
Woodinville Garden  
Club  
Barbara Wright  
Harriet Zipp

# GREEN THOUGHTS IN A GREEN SHADE— MY MOTHER'S GARDEN

SUZANNE FERRIS



*The author's mother with her prized monkshood. (Roger McDonald)*

THERE IS A TYPE of garden which takes on the personality of the place. The owner/designer is so embedded in the garden that she disappears only to reappear in the details such as the garden art, which stands apart from the design features of texture, shadows, shapes, and color. The garden of my mother, Dianne Ferris, is fiercely edited every time a check arrives from my sister, which allows her to cast away old ideas such as a designer mirror that is too small and so sweet it hurts your teeth to look in it. Off it goes to the Dumpster along with roses with blackspot, *Eleagnus* on hormones, and minor monsters that she can dig out herself.

Looking at the fierce control exerted in this garden I pause and wonder how someone who believed in no rules at home took such a hard right turn. For example, the edges of the lawn are

tightly manicured like cuticles disciplined with an orange stick. They keep shifting as she shrinks the turf to a mere path and a mossy slope for the grandchildren to roll down. I am allowed to wield the hose as a marker for these new borders, but she manages the digging herself. The curves move to accommodate tree growth such as the *Acer* 'White Tigress' which is stretching itself up towards the canopy of eighty foot oaks and pines.

Her first garden in Minnesota needed a ledge built to accommodate the traditional rambler's foundation. Tree wells made from sewer pipes were necessary to save the oaks from drowning in back fill. The Tudor she bought in her retirement is perched in a more advantageous position, three quarters of the way up an equally steep slope, but on a corner lot that levels out. With a circulation pattern dictated by topography and existing old rockeries,

the garden has a more sophisticated feel to it than her rambler.

I worry about her falling on the steep scree bed we planted with *Lewisia* and creeping juniper. I was amazed when she found very large granite boulders embedded in the shrubbery which she was removing. The unattractive wall of neglected shrubs seemed as high as the two story house when viewed from the street. Hidden in the laurels, mock oranges, and kolkwitzias was a silvered cedar stump with its roots wicking down between monster rocks. I suggested the juniper could mimic the crawling roots and now it's doing that fifteen years later. The ascent up the scree leads to one of two secluded seating areas. Her focus removing this greenery was to open her garden to the street, so she kept the new plantings small.

There is a square, a circle, and a rectangle all with some sort of enclosed feeling of privacy. Lichen covers one bench: a deterrent to sitting there, but the reward of seeing Mt. Rainier on a clear day is worth it. A round of concentric pavers forms a platform holding a vase with an agave at its heart. Next to it is a lattice fenced rectangle of brick pavers with a wooden chaise, encased in a blue bird hibiscus. My Mom has made a cocoon of this seating area. Her garden is a refuge as well as a welcoming place for the neighbors. Gardens can perform both functions, but a corner lot in a well treed neighborhood of winding alleys and streets makes it easier. I often find Robert, her next door neighbor, lounging in the hammock with Kiki his dog.

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# ROY LANCASTER AND WINDCLIFF

DANIEL HINKLEY

ANYONE WHO HAS READ Roy Lancaster's accounts, or has heard him speak throughout his celebrated career as author, lecturer, and television correspondent, is well aware of the rarified qualities he possesses. By way of his excitement and exclamation over the plants he discusses—who it was who first introduced it to cultivation; when, from where, how it has subsequently grown in our gardens— transports us to the haunts and hollows from where our garden plants originated and invites us to accompany him in the adventures of bringing them home. Roy is without a doubt the most highly regarded plantsman of his day; indeed, he is a legend in his own time.

Throughout my garden at Windcliff grows a significant number of plants that



*Windcliff (Daniel Hinkley)*

have associations with Roy: either seeing them in his garden in Hampshire for the first time, seeing them together at Hillier's Arboretum, or reading his accounts in various books and publications. I first came to know the genus *Helwingia* through travels in China and learned that the pedicel and petiole are

fused to the midpoint of the leaf blade making the flowers and fruit appear to arise from the leaf surface itself. Since that introduction, I have collected numerous species of this remarkable genus and enjoy pointing it out to visitors of all ages to the garden. *Mabonia confusa* and *M. gracilipes* are two additional plants that I first saw in Roy's garden. Autumn blossoming species from

Sichuan, both have resplendent foliage and a beguiling, colorful display of flowers. Though I reveled in ultimately seeing these in the wild, it was relieving the undiluted joy that I know Roy must have felt upon first encountering them that was the most profound gathering of that day.

There will be few opportunities more savored next September when we bring Roy and his wife Sue back to the Pacific Northwest to take part in a benefit lecture and tour of Windcliff for the Northwest Horticultural Society. Though you will also have the opportunity to hear Roy deliver a different speech at the annual Miller Lecture two weeks later, I warmly invite those wishing to support NHS to meet the most renowned plantsman of his day in a more intimate garden setting (with a bit of wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres thrown in for good measure). While you are here, remind me to show you my assemblage of *Helwingias*. A gift pack of a few recent collections will be presented to each attendee. We look forward to seeing you at Windcliff. 🌿

*Daniel Hinkley is a renowned plantsman and co-owner of Windcliff.*

## TOUR DAN HINKLEY'S WINDCLIFF WITH ROY LANCASTER

**When: Saturday, September 5, 2009**

There will be two separate options.

• **Option 1: Early afternoon garden tour**—Tour the garden with light refreshments for 1½ hours, and meet Dan Hinkley and Roy Lancaster.

**\$65.00 members/\$85.00 non-members**

• **Option 2: Late afternoon lecture and garden tour**—Lecture by Roy Lancaster at the Indianola Clubhouse. Next enjoy wine and a light dinner with Dan Hinkley and Roy Lancaster in Dan's home and garden.

**\$195.00 for members and \$225.00 for non-members**

Each group will walk onto the Edmonds ferry then will be picked up at the Kingston ferry dock to be driven to and from the events. Exact times TBA depending on ferry schedules.

Tickets are limited. Make reservations now at [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com) or 206-780-8172.

\*Special thanks to Monrovia for co-sponsoring this event.

# THE STORY OF PLANTS: ROSEMARY

DANIEL MOUNT

AS I APPROACHED ELBA, I could not see one plant from the ferry; I could only see the green pelt covering the island's rocky slopes. But I could remember Elba's rich and fragrant flora, Spanish lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*), curry plant (*Helichrysum italicum*), and my favorite, rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). Elba, largest in a chain of seven islands making the Tuscan Archipelago, has long been separate from the Italian mainland. The rosemary, growing on these islands and on neighboring Corsica, has a unique trailing habit and has parented innumerable cultivars now available world-wide.

The genus *Rosmarinus* consists of two species, the circum-Mediterranean *R. officinalis* and the lesser known *R. eriocalyx* endemic to southern Spain and northern Morocco. Rosemary, in the Lamiaceae or mint family, shares the characteristic two-lipped flowers, leaves in opposite pairs, and economically important oils with lavender (*Lavandula* spp.), basil (*Ocimum* spp.), and oregano (*Origanum* spp.) all used for millennia in the kitchen and the apothecary.

Revered by the Greeks for its memory enhancing abilities, scholars wore garlands of rosemary around their heads to help them study. Rosemary, carried at weddings or braided into the bride's hair, is said to ensure fidelity, and at funerals rosemary placed in the coffin is said to ensure the departed is remembered. Modern scientists have found the oils in rosemary to contain over a dozen antioxidants, which may aid in reducing the symptoms of Alzheimer's. These same oils have made it useful as a digestive aid, meat preservative, insecticide, anti-bacterial, and even a mood elevator. But most of us, along



Elba rosemary (Daniel Mount)

with the ancients, love rosemary for the wonderful flavor it imparts to roasted meats.

Native to coastal habitats, the name *Rosmarinus* reflects this predisposition, *ros* meaning "dew" and *marinus* meaning "of the sea." Long associated with feminine deities, it was once sacred to the goddess Aphrodite, said to have risen from the waves of the Mediterranean. The blue flowers are flecks of the foam she rose on. Later the myth was transferred to the Virgin Mary, who in flight to Egypt took refuge under a rosemary bush, and spreading her blue cloak across the bush, changed the once white flowers to blue. Thus the common name rose of Mary. In Europe it is still believed that where rosemary thrives the woman is the head of the household. I'm sure many rosemary bushes were axed by husbands unwilling to acknowledge that fact.

In October, the rosemary had already begun to bloom blanketing the mountains of Elba with a blue haze,

buzzing with bees. I wondered, as I walked through thickets of it, at the variability of form and color. Flowers ranged from opalescent white to deep azure. Some grew stiffly like boxwood, others as flowing as Aphrodite's tresses. This variability has given rise to nearly 100 cultivars. Most, not hardy, remain unavailable to us. The hardiest cultivar 'Arp' seems to have lost its popularity to the much prettier 'Tuscan Blue'. Also popular, is the prostrate rosemary (*R. officinalis* 'Prostratus') which is more susceptible to winter wet and cold than the upright cultivars. When you see the island home of its progenitors you wouldn't question why. Rosemary's love for sharply draining, alkaline soils, and the thinnest of mists off the Mediterranean make it an unlikely candidate for the Northwest garden. Yet there are some amazing specimens here, where flowering begins in the first warm days of late February and seems to peak in April, when it makes a radiant backdrop to tulips and daffodils.

I have grown rosemary for years now with erratic results. Sometimes the healthiest plants in an ideal location have succumbed to winter. Yet in my Zone 6 garden near Carnation I had one plant survive heavy soil and flooding for three years in a row. Its inevitable death prompted me to grow rosemary in containers on the deck, remembering its rocky place of origin. 🌿

*Daniel Mount writes regularly for Garden Notes, exploring the relationships between plants and people. He works as a gardener and designer in the Seattle area. You can reach Daniel at [daniel@mountgardens.com](mailto:daniel@mountgardens.com).*

# TOUR THE GARDENS OF SARDINIA AND AUSTRALIA WITH NHS IN 2009

GILLIAN MATTHEWS



## SARDINIA IN SPRING APRIL 17–29, 2009

DISCOVER THE HERITAGE, flora, and fauna of Sardinia on our 13-day expedition, led by Greg Graves and Mark Walters, a classicist and a naturalist. Explore Capo Caccia, one of the island's hotspots for endemic plants, the Gallura region in the northeast (a curious landscape with pink granite formations), the National Park of

the Maddalena Archipelago, the Sinis peninsula, Tharros, and the basalt plateau of Giara di Gesturi, an enthralling nature preserve.

**\$3,850 per person,  
based on twin share, plus airfare.**

## AUSTRALIA IN FALL OCTOBER 26–NOVEMBER 6, 2009

STARTING IN THE EXCITING city of Sydney, we spend the first four days in New South Wales exploring the gardens of the city, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, and the capital city of Canberra. The following six days are spent in Victoria discovering the public and private gardens of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, the Western

District, and the Grampian Mountains. After a short flight south to the island of Tasmania, we spend the rest of the tour discovering Mt. Macedon, Cradle Mountain National Park, scenic Derwent Valley, the penal colony at Port Arthur, and ending our tour in Hobart. Your tour leaders are Jo Connor and Gillian Mathews.

**\$3,800 per person,  
based on twin share, plus airfare.**

For more details and reservations for the above tours, please contact Karin Kravitz, [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com), or 206-780-8172. 📧

*[Editor's note: The tour was sold out before we went to press, but you can place your name on the waiting list.]*

## NEW RESTORATION HORTICULTURE DEGREE AT EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUDY REDMOND

CONSIDERING A GREEN CAREER? Interested in the sustainable movement to help reverse the degradation of our natural resources?

Edmonds Community College has added a two-year degree program in restoration horticulture to its list of highly rated horticulture degrees and certificates. This program will train students in the art and science of revegetation of disturbed natural areas, as well as the utilization of special horticultural practices and technologies to mitigate the effects of urbanization.

The demand for qualified individuals in this emerging field will continue to grow. Conservative estimates indicate a need for 2,000 jobs in Washington over the next 10 years. Employment prospects exist from the government agency level to the private homeowner.

Gain expertise in this emerging field by

- Learning how to replant natural areas by designing, establishing, and stewarding native plant communities.
- Creating green spaces in urban settings using green roofs and walls, rain gardens, and bioswales.

- Working as a restoration horticulture specialist in public service jobs at the state, county, or city level or in the private sector with landscaping or environmental services firms and restoration consultants.

Classes include:

- HORT 251—Horticulture Restoration
- HORT 250—Introduction to Restoration Ecology
- HORT 249—Pacific Northwest Land and Water Issues
- HORT 243—Urban Forestry
- HORT 207—Native Plants in the Landscape
- HORT 170—Landscape Studies
- HORT 109—Soils and Plant Nutrition
- GEOG 150—Sustainable Development
- ANTHR 101—Human Ecology

Reinvent your future! Find out more about this exciting opportunity at <http://hort.edcc.edu>, or call 425-640-1739. 📧

*Judy Redmond is the new editor of Garden Notes.*

## MILLER LIBRARY NEWS

BRIAN THOMPSON

**A Plantsman's Paradise**

"THAT NIGHT WE HAD YAK meat for supper and, although somewhat tough, it made a change from chicken and fish."

Thus Roy Lancaster concludes a day in *Travels in China: A Plantsman's Paradise* published in 1989. While part travel journal and homage to earlier plant explorers, at its core this book celebrates the exuberance and diversity of plant life in this vast country, as the author experienced it soon after the end of the Cultural Revolution.

The writing is detailed and somewhat technical, but also very personal and spontaneous. As an expert nurseryman, Lancaster was always evaluating plants for their garden worthiness. NHS members will have an opportunity to hear his style in person when he visits next fall.

Now a splendid new edition of *Travels* has been published (Garden Art Press, ISBN 978-1-85149-515-3)

and is much better in many ways. To the original text, outstanding new photographs and remastered originals have been integrated and are no longer segregated on separate pages. Plant nomenclature has been updated, and overlong taxonomic discussions relegated to footnotes. The result is a book that you can read text first or photos first; both approaches have their rewards.

A couple of caveats: This is a mammoth book with 511 large format pages. To enjoy it properly, a good knowledge of horticulturally worthy plants, especially woody plants, is required. So I recommend you plan to



**The Elisabeth C. Miller**

**Library is open:**

**Monday 9 am to 8 pm,**

**Tuesday–Friday 9 am to 5 pm,**

**and Saturday 9 am to 3 pm**

spend some time in the Elisabeth C. Miller Library—we'll always keep a copy for library use—and curl up in one of our big leather chairs to both enjoy and learn. This is a book worth

every bit of your time.

**Save the Date!**

THE FOURTH ANNUAL Miller Library Garden Lover's Book Sale will be Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, 2009. Please look through your personal libraries soon and bring your gently used, but no longer needed, books to contribute. The money raised will allow us to buy books we don't have in the collection. 📖

*Brian Thompson is the curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.*



*Judy Redmond*

## WELCOME NEW GARDEN NOTES EDITOR

NITA-JO ROUNTREE

ONE OF MY FAVORITE BENEFITS of NHS membership has always been receiving the quarterly publication of *Garden Notes*. Editor Melody Hooper spent countless hours on our publication raising the quality to new heights. Melody decided that she no longer has the time to devote to *Garden Notes*, but all of NHS owes her a debt of gratitude for her outstanding work. Thank you, Melody!

A search began for Melody's replacement. By a stroke of good fortune, Judy Redmond agreed to tackle the job. Judy is a recent graduate in landscape design from Edmonds Community College. She has two certificates in technical writing and editing and spent seven years as a technical writer/editor at Boeing. She also has an M.Ed. in secondary education and a BA in French. The best part is her enthusiasm for writing and horticulture. Please join me in welcoming Judy Redmond.

Beginning with this issue, the current calendar and upcoming speakers will be listed on the NHS Bulletin Board (page 10). See our website at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org) for complete information. 📖

*Nita-Jo Rountree is the immediate past president of NHS.*

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

SPECIAL LECTURE—JANUARY 19, 2009

## *Horticulture with Humor from Down Under*

**Stephen Ryan, owner of Dicksonia Rare Plants  
in Mount Macedon, Victoria, Australia**

MR. RYAN WILL DISCUSS horticulture in Southeastern Australia from his perspective including gardens, nurseries, and the plants they grow.

**NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture**

**Lecture: 7:15 pm Reception: 6:45 pm**

**Members: \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00 Limit: 200**

**Reservations necessary**

Co-sponsored by the Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation and the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden

To register e-mail [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com) or call Karin Kravitz 206-780-8172. 📧

## *Second Annual Spring Ephemeral Sale*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14 9:00 am–4:00 pm**

**NHS HALL, CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE**

15 SPECIALTY GROWERS will be bringing a wonderful assortment of spring ephemerals and companion plants. 📧

— 2009 ELISABETH CAREY MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE —

## *Roy Lancaster*

**Thursday, September 17, 2009, 7:30 pm**

**Meany Hall for the Performing Arts  
at the University of Washington**

NHS MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE an invitation to the 2009 Miller Lecture in late summer 2009. 📧

## *2008 Grants*

### *Seattle Children's Play Garden*

\$2,500 grant awarded to be used toward the creation of the Lee and John Neff Growing Garden.

### *South Seattle Community College Foundation*

\$2,500 grant awarded to be used toward the renovation of the Anna Mason Perennial Garden to a "Waterwise Perennial Garden."

— 2009 WINTER CLASSES —

**JANUARY 21, 2009 10:00 am–12:00 pm**

## *Garden Writing with Phil Wood*

JOIN PHIL WOOD at the home of Alison Andrews to explore garden writing. Phil writes on garden design for *The Seattle Times* and a national magazine, *Home by Design*. In this class we will look at examples of garden writing, discuss ideas for writing well, and discuss how to get your work in print. Participants will be encouraged but not required to share their own work.

**LOCATION: HOME OF ALISON ANDREWS/THE HIGHLANDS**

**FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 12**

**MARCH 18, 2009 5:30 pm–7:30 pm**

## *Botanical Latin with Daniel Sparler*

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED to have a better grasp on the use of botanical Latin? Join Daniel for a slide lecture on why plants are identified using this nomenclature developed in the eighteenth century and learn how you can use your knowledge of plant names to enhance your selection and use of plants.

**LOCATION: HOME OF NITA-JO ROUNTREE/BELLEVUE**

**FEE: MEMBERS: \$25.00 NON-MEMBERS: \$35.00 LIMIT: 20**

To register e-mail [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com) or call Karin Kravitz 206-780-8172. 📧

— 2009 WINTER LECTURES —

## *Wednesday Evening Lecture Series*

**Lecture 7:15 pm Reception 6:45 pm  
NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture**

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN**

**JANUARY 14**

***My Life in Other People's Gardens***

**STEVE LORTON**

**MARCH 11**

***Mediterranean Garden Style in the Pacific  
Northwest: Theory, Aesthetics, and Plant Palette***

**TOM FISCHER**

FULL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES and upcoming events can be found on our website: [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org) 📧

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Hans Mandt*

H A N S M A N D T

AS I LOOK FORWARD TO 2009, I see that NHS is a strong, financially stable organization that is continuing to provide horticultural education to the Northwest community (one of its primary objectives). Our 2008 fall plant sale was a great success, due in no small measure to the many members who volunteered at the event. One of my goals for the future is to broaden

member participation on the various committees and activities that we undertake. Getting more people involved relieves the burden on a single individual, provides camaraderie, and increases the value that can be gained from belonging to NHS. We will need help this coming year with the lectures, symposium, and book sales just to name a few. I hope you will look into participating on a committee.

I want to personally thank Ciscoe Morris who is rotating off the board after two terms. Ciscoe has been an invaluable help with publicity for our events and in generously donating his time and garden to raising funds for the NHS Miller Library Endowment. The NHS board is fortunate to have two new board members, Jean Hanson and Deborah Heg, joining us. I want to welcome them to the board and thank them for their willingness to serve.

NHS has a number of interesting programs and events in the next three months. We have two lectures in January: the regular lecture on January 14 with Steve Lorton, former Northwest editor for *Sunset* magazine, and a special lecture on January 19 by celebrated Australian nurseryman Stephen Ryan, owner of Dicksonia Rare Plants. Stephen will discuss horticulture in Southeastern Australia in the NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture, at 7:15 pm.

We will again have a booth at the 2009 Flower & Garden show, February 18–22. We are looking for volunteers to help with setting up, taking down, and manning the booth during the show. Please contact the NHS office if you would like to volunteer.

On March 11 the monthly lecture will be on “Mediterranean Garden Style in the Pacific Northwest” presented by Tom Fischer. Tom is the new editor of Timber Press and was previously the editor of *Horticulture* magazine. The next Saturday, March 14, we will have our Spring Plant Sale “Spring Ephemerals and Companion Plants” at CUH from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Last year’s sale was a great success with a great group of local growers. You won’t want to miss this sale.

On Saturday March 21, we will present our 2009 Spring Symposium: “The New Gardening Approach: Great Design for Sustainability, Habitat, and Biodiversity” at Bastyr University. We will have four garden designers: Robert Herman, John Greenlee, Kate Frey, and Dan Pearson discussing aspects of the “New Perennial” movement. Please see the feature article on pages 1 and 2 of this publication and check the NHS website for complete information. There are only about 200 seats for this event, so register early and don’t be disappointed, as it will sell out. 🌱

*Hans Mandt is the new president of NHS.*

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## MY MOTHER'S GARDEN continued from page 5

Dormers level with the tree tops reveal a pink frisson of silk tree that is so tall one can view it through the sky lights in the garage in late summer. The silk tree's trunks are splitting apart but have been secured with metal pipes bolted to the adjacent black oak. This high canopy gives a constant sense of privacy showing dappled shades of green on a sweep of lawn with cyclamen poking up. This roof of green and gold autumn light makes

gardening a performance art but on such a majestically slow scale, one is hardly aware of its inscape: green thoughts of a good mother.

My design sense as a painter was informed by this deep diligence to the groundwork of gardening, and my mother's love of hard work. Being her eldest I received the full light of her undivided love for plants, stones, and people who inhabit these arranged spaces.

They are blessed by her garden. 🌱

*Suzanne Ferris is a painter and landscape designer working in association with Phil Wood Garden Design.*

[*Editor's note:* This is the first in a series of articles on unforgettable gardeners. Send your stories on gardeners, living or not, to Judy Redmond at judyredmond@verizon.net.]



Helleborus × hybridus

*"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show." Andrew Wyeth, American painter, 1917—*

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