



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes
SUMMER 2018



Tricyrtis 'Samurai'
Photo by Richie Steffen

NHS MEET THE BOARD TOUR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 12-5 PM

By Ellen Hecht & Justin Galicic, photos supplied by garden owners unless otherwise noted

01 RICHARD HARTLAGE

The small home garden of Richard Hartlage acts as the laboratory for his design firm, Land Morphology. With a six foot, hand-made Italian pot sculpture in front, you can't miss the house from the street (perhaps the vermillion paint job gives it away too!). The front garden meadow features a serpentine of boxwood which frames the plantings and provides winter structure. Venturing into the backyard, the first seating area is a deck clad in diamond plate aluminum and ringed in terracotta planters of boxwood topiaries. The lower area is paved in granite planks with a turquoise ceramic table as a focal point. This area is enclosed with industrial containers planted with rare shade plants and a gnat haze of hanging baskets swarming overhead. A nine-foot-long water trough is planted with waterlilies and aquatic iris. Privacy is provided by a weathered steel fence. The dramatic features of this garden are intended to be enjoyed by small gatherings.



02 GILLIAN MATHEWS

Gillian Mathews, NHS board member and owner of Ravenna Gardens, has created a functional and stylish garden in her new Seattle home. Two years ago Richard Hartlage (see above) designed the bones of the garden. Flawlessly forged hardscaping takes center stage in the back with gabion walls, an elegant outdoor dining area, and rusted steel containers defining the space. An old Yorkshire sheep trough has been repurposed into a babbling fountain. Fruits, vegetables and herbs flourish in the sunny back garden while clipped boxwoods, lavender and other evergreens create a quieter living space in the front. This formerly grass-dominated lot showcases that going from ordinary to extraordinary can happen in just one year.

03 JOHN WOTT

Three years ago, University of Washington Botanic Gardens Director Emeritus Dr. John Wott breathed new life into his mature garden by reverting back to an almost blank slate. While the original garden contained many early Dan Hinkley introductions from Heronswood Nursery, his new garden features plants specifically selected by Dan Hinkley to add texture and lower maintenance. Architect and Heronswood co-founder Robert Jones designed the deck and trellis. Moveable seasonal pots along with many succulents provide drama and color throughout the year. The upper deck features a panoramic westward view over the city and UW. Don't miss a chance to visit this lush garden!



Images are by Justin Galicic.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for this year's fabulous NHS Meet the Board Tour! It is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, featuring some of the most intensely-designed private gardens in Seattle. Chihuly Garden and Glass landscape architect **Richard Hartlage** will be offering a rare glimpse into his own personal plant laboratory. Ravenna Gardens owner **Gillian Mathews** shows off her young and uber-modern city lot garden. See nature from the eyes of UW professor **Dr. John Wott's** perch overlooking the city. Experience shape, color and texture in the refuge of sought-after designer, **Lisa Bauer**. Ramble through a symphony of birds, bees and butterflies at designer extraordinaire **Jason Jorgenson's** summer dry garden. And last but not least, brace yourself for the whimsy and magic embedded in every last inch of the garden of TV and radio personality **Ciscoe Morris**. This incredible lineup of private gardens is yours to enjoy for one day only - don't miss it!



04 LISA BAUER

A confluence of geometry and texture echo throughout Lisa Bauer's urban garden. Owner of Chartreuse Landscape Design and winner of the 2015 Northwest Flower & Garden Show Founder's Cup, Lisa effortlessly showcases an array of juxtaposing ideas: shapes in opposition, hardscape vs. softscape and vertical vs. horizontal. Garden elements fit together like a puzzle surrounding the house. Steel arcs, ovals, squares, an arcing stone path, concrete, wood and water define the garden. A Robert Sperry mural is centered over a long water feature filled with fish and carnivorous

plants. Bold geometry and structure becomes the logical solution for this tight urban space. The back garden is a place for fantasy and where big foliage, modern art, and an eclectic plant mix will transport you away to another world.

05 CISCOE & MARY MORRIS

The vibrant plantings in this garden reveal a true oasis of desire. Lush, flowery abundance overflows the parking strips and extends to all corners of the extensive corner lot. Hummingbirds flutter to sample the salvias, Cape fuchsias, and bee balm. Even the driveway is covered with pots of cactus and exotics. Time management is of the utmost for Ciscoe, as planting, weeding and watering must fit between TV, radio, and personal appearance commitments. Both Ciscoe and Mary's touches bring forth the very best each plant has to offer, despite the couples' sweet-natured competition for space in their standing-room-only garden. Don't miss this chance to admire their plants or to ask questions—you may even elicit an "ooh la la" or two.



Images are by Justin Galicic.



06 JASON JORGENSEN

Jason Jorgensen, NHS board member and owner of Third Spring Landscape Design, has transformed a tired old front lawn into a densely planted summer dry garden featuring a selection of drought-tolerant yet winter-hardy trees, shrubs, perennials, and billowing grasses. Sharing the spotlight is a massive *Magnolia grandiflora* whose canopy allows a woodland-inspired understory to flourish. Fire-burnished juniper & black granite sett steps lead the way into the back where an in-ground water feature made from a granite slab is centered among a richly planted mixed border

featuring a tapestry of perennials, roses, and evergreens. Here you'll find a host of pollinators such as a resident flock of humming birds, butterflies, and a grist of non-stinging mason bees. This prominent Bryant corner lot has become a new focal point for the whole neighborhood. ∞

Rockies to the Cascades A SHARED FLORA

Words and photos by Richie Steffen

Bighorn National Forest, Sheridan, Wyoming

I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED TAKING ROAD TRIPS to travel across the country; and in recent years, I have had the pleasure of doing these long-distance trips on a somewhat regular basis between Seattle and the east coast. Having the opportunity to see the diversity of flora in the United States has been one of the highlights of these excursions. However, there is something to be said for the challenge of wild flower identification at 70 MPH on the interstate with the occasional roadside stop to take a closer look and snap a few photos.

One of the most anticipated parts of the trip is crossing over our great western mountain ranges, the Cascades and Rocky Mountains. These two massive land forms divide the Pacific Northwest and define and shape the weather patterns for much of the region. Although one may think of the Cascades and Rocky Mountains as completely different, each with its own unique and separate flora, they actually share a surprising number of species in common even though the environments they embody are so different. Both mountain ranges have a dominant forest of conifers that cover their slopes. Most of these conifers are different for each range, but the Rockies share one of our most iconic Cascadian forest trees the Douglas fir,

Pseudotsuga menziesii. Our local Douglas fir grows lush and tall with deep dark green needles while the interior mountain variant, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*, has blue-green needles and tends to be a much slower grower and smaller tree than its Pacific Northwest cousin. We can grow this variant, but it requires excellent drainage. There are a few cultivars occasionally available. A blue weeping form, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca* 'Glauca Pendula' forms weeping mounds unless staked to form a gracefully narrow shape. A more common cultivar that can sometimes be found in older gardens is *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Fletcheri'; this tight-growing pyramidal mound is not typically listed as a selection of the interior Douglas fir, but the blue tone of the needles and its excellent hardiness strongly suggests that it is.

Another beautiful conifer that spans the ranges is white fir, *Abies concolor*. The intense powdery blue needles are among the most beautiful of the true firs with long curved, soft needles and brilliant sky blue new growth in late spring and early summer. This tree can be found throughout the Rockies as well as in the Cascades occurring from central Oregon, south through the California Sierras. There are many selections available to gardeners. One of the most popular is *Abies concolor* 'Candicans'.

This cultivar will slowly form a pyramidal tree with what some call the brightest powder blue foliage of any conifer. There are other selections around as well. *Abies concolor* 'Blue Cloak' is another upright selection with great foliage color and slightly pendulous branches, and there are many dwarf forms that can be found from time to time.

The parallels in flora do not end in the trees. There are several shrubs and perennials that have an overlapping growing range from the foothills to alpine meadows. Many will be familiar with our native Oregon grape, but you may be surprised to learn that one of our best ground cover species, creeping mahonia, *Mahonia repens*, can be found in the Rockies as well as the Cascades along with the tough, yet often maligned, *Dasiphora* (formerly *Potentilla*) *fruticosa*, shrubby cinquefoil.

Some of our most beautiful and interesting perennials span both ranges including the lovely and choice Western trillium, *Trillium ovatum*. Higher up in both ranges *Campanula rotundifolia*, harebell, can be found. This long blooming and easy to grow bellflower has long been a mainstay in my home garden and will gently reseed once established. The tiny purplish-blue bells are prolifically produced from spring into early summer. Two challenging, but more unusual perennials are *Synthlipsis missurica*, kittentails, and *Pyrola asarifolia*, pink wintergreen. *S. missurica* has grown for decades in the Miller Garden with little care or attention. The shiny rounded evergreen foliage looks great year-round and in spring slim upright flower stems rise above the leaves while revealing a short spire of blue-flushed purple flowers. Pink wintergreen is one of the only *Pyrola* that can be easily cultivated. A

slow grower, it will eventually form a small patch. The short foliage barely reaches a few inches tall forming groups of rounded rosettes. In mid-spring 8 to 10 inch spikes appear with beautiful tiny bell-shaped flowers.

Rick and I feel fortunate to have recently found two patches of this choice native growing on our Hansville property.

On September 13th NHS members will have the chance to learn about more interesting and unusual garden-worthy plants that cross over these two ranges at the 24th Annual Elisabeth C. Miller Memorial Lecture featuring Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach for the Denver Botanic Gardens. Panayoti has extensively explored the Rocky Mountain range and has traveled the world looking for plants that will thrive in the gardens of the interior mountain region. He is notable for his support of native flora as well as the introduction of numerous species and cultivars of top garden performing plants. Panayoti's travels have brought him to the Northwest several times allowing him the chance to experience

our unique climate and several of his plant introductions have thrived in our maritime conditions.

This special event is a co-sponsored partnership of NHS and the Miller Library along with the Miller Botanical Garden and the Miller Charitable Foundation. Free tickets will be available from the Miller Garden starting August 1st. Watch your email for more information. ∞

Richie Steffen is NHS President and Director/Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.



Potentilla (Dasiphora) fruticosa



Campanula rotundifolia

Inspired Exterior Design

Words and photos by Sue Goetz



THE CONCEPT OF AN OUTDOOR ROOM is nothing new; it is the idea of exterior design that inspires spaces in the garden with a fresh take. Gone are the plastic patio chairs that blow away in the wind and the dingy citronella candles in a terra cotta pot. Welcome the design of an outdoor space with color, texture and style. The home and garden industry, seeing this niche, has stepped up to offer products that are specifically made to take the weather. Create spaces, not just to garden, but to truly live outside.

Design and Create a Personalized Space

Design starts with the question: how will the space be used? Perhaps a quiet place to have coffee in the morning or a spacious area to gather over a meal. In the planning phase, don't set limitations on what you really want. You never know what might inspire design and placement. Who says you can't have a dance floor to tango in the garden on a warm summer evening.

Make a connection with the space by giving it a purpose, not

just for looks—remember this is outdoor living! After deciding how you will use the space, identify the placement. Look at how the doors of the home flow to the outside. The movement from inside to outside should feel as effortless as walking into another room of the house. It may be as simple as an existing patio that needs a makeover. Also, look further into the garden. Working with the lay of the land, discover a space that is easy to walk to. Keep in mind how the space will be used to see if it meets the criteria. For example, if dining “al fresco” is on your wish list, measure the space for a table and how chairs comfortably slide out without toppling into garden beds. Balance a serving tray of glasses and walk to the area. Identify any challenges. Note the cultural conditions: wind, sun, and shade. These are all factors that need identifying before taking the next steps to make the space comfortable and useable.

The Building Blocks

Just as the ceiling and walls of a home give enclosure, an outdoor room should have a sheltering feeling. The overhead canopies



of trees, arbors, and pergolas make up the “ceiling.” Build “walls” with freestanding trellis panels or plant a tree at each corner of a square space to create corners. Check out the list of “Small Trees for Small Spaces” at www.greatplantpicks.org for ideas that will help create the living “walls and ceiling” without overwhelming a space. Use window frames and hang them with thin wire from a wood structure to frame a view out into the garden from the garden room. Create the illusion of a doorway to the “room” with a gate or arbor that gives the space an entry point.

It’s the Details

As with the interior, working on an outside design is about the details. This is where style really shows off. It is the same skill set as choosing paint or deciding where the new sofa goes, just with outdoor materials. Plants with bold foliage color can connect to the colors in fabric on furniture and pottery. It’s okay to matchy-matchy your color scheme with plants. For added color use glazed pots in surrounding planting beds. Pottery can be used for color rhythm where plants can’t. Cover up a plain concrete patio or

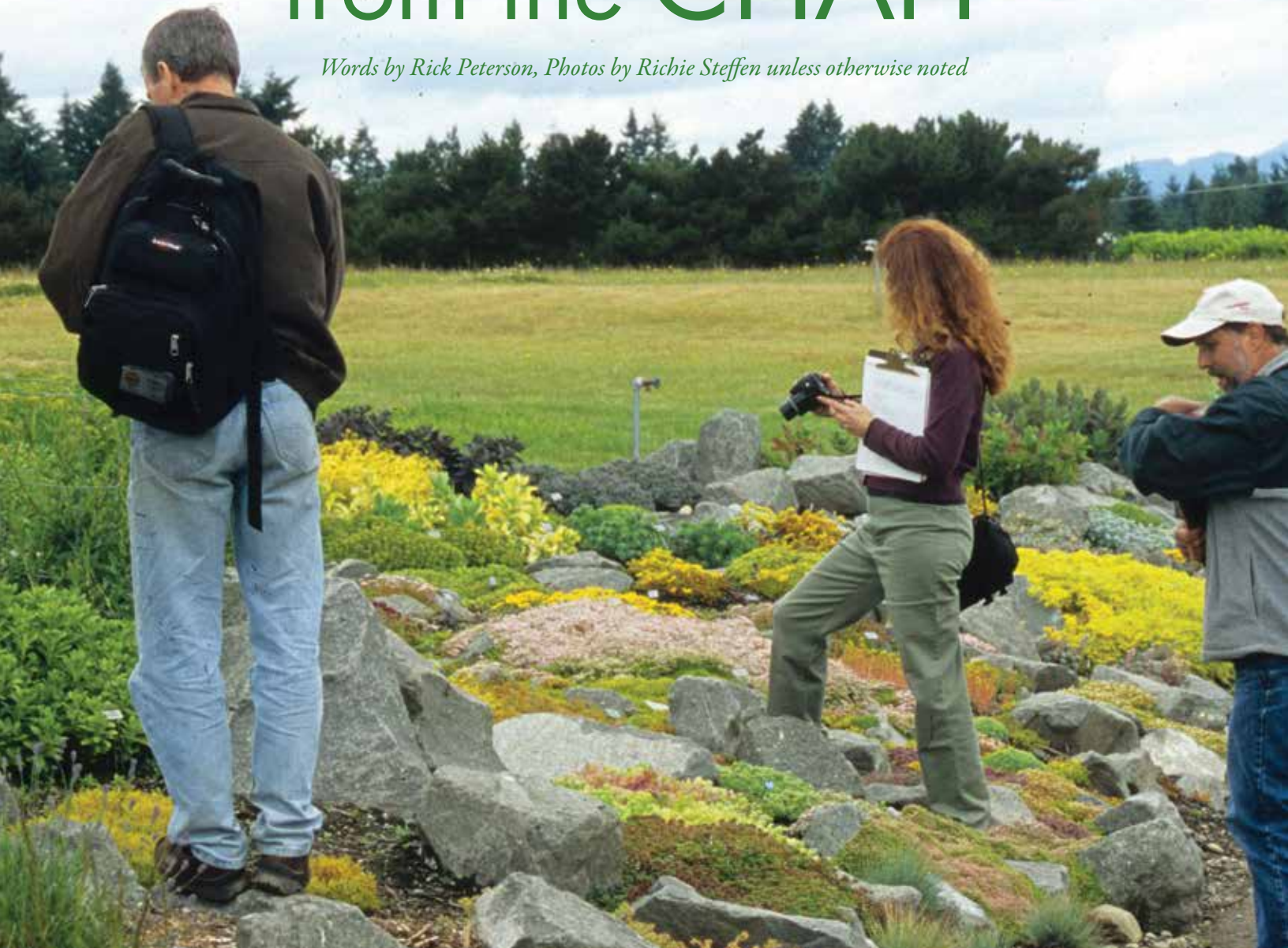
deck with an outdoor throw rug. Drape fabric from an arbor like curtains adorn a window in a home. Use weatherproof lanterns, chandeliers, and candelabras to illuminate evening parties. Low-voltage landscape lighting can backlight the surroundings and create visual interest at night.

Success follows the plan; get a notebook filled with ideas for your outdoor area, then head out shopping. Local garden stores are stocked up for the season. Check out antique stores for unusual hardware, ironwork, to fit your style. Start from the ground up, picking up your own sense of style and get creative for truly inspirational “exterior” design. ☺

Sue Goetz is a garden designer, speaker, author, and NHS board member. www.thecreativegardener.com

Separating the WHEAT from the CHAFF

Words by Rick Peterson, Photos by Richie Steffen unless otherwise noted



GPP Committee evaluating plants at Closed Loop Park, Tumwater, Washington

OF COURSE, MANY OF YOU know well the Great Plant Picks educational program of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and have read in these pages various articles about GPP plant selections, but have you ever wondered about those plants that don't make the cut and why were they were booted to the eliminated list? Although over 950 plants have been selected to

become a GPP since the program began in 2001, approximately 1,100 plants have been eliminated.

The following describes what the GPP selection committee considers when going through the process of separating the wheat from the chaff. Okay, perhaps the word "chaff" is a bit harsh

when describing these eliminated plants. To be fair many of the rejected plants are not, per se, “bad” as GPP committee member Maurice Horn of Joy Creek Nursery pointed out at a recent GPP committee meeting, but rather they do not fit the selection criteria that the committee abides by. On the program’s website the selection criteria for determining a GPP is as follows:

- Be hardy in USDA zones 7 and 8
- Be long-lived
- Be vigorous and easy to grow by a gardener of average means and experience. Plants requiring specialist knowledge should not be considered
- Be reasonably disease and pest resistant
- Have a long season of interest & preferably multiple seasons of interest
- Be available from at least two retail plant sources
- Be adaptable to a variety of soil and fertility conditions
- Not require excessive moisture (with the exception of aquatic plants)
- Not be invasive or overly vigorous in colonizing the garden or larger environment

The most straight forward plants to eliminate are those which fall outside of USDA Hardiness Zones 7 and 8 with particular emphasis on the maritime Pacific Northwest from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver, BC and the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, GPP selections should survive an average annual extreme minimum temperature of 0°F to 10°F.

Other plants that are eliminated easily are those exotics which are invasive to the



Matteuccia struthiopteris (ostrich fern) spreads aggressively.

Pacific Northwest. Many are not at all ornamental such as those generally considered weeds, but a few may be cultivated by gardeners because they are attractive in some way – often their flowers – and were introduced to the region because of their charm, at least at the time. Well-known examples are *Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove), *Iris pseudacorus* (yellow flag iris), and *Buddleja davidii* (butterfly bush) or plants that filled a useful landscape purpose such as *Hedera helix* ‘Baltica’ (English ivy).

Often overly aggressive plants are confused with invasive species. Invasive plants are non-native species that thrive outside of a garden setting and displace native vegetation in non-cultivated situations. While not considered invasive there are many plants that are just too overly vigorous by way of their excessive seeding or are overly vigorous spreading in garden situations. Perhaps for some this isn’t an issue, but these cannot be recommended to the general public because not everyone necessarily wants seedlings of say, *Geranium phaeum* (morning widow), *Campanula persicifolia* (peach-leaf bellflower), or *Iris foetidissima* (stinking iris) popping up

throughout their garden. In addition, many gardeners may not have the room for spreaders like *Vinca minor* (periwinkle), *Impatiens omeiana*, or *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (ostrich fern). However, for some this may not be of concern because they have the time and inclination to keep these plants in check, and that is okay, too.

Disease and insect issues are very common causes which prevent a plant being considered a GPP. When viburnum leaf beetle was first brought to the selection committee it led to a reassessment of the entire genus to only include resistant species. Now with the prevalence of bronze birch borer and lily leaf beetle the same is happening with birches and daylilies. Many crabapples and roses have been excluded due to fungal diseases and just recently *Amelanchier* (serviceberry) was taken off the GPP list due to a recent increase of rust and mildew problems with the hotter drier summers in the Pacific Northwest. Not all of the plants in the foregoing groups are susceptible to disease, however, and through observation, trials, and evaluations GPP looks for resistant cultivars that will perform better in your garden.



Photo from Wikipedia Commons



Digitalis purpurea (foxglove), seeds aggressively (left) while *Digitalis grandiflora* (large yellow foxglove) self-sows much more gently (right).

Using the knowledge of the GPP selection committee members, along with trials and evaluations, sometimes a plant species is turned down not because of insects or disease, but because there are cultivars which have been selected for added qualities or they are more attractive in some way. For instance, *Fagus sylvatica* (European beech) may be a fine tree, but there are a variety of cultivars with much more interesting forms as well as foliage types. *F. sylvatica* ‘Pendula’ has the characteristic green leaves, however, the distinctive shape with its downward flowing branches is reminiscent of a waterfall. Then there are the purple leaf forms which are highly attractive: *F. sylvatica* ‘Dawyck Purple’, a columnar form; *F. sylvatica* ‘Purple Fountain’, columnar and weeping; and *F. sylvatica* ‘Riversii’, with leaves larger and the darkest of purple. *F. sylvatica* ‘Purpurea Tricolor’ has exceptionally unique variegation that emerges dark purple and edged in pink or rose. These are just a few of the selections that

rise above the species itself to provide much more interest to the garden.

We all love to try a plant that can be a little challenging and the GPP eliminated list is full of examples of interesting and choice plants that require just a little more attention that what the average home gardener can be expected to give. A prime group of culturally difficult plants are daphnes. Popular species such as *Daphne cneorum* (rock daphne) are just too troublesome in the garden and there are much easier selections to grow such as *Daphne* × *transatlantica* ‘Blafra’ ETERNAL FRAGRANCE™ that performs admirably and with little fuss and will flower much longer.

Using the GPP plant list as a guide to build your garden is a great way to develop a landscape that will stand the test of time, but it is always good to keep in mind that there are many reasons a “good” plant ends up on the GPP eliminated list. These

plants aren’t bad, they just don’t fit the GPP criteria. ☺

Rick Peterson is Education & Events Manager at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden



Daphne ETERNAL FRAGRANCE™ is a great garden plant.

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 Andrea K Cummins
 Smitha Caroline Dante
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 Danita Day
 Janet N Egger
 Sara Farinelli
 Joanne Fiorito
 Gayle Forslund
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 Cora B Wells
 Cindy Widmaier
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LITERARY NOTES

from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

CURIOUS TO KNOW the early history of the Northwest Horticultural Society? I always recommend visiting the Miller Library; we have a full run of all the NHS publications.

However, you now have access to these from home, too. The Biodiversity Heritage Library is an online library that includes many of the great journals, magazines, and newsletters about botany, horticulture, zoology, and natural history. Now joining these illustrious ranks are Garden Notes and its predecessors.

Use your favorite search engine to find “BHL” and then enter in the prominent search box “NHS”. Select “Use our old search interface.” This will provide a link to issues of Garden Notes (published from 1993 to the present) and NHS News (1987-1992). Here you can find an article by Dan Hinkley on groundcovers, published in Spring 1993 when the Heronswood Nursery was just becoming known. In Winter 1995 there’s a feature on houseplants by Elvin McDonald, one of the most prolific and respected national garden writers of the latter half of the 20th century.

Going further back, more treasures await! Type into the BHL search box “Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society” (a bit cumbersome, I know, but this is the earlier name of the society). Now you’ll have links to Horticulture Northwest (1977-1986) and the NOHS newsletter (1974-1976). Several famous names contributed to these titles, including Carl English, Art Kruckeberg, and Elisabeth “Betty” Miller – all who have well-known local gardens named after them (and one important library).

One of my favorites is Betty Miller’s history of the NOHS published in the summer of 1982. She begins by recognizing that “The Pacific Northwest urban and suburban areas are well known for their rare scenic beauty. But the pressures of urbanization threaten. Horticulture is one of the sciences best able to influence the urban environment.” She continues by describing the society’s role in this work – words that are still relevant today.

Enhancements are coming to BHL, including searching on keywords by author or plant names. This project was funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Future issues of Garden Notes will be scanned and added, a year after publication. ∞

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

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S PLAYGARDEN

By Liz Bullard



ON ANY GIVEN DAY at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden you will find children of all abilities picking berries. Some make it into the kitchen to be made into pie or jam. Some get squished into ink or added to a warm cup of lemonade. But most are eaten right then and there. The Seattle Children's PlayGarden is deeply grateful to the Northwest Horticultural Society for their ongoing support of Seattle's only children's garden designed specifically for children with disabilities. Through the generosity of NHS our one acre site is an urban oasis of gardens. Many parks and playgrounds are ADA accessible, but beyond a cut in the sidewalk for wheelchairs and occasionally a special widened swing for children with challenges, that's all they offer. Our PlayGarden strives to be an open, accessible, magical place that welcomes children into activities that spark their imagination and creativity and beckons them to a place that inspires a love of the natural world.

For ten years NHS has been there for our children and families by providing summer camp scholarships for children, financial support for our annual fundraising luncheon, providing funding to restore trampled areas, to help replace injured plants and to add exciting new elements to the PlayGarden.

In 2017 NHS awarded the PlayGarden a \$5,000 grant to renovate the two important PlayGarden features: a 110-foot topiary English laurel hedge affectionately known as the "Very Hungry Caterpillar" and a long bed of raspberries. Both elements are beloved and functional. The laurel hedge not only provides a much needed buffer from the street it is also the site of hide-and-go-seek games and adds playful whimsy. The berries connect children young and old to the earth's gifts with immediacy like few other plants, and the rich sensory experience of berry picking is available to all children.

Our dear caterpillar, however, towered above the site to the extent that we were not able to maintain it, and our raspberry gardens needed serious renovation and a permanent durable trellis that could hold up to many young climbers. Work on the berry garden began in the winter of last year. The existing plant material in the raspberry border was dug out and the space was enclosed with bamboo barrier. The area was thoroughly cleaned, and the soil was amended and planted with *Rubus* 'Vintage' (Vintage red raspberry). The new trellises are installed and they look fantastic! They are made of 4" round posts treated with non-toxic Valhalla

LifeTime Wood Treatment and galvanized wires that match the three trellis playhouses that were designed by Wendy Welch and Rick Knight. The deep pruning of our beloved caterpillar hedge is complete and brought it down to a manageable size making ongoing maintenance much easier. The reduced height will also make the hedge more accessible to the children. Once again they will be able to decorate the caterpillar with dahlia eyes and allium antennae.

Even after a reduction in size, the no name caterpillar will need regular work. While we have hoped a company with the equipment to maintain her would adopt her and provide ongoing maintenance, she is still looking for a patron. Should such a kind person read this we will happily offer naming rights and a commemorative plaque in thanks.

A grand opening celebration was held on June 23rd, but the true celebration took place the following week when summer camp began and the kids arrived to the promise of berries galore and their old friend back to a playful size.

From a PlayGarden Parent:

"My son, Luca has arthrogryposis. This means he was born with contractures in his arms and legs due to very low muscle tone. When we learned of the PlayGarden we were elated to

not only find a place that would accommodate Luca, but was created specifically for kids like him, to integrate with typical kids.

The PlayGarden has opened up a whole world for him, literally! He can play there in a way he has never played before. The teachers allow him to dig, create, interact with his peers, learn, and grow in a way that we believe is meaningful and exceptional. I remember the first time I dropped Luca off at the PlayGarden. I was nervous and worried to leave him wondering if he would fall or be ok. I will never forget picking Luca up after the morning. He was sitting in a wheelbarrow laughing with mud all over his face having the time of his life. I knew from that moment that he was going to have a fantastic year! "☺

Liz Bullard is Founder & Executive Director of Seattle Children's PlayGarden



Thank you to our patrons. The Wednesday Evening Lecture Series would not be possible without the tremendous support of our patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide an outstanding educational program for Northwest gardeners.

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Deborah Riehl
Pat Riehl
Elizabeth Rodgers
Nita Jo & Randy Rountree
Marilou Rush
Susan Ryan
Jean Savory
Canan Savrun
Seattle Garden Club
Cassidy C Shamseldin
Zizi Shaver
Rosemary C Sheffield
Lynn R Shemanski
Heidi Skievaski &
Krissie Maybay
Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson
Florence Stiles
Philip R Stoller
Nancy Strahle
Charles Symens
Walter Thompson
Sue Tong
Shelagh Tucker
Toni Tully
Cathy Van Dyke
Eileen Van Schaik &
Paul Soreff
Christopher R Strader
Jennifer Veninga
Ralene Walls
Windy Walker
Jameson D Wallien
Margaret Watson
Jean Weaver
Marie Weiler
Cora B Wells
Jackie White
Joanne White
Cindy Widmaier
Madeline Wilde
Jenny Wilkson
Sherri Wilson
Withey Price Landscape &
Design LLC
John A Wott
Ann Wyckoff



Eryngium planum 'Jade Frost'



President's Message

I received an early taste of summer during a visit to the Birmingham Botanical Garden in mid-May. Arriving during an unseasonably hot spell in the upper 80's to mid-90's, it compelled many early summer flowers into premature bloom, but also caused the flowers of the rose garden to quickly wither away. A highlight was the fern glade in the Garden. The ferns in the glade were lush and beautiful. It was surprising to see how many different types of ferns will tolerate our cool summers as well as Birmingham's hot humid weather.

One of the highlights of the trip was seeing *Hydrangea quercifolia*, the oakleaf hydrangea, in full bloom in the wild. While driving around it was not uncommon to see drifts of flowering hydrangeas along the country roads. An added treat was visiting the Aldridge Gardens in the nearby city of Hoover. This is the former home of Eddie Aldridge, a talented nurseryman and the person responsible for the introduction of several oakleaf hydrangea cultivars including the extremely beautiful double-flowered cultivar 'Snowflake'. Although this selection is difficult to find in nurseries now, I very much enjoy seeing our established plant flower at the Miller Garden and now it will always remind me of my trip to Alabama.

The memories of garden visits are one of the things I most enjoy about horticulture. Seeing other gardens gives you ideas on design, planting combinations and is just plain good fun. Make sure to mark your calendars for the annual Meet the Board Tour in early August. The gardens of some of our board members as well as advisory board members will be open for the tour and each garden will have NHS board members on hand to help answer questions. This annual event is always popular and you will find more information about the participants in this issue of *Garden Notes*. ☺

All the best,
Richie Steffen, NHS President

FALL PLANT SALE

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL PLANT SALE on **Friday, September 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, at the Center for Urban Horticulture. In addition to being a fantastic place to get cool plants, proceeds from the sale benefit the NHS education program and the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. Take advantage of the autumn and winter rains for your newly purchased plants to establish much easier!

Come enjoy the wonderful selection of plants for sale. Those of you who have attended the sale in the past know what a feat it is to bring together this exceptional plant selection from local specialty nurseries. The plant sale committee is already hard at work to make this happen and will be looking for volunteers to work at the sale.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting fall event!

EVENTS

July 17, 2018

Shade Garden Workshop

Old Goat Farm

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

July 13-22, 2018

Tour – Classic & Contemporary Gardens of England

July 26, 2018

Berkeley Park Wildflower Hike

Daniel Mount

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

August 12, 2018

Meet the Board Tour

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

September 7, 2018

Fall Plant Sale

CUH

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

September 13, 2018

Elisabeth C. Miller Lecture

Panayoti Kelaidis


Meany Hall, University of Washington

7:00 PM



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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The pride of my heart and the delight of my eye is my garden. Our house, which is in dimensions very much like a bird-cage, and might, with almost equal convenience, be laid on a shelf, or hung up in a tree, would be utterly unbearable in warm weather, were it not that we have a retreat out of doors.

— Mary Russell Mitford, *Our Village*, 1832

Hydrangea macrophylla
'Merritt's Supreme'
Photo by Richie Steffen