



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes
WINTER 2019



Wollemia nobilis
Photo by Richie Steffen

2019 Spring Symposium

DESIGNING FOR THE SEASONS

Color, Beauty and
Sustainability
throughout the Year

Words and photos by Richie Steffen

OUR UNIQUE CLIMATE allows us to enjoy each season to its fullest. Our long summer days provide for lush and beautiful plantings giving intense displays of floral delight. The fluctuating weather and cool temperatures of autumn trigger brilliant displays of fall color and bright fruits. Winter brings our garden's structure to the forefront followed by a nearly unending spring full of freshness and flowers. This year's symposium will once again join the Great Plant Picks educational program in celebrating a garden that shines all year long. Each of our speakers will highlight the sophisticated palette of plants available to gardeners in the Pacific Northwest and provide ideas and tips on using them successfully for a garden of beauty and color in every season.

Pulling experts from the Northwest and abroad, this symposium integrates our nationally recognized local talents with cutting-edge ecological approaches and innovative designs changing the landscapes of our country and world. Lucy Hardiman, owner and principle of Perennial Partners, based in Portland, Oregon, is a renowned designer, writer and lecturer. Her lecture, titled *A Garden for All Seasons: Planting for Seasonal Transitions*, challenges our traditional views of seasons and reveals a palette of plants that broadens the enjoyment of our garden throughout the year. Lucy remarks, "Seasonal flow creates rhythm and continuity in our gardens. We tend to think of the seasons as four finite periods of time; but, in reality, seasonal shifts are more subtle than astronomical or meteorological dates indicate. Looking at nature's



Dazzling Spring



Shimmering Summer



Blazing Autumn

cadence of ebb and flow offers more options for orchestrating gardens that excite your senses every day of the year.”

Claudia West is a principal partner at Phyto Studio, a landscape architecture firm, and she rocketed to fame with the publishing of her book *Planting in a Post-Wild World*. Celebrating the idea that our gardens are part of the greater ecology, we can and should develop our gardens with an eye toward providing habitat and developing diversity while also creating a beautiful landscape. Claudia’s lecture, titled *The Landscape’s Color Spectrum: Applying Natural Color Theory to Enhance Design*, focuses on our definition of beauty and harmony that is deeply rooted in the natural world and the landscapes we evolved in. Interpreting Bertolt Hering’s research on seasonal color changes in modern European landscapes, she applies these principles to the American landscape. By studying the native plant communities, Claudia explores the fascinating color ranges found within these ecosystems. Her embrace of the Swedish Natural Color System provides a tool for analyzing the color layers of native plant communities as defined in the spectrum of natural green. In addition, the lecture will showcase implementing the design principles of color and texture leading to more color sensitive designs. Planning, based on plant communities leading to more harmonious and balanced landscapes, creates spaces with ecological value and biodiversity.

NHS board member Sue Goetz, owner of The Creative Gardener, states “A landscape becomes so much more when a design is infused into it. It becomes more than just a place to put

plants or the mechanics. It’s the love of the design, garden décor and creativity.” Sue will lecture on one of the most challenging

aspects of a year-round garden, creating beauty in winter. Her lecture, *Landscape Design for Winter Color and Beauty*, captures the stark beauty of branching, bark and berries. Sue explores the elusive blooms that can be found during the gray wet weather. Sharing her design tips and plant picks for a beautiful winter garden, she will explore the added interest of silhouettes, texture and color from late fall to early spring.

We are pleased to have ecologist, designer and University of Sheffield professor Nigel Dunnett presenting *High-Impact, Low-Input Planting: Creating Beautiful and Sustainable Landscapes with Designed Plant Communities*. His innovative approach to the landscape relies on plants not only looking beautiful but fulfilling a functional role in the garden and ecosystem. Nigel dazzled NHS members who visited some of his projects during the 2018 England tour and this is a wonderful opportunity for more members to be inspired by his work.

We are grateful to the Pendleton and Elisabeth C. Miller Charitable Foundation board of directors for their generous grant which underwrites the cost of this symposium.

We are also excited to once again have the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and the Great Plant Picks plant education program as a co-sponsor of this event. ☺

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and NHS past president.

2019 Spring Symposium

DESIGNING FOR THE SEASONS

SPEAKERS
Nigel Dunnett
Sue Goetz
Lucy Hardiman
Claudia West

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Bastyr University Auditorium
14500 Juanita Drive Northeast
Kenmore, Wash. 98028

Members: \$85.00
Non-Members \$105.00

Discount if paid by February 15, 2019
Members: \$75.00
Non-Members \$95.00

To register: www.northwesthort.org
Email: info@northwesthort.org

2019 TOURS

Looking Back & Forward



Broughton Grange gardens in Oxfordshire, England

2018 WAS AN OUTSTANDING YEAR for NHS tours. Our day tours took us to an insider's view of the Amazon Spheres, private gardens and Far Reaches Nursery in Port Townsend, two personally guided tours of Heronswood and Windcliff with Dan Hinkley, and a visit to the

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and PowellsWood in Federal Way.

Farther from home, we visited classic and contemporary gardens in the United Kingdom and experienced southern hospitality and hurricane warnings in North

Carolina. In July we headed to England with Tom Hobbs for nine packed days visiting gardens from the most historic, Stowe & Rousham, to a look at the future of landscape planting at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and The Barbican with Nigel Dunnett, Professor in the



NHS Tour Group at Great Dixter in East Sussex, England

Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield. (Note: Nigel will be one of the speakers at the upcoming NHS March 2019 Symposium.) In between we visited some of England's most innovative and iconic gardens including Broughton Grange, Bury Court, Hidcote, Kitfgate, Gravetye Manor, The Old Rectory at Naunton (Dan Pearson) and a memorable evening with Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter.

The North Carolina tour in October started with a storm-watch as Hurricane Michael moved up the coast to the Carolinas. The storm passed through Raleigh the day before the tour was to begin and the next day was gorgeous with blue skies for our visit to the JC Raulston Arboretum. Tour highlights included: a visit to Plant Delights Nursery, a personal tour with Tony Avent of the Juniper Level Botanic Garden and an opportunity to shop in the nursery, meeting Nancy Goodwin who showed us the iconic gardens she created at Montrose, a day at Biltmore Estate in Asheville touring the gardens as well as the house (mansion!) with an estate gardener and an awesome private garden atop a

mountain with an incredible view in the Smokies. The tour showcased Southern hospitality at its best.



The Spheres at Amazon headquarters, Seattle, Washington

Looking forward to 2019, Richie Steffen and Susan Picquelle are leading a sold-out tour of New Zealand's North and South islands this month. We look forward to a future Garden Notes article about this tour. s

Also in the works for the coming year: an October tour of Austin, Texas gardens and a summer tour to Quebec and Montreal that will include a visit to Les Quatre Vents, the garden created by Garden Conservancy founder Frank Cabot.

The tour committee will meet early in 2019 to organize our roster of local tours. We welcome any ideas from members for future tours. ☺

The NHS Tour Committee is a sub-committee of the Education Committee chaired by Richie Steffen. Gillian Mathews and Renee Montgelas co-chair the Tour Committee, with members Dominique Emerson, Susan Picquelle, Eve Rickenbaker, and Eileen Van Schaik.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Words by Daniel Mount

Hyacinthoides × massartiana – Wikipedia Commons

BEHIND MY FIRST APARTMENT in Seattle some bulbs grew between the bricks of the building and the tarmac of the alley. “Bluebells,” my roommate corrected emphatically, when I called them hyacinths. “English bluebells,” he emphasized, becoming an expert on alley flora before my eyes. With a whiff I detected no hyacinthine fragrance. He was right; they weren’t hyacinths.

But they weren’t the bluebells I knew either. My bluebells are in the borage family and are one of the glories of the ephemeral spring flora on the other side of this continent. To be more spe-

cific my bluebells are Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, and those alley bulbs are in the genus *Hyacinthoides*, bluebells from Europe.

Hyacinthoides, a name Anna Pavrod says “sounds more like an affliction than a flower,” was first coined in 1732 by the German surgeon Lorenz Heister. Less than a decade later Linneaus included this small enigmatic genus of about 10 species and one hybrid within the genus *Hyacinthus*, the true hyacinths. *Hyacinthoides* went on to be included in the genus *Scilla*, and the

now obsolete *Endymion*, in what was considered a “chequered taxonomic history,” until becoming *Hyacinthoides* again in 1996. The “-oides” at the end of *Hyacinth-*, or any plant name for that matter, means “resembles.” If those English bluebells were hyacinth-like enough to confuse Linneaus, then my own alley assessment was not far off the mark.

The genus *Hyacinthoides* is composed of maritime bulbs with a general distribution around the Mediterranean. The three most common species in the genus are *H. hispanica*, obviously from Spain, but also farther afield like Portugal and North Africa; *H. italica*, found beyond the Italian peninsula into southern France and even Spain and Portugal; and *H. non-scripta*, (English bluebells) whose specific epithet (species name) means “without stripes”—leading one to think that the other species in the genus might have striped petals—is from northwestern Europe and the British Isles. German Zoologist Michael Ohl warns in *The Art of Naming*, “A species name is not expected to relay information about the species. It is irrelevant to the function of species names as basic linguistic labels, then, how a species is recognized, where it can be found, how it lives, and even whether the majority of researchers agree it’s actually a species.”

Now we are in troubling waters.

We may as well call our bluebells, *Bob Smith*.

Anna Pavord, along with many English gardeners, waxes rhapsodic about the fragrance of the English bluebell, but my little hyacinth-like discovery had no fragrance, a trait attributed to

Spanish bluebells (*H. hispanica*). So, are our Northwest bluebells English or Spanish? As it turns out they are something in between. *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*, named after Belgian botanist Jean Massart, is a hybrid of the two and, as a hybrid, has a vigor that many of you know is hard to expel from the garden.

It was only officially given its name in 1997. So, what do we call our hybrid bluebells? Spanglish bluebells?

Or, can we call them Northwest bluebells?

There is already a host of native bluebells in our Northwest flora. Fourteen species of *Mertensia* grow in the mountains around here. You can see Oregon bluebells, Idaho bluebells, tall bluebells and western bluebells within a daytrip from Seattle.

What are we to do?

Will you or I start calling bluebells, *Hyacinthoides*? What a cumbersome and ugly name, as Pavord would have it.

I’ve been calling those prolific, yet endearing, blue hyacinth-like bulbs “bluebells” since that day in the alley behind my Eastlake apartment.

And my beloved Virginia bluebells?

Now, I call them *Mertensia*. ∞

Daniel Mount is a former NHS board member and a frequent contributor to GardenNotes and other publications. You can read his blog at mountgardens.com.



Hyacinthoides non-scripta – Wikipedia Commons



Mertensia virginica – Wikipedia Commons

DISCOVERING THE WINTER GARDEN

Words & Images by Sue Goetz

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE GARDEN in winter? Some say they are grateful for the time off, while others find discovering the winter garden as captivating as any other time of year. There is a place for both types of gardeners – the ones who hibernate and dream for next year and those who pull on the wellies and muck about.

Inside gardeners turn their thoughts to the next season. Bulbs are buried in anticipation of spring. Seed collections fill tiny envelopes. Picture highlights from NHS tours and lecture notes create inspiration for next season. Seed catalogs tabbed with sticky notes are piling up. The planning and dreams of projects and hopeful plantings add another aspect to the winter

garden. Not many passions or professions keep our thinking into the next season with such anticipation.

Outside gardeners love plants that reveal their structure as well as winter bloomers that delight with their audacity to show color against a gray sky. Birds create music as they rustle through leaves on

Camellia 'Showa No Sakae' in snow





Frosty contorted filbert

Beautyberry and maiden grass

the ground and make social visits to feeders. Signs of renewal are concealed as leaf mould begins a cycle of soil building while adding frost protection to the top of dormant perennials.

A good garden design does not show bias to a season. Enhance the garden in the winter with plants that come out to play in the chill of the year. Look for trees with colorful bark like orange bark stewartia (*Stewartia monadelphica*) and red bark vine maple (*Acer circinatum* 'Pacific Fire'). Beautiful bone structure is captured by leafless trees such as the papery brown curls on the bark of paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*). Coral bark maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku') shows its common namesake with colored branches that get a deeper hue as temperatures drop. Plants with variegated, silver or blue foliage like blue ice Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica* 'Blue Ice') capture light and shimmer in frosts. The naked, colorful branches of shrubby dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) such as 'Midwinter Fire' creates thickets of color in mixed borders. Don't forget nature's jewelers, the berry-producing plants, like Golden Raindrops crabapple (*Malus transitoria* 'Schmidcutleaf' GOLDEN RAINDROPS™) or profusion beautyberry (*Callicarpa bodinieri* var. *giraldii* 'Profusion'). Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') drips with

yellow catkins in late winter showing its true contorted quality when the leaves are gone.

Inside out. Look at your vantage point to the garden from the inside, especially the places you sit looking out a window on chilly winter days. Strategically design outside spaces that will be visual from all views, including the inside. Try the silhouette of a tree as a focal point, the show of flowers from a witch hazel (*Hamamelis* sp.) or *Camellia sasanqua* in bloom. Place bird feeders to encourage winter feeding activity or a mass planting of hellebores that will unfurl their winter blooms under a leafless tree. Dream and discover the garden in another season.

Join us at the NHS symposium *Designing for the Seasons: Color, Beauty, and Sustainability Throughout the Year*.
March 23rd, 2019. ☺

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

EVENTS

March 2, 2019

Spring Ephemeral Plant Sale
Center for Urban Horticulture
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March 13, 2019

Creating Sanctuary: Sacred Garden Spaces, Plant-Based Medicine
Daily Practices to Achieve Happiness and Well-Being
Jessi Bloom
CUH Lecture 7:15 p.m.
Reception 6:45 p.m.

March 23, 2019

Spring Symposium
Designing for the Seasons
Bastyr University Auditorium
8:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April 10, 2019

Heronwood: Past, Present, & Future
Nathan Lamb
CUH Lecture 7:15 p.m.
Reception 6:45 p.m.



JUNIPERS

Finding Swans Among the Ugly Ducklings

Words and photos by Richie Steffen (unless otherwise noted)

Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka'

JUNIPERS ARE A FAVORITE PLANT TO SCORN in the Pacific Northwest. They can be prickly, sprawling and if pruned improperly, can reveal gaping holes that showcase a wealth of dead, brown coniferous foliage; removing this debris rates as one of the least favorite garden cleaning jobs. Some of this disdain is well placed. Many junipers grow too large or succumb to an array of diseases brought about from our extended rainy season and cool weather. This is compounded by the misguided notion of what most Northwesterners think of as full sun which is vastly lacking from the true amount of sunlight most junipers need (close to 8 hours of direct sun). A juniper grown in shade or partial shade often only accentuates the characteristics we dislike about these plants.

Even though many junipers do not grow well in the Northwest there are several species and cultivars that will not only endure here but thrive, becoming beautiful additions to the garden. One of the most prized attributes about these conifers is their ability to survive in lean growing conditions. Although most junipers require excellent drainage, they will tolerate sandy or rocky, poor

soil and are completely drought tolerant once established. These are pioneer plants that often grow best with neglect.

Two common junipers that are excellent for our Northwest gardens, if sited well, are *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star' and *Juniperus chinensis* 'Kaizuka' (also sold under an older name: 'Torulosa'). *J. squamata* 'Blue Star', the Blue Star juniper, forms very compact, tight mounds of blue-green prickly foliage. Over time these dense mounds form an interesting, irregular shape that I find attractive, although others have referred to it as resembling the droppings of Babe the Blue Ox! Even though it is a solid plant for the garden, it is often disregarded due to its overuse in commercial landscapes and parking lots. When it first became available in the Northwest Mrs. Miller procured a small plant for her garden. This quite mature plant at the Miller Garden is now growing in too much shade, but in over 30 years of growing it is under 24 inches tall and a little over 3 feet in spread.

Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka', easily recognized by its common name of Hollywood juniper, is a work of sculptural beauty as



Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star'



Juniperus maritima – Wikipedia Commons

it matures. This large growing juniper can reach 15 feet tall in ten years and old specimens can grow well over 20 feet tall. Lacking a straight trunk and often branched low to the ground, the Hollywood juniper's main limbs extend at upright angles to form a twisted, irregular spiraling framework with muscular trunks of both smooth and flaky chestnut red bark. Many old specimens dot Puget Sound gardens adding a lovely windswept appearance to the landscape. It can be pruned and shaped but requires a knowledgeable hand with a long-term vision so as not to destroy its natural beauty. One of the reasons for Kaizuka's popularity is that the foliage will mature at a young age from the prickly awl-like juvenile leaves to the smooth touchable adult scale-like foliage. Well established specimens will also produce bright powder blue "berries" in late summer that will remain through the winter. These make long lasting decorative elements during the holiday season.

Three other junipers that are occasionally available in nurseries are *Juniperus chinensis* 'Shimpaku',

Juniperus × pfitzeriana 'Daub's Frosted' and *Juniperus communis* 'Compressa' (pencil point juniper). *J. chinensis* 'Shimpaku' has long been popular with bonsai enthusiasts. Producing mostly smooth, scaly adult foliage, it is much more pleasant to work with than most other junipers and lends an air of maturity to young bonsai. In the landscape this conifer is characterized by its deep dark green foliage with a slight bluish tint and a unique habit of branching at 45-degree angles from the ground. Established plantings have an upright, vase-shaped branching habit along

with wide spreading growth. A ten-year old plant will be about 3 to 4 feet tall and about 5 to 6 feet wide. Mature shrubs can reach 5 to 6 feet tall with a spread of 8 to 10 feet; therefore, be sure to provide enough room for it to grow. A slightly smaller version that is equally as wide is the golden form, 'Shimpaku Gold', which matures to about 4 feet tall. A new cultivar 'Golden Joy' is supposed to have brighter yellow foliage but is still very limited in its availability.

A beautiful variegated juniper is *Juniperus × pfitzeriana* 'Daub's Frosted'. I overlooked this plant for years, giving it my best disdainful junipers snub until a dear friend on Whidbey Island pointed it out in her garden and commented on how well it performed. Her keen sense of beauty definitely opened my eyes

to its appeal and usefulness! This slow and low grower has striking creamy yellow new growth that matures to a strong blue-green frosted pale yellow. This selection maintains its awl-like juvenile foliage giving the shrub a fluffy, full

appearance. Reaching about 24 to 30 inches tall in ten years, it will spread to about 4 to 5 feet.

Rock gardeners have long known the virtues of *Juniperus communis* 'Compressa', the pencil point juniper. This slow growing, very compact columnar cone has served as the exclamation point of many an alpine garden. When grown in full sun and with little fertilizer, the dense tight growth is resistant to splitting and breaking in our wet heavy snow. Interestingly, it is a selection of



Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka'



Juniperus morrisonicola



Juniperus recurva var. *coxii*



Juniperus maritima berries – Wikipedia Commons



Juniperus squamata 'Meyeri' – Wikipedia Commons

the circumboreal common juniper, *Juniperus communis* and is remarkably cold tolerant, being hardy to USDA zone 2 (-50° F to -40° F). Expect this evergreen to reach about 3 to 4 feet tall and about 12 to 15 inches wide in ten years.

I have always been partial to upright, weeping conifers, and there are a few beautiful junipers that fall into this category. One of the most common and widely available is *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Tolleson's Weeping Blue.' Although this is an alluring choice, it rarely matures to a graceful specimen in the Northwest. It demands exceptional drainage, no shade, can suffer from root rot during prolonged winter rains and can split and break in snow and ice. A better choice is *Juniperus recurva* var. *coxii*, the Himalayan juniper. This species grows with a strong, straight leader with spreading side branches that gracefully weep at the tips. The foliage is deep green and contrasts nicely with the shaggy shredded bark on the main trunk and larger branches. This is also a juniper that will grow well with regular summer watering. In its native habitat it receives regular summer rains, making it a suitable companion for many of our other common garden plants.

Several years ago, I encountered another upright, weeping juniper in the Washington Park Arboretum, *Juniperus morrisonicola*. This striking beauty is very rare and the only plants I have seen are a group of specimens in the WPA Pinetum section. Similar in appearance to the Himalayan juniper, it seems to maintain a fuller habit with the same spreading branches with drooping tips. Fortunately, I begged a few cuttings a few years ago and now have a couple of small plants at the Miller Garden.

The last two junipers that I find interesting do fit into the category of ugly ducklings. I appreciate them for their origins and history rather than their beauty in the landscape. The first of these is a rather common plant in older landscapes, *Juniperus squamata* 'Meyeri' (Meyer's flakey juniper or Meyer's scaly juniper). This large, robust grower becomes a wide spreading shrub with wild irregular branches and attractive deep blue green needles that are prickly to the touch. Over time the foliage

forms masses of brown detritus that lodge in the interior. What intrigues me about this plant is that it was introduced into cultivation by one of North America's greatest plant collectors, Frank Meyer (1875-1918). Largely forgotten by gardeners and horticulturists, Frank Meyer was responsible for introducing 2,500 plants including many agricultural crops that transformed the farming industry (*Citrus × meyeri*, or Meyer's lemon, is named after him). This juniper was collected from a temple in China and proved to be a popular and hardy garden plant for decades after its introduction.

The other less than glamorous, but intriguing in its history juniper, is the extremely rare native *Juniperus maritima*, the seaside juniper. A relic population, seaside juniper only occurs around Puget Sound and the Salish Sea as well as along dry mountain ridges on the Olympic Peninsula. Closely related to the Rocky Mountain juniper, *Juniperus scopulorum*, the seaside juniper prefers a location near water, but with gravely, sandy soil in dryer locations. It is an upright grower with an irregular form with forest green foliage. It will never win a beauty contest, but it is one of the rarest conifers in the world.

Here's your chance to shake off your disdain for these interesting conifers and try one (or more!) in a sunny, dry spot in your garden. We can all be surprised by the beauty and resilience of a plant we often consider pedestrian and ordinary. ☺

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and NHS past president.

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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Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'

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LITERARY NOTES

from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

THE BOOK *HEIRLOOM VEGETABLE GARDENING* was a classic almost from the moment it was published in 1997. The author, William Woys Weaver, is a rare scholar of the kitchen garden with a PhD in food ethnography, or the study of cultural eating habits.

Weaver easily could have written a pompous tome. Fortunately, he is a skilled writer and hands-on gardener (and cook, too) who combines dry wit with both practical and historical information. I am not an extensive vegetable gardener, but his stories are compelling and I happily read the encyclopedia of recommended varieties from cover-to-cover.

If you do grow your own vegetables and enjoy experimenting, this book is an investment that will pay in long-term dividends. Now there is a new (2018) edition. While much of the descriptive material and selection of the varieties is the same as the original, there are minor updates and additions. Both editions are available from the Miller Library.

The author is especially interested in how certain foods have connected different cultures. For example, I learned that lima beans are well named, originating in Peru possibly 7,000 years ago and named in English after that country's capital city. The Spanish occupiers observed that the indigenous people reserved the crop for the elite of their society.

Is that why the Spanish disseminated these delicious beans to the rest of the world? Perhaps. However, when Weaver was asked to cook a dinner of American foods by friends in Germany, he had trouble finding a source for lima beans. Northern Europeans have not embraced this food like Americans because they are a warm weather crop and don't thrive north of the Alps.

Weaver references many historical writings and includes a gigantic bibliography of cited sources in his appendices. Many are quite old (dating back to 1591) but still very useful for gardening tips, such as putting out whiskey to discourage crows from corn. "I would use the brand of corn whiskey called Rebel Yell. It seems to fit the remedy and evoke some of the sounds I now associate with the birds at the height of their raucous inebriation. Incidentally, it works." ☞

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

President's Message



Dear Garden Friends,

As I ramp up to serve my first term as NHS President and think back on all the inspiring activities we had this past year, I'm truly in awe of the interconnectedness of community, gardening, and the environment that our organization promotes.

Over the years we have been blessed with an amazing group of involved volunteers. Whether you have been a stalwart member for several decades or joined only recently, we couldn't do it without you! To all those who have helped with our plant sales, our nursery grower sponsors, garden hosts and owners who opened their own gardens for our hugely successful Meet the Board Tour as well as our volunteer Board members who help to run our organization – a big Thank You for your time, donations, and dedication. Moreover, please join me in expressing a special Thank You to our past president Richie Steffen who served our organization and led our board with great aplomb. Another highlight of the year was the insightful and inspiring November lecture by Dr. John Wott who was awarded a life-time NHS membership in recognition of his many years of service and support. Without all of these engaged community members

our organization would not flourish.

I was thrilled to be one of 30 members who joined the amazing and unforgettable NHS Classic and Contemporary Garden Tour of England in July. Once again the interconnectedness of our gardening community and culture came together in full force. Gillian Mathews and Renee Montgelas, Tour Committee chairs, Dan Hinkley and his worldwide gardening connections, and Thomas Hobbs with his witty and insightful garden commentary made this visit of many glorious gardens, horticulturists, and historical sites into a world class event. If you are able to join one of our NHS tours in the future, you will come home with a lifetime full of great memories, garden inspirations, and many new friendships.

By the time you receive this edition of Garden Notes, we will be past the winter solstice and our days will be getting longer again! This makes me look forward to the NHS Spring Symposium in March and an excellent lineup of speakers. This year's focus is beauty and sustainability. From local Northwest speakers Sue Goetz and Lucy Hardiman to visiting speakers Claudia West (Virginia) and Nigel Dunnett (UK), it's guaranteed to be a great learning opportunity for all of us.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am wishing you all a great start into 2019. Happy gardening! 🌿

Jason Jorgensen

NHS President

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Earth rings as if empty. We know it is not. There are swelling and thrusting of roots, seeds stirring, bright eyes about hoards—everyone is busy deep down.

— G.F. Dutton, Harvesting the Edge: Some Personal Explorations from a Marginal Garden (1995)

Crocus 'Goldilocks'
Photo by Richie Steffen