



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes
SUMMER 2021



Summer containers at
the Miller Garden
Photo by Richie Steffen



SENSORY ALCHEMY: PLANTING A GARDEN FOR THE FIVE SENSES

*Words and Images by Sue Goetz
(unless otherwise noted)*

THE GARDEN HAS TAKEN ON A NEW MEANING over the last year and has even coined the term “pandemic gardening.” Does it relate to the difference in how we gather and socially interact? Our surroundings and interaction are the landscape around our workspace and, for many of us, that is home.

As a garden designer, I often hear people say their garden is their therapy. After a long day, they will go outside and tend the garden until dark – with a flashlight, if needed! The influence of a garden on well-being is long studied. In almost every empire of the ancient world there was a “garden of paradise”, from writings in the Book of Genesis to the physic gardens of doctors and monasteries. Look up the word’s “paradise” or “Eden,” and you will find the word “garden” in the definition alongside terms that describe a happy or highly pleasing place.

The garden can be a powerful seductress that keeps us longing for the fragrance of flowers, the aroma of fresh-turned soil, fresh mint for tea, or a craving for a fresh-picked raspberry. Our senses are the physical means that tell the brain what we are seeing, smelling, and hearing. The gardener’s work is like an alchemist that mixes plants and other elements to stimulate the senses by planting touchable plants and edibles for flavor.

Left: Water feature for sound – courtesy Richie Steffen



Callicarpa bodinieri var. *giraldii* 'Profusion' – visual color

CAPTURING THE FIVE SENSES IN THE GARDEN

Sight

What the eye sees in a garden is the most common attraction to a sensory garden. Flowers tend to be the main enticement and the easiest choice to catch a gaze. Also, keep in mind that it is not just about the flowers. Light, dark, shadow, and color all become equal in creating visual beauty. Look beyond blooms and find the chance to use texture and dimension to create a garden of substance. Create visual interest by choosing plants with character. Look for textures like paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*), the intense purple berries on Profusion beautyberry (*Callicarpa bodinieri* var. *giraldii* 'Profusion'). Add color with striking stems and colorful foliage from Elegantissima red twig dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima'). Another essential element of a landscape is the focal point. The use of structure, artwork, sculpture, rock, or a specimen tree are tools to create a specific part of the garden meant to capture the eye.



Acer griseum – visual texture

Hearing

Nature herself needs no technical devices to create sound in the garden. Birds make a cacophony, water bubbles, and the wind rustles leaves. Encourage sounds by adding the elements that attract or create them. Bird-friendly plants include purple coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp. & cv.), sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), elderberry (*Sambucus* spp. & cv.), and our native evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*). Puddles and birdbaths play the sound of raindrops while giving birds some bath time and amusement. The soothing sound of water is created by adding a water feature to the landscape. Placement should be where the sound is pleasant and gently echoed through the garden, not overwhelming. Sometimes the surprise and simplicity of water overflowing pottery or a small rock feature bubbling water through river stone is all that is needed. The plants themselves also generate sound. Create organic sound by using ornamental grasses and bamboo that rustle in the wind. Encourage the gentle hum of insects by using plants that create a buzz with flowering and fragrant plants that attract bees to add



Echinacea spp. & cv. – pollinator sounds

humming sounds as they do nature’s work.

Taste

In history, the very beginnings of growing a garden were for food and medicine. Edible gardens are in vogue, and the availability of seeds and exciting plant varieties are abundant. Design is essential when working with edible plants. They will always be cut and harvested, thus planning for a year-round look is necessary. You don’t want your garden to look hacked all the time, but the harvest is the very thing you do in a flavorful garden. Start by drawing lines. Define a permanent framework of borders, beds, or fencing to allow plants to come and go without compromising the design. Container gardens placed in small spaces like a balcony or rooftop are abundant producers with compact growing varieties like *Vaccinium* ‘Sunshine Blue’, columnar apples and Tumbler patio tomato or the compact growing (but larger fruiting tomato) Tasmanian Chocolate.



Patio tomatoes – a taste of the garden

Touch

Watch a plant lover walk through the garden; they cannot resist the feel of lamb’s ear (*Stachys byzantina*) or running fingers through a *Carex* ‘Frosty Curls’. The mere sight of a gardener’s hands with dirt under their fingernails shows the value of touch in the garden. Other touchable plants include Corsican mint (*Mentha* spp.), and the tissue paper-like textures of statice (*Limonium sinuatum*) and globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*).

Spiky and spiny characteristics also find their way in this category. The bloodthorn rose (*Rosa omeiensis* f. *pteracantha*) is a prickly, visual beauty, and the luminous color of the thorn makes you want to touch it to see if it

is real. Another element is a natural stone like the organic feel of a gravel patio underfoot or a low garden seating wall of natural ledgerstone. Walk through a specialty stone yard to feel textures and become familiar with the beauty and feel of natural stone.



Stachys byzantina – foliage for a soft touch – courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Smell

There are many ways to captivate the senses in the garden, one of them being the sense of smell. It is not just earthy compost or fresh cut grass but planting and arranging varieties of plants to capture a garden of fragrances. The power of scent can bring back pleasant memories, relax, and uplift moods, which defines what “aromatherapy” really is. Most plants release their precious essential oils in heat and light, while some have the unique quality of releasing fragrances as the sun goes down. Planning a fragrant garden is much like mixing scents as a perfumer. Some aroma is heavy, while others may be lighter or linger longer. A bed with heliotrope (“*Heliotropium* cvs.) and sweet peas (*Lathyrus* cvs.) is an indescribable mix on a hot summer day. Other fragrant performers in the garden include varieties of lavender (*Lavendula* spp. & cv.), winter daphne (*Daphne odora*), roses (*Rosa* spp. & cv.), sweetbox (*Sarcococca* spp.), and peonies (*Paeonia* spp. & cv.). Place plants where they will give the most benefit. Fragrant gardens along pathways and entries will greet guests. Large puddles and clusters of delicate



Lavendula spp. & cv. for fragrance

fragrances will create a strong infusion in the area where they are planted. Add groupings near patios and outdoor living spaces. Container gardens filled with aroma add the sensory element to places where planting space is at a premium.

What is missing from your sensory garden? Do you have enough color? Close your eyes to find out what intrigues the remaining senses. What do you hear or smell? It helps to analyze the missing elements. You never know which one of your senses may be teased into starting the creative process in a garden.

For more help in choosing sensory plants, go to www.greatplantpicks.org for the helpful lists for dazzling foliage,

fragrant plants, and pollinator plant choices. ☺

Sue Goetz, CPH, eco-PRO, is a garden designer, speaker, author, and NHS board member. www.SueGoetz.com

MICROSCOPIC WORM THAT LIQUEFIES SLUGS MAY BE ANSWER TO CONTROLLING THIS INVASIVE PEST

By Kym Pokorny

Courtesy of Oregon State University – OSU Extension Service – Corvallis, Oregon

TWO OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS have discovered a microscopic soil-dwelling nematode on the Corvallis campus that could be an important tool against invasive slugs that cause billions of dollars a year in agricultural damage worldwide.

In Oregon at least half of the 20 top agricultural commodities suffer from slug damage, including the important grass seed industry with an estimated \$60 million in losses annually, according to Rory Mc Donnell, associate professor in crop and soil science in the College of Agricultural Sciences and slug specialist for OSU Extension Service. Although figures aren't available for the \$1 billion nursery industry, Oregon's top commodity, slugs and snails account for huge losses in that sector, as well, Mc Donnell said.

The parasitic nematode, *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita*, could decrease those losses significantly, said Dee Denver, professor and head of the OSU Department of Integrated Biology in the College of Science and a nematode specialist. It has been used in Europe as a bio-control product under the brand name Nemaslug for more than 25 years but is not registered in the U.S. by the Environmental Protection Agency.

“The thought process is that if it works in Europe and we find it here and it works here, it might be easier to get it registered by the EPA,” Mc Donnell said. “If we can provide evidence it's

native, that makes a strong case for developing it as a bio-control. But we want to make sure there are no effects on native slugs or snails. We don't want bio-control gone awry. That's very, very important.”

Growers rely on expensive chemicals to control slugs and only get 10% to 60% efficacy, according to Mc Donnell. The pesticides can have unintended effects on non-target organisms and can contaminate waterways.

“The damage they cause is a massive issue,” Mc Donnell said. “We surveyed 200 growers throughout the Willamette Valley to gather their opinion of controlling slugs with pesticide. We found only 30% said they were happy with the performance of chemicals.”

For three years, Mc Donnell, whose position was originally funded by the Oregon Legislature to find solutions to the state's slug problem, travelled Oregon hoping to find *P. hermaphrodita*. When he did, it was in his backyard – the OSU campus in Corvallis. The

discovery was the first in North America outside of California, where researchers at the University of California, Riverside, including Mc Donnell, found it in 2014.

Finding the nematode wasn't easy. There are thousands, if not millions, of nematode species, and comma-sized *P. hermaphrodita* is almost invisible to the untrained eye. To identify it, Denver,



Deroceras reticulatum (gray field slug) – courtesy Wikipedia Commons



Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita (parasitic nematode) – courtesy Wikipedia Commons

who is a nematode specialist, had to extract and sequence its DNA and compare it to a national repository.

To locate the nematode, Mc Donnell and his staff set and scouted traps at the edges of agricultural fields, looking for gray field slugs (*Deroceras reticulatum*) that may have succumbed to nematodes. The nematodes invade the slug through a hole at the back of its mantle – the saddle-shaped part at the front of the slug. Once inside, the nematode kills and feeds on the slug and reproduces at a fast rate – one nematode can produce thousands of offspring in a matter of one to two weeks. “When a slug is infested with nematodes, it liquifies,” Denver said. “You end up with a swarming pile of worms. It’s pretty gruesome.”

The gray field slug, which is the bane of home gardeners as well as agriculture, has invaded most of the world. It is the most important invasive slug species in agricultural production, Mc Donnell said. In Europe, *P. hermaphrodita* can reduce crop damage by slugs by up to 90%. Direct damage isn’t the only way *D. reticulatum* affects plants; it can be a vector for disease and also defecates and leaves slime trails, which reduces the quality of the crop.

As they continue to work on *P. hermaphrodita*, Denver and Mc Donnell are growing other species to determine genetic relationships and perhaps discover related nematodes that also have potential as bio-controls.

“Nematodes are abundant and diverse – there are millions of them in every aspect of the earth’s biosphere,” Denver said. “They are really understudied and, with Rory’s lab as one of a very few in North America devoted to slugs and snails, we’re in a good position to do this research.”

The results of their research have been published in the journals PLoS and Biological Control.

(Editor’s note: These can be found online at:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0237249> and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1049964420300098>)

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ASIAN DRYOPTERIS

A TREASURE TROVE FOR THE GARDEN

Words and images by Richie Steffen

Dryopteris erythrosora

THERE ARE ABOUT 350 DIFFERENT *DRYOPTERIS* SPECIES recognized in the world today. Commonly referred to as wood fern, buckler fern or male fern (although, the latter is generally used for *Dryopteris filix-mas*), this genus represents a very useful group of ferns that can thrive in our gardens.

The genus *Dryopteris* encompasses an extremely diverse looking group of ferns with incredible variation in the frond shapes and patterns. Yet, frustratingly, there are also species whose appearance is so similar to each other that it takes an expert and years of experience to confidently identify correctly. Adding to the dif-

faculties are species that will hybridize freely with other species, thus creating complicated hybrids with subtle differences from their parents and blurring the lines between species. Fortunately, there are a few traits that all *Dryopteris* share. First, on the underside of mature fronds there are small dots called sori which are the structures that hold the spore until it is ready to be released. All *Dryopteris* have “C” shaped or kidney shaped sori. Another trait all *Dryopteris* share is a prominent groove that runs down the main stem (rachis) of the frond. As well, this groove often runs along the mid-rib of the leaflets which are attached to the rachis. This groove feature is also shared by *Athyrium*, lady ferns. An easy way to tell the two apart is that *Dryopteris* also have tan, brown or black hair-like scales along the stem and are mostly evergreen, while lady ferns are at best lightly scaled and deciduous.

Within Washington State, we have five native species, *D. arguta*, *D. carthusiana*, *D. cristata*, *D. expansa* and *D. filix-mas* but only *Dryopteris expansa* is commonly encountered in the garden or in the wild. *Dryopteris filix-mas* is a common garden fern for our region, but these are usually of European origin and typically found as cultivars that date back to the Victorian Era. With nearly 350 species worldwide, you would think there would be more than 50 or 60 species in cultivation; but after years of collecting, my personal collection barely breaks 30 species. I think one would need to be very well-connected and dedicated to have a *Dryopteris* species collection that is close to 50 species. There are, however, many cultivars and with a little effort, perseverance and a handy credit card one could acquire a few dozen named cultivars with some internet searching.

Where this genus truly shines is with the Asian species. A great diversity resides within *Dryopteris* from the Himalayas, Korea, Japan and China. China alone contains nearly 170 species. One

of the most widely available and grown *Dryopteris* is an Asian species, *Dryopteris erythrosora*, autumn fern. Native to Japan, China and Korea (both North and South) the botanical Latin name refers to the red sori (the spore holding dots) on the

underside of the frond, although this can vary from cultivar to cultivar. It is extremely hardy, tolerating cold or hot temperatures, clay to sandy soils and is fully evergreen. If that is not enough, the common name comes from the colorful new fronds in spring that emerge with a bright orange red color before maturing to a deep green. Well-grown autumn ferns in rich, regularly watered soil can reach nearly 3 feet tall, while those grown in less than ideal conditions will likely only reach 15 to 24 inches. Its adaptability makes it useful in container gardening as well as creating a stunning drift in the garden. The cultivar ‘Brilliance’ is the form most often offered now. It has brightly colored new growth, but lacks the characteristic red sori; instead, the sori are pale green to whitish in color. Another form occasionally seen is ‘Prolifera’. This slow-growing form should have thin, narrower leaflets that give the frond an unusual skeletal and lacey appearance. Under rare circumstances small proliferous buds will form on the edge of some of the leaves. ‘Prolifera’ seems to be a form that is found in the wild and may better be referred to as *Dryopteris erythrosora* var. *prolifera*.

There are other species from Asia with beautiful new growth. A choice species that was commonly available a few years ago is *Dryopteris koidzumiana*, Koidzumi’s wood fern, although it is not an easy fern to grow in our maritime climate. Nevertheless, when the foliage emerges in late spring through summer, the new growth

is spectacular, opening to a brilliant orange red then fading to bronze followed by dark green. Give this fern open bright shade to half day morning sun in good, well-drained soil. It will never be robust, but there are few ferns that can match its foliage color.



Dryopteris erythrosora ‘Brilliance’



Dryopteris koidzumiana

In our climate, Koidzumi's wood fern stays between 12 to 15 inches tall and forms a loose open clump. I would love to see if the growth is more vigorous in the hot humid southeastern states.

An easier fern to grow is *Dryopteris lepidopoda*, sunset fern. Selected as a Great Plant Pick, this vigorous grower forms a tight crown with an upright arching vase of fronds. The new fronds of this fern have the same bronzy orange red color of autumn fern but with a more refined growing habit. Once the new fronds mature they turn a beautiful deep dark green and reach 18 to 24 inches tall. Place this fern in good gardening conditions; it likes rich well-drained soil and regular watering during dry weather and open to dappled shade.

Another *Dryopteris* with eye-catching new growth is the rare and difficult to find *Dryopteris decipiens*, the deceptive wood fern. This slow-growing fern is more vigorous in areas with hot humid summers, but with patience, you will be rewarded in the

Pacific Northwest. The new fronds emerge a shocking peachy pink that fades to a bright green with shiny foliage. It tends to be smaller in our climate reaching 12 to 15 inches over several years. In warmer regions it can reach a robust 24 inches tall. It

is best grown in rich, well-drained soil in bright open shade to dappled light. Be sure to place this in a location where it will be watered regularly.

There are several excellent wood ferns for adding more structural foliage to the garden, and one of the most striking is *Dryopteris wallichiana*, Wallich's wood fern. Placement is critical in getting the most from this fern. The largest specimens are grown in rich, moist

soils with plenty of organic matter in dappled shade with regular summer watering. In these situations, plants can reach up to 5 feet in height with a tight upright vase-shaped form. In less than ideal conditions, the shape will be the same but it will grow to about 3 feet tall, a lovely Great Plant Picks selection.

If you need an upright habit but have a sunnier location, try



Dryopteris wallichiana

Dryopteris lepidopoda



Dryopteris decipiens



Dryopteris tokyoensis, Tokyo wood fern. It has an extremely upright growing habit with bright light green fronds up to 3 feet tall. This lovely fern is also a Great Plant Picks selection.

A favorite for an architectural look is *Dryopteris cycadina*, the shaggy shield fern. The common name refers to the profuse large blackish scales along the lower part of the frond's stem. This fern has bold foliage and makes a beautiful mound of forest green fronds about 24 inches tall and 36 inches wide. Provide well-drained soil in open to dappled shade. It is a gorgeous fern as it matures, and it should be no surprise that it is a Great Plant Picks selection.



Dryopteris cycadina

One of the best ferns for bold fronds is *Dryopteris seiboldii*, palm leaf fern. It is slow growing and prefers a hotter more humid climate to excel, but it will become a striking fern here, if given time. The large leaflets, coarse foliage pattern and pale green col-

oring make it stand out in the garden, best when grown in rich well-drained soil with regular watering during dry weather. This fern must have shade and do not cut back until the new fronds have emerged and the old ones have turned brown.

Of course, there are many more *Dryopteris* that make great garden plants, but these are some of the most beautiful and remarkable choices. To find out more about these ferns and some of the other *Dryopteris* that are available, check out the Great Plant Picks website (www.greatplantpicks.org) and the Hardy Fern Foundation website (www.hardyferns.org). Try a few of these out if you are not growing them already and

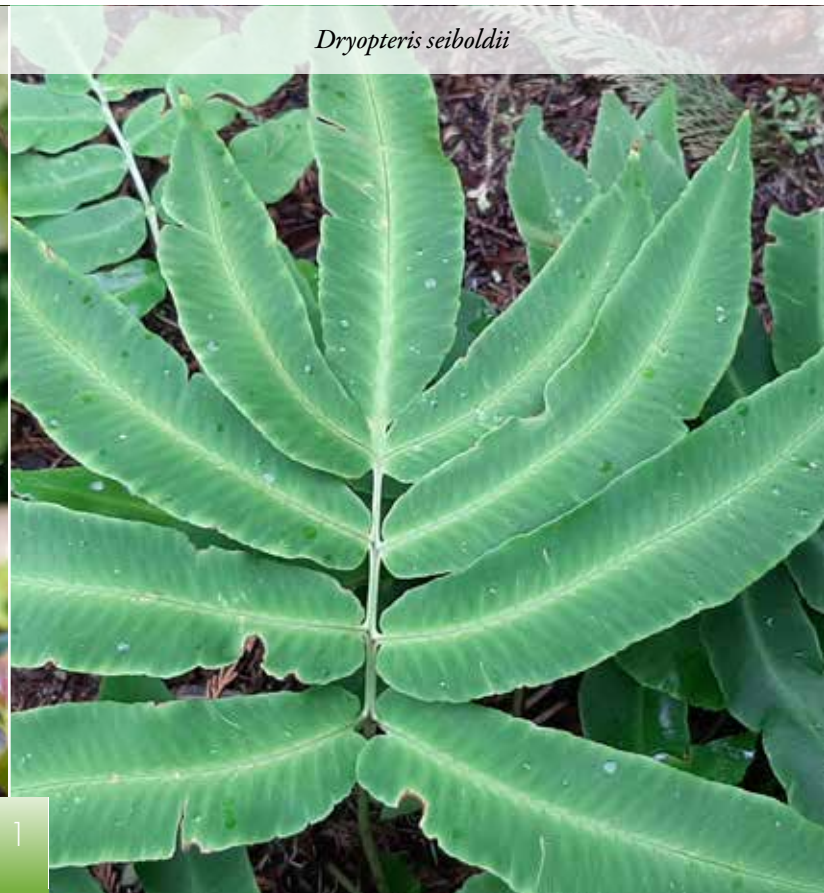
have fun in your shade garden through the summer! ☺

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

Dryopteris tokyoensis



Dryopteris seiboldii



26 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

by Richie Steffen

Elisabeth Carey Miller was the founding member of NHS. One of her primary goals of our society was to provide educational experiences for people who are interested in gardening and to encourage a tradition of gardening excellence in our region. In the early years, Mrs. Miller used her extensive connections and contacts to bring extraordinary horticulturists to Seattle to speak to the young and growing organization. When Mrs. Miller passed away in 1994, she left a legacy of continuing education through three of her passions: the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, the Elisabeth C. Miller Library and the Northwest Horticultural Society. Each of these organizations is dedicated to providing the gardening public with educational opportunities.



Dan Pearson (Image by Huw Morgan)

In 1995 the board of trustees of the Miller Garden and the Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation encouraged the staff of the Miller Garden to create an annual memorial lecture celebrating Betty Miller's legacy and soon after NHS and the Miller Library became co-sponsors of this event. This year we will be virtual with Dan Pearson, noted British landscape designer, horticulturalist, writer and gardener, presenting a lecture with some of his amazing design projects. The lecture will be given live on Saturday, September 18th at 10:00am (PDT).

Dan Pearson's designs capture the interconnected relationships between nature and the way people interact with outdoor spaces. They show a deep understanding of plant ecology and inspire an appreciation for natural landscapes. He has received numerous accolades including Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Designer for Industry in 2012, and Society of Garden Designers Awards in 2012 and 2014, along with designing five award-winning Chelsea Flower Show gardens including Best in Show in 2015. His down-to-earth, yet progressive attitudes toward gardening show in his weekly online gardening journal, DIGDELVE.

Dan will be presenting a new and unique lecture for this event, but special attention will be given to one of his most notable projects, the Tokachi Millennium Forest. This extraordinary progressive project was the dream of Japanese media entrepreneur, Mitsushige Hayashi to create a one thousand year master plan for the nearly 1,000 acre property in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido with the aim of off-setting the carbon footprint of his national newspaper business. After an intensive period of forest management and long-term planning, he invited the internationally eminent landscape designer, Dan Pearson, to help design an ecological public park on the site, the purpose of which was to entice town and city dwellers to reconnect with nature and to preserve and improve a piece of land that had been lost to intensive forestry and agriculture. As a means of capturing the imagination and setting out his aspirations for this piece of land, Mr. Hayashi named it the Millennium Forest, a garden for a thousand years.

Dan's most recent book, *Tokachi Millennium Forest*, describes Dan's involvement with the project focusing on his design process, from the big thinking required to engage with such a large and unfamiliar site to a detailed examination of each of the designed and cultivated areas of the forest.

This lecture will be free, given as a gift from the Pendleton and Elisabeth C. Miller Charitable Foundation to the horticultural community. Watch for future emails to register for this fabulous event. ☺

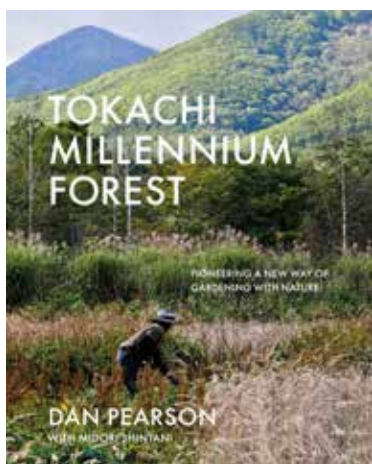


Image courtesy Filbert Press



Thank you to our Patrons! The Webinar Lecture Program would not be possible without the tremendous support of our Patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide an outstanding educational program for Northwest gardeners. In light of current events limiting gatherings, these generous contributions allow NHS to provide online forums for the dissemination of horticultural information. Thanks for your continued support.

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 for the NHS website!

www.northwesthort.org



Hakonecloa macra 'All Gold'

GARDENnotes

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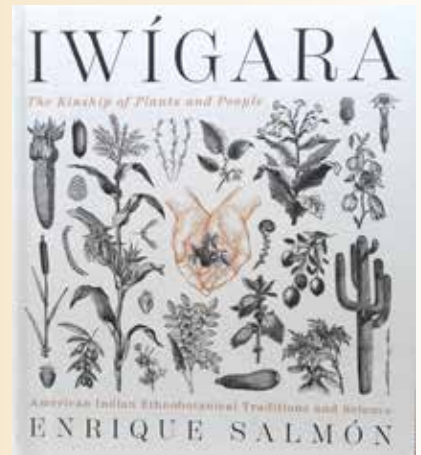
LITERARY NOTES

from the Miller Library

by *Brian Thompson*

The earliest gardeners in North America were not European settlers but the peoples of the indigenous nations, especially in our region. “All native peoples of the West Coast engaged in some form of complex and sophisticated ‘gardening’ of their homelands.” This observation is by Enrique Salmón, the author of a new book on American Indian ethnobotanical traditions. The book’s title tells part of the story: *Iwigara* (i-WEE-jah-rah) is the concept that humans are no greater than other forms of life in the natural world, including both plants and animals.

Ethnobotany, the study of the use of plants by human cultures, is an important way to understand different civilizations. Sadly, much of the existing literature can bog down in academic minutiae. Not so with *Iwigara* and Salmón’s excellent story telling! This is a lively and thoroughly readable account of eighty plants significant to the indigenous nations of North America, told using delightful legends and the common practices that have bonded peoples and the plants of their local landscape.



Salmón is an accomplished scientist and an active collaborator with others in his field, and he used that network to help determine the plants to include. He also brings a more personal viewpoint. As a member of the Rarámuri (rah-RAH-mer-ree) nation of northwestern Mexico, he learned the plant traditions from his mother, grandmother and other family members “who were living libraries of indigenous plant knowledge that has been collected, revised, and tested for millennia.”

An example is the entry on cedar. “Native peoples in the Pacific Northwest tell a story about a good man who gave unceasingly to his community.” After his death, “the Creator, so impressed with the life this man had led, decided that a great useful tree would grow from the man’s burial site.” According to this legend, this was the first western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

Indeed, this is a useful tree to many regional cultures for buildings, canoes, tools, clothing, and medicines. Throughout *Iwigara*, well-chosen photographs, both old and new, enhance the stories. “Cedar” is highlighted by an impressive 1914 photograph of Kwakiutl cedar mask dancers. ☺

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

President's Message



Dear NHS Members,

By the time this letter arrives in your mailboxes, we will have just welcomed the summer of 2021 into our gardens, hearts, and homes. As we greeted the summer solstice this year, we were at the literal halfway point of the year: half day/half night, half light/half dark. Just as our lives are starting to return to normal for many, we will have one foot in the past and one foot in the newly reimagined future beyond this devastating Covid-19 pandemic. People are starting to return to a more normal life by visiting friends and family, feeling the strange and awkward re-learning of how to interact socially, and cautiously venturing back to indoor activities in the company of others. As I have mentioned before, our personal journeys in this pandemic are wide and varied; many have struggled directly with this illness and convalescences, grieving over the loss of loved ones, healing from the isolation and quarantine. Thankfully, we have one thing in common: our knowledge and deep understanding that gardening, horticulture, and nature have been the balm and foundation that has helped us through this very challenging time.

During the pandemic, the Northwest Horticultural Society has seen unprecedented growth of our membership due to your support of time and resources by attending the 2021 NHS Virtual Lecture Series and your generous donations to the NHS Education Fund. We can still use your donations to continue to offer great programs and plans for the future of the NHS. Since the beginning of our online programming our membership has increased by 500 members. This result is no small feat! A big heartfelt 'THANK YOU' to all our steadfast members and new arrivals! Without the excellent planning and program line-up from the NHS Program Committee, the extreme focus of the NHS Social Media and Tech Committees with their determination and technical expertise, and the unanimous support by the NHS Board of Directors to support diversity and inclusion efforts into the BIPOC horticultural world, we would not be where we are this year with such a robust lecture series nor with such a well-engaged membership. A big KUDOS to everyone involved in these efforts during this challenging time. We realize the power of our organization and the healing and therapeutic power of gardening and horticulture. Lastly, it goes without saying that our administrator, Karin Kravitz, is the glue that keeps us all together. Without her knowledge and understanding of the NHS organization, her helpful guidance, and her honest feedback and friendship, I would not have enjoyed my time as the NHS Board President as much as I have.

Even though we've reached the halfway point of 2021, we will continue to offer an amazing lecture series, continue our planning for a 'new' hybrid NHS, and offer our membership a new and updated website with resources and information. We are continuing our efforts to welcome diversity into our membership and speaker series. Finally, as I have mentioned many times, we are an organization that is made solely of volunteers, so if you want to help us plan our transition into a hybrid program of in-person and virtual events and offerings, please contact us! We would love your help in reaching new members and continuing as one of the preeminent horticultural organizations in the Pacific Northwest."

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I wish you all a wonderful, healthy, and safe summer season.

Happy Gardening! ☺

Jason Jorgensen (he/him/his)
NHS President



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“To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.”

— Marina Schinz

Alstroemeria cultivar
Photo by Richie Steffen