



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes  
WINTER 2022



*Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Aurea'  
Photo by Richie Steffen



Great Plant Picks

# SMART PLANTS FOR SMALL SPACES

*Words and images by Richie Steffen (unless otherwise noted)*





*Veronica cupressoides* 'Boughton Dome'

BEFORE ACQUIRING A TEN-ACRE PROPERTY, my former gardens were created on typical city lots and tiny urban spaces. The new, larger garden requires quite a different mind-set than my former gardens starting with the ability to accept a more natural (aka weedy) look to the expansive garden space. There are several things I miss about working in a smaller space, and I've been reminiscing about these as the new Great Plant Picks (GPP) garden theme for 2022, *Smart Plants for Small Spaces*, was being developed.

I love being enveloped by my garden and have always been a heavy planter, planting twice as much as what I needed to achieve

On the left: *Veronica topiaria*

maximum lushness ASAP! Part of this was to grow every plant I possibly could, but more importantly, part of it was to create a space of solitude and peace. Of course, this led to constant pruning, moving, dividing and removing, but I just told myself that this is what gardeners do. In reflection on these experiences, I now realize that I could have been a little more efficient and focused on my planting. My almost chaotic garden could have been more successful if I had focused more on plants that were tolerant of tough urban conditions, plants that worked naturally in tight small spaces and narrow locations. Plus, I could have made more use of my container plantings. These are themes that GPP is focusing on this year – *Urban Tough, Snug Spaces and Captivating Containers*.

Urban gardens frequently contain some of the worst conditions for plants to thrive. Poor soils, compacted soils, vandalism, along with a regular assault by the neighborhood pets are just a few of the challenges faced by the city gardener. A plant that tolerates these conditions has got to be tough and resilient. Fortunately, there is a wide selection that are excellent performers including a number of low-growing evergreen shrubs. Hebes have long been a go-to plant to fill in fast, yet not get too tall. In the nursery, you may now start to see *Hebe* listed as *Veronica*. Recent molecular studies have confirmed that these New Zealand natives should, tragically, be grouped together into the large genus of *Veronica*. Just a little something to keep us gardeners on our toes! Some hebes can be damaged in



*Prostanthera cuneata*

cold weather, a consideration that was taken into account by the Miller Garden's plant education program, Great Plant Picks (GPP). Some of the top choices for smaller hebes on the GPP website are *Veronica (Hebe) cupressoides* 'Boughton Dome', *Veronica* 'Emerald Gem' and *Veronica topiaria*. The most compact are 'Boughton Dome' and 'Emerald Gem'. Both of these plants have an interesting conifer-like look with thin stems and small scale-like leaves. Both will reach about 2 feet tall in ten years with a slightly wider spread with 'Boughton Dome' having a broad conical shape and 'Emerald Green' forming a flat wide mound. *Veronica topiaria* has a tight slow-growing, rounded to mounded habit with striking gray green leaves. A ten-year

height on this shrub is about 3 feet tall, but even after years it will rarely reach over 4 feet tall. All three of these are not heavy bloomers; but when they do, they have charming white puff-ball shaped blooms.

Another tough low-growing shrub from the Southern Hemisphere is *Prostanthera cuneata*, alpine mint bush. This low, mounding shrub has a looser, more layered habit than the hebes. When the foliage is touched the air is filled with a minty fragrance. This is an excellent plant to have near paths and walkways where the foliage fragrance can be enjoyed. Japanese privet is often looked at as a boring hedge plant requiring regular maintenance to keep it in check, but

there is a great selection that is perfect for limited space with tough soil conditions. *Ligustrum japonicum* 'Rotundifolium', round-leaf Japanese privet, has circular, shiny deep green leaves with a dense tight branching pattern. Requiring little pruning it will form a billowy oval shape in the garden. A ten-year-old plant will reach about 3 feet tall and eventually mature to about 5 feet in height with a spread a little over 3 feet. Although this shrub can be very seasonable in its availability, its unique texture and upright compact habit make it invaluable for small gardens.

Plants like the round-leaf Japanese privet are vital in creating urban spaces. Plants that have compact habits or upright columnar shapes that can fit into narrow

*Veronica* 'Emerald Gem'



*Ligustrum japonicum* 'Rotundifolium'





*Pieris japonica* 'Brookside Miniature'

beds and be tucked close to buildings are also essential, these being snug spaces as it were. Adding plants with these traits into the garden allow for greater use of garden space as well as more opportunity for creating interesting textural contrasts. I have always enjoyed strong vertical lines, even in my tiniest gardens, but there is something to be said for a less rigid shape. The soft columnar shape of *Pieris japonica* 'Brookside Miniature' is a surprise for the genus. 'Brookside Miniature' has much smaller foliage than typical *Pieris* and has a distinctly columnar form, very different from any other *Pieris* cultivar. A ten-year-old plant is about 3 to 4 feet tall with an 18-inch spread. This once rare selection is now becoming more available. If you are limited on height as well as space, the

slow-growing, pudgy upright growth of *Ilex crenata* 'Dwarf Pagoda' may fit the bill. Tiny, deep green and shiny foliage densely clings to the short stiff branches. Although its shape is definitely upright, it does have an irregular growth habit that gives a slightly sculptural look to this evergreen shrub. Be patient with this shrub as it is slow to grow, but worth the wait.

Another upright sculptural grower is *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Spiralis', an exceptional selection of Hinoki cypress. Often found as a small plant in nurseries, it can deceptively look like one of the dwarf growing, compact selections. This is a mid-sized dwarf conifer; a ten-year-old plant is 5 to 6 feet tall with mature speci-

mens reaching 10 to 12 feet. This is one of those plants that only becomes more beautiful as it ages. The stems are cloaked in feathery, dark green scaley leaves that are soft to the touch and grow in a slightly twisted spiraling habit. The effect gives a wind-swept appearance with an unusual swirling feel. This is a plant I lusted after for several years before I finally acquired it. I am excited to know it is more frequently available in local nurseries now.

Although columnar plants are perfect for snug spaces, small and compact plants are necessary to give interest to the ground layer. No urban space is complete without a barberry by the pathway. I think it is an unwritten rule that these tough and thorny plants must be located in an area

*Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* 'Concorde'



*Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Spiralis'





*Hosta 'Patriot'* – courtesy Great Plant Picks

where you will inevitably brush up against them and feel the pain of their sharp spines. If one is going to adhere to this unspoken directive in a small garden, then the gardener should certainly look to one of the best of the dwarf forms, one that doesn't overwhelm paths or sidewalks quickly.

*Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea*  
 'Concorde' has a low, tight habit forming a squatty mound over time. The foliage on this deciduous cultivar is a luscious burgundy red. In spring, red flushed yellow flowers are tucked in profusion amongst the foliage to a charming effect. One of the nice things about this compact selection is that if it grows too wide over time, it can be cut down hard and

allowed to resprout and fill the space again, just be sure to wear thick protective gloves!

If you are really tight on space, containers can be a great option, and creating captivating containers are a must for the modest-sized garden; they add drama, color and interest as well as allowing for easy editing for the best look year-round. I prefer to use perennials and shrubs with excellent foliage or long bloom times as the backbone of the planting.

One of my favorites for small containers are dwarf hostas. Two I have grown for years and that are listed on the GPP website are 'Blue Mouse Ears' and 'Dragon Tails'. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is indeed cute as

a mouse's ear. The small thick rounded leaves are rich blue green and in mid-summer several short spikes of lavender flowers show quite lovely above the foliage. 'Dragon Tails' is an elegant miniature hosta with golden to chartreuse narrow leaves with attractive wavy edges. Both selections are extremely hardy and can survive the winter without any protection. If you have container space for a robust, medium-sized hosta, it is hard to beat the vibrant cream-edged leaves of *Hosta 'Patriot'*. The stunning contrast created by the cream and green foliage is eye-catching and sure to draw attention.

I also enjoy incorporating hardy fuchsias into containers. Their long bloom time is unparalleled. They can start as early



*Fuchsia 'Lord Byron'*



*Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'*



*Acer palmatum* 'Sister Ghost'

as April and last as long as the end of November. Small to medium cultivars work best in pots. I enjoy the low mounding golden leaves of *Fuchsia* 'Golden Gate' which produces copious flowers of crimson and eggplant purple. They are almost neon against the vibrant leaves. If you do not like such intense contrast, *Fuchsia* 'Lord Byron' has similarly colored flowers, although the blooms are larger and a fuller, rounder shape. Of course, there are many more fuchsia choices that will add texture and beautiful foliage to a container. Fortunately, an excellent list of choice selections is on the Great Plant Picks website.

If you have room for a larger plant, be sure to look at the 20 new Japanese

maples cultivars that will debut on the GPP website in time for the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival to be held February 9th through the 13th at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. Many of these Japanese maples are small or slow growers that will thrive under container cultivation for many years.

Using a few of these suggestions and ideas for thinking about small spaces will help you see the potential of these areas and create a garden every bit as interesting as a larger space. Be sure to check out the Great Plant Picks new garden theme poster *Smart Plants for Small Spaces* on the website: [www.greatplantpicks.org](http://www.greatplantpicks.org). The helpful lists provided will give you

a wealth of ideas to make your own tiny spaces full and interesting. ∞

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



*Acer palmatum* 'Red Pygmy'



*Acer palmatum* 'Arakawa'

# NHS GRANTS PROGRAM

NHS HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING the endeavors of other organizations within our horticulture community. Since its founding over 50 years ago, NHS has provided grants to worthy projects around the Puget Sound region. One of the stated purposes of our organization is to provide grants “to further horticultural education and related activities in accordance with Northwest Horticultural Society objectives.” It is our pleasure to continue with this tradition.

Each year, in addition to our continued financial support of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, we award grants to horticultural proposals from 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or educational institutions.

This year’s applications, received by the August 31, 2021 deadline, were reviewed and evaluated by the grants committee prior to being presented to the board for final approval. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our webinar programs in 2020/21 by our membership and the generosity of our donors we were able to award \$14,000 in grants for these horticultural proposals.

Board member Sue Goetz chaired the committee who reviewed the applications recommending three organizations for funding approval. These three organizations received unanimous support from the NHS board members. Congratulations to PlantAmnesty, Heronswood Garden, and GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty). We are proud to have NHS help support their projects.

**PlantAmnesty**, established in 1987, is a 1,000-member non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education, resources, and advocacy to prevent malpruning of trees and shrubs and preserve urban greenspaces. Their request of \$6,000 was granted to fund the expansion of PlantAmnesty’s curriculum with a Spanish language offering. An excerpt



from their grant request:

“PlantAmnesty has been providing ornamental horticulture classes and literature to the Seattle area and beyond for over 30 years. In this time, we have disproportionately reached English speaking students. As Seattle is evolving into an ever-richer cultural demographic, we want to provide classes and informational videos that are accessible by community members who do not have English as their first language.

With support from NHS, and under the guidance of board member Gonzalo Yepes, owner of Columbian Gardens LLC., we aim to produce a Spanish training course that will be available free of charge and easily accessible via YouTube and our social platforms. This will consist of four online classes and six instructional videos. For students living in the Seattle area, we will also offer a full day, hands-on renovation workshop with Spanish speaking instructors.

This course will provide Latinx gardeners, both locally and throughout the world, a way in which to receive education from the comfort of their own home in their own language. Videos give the community quick oral and pictorial access to information without relying on printed Spanish and gives the students flexibility in timing, which is vital when many laborers in the industry have multiple jobs and long hours. Furthermore, recognizing that many members of the target community are unfamiliar with regional landscaping plants and may be unfamiliar with basic horticultural practices, we will include not only pruning instruction, but basic plant identification and plant care based on the latest scientifically established approaches. Although the focus of our classes will be on landscaping plants most encountered in the Puget Sound area, most of the class material will have broad geographic applicability.

Gonzalo Yepes, a PlantAmnesty board member and passionate educator for the Spanish speaking horticulture community, has extensive history in teaching Spanish horticulture classes and workshops for PlantAmnesty as well as building and teaching



Héronswood Renaissance Garden – courtesy Richie Steffen

training programs municipalities, colleges and universities, and other community organizations in the greater Seattle area. As an active landscaping business owner, he knows the Latin horticulture community well and has provided valuable advice on class and video content. His knowledge of the community also helps us understand ways to reach out to the community and build awareness of our program.”

A grant of \$5,000 was awarded to **Héronswood Garden** (under the administrative auspices of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization) to support the building of a Raining Wall for the Garden’s newest section, “The Renaissance Garden.” The Raining Wall is a capstone feature attraction that was conceptualized by emeritus garden director Daniel J. Hinkley. The grant provides project support and will honor Dan Hinkley’s decades of outstanding horticultural work in the Pacific Northwest. The project description read:

“Héronswood Garden is a 17-acre public garden located in Kingston, WA. Founded by renown (sic) plantsman and horticultural adventurer Daniel J. Hinkley in the early 1980s, Heronswood eventually was purchased by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and is now distinguished as one of the only Tribal-owned public gardens in the USA. Dan Hinkley returned to serve as garden director for the Port Gamble S’Klallam for

almost seven years and in 2020 stepped into an emeritus director role. The new Heronswood Garden director is Dr. Patrick McMillan, former director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University and host of the PBS television series, “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan.”

One of Dan’s most significant projects as garden director was the conceptualization, design, and construction of a new garden section, called “The Renaissance Garden” -- *xəwəs shəyí* in S’Klallam, translating as “new life spirit.” It is a cedar and fern stumpery honoring the Port Gamble S’Klallam mill workers of the late 19th and early 20th century. It features indigenous and culturally significant Native plantings, a 30’ x 5’ trestle-style fern table, Native art, interpretive signage, historical artifacts from the period, recorded stories of life in the early 20th century from S’Klallam elders, and offers a fascinating cultural intersection for Native and non-Native garden visitors. In addition to its horticultural and historical significance, the Renaissance Garden also is an educational “living laboratory,” supporting outdoor horticultural and environmental classes, presentations and other convenings.

[The ability to deliver horticultural classes, presentations, and other convenings in a safe outdoor environment has been critical to Heronswood Garden’s success since the start of the COVID

pandemic. As an outdoor education pod, the Renaissance Garden provides a safe and uplifting environment for horticultural learning.]

The proposed Raining Wall is the final, capstone feature for the Renaissance Garden and concluding piece in the completion of Dan’s design vision. Sometimes referred to as a “weeping wall,” it is a permeable wall that allows for water to pass through without damage to the permanent structure and supports a variety of plants. There is a seasonal/run off pond at the base of the Renaissance Garden which will handily support a Raining Wall and improve the overall environmental quality of the garden.

The Raining Wall is not just a beautiful centering object for the garden; it also provides structural support for the area and offers additional opportunities for plant and water use/display/instruction. The Raining Wall makes respectful, sustainable, and creative use out of local water retention as well as offering a unique and interesting garden feature for visitors.

We are very excited about the benefits of the Raining Wall to Heronswood Garden and its visitors. The addition of Dan Hinkley’s Renaissance Garden and its capstone Raining Wall is not only a beautiful inspiration of garden design, but also a thoroughly strategic way to advance, sustain and grow horticultural education, especially cross-cultural enthno-botany and Pacific Northwest-focused topics.”

The third grant award went to **GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty)**, an organization NHS has supported with grants in the past due to the good work they are doing by assisting those with low incomes to build raised bed gardens and grow their own vegetables. The award was in the amount of \$3000 and their grant description follows:

“GRuB Garden Project: In this time of great need, the Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB)’s Garden Project (GGP) is on the ground, bringing joy and resiliency to people with low incomes through the gift of gardens! In response to COVID-19 and the increased need for food security and community connection, we are doubling our garden building and education efforts! In previous years, we have built between 35 and 45 gardens each

year. In 2020, we built 96 gardens and we plan to continue that momentum into our 2021-2022 fiscal year! Gardens increase food security at home and can provide hundreds of meals annually, increasing long-term resiliency and wellbeing. In addition, gardens allow people to connect with physically distant family and friends through learning together, sharing photos, and garden recipes. Families who receive GRuB gardens report saving money on groceries (each garden can grow over \$500 worth of food in one season), eating more vegetables because they are readily available, trying new varieties (thanks to the free seeds), spending more time outdoors, discovering new ways to cook and combine veggies, sharing food with other community members, cutting down on trips to the store (with the additional cost of gas), and watching their kids discover a love of

fresh foods! The GGP goes beyond providing backyard gardens. The military veterans and other community volunteers build the gardens together with the families and provide monthly gardening mentorship—building community and ongoing support to ensure gardener success. In addition, GRuB partners with local farms, seed companies, and the Food Co-op to provide every gardener with free seed packets, garden recipes, gardening workshops, gardening guides, and vegetable starts.

### The Victory Farm

Made possible through funders like you and a partnership with the Thurston County Food Bank’s Lacey Distribution Center, local veterans have spent 3 years developing the Victory Farm. This 10,000 square foot empty lot is now a bountiful

garden complete with beehives and a community gathering space where gardening, veteran talk circles and job skill building workshops are held. Currently, all workshops and talk circles are being held online and we are looking forward to continuing in-person workshops when COVID-19 guidelines allow. Recently, the Victory Farm teamed up with BIPOC-led Haki Farmers collective (Ed. Note: BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, & People of Color), which seeks to bolster and reincorporate traditional and inherently sustainable farming knowledge that is present in our migrant and Indigenous communities and operates on the Victory Farm! Volunteers, and specifically veterans and BIPOC, work side by side to nourish and cultivate food, self, and community at the Victory Farm.



*GRuB Victory Garden Project*



*GRuB Victory Farm*

These two projects are closely connected and part of our larger Community Food Solutions Program. The military veteran volunteers who run the Victory Farm also build the home gardens for the GRuB Garden Project and the free garden workshops for garden recipients, when they are not virtual, are held at the Victory Farm.

#### **Needs These Projects are Addressing:**

**COVID-19:** Individuals and families continue to face unprecedented challenges because of the coronavirus. People have lost their jobs, are facing housing and food insecurity, and are disconnected from their communities. Isolation, disruption of daily routines, and depletion of adequate food and housing can have profound impacts on mental and physical health. There continues to be a strong need for increased food security and increased wellbeing in and beyond our community during COVID-19. Food Security and Families With Low Income Food insecurity is a major issue for communities served by this project. According to a recent study conducted in 2020 by Washington State University, up to a third of Washington residents are now food insecure, due in large part to the pandemic. In Thurston County, 30,360 people are food insecure, and 37% are not eligible to receive SNAP benefits (Feeding America, 2019). Prior to COVID-19, more than 4,000

people were living in poverty in the City of Lacey (US Census Bureau, 2017). With COVID-19, this number has significantly increased. Increasing food security is critical during this time. GRuB gardens go beyond bringing one meal; the gift of gardens brings hundreds of meals and skills that increase resiliency and provide access to food in people's own homes. Transitioning Military Veterans Thurston County has the second-largest veteran and active-duty military population in our state because of its proximity to one of the five largest military bases in the world -- Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). An estimated 25% of JBLM's military families live in the City of Lacey (Lacey Chamber of Commerce 2017), which is also home to more than 6,000 veterans (U.S. Census 2017). While transitioning to civilian life, veterans face a multitude of barriers, including a feeling of purposelessness and/or lack of control (Pietrzak et al, 2010), homelessness (Mares & Rosenheck, 2004), high-risk behavior (Adler, 2011), increased risk of mental health challenges (Lusk et al, 2015) and death by suicide (Kang et al, 2015). This can begin to be mitigated with veteran-specific support services." ∞

# 2021 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year NHS provides scholarship opportunities to students enrolled at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) at the University of Washington and programs at the UW that have a direct connection with CUH. Named after the organization's founder, the Elisabeth C. Miller Scholarship in Horticulture, the scholarship fund continues Mrs. Miller's support and interest in horticultural education. The scholarships support the research and education of students by helping to defray costs associated with specific projects. These projects offer distinct research on environmental conditions and cultural needs of plants in urban areas.

This year we are pleased to announce that the NHS Scholarship Committee awarded Arthur Hsu and Justin Roberts \$3,000 each for 2021. A brief description of their projects is below:

Hsin-Wu (Arthur) Hsu's project has two aspects that deal with impacts of climate change. The first looks at the typical flowering period and levels of seed production in Pacific Northwest conifer species and how they are changing due to climate factors. This will be used to study likely effects on species adaptability and survival and can be adapted for insights into how other horticultural species might fare. The second deals with the Climate Ready Landscape Plants project at the UW Botanic Gardens and other western sites. This project will measure climate adaptability of various species and cultivars of landscape plants across six western regions from Arizona to Washington. In addition to quantifying aesthetic performance among several species and cultivars across various irrigation regimes, this project can shed light on other physiological and morphological changes in response to climate shifts. Findings

will help select species and cultivars that can be further developed for good performance under hotter and drier climates.



*Abies nobilis* 'Glauca' flowering – courtesy Richie Steffen



Biochar – courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Justin Roberts' project will study the use and applications of Biochar as a means to improve soil and plant health in urban landscapes. Biochar is a carbon-rich material produced from organic material that is heated to high-temperatures in an oxygen-limited environment. It can sequester carbon, purify water, retain nutrients and moisture in soil, and help provide an environment for beneficial microbes. The project is two parts with the first being surveys of different types of Biochar production and use in the Swedish city of Malmo, where it has been in wide use in a variety of landscape applications in recent years. The second part will focus on adaptability to Pacific Northwest landscapes and recommendations for best practices for use and production locally, with a focus on designed urban landscapes.

In addition to awarding two scholarships (\$6,000) from the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship in Horticulture program in 2021, NHS also donated \$5,000 to the John A. Wott Endowed Student Award program at the University of Washington. John A. Wott, former Director Emeritus of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, passed away this past August. This fund was established in his name to grant annual awards to students in the graduate program at the University of Washington.

A new scholarship fund was also established to award scholarships to students in community college horticulture programs to begin in 2022. 🌿

# LITERARY NOTES

## from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

For many summers (prior to Covid), the NHS hosted tours of private gardens in the Seattle area. This was a wonderful opportunity to see rich offerings by keen gardeners, all in a heady rush of a single afternoon.

Of course, you took photos. But do they really capture your memories of these gardens?

No worries! A new book, *Private Gardens of the Pacific Northwest*, is essentially an exhibit catalog. The writing of Brian D. Coleman and sumptuous photos by William Wright give you an intimate viewing that you can repeat over and over.

The crowning achievement is Pat & Walt Riehl's fern stumpery on Vashon Island. Pat, a very involved gardener in the Puget Sound gardening community and former president of NHS, recently passed away. Her husband, Walt, generously donated a copy of this new book to the Miller Library in her memory, inscribed by the author.

Coleman describes the property when they first saw it, "Filled with grass clippings, blackberry bushes, stinging nettle, bracken, and alder trees, it was anything but inviting. But Pat envisioned a romantic stumpery nestled in the ravine, and so she and her husband, Walt, purchased the property, rolled up their sleeves, and got to work."

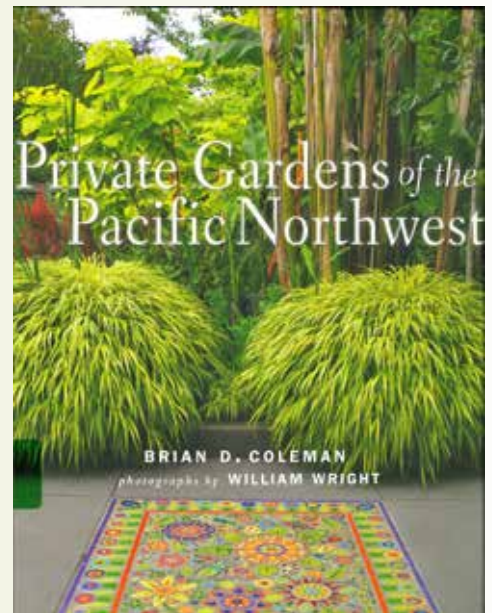
Long-time NHS members may remember the 2014 talk given by Christina Salwitz, the co-author of two books about container gardening and great foliage combinations. Her Issaquah garden is a showcase for these practices.

Two featured gardens were visited on an NHS tour to Portland in 2017. Loree Bohl chronicled her garden's history in a September 2020 membership talk entitled "Out with the Azaleas, in with the Agaves." And who could forget the Floramagoria garden? Its vivid colors and whimsical art extend the living space of Craig Quirk and Larry Neill brilliantly to the outdoors.

Similar background stories augment photographs of the gardens of Kathy Fries (Kirkland), Lorene Edwards Forkner (West Seattle), Denise Lane (Medina), Mary Palmer (Snohomish), and Joanne White (Redmond). It's wonderful to have a permanent record of their landscapes.

Now on my bucket list is the Japanese-themed garden of photographer Art Wolfe in West Seattle. Hopefully this, and these other gardens, will be available to see soon on an NHS tour! ☺

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





**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.

## 2021 Patrons

Louise Abbott  
Joseph Abken  
Hiroko Aikawa  
Kathleen Archer  
Larry Arndt  
Carolyn Pauw Barden  
Karen A Benson  
Bonnie Berk  
Jim and Suzette Birrell  
Nancy Branchflower  
Elaine Brogdon  
Delaney C Brummet  
G Maria Carlos  
Marianna Clark  
Patricia Crockett  
Stacie Crooks,  
Crooks Garden Design  
Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson  
Emily Dexter  
Tina Dixon  
Anita Louise Dunn  
Janet Egger  
Sandra J Eilbes  
Dominique Emerson

Janet Endsley  
Kathy Engell  
Sue Ewens  
Sara Farinelli & Paul Howard  
Marie Flynn  
Charlene Forslund  
Gwyn Fowler  
Lorraine Fritsch  
Courtney Goetz  
Sue Goetz  
Greg Graves & Gary Waller  
Polly Hankin  
Linda Hanson  
Terry Hayes  
Ellen Hecht  
Judy Isaac  
Jason Jorgensen  
Karin Kravitz  
Raymond J Larson  
Terri Lausten  
Ann LeVasseur  
Janet Lewinsohn  
Mark Lyke  
Jennifer Macuiba

Hans & Tina Mandt  
Gillian Mathews  
Meagan McManus  
James K Marshall  
Meadows Potter Family Fund  
Renee Montgelas  
Rebecca Z Murlless  
Megan Myers  
Sue Nevler  
Rebecca Norton  
Chuck Ogburn  
Sue Olsen  
Betsy Piano  
Susan Picquelle  
Sashi Raghupathy  
Ravenna Gardens  
Monica Reed  
Stephanie Rodden  
Jo Anne Rosen  
Nita-Jo Rountree  
C Elaine Rude  
Marilou Rush  
Kathleen Sabo  
Bruce Sarvis

Seattle Garden Club  
Daniel Sparler & Jeff Schouten  
Elaine Mae Starz-Brown  
Jean & Gary Steffen  
Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson  
Brian Thompson  
Donna Thompson  
Walter Thompson  
Shelagh Tucker  
Cathy Van Dyke  
Eileen Van Schaik  
Ralene Walls  
Lia Ward  
Jean Weaver  
Jackie White  
Carolyn Whittlesey  
Roz Williams  
Sherri Wilson  
Phil Wood  
Woodinville Garden Club  
John A Wott, in memory of  
Dr Harold B Tukey Jr

## NEW MEMBERS

Lydia Abernethy  
Jeanne Aldrich  
Cathy Barton  
Geri Bressinck  
Lucas Butler  
Debra Derickson  
Emily Fan  
Kristen J Gray

Jennifer L Hammill  
Jennifer Harris  
Connie Hutchison  
David Johnson  
Lisa Kjaer-Schade  
Anna E Klauder  
Amy J Koskovich  
Rita Kotler

Margo Leishman  
Shirley F McNeil  
Laura Moore  
Andrea OFerrall  
Cil J Pierce  
Bonnie J Rough  
Jennifer Spigner  
Sharon Streeter

Pamela L Van Vleet  
Susan Watters  
Jill Cavanaugh Weigel  
Catherine T Yoo  
Joan Diane Young

# President's Message



Dear NHS Members,

I am delighted to serve as president of NHS for the coming year. Past-president Jason Jorgensen has left big shoes to fill, and I am exceptionally grateful and appreciative for his tremendous effort to guide our organization through the transitions presented by the COVID pandemic. Jason managed to usher in our online programs and was a delight to work with while I was the education committee chair. Jason's bright optimism and encouragement led the NHS board to organize and present over 30 programs last year with nearly 7,000 viewers. This is a tremendous service to NHS and something I think all members can be thankful for in bringing us together during such an anxiety producing time. Thank you, Jason for your dedication.

As we move into 2022, we are looking to incorporate a new hybrid program that will include in-person events as well as online programming. I will be working with our new education committee chair, Eileen VanSchaik on Zoom talks, classes, and symposiums. Gillian Matthews and Renee Montgelas, co-chairs of the tour committee, will be developing local day tours to private and public gardens for this spring and summer. We will try to hold our ever-popular spring plant sale with Del Brummet serving as the new chair of the plant sales committee. The Meet-the-Board Tour planning committee has begun work under the leadership of the new committee chair, Barbara Lycett, and these are just a few of the projects and activities NHS board members are coordinating!

There will also be plenty of opportunities for members to assist with these events and behind the scenes committee work. If you are interested in helping with one of these committees, let us know! Send an email to [info@northwesthort.org](mailto:info@northwesthort.org), and we can get you involved where you will experience the fun, perks and friendships that come from giving NHS a hand.

I am looking forward to 2022 as your president and getting a chance to see many of you at the various events! 🍷

All the best,  
Richie

Richie Steffen  
NHS President

*Hamamelis × intermedia 'Jelena'* Richie Steffen



## GARDENnotes

### Editor

Rick Peterson  
[rickp@millergarden.org](mailto:rickp@millergarden.org)

### Designer

Sonya Kopetz  
[sonya@kbdesign.com](mailto:sonya@kbdesign.com)

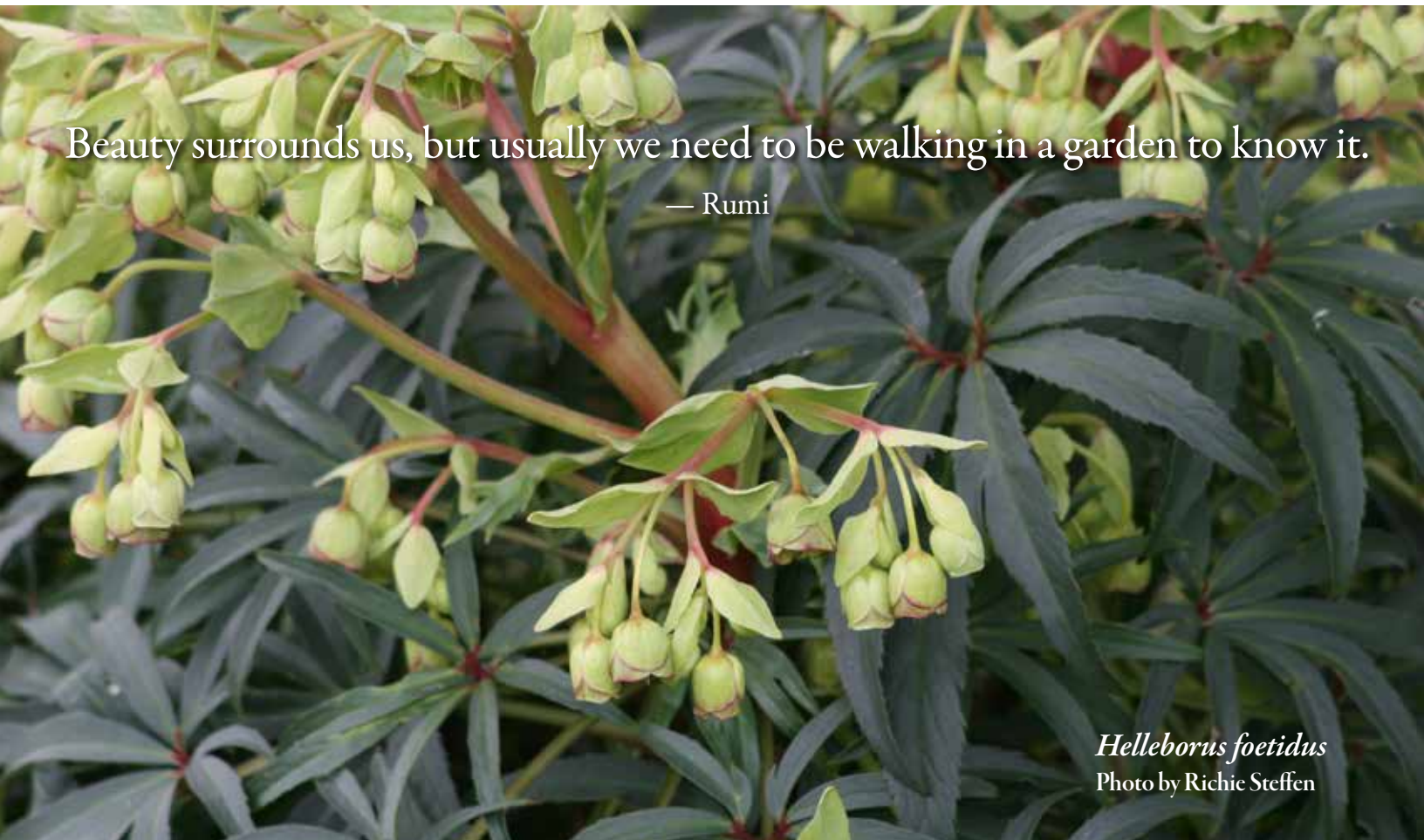
### Contributors

Laura Blumhagen  
Karin Kravitz  
Richie Steffen  
Brian Thompson



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 4597  
ROLLING BAY, WA 98061-4597

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 4842



Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it.

— Rumi

*Helleborus foetidus*  
Photo by Richie Steffen