

# THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



FALL 2013 | VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 4

## De-bugging Paradise with Sharon J. Collman

Gayle Richardson

**"GARDEN PESTS: HOW TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY TROUBLESOME INSECTS IN YOUR PACIFIC NORTHWEST GARDEN, AND WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DISCOVER YOU HAVE THEM." LECTURE WITH SHARON J. COLLMAN**

**E**ARLY THIS SUMMER, a sharp-eyed and knowledgeable visitor reported seeing a threatening invader in the NPA Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Known before only in seven east coast states and two isolated spots in King County, the red lily beetle was now feasting on our plants. A concerted effort at eradication by BBG staff and NPA Border volunteers has made great inroads against *Lilioceris lili*, and will continue until victory is declared, but the episode shows the real need for us gardeners to educate ourselves about such pests, whether they are potentially devastating, as in this case, or merely annoying.



Sharon J. Collman, Extension Educator, Washington State University Snohomish County Extension.

Coming to enlighten us is Sharon Collman, who has spent her career studying and photographing insects and plant problems, as well as writing and teaching workshops on garden and household pest management, plant problem diagnosis and Integrated Pest Management. One of her early projects as Extension Educator for

WSU Extension was organizing the first pilot Master Gardener Clinics in King and Pierce counties, which have now grown to 1,500 volunteers throughout the state. A more recent project was initiating the WSU Growing Groceries Volunteer Mentors program. She says she looks forward some day to a life without guilt once she has completed that PhD thesis on root weevils.

Note that November 17 date right now, as you won't want to miss this vital lecture. In fact, bring a gardening friend along as well. Remember, when it comes to pests, forewarned is forearmed!

**SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 2013, 1 PM**

*Open at noon for plant and seed sales*

*Center for Urban Horticulture*

*3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle 98105*

*NPA Members free/Non-members \$10*

## Hardy Plant Study Weekend returns in June, 2014

Mark your calendars for the most anticipated gardening event in Seattle: Hardy Plant Study Weekend returns next June 20-22 to the Bellevue Hilton. This hugely popular gardening conference is hosted by NPA once every four years.

Study Weekend is an opportunity to totally immerse yourself in gardening nirvana for three full days, while you listen to top-notch speakers, tour beautiful gardens open only for this event, shop for plants, books and garden art, party, and talk to others as besotted by plants as you are.

The conference theme will be "Married to Your Garden: How to Save the Relationship," exploring the emotional ups and downs

of gardening. It promises to be inspirational, insightful and often hilarious.

Speakers will include Irish writer Frank Ronan; award-winning designer Billy Goodnick; Annie Hayes, owner of Annie's Annuals and Perennials; popular author Debra Prinzing; and legendary Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl. Plus two celebrated gardening couples: Ciscoe and his wife Mary Flewelling Morris, and Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm.

The Open Gardens committee has been scouting exceptional gardens for you to visit Friday through Monday. We'll also be offering two optional workshops: "The iPhone Gardener" with David Perry and "The Joy of Gartending" with Beth Evans-Ramos. And of course no Study Weekend would be complete without a big Saturday night party, which will be held at Wells Medina Nursery.

Watch for details in the next edition of The Perennial Post.

# NPA EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 22	<b>Annual Meeting &amp; Ferns lecture</b> with Judith Jones, Sunday, 1 pm, Molbak's Nursery, 13625 NE 175th Street, Woodinville
OCTOBER 2	<b>Deer Proofing Your Garden class</b> with Jessica Bloom. Wednesday, 10 am – noon (details, page 3).
OCTOBER 10 & 17	<b>Fall Clearance Days</b> , a volunteer event in the border. Thursdays, 8 am – 3 pm (details, page 11).
OCTOBER 13	<b>Fall Walk &amp; Talk</b> with George Lasch, Saturday, 10 – noon (details, page 3)
OCTOBER 19	<b>Tea Ceremony &amp; Autumn Impressions at the Japanese Garden</b> , Saturday, noon – 2 pm (details, page 3)
NOVEMBER 17	<b>Garden Pests lecture</b> with Sharon J. Collman, Sunday, 1 pm, Center for Urban Horticulture (details, page 1)
NOVEMBER 24	<b>Garden d'Lights begins at Bellevue Botanical Garden</b> , 5 - 10 pm (last entry at 9:30 pm). Tickets \$5; children 10 and under free. Order online at <a href="http://www.gardendlights.org">www.gardendlights.org</a>

## Ferns with Judith Jones

Gayle Richardson

FEW NORTHWEST GARDEN luminaries are more enthusiastic, lively or passionate about their specialty than Judith Jones—or, as she describes herself, “The Fern Madame.” Judith will share her expert knowledge and practical tips about ferns at our fall lecture. She knows whereof she speaks. Innumerable ferns that she has nurtured and passed along to commercial growers have become standards in the nursery trade, such as the *Dryopteris lepidopoda* pictured here. Introduced into American horticulture in the early 90’s, it was chosen as a Great Plant Pick for 2013, one of several ferns introduced by Judith that have been recognized by the program over the years.

Judith is one of the founders of the NPA, and many of the early planning sessions for what our organization was to become took place in her living room. So don’t miss this opportunity to come and



*Dryopteris lepidopoda*, 2013 Great Plants Pick, introduced into horticulture by Judith Jones. Photo courtesy of Judith Jones

say “Thanks!” to one of our own and hear a delightful talk as well. As Judith says, “I will gleefully talk ferns with anyone!”

Her talk will be preceded by a very brief NPA membership meeting, announcing the NPA Board for 2013.

**ANNUAL MEETING & LECTURE  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 1 PM –FREE–**

*Special venue: Molbak's Nursery,  
13625 NE 175th Street, Woodinville, WA*



# NPA CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

*Fall*

Wednesday, October 2, 10am – noon

## DEER PROOFING YOUR GARDEN with Jessica Bloom

Fee: \$25 Class limit: 20



Jessica Bloom is an award-winning Northwest garden designer who strongly emphasizes ecological systems, sustainability and self-sufficiency in her work.

She is passionate about animals, permaculture and making functional gardens beautiful. Jessie will share her insights on deer behavior, different barriers available, and smart plant choices for great deer resistant garden designs. Find out which plants deer find irresistible and which trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses are less tempting. Be inspired by images of fantastic gardens which are also deer resistant.

After Jessica's presentation at the North Bend Library, we'll take a short drive to the home of NPA Board member Denise DuBose to tour her garden, have coffee and see the tricks she uses to foil the deer.

Saturday, October 12, 10am – noon

## FALL WALK & TALK with George Lasch

Free! Class limit: 15



Review the year's hits and misses in the NPA Border. Come walk and talk with George Lasch, NPA Border Supervisor, as he points out which plants are still looking good and which ones have fizzled. Learn what tasks need to be done in the garden now as the weather turns. You must register to participate.

To sign up, email the NPA office at [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org)

Saturday, October 19, noon - 2pm

## TEA CEREMONY AND AUTUMN IMPRESSIONS AT THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Fee: \$35 Class limit: 25

Join us on a docent-led tour of the Washington Park Arboretum Japanese garden. We are guaranteed stunning colors and vistas from this world famous 3 1/2 acre garden originally designed in 1960. Docents will lead us in small groups and share their knowledge of the cultural richness of the landscape and the inspiration

it provides. In addition, you will receive a copy of the booklet, "Plants of the Japanese Garden," so you can keep track of the plants you can't live without.

The tour will last approximately one hour and will be followed by a demonstration of Chado, The Way of Tea, in the Shoseian Teahouse. You will be invited to enter the tea garden (roji) which is a small mossy area around the Teahouse usually off-limits to the public. Two walls of the teahouse will be slid open and visitors to the tea garden can observe Chado as it is performed and explained in the teahouse.



After that, you will be invited to stay for a serving of macha tea and a Japanese sweet. A perfect event to share with a gardening friend, daughter or mother.

All fees included in the cost of the class. **Note that the tour starts at noon.**

## CLASS REGISTRATION

All classes shown here currently have openings, so sign up now. It's easy to register online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or call the NPA office at 425-647-6004.

If you have a great idea for a class, contact Sandy Kanaga at [classes@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:classes@northwestperennialalliance.org)



# Going Native

Anne Nelson

**P**REFERRING BLOWSY hydrangeas and crayon-colored dahlias, I viewed native species and native gardens with considerable cynicism.

Indistinct flowers? Shambling, sprawling shrubberies? Bare-forest-floor-studded-with-the-occasional-fern? Not my perennial garden!

Slowly, my dreams of a classic English Border garden melted away. Mildewed phlox, parched crocosmia, shriveled peonies. This was no way to run a garden. Removing the carcasses of my botanical victims, the garden itself began to reveal some hope. The Western Sword Fern stood proud amidst the devastation. Salal leaves glowed, bright green and glossy, even in August.

So, I learned: Right plant, right place.

## *Why native plants?*

They like it here. Soggy winters. Five months of summer drought. Acidic, clay soil, which really is counterintuitive. Growing days few enough to make a tomato-fancier weep.

Evolving here, natives have adapted to our milder winters, providing shows of color and coming back to life earlier than in colder parts of the country. Indian plum buds start swelling in February, to be ready for the Mason bees in March. Red-flowering currant, spread by migrating birds, is fodder as well as good looking.

A plant in its native habitat has a better chance of a healthy immune system without our intervention. When native soil provides mineral nutrition suited to a plant, fertilizer can be wasted effort and expense. With a healthy immune system, plants are better able to fend off invading insects, making pesticides unnecessary or harmful to beneficial insects, like bees and butterflies.

The survivability of natives is just the beginning. As the garden fills with native flora, native fauna is not far behind. This is a good starting point for planning to include native plants in your garden.

## *Set Garden Goals*

If you're not inclined to fling yourself into a backyard sanctuary, a step-wise approach is handy. Name your goals. Wildlife?

Which wildlife? Birds and butterflies, but not deer? Winter color? Spring blooms? A summer garden that invites you to enjoy viewing – but doesn't demand action? Note your preferences: you'll be looking for these descriptions on plant labels, in newspaper articles and books, and on websites.

## *Getting started*

Jot down your garden conditions. Note exposure: sun or shade. Determine if your soil is clay or sand by squeezing a handful of moist soil: if it feels smooth, it's clay; if gritty, it's sand. Check your drainage: fill a 6-inch wide, 12-inch deep hole with water, and keep track of the time it takes to drain. Between four and six hours is good drainage. You'll be looking for plants labeled for your conditions.

Armed with your notes, you're ready for the next step: locate gardens you'd like to visit. Botanical gardens are a natural starting point, but you'll find specialty native gardens such as the Kruckeberg Garden, and water-wise gardens in growing numbers. The Washington Native Plant Society ([www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)) has a list of gardens to get you started, and local county conservation district websites may offer information. Some water districts have water-wise demonstration gardens, and even rain gardens.

Next, go for a walk in those selected gardens. Note plants and plant combinations you like and the conditions where they're growing. If photography is permitted – check at the entrance to the garden – take photos, and keep the pictures handy. Note the botanical name of the plant, if it's labeled. At home, make notes of any remem-

bered plants and features that you like.

Next step: Go to the nursery! But leave your wallet at home. This is a reconnaissance mission. Take your notes and camera. Most non-specialty nurseries devote a section to native plants. Check the labels for plants suited to your conditions and which you find attractive. Stroll by the conifers, and stop by the information desk for planting handouts.

Finally, plan what you'll add, and where they go. You don't have to go all-out native, though. Just add your natives to plantings with the same needs. Don't expect your natives to be drought tolerant immediately, though. They'll need a year or two of supplemental water to establish sturdy root systems.

## *Websites to check out:*

Elisabeth C. Miller Library  
[www.depts.washington.edu/hortlib/](http://www.depts.washington.edu/hortlib/)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[www.wdfw.wa.gov/living](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/living)

Washington Native Plant Society  
[www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)

Washington State University  
Clark County Extension  
<http://pnwplants.wsu.edu/>

King County Conservation District  
[www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/) (Downloadable urban native garden plans, lists and diagrams)



Anne Nelson gardens in an uncivilized quarter acre in Seattle in the company of a patient spouse and their dog, Bonkers.



# Construction underway at Bellevue Botanical Garden

*Michele Cournoyer & Nancy Kartes*

**I**F YOU HAVEN'T VISITED Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) recently, you're in for a big surprise. The entire front area is now a construction zone and the steel frames of the new Education Center are already rising from their foundations. An aggressive timeline calls for having the walls up and roof on before the rains begin in October.

These beautiful new buildings will provide classrooms, meeting space, offices and visitor amenities. When they're completed next summer, NPA will be able to hold lectures and classes at BBG, and we'll have indoor space for our March Mania Plant Sale.

Architect Jim Olson, of Olson Kundig Architects, believes that "architecture should sit lightly on the land, weaving itself into the garden as if it has always been there." With an emphasis on environmentally sound design, these new buildings will incorporate low-toxicity building materials, aggressive energy-saving strategies and responsible water use. Planned



New buildings are under construction at BBG

parking expansion will more than double the current parking capacity within the existing parking lot footprint.

The original Visitor Center, which was the Shorts' home, is open as usual throughout construction, with restrooms available. In the future the home will remain a lovely destination for visitors, and its welcoming residential ambiance will be restored.

The historic Sharp Cabin has been preserved and moved to a new location near the Waterwise Garden, where it will serve

as a convenient meeting space for groups such as our own Border volunteers.

Much of BBG remains untouched by the construction, including the NPA Border, the Shorts Ground Cover Garden, Yao Garden, Native Discovery Garden and the Ravine Experience. Visitors are asked to park at Wilburton Hill Park and take a short walk up to BBG along a well-marked gravel path. The temporary entrance is through the back gate in the Yao Garden.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society continues to raise funds for this project through their Growing a Living Legacy capital campaign. Please visit [www.growingalivinglegacy.org](http://www.growingalivinglegacy.org) to make a donation and get project updates.

## WHERE TO PARK

During construction, parking for BBG is at the intersection of Main Street and 124th Avenue NE, at Wilburton Hill Park. The easiest route is to take NE 8th Street to 124th and head south; 124th will end at the parking lot. Park at the back of the lot and follow the signs.



Aerial view of the construction site at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Photos courtesy of BBG

# Fame, Sex, Murder and Garden Style

Gayle Richardson

IT'S A RICH HAUL this month, with, surely, something for everybody.

**"ROSEMARY VEREY: THE LIFE & LESSONS OF A LEGENDARY GARDENER" by Barbara Paul Robinson**  
(David R. Godine, 2012)

Written by a dear friend and protege, this is nevertheless a warts-and-all biography of one of gardening's true greats. It's also compellingly readable, satisfyingly gossipy and at times inspirational. Verey was one who came to her career, fame and fortune later in life, but, tireless worker that she was, when she hit her stride she was unstoppable. Eighteen books, quite a few of them truly groundbreaking, countless trips to the US to promote them and her beloved garden at Barnsley, designing gardens for the good and the great, promoting the careers of many other gardeners and designers, and mingling with the likes of Prince Charles and Elton John were just a few of her many tactics used to keep loneliness at bay. Given all this, take a few moments to envision that iconic picture of her Laburnum walk, all dripping golden chains of flowers anchored by lavender alliums (described by one interviewee as the most famous garden photograph in history) and ponder Verey's own comment that if she'd been born a generation later, into a different social milieu, she would probably never have gardened at all. Certainly her loss, our gain.

**"SEX ON SIX LEGS: LESSONS ON LIFE, LOVE & LANGUAGE FROM THE INSECT WORLD" by Marlene Zuk**  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011)

Get yourselves in the mood for our November speaker (see cover story) by diving into this fascinating report on the jaw-dropping, complex lives of the crit-

ters that make up over 80% of all species on earth. Along with all of their alien behavior, insects seem to do much of what people do: they meet, mate, fight and part, and they do so with what looks like love or animosity--and all with a brain that is, in many cases, about the size of a poppy seed. Zuk's writing style is highly reminiscent of Mary Roach's (author of "Gulp," "Bonk," "Spook" and "Stiff"), whose humorous style and way with words make any topic, however off-putting at first, approachable and highly enjoyable.

**"DOWN THE GARDEN PATH" by Gerald Hammond** (Severn House, 2003)

Here's one for all you readers who have pleaded for more mysteries. May Forsyth is a young gardener who's landed a job at a country estate in Scotland. The placement of a particular tree drives her nuts... it's just so wrong, wrong, wrong. When she's finally able to convince the owners to let her remove it, what a surprise to find a body buried beneath it. Aided by the obligatory attractive policeman, May sets out to discover what went on when in the history of the house. Filled with gardening lore, likable characters with a lot of Hammond's trademark reserve and pragmatism, and an easygoing style, this 'cozy' is one of the hugely prolific author's most enjoyable offerings.

**"GARDEN ORNAMENTS: A STYLISH GUIDE TO DECORATING YOUR GARDEN" by Martha Baker** (Clarkson Potter, 1999) **and "GARDENALIA: CREATING THE STYLISH GARDEN" by Sally Coulthard** (Rizzoli, 2012)

I lump these two together as they have so much in common. What could be more pleasant than stopping weeding and settling down with these two coffee table books filled with photographs of

gardens you'd love to visit. Exhibiting for the most part high-end/hugely expensive garden decoration, they do nevertheless manage to scrape by under Richardson's Rule of Usefulness by each containing some appealing and inventive examples that would serve as-is in a garden, or as a springboard for projects of one's own. For example, in "Ornaments," a fresh take on the gabions that are everywhere these days: instead of filling the wire mesh with rocks, how about a haphazard pile of terra cotta pots? Or a detailed plan for making your own obelisk-shaped tuteur? "Gardenalia" offers an idea for a beautiful bird-safe garden mirror and a fresh way to showcase hyacinths that results in no scraggly dying foliage. These projects are all going on my to-do list for sure.

**"CATS IN THEIR GARDENS" by Page Dickey** (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 2002)

Take a stroll through some three dozen gardens and meet the resident cats who add so much by their artistic posing and dedicated patrolling. Gardeners range from the famous (Martha Stewart, Penelope Hobhouse, etc.) to the unknown, but all are equally adept in conveying how much the felines enrich their lives and relish their homes. Pure fluff, to be sure, but charming fluff. Dog owners, do not despair, there is a companion volume for you, "Dogs in Their Gardens" (same publisher and date) that rates the same praise.



Legendary librarian Gayle Richardson is NPA Vice President and an avid NPA volunteer.



# Why members love our neighborhood groups

Barbara Danek & Denise DuBose, Membership Co-Chairs

**I**N A RECENT POLL of our own neighborhood group, Shovels and Hoes, we asked what members value most about the NPA Neighborhood Groups program. Here are a few of their comments:

*"I enjoy all the great people I've met who have become friends that I never would have known. Sharing a common interest is a bonus, and even if our outings don't turn out as spectacularly as planned, we have a great time just being together."*

**-Cindy**

*"I was a newcomer to Washington gardening. Joining my NPA neighborhood group has helped me learn the area and what does and does not grow here. It's also a great way to meet new people with similar interests. Love it."*

*"When I joined our local NPA neighborhood garden group, I found more than a shared joy of working in a yard. I discovered members with a wealth of knowledge, not only about shrubs and flowers, but also vegetables for our area. They know about the best mulches, the best plants and reliable, local people to tackle yard jobs I cannot do alone. They share plants and stories of deer and elk that love our gardens too. Every month I now look forward to the pleasure of conversation and laughter*

*during lunches and car rides to the next outing."*

**-Susan**

NPA Neighborhood Groups are a valuable resource and asset to members, and just one of the many advantages of belonging to NPA. Current groups include the Daylight Group (South Whidbey Island), Dirty Divas (Ballard, Magnolia,

Island, Port Orchard), Harbor Gardeners (Gig Harbor), Joyful Gardens (Renton), Late Bloomers (Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mulilteo), Lilies of the Valley (Snoqualmie Valley, Carnation, Fall City, Redmond), Monday Nighters (Maple Leaf, Northgate, Pinehurst, Lake City), Mercerbelles (Mercer Island, Bellevue), Northeast



Eastside Hortiholics with guest speaker Kentayo from Marenkos

Queen Anne), Eastside Hortiholics (Bellevue, Mercer Island, Medina, Yarrow Point), Eastside Morning Glories (Redmond, Kirkland, Bellevue, Woodinville), Growin' Wild (Tacoma, Gig Harbor, Fox

Clump (Northeast Seattle, Queen Anne, Greenlake), Northern Exposure (Camano Island, Stanwood, Marysville, Arlington, Everett), Petal Pushers (Lakewood, Tacoma, Olympia, Lacey), Shovels and Hoes (North Bend, Carnation), Sno-King Plant Junkies (Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, Duvall), South Sounders (Tacoma, Puyallup, Lake Tapps), Twilight Group (South Whidbey Island) and Vashon Islanders (Vashon Island).

If you are an NPA member and would like to join a group, please email us at [groups@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:groups@northwestperennialalliance.org) and we will connect you with a local group in your area. If the group nearest you is "closed" due to size limitations, we'll show you how very easy it is to start your own neighborhood group.



Shovels and Hoes at Mary Carhart's Vashon garden

# Meet two great NPA chairs

Michele Cournoyer



**Carol Hart, Open Gardens Chair**

Most days you will find Carol Hart in her garden with either a shovel or a camera in her hand. When I called, the avid gardener and photographer was picking beans in her veggie garden. "We live in a world of hustle and bustle," she said. "But when I'm in my garden, things slow down and mellow out."

Carol and her husband have lived in the same house in Shoreline for more than 30 years. Their garden includes beds of ornamentals, a shade garden, herb and vegetable beds, a container garden, a greenhouse and a small pond. "We have more square footage devoted to the garden than the house," she confessed. Spoken like a true gardener.

It's no surprise that Open Gardens appealed to Carol from the time she first joined NPA. "I was so taken with the way people generously share their gardens," she said. Last year she decided to be brave, take the plunge and open her own garden. "It turned out just great. I had about 70 visitors and everyone was very kind. It was

quite a learning experience. Afterwards, I realized I wanted to figure out a way to give back in a more meaningful way."

The opportunity came when she spotted an article in *The Perennial Post* announcing that Mary Shane was leaving and NPA was looking for a new Open Gardens chair. "I looked at the skills needed and thought, I can do that," Carol said, and jumped in with both feet. "I'm really excited!"

In addition to her volunteer work with NPA, Carol also has her own blog, [openhart.com](http://openhart.com), where she shares photos of her garden, trips she has taken, recipes and other musings.

Carol can hardly wait to tackle next year's Open Garden book, which will feature more full-color photography in addition to the tantalizing garden descriptions. We hope members will show their support by opening their gardens in 2014. Watch for the registration form in the December edition of the *Post* or find it on the NPA website at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org)



**Sandy Kanaga, Classes & Workshops Chair**

Sandy Kanaga has been the shot of adrenalin our Classes & Workshops needed. Since she took over this program a few months ago, we've seen an uptick in the

number of NPA classes offered and an enthusiastic response from our members.

When asked what attracted her to Classes & Workshops, Sandy's answer was simple: "I wanted to go to them, I wanted to learn. As a matter of fact, I've been to every one of them and in each one I've found out something new."

Friendly and engaging, Sandy bounds from one great class to another, collecting feedback and ideas from class participants along the way.

"I try to develop classes for a wide variety of interests, which means it's not always something I thought I'd be interested in myself," she said. "But then I go to the class and end up getting surprised."

Sandy retired in 2012 as the office manager for an alternative school in Buckley, where extensive school board experience honed her organizational skills. Deciding she was ready to become more active in NPA, she volunteered for NPA plant sales, joined the Shovels & Hoes neighborhood group and became a member of the NPA Board.

She lives on six flat, sunny acres in Enumclaw where she tries to restrain herself to a one-acre garden. It's a casual, country style place, filled with flowering plants and beset by deer, elk and occasional weeds.

Sandy is constantly on the lookout for new ideas to add to the Classes & Workshops schedule. She combs through issues of garden magazines, she reads newspaper articles about gardening trends and studies garden issues. She's even been known to eavesdrop shamelessly on conversations. If you have an idea for a class, email her at [classes@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:classes@northwestperennialalliance.org). "The best ideas I've gotten are ones people have told me about," she said. "I am wide open to any suggestions."

*(See Sandy's October classes, page 3.)*



# Hail & Farewell: the 2013 NPA Board

*Michele Cournoyer*

**A**S A NEW YEAR BEGINS for the NPA Board, it's time to say welcome back to our wonderful group of board directors and bid a fond farewell to three who have left the board.

**Sue Moss** left us in May when she and her husband moved to the Bay area to be closer to their grandchildren. Sue helped get planning started for Study Weekend 2014 and organized last year's very suc-



Departing NPA board member Sue Moss

cessful Windcliff fundraiser. A gifted garden designer, she served on past NPA boards as Education Co-chair and NPA president. Sue plans to return for visits in the future to see her many friends here in the gardening community.

**Kathryn Highland**, who spent six years on the board, will be sorely missed. As Membership Chair for three years, she was a wonderful ambassador for NPA and also



Kathryn Highland

helped plan our fundraiser at Windcliff last year. We're happy to report Kathryn has promised to volunteer at future NPA plant sales.

**Carol Holloway**, who also left the board this summer, will continue to lend her expertise in the NPA Border, where her con-



Carol Holloway

siderable gardening skills are showcased in beds 5 and 6. A retired HR executive, Carol was often a source of good advice and enjoyed running our booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

The members of our all-volunteer board help organize plant sales, run lectures, plan new events and brainstorm ways to make NPA fun and rewarding for all. **Denise DuBose** and **Barb Danek** serve as Membership Co-Chairs, overseeing NPA's thriving network of neighborhood groups. **Kit Haesloop** is NPA Scholarship Chair and will be sifting through applications to award two scholarships this year to deserving horticulture students. **Sandy Kanaga**, Classes & Workshops Chair, is developing several exciting new classes for the coming year. **Sara Drogin**, Communications Chair, makes sure all of our events are well-publicized and is also a copy editor on *The Perennial Post*. **Diana Davidson** will be running the NPA booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show again this year. **Linda Gray** helps run the profitable NPA plant carts at Bellevue

Botanical Garden. **Walt Bubelis** brings cuttings of unusual plants to every board meeting and is a font of wisdom on all things horticultural. **Carolyn Whittlesey** ran the successful bus tour to Portland last year and hosts the NPA Board's annual holiday party. **Ellie Sanchez** does a stellar job recording the board's meeting minutes. When **Gary Davidson** isn't crunching numbers, he's working in the Border.

Last year's board officers, who are elected by the board's directors, have been elected to serve another year. They include **Michele Cournoyer**, president; **Gayle Richardson**, vice president; Gary Davidson, treasurer; and Ellie Sanchez, secretary.

In addition to her president's duties, Michele Cournoyer is also the editor of *The Perennial Post*, manages the NPA website and Facebook pages, creates monthly emails to members with **Katie Padwick**, handles Board Development and, together with Gayle Richardson, runs the March Mania and NPA Spring plant sales. Gayle Richardson serves as Education Chair, booking speakers for NPA lectures; runs the Seed Exchange; is the vendor liaison for plant sales; and maintains the NPA archives. A retired librarian, Gayle also writes the popular Book Reviews feature in the *Post*.

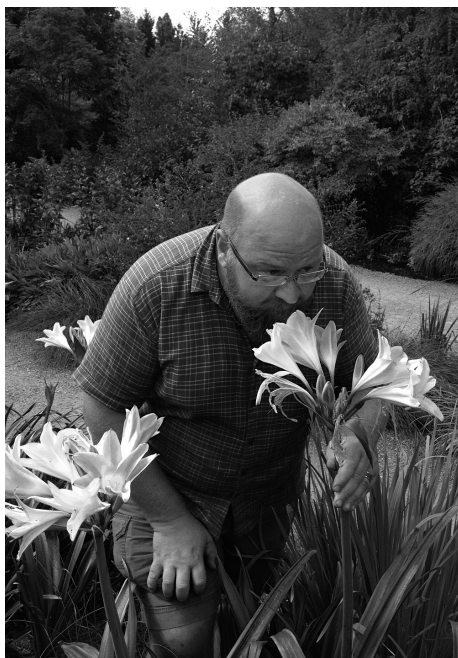
## JOIN US!

If you're ready to get more involved in NPA, now's the time! We are currently searching for qualified candidates to fill vacant positions on the board. We meet the first Tuesday of each month from 7-9 pm. If you're interested, please email Michele Cournoyer at [board@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:board@northwestperennialalliance.org).

ONE OF THE PERKS of working in a public garden is meeting the crowds of visitors, many of them from other regions. Inevitably, this summer I heard, "Wow, it is so DRY here! I wasn't expecting that." I assured them that the other nine months of the year will indeed be miserable drizzle. Yes, a Mediterranean climate has cycles like this; we all know it, yet I am still fascinated by how fast it can go from damp and cool to crispy and dull. We had a proper summer this year, with a record-breaking stretch of sun and little rain, but we were ready. Just a few quick patches to holes in the irrigation hoses from stray digging forks and we were up and soaking.

Summer also brought a bumper crop of Border tours. It seemed like I was giving tours every other day to groups of interested gardeners. Many NPA neighborhood groups turned up to see how things are coming along. After a few years it is getting tougher to see the difference between the newer planted beds in the north end of the Border and the older, more established side as large areas of plants grow in and billow out onto the paths. This summer there was plenty of color from more and more plantings, and the color show is carrying on into fall. Several four-inch pots of *Digitalis* that went in a bit late rooted fast and bulked up quickly on that magic combination of summer heat and moist soil. They were among the many plants added this year to make sure the Border is lush and colorful for Study Weekend next June.

The investment in *x Amarcrinum* from Brent and Becky's Bulbs a few years ago has paid off spectacularly. They were already in bloom in late August and I expect these tall, fragrant pink trumpets to keep going through October. Their shape



George samples the fragrance of *x Amarcrinum*.

provides a nice relief from the daisy-centric flowers of fall. When you visit, please have a sniff and tell me what you think the fragrance reminds you of.

This autumn brings a new development: for the first time, the Border will

be part of Garden D'Lights. Due to the ongoing construction at BBG, the holiday light show is being rerouted to exit along some of the Border paths. This means that hundreds of people will be strolling through our garden. At night, in the dark, but still. What it really means is that we need the beds cleaned out and ready for a tidal wave of Garden D'Lights volunteers, who will descend to set up well before the show opens in November. So if you are free during late September or October I could use your help! Please email me at [border@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:border@northwestperennialalliance.org).

Speaking of work and volunteers, I need to thank you all. This season we had a nice crew every week. Plenty of volunteers coupled with a diligent horticulture class from Edmonds and the place was nearly weed-free (gardens are never totally weedless). So a huge thanks to all of you who have spent some time keeping our showpiece garden at BBG looking better than ever.



Diana and Gary Davidson at work in the Border with George.

Photos by Michele Cournoyer



## Now's the time to give NPA gift memberships

New members who join NPA in September get the rest of 2013 plus all of 2014. That's an extra four months, free. So now's the perfect time to give an NPA gift membership to a friend or to encourage someone you know to join. You can order an attractive gift card online at [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) or contact the NPA office at [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org)

## Fall Clearance Days in the Border

Join us Thursday, October 10, and Thursday, October 17, as we cut down and clear out plants from the NPA Border in order to prepare for Garden D'Lights. Come any time from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm for these two big volunteer events. October 17 will also include a potluck lunch for volunteers. Bring something to share and meet the other volunteers.



## More about Study Weekend

Study Weekend rotates between horticulture groups in Oregon, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. The two biggest groups in the rotation, NPA and the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO), each host the event every four years, with Hardy Plant societies in Vancouver and Victoria filling the in-between years when they can. HPSO is already at work on Study Weekend 2015. The groups have agreed there will be no Study Weekend in 2016. As we go to press, our friends with the Victoria group are considering hosting the event in 2017 to tie in with Canada's 150th birthday. In 2018, Study Weekend will once again return to NPA.

Wherever it's held, Study Weekend tends to sell out quickly—the 2013 Study Weekend in Vancouver sold out in 11 days! Online registration for NPA's Study Weekend will open January 15, 2014 to NPA members only and to the public on February 1.

### NPA Advisory Board

Kelly Dodson	Chitra Parpia
Val Easton	Charles Price
Roger Gossler	Debra Prinzing
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Dan Hinkley	Joanne White
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George Johnson	Barbara Wright
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Denise Lane	

### Northwest Perennial Alliance

*The Northwest Perennial Alliance is a group of ardent gardeners with a passionate devotion to herbaceous plants. Members comprise a wide range, professional and amateur, but all with the aim of furthering perennial gardening in the Northwest.*

Website: [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org)  
Phone: 425-647-6004  
Email: [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org)

#### NPA 2012-2013 Officers:

Michele Cournoyer, President: 425-868-5541  
Gayle Richardson, Vice President: 206-632-2735  
Ellie Sanchez, Secretary: 425-828-6820  
Gary Davidson, Treasurer: 425-896-8040

#### Membership:

The membership year runs from January to December. To join, visit [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check for \$35, payable to NPA, to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA accepts certain credit cards and debit cards by telephone at 425-647-6004.

#### Donations:

NPA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Donations are used to support our educational programs, including Open Gardens, lectures, workshops, the NPA Border and student scholarships.

#### Submissions and paid advertisements:

Contact the Post Editor at  
[post@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:post@northwestperennialalliance.org)

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## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jill Ashbaugh  
Mary & Leo Bellarts  
Amy Churchill  
Peggy Flanagan Gellert  
Karen Gercens  
Don Johnson  
Michael Keeley

Ulrike Kreppold &  
Robert Sabolovic  
Susan & Gary Larson  
Kendall McLean  
Patty Metzger  
Betty Olsgaard  
Deborah Starr  
Linda Velluti  
Annie Wilkins

### WELCOME BACK!

Christa Balk  
Cindy Coombs  
Stacie Crooks  
Susan Goode  
Gale Wald



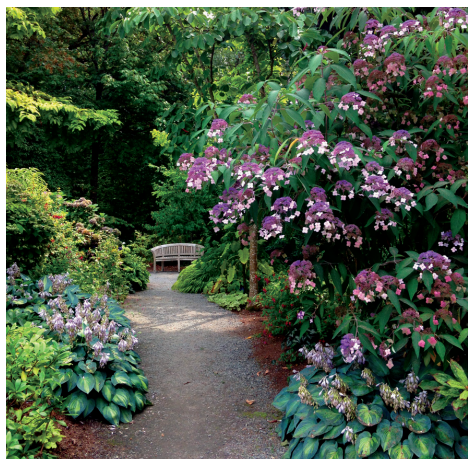
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## Colorful show in the NPA Border



*Hydrangea aspera* and *Hosta 'June'*



*Aralia 'Sun King'*



*Phlox 'Blue Paradise'*



*Eryngium 'Sapphire Blue'*



*Liatris spicata* and *Astilbe chinensis*



New hybrid *Echinacea*