

Garden Notes

Northwest Horticultural Society

Spring 1993

Exploring Shade Gardens

Shade gardens are rich with possibilities, as you will discover in the theme articles of this edition of Garden Notes. They describe an array of lovely plants and trees that do well in shade and create exquisite, interesting landscapes. As Lynn Sonneman alludes in her interview on page 6 with noted Northwest gardener Mareen Kruckeberg, shade provides tranquility and depth to a garden as well as fanciful, delicate interplay of light and shadow. Discover many delights of shade gardens in this issue.



Mary Randlett

Carpeting Your Garden - A Treasure Trove of Groundcovers

by Dan Hinkley

It is said that when love flies, it is remembered not as love but as an incongruous gray void, of neither joy nor sadness. In the context of a cheap horticultural romance, when love departs it is remembered on a daily basis as we try to eradicate it from our gardens. More often than not, the whole fatuous affair

began with a four-inch pot of "darling, you look marvelous" groundcover. Effective groundcovers need not be the prostrate, invasive subversives we often envision. While recognizing the exceptional benefits of, in the garden at least, laying the carpet after placing the furniture, we should redefine what exactly

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Carpeting Your Garden

constitutes a groundcover. Stoloniferous or rhizotomous minions hold no monopoly on effectiveness for smothering weeds and cooling the soil, but obviously employ a successful lobby in the nursery trade. Sniff through any groundcover department in local nurseries and experience this equation. A potential groundcover, evidently, does not approach legitimacy until proven capable of inflicting collateral damage. We should consider the fact, however, that expansive sweeps of woody plants and clump-forming perennials do indeed cover the ground.

In our relatively young garden, the groundcover inventory is an experience in multi-(horti)cultural pluralism. In their intertwining, the groundcovers add a complexity to the garden floor, though the more vigorous or improperly placed

*We should
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selections may swamp diminutive treasures that are discovered at season's end in a funeral state. And as seasons mount in the life of our garden, I have learned that what appear remarkable tapestries of form and textures to some, may indeed seem a Karastan-in-crisis to others. Discussed below

are a handful of hardy and well-behaved groundcovers that I have come to admire for both form and function in our woodland.

Some Treasures

Lonicera xylosteum 'Nana', the dwarf fly honeysuckle, has become a well-respected low shrub growing in the semi-shade of our woodland garden. The low spreading mound of dense branches, five feet wide and two feet tall, are cloaked by soft green leaves throughout the summer. Remarkable for their fecundity even in densely-shaded conditions, large numbers of yellow-white spring flowers are followed by quantities of red berries in late summer. It is not apparent why this shrub has become associated with the fly, nor do I, being a squeamish sort at heart, wish to know.

Pieris japonica is a widely recognized shrub in the Puget Sound area with a well-deserved reputation as a silk and steel broadleaved evergreen shrub for our gardens. *Pieris japonica* 'Little Heathergreen' is one of several new vigorous dwarf forms which currently is winning approval in our garden as a top notch, restrained, yet distinctive groundcover. It quickly produces an eighteen inch "bushel basket" of deep green



Tiarella polyphylla Pink Form

foliage, which emerges in early spring with tones of polished copper. Smaller than normal, yet still elegant and lovely, drooping white panicles of white bells are produced in early spring.

An odd member of the *Ranunculus* family, *Xanthorhiza simplicifolia*, is too infrequently encountered in the gardens of the Northwest. Colonies of barren and woody stems, to two feet, create a purplish haze as small and curious flowers are produced in May. If planted in full sun or partial shade, the large finely dissected leaves darken to rich and glossy plum/purple before falling. I have interplanted this with *Euonymus fortunei* 'Sunspot', a lower growing evergreen scrambler with bright leaves of yellow becoming blushed with pink in winter. It is a good combination for contrast in texture and color throughout the year. Both get on quite well in shaded conditions.

Few shrubs can as competently offer the richness in foliage and scent to the woodland garden as those found in the genus *Sarcococca*. Several species of Winter Box can be cultivated in our climate and make a handsome and refined choice for a tall groundcover. *Sarcococca orientalis* remains my favorite for flower effect alone, and though not quite as heady in fragrance as *S. hookerana* var. *digyna*, its presence arrives via February breezes far downwind from its location in the garden. The flowers, large for this genus, have a blush of pink in the swelling buds and just-opened florets. Following are crops of shiny, deep-red fruit ripening to black, nestled among relatively large dark green leaves which are born on clumping stems to three feet.

Saxifragaceously, the woodland can be crammed with treasures of varied texture and color. *Tiarella cordifolia* 'Montrose' is an exceptional selection from a species which is a varied and valued groundcover in our garden. Unlike *Tiarella cordifolia* 'Moorgrun', which vigorously charts new territories this selection, by Montrose Nursery in North Carolina, is a true clumper. Erect spires of pink-blushed flowers are centered among purple-suffused foliage, effective in blossom and foliage for several weeks.

NORTHWEST
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SERIES

1993



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WINTER



• LECTURES •

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH 10:30AM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 10:00AM

"Late Winter/Early Spring Interest in the Garden"

DAN HINKLEY

Plantsman, Instructor at Edmonds Community College,
Co-owner, Heronswood Nursery

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH 7:30PM

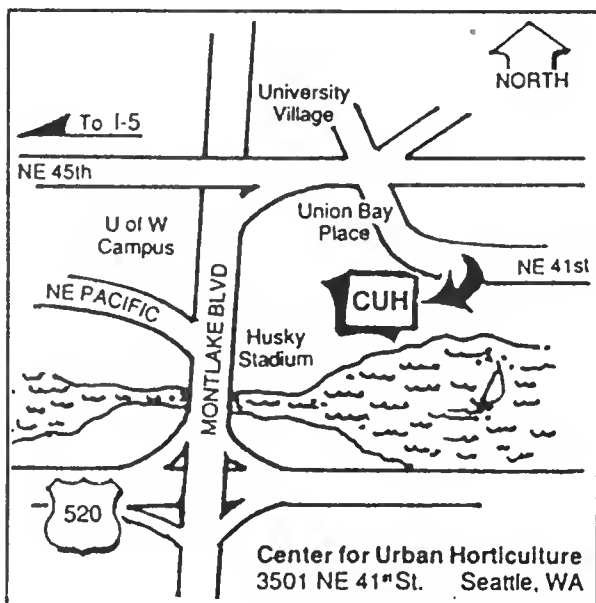
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 7:00PM

"What Makes a Garden Great"

ALLEN P. PATERSON

Director, Royal Botanic Garden, Hamilton, Ontario
formerly with Chelsea Physic Garden, London

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Garden Enthusiasts,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Northwest Horticultural Society's 1993 Tour and Lecture Series. Each year we attempt to captivate the interest of all varieties of gardeners by presenting a balanced program of wide ranging topics. We explore all facets: from the simple how-to's of gardening to the study of philosophical and emotional import inherent in the cultivation and the design of gardens.

To our patrons who make this series possible I extend heartfelt appreciation. Without your generosity NHS would not be able to bring you this discriminating group of experts from around the world.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as many lectures and tours as possible. If you are not a member, do join and enjoy our newsletter and all the other benefits of membership.

We hope you will be as pleased as we are with this exceptional series.

Cordially,

Michael Ryan

NHS GOALS

An independent organization providing horticultural education for its members and the general public, NHS offers lectures, garden tours, exhibits, a seed exchange, propagation workshops, study groups, plant sales, and four newsletters a year. It provides support for horticultural endeavors nationally, abroad, and locally including the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture, and the Elisabeth Carey Miller Horticultural Library. Active concern of NHS is to stimulate the interest of gardeners in the wealth of ornamental plant material which can be grown in the Northwest; its propagation and culture.

Northwest Horticultural Society
c/o Isaacson Hall
University of Washington GF-15
Seattle, WA 98195 (206) 527-1794



SPRING



• LECTURE • GARDEN TOUR •

TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD 10:30AM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 10:00AM

"The Golden Age of American Gardens"

History of American estate gardens (1890-1940)
complemented with modern slide views

MAC GRISWOLD

Co-author with Eleanor Weller,

The Golden Age of American Gardens: Period
Gardens, Private Estates, 1890-1940, New York City

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH 10:00AM

THE HIGHLANDS

"Seattle's Great Gardens of the Golden Age"

\$25 MEMBERS ONLY

A BOX LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. BY BUS ONLY.

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM

Mail by **March 23, 1993:**

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, c/o Isaacson Hall
University of Washington GF-15, Seattle, WA 98195

Highlands Garden Tour, Saturday March 27, 10:00AM

Please reserve _____ places. \$25 Members only.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SPRING



• LECTURES •

TUESDAY, APRIL 20TH 10:30AM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 10:00AM

"Alliums and Companion Plants"

DR. DILYS DAVIES
English Author and Lecturer

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

SAT. - SUN., MAY 1ST & 2ND

SCIENCE CENTER, SEATTLE CENTER

NHS Weekend at the "Beatrix Potter Exhibit"

Beatrix Potter was not only the author/illustrator of well-loved children's stories, but a noted botanist/naturalist, authority on fungi.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED THROUGHOUT DAY

ADMISSION AT THE DOOR.

TUESDAY, MAY 4TH 7:30PM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 7:00PM

"The Mixed Border"

ANN LOVEJOY
Author, Lecturer, Pacific Northwest
contributor to Horticulture

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

SPRING



• GARDEN TOUR • LECTURE •

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH 10:00AM & 12:30PM

19011 226TH AVE. N.E. WOODINVILLE, WA 98072

Back By Popular Demand!

Garden Tour

T.R. WELCH'S STROLL GARDEN

A blend of Pacific Northwest and Japanese styles.

\$20 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$25

A BOX LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. BY BUS ONLY.

*PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED. NUMBERS LIMITED. PLEASE NOTE
THERE WILL BE A MORNING AND AFTERNOON TOUR.*

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH 10:30AM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 10:00AM

"Garden Design with Foliage"

JUDY GLATTSTEIN

Author, Lecturer, Wilton, CT

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM

Mail by **May 15, 1993:**

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, c/o Isaacson Hall
University of Washington GF-15, Seattle, WA 98195

Welch Garden Tour, Saturday May 15th

Please reserve _____ places. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ 10AM _____ 12:30PM _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

FERN FESTIVAL



• LECTURE • GARDEN TOUR • SALE •

THURSDAY, JUNE 3RD 7:30PM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 7:00PM

"Using Ferns in the Landscape"

TIM MOREHOUSE

Garden writer, Photographer, Lecturer, Cincinnati, OH

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

FRIDAY, JUNE 4TH 10:00AM

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Garden Tour

FRI. - SAT., JUNE 4TH & 5TH

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

Fern Sale

HOURS ARE 1PM TO 5PM FRIDAY AND 10AM TO 2PM SATURDAY. SPECIAL TREASURES FOR YOUR GARDEN.



SPECIAL EVENT

• GARDEN TOUR •

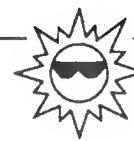
LATE JUNE OR MID SEPTEMBER

Garden Tour to Portland

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

AT LEAST 2 DAYS + OVERNIGHT!

SUMMER



• LECTURE •

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH 7:30PM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 7PM

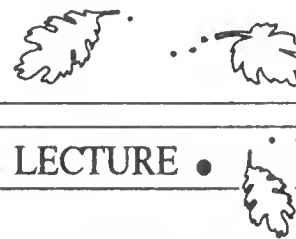
"New Plant Introductions from the Netherlands"

GERT FORTGENS

Curator, Arboretum Tropenburg
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

\$5 MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS \$7

FALL



• SALE • LECTURE •

FRI. - SAT., SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

Annual Fall Plant Sale

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 7:30PM

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE - NHS HALL
COFFEE AT 7PM

"Beyond Color-The Painterly Art of Planting"

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PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

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Joy Crothall	Carol T. Issacson
Barbara L. Crutcher	Mrs. Katrina Jensen

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- Invitation to NHS Preview Party before Fall Plant Sale
- Annual seed exchange list
- 4 issues of NHS Newsletter
- Access to special events

Your dues help support scholarships for horticulture students. For an additional \$15/year, you will receive 4 issues of Pacific Horticulture.

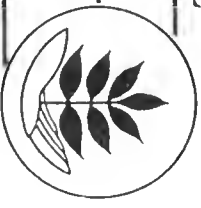
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LECTURE

SERIES

1993



Heuchera "Phase"

and perched on the threshold of yet another "plant phase" with the genus *Heuchera*, correctly pronounced "hoy-chura", in which I have developed a very strong interest. Yet another selection from Nancy Goodwin's Montrose Nursery, *Heuchera* 'Montrose Ruby' is a chance hybrid which occurred in her garden between *H. americana* and the popular *H. micrantha* 'Palace Purple'. Both parents are exceptional woodland plants in themselves. *H. americana* 'Dale's Strain' (hopefully not commemorating this gardener's hernia), produces large clumps of pewter-veined foliage which remain handsome throughout the year. The latter, with black-purple gloss, needs little introduction. The resulting offspring between these two produce plants sporting extraordinary leaves of raspberry sherbet etched in platinum. Like those of its purple parent, seedlings from this hybrid, which are now appearing in our woodland garden, apparently come true. The dynamic and relatively young Montrose Nursery, incidentally, sadly begins its last season of business this spring. It is of interest to note that *Heuchera* 'Montrose Ruby' by backcrossing to *H. americana*, has yielded seedlings of extraordinary beauty. *Heuchera* 'Pewter Veil', an experience in folial tinsel with glossy ever leaves veined with dark green, is among the most remarkable plants I have recently encountered.

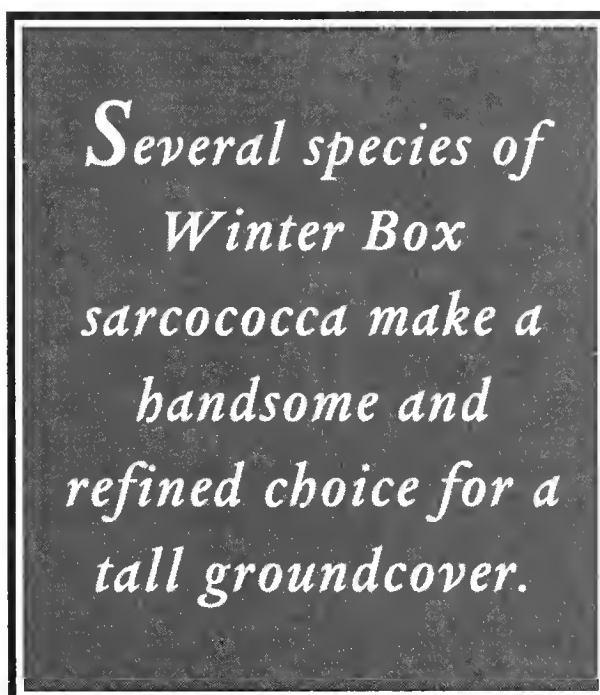
I first came upon the lovely white variegated *Heuchera sanguinea* 'Snowstorm' in the gardens and nurseries of England where it has become popular fare. Adding weight to the adage of "look for what you seek in your own backyard", this remarkable white-speckled green seedling was selected in the garden/nursery of Dan Heims in Portland, Oregon. His newest introduction, *Heuchera* 'Ruffles', has become an admired plant in the woodland, drawing me often to marvel in its tight tuft of leathery, undulated foliage.

Heuchera 'La Rouchette', first encountered in the Seattle garden of Jerry Flintoff, is currently making the horticultural rounds in the plant circles of the Bay Area. It is among the most beautiful woodland plants I currently grow, for its enormous glossy clumps of foliage and large pink flowers produced in four-foot airy sprays. It is exciting to consider the potential this plant may offer in the breeding programs of Dan Heims and others currently involved with this genus. As the *Heucheras* tend to be favorite fodder of our resident mountain

beavers, I depart each cognizant that it may be our last meeting.

As you contemplate changes and additions for your garden, consider substantive layers of "groundcovering" plants throughout, whether in full sun or shade. The beauty offered the horticulturist by a well-chosen plant for this role is equaled only by the benefits provided our gardens.

Dan Hinkley is an instructor of Horticulture at Edmonds Community College and co-owner of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Washington. He is in the process of writing a book for Sasquatch Press on winter ornamentals for the maritime West.



Sarcococca orientalis



President's Message

Let me take this opportunity to express heartfelt appreciation to the Northwest Horticultural Society Patrons for their support of our Lecture and Tour Series. Their generous funding allows NHS to provide diversified programs and exceptional speakers from around the world. Without Patron support NHS would not be able to offer this informative series to the public. Patrons, members and friends, please look in Garden Notes for complete information on upcoming events. There is something to pique everyone's interest or fancy.

A special thank you to Betsy Fitzgerald for her dedication and enthusiasm in arranging the Series. Also, I would like to acknowledge Phoebe Andrew, Marili Boyd and Glen Youell for their valuable assistance.

On behalf of NHS, I salute the Patrons.

Cordially,

Michael Lynn

Michael Lynn

Library Resources

by Valerie Easton

Shade Gardening

Whether we garden in a naturalistic setting, an urban garden shadowed by neighboring buildings, or in a mature landscape, all Northwest gardeners work with areas of shade. The following authors see shadows and woodlands as ideal for lush textural plantings filled with bloom and fragrance. The diversity of plants that thrive in various degrees of shade and the design ideas presented below will inspire us to see those shady corners not as problems but as an opportunity for the creative gardener.

The Natural Shade Garden

by Ken Druse.

New York: Clarkson Potter, 1991.

The newest, most complete and beautifully photographed of the titles devoted to shade gardening, Druse's book emphasizes naturalistic design and the use of native plants and wildflowers. Sections on container gardens for shade, nursery sources and gardens to visit are useful. One of the featured gardens, with photos, plans and plant lists, is a hillside garden near Seattle.

The Green Tapestry

by Beth Chatto.

New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989.

Ken Druse lists this book as a valuable reference on shade gardening, even though it is not devoted to the subject. This is a book about Beth Chatto's own garden and how she has successfully created beautiful plantings in a variety of shady conditions. Her use of perennials in successful combinations throughout the year and her personal advice and comment, make this book both worthwhile and a delight to read.

The Complete Shade Gardener

by George Schenk.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991.

When George Schenk wrote the first edition of this book in 1984 he gardened at least part of the year in the Pacific Northwest. He points out in his introduction that the first pleasure gardens were shade gardens created as a retreat from the desert and inspired by the natural oasis. Schenk gives practical information on how to create this same mood of peace and retreat in our shade gardens of today. This is the most detailed of the shade gardening books on topics such as preparing the soil, pruning, seasonal tasks; even creating a lawn in shade. The first chapter, "The Shade Room", is one of the best explanations I've ever seen on the creation of a garden bed from a bare plot of dirt, showing all the steps along the way, complete with mistakes and revisions. Schenk brings to life garden-making in three dimensions. He admits it is a slow process, saying "still it is my only way and is more sculptural, more spontaneous, more richly woven, this landscaping by evolution instead of by adherence to a pat design on paper."

Gardening in the Shade

by Margery Fish.

London: Faber and Faber Ltd., 1983.

Originally published in 1964. "Some of the most interesting plants that one can grow are shade lovers and I always feel sorry for people who have no shady corners in their gardens where they can grow the unusual and interesting plants that make a garden feel different." Margery Fish had many shady corners at her garden at East Lambrook Manor and she understands well the beauties possible in variation and bloom under such conditions. Although the reader longs for color photographs to illustrate the lovely combinations Fish describes so well, this book is useful for its readability and knowledgeable discussion of specific plants and their use.

Valerie Easton is a librarian at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Varieties of Shade

Light shade: dappled light such as in a woodland through the new leaves of deciduous trees.

Open shade: plants shaded by buildings or nearby trees; however, no canopy of trees overhead.

Partial shade: plants receive both shade and some light from the sun according to its path and are only briefly exposed to direct sun.

High open shade: high-branched trees let some sunlight through, additional light comes from the slanting rays of the morning and late afternoon sun.

Deep shade: evergreen or deciduous trees stand densely producing corresponding dense shade. Temperatures are several degrees colder, the air's moisture content higher than surroundings.

Library Resources

Other titles of interest:

Gardening in the Shade

by The American Horticultural Society.
Mt. Vernon, VA: American Horticultural Society, 1982, *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening*.

Gardening in the Shade

by Harriet K. Morse.
Beaverton: Timber Press, 1982, revised edition.

Plants for Shade and Woodland

by Allen Paterson.
Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1987.

Right Plant, Right Place

by Nicola Ferguson.
New York: Summit Books, 1984.

Shade Gardens

by Oliver E. Allen.
Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1979.

New Leaves in the Elisabeth C. Miller Library

by Valerie Easton

Craul, Phillip J. *Urban Soil in Landscape Design*.
New York: John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1992.

Dickerson, Brent C. *The Old Rose Advisor*.
Portland: Timber Press, 1992

Ellefson, Connie; Stephens, Tom and Welsh, Doug. *Xeriscape Gardening: Water Conservation for the American Landscape*. New York: Macmillan, 1992.

Imes, Rick. *Wildflowers: How to Identify Flowers in the Wild and How to Grow Them in Your Garden*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1992.

Jefferson-Brown, Michael. *Hardy Ferns*.
London: Ward Lock Ltd., 1992

Kourik, Robert; Schmidt, Heidi. *Drip Irrigation for Every Landscape and All Climates*. Santa Rosa, CA: Metamorphic Press, 1992.

Some Sources for Shade-Tolerant Trees and Plants

Local General Nurseries

Furney's Nursery

13427 N.E. 16th
Bellevue, WA 98005
747-8282

Molbak's Nursery

13625 N.E. 175th
Woodinville, WA 98072
483-5000

Swanson's Nursery

9701 15th N.W.
Seattle, WA 98117
782-2543

Sky Nursery

18528 Aurora Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133
546-4851

Wells Medina Nursery

8300 N.E. 24th
Medina, WA 98004
454-1853

Specialty Nurseries

Colvos Creek Farm

Mike Lee, Owner
P.O. Box 1512
Vashon Island, WA 98070
For information or appointment
Call 441-1509

Heronswood Nursery

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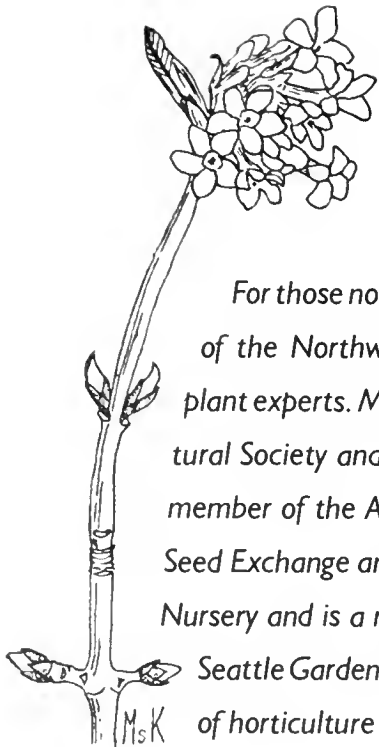
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Captivating Trees and Shrubs



For those not familiar with Mareen Kruckeberg, she is one of the Northwest's most knowledgeable and preeminent plant experts. Mareen is a founder of the Northwest Horticultural Society and the Hardy Fern Foundation, and an active member of the American Rock Garden Society and the NHS Seed Exchange and Plant Sales. She is owner of MsK Specialty Nursery and is a recipient of the Certificate of Merit from the Seattle Garden Club for her contributions to the development of horticulture in the Northwest.

Viburnum bodnantense

A shade garden is a special place, full of dappled sunlight and the deep, rich greens of conifers, a tranquil stage for displaying the colors and textures of its particularly suited plants. It is also a place where the winter garden comes into its own, with plants grown either for the surprise of winter blossoms or for their colorful fruits.

Foremost among winter shrubs for impact is the *Corylopsis* which is covered with delicate pale yellow racemes before the leaves appear. Mareen has four or five different species: among them *C. glabrescens*, one of the best forms and hardiest, *C. pauciflora*, with slightly longer flowers, and *C. sinensis* which can be trained as a single-trunked small tree. Both *Viburnum x bodnantense* with deep pink flowers and the *V. burkwoodii*, which has white blossoms, are extremely fragrant and well worth growing for arrangements in winter. Another fragrant winter-blooming shrub is the white-flowered *Lonicera standishii* which grows up to six feet.

Among shade-tolerant trees which are grown for their berries are the *Clerodendrum trichotomum* var. *fargesii* with brilliant blue fruits and the *Sorbus vilmorinii*, which changes from rose-red to pink to white as the fruits age. Winter is also time to show off the spectacular thorns of the *Rosa sericea* var. *pteracantha* (meaning "terrible thorns") and the *Clethra barbinervis*, which, when mature, has beautifully mottled bark similar to *Stewartias*, and a graceful growth habit.

Evergreens

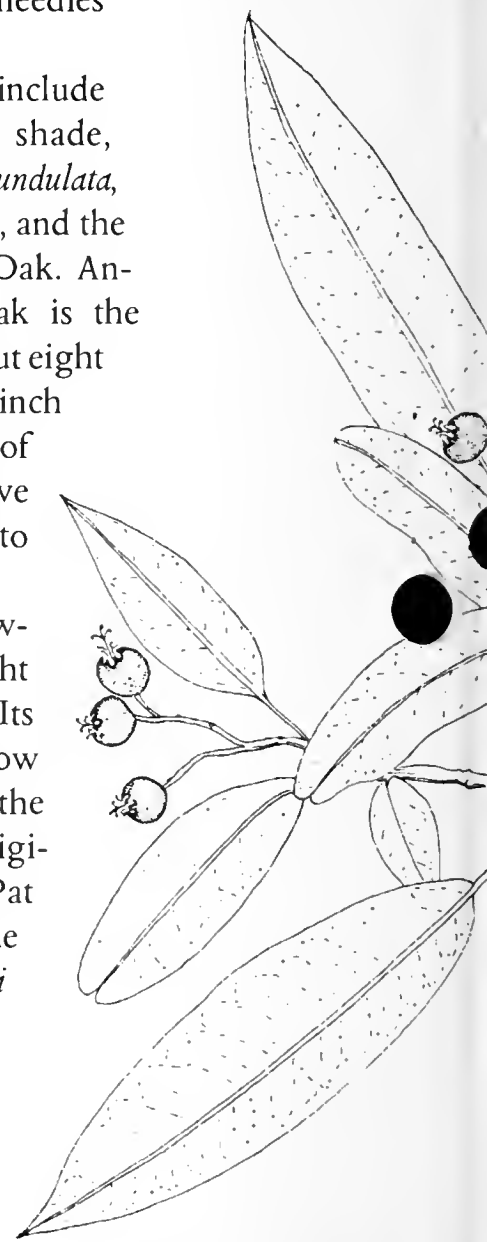
In most gardens, evergreen elements form the backbone for plantings. The shade garden is no exception. And there is a surprising amount of evergreen material from which to choose. Mareen mentioned that some of the East coast natives are under used in planting schemes here, citing the diminutive Eastern Dwarf Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* var. 'Hussii', and the *Pieris floribunda*, with more upright

and delicate blooms than its cousin *P. japonica*. Yews do particularly well in a shade garden, and one interesting relative of the yew is *Saxegothea conspicua*. It is a native of Chile, and Mareen describes it as the "hub of the wheel" to conifer families, in between *Podocarpaceae* and *Araucariaceae* (Monkey Puzzle) genera, with curly close-set needles and modest growth habit.

Medium-sized evergreen trees include the *Trochodendron*, at its best in shade, *Stranvaesia davidiana* and its variety *undulata*, with a profusion of red berries in fall, and the *Lithocarpus densiflorus* or Tan Bark Oak. Another very appealing evergreen oak is the *Quercus sadleriana*, topping out at about eight feet of evenly rounded form, six-inch leaves, and good acorn set. Inclusion of these evergreen foliage textures above small plants can immeasurably add to the shade garden's overall appeal.

A plant in Mareen's garden growing at eye level or below which caught my fancy was the *Garrya issaquahensis*. Its long grey-green catkins with yellow anthers stand out beautifully from the glossy foliage. This plant, which originated as a natural hybrid here in Pat Ballard's garden, is a cross between the less hardy *G. elliptica* and *G. fremontii* and has proven hardier than either of its parents.

Many of the smaller evergreen plants we enjoy in our gardens today originated as understory plants in forests around the world, brought back by intrepid horticultural explorers. One such plant is the *Vaccinium cylindraceum* from the Azores, introduced by Brian Mulligan who for many years was director of Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum. Its flowers and fruits appear at the same time. *Osmanthus delavayi* and *Osmanthus x burkwoodii* were introduced to this region from China. Their small shiny dark green leaves explode with a profusion of fragrant white blossoms in spring. Another understory plant from the Himalayas is *Berberis calliantha*, also a Mulligan introduction, with large yellow flowers.



Stranvaesia davidiana

In Maren Kruckeberg's Garden

By Lynn Sonneman

Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

A number of deciduous trees and shrubs have an added benefit of brilliant autumn color, making their inclusion in the shade garden doubly worthwhile. *Amelanchier laevis*, with its white blossoms and

bronze new foliage in spring, turns dark green in summer and a beautiful red/orange in autumn. Similarly, *Fothergilla monticola* and the dwarf variety, *F. gardenii*, are probably the most brilliant of shade plants with their reds, golds, and purples. Maren says her *Cornus kousa*, which is planted in very dense shade, flowers profusely as does the *Cornus mas*.

She shed new light for me on the shade-growing *Enkianthus* which I had considered extremely common. Twenty years ago, however, it was very rare; only after the enthusiastic response it received when offered at NHS plant sales was it propagated by local nurseries. Probably the best variety is *E. cernuus f. rubens* with deep red flowers in spring and reddish/purple autumn color. Among other shade-loving plants which offer special interest in spring and autumn, Maren mentioned *Rhodotypos*, Black Jetbead, which has showy white flowers in spring and, as the name suggests, black berries in autumn. *Kerria* is also very showy, its graceful arching branches liberally dotted in spring with golden puff-like flowers.

Blue-grey foliage is somewhat rare in the shade garden, but three varieties of *Hebe*, usually associated with sunnier conditions, have done well in Maren's garden: *Hebe pinguifolia*, with intensely glaucous leaves, bears short spikes of pure white flowers in early summer, *H. pimeleoides* has dark blue-purple blossoms, and *H. buxifolia*, the largest of the group, also has white flowers. Hebes, mostly from New Zealand, are known for the orderly, alternating leaves growing up their stems, with quite striking regular patterns.

For sheer opulence perhaps the most striking shade plants are tree peonies. *Paeonia lutea*, originating in Tibet, can exceed five feet

and bears single flowers of vivid yellow. *P. delavayi* is a deep rich red, and *P. lutea x delavayi*, Maren's favorite, is orange-apricot and very fragrant.

Planning

Asking Maren how she planned and developed her shade garden, what problems she encountered, and what advice she could give to our readers, she responded, "When we started our four-acre garden here it was in full, open sun, and as you can see we changed the sun and shade pattern of the entire property. So now after thirty-five years, there's really no place in this upper garden that gets full sun. We started slowly, keeping in mind that the garden tends to have a bare or lopsided look with the ground covers and trees until you find just the right medium-sized plant to bring it all together."

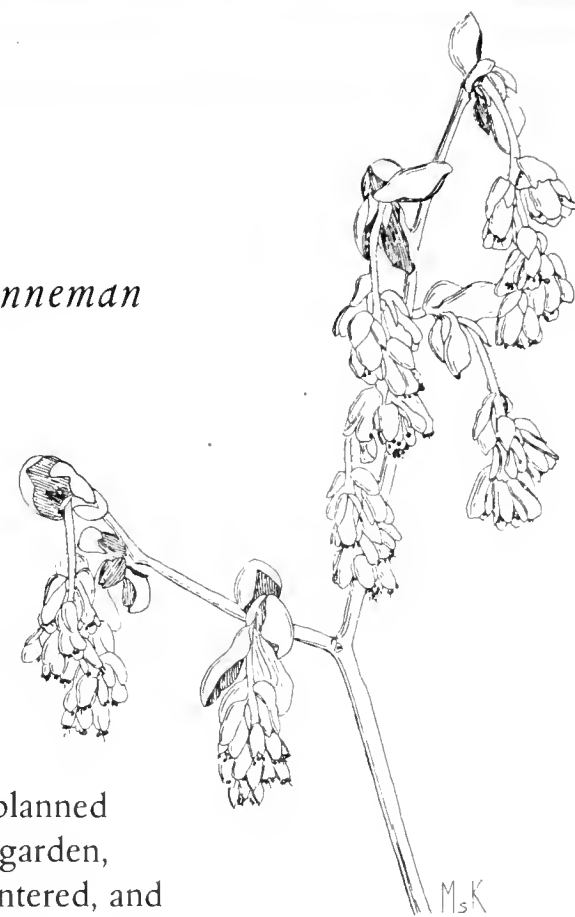
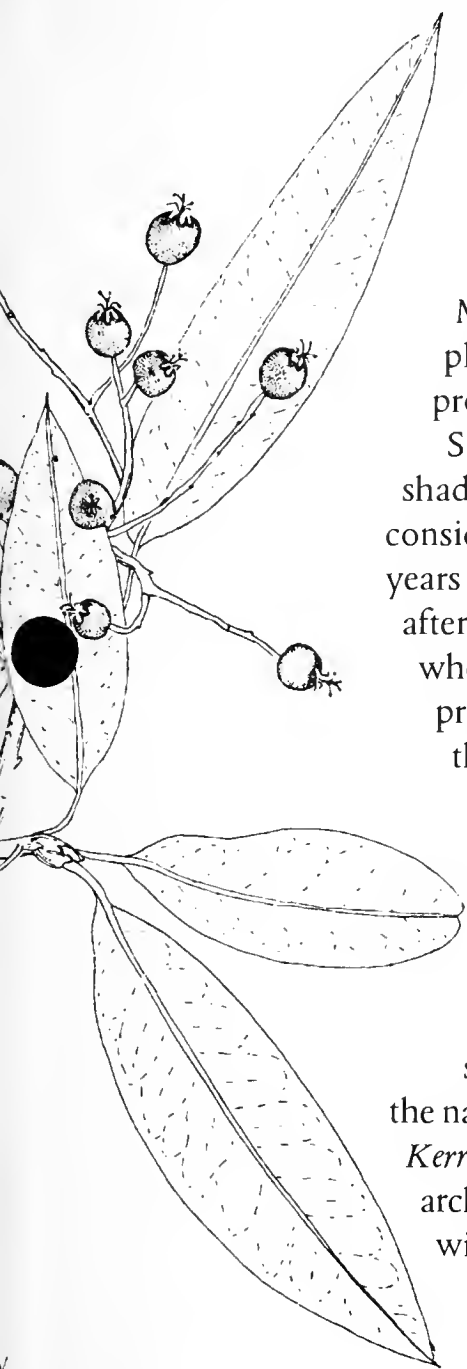
I asked Maren about root competition from the Douglas firs so prevalent here. She replied surprisingly, "A lot of plants love competition and although it takes them a while to get settled in, you'll find that the plants without competition have a lot more problems. There is a symbiosis between plant roots that we are just beginning to know more about."

In general, people don't thin their plants enough. We have to do the pruning that is normally accomplished naturally by heavy snows. It is very important to keep the plants open, with good air circulation not only within each plant but also between all the plants. If I see that a plant is creating a problem of any kind, whether its a crowded look or certainly any kind of disease, out it goes!"

Maren concluded, "You can't plan out the perfect garden. By getting to know your plants over a number of years, the garden's best form will emerge. You have to be working with the plants because they tell you so much."

Lynn Sonneman, of Sonneman Design Inc., is a Northwest landscape designer whose specialty is water features.

Illustrations by Maren Kruckeberg.



Corylopsis spicata

NHS Supports

“Through the Garden Gate: *The World of Beatrix Potter*”

April 3 - June 27

Pacific Science Center

Imagine Alex Trebek, host of the television game show *Jeopardy* stating: “A beloved writer/illustrator of children’s classics, this Englishwoman born in 1866 is lesser known for her detailed mycological drawings.” Just as you are pondering the correct question, a contestant correctly responds, “Who was Beatrix Potter?”

Yes, the well-loved tales of Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and many others are only one part of the prolific life of Beatrix Potter (1866-1943). The Pacific Science Center incorporates other facets of Beatrix Potter’s legacy into its upcoming exhibit, including her contribution to the study of mushrooms.

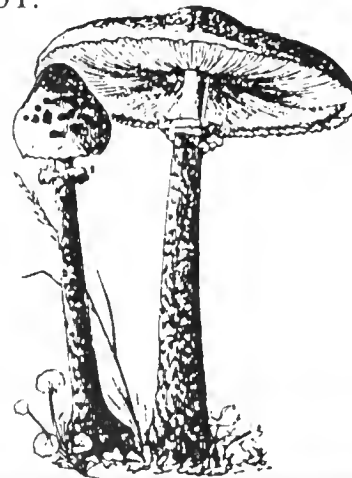
NHS is proud to have provided a grant enabling the Pacific Science Center to bring from England a selection of fungi drawings, from over 300 by Beatrix Potter, which will be on display during the Exhibit. These works are often extremely detailed, noteworthy since she did her work without modern aids such as camera lucida.

As a woman in science, Beatrix Potter was ahead of her time. She shocked many in the scientific community by conducting independent mycological experiments and writing theoretical papers (which as a woman she was not allowed to deliver personally). Her observations, such as of *Lachnellula willkommii* (Larch Canker Fungus), anticipate our present understanding of the close relationship between certain trees and fungi and the

way these relationships can be indicators of environmental change.

Her expert knowledge of mycology further extended to her imaginative works, for example the drawing of Paddy Pig in a hollow tree with bracket fungus (*The Fairy Caravan*), Paddy Pig suffering from the hallucinogenic effects of toadstool tartlets, and the chapter “Walk Among the Funguses” in the *Fairy Caravan* sequel.

The Beatrix Potter Exhibit, with nearly a three-month run, is a fascinating look at this talented woman’s varied contributions. Although a delight for children, its appeal is to all ages. NHS is pleased to support and be part of this outstanding program and especially invites you to the NHS Weekend May 1-2. For further details, please call the Pacific Science Center at 443-2001.



* Special Note: the Miller Library at CUH, in conjunction with the King County Library System, has developed a list of horticultural publications for children to reflect Beatrix Potter’s interest in nature, gardening, and children. The list will be available in the Miller Library, the King County libraries, and the Pacific Science Center. Its development has been supported by NHS.

A Chance to View American Estate Gardens

Between 1890 and 1940, from the Gay Nineties to the onset of World War II, magnificent estate gardens to rival those of European royalty were created and enjoyed by some of America’s wealthiest families. *The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners* Private Estates* 1890-1940* (Harry N. Abrams, Inc.) by Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller looks at these architectural and horticultural gems.

On March 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the NHS Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Mac Griswold will present a slide lecture featuring gardens from H.F. du Pont’s “Winterthur” in Delaware to Marjorie Merriweather Post’s “Mara-a-Lago” in Florida, to Philip Spalding’s “Nuumealanai” in Hawaii, and many

others, including several Seattle gardens. While viewing many extraordinary gardens, we will also be engaged by the stories behind the gardens, a glimpse into the privileged lives and times of America’s grand garden-makers whose horticultural endeavors ranged in size from dozens to thousands of acres, on a scale never seen before or since.

In addition to the lecture, NHS is sponsoring its own tour of the “Gardens of the Golden Age”, located in the Seattle Highlands, and also discussed in Mac Griswold’s book. Please refer to Upcoming Events, March 27.



Author and lecturer Mac Griswold

Mac Griswold grew up on the East Coast, graduated from McGill University with a B.A. in Art History, and has studied Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and garden history at the Radcliffe Seminars. In addition to *The Golden Age of American Gardens*, she is author of *Pleasures in the Garden* (Harry Abrams, Inc.) and contributor to numerous publications including HG, The New York Times, and Garden Design. Her work may be found in the Miller Library.

Worth Doing Now

by Ted Marston

Seasonings

Garden Notes welcomes a new feature "Seasonings", offering seasonal gardening ideas and tips written by Ted Marston. Ted Marston is a Northwest writer. He has contributed to most gardening publications and a number of general interest publications including *Sunset Magazine*, *American Horticulture*, and *Family Circle*.

Early flowering shrubs and trees should be pruned after blooming to avoid removing many of the flowers whose buds have already formed in the fall. The same is true for early flowering vines such as clematis. However, plants which bloom from buds formed on new wood should be pruned now or before new growth starts.

•Judicious cuttings for forcing can be a good way to do minor shaping of early blooming trees and shrubs such as forsythia, flowering cherries, plums and other ornamental trees.

•Tradition says to plant sweet peas on Washington's Birthday, but now that government fiat has replaced it and Lincoln's Birthday with President's Day does this dictum apply? Sweet peas will germinate in soil which is quite cold, but dampness leads to rotting that prevents germination unless you provide very good drainage. Actually, it's very easy to germinate sweet peas in pots (Jiffy-7's or peat pots can be transplanted into the garden, pot and all) and start them a little later. One trick to achieve near perfect germination is to soak seeds overnight in water. Sow the ones which have swelled. Take the ones which haven't and individually and carefully chip off a small piece of seed coat with a paring knife, X-acto knife or single-edged razor blade. Soak these a few hours more to allow them to swell before planting. This process also speeds up germination. Ours is an ideal climate for sweet peas. Look for ones which are especially fragrant. Once they start blooming, pick daily to assure continuous bloom all summer (otherwise, they set seed and stop).

Before active growth starts is the best time to rearrange your garden.

•Spring clean-up doesn't just tidy up the garden. In the case of weeding, it makes a good case for the rest of the summer. Not only is it a good time to clear out winter-germinating weeds such as chickweed, it's the very best time to eliminate perennial weeds which compete with desired plants all season.

•Before active growth starts is the best time to rearrange your garden. That gaudy helenium which fought with the pink phlox last summer can be tucked elsewhere. If you made some notes last summer about distinctly jarring combinations, it's easy to remember what did and what didn't work. (Maybe now is the time to make a resolution to write down these inspirations this summer as they occur, or alternatively, take some pictures). Shrubs which have out-grown their space are best moved now so that new roots can develop before the weather gets hot.

•The quality of annuals from garden centers is generally very high and for major plantings is definitely the preference now for most people. But for variety, those of you who are always wanting something new or exotic will often buy from mail order catalogs. A perfect example is *Venidium* which I've never seen offered at retail but is available from Thompson & Morgan. Their selection, 'Zulu Prince' bears through out the summer large quantities of creamy white daisy-like flowers with dramatic dark centers. There are many others, too. Tidy Tips (*Layia*), a California native, is another one which quickly comes to mind and makes a nice cut-flower, sometimes offered in mid-summer by growers at the Pike Place Market.

Ted Marston gardens in Kirkland.

The Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship in Horticulture

April 1 — Application Deadline for Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship

NHS invites applications for its annual Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship Award. This program is designed to help support the research and education of students enrolled in the graduate program at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington or in other programs directly associated with the Center, such as the College of Forest Resources and the Department of Landscape Architecture. Applications must be received by NHS no later than April 1, 1993. Persons interested in receiving application details may call the NHS office, 527-1794.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events

March 23

10:30 a.m.
Coffee at 10:00 a.m.
NHS Lecture



The Golden Age of American Gardens

Mac Griswold, Author, Lecturer, New York City.

History of American Estate Gardens (1890-1940) complemented with modern slide views. (Please see article on page 8.)

\$5 members and students, \$7 non-members
Tickets at the door*
Information: 527-1794

March 27

10:00 a.m.
Garden Tour

Seattle's Great Gardens of the Golden Age
The Highlands

Please see pre-registration (required) form on page 11. Limited to 50 persons. Rendezvous site to be announced.



April 3 - June 27

Pacific Science Center, Seattle Center

Through the Garden Gate: The World of Beatrix Potter Exhibit

Includes exceptional botanical drawings and children's special programs.

Information: 443-2001
Please see article on page 8, and "NHS Weekend" following.

April 3

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rhododendron Species Foundation

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters, Federal Way
Information: 661-9377 or 838-4646

April 10 and 24

9:00 a.m. - Noon or 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Kubota Garden Foundation

Pine Pruning Workshop

Kubota Gardens
55th Avenue South and Renton Avenue South, Seattle
\$25 members, \$40 non-members
Pre-registration required: 522-3832
Information: 924-5206

Forward Looking

The NHS 1993 Plant Sale is September 17 and 18. Chairpersons are Joy Crothall and Buz Smith, assisted by Sue Clark.
Mark your calendar for a great sale offering a tradition of quality.

April 16 and 17

Arboretum Foundation
Annual Spring Plant Sale

16th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
17th 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
University of Washington
Parking Lot E1

April 20

10:30 a.m.
Coffee at 10:00 a.m.
NHS Lecture



Alliums and Companion Plants

Dr. Dilys Davies
English Author (New book-*Alliums: The Ornamental Onions*, Timber Press), Physician, Lecturer, Vice Chair of Hardy Plant Society, U.K.

\$5 members and students, \$7 non-members
Tickets at the door*
Information: 527-1794

April 25

1:00 -3:00 p.m.
NW Perennial Alliance Plant Sale

Seattle Waldorf School
2728 N.E. 100th, Seattle
Information: 324-0179

May 1-2

NHS Weekend at the Beatrix Potter Exhibit Children's Programs and Lecture Planned

Pacific Science Center, Seattle Center
Information: 527-1794 or 443-2001

May 4

7:30 p.m.
Coffee at 7:00 p.m.
NHS Lecture



The Mixed Border

Ann Lovejoy
Northwest Author (April release of newest book *The American Mixed Border*, Macmillan), Lecturer, Contributor to Horticulture
\$5 members and students, \$7 non-members
Tickets at the door*
Information: 527-1794

May 8

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Friends of the Conservatory Spring Plant Sale
(indoor and patio plants)

Volunteer Park Conservatory, Seattle
Information: 322-4112

May 15

10:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.
NHS Garden Tour

T.R. Welch's Stroll Garden

(back by popular demand)
A blend of Pacific Northwest and Japanese styles.
Woodinville

\$20 members and students, \$25 non-members
Box lunch included. By chartered bus only.
Information: 527-1794

Please see pre-registration (required) form on page 11.



May 18

10:30 a.m.

Coffee at 10:00



Garden Design with Foliage

Judy Glattstein

Author (*Garden Design with Foliage*, Storey), Lecturer (New York and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and across U.S.), Landscape Consultant specializing in herbaceous border design and naturalistic gardens; Wilton, CT.

\$5 members and students,

\$7 non-members

Tickets at the door*

Information: 527-1794

June 3, 4, 5

NHS Fern Festival

June 3

7:30 p.m.

Coffee at 7:00 p.m.



Lecture Using Ferns in the Landscape

Tim Morehouse

Garden Writer, Photographer, Lecturer

\$5 members and students,

\$7 non-members

Tickets at the door*

NHS Annual Meeting

Monday, May 17, 1993
10:00 a.m.
NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

- *Slate of New Officers and Board Members*
- *Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship Award*
- *Special Lecture*
- *Presentations by 1992 Scholarship Recipients*
- *Refreshments and Social Time*

Please Plan to Come

June 4

Garden Tour

(details in next issue)

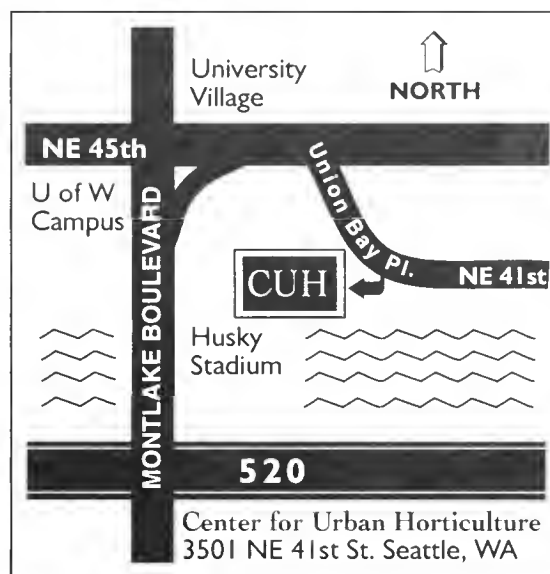
Fern Sale

NHS Hall at CUH

4th, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.,

5th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*All NHS lectures will be held in NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle



Correction

In our winter newsletter interview with Sylvia Duryee, the spelling of Marion Kohn's name was regrettably incorrect. We would like to take this opportunity to share with our readers a little additional information about her major contribution to the successful Seed Exchange sponsored by NHS each year. Very thorough and scientific in her work, Marion Kohn receives and catalogues all the seed donated to the Exchange and is an expert in determining viability.



Welch Garden Tour

Advanced Registration Form

Saturday,
May 15

Highlands Garden Tour

Advanced Registration Form

Saturday,
March 27

Must be received by May 7, 1993:

Northwest Horticultural Society, c/o Isaacson Hall
University of Washington GF-15, Seattle, WA 98195

Please Reserve _____ places. *Members only.*

Time: 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. *Please check one.*

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Must be received by March 23, 1993:

Northwest Horticultural Society, c/o Isaacson Hall
University of Washington GF-15, Seattle, WA 98195

Please Reserve _____ places. *Members only.*

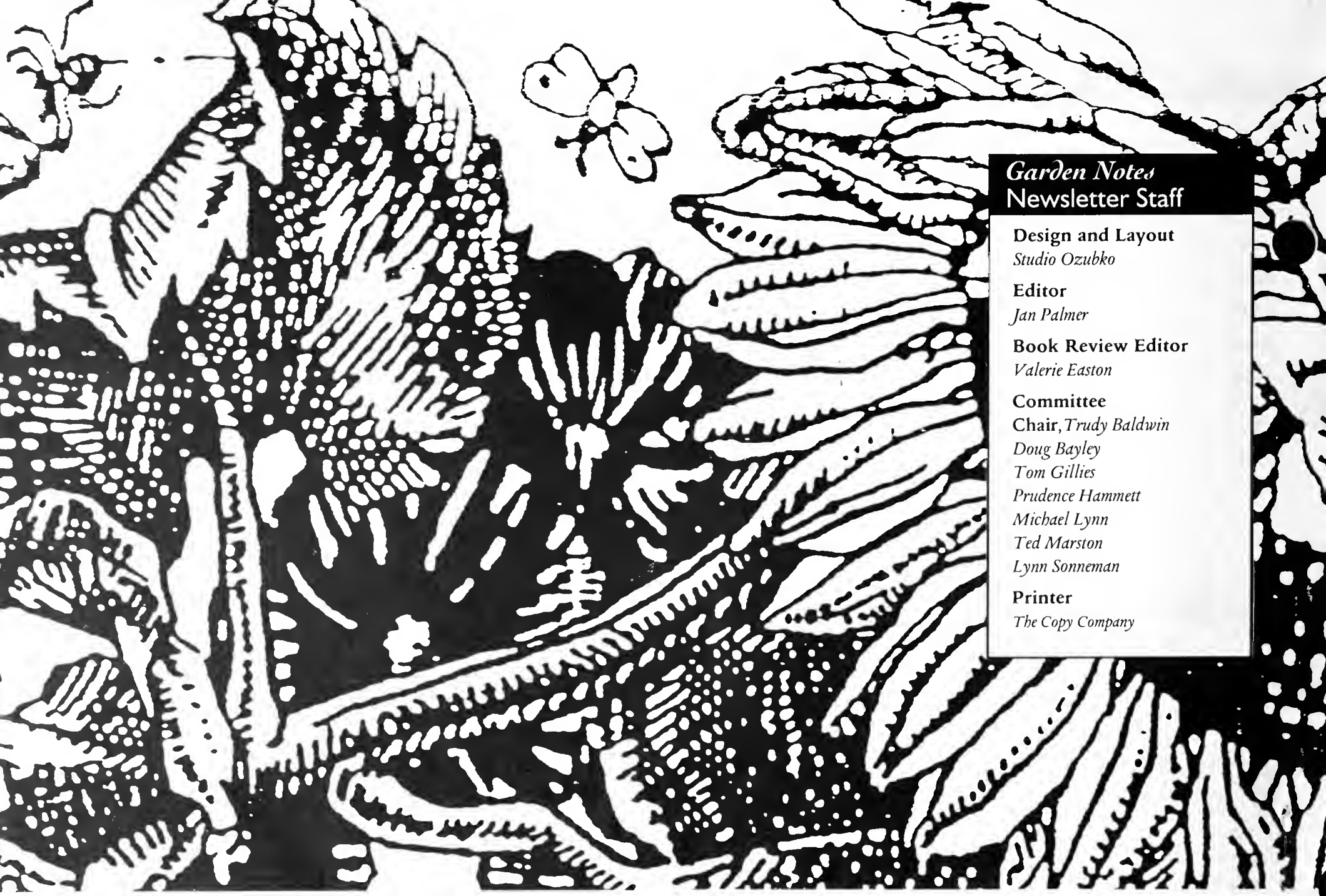
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Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____



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