



# GardenNOTES

 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER



*Law*

PHOTO © DIANE LAIRD

*Orchids blooming happily on a bed of gravel under lights in George Little's Bainbridge Island home*

## S.A.D.? ORCHIDS!

GEORGE LITTLE

IF YOU HAVE EVER SUFFERED from the condition known as S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder), you know how dreary the dark months in the Northwest can seem. But I believe I've stumbled upon a remedy: Growing orchids—lots of them—under lights seems actually to help the blues that set in around November and lift only around, say, May. It's a long time; and those of us with SAD can do something to lift the pall and reap the benefits of caring for plants under

lights: It's not at all difficult, and the results are surprising. Tending the plants daily in the morning at close range to the banks of lights helps, I find, to improve your mood for the rest of the day. We need the light coming in at our eyes (not forgetting the metaphor) for good mental health. And a few minutes in the evening, just to admire our and Nature's handiwork only improves things. Altogether an enjoyable activity. >>>

DRAWING BY MICHAEL GIBSON

## SAD? ORCHIDS! continued from page 1

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

To begin, a little interest in orchids helps. And it's not hard to come by, as there are an enormous amount of good books on the subject, as well as a plethora of growers who mail order. There will be no problem with availability of plants or materials. And orchids themselves are so alluring, mysterious, even strange, *and beautiful*. Many are fragrant—some intensely so—with that kind of scent I can only call “tropical”. But a warning: orchid interest, mild at first, may quickly become mania; it's just so much fun. Collectors beware!

Next, you need the space to begin. A bathroom is great, as the humidity from the shower boosts the air's moisture content daily; and the little devils love that. But a kitchen

window with a sill wide enough to hold a tray of moist gravel to keep the humidity up around the plants, or any small enclosed area, also may be good. White walls are best, as they help to bounce the light around. Light, humidity, air circulation, and temperature are four very important factors in orchid growing, especially under lights. If you are fortunate enough to have a solarium or greenhouse, a bank or two of lights for the winter months will get you started.

### FOR EQUIPMENT, THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME BASICS

For a small bathroom such as mine, I found some great modular stainless steel shelving (72" high x 48" wide x 18" deep, with three shelves) at Ikea and made shelf “pans” of 1-foot x 2-foot cedar-lined with heavy plastic sheeting. An inch or so of gravel in the pans keeps the orchids elevated above standing water which may accumulate from dripping pots.

You can make custom shelving out of any appropriate materials: redwood, cedar, or just about any painted wood are good. You need to allow about 18" between the lights and the shelf below. I have my lights on a timer, which turns them on

at about 6 a.m. and off at about 8 p.m. Orchids, especially in winter, need 14 to 16 hours of light per day. I have a Vornado humidifier which keeps the relative humidity in the room between 60% and 75%, and is as easy as pie to operate and maintain. A 16" Vornado fan moves the air around nicely, just like a gentle tropical breeze. In my case, the lights are fluorescent fixtures 48" long with four full spectrum lights per fixture. The bulbs should be replaced yearly, as their efficiency reduces too much after that to be effective for orchid growing. I find that the



*Markham accompanies George on the morning inspections, and if he doesn't get a treat, he nibbles on a nugget of orchid bark*

heat from the light fixtures maintains the temperature within the range needed: 75 to 80 degrees during the day, 65 degrees for the winter low at night. Orchids generally need about a 10 degree drop from day to night to be healthy and to produce a good show of (after all) flowers. Should you need them, small heaters are available from greenhouse supply companies, or the big home supply stores. Some heaters in hardware stores warn against use in high humidity, so read the warnings carefully. One of the portable oil heaters on the market would be fine. **Gas heaters can be detrimental to orchids** if there is even a minimal leak. Orchids need lots of fresh air moving around them at all times—I leave a window cracked even in winter, as long as there is not a cold draft directly on the plants, and the temperature level is maintained.

A great book on the subject is *Orchids Simplified* by Henry Jaworski, Chapters Publishing, Ltd. It has many good photos and a wealth of information by a man with years of passion and experience in the field. I recommend it enthusiastically.



*A very great number of orchids flower during the winter months, just in time for our need.*

If you can find some time each morning, say 20 or 30 minutes, to peruse your collection, checking for flowers about to open, or for new growth, admiring healthy roots and leaves (some of which are wonderfully beautiful), you will be advancing your cause against SAD, the blahs, the winter grays. My little pug, Markham, accompanies me every morning on my inspections. As he is always hoping for a treat, I sometimes catch him munching a nugget of orchid bark which fell out of a pot. Probably not a good idea, as an insecticide is occasionally needed for the plants. Just take a treat with you for your puggish creatures.

### SOME PLANT STARTERS

Some very handsome companions to your orchid collection are ferns and bromeliads—though it's good to keep these in the smaller sized specimens, as they can become thugs, taking up too much precious orchid room; but they do bring diversity and contrasting color and texture to your collection. And the jungle look augments the feeling of your being somewhere with SUN. I should admit, though, that over time, I've given the old 86 to most anything but orchids, as room is at a premium; and, well, the mania got me. A few of the easiest

and most rewarding species to start with are: *Phalaenopsis*, those beautiful and architectural "moth" orchids; *Miltonia*, with grassy foliage and amazing pansy-like flowers. Some are delightfully fragrant; *Cattleya skinneri* cultivars are small and pack a wallop of color and fragrance. Bright, bright color; *Brassavola* and their hybrids, small and easy, elegant and exotic, some highly fragrant at night. *Paphiopedilum*, the "slipper orchids", some monstrous, some lovely, some like the offspring of Quasimodo and Cleopatra; *Oncidium*, flights of small yellow flowers, many varieties—go for the small growing plants, as some are quite large.

Orchids can produce blooms at almost any time of the year, according to habit, but it seems that a very great number flower during the winter months, just in time for our need. Pretty obliging I'd say. The above suggested orchids represent only a very few types, just to give you an idea of the world of plants out there. A good orchid book will be of great help in choosing types of plants, potting mediums and pots.

As a person looking to make a substantial rent in the veil of winter doldrums, I've found growing bizarre, wonderful and mysterious orchids under lights to be health-giving on many levels. Caring for the well being of plants, creatures (pugs in particular), and people other than ourselves is rewarding for everyone, as long as we leave go of obsessions! And the side effects of caring for orchids grown under lights are pleasant: spectacular flowers, subtle fragrances, and a much better outlook. 🐾

*George Little is a Bainbridge Island artist in partnership with David Lewis, Little and Lewis, Inc. and an avid grower of orchids and other tropical plants.*

### Some sources:

- ◆ American Orchid Society, 6000 South Olive Avenue,  
West Palm Beach FL 33405-4199  
Tel: 561-585-8666  
e-mail: 71726.1741@compuserve.com  
on the word-wide-web: orchidweb.org

*This organization publishes a magazine full of interesting articles and a very great many sources.*

- ◆ Baker and Chantry Orchids in Woodinville  
Tel: (425) 483-0345

- ◆ I.N. Komoda Orchids, P.O. Box 576 Makawao, Hawaii 96768  
Tel: (808) 572-0756  
*Absolutely beautiful miltonias, big healthy plants.*

- ◆ Tropical Orchid Farm, P.O. Box 170, Haiku, Hawaii 96708  
Tel: (808) 572-8569  
*Fabulous selection of species, and nice plants.*



*Cannas are not a fad; indeed they have a long and distinguished history in the gardening world.*

## IT'S NOT A FAD!

LINDA COCHRAN

I AM CONSTANTLY READING comments in gardening publications to the effect that cannas are a garden fad, implying that they are the plant equivalent of pink flamingos. Since cannas are one of my favorite plants this sort of talk makes me rather angry. So I am hoping to set the record straight on the subject of cannas: they are not a fad; indeed they have a long and distinguished history in the gardening world.

The various garden writers who deride cannas are apparently unaware of the historical use of cannas in the most tasteful and classic English gardens. Most garden writers today acknowledge that Gertrude Jekyll, who lived and wrote in the late 1800s and early 1900s was, and still is, one of the most influential garden

writers, both here and in England. Her work is often held up as the epitome of good taste. In his book entitled *The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll* (1992) Richard Bisgrove writes (p.19):

*Why has Miss Jekyll's influence been so pervasive? The main reason must lie in the simultaneous depth and breadth of her approach to gardens and gardening. She saw garden making as a fine art, ranking, as it had done in the eighteenth century, with painting, poetry, music and sculpture.*

While many in the gardening community pay lip service to what Gertrude Jekyll represents, few apparently really understand the breadth of her work. She did not just design simpering color-coded pastel borders.

Instead, she worked in all color schemes, including very hot ones, and she used a wide array of plants, including many which current garden writers dismiss as vulgar. An example of such a scheme is found on p.87 of the Bisgrove book, together with a sumptuous photograph taken by Andrew Lawson which shows bronze-leaved **Ricinus**, red-leaved cannas, and brilliant red dahlias, supplemented by crimson monardas and crocosmias. The accompanying text describes this as a Gertrude Jekyll design for a border at Little Cumbrae, situated on a small island off the Strathclyde coast. The author writes (ibid. at 86):

*The immediate impression from the plan is of redness—dahlias and*

*penstemons, dark cannas and scarlet gladioli, and red begonias.*

Nor is the use of cannas in this particular plan an isolated incident. In Gertrude Jekyll's own garden at Munstead Wood in Surrey which is now being restored and which has been featured in articles in *Garden Design* ("Restoring Miss Jekyll", June-July 1997) and in *Gardens Illustrated* ("Spirited Revival", Nov. 1998), cannas play a prominent role. Both those articles contain beautiful pictures well illustrating this point.

Other garden writers from the same period also championed cannas. Rosemary Verey in her book *English Country Gardens* (1996) quotes from Shirley Hibberd's *Rustic Adornments for Homes of Taste*, published in 1872:

*A great number of plants of most noble proportions, many of them gaily coloured, and when lacking colour making ample amends by the splendour of their leafage, may be perfectly at home in our gardens during the summer... Perhaps the first place in this glorious company should be assigned to the cannas...*

Rosemary Verey goes on to point out that William Robinson, another influential garden writer of the period, wrote a book called *The Parks, Promenades and Gardens of Paris* in which he extolled the virtues of agaves, aralias, ferns, cannas, echeverias, nicotianas, and solanums. All of these, by the way, are plants which some current garden writers deride as part of that so-called passing fancy of "tropicalismo."

Furthermore, two of the most admired and influential gardens in the world, Sissinghurst and Hidcote, make prominent use of cannas. Sissinghurst, which surely every gardener has heard of if not visited, is the garden created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson beginning in the 1930's. Sissinghurst is probably the most photographed and most famous garden


in the world and gardeners all over the world would agree that it represents the height of good taste and class. Yet Sissinghurst, like Gertrude Jekyll, does not play it safe with only oh-so-proper white gardens and so-called tasteful pastels. In Tony Lord's excellent book *Gardening at Sissinghurst* (1995) there are gorgeous pictures as well as planting plans of the cottage garden at Sissinghurst which features a very hot yellow, orange and red color scheme together with prominent use of purple leaved, orange-red flowered cannas.

Hidcote, in Gloucestershire, made before Sissinghurst, is another very much admired and influential garden, and its red borders are its most famous feature. In Tony Lord's other excellent book, *Best Borders* (1995), the chapter on the red borders at Hidcote begins with a wonderful picture of *Canna 'Roi Humbert'* standing tall in the midst of an array of red flowers. Tony Lord explains in his caption that "*Canna 'Roi Humbert'* supplies bold emphasis essential to the exotic richness of the design." (ibid. at p. 45)

In Graham Stuart Thomas' book *Perennial Garden Plants*, first published in 1976, the entry for cannas contains a quote from E. A. Bowles, another influential garden writer from earlier in the century. Writes Mr. Bowles: "Purple-leaved cannas are simply irresistible to group behind Yuccas and the great ferny grey-green leaves of *Melianthus major*." (ibid. at 108). In one of the introductory chapters to the book, Mr. Thomas describes a planting scheme which uses *Myosotidium*, *Melianthus major*, *Canna iridiflora*, *Zantedeschia*, tree ferns or other ferns, the orchid *Calanthe*, *Begonia evansia*, and *Arisaema consanguineum* (ibid. at p. 28). Yet the same garden writers who deride cannas as faddish think most of the other plants listed are extremely tasteful, non-faddish plants; cannas

should be treated no differently.

Finally, Christopher Lloyd is one of my favorite garden writers. He wrote in his book *The Well-Tempered Garden*, first published in 1970, about his desire to create a large border consisting of various tropical looking foliage plants including purple-leaved cannas. Twenty years after writing that passage, Lloyd actually made such a border in his garden, transforming what had been a rather boring rose garden into a tropical delight, replete with cannas, *Ricinus*, dahlias, kniphofias, bananas, and the pollarded leaves of *Paulownia tomentosa*.

In *The Plantfinder's Guide to Tender Perennials*, Ian Cooke (the holder of England's National collection of cannas) recounts the long history of the canna in the gardening world. He describes the extensive breeding of cannas which occurred in the mid to late 19th century, particularly in France. In fact in 1893 the RHS held a trial of cannas with some 45 cultivars entered, 11 of which received Awards of Merit. He then recounts that they lost their popularity in England around the 1920s. Recently, however, cannas have made a comeback, as have a number of other plants including dahlias and perennials in general. The fact that cannas were popular once, fell out of favor, and are now popular again in no way means that they are a fad. It may only mean that gardeners in times when they were not so popular were not as enlightened as we are now. It is disturbing to me to see any garden writer calling any plant a fad; a plant is a plant. As Gertrude Jekyll recognized, any plant, if used properly, can enhance the art of the garden. 

*Linda Cochran's Bainbridge Island garden is one of the most beautiful and most photographed in the country. See the NHS calendar for the details of her upcoming talk on February 9, "My Own Garden."*

# GARGANTUAN LILIES: THE GENUS *CARDIOCRINUM*

BY DANIEL J. HINKLEY

WHAT MUST THE mid-nineteenth-century Scottish plant explorer Robert Fortune have felt when he first saw the erect, towering stems of *Cardiocrinum giganteum* thrusting through the rich vegetation of Yunnan Province? No Westerner before him had witnessed its remarkable presence or had even contemplated a scene that to this day demands a second look by jaded plants people and beginning gardeners alike.

Indeed, few scenes are as provocative as a stand of *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in full blossom at the end of June. The glossy green basal foliage is heart-shaped (as suggested by the generic name) and up to 18 in. (45 cm) long by 10 in. (25 cm) wide on blossoming-sized plants. After seven years of building strength, the enormous bulbs of this species are fully primed to send their treelike flowering stems skyward to 15 ft. (4.5 m) or higher. The stems are capped by a dozen fragrant, pendulous white trumpets to 10 in. (25 cm) in length; at Heronswood, the shaded garden is awash with fragrance from the flowers in late June. After fertilization takes place, the swollen, globular ovaries take an upward stance, offering a much longer, somewhat more subtle, but equally dramatic effect to the summer and autumn garden. Even in autumn, when the fruit capsules have turned to tawny brown and opened to spill their seed about the garden, like a thousand silken coins, the gigantic stems can be



## *Cardiocrinum giganteum*

cut and stored for an incredibly long-lasting ornamental effect.

*Cardiocrinum giganteum* covers a rather broad natural range, from Kashmir in the west, across the Himalayas, to southwestern China. In nature, the species is delineated into two varieties. The type, *C. giganteum* var. *giganteum*, possesses green stems and petioles, whereas these features in the western counterpart, *C. giganteum* var.

*yunnanense*, are a startling deep burgundy-purple. The latter, which I have observed both along the eastern flank of the Cang Shan in Yunnan Province as well as on Emei Shan in Sichuan Province, should be sought over the green form, though both will certainly add distinction and wonder to the well-appointed woodland.

While in Chiba Prefecture on Honshu in 1995,<sup>1</sup> I encountered the more diminutive but equally desirable *Cardiocrinum cordatum* var. *cordatum* growing in the low, wooded hills of this area with *Arisaema limbarum*, *Hydrangea involucrata*, and *Stachyurus praecox*. *Cardiocrinum cordatum* var. *cordatum* takes a similarly long time to flower from seed, at which time it will rise to 4 ft. (1.2 m) high while producing numerous fragrant, ivory-colored flowers in late

summer. The five to nine irregular-shaped blossoms are composed of three bottom petals that form a lip and two upper petals that construct a flattened lid. Like those of *C. giganteum*, the seed capsules of *C. cordatum* align themselves vertically after fertilization and split open into three equal parts to disperse the seed.

A more northerly and robust counterpart, *Cardiocrinum cordatum* var. *glebnii*, extends through Hokkaido and into Sakhalin and the southern Kuril Islands. In 1997, I encountered vast stands of this variety near Lake

Towada on northern Honshu, where dried stems rising to 6 ft. (1.8 m) in height were chock full of seed. So plentiful was this variety here that one could not take a step without disturbing the stems and filling the air with its sparkling, translucent seed. It is a scene that I will not soon forget. This variety differs from the southern form by its greater height and more flowers, up to 20 per stem.

In flower, *Cardiocrinum cathayanum* appears quite similar to the closely related *C. cordatum*. In late summer, atop 3-to 4-ft. (0.9- to 1.2-m) stems, the upper two petals incurve to form a curious, flat-topped flower. The foliage of *C. cathayanum* emerges in spring with a startling coppery tone, later fading to deep, glossy green. I received bulbs of this species from the curator of the Asian Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., but I have been unable to procure collection data or references to this species in the literature. It flowered for me for the first time in the late summer of 1995, and since then I have had specimens in flower every year from one bulb or another.

**Hardiness:** *Cardiocrinum* is much hardier than most people realize, surviving to flowering size in zone 5 on a consistent basis. Though it is risk-free in zones 6—9. It will not tolerate the summer-humid areas of the deep South and Southeast. The bulbs migrate to the surface as they mature, in fact the apex of the bulbs ultimately appears slightly above the soil line, and so *mulching* in late fall will be beneficial in colder areas.

**Cultivation:** *Cardiocrinums* respond best to a rich diet and plenty of moisture. Given this, they do not necessarily need a shaded site, though that is their preference in nature. Provide with an additional application of



Above: *Cardiocrinum cathayanum*

Below: *Cardiocrinum giganteum*



slow-release fertilizer during the first five or six years after planting and before blossoming. Do not fertilize the bulbs in their blossoming year; I have had stems collapse to the ground from their own mass due to spring fertilization of mature bulbs. The best flowering effects come from seedling-grown plants that have been in place for several years before flowering. Younger bulbs slip into early dormancy in midsummer, and so their position should be noted, lest one disturbs their territory. Although the mother bulb dies after flowering (anything would die after giving birth to such enormity), offsets are produced in abundance, and these should be dug and replanted throughout the garden in autumn or early spring, not left in place to compete with one another. Protect the foliage of young plants from slug damage.

Propagation: Seed is certainly the best method of propagation, and once you have successfully blossomed one plant, a sufficient supply of fresh seed will not be a concern. Seed takes two years to germinate and another six to seven years before flowering. Self-sown seedlings in the garden should be protected from slug damage. As stated above, offset bulbs do provide an easy method of propagation while producing a garden population of diverse maturity that will offer up at least a few flowering stems on a yearly basis. Large offset bulbs often will blossom the following year and are generally a disappointment, producing stems that belie their full potential. 🌱

From *The Explorer's Garden, Rare and Unusual Perennials* by Daniel J. Hinkley; Timber Press 1999. Reprinted with permission of the author and publisher. Dan is co-owner of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, WA.

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD



## EVER WONDER HOW THEY DO IT?

Two of the Northwest's most talented gardeners, **Linda Cochran** and **Susan Ryley**, talk quietly in Ms. Ryley's Victoria garden. In the next few weeks, you will have a chance to hear what each one of them has to say about her garden:

Linda Cochran will be speaking on "My Own Garden" on Wednesday, **February 9**.

Susan Ryley will be one of the featured speakers for our Saturday, **February 26**, symposium, The Garden in Four Seasons. She will share the stage with **Wayne Winterrowd**, **Gregg Lowery**, **Stephen Lacey** and **Craig Bergmann**.

*Diane Laird*

## AN EVENING IN TUSCANY

*Mark your calendar!!*

*The next Ultimate Garden Auction will be held  
Sunday, May 7, 2000. 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
at the Center for Urban Horticulture.*

*\$65 per person*

THIS WONDERFUL ANNUAL NHS EVENT to benefit the Miller Horticultural Library, was a sellout last year. Over the past four years the auction has enabled NHS to donate over \$100,000 in support of the Library.

In order for this success to continue, we need your help. It takes many, many volunteers to create this event. **If you would like to get involved** and are interested in either procurement, invitations, set-up on the day of the event, cashiering, catalog writing, please call the NHS office at (206) 527-1794 or e-mail [nhsemail@compuserve.com](mailto:nhsemail@compuserve.com).

If you, or maybe the company you own or work for, have **items to donate** (an old mossy birdbath from your garden, a rare plant to donate to a good cause), contact Gillian Mathews (206) 325-7927 [ravennagard@earthlink.net](mailto:ravennagard@earthlink.net), or Madeleine Wilde (206) 283-6775 [wilde@seanet.com](mailto:wilde@seanet.com).

*Gillian Mathews*





# PLANTAMNESTY IN THE YEAR 2000

BY: CASS TURNBULL

PLANTAMNESTY WAS FOUNDED 12 years ago and although most local horticulturists have heard of our organization they still tend to associate us with one issue: tree topping, and with one woman, Cass Turnbull. But in those twelve years PlantAmnesty has grown to be much more than a one woman show. On January 1, 2000 we completed our transformation into a fully independent, broad reaching and self sustaining non-profit organization. I have retired as the executive director, booted the office out of my attic, and passed on the reins to our very capable and energetic board. I will continue with P/A as a volunteer on the Education Advocacy Committee, as a teacher, a writer, and a strong spokesperson for the organization.

Our 800 member group currently has four active committees that sponsor a growing number of public events and services. For example, the Tree Programs committee provides up to twenty-three arborists to prune worthy trees on Arbor Day. We donated thousands of dollars of much needed tree work to the arboretum and Kubota Gardens last year. The Education /Advocacy committee runs the Heritage Tree Program for Seattle. This year we will honor five trees, separately, with ceremony, plaque, and legal protection when requested. The Events Committee organizes and staffs our popular Ann Lovejoy/Cass Turnbull landscape renovation workshops. These workshops give attendees the much needed opportunity to prune live plants and see an entire landscape transformed in a day.

But these are only a few of our special events which exist on top of our regular services: the adopt-a-plant column in the newsletter, the publication and distribution of pruning and plant care literature (not the least of which is the Saving Trees and Views booklet paid for with a NHS grant), the referral service of gardeners and arborists (who really do know how to prune), and our regular meetings and fundraisers.

Most importantly, PlantAmnesty will continue to create a kinder, gentler world for the green things. We lobby for better maintenance budgets, better laws, and better plant care. We're on committees and we write letters and participate at fairs and public events. Our mock-militant name alone assures us of the media coverage needed to raise consciousness of the need for




*Tree bottomed (not "topped")  
or Mt. Vernon Palm*

better plant care; but at the same time it gives people a good chuckle as well. We will also continue to do the work "in the trenches" to reach people with the message, "Plants have value!"

Our most effective educational outreach has been through the double booth at the Flower and Garden Show. We staff over 80 shifts and give out 6,000 free pruning guides annually. We're employing other means to raise awareness and respect for plants. This year we built giant tree costumes and entered a walking forest in the Rainier Valley Heritage Parade. Over twenty people participated, of all ages and races, dressed as trees, shrubs, ground covers and

mushrooms. We walked the parade route along Rainier Avenue behind our float of the Tree of the World, upon which sat the Rainier Valley Tree Princess. Afterwards, locals gathered at our booth to ask questions and take free pruning and plant care literature. Next year we will translate our video and selected brochures into Spanish.

PlantAmnesty has always been short on cash, but long on support from the horticultural community. For this we are deeply grateful: Nurseries donate to our Plant Sale; media horticulturists reference us in their newspaper articles and on the radio; and the NHS has been a good friend supplying us with grants, and working a mutually beneficial back-to-back plant sale deal in the fall. We hope to continue to expand our co-operative efforts as we enter the new millenium. If you want more information on any of our programs and services be sure to write us at **P/A, 906 NW 87th Street, Seattle WA 98117** or call **206-783-9813**.

With your support we will continue to grow and evolve. As we say on our membership renewal cards, "One ranting woman is a kook, but 2000 members is a movement." 

*Cass Turnbull will be teaching an NHS in-garden class, "Renovating Overgrown Trees & Shrubs" on Saturday, March 25. See the Calendar in the middle of **Garden Notes** for details. AND...if your yard needs free renovative pruning AND if your bouse can hold 15 for a slide show, you can volunteer to host this class by contacting the NHS office.*

# NHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE, DAY & TIME                                 | EVENT NAME                                 | FEATURED SPEAKER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | TYPE OF EVENT    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| February 9 (Wed)<br>7 pm Reception<br>7:30 Begin | My Own Garden                              | Linda Cochran, garden designer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Slides & Lecture |
| February 15 (Tues)<br>7:00 – 9:30                | Designing a Garden for a City Lot          | Phil Wood, Seattle garden designer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Class            |
| February 26 (Sat)<br>8:30 – 4:30                 | The Garden in Four Seasons                 | Wayne Winterrowd, owner of North Hill, garden designer and writer; Susan Ryley, owner of the famous Victoria garden; Gregg Lowery, rosearian and garden designer; Stephen Lacey, garden designer, author and columnist for The Daily Telegraph in London; Craig Bergmann, landscape architect, garden designer and nurseryman. | Symposium        |
| March 4 (Sat)<br>9:30 – 11:30                    | Art of Growing Great Hellebores            | Glenn Withey & Charles Price, landscape designers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | In-Garden Class  |
| March 8 (Wed)<br>7 pm Reception<br>7:30 Begin    | Wonderful World of Epimediums              | Darrell Probst, owner of Garden Visions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Slides & Lecture |
| March 25 (Sat)<br>12:00 – 3:30                   | Renovating Overgrown Trees & Shrubs        | Cass Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | In-Garden Class  |
| April 12<br>7 pm Reception<br>7:30 Begin         | Taking the Myth Out of Meconopsis          | Carl Elliott, co-owner Northwest Perennials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Slides & Lecture |
| May 7 (Sun)<br>5:30 pm                           | An Evening in Tuscany                      | Annual Garden Party & Auction to benefit the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Auction          |
| May 10 (Wed)<br>7 pm Reception<br>7:30 Begin     | Tale of Designing and Building Two Gardens | Richard Hartlage, Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Slides & Lecture |

# FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY 2000

| DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | COST:<br>MEMBER /<br>NON | LOCATION                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ma Cochran will share with us the design process and inspirations that created her wonderful garden on Bainbridge Island.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$5 / \$10               | <p>NHS Hall<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                    |
| <p>Wood will give you the information you need to bring life to your small lot. Be prepared for a dynamic and fun evening.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$20/\$30<br>15 people   | <p>Isaacson Classroom, CUH<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                     |
| <p>Create a garden that sings in October and January as well as in April and May.</p> <p>A good garden must have a strong framework of architecture and ideas to provide underpinnings. If the garden is to be a united whole rather than a vernal flare of color, the true devotee understands that it needs the same attention and industry in summer, autumn and winter that is used to plan and plant the spring and early summer garden.</p> <p>Join our speakers to celebrate the year in gardening and learn how to plan a garden to thrive in four seasons.</p> | \$65 / \$85              | <p>University of Washington<br/>HUB Auditorium<br/>(206) 527-1794</p> |
| <p>Ann Withey and Charles Price, noted hellebore breeders, will give tips on the cultivation and propagation of these beautiful plants.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | \$20/\$30<br>15 people   | <p>Dunn Garden<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                 |
| <p>Bob Probst, leading US authority on Epimediums, will lecture on the latest developments in this workhorse plant that helps create exciting woodland gardens.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | \$5 / \$10               | <p>NHS Hall<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                    |
| <p>John Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty and author of The Complete Guide to Landscape Design will show you how to tame your out of control trees and shrubs</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | \$25/\$35<br>15 people   | <p>TO Be Announced<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                             |
| <p>John Elliott, local radio personality and co-owner of Northwest Perennials, will discuss cultivation of this coveted genus and give a survey of species suitable for garden culture.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | \$5 / \$10               | <p>NHS Hall<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                    |
| <p>Our annual spring event is a garden party, silent auction and live auction to benefit the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library. The garden party this year will be an evening in a Tuscan garden and will include an appetizer buffet and hosted bar. An extraordinary array of horticultural goods and services will be available in both the silent and live auctions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    | \$65                     | <p>NHS Hall<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                    |
| <p>David Hartlage will conduct a tour of two recently designed gardens from client meeting, concept development, and construction drawings to the fun part - construction and planting of the gardens.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | \$5 / \$10               | <p>NHS Hall<br/>(206) 527-1794</p>                                    |

# HARDY AROIDS

RICHARD W. HARTLAGE

## DEVIL'S IVY

(*Epipremnum aureum*) and the Swiss cheese plant or bread fruit (*Monstera deliciosa*) are familiar members of the aroid family, *Araceae*. The family consists of approximately 110 genera and over 2000 species, of which most are tropical. There are, however, several temperate genera of great ornamental value in the garden, with distinctive heart-shaped leaves and flowers quite foreign to our usual conceptions of garden blossoms.

The calla lily, a familiar aroid, displays the morphological arrangement of floral parts that defines the family: The petal-like structure, or spathe, protects the sexual structure, or spadix.

Envision the spathe unrolled and displayed flat with the spadix fully exposed and you will recall another common member of the family, the florist's *Anthurium*.

## ARISAEMA:

Only one *Arisaema*, *Arisaema triphyllum* (jack-in-the-pulpit) is native to North America; Asia is where this sought-after genus proliferates—China, Japan, Taiwan, Nepal, and India contain a wealth of *Arisaema* species for the garden.

In the last three or four years interest has boomed in the many tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate *Arisaema* species. Today the diligent gardener can find 20 or so available through mail-order nurseries. *Arisaemas* need bright, filtered light and



*Spathe and spadix of skunk cabbage,  
Lysichiton americanum*

humus-rich soils with even moisture to thrive. A top-dressing of compost or well rotted manure in late winter or early spring enhances performance.

## ARISAEMA SIKOKIANUM

One of the most captivating species is the Japanese *A. sikokianum* (zones 5-9). The exterior throat of the spathe is purple-brown; the elliptic hood comes to an elegant point and is the same color as the base but is also distinctly striped in greenish white. If that's not enough to wow you, the spadix flares into a mortarlike structure of pristine white, nestled inside the white interior of the spathe. The best forms have silver flares in the center of their five-parted leaves. *A.*

*sikokianum* is precocious: Plant it in a protected location with bright, diffuse light as it tends to emerge from the ground very early

and can be damaged by frost. If it is killed to the ground, it will not grow again until the following season.

## ARISAEMA

### CANDIDISSIMUM

While *A. sikokianum* is quick on the draw, western China's *A. candidissimum* (zones 5-9) is usually the last to come up—in northern areas it may not emerge until July. It is as subtly beautiful as *A. sikokianum* is flashy. Picture waxy flowers suffused with pink, nestled among glossy, apple-green, tripartite

leaves. There are two forms, fragrant and non-fragrant; the delightfully lemony odor of the former is worth the hands-and-knees experience. Seneca Hill Perennials is the only commercial source I know of for the fragrant form; and owner Ellen Hornig is a pleasure to deal with.

#### ARISAEMA GRIFFITHII

One of the most sought-after arisaemas is the Himalayan *A. griffithii* (cobra lily, zones 7/8-9). Great tripartite leaves loom over flowers held near the ground. The flower form and color give this plant its common name: mahogany brown suffused with plum, each blossom wider than tall, giving the effect of an alarmed cobra with its hood flared. A long appendage like a snake's tongue grows from the tip of the hood, reaching a length of up to three feet on older plants. The overall impression is memorably sinister.

#### ZANTEDESCHIA:

Pig lily is another common name for the calla lily, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*. There are six species native to South Africa. This plant is far hardier than people realize; I have grown it successfully in zone 7 in Raleigh, North Carolina. In its native habitat, *Z. aethiopica* grows along streams and roadside drainage ditches; but it will do just fine with average moisture. The flowers last forever—up to eight weeks in a vase—because they are more like leaves than petals.

The typical white-flowered *Z. aethiopica* 'Crowborough' is said to be more drought tolerant and slightly hardier than other cultivars. The unusual 'Green Goddess' is bizarrely striped and splotched with kelly green. 'Hercules', a white-flowered form reputed to exceed six feet in height, is only available at the renowned Western Hills Nursery in Occidental, CA. A new introduction scheduled for release from Heronswood Nursery in 2000 is 'Deep Throat', a vigorous new cultivar selected by James Compton in England. Its creamy flowers are suffused with a delicious apricot-pink and it will reach four feet easily.

There are many hybrids on the market in maudlin purples, zingy oranges, and sulfur yellows. They tend to be lower-growing and less hardy, but great for pots. Remember, these are bog plants that will be just as at home in the garden pool.

#### LYSICHITON

Skunk cabbages (or more poetically, swamp lanterns, zones 4 to 9) also make for dramatic garden specimens. There are two species: the golden-flowered American native *Lysichiton americanum*, and the white-flowered *Lysichiton camtschatcensis* from northeast Asia. Both are clumping perennials that

can produce up to a dozen flowers per plant. They need a pond or stream margin to be grown successfully, and both are eye-popping when in flower in late April here in the Pacific Northwest. Manuring in late winter produces excellent results.

Grow *Lysichiton* from seed or plant young transplants, and don't move or divide established plants as they will sulk for years. The two species hybridize to produce sterile, two-foot tall offspring with creamy yellow spathes. To cross pollinate, pour water through the spathe of the male parent and catch it in a cup, then pour the slurry of pollen over the female parent's spadix. Mark the crosses by tying a colored string around the hybridized flower stems. This method can be used to hybridize *Arisaema* and *Arum* as well.

#### AMORPHOPHALLUS AND DRACUNCULUS:

For a more grotesque look, two plants come immediately to mind: *Amorphophallus rivieri* 'Konjac' (synonym *Amorphophallus konjac*, or voodoo lily, zones 7-10) and *Dracunculus vulgaris* (zones 6-9). They are similar in appearance, with *Amorphophallus* growing to four feet while *Dracunculus* reaches about three feet. Both have rank brownish-purple spathes that are foul-smelling. Their scents of decaying flesh attracts flies, dung beetles, and other pollinators. If the sight doesn't get you, the smell will.

The voodoo lily is from Asia, and its tuber (which can reach ten inches) is reportedly edible. In colder climates, dormant tubers should be lifted and stored in a cool, dry place—like colchicums, they can flower without being planted, drawing on stored nutrients. *D. vulgaris* is from the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, and Asia Minor. Grow both in full sun with lots of compost to attain maximum size.

#### ARISARUM:

In contrast to the two previous plants is the diminutive and fairly esoteric *Arisarum proboscidium* (mouse plant, zones 6-9). This little plant is slowly rhizomatous, establishing clumps in shade or part sun. The elongated heart-shaped and hastate leaves are rather indistinctive; but part the dense foliage in late spring to see the cute, mouselike flowers dispersed throughout the clump. These spathes are bulbous in nature, with a long tail to 6 inches atop the hood. Children love these odd little flowers.

#### ARUM:

*Arum* is another great genus to grow. It contains 23 species, all native to the Mediterranean Basin and Europe. The species tend toward summer dormancy, an adaptive trait, because, in their native habitat, summers are dry and >>>

HARDY AROIDS continued from page 13

winter rains encourage growth. The flowers are lax renditions of the typical aroid spathe. Produced in late March, they are translucent green and don't last very long. However, the spadix elongates after blooming; and, in August or September, the clublike mass of fruits turns a showy scarlet.

*Arum italicum* (zones 5/6-9) is the most common species, and is grown for its beautiful silvery veined foliage that emerges in October. The cultivar 'White Winter' is sold in retail nurseries in Seattle; 70 percent of its leaf is silver. 'Taft's White' is described similarly and listed in the English references. Seeds of either come reasonably true and they can be divided as well. The species is very adaptable, growing in sun or shade and tolerant of drought but not excessive moisture. It will often seed around.

*Arum nigrum* (zones 8-9) is a more subtle version of the Italian arum, and more tender.



*Arisaema amurense* var *peninsulare*

The showiest in flower is *Arum creticum* (zones 7-9). Given sun, this species produces cream or yellow spathes in late April to early May that are nothing less than sumptuous. It is sweetly fragrant, too—another anomaly in the genus. Tubers are difficult to come by in the United States; try ordering from England.


*Arum dioscoridis* is a curious species with its purple-splotted green flowers that smell like a hamper of dirty gym socks; and the scent carries as far as five feet when in full bloom.

The next time you see a vase of *Anthurium* in the flower shop window, I hope it reminds you of all the strange and wonderful possibilities the aroid family has to offer—from the weird to the strikingly beautiful. All will add depth and interest to any garden.



Richard Hartlage is the  
Director and Curator of the Miller Botanical Garden.

## Growing Arum and Arisaema from Seed

Arums and arisaemas are easily grown from seed, an affordable way to get rare and expensive varieties. Seed exchanges are an excellent source; alpine gardening societies in the US and Britain are your best bet. When the seed arrives, soak it in warm water to rehydrate it and remove any pulp that remains. Sow seeds in 4" pots in a well-drained seed-starting mix. Don't sow more than 15 seeds per pot, and plan to leave the plants for at least two years—arisaemas particularly resent being transplanted when very young. Cover the seeds with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of aquarium-sized gravel: This will allow for easy germination and inhibit liverworts and mosses. Label the pots with genus, species, date, and source. Place pots on a seed bench and leave outside year-round for appropriate stratification. In colder climates, place pots in a coldframe for the winter. Once seedlings have germinated, place them where they get bright, diffuse light and fertilize them with a half-strength liquid fertilizer. Pot them in individual pots at the start of their third growing season. It is important not to overwater the pots when the plants are dormant. 

# HIGHLAND FLOWERS OF YUNNAN

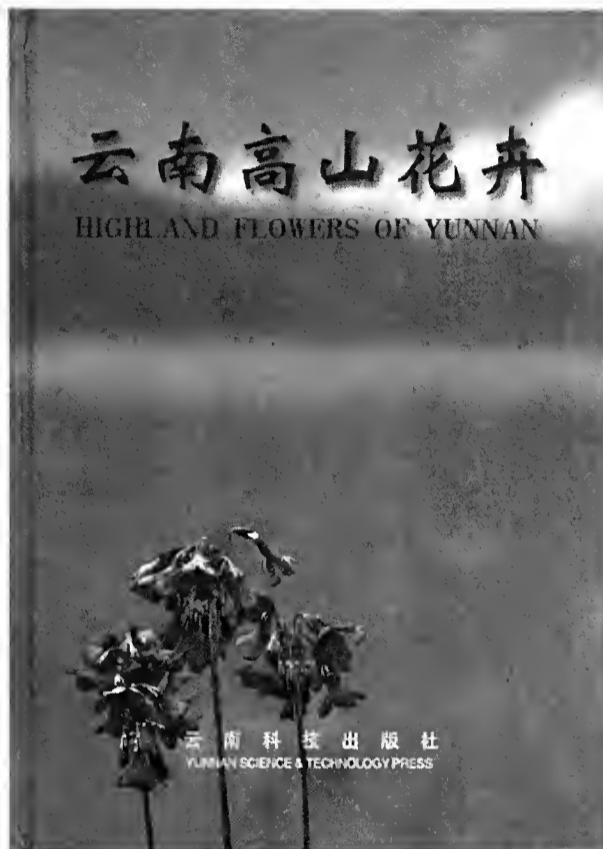
REVIEW & COMMENT BY RICHARD HARTLAGE

DIRECTOR AND CURATOR OF THE MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN

WE ARE EXPERIENCING a renaissance in plant collecting and I believe it to be a positive situation with a few caveats. So long as the collecting is done responsibly by those involved in the expeditions: they don't collect live plants only seed and they evaluate plants for excessive invasiveness. The first is an easy condition to follow the second is more difficult. We as enthusiastic gardeners want to try everything and at the current rate these plants are being made available, botanic gardens and nurseries can not test every plant to guarantee it won't be a new weed in every environment. We must take responsibility as well as the collector. Here at the Miller Garden we watch all plants we introduce to the garden carefully for potential invasiveness and the amateur gardener must assume the same responsibility or refrain from buying newly discovered plants.

Part of the excitement of growing these plants is researching them. A book I discovered at the Wisley Bookshop this summer is well within reach financially and now available in this country, ***Highland Flowers of Yunnan***. This is a lavishly illustrated book and a feast for the eyes and intellect, 579 photographs portray the plants of the Yunnan in their native habitat. The book illustrates 485 species some commonly grown and others not known at all in western gardens. Many plants look more like they are from another planet rather than another continent.

The book is arranged according to Hutchinson's system of plant taxonomy. The authors have been working at



EDITOR IN CHIEF: GUAN KAIYUN,  
AUTHORS: GUAN KAIYUN,  
ZHOU ZHEKUN, SUN HANG,  
FEI YONG AND SUN WEIBANG, 1998.



*Yunnan Science & Technology Press.*  
252 pages including index, \$65.00

compiling the 485 species included in this book since 1990. Brief descriptions in Chinese and English include habitat, distribution and individual environment accompany the illustrations. The plants selected for this book mostly grow above 9000 feet and thus the ***Highland Flowers of Yunnan***. Some plants do grow at lower elevations but are well represented at the higher elevations and the authors are typically describing alpine plants. This is by no means a book strictly for the alpine enthusiast. Classic cushion plants are covered but the vast

majority are of larger stature and will certainly be making their way into our gardens in the near future. When I first purchased my *Rheum alexandrae* two years ago at Heronswood it cost \$30, I saw flats of the same plant at local retail outlets this summer for \$6.95. I am staggered by how fast these plants make it into the broader market. The demand by the gardening public is there so growers are trying accommodate that demand.

***The Highland Flowers of Yunnan*** also helps us to appreciate the rare and endangered species of our planet as well. Some plants will never be made widely available but how wonderful to gain an understanding of where and how they grow in their native land. ***Cypripedium tibeticum*** is one of these plants that will only be grown by a few gardeners and experts that have the stamina and connections to attain such a rare and challenging plant. But the images of stands growing at 11700 feet near Napahai, Zhongdian is unforgettable and we didn't have to pay or survive the trek to get there.

I can only hope this will be the beginning of a series on plants from Yunnan. 🌿

***The Highland Flowers of Yunnan*** is available for \$65 (shipping included) from: **Collector's Nursery** (360) 574-3832; **email** [dianar@collectorsnursery.com](mailto:dianar@collectorsnursery.com) and **Transpacific Nursery** (they also have autographed copies for \$75) (503) 472-6215; **email** [groe@worldplants.com](mailto:groe@worldplants.com)

# FROM THE MILLER LIBRARY

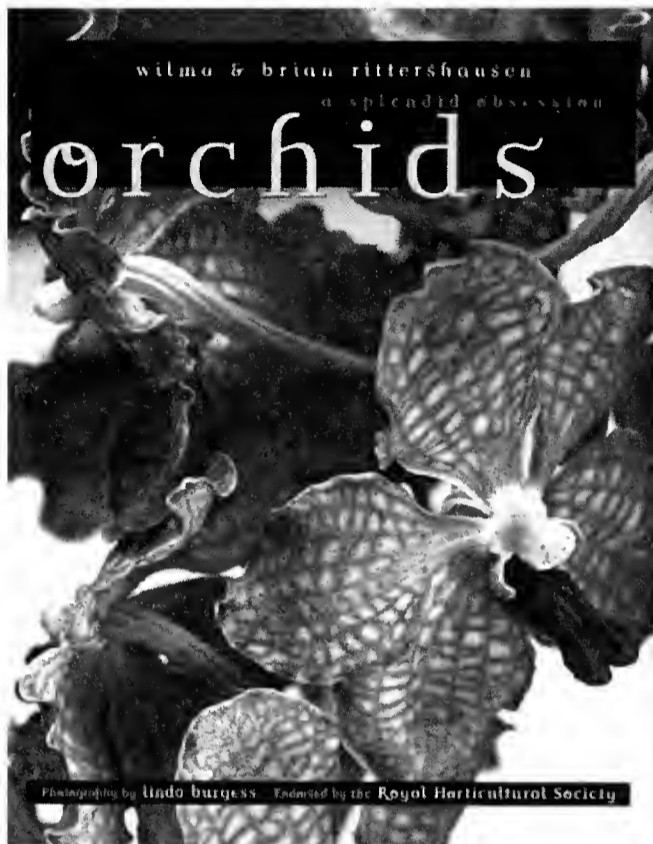
BY VALERIE EASTON

*New books fill the shelves of the Miller Library, new and updated CD-ROMS animate the computer—all to help gardeners dream and plan their way through to spring.*

***Orchids: A Splendid Obsession***, by Wilma and Brian Rittershausen. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. San Francisco, Soma Books, 1999.

Even if you never aspire to growing a single orchid, you'll be enchanted by this most beautiful of orchid books. Oversized, filled with the color and spots and splashes of this most flashy yet delicate of flowers, this book deceives with its sheer loveliness. It is practical and detailed as well, written by second generation orchid growers and writers, whose father ran an orchid nursery begun in the 1950's.

If you can get past the glorious photos of glowing white moth orchids, the fuchsia and cinnamon and hot yellow throats and dots of ***Dendrobiums*** and ***Paphiopedilums***, you can find here good solid information on the history, cultivation, and propagation of orchids, which are by far the largest family of flowers on the planet.



that trace the rich history of the natural world as captured in myth and literature. Symbolism, traditional medicinal uses and most of all lyrical tributes to favorite plants from Acanthus to Zinnia fill the pages of this book, to be read for sheer pleasure or dipped into for information about specific flowers. The book is easy to use as compared with other such titles, in part because it is arranged by type of plant, and because Ward weaves it all together, gives historical and botanical context, with his commentary.

***Designing With Plants***, by Piet Oudolf, with Noel Kingsbury. Portland, Timber Press, 1999.

Oudolf is an avant-garde Dutch nurseryman who has introduced some of the most exciting new perennials to the trade in recent years, breeding plants for specific uses in the garden. His designs are modern, naturalistic, textural and much-admired; this new book both celebrates his style and discusses how to achieve it. It is a lovely, well-photographed book about design and garden philosophy, as well as a guide to the newest perennials and grasses and how to place and grow them.



***A Contemplation Upon Flowers: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature***, by Bobby J. Ward. Portland, Timber Press, 1999.

Have you ever wondered how flowers get their names, both common and scientific,

or what Shakespeare or Milton had to say about roses or honeysuckle?

Bobby Ward has collected quotations from poetry, plays and stories, written by the Ancient Greeks up through the Victorians,





A German designer describes Oudolf's work by saying, "his plants look wild, but his gardens do not." Just as with the work of Oehme and Van Sweden, Oudolf's style leads us far beyond British mixed borders into swathes of naturalistic plantings, using mainly perennials. Oudolf uses a varied assortment of perennials and grasses to create mood and emotion, to catch the light and the wind, to emphasize seasonal change and the ephemeral nature gardens.

**Outside the Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Garden,** by Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister. New York, Penguin Studio, 1999

Open up the door and step outside to see how gardens have been influenced by the arts and crafts aesthetic just as surely as have architecture and interiors. This is a lovely book, filled with color photos of bungalows outlined in vines, nearly buried in foliage.

The emphasis here is on hardscaping and architectural details, paving, fences, walls, arbors, even birdhouses, treehouses and outdoor lighting. The detailing in the photos is exquisite, down to the level of tiles, hose bibs and mailboxes. All the possibilities for an outdoor arts and crafts style is explored in stunning examples of fountains, ponds, pergolas, courtyards and stonework that link interior and exterior, the natural and the manmade. There is little discussion of individual plants, but it is clear that vines, ornamental grasses, and bold, structural plants are what work best in bungalow gardens- wisteria, phormium, hosta, acanthus, palms and pines appear frequently. Most of the houses are west coast, many in the Seattle area, including photos of a Batchelder tile fountain in NHS member Gail Hongladarem's back garden.

**Maples for Gardens: A Color Encyclopedia,** by C. J. van Gelderen and D. M. van Gelderen. Portland, Timber Press, 1999.

After watching the magnificent show maples put on last autumn, no doubt many Northwest gardeners are looking for the space to add a couple more of these most useful trees to their gardens. A full gallery of maples, with color photos, lengthy descriptions, cultural information and suggestions for use in the garden are presented in this authoritative and encyclopedic new book.

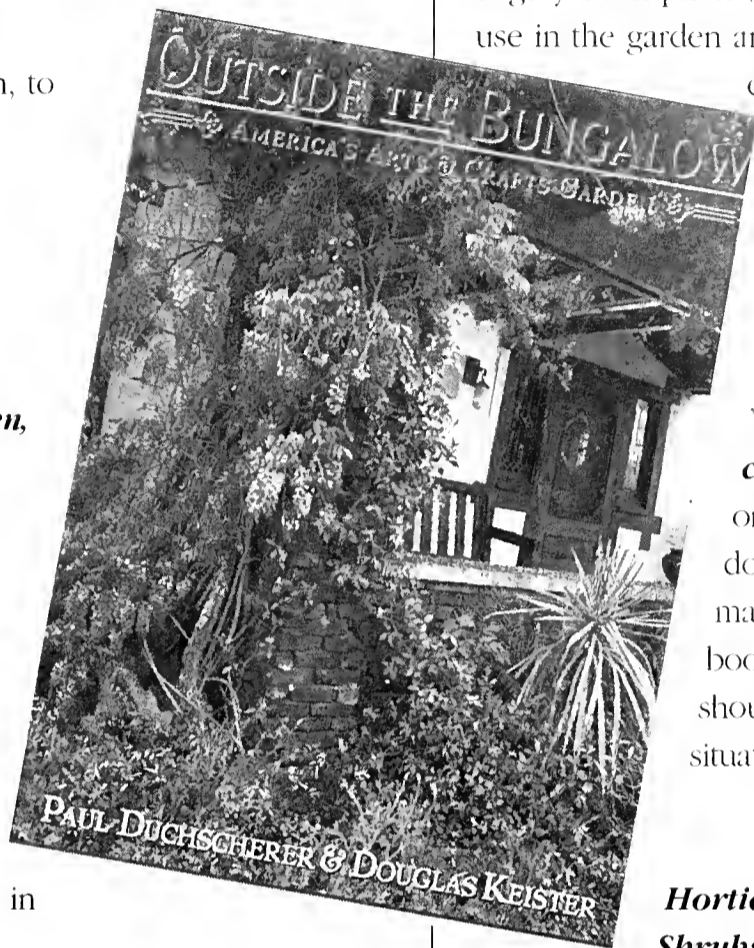
The sheer amount of variety among maples is showcased in photos and text - this book will be a real eye-opener for anyone who has thought only in terms of red or green Japanese maples. If the swirly, filigreed leaves of *Acer palmatum* 'Kaba', the pink blotched foliage of *Acer crataegifolium* 'Me uri no ofu', or the orange-brown peeling bark of *Acer griseum* don't awaken us to all the possibilities of maples in the garden, then the section of the book entitled "Maples for Particular Purposes" should help any gardener find just the right situation to accommodate more maples.

**HorticoPIA CD-ROM, Edition II, Trees, Shrubs and Groundcovers,** by Edward F. Gilman, 1998

HorticoPIA CD-ROM, Edition II, Perennials and Annuals, by Robert E. Lyons, 1997

These two CD's represent a powerful visual tool for plant identification. View thousands of plants pictured in full color, accessed by either botanical or common name (with botanical names clearly pronounced). HorticoPIA can be used to create and manage plant lists, export photos for slide shows, and to compile data on a wide variety of plants. 🌱

A freelance writer, Valerie Easton is library manager at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture. Valerie writes the weekly column *Plant Life* for the Seattle Times Pacific Magazine.



HORTICOPIA®  
Trees, Shrubs and Groundcovers  
Edition II



HORTICOPIA®  
Perennials and Annuals  
Edition II



# THE N H S SEED EXCHANGE 2000

SUSAN HILPERT

*The NHS wishes to thank the donors who have made this collection possible,  
and the members who give so many hours to fill your requests.*

*While every care is taken in the preparation of this list, we cannot guarantee the viability or identity.*

*Seed has been collected from open pollinated plants,*

*therefore your offspring may not be true to type, but you might find some real 'goodies' among them.*

## Northwest Natives

1. Acer glabrum ssp. douglasii T \* Id, OI 3
2. Achlys triphylla H 2
3. Allium cernuum G 4
4. Camassia quamash G 2,3
5. Disporum smithii G 3
6. Dodecatheon pulchellum G 3
7. Erythronium oregonum G 1
8. Erythronium revolutum G 5
9. Fritillaria lanceolata \*G 3
10. Lewisia cotyledon cg. H 4
11. Luetkea pectinata \* Mt. R. 3
12. Penstemon davidsonii v. menziesii H 2
13. Potentilla atrosanguinea H 2
14. Ribes sanguineum S 1
15. Satureja douglasii H \* SJI 3
16. Saxifraga bronchialis v. austromontana 3
17. Smilacina racemosa H 3
18. Tiarella wherryi H 4
19. Viola howellii H 3
20. Xerophyllum tenax 2.
21. Zigadenus venenosus v. venenosus G \*Orcas 3

## Non Native Plants

### TREES

22. Abies procera 'Prostrata' 1

## KEY

|       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| *     | COLLECTED IN THE WILD               |
| DK    | DENMARK                             |
| EST.  | ESTONIA                             |
| ID.   | IDAHO                               |
| OI    | ORCAS ISLAND, WA                    |
| MT. R | MT. RAINIER                         |
| NZ    | NEW ZEALAND                         |
| SJ    | SAN JUAN ISLANDS                    |
|       |                                     |
| T     | TREE                                |
| S     | SHRUB                               |
| H     | HERBACEOUS                          |
| G     | GEOPHYTE (CORM, RHIZOME, BULB, ETC) |
| V     | VINE                                |
| A     | ANNUAL                              |

23. Abies koreana 4
24. Acer griseum 4
25. Acer glabrum ssp. douglasii \* Orcas 3
26. Cercidiphyllum japonicum 1
27. Koelreuteria paniculata 1
28. Magnolia wilsonii 4
29. Quercus chrysolepis 5
30. Sequoia sempervirens 'Glauca' 1
31. Styrax obassia 4

### SHRUBS

32. Cistus laurifolius 4
33. Empetrum nigrum \*DK 4
34. Enkianthus campanulatus 4
35. Gaultheria antipoda NZ 5
36. Olearia insignis NZ 7

37. Paeonia lutea 5
38. Paeonia obovata var. alba 5
39. Rhododendron degronianum ssp. yakushimanum 1
40. Vaccinium vitis-idaea var. minus DK 4

### PERENNIALS

41. Aceriphyllum rossii 4
42. Achillea millefolium pink 4
43. Aconitum mixed 4
44. Angelica gigas 5
45. Aquilegia amaliae 5
46. Aquilegia aurea 4
47. Aquilegia bertolonii 1
48. Aquilegia discolor 1,4
49. Aquilegia dk. purple 5
50. Aquilegia vulgaris 'Nora Barlow' 4
51. Aquilegia mixed 4
52. Aruncus aethusifolius 4
53. Aster cultivar, blue-violet 4
54. Astilbe chinensis var. pumila 4
55. Astrantia major 4
56. Chiastophyllum oppositifolium 1
57. Digitalis lutea 4
58. Dodecatheon meadia 'Album' H 4
59. Draba mixed 4
60. Echium lusitanica 5
61. Eryngium amethystinum 4
62. Eryngium giganteum 5
63. Eupatorium aromaticum 5
64. Globularia cordifolia 4
65. Heuchera hybrid purple 4

- 66. Leonurus villosus \* Est 8
- 67. Limonium bivervosum 4
- 68. Myrrhis odorata 5
- 69. Paeonia obovata var. alba 5
- 70. Penstemon large, red violet 4
- 71. Plantago major 'Variegata' 4
- 72. Platycodon grandiflorus 'Apoyama' 1
- 73. Platycodon grandiflorus (white) 4
- 74. Primula Ceperle strain 5
- 75. Primula frondosa 4
- 76. Primula 'Quatre Vents' 5
- 77. Primula japonica pink 4
- 78. Pulsatilla alpina 4
- 79. Sedum 'Autumn Glory' 4
- 80. Silene asterias 5
- 81. Sisyrinchium californicum 4
- 82. Succisella inflata Est 8
- 83. Thalictrum delavayi 4
- 84. Verbascum bombyciferum 5
- 85. Verbascum nigrum 'Album' Est. 8
- 86. Veronica gentianoides 4
- 87. Viola sp. white 4

**GEOPHYTES**

- 88. Allium sp. \* Mex 5
- 89. Anomatheca laxa scd, 5
- 90 Anomatheca laxa alba 3
- 91. Anomatheca sp. (white, purple blotch)1
- 92. Arisaema heterophylla 3
- 93. Arum italicum 3
- 94. Asphodeline liburnica 5
- 95. Billardiera longifolia 3
- 96. Brodiaea hyacinthoides 2
- 97. Commelina dianthifolia 4
- 98. Diarrhena japonica EST 8

- 99. Eremurus bungii 3
- 100. Eremurus robusta 3
- 101. Galtonia candicans 3
- 102. Galtonia viridiflora 4
- 103. Iris forrestii 5
- 104. Iris graminea 9
- 105. Nothoscordum bivalve 5
- 106. Trillium vaseyi 3

**Annuals**

- 107. Lavatera trimestris 'Loveliness' 5
- 108. Nicotiana langsdorffii 5
- 109. Nigella damascena 5
- 110. Tridax trilobata Est 8
- 111. Zinnia pauciflora (Z. peruviana) Est.8

**VINES**

- 112. Asarina procumbens 2,4
- 113. Clematis tangutica 5

**NATIVE FERNS**

- 114. Adiantum aleuticum \*SJ
- 115. Adiantum aleuticum ssp. pumilum
- 116. Asplenium trichomanes
- 117. Aspidotis densa
- 118. Blechnum spicant
- 119. Botrichium multifidum \*BC
- 120. Botrichium simplex \*MT
- 121. Cheilanthes feei \*MT
- 122. Cryptogramma crispa var. acrostichoides \*SJ
- 123. Dryopteris felix-mas
- 124. Pellaea sp. \*MT
- 125. Pitryogramma triangularis

- 126. Polypodium glycyrrhiza \*WA
- 127. Polypodium hesperium \* S.J.
- 128. Polypodium scolieri
- 129. Polystichum andersonii
- 130. Polystichum braunii \* QC
- 131. Polystichum lemmoni \*WA.
- 132. Polystichum munitum \*
- 133. Polystichum x. setigerum
- 134. Thelypteris phegopteris \*BC
- 135. Woodsia scopulina \*MT
- 136. Woodwardia fimbriata

**Late Additions**

- 137. Datura sp. H 6

**DONOR LIST 99-00**

1. Mrs. Hugh Baird
  2. Chase Garden, Rosina McIvor
  3. Mrs. Philip Duryee
  4. Susan Hilpert, ASLA
  5. Mrs. Garrett Horder
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  7. Mrs Frank Kitchell
  8. Urmas Lansoo, Estonia
  9. Madeleine Wilde
- 99-00 COMMITTEE  
Mrs. Hugh Baird  
Mrs. Philip Duryee  
Ms. Susan Hilpert, Chair

Plant names verified by *RHS Index of Garden Plants*, Mark Griffiths, Ed., 1994, and Hitchcock and Cronquist, *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, 1973.

**ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS:** Member's orders will be filled first; submit orders by March 3, 2000.

- ◆ Circle your choices and write "1" "2" or "3" next to them indicating first, second or third choices – please select at least double what you want in case substitutions need to be made.
- ◆ Photocopy the order or remove it from the newsletter and mail it with a check to: **Susan Hilpert, 1434 Broadmoor Drive E, Seattle WA 98112.** OR...You may fax the copy to the **NHS fax is (206) 780-8291** with a credit card number

**COSTS:** Members: 1-6 Packets, \$4; 7-20 Packets, \$8; Non-Members: To 20 Packets, \$10

The following seed planting guides are available for an additional \$1 to cover postage: [ ]Germination Information [ ]How to Raise Alpines From Seed [ ]Raising Seeds in Sphagnum [ ]Thoughts on Raising Alpine Plants From Seed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE LIFEblood of an organization such as ours. We have a fine core of loyal members who turn out to work for each event. About 55 people worked to put on the **Fall Plant Sale** and 20 helped with the **Treasures of the Woodland** symposium the following weekend in September. Now its time to turn to the 2000 Library Auction, **An Evening in Tuscany**, (referred to elsewhere in this issue) and that committee seeks helpers to make it a successful event on May 7, 2000.

Whatever your interests, there is a niche for you to help out at NHS. If you would like to be involved and no one has contacted you, act now, and let us know "I want to be part of the action." You can phone the NHS office at 206-527-1794 or e-mail us at [nhsemail@compuserve.com](mailto:nhsemail@compuserve.com). Besides, you'll meet a lot of nice folks and have fun, too.

It wouldn't be right if I didn't mention gardening, now would it. Here's to the best gardens ever in 2000.



Ann LeVasseur, President

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## 2000 PLANT SALE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 & 16



*Susan Bogert, Theresa Malmanger, Ann LeVasseur and Sue Clark relaxing in the sunshine during a break at last year's NHS Plant Sale.*

If you have a passion for plants, get involved with the Plant Sale Committee. This is one dynamic, efficient committee that has a lot of fun, plans in advance and enjoys the sale before, during and after. To join the group call or email the co-chairs or our office:

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Laurie Colman (206) 283-3057 / [lauriemc@seanet.com](mailto:lauriemc@seanet.com)  
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