

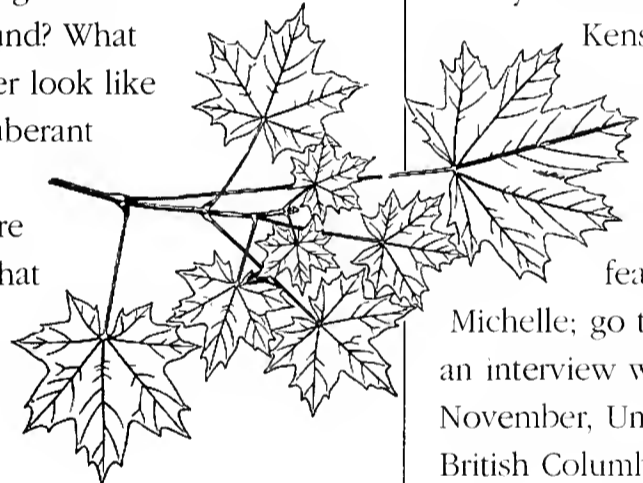


Garden NOTES

SEASONAL FLAVOR . . .

SAVOR THE BEST OF WOODY AND HERBACEOUS PLANTS

AS TEMPERATURES COOL and we begin to assess how our gardens transform come autumn, take a moment to plan ahead. How do you see your landscape when the leaves change color and fall to the ground? What does the border look like after those exuberant perennials go dormant? Where are the holes that need filling? Where are the crowded places that need "editing"?




Join NHS this fall as we present lectures on plant selection and planting design. Meet an enticing lineup of uncommon small trees with **Douglas Justice**. Renew your enthusiasm for designing a great perennial garden with **David Culp**. Their presentations will tempt you to make some seasonal changes in the garden—ones you'll enjoy in years to come.

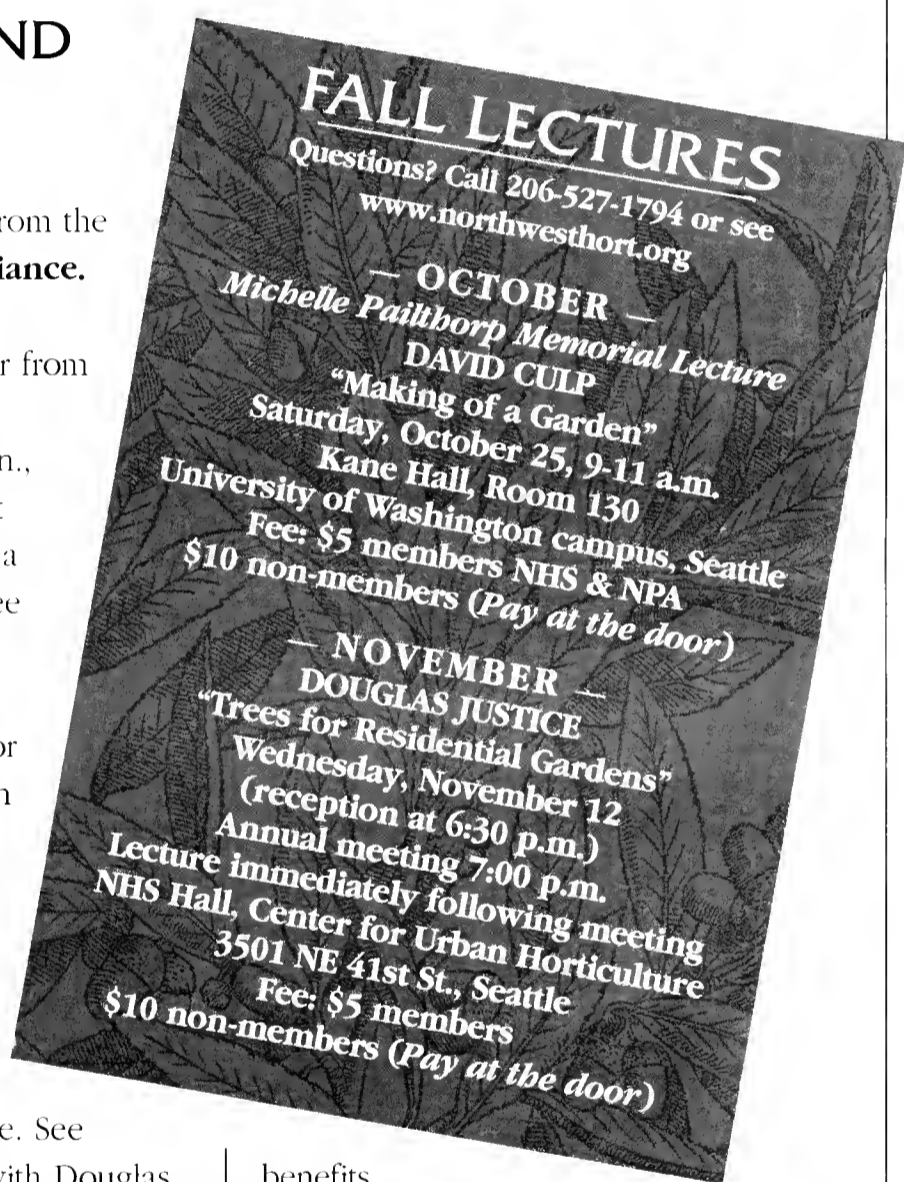
In early October, NHS members were treated to a lecture by Phoenix-based landscape architect **Steve Martino**.

Later in the month, NHS co-presents the **Michelle Pailthorp Memorial**

Lecture with our friends from the **Northwest Perennial Alliance**. **David Culp**, a legendary gardener and plant breeder from Sunny Border Nurseries in Kensington, Conn., will present "Making of a Garden." See page 3 for a feature on Michelle; go to page 14 for an interview with David. In November, University of British Columbia Botanical Garden's curator **Douglas Justice** will inspire us in a Wednesday evening lecture about the use of trees in the small landscape. See page 14 for an interview with Douglas.

Hearing from these international gardening experts is one of the many

benefits of membership in the Northwest Horticultural Society. 



FALL LECTURES
Questions? Call 206-527-1794 or see www.northwesthort.org

— OCTOBER —
Michelle Pailthorp Memorial Lecture
DAVID CULP
"Making of a Garden"
Saturday, October 25, 9-11 a.m.
Kane Hall, Room 130
University of Washington campus, Seattle
Fee: \$5 members NHS & NPA
\$10 non-members (Pay at the door)

— NOVEMBER —
DOUGLAS JUSTICE
"Trees for Residential Gardens"
Wednesday, November 12
(reception at 6:30 p.m.)
Annual meeting 7:00 p.m.
Lecture immediately following meeting
NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St., Seattle
Fee: \$5 members
\$10 non-members (Pay at the door)

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Auctioneer extraordinaire Jerry Toner returns to help NHS raise funds.



Past president Richard Hartlage, left, engages in virtual bidding—by telephone; Tina Mandt watches with amusement.



Bidding frenzy: Enlivened audience members vie for coveted horticultural items.



Brian Thompson, right, acting manager for the Miller Library, thanks auction-goers for their generosity; Jerry Toner, left.


BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

NHS AUCTION HELPS FURNISH MILLER HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY

ON MAY 4TH, NHS staged its eighth successful Garden Party and Gala Auction at the Center for Urban Horticulture. More than 165 partygoers went home with wonderful purchases of plants, garden art and exciting horticultural goods and services.

NHS thanks those who donated, those who volunteered to

help, and those who came—we raised more than \$40,000!

Auction proceeds will benefit the fund at the University of Washington: NHS Fund for Furnishing the Miller Library. Watch future issues of GardenNotes for further details and updates on this project. 

Thank You Auction Donors

A & D Nursery
Susan Adkins
Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
Robb Akridge
Francie Allen
The Arboretum Foundation
Barbara Blossom Ashmun
Barbara Asmervig
Gail Austin
Lee Lang Aw & Christopher Jacobs
Bainbridge Gardens
Charlotte Behnke
The Berger Partnership
Mary & Tom Berger
Barbara Bradfield
Briggs Nursery
Bruce Brooks & Debra Prinzing
Robyn and Don Cannon
Cedar Grove Composting
The Chase Garden
Chateau Ste Michelle
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Christianson's Nursery
Cistus Design Nursery
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Dunn Lumber
Emery's Garden
Jean Emmons
Fairie Perennial & Herb Garden
Fancy Fronds
Fare Start
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Ruth Greening
Griswold Nursery
Ben Hammtree
Lucy Hardiman—Perennial Partners
Hardy Fern Foundation
Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
Pamela Harlow/Botanica
Ruth Harold
Richard Hartlage
Brad Harvey, IMP Sund Hellework
Linda Hendricks Mosaics
Hendrikus Organics

Herban Pottery & Patio
Ann Herron, Herron Gardens
Allen Hill
Tom Hinckley
Dan Hinkley
Ed Hume
The Hunt Collection
Darlene & Dan Huntington
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Indoor Sun Shop & Courting Frogs Nursery
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Joy Creek Nursery
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Jeff Myhre
Naylor Creek
John & Lee Neff
Nichols Bros Stoneworks
Sue & Dave Nicol

Lynda Nielson
Northwest Flower & Garden Show
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Sundquist Nursery
Sunnyside Nursery
Szmania's Restaurant
Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.
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Torrefazione Italia Coffee
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Valley Community Players
Dolly Vinal
Vision Press
Gary Waller
Walt's Organics Fertilizers
Wells Medina Nursery
Jeff Wenk
Marty Wingate
Wintergreen Tree Farm & Greenhouse
Woodland Park Zoo
Phil Wood
Yard Moods Landscape Lighting
Jean Zaputil

HONORING MICHELLE PAILTHORP

lawyer, activist and gardener

MICHELLE PAILTHORP, a member of Northwest Horticultural Society and the Northwest Perennial Alliance, died at the age of 61 in July 2002. She was an accomplished Seattle trial attorney, but she loved gardening with equal fervor. During her career, Mickie worked for environmental, political and women's causes in Washington, including management of the 1972 referendum campaign that narrowly ratified the state Equal Rights Amendment.

As a weekend resident of Whidbey Island, Mickie was an active member of the Northwest Island County Conservation Voters. She also developed an extensive woodland garden at her home near Langley. It was this love of gardening that first led Mickie to Heronswood Nursery in Kingston.

As Dan Hinkley recalled in his 2003 Heronswood catalog, Michelle Pailthorp made an early impression on him:

"In our first year of business, in 1988, in our first 'catalogue,' I had christened our modestly-sized yet hugely endearing staff the 'Heronettes.' A week after the mailing, we received a polite but forthright correspondence from Michelle, whom we did not know at the time, thanking us for our efforts yet taking us to task for the quasi-gender-offensive title we had bestowed upon our employees. She suggested, in a friendly yet persuasive manner, that we consider something more fully encompassing without the (assuredly) unintended slight to feminist gardeners. 'Perhaps the Heronistas,' she proposed, and from that day forward, the Heronistas they became. Later we came to know and respect Michelle a great deal and slowly discovered to what extent she had used her well-boned skills of communication to directing those around her towards the basic tenants of respect for others as well as the environment."

Her spouse Joel Connelly, a columnist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, is convinced that Mickie's passion for her garden equaled her other professional and personal accomplishments.



*NHS & NPA to honor
the late Michelle Pailthorp*

"Anything that Mickie did, she believed in doing with enthusiasm," he recalls. "Whether it was practicing law or managing the Equal Rights campaign in Washington or cooking or foreign travel, she made more friends than anyone I knew."

In the early 1990s, when Joel and Mickie bought their home outside Langley, Mickie began planning her woodland garden. "Initially, I thought this would entail some rhododendrons around the cabin and a selection of Japanese maples," Joel explains.

"It ultimately turned into something that stretched throughout more than three acres of property involving wetland plants, dry plants, our cherished 'Sango kaku' Japanese maple, a marvelous huge hydrangea at the entrance with a dawn redwood nearby. But

possibly because Mickie was a Democrat, she could never get a 'Nancy Evans' rose to grow here," he chuckles.

Now formally called the **Michelle Pailthorp Legacy Garden**, this highly personal landscape is a living reflection of Mickie's love of gardening. Joel has continued to share this special woodland with the gardening community through NPA's Open Gardens; he plans to continue inviting gardeners to see it in the future.

"This garden is a living legacy," Joel says. "It was perhaps the greatest single thing Mickie did." He is particularly enamored with the way in which Mickie worked her magic in the winter garden, coaxing an outstanding tapestry of textures and blooms to grow in January and February.

"There are hellebores and trillium blooming here in late winter—white and maroon shades—with snowdrops and crocuses. Mickie made sure her plants bloomed in the right place. She created color patterns in the heart of the garden—it's so gorgeous at an unusual time of the year," he says.

The garden is now being tended to in part by Joel and a local landscaper. "It's costing me through the nose, but at the same time it is a thing of great beauty," he confides. "I feel it's my obligation to Mickie, as somebody who was denied her retirement here. It is a beautiful place." 🌿

See page 14 for a preview of David Culp's lecture, "The Making of a Garden."

CRIMSON AND GOLD:

ADDING FALL COLOR TO YOUR GARDEN

BY PHIL WOOD

AUTUMN IS HERE, painting its spectacular color on leaves and berries. Now is the time to visit nurseries to choose plants that will bring fall tints to your garden. Because individual trees of the same species may vary widely in color, depending on genetics, think of this as your golden (or scarlet) opportunity to ensure that what you see is what you get.

The brightest red I have seen on a tree was on a *Franklinia alatamaha*. Franklinia is named for Benjamin Franklin and has not been found in the wild since before 1800, shortly after its discovery in Georgia. In the tea family, (*Theaceae*), it is related to camellias. This becomes evident on enjoying the late summer, white, three-inch camellia-like flowers.

Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum*, are the royalty of the fall garden, elegant and graceful, crowned with wonderful autumn tones. Some are grown from seed, and will vary in leaf pattern and color; others are varieties, selected forms that should not vary much from one another. I am sure you will have a tough time trying to limit yourself to just one.

The butter yellow leaves of the maidenhair tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, shower down on my garden every fall. The ginkgo is an ancient tree, related to conifers but with fan-shaped deciduous leaves, not needles. They once grew in Washington State, as witnessed by the Ginkgo Petrified Forest in eastern Washington. Give them room; mine is 50 feet. Tall and slender, it is a good garden tree on my small lot because even though it is on the south side of my garden, it does not cast dense shade. It is an upright form, perhaps 'Princeton

Sentry' or 'Fastigiata'.

For big fall color in a small size shrub, consider dwarf European cranberry bush, *Viburnum opulus* 'Nanum'.

Only two feet high, it turns shades of yellow or red. A larger shrub is winged euonymus, *Euonymus alata*, eventually reaching six to eight feet. The dark green leaves turn bright red.

Blueberries, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, bring summer berries, and great fall color in shades of yellow and orange. They grow to around six feet. Plant at least two varieties for pollination to lead to good fruit production.

A connoisseur's plant (meaning it died in my garden so it must be hard to grow) is *Disanthus cercidifolius*. *Disanthus* is a witch-hazel relative with magnificent fall tones of red, orange and purple. You will have success with it if you provide deep, rich, moist soil, light shade, and shelter from wind.

Perennials add color not with their leaves but with late-blooming flowers. Kaffir lily, *Schizostylis coccinea*, has crimson blooms. Other cultivars provide pink or red flowers. The spiky leaf texture is like that of gladiolas. Another wonderful fall bloomer is the Japanese anemone, *Anemone x hybrida*. My favorite cultivar is 'Honorine Jobert' with clear white single flowers. 'September Charm' is a good pink. Vigorous growers, give them room in a shady corner. Usually needing little summer



Acer palmatum
'Ukigomo'

water, our hot summer meant they needed more water than usual to keep them looking fresh.

Winding its way through other climbers on a trellis in my garden is the purple leaf grape, *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea'. Green when they first emerged, and

then purple; at this time of year the six-inch wide leaves are on fire with a bright red-purple.

For a fall treat, stop by the parking lot to the east of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture to see the crape myrtles, *Lagerstroemia*, in bloom. Grown widely in the South, they need hot summers and warm falls to bloom well, and this year we have had weather that they like. They also relish the reflected heat that they get in the parking lot. The flowers are spectacular. Clusters of round berry-like buds at the ends of the branches burst into bloom, depending on the cultivar, in shades from rosy red to pink to white. Now I know what the fuss is about and to see one in bloom is to want one. I will keep an eye on them to see if reports of glorious fall leaf color are true too.

New England in autumn has an entire tourist industry based on its famed fall color. Plant wisely now, and you can spend a brilliant autumn in your own backyard. 🍁

NHS member Phil Wood has a degree in landscape architecture and designs and builds gardens.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD AND FERGUS GARRETT VISIT NHS



Fergus showing off his favorite garden trowel, made by Sneeboer Tools of Holland

A SELL-OUT AUDIENCE of more than 400 filled Seattle's Museum of History & Industry one Saturday morning in May. The occasion was a delightful pair of lectures from two celebrated plantsmen, British garden designer Christopher Lloyd and his close colleague at Great Dixter Home & Gardens, Fergus Garrett.



NHS members Dan & Darlene Huntington enjoy the morning's excitement



On a visit to his home, Dan Hinkley coaxed Christopher Lloyd to help plant a tree in his garden (Tom Cooper photo)

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, including board member Barbara Asmervig and member Deborah Heg, the "Boys from Dixter's" visit to Seattle was a major coup for NHS. Seattle kicked off a successful six-city North American lecture tour for Christo and Fergus. Here are a few images from their visit.

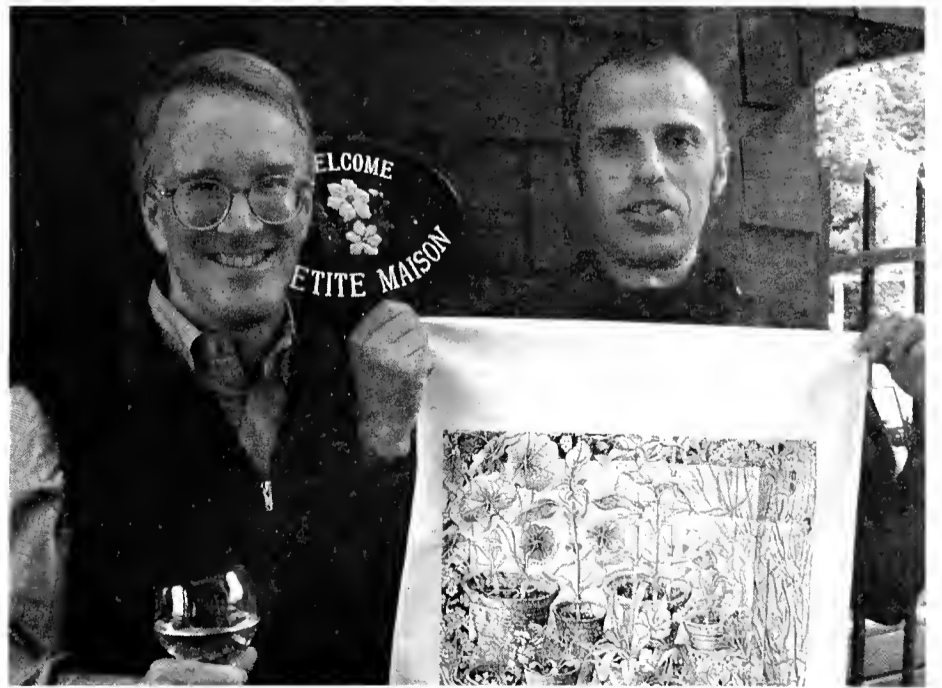


Thanks to NHS member Deborah Heg, who shared her airline miles for Christopher and Fergus

(all photos, Debra Prinzing, except where noted)



Christopher generously signed books and chatted with audience members



Tom Cooper, editorial director of White Flower Farms, which financially supported the lecture series, and Fergus Garrett, showing off a Great Dixter tea towel

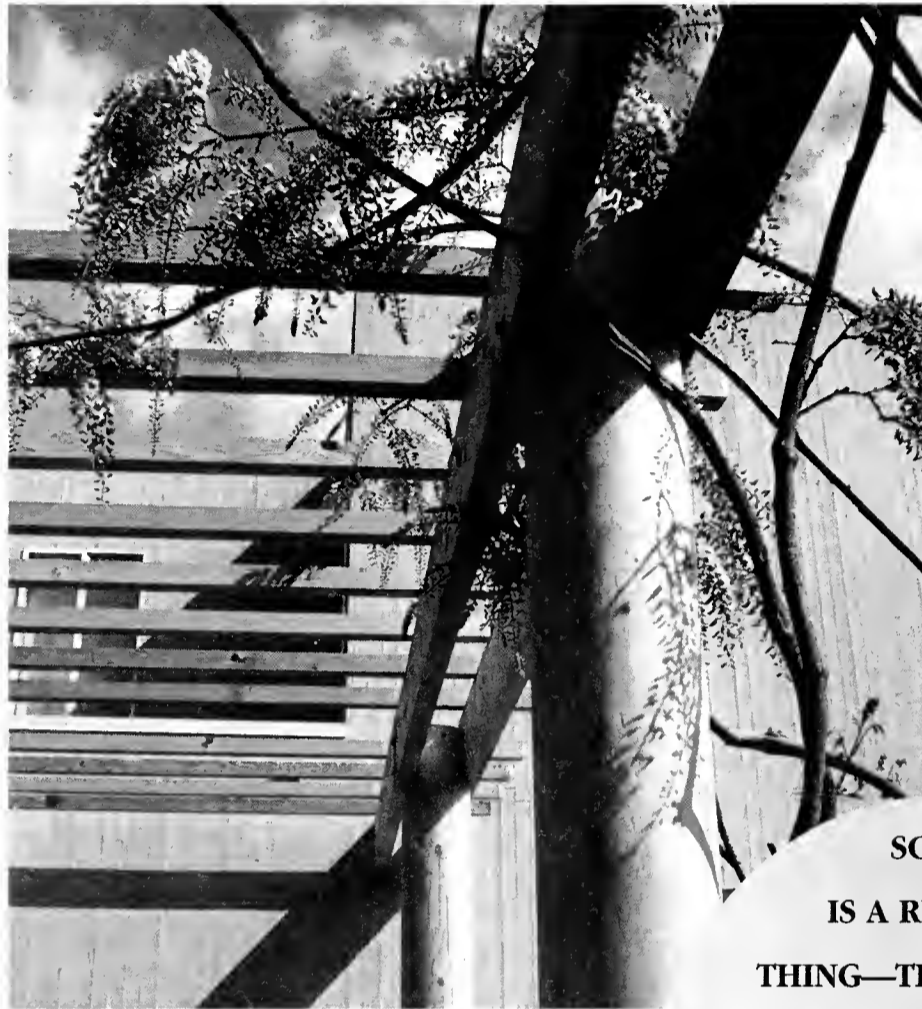
DESIGN NOTEBOOK: SCALE IN THE GARDEN

BY CARINA LANGSTRAAT

CERTAIN OUTDOOR SPACES have a strong vibration the minute you enter them. Your eye might rest in a variety of places and with a pleasing rhythm. Canopies overhead don't overwhelm but instead provide a sense of protection. Rather than pressing down on you, the walls of structures provide a handsome backdrop on which textures and colors can be displayed. While many factors contribute to the success of an outdoor space, that intangible feeling of comfort a well proportioned garden gives can be better understood by examining the idea of scale.

We can't get a real idea of what scale is unless we have a point of beginning—a relationship between A and B. While human beings vary in size, we all look at the things around us and intuitively compare them to our own size. That relationship serves as our first point of reference. In a garden, our second point of reference is the size of the home and/or other structures on a site. Good garden design achieves such snug unity between the two that it is not intuitively obvious where the garden begins and the house ends. As garden makers, our job is to integrate the land and the architecture—and to be successful, it is crucial that we approach scale boldly.

Most of us are comfortable with the idea of human scale but are unsure about how to go about feeling more connected to the structures around us.



Twelve-inch columns support a dramatic wisteria arbor, bringing the garden into scale with this three-story contemporary home.

Consequently, a common mistake is to respond to the scale we understand—human scale—and completely ignore other inspirations a site offers. The result is that garden structures end up too small. There are multiple ways to introduce bold scale into a garden; here are a few areas to consider:

ARBORS AND OTHER WOOD STRUCTURES:

Arbors are a great way to connect the house to a site. In small gardens they

can flow off a wall adjacent to the house and in larger gardens they can be moved closer to a property line in order to bring visual weight away from the house. When building a fence, too often skinny 4x4 fence posts are installed where 6x6 or 8x8 posts may pick up on the turn of the century columns that flank the front door. If you are building a deck, consider the relationship between the square footage of the deck and the size of the house. A deck

is a transition point between interior spaces and your garden.

SCALE IS A RELATIVE THING—THINK ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURE THAT SURROUNDS YOU AND PULL IT INTO A SPACE IN ORDER TO UNIFY IT. IF THE ARCHITECTURE IS POWERFUL, THE GARDEN MUST RESPOND.

It will feel more connected if it sits boldly on beefy columns rather than being awkwardly suspended on toothpick thin posts.

PLANTS:

With human scale and house scale as reference points, you can begin to connect the two by taking a look at where the ground plane meets the house. A two-story house feels imposing to a six-foot-tall person if they are standing right next to it. If we

put a six-foot-tall tree next to the two-story house, the resulting feeling is large and cold. But what if you introduce a 15' Japanese maple at the corner of the home? What if you place that maple in such a fashion that is softly folds itself around the home's hard

edges? The maple begins to serve as a transition between the house and the ground plane.

Next, imagine pulling that same scale out to the property line by another plant of a similar size.

Suddenly the house begins to feel as if it is nestled amongst the textures and foliage you have introduced. It feels more grounded. Now try adding vines to the arbor you have positioned over

**THERE'S
A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SCALE AND SIMPLICITY, WITH
EACH ITEM IN A GARDEN
EARNING ITS KEEP.**



Generously proportioned columns and large urns define an entry garden

a pair of French doors that leads to the outdoor patio.

CONTAINERS:

Large urns planted with a mass of elegant textures are a far better choice than a fussy grouping of undersized

pots. And again, you can pull architecture into the garden by flanking the front door with an impressive show of pots, or pulling that same grouping out to the front gate in order to give a visitor a sense of arrival. If you are creating a roof garden, consider the idea of an oversized ceramic pot planted with a 12-20 foot deciduous tree. The canopy the tree creates overhead will create a sense of protection from the limitless sky soaring overhead.

By considering scale when choosing items for your garden, you may be pleasantly surprised to discover the air of sophistication and balance three or four carefully chosen pieces can give. 🌿

Carina Langstraat is a partner in Langstraat-Wood, a Seattle-based landscape architecture and design-build firm. She can be reached at 206-547-6710 or carina@langstraatwood.com. 🌿

ARBORETUM TREES, SHRUBS UPROOTED AND STOLEN

EIGHT VALUABLE SHRUBS and trees have been stolen from Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum since April. The most recent theft, of an *Acer palmatum* 'Butterfly', occurred September 11. Planted eight years ago, the Japanese maple is valued at \$500 and is recognizable by its small, variegated leaves, which are gray-green with cream-colored edges. It is approximately 5 feet tall, with a canopy measuring approximately 5 feet in width.

The shrubs and trees (three rhododendrons, one hebe, one magnolia, one oak and two Japanese maples) were all planted near Arboretum Drive East. Including the replacement cost and labor, the group is valued at approximately \$10,000. The oak, a rare *Quercus cornelius-mulleri*, is valued at \$5,000.

Because the plants were taken with root systems intact, they are probably being replanted in area gardens, yards or landscaped spaces. Arboretum officials have notified the Seattle



police department of the thefts and hope public awareness may lead to identification of the thief or thieves.

Arboretum Director Dr. John A. Wott said, "The theft of any tree or shrub, especially a valuable or rare one, is a significant loss for the Arboretum, which encounters replacement costs and lost staff time as a result."

Washington Park Arboretum is a 230-acre living museum of woody plants with more than 10,000 collection plants, including more than 100 rare or endangered species. The Arboretum's plant collection is managed by the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. 🌿

News item submitted by the Arboretum Foundation. For more details, call 206-325-4510 or visit www.arboretumfoundation.org.

NHS CALENDAR OF

DATE, DAY & TIME	EVENT NAME	FEATURED SPEAKER	TYPE OF EVENT
November 12 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Trees for Residential Gardens	Douglas Justice	Slides & Lecture
January 14 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	The Garden As Art	Keeyla Meadows	Slides & Lecture
February 25 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	The Art of Planting Design: Some Personal Impressions, Reflections and Revelations	Richard Hartlage	Slides & Lecture
March 10 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Shade Gardening with New Perennials	Dan Heims	Slides & Lecture
April 14 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	More Coals for Newcastle: Continuing Introductions of New Plants for North American Gardens	Todd Lasseigne	Slides & Lecture
May 12 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Art, Nature and Landscape Character	Patrick Chassé	Slides & Lecture
June 9 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Event Planning & Floral Design: An Art Form	Renny Reynolds	Slides & Lecture
September 25 (Saturday) 8:30-11:30 a.m.	FALL SYMPOSIUM: Cultivating the Well-Designed Mixed Border	Tracy DiSabato-Aust	Fall Symposium: Two 75-minute lectures with Slides and Q & A
October 13 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	Hellebores for the NW Garden	John Massey	Slides & Lecture
November 10 (Wed) 6:45 p.m. Reception 7:15 p.m. Lecture	The Garden in Autumn & Winter	Jim Fox	Slides & Lecture

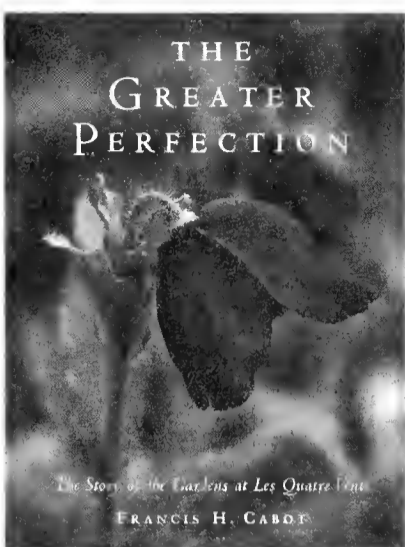
EVENTS 2003 — 2004

DESCRIPTION	MEMBER / NON	LOCATION
<p>glas Justice, associate director and curator of collections at Vancouver's UBC Botanical Garden, will explore the range and suitability of trees for residential gardens. He'll introduce us to characteristics of small trees, tree-like shrubs and other trees that fit into smaller spaces.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>ased artist and award-winning garden designer, Keeyla Meadows will illustrate how she combines color, ornamentation, movement and plants in the garden. She is the author of <i>Making Gardens Works of Art</i>.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>'s own past-president Richard Hartlage is a noted horticulturist, photographer, author and garden designer. Now a principle of Dietz-Hartlage Landscape Architecture, Richard will share a highly-personal talk about designing gardens with plants he loves.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>wn for his fabulous perennial introductions, Dan Heims of Oregon's Terra Nursery will discuss methods of dealing with different types of shade—well as solving the problems of root rot and light competition. He'll share unusual plant combinations and treat us to an overview of new plants.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>stant director of the J.C. Raulston Arboretum at N.C. State University in Raleigh, N.C., Todd Lasseigne is passionately involved in the development of a world-class landscape featuring ornamental plants for the Southern garden. He will discuss plants originating from worldwide sources—as they are evaluated at the arboretum.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>ck Chassé, a Maine-born landscape architect who lectures at Harvard University and the New York Botanical Garden, will help us analyze regional landscape character, encouraging us to find the best ways to compatibly integrate designed landscapes with our local landscape environment. He is one of the international designers profiled in Page Dickey's book, <i>Breaking Ground</i>.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>tor of <i>The Art of the Party: Design Ideas for Successful Entertaining</i>, Renny Woods is a popular New York floral designer who has designed more than 2,500 events for the who's who of America. Learn how to achieve the truly glamorous!</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>author of Timber Books' all-time bestseller, <i>The Well-Tended Perennial Garden</i>, Tracy DiSabato-Aust will discuss methods of pruning and shaping perennials, producing more flowers, lush new growth, discouraging pests, altering bloom times and maintaining vigorous health in the perennial border.</p>	\$35/\$45 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED	<p>Museum of History & Industry, Seattle</p>
<p>aticipation of hellebores season, John Massey of UK's Ashwood Nurseries will enlighten us with his insights about cultivating, growing and designing with hellebores. He brings a wealth of experience and ardor for the genus <i>belleborus</i> and the popular Ashwood Garden Hybrids.</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>
<p>ox is a plantsman and an inquisitive gardener whose knowledge of old-season gardening is rooted in his Alaska upbringing. He works at Wells Fargo and is the Northwest Flower & Garden Show's seminar coordinator. Hear him now make the most of autumn and winter gardening—and see this season with a different perspective!</p>	\$5/\$10	<p>NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle</p>

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

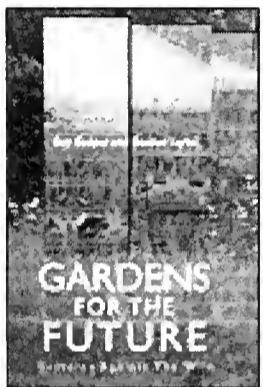
Book Table

DID YOU MISS the Miller Lecture featuring Francis H. Cabot last month? There's still an opportunity to pick up a copy of his awe-inspiring book, "A Greater Perfection," which captures the flavor of Cabot's philosophy as a garden maker—and features glorious photographs of Les Quatre Vents, his Quebec garden. NHS will have a limited quantity of signed copies at the book table this fall for \$70.



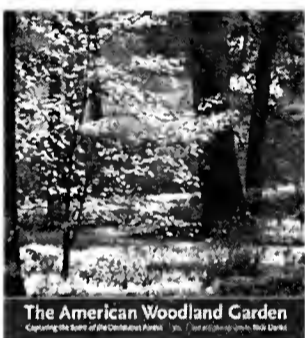
MORE BOOKS

NHS also has a limited quantity of signed copies of Guy Cooper's "Gardens for the Future—Gestures Against the Wild," for \$40.



You can also find copies of Rick Darke's "The American

Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest," an American Horticultural Society award-winning book.



How to reach NHS:

☎ Hotline: 206-527-1794

🌐 Web: www.northwesthort.org

✉ Email (NEW): nwhort@aol.com

Women in Horticulture

THE 18TH ANNUAL Women in Horticulture Conference will be held 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat., Nov. 8th at Highline Botanical Garden in SeaTac. "Lights, Water, Action—Lessons in Theory & Practice" will feature hands-on sessions on landscaping issues, including low-voltage lighting, irrigation, concrete pavers/wall stone, CAD and renovative pruning. For details, contact Regina at 253-640-3232, 253-856-3133 or rkg@drizzle.com.

SYMPOSIUM Opportunities

THE NHS SYMPOSIUM committee is seeking volunteers! If you're looking for a great way to get involved with other NHS members—and meet some of our fabulous speakers, contact Symposium chair, Hans Mandt at hans.mandt@boeing.com.

NHS Awards 2003 Horticultural Scholarship



CUH STUDENT Tammy Stout is studying restoration of native species with a particular interest in how horticultural techniques are utilized during plant installation. In May, the NHS Scholarship Committee granted Stout a \$2,500 award

to further fund her graduate research. Her studies involve removing soil from containerized *Myrica californica* and *Thuja occidentalis* so the plants are bare-root. Then she gathers data on aboveground stem expansion, total height, plant vigor, root extension, and below-ground root biomass in order to test the effects of various planting methods.

Fall Garden Auctions

NOV. 2: SEATTLE CHINESE GARDEN SOCIETY "SOARING DRAGON CELEBRATION," 3–7:30 P.M. at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center, 2211 Alaskan Way, Pier 66, Seattle. Tickets are \$150-\$500 per person and can be ordered by calling 206-282-8040, ext. 100.

NOV. 9: SEATTLE YOUTH GARDEN WORKS AUCTION, 4:30 P.M. with Ciscoe Morris at the Shoreline Conference Center. Tickets are \$50 and can be ordered by calling 206-525-1213, ext. 4132 or visiting www.sygw.org.

HOW TO ~~RENOVATE~~ BULLDOZE A GARDEN

BY THE GARDEN CURMUDGEON

THE WORD “RENOVATE” implies something between a gentle tweaking and a flat-out bulldozing, chainsaw-ing, RoundUp-ing extravaganza, the kind that makes spouses tremble and the neighbors gape. The Garden Curmudgeon believes that a garden renovation gallops down the same path of logic that an interior remodel takes:

I should paint the bathroom. If I paint the bathroom, the new paint color won't match the floor, ergo, the floor will need to be changed. If the floor is refurbished, the molding will have to be replaced. If the molding is replaced and repainted, then the tile grout will look dingy. If I re-grout the shower, I should re-tile it, too. If I re-tile the shower, I should install a new showerhead. And if I install a new showerhead, I should install new faucets to match. If I install new faucets, I should update the plumbing. And if I update the plumbing, I should buy a new house.

And there you've gone from a \$25 job to a \$250,000 job, which should surprise no one who has completed a remodel and lived to tell the tale.

The Garden Curmudgeon asked some of her esteemed colleagues, and some of the not-so-esteemed ones, too, what it means to renovate a garden. The answers—and this will surprise no one—were weird and across the board.

“Garden renovation is an art, just like painting. You need to see what is not garden and remove it,” said one bra-less gardener with a faraway look in her eyes and a bag of mushrooms over her shoulder.

The Original Garden Curmudgeon mumbled his usual garden philosophy between rainy breaks in the garden.

“Renovating a garden means bulldozing the place and starting over,” he said, giving me the stink eye.

Finally, one of those scholarly haughty-culturists told me that “renovating the garden

is a technical term, originating in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, by such laudable landscape designers as Capability Brown. It refers to the modification of the landscape as a whole, or specifically to shrub and tree pruning designed to promote plant health.” Someone has been hanging out in the Miller Library too long.

I think the root (!) of the problem is the **ONE OF EVERYTHING SYNDROME**. How many of us go to plant sales and nurseries, buy one of everything, cram it all into our garden, and a few years down the road wonder why it looks dreadful? Come on! We all do it!

So maybe the first step in a garden renovation is taking out everything you can do without. Or as Carson on my favorite new TV show says, “Let's organize everything into three piles: Ugly, Uglier, and Ugliest.” Once you've removed those items that you really had no business buying in the first place, step back and examine the space.

Does it look too empty? Well it's not. Next, get rid of everything that was on your Maybe-Sort of List. Now is it too empty? Good. You're almost there.

Did you know that anyone with a credit card and driver's license can rent a small bulldozer? Head on down to your local rental shop, pick out a dozer with some good power to it, swing by the Mini-Mart for some refreshing alcoholic




beverages, and you're ready to renovate! Fire up El Machino and start dozing everything that's not nailed down. When you're done, step back and again, examine the space. There should be no vegetation remaining.

Does it look too empty now? Good! You've just finished step

one in garden renovation. Step two: paving. The city has rules about how much of any residential lot can be covered by impervious surfaces. The Garden Curmudgeon figures they have bigger fish to fry and strongly promotes paving over the garden. If you are risk averse, and do not wish to spend your golden years in the hoosegow, consider sodding the garden from foundation to street. No? You must have plants?

Then step three of garden renovation would have to be... not plants. Step three is constructing expensive paths, water features that are supposed to look natural (because ponds always show up in a kidney bean shape), and other hardscape that haughty-culturists refer to as “the bones of the garden.” (The Garden Curmudgeon would love to scatter real bones in her garden and refer to them as “The Bones of the Garden,” but Mr. Garden Curmudgeon will have none of it.)

Let me guess... You didn't budget for hardscape! In fact, you're tired thinking about all of the projects that need to be done! To feel better, why don't you head down to the nursery and do some retail therapy? In fact, why not buy one of everything? 

The Garden Curmudgeon is an NHS member who prefers to remain anonymous.

IN SEARCH OF GREAT GARDENS

TWO NHS BOARD MEMBERS PARLAY
PASSION INTO GREAT EXCURSIONS

GILLIAN MATHEWS AND THERESA MALMANGER have a lot in common. They are both active NHS board members, donating countless hours of volunteer time to help stage major events such as annual auctions and plant sales.

The women have also worked together for nearly six years at Ravenna Gardens, a Seattle emporium for plants, home accessories and gardening products. Gillian is a co-founder of the chain and Theresa is the plant buyer.

But what really cements their friendship is a love of touring residential gardens. The pair has channeled that fascination into two fabulous NHS tours—to Portland and Vancouver, B.C. In the process, Gillian and Theresa, along with fellow NHS board member Ed Poquette, have attracted a loyal following of garden-touring fans.

The extended, two-day tours were originally an outgrowth of the NHS education committee, Gillian says. "We were brainstorming—we wanted to offer something different from day tours in the Seattle area. The committee said, 'let's see if there is any interest in an overnighter.'"

Plus, adds Theresa, "we wanted to be able to get into private gardens!"

Habitual garden-hoppers, Theresa and Gillian were familiar with the fabulous reputation of Portland gardens. They enlisted the help of Portland garden designer Lucy Hardiman and nurseryman Sean Hogan, from Cistus Nursery & Design. Both are active in the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and agreed to serve as Portland tour leaders for NHS.

The response of Portland area garden owners was encouraging: No one turned



A rainy Vancouver afternoon didn't deter NHS participants from enjoying the Mediterranean-inspired garden of Thomas Hobbs.

down NHS's request to see their private landscapes. "We had to pick and choose from a number of great gardens," Theresa points out.

The July 2002 tour was a huge success, with about 40 NHS members and guests boarding a coach bus for a weekend visit to Portland. In two days, the group toured eight outstanding private gardens, as well as the Portland Classical Chinese Garden.

"There's some pretty fun stuff going on design-wise in Portland," Gillian observes. "It's a little more cutting edge than we've seen here. I think people really like seeing a good mixture of small, medium and large gardens."

To cap off the weekend, there was a much-deserved plant-shopping excursion to two of Portland's stellar specialty nurseries, Cistus Nursery and Joy Creek Nursery. Gillian and Theresa realized that after seeing so many awe-inspiring gardens, tour goers needed to "act" upon their inspiration and shop. Theresa jokes that the tour size can't be expanded, because "we have to have room on the bus for our plant purchases."


A year after the successful Portland getaway, Theresa and Gillian, along with Ed Poquette, hosted a July 2003 trip to Vancouver, B.C. Again, the two-day trip was a sellout, with the promise of garden surprises and plant-shopping to tempt people.

Touring eight residential landscapes, including the spectacular garden of Thomas Hobbs and Brent Beattie's, was enough to lure another eager group to board the bus. The weekend was a huge success, despite the "monsoon-like" rains that descended upon the crowd: "It looked like a funeral with Thomas Hobbs bringing umbrellas outside for everyone," Theresa jokes.

Luckily, everyone kept their spirits up and regrouped the following day at Southlands Nursery, the famed emporium that Hobbs operates with Beattie. Plant shopping and a wine-and-cheese reception was a delightful ending to the trip.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Gillian and Theresa have surveyed participants of the two groups to determine future touring plans for NHS. "People are interested in going a little further a field," Gillian says. The past two tours were priced just under \$200—a great price that included transportation and lodging. She realizes that traveling greater distances would increase the cost—but completed questionnaires indicate there's an interest in doing so.

How does San Francisco sound? "We're exploring the idea of taking a smaller group to the Bay Area in conjunction with the San Francisco Flower Show," Gillian hints. 

DAY TRIPPING

WANDER PUGET SOUND'S
BEST GARDENS WITH NHS

IF A LONGER GETAWAY doesn't fit your schedule, don't despair. An offshoot of the NHS class program, ably led by Maryann and Charles Pember, is ready to tempt you with some of the best garden-packed day trips around.



LEFT: Abundant and colorful, the Fairbrook garden outside Olympia offered great design ideas.



RIGHT: Laine McLaughlin of Steamboat Island Nursery greeted fellow plant-lovers.

In 2002, there was a popular Snohomish County excursion. In July 2003, the Olympia day trip combined visits to gardens and homes. The itinerary attracted so much interest that NHS took a second group to Olympia later in the month.

The tour began with a visit to Steamboat Island Nursery, a plant collector's nirvana run by Laine McLaughlin, Duane Heier and Jude Manley. Many of us have purchased Steamboat Island's plants at annual NHS plant sales, but it was a real treat to visit this well-stocked nursery outside Olympia—in person.

We arrived bright and early, enjoying coffee, tea and cookies while we leisurely toured the display gardens and poked through hoop houses and rows of Laine's awesome plants. Some of the highlights included *Kochia scoparia* (a feathery annual that turns magenta in autumn); *Tetrapanax papyrifera* 'Steroidal Giant' (a perennial that grows to 10-feet with 3- to 5-foot leaves); *Rhodochiton atrosanguineum* (Purple bell vine); and numerous hardy Eucalyptus species. Everyone was tempted to purchase at least one goodie to bring home!

Steamboat's new display gardens are designed with deer-resistance and drought-tolerance in mind. "I'm pretty sure there are fewer weeds here than before we started," Laine joked, a sentiment many of us hold about our own gardening efforts.

We continued on to the private garden of Cindy and Dave Fairbrook, which offered inspiring vistas, garden areas influenced by Northwest and European landscapes, a wonderful knot garden, a shady woodland garden, a butterfly garden and a forest trail with native vegetation. Lots of photo taking and note-jotting here!


Box lunches were enjoyed in the private garden of David Goularte and Ruthann Panowicz-Goularte, a popular Olympia interior designer and favorite home furnishings retailer, respectively. The couple has created a lovely formal landscape surrounding their historic 1914 Olympia home, which was once used as the governor's residence. Completely restored, the picture-perfect home and garden were a highlight of the tour.

David Baird's plant-packed display gardens at Fairie Herb Garden & Nursery offered a fragrant afternoon stop—with

ornamental shrubs occupied everyone's attention.

Two more stops rounded out the day, including the home and garden of Nancy and Larry Bunn. Perched on a bluff that offered sweeping views of the Sound, the casually elegant home and gardens were seamlessly combined, offering wonderfully-designed interior and exterior spaces for entertaining and relaxing alike. We concluded the tour with a stop at Drees of Olympia, an inviting home furnishings and accessories store operated by Ruthann Panowicz-Goularte. Tasty hors d'oeuvres and refreshing beverages helped us regain our strength to hit the road for home. We filled our eyes with glorious gardens—and our car trunks with cool plants. Who could ask for more?

FUTURE TOURS

Plans are already in the works for a tempting day trip to visit nurseries and gardens on one of Puget Sound's fabulous islands in mid-July 2004. If you'd like to add your name to a notification list for the island day tour, contact NHS at 206-527-1794 or nwhort@aol.com. 

Lecture Preview

DAVID CULP

THE MAKING OF A GARDEN

Saturday, October 25, 9-11 a.m., Kane Hall 130, UW Campus

"MY BORDERS ARE WILD and ebullient . . . the garden is studied chaos in a geometric setting," says plantsman, author and designer David Culp. Viewers of Martha Stewart or HGTV may already feel as if they've visited David's "country formal" garden that he describes as a bit wild—as he and his garden are frequently seen on these programs.


David is a horticultural renaissance man who combines a passion for finding new plants with teaching and creating gardens. As part of his work in sales and plant R&D for Sunny Border Nurseries in Kensington, Conn., David spends eight weeks each year "going anywhere I need to go to search for new plants for Sunny Border."

He commutes to Connecticut from his home in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Here, David tends to two acres that surround a 1790s stone farmhouse. He also teaches at Longwood Gardens, offering certificate level courses on perennials, intelligently divided into plants for "shade" and "sun."

England, the countries of eastern Europe and Asia are some of David's enticing plant-finding destinations. "I'm looking for garden hybrids that fit well into the garden," he confides.

In his NHS-NPA lecture honoring the late Michelle Pailthorp, David will share his experience in designing a garden that "creates a sense of place." He's used his own challenging landscape to develop these ideas, understanding that plants have to be site-specific and appropriate for their environment.

David and his partner Mike Alderfer have balanced their passion for plant collecting with an overarching design vision: Creating a magnificent perennial border on a steep, shady hillside and growing ever-changing sunny borders. Like their Colonial forefathers David and Mike have placed the vegetable garden at the heart of this landscape.

David's belief that gardening is one's personal expression is underscored with these sentiments: "Somehow in our heart of hearts, we have to decide what turns us on about Mother Nature—even subconsciously, we know what it is we really like by looking around us." 



One of David Culp's captivating bellebore hybrids

DOUGLAS JUSTICE
TREES FOR
RESIDENTIAL GARDENS

Wednesday, November 12, 7:15 p.m.,

Center for Urban Horticulture




IF YOU'VE BEEN THRILLED with the trees and conifers recommended by the fabulous Great Plant Picks program, you have Douglas Justice to thank. A member of the selection

committee that singles out and evaluates garden-worthy trees and shrubs for Northwest gardens, Douglas is one of a small cadre of men and women influencing our awareness of spectacular plants. In his NHS lecture, Douglas will deliver even more suggestions for residential gardens—and his choices are worth considering.

Douglas is the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia. His primary responsibility is for the living plant collections, which comprise some 8,000 taxa from around the temperate world. Douglas is also involved with teaching, public and industry extension and new plant introductions. He trained at a large wholesale nursery and has worked as a gardener in Vancouver and under John Bond at Windsor Great Park, England. While in England, he also briefly worked as a bartender (perhaps that's requisite career background for horticulture!).

Douglas holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's in Botany from UBC. Before moving to the Botanical Garden, he worked as an instructor at a Vancouver area horticultural college. He is an active member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society (co-editing the newsletter with his wife, Karen), a founding member and past-president of the Native Plant Society of BC, and a founding member and a North American vice president of the North American branch of the Maple Society.

Douglas is also chairman of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society and a member of the Great Plant Picks of the Pacific Northwest tree and conifer committee.

Spend an evening hearing from this knowledgeable tree expert, who will bring many uncommon, but well-deserving trees to your attention! 

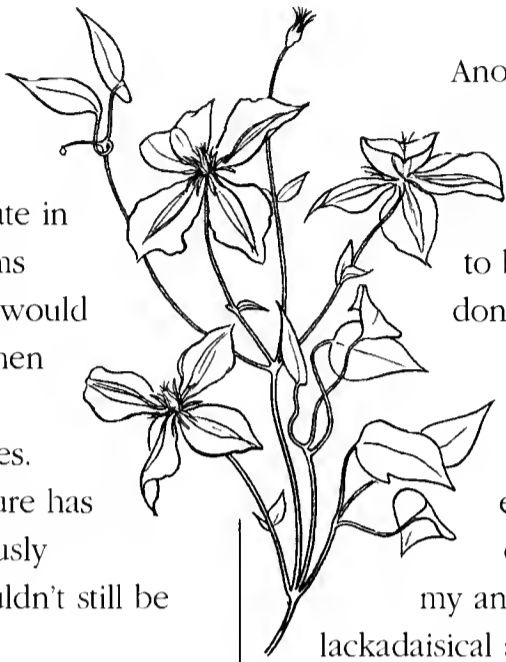
FALL SURPRISES

BY STEVE SMITH

AS I LOOK OVER the nursery this time of year I am amazed at the number of plants that bloom this late in the season. It always seems strange to me that a plant would choose to bloom in fall when there is so little time to set seed to preserve the species. But somehow Mother Nature has figured it out and it obviously works or those plants wouldn't still be around, now would they?

One of my favorite surprises is a clematis vine that only blooms in late summer to fall. Known as *Clematis paniculata* in the trade but correctly named *Clematis terniflora*, it is commonly referred to as **Sweet Autumn Clematis**. As you know, Clematis consists of a plethora of varieties with the evergreen *Clematis armandii* starting off the season followed by a continuous parade of early, mid and late bloomers. At the tail end of this parade is the *Sweet Autumn Clematis*, which we can appreciate now. The fragrance is sweet but not overpowering; the flowers are delicate, and the foliage is a nice soft green. Every yard needs one.

Native to China, Korea and Japan, this clematis has billowy masses of 1-inch wide, fragrant, creamy white flowers in the fall and is a very vigorous vine. I have a large arbor at the front of the nursery that has an early blooming *Clematis montana rubens* on one end and the **Sweet Autumn Clematis** on the other. It's the best of both worlds as far as I'm concerned. I've got masses of light pink blooms to kick off the spring and clouds of fragrant white blooms to wrap up the season. It's a stroke of genius!



Another plant that worries me every year is the **Beautyberry**. I say that because it always seems to bloom so late that I don't think it's going to set any berries, which is the real reason to grow it. But low-and-behold, every year it manages to do just fine, despite all my anxiety over its lackadaisical attitude. The

Beautyberry or **Callicarpa** also hails from the Asian continents of China, Korea and Japan. It's a 5-6 foot shrub with dark green leaves that turn orange to purple in the fall. It blooms in late summer with fairly insignificant flowers, after which the real excitement starts to happen. From the flowers are produced these magnificent berries. Resembling purple pearls, they last well into the winter. It's an easy-to-grow shrub that is totally pest free. Again, every yard should have one (but of course, I think every yard should have one of everything).

Caryopteris is a woody perennial that I enjoy watching come into bloom every September. It forms a small shrub about two-feet tall. For the entire months of September and October it is covered in dense clusters of mid- to dark blue flowers that are smothered with bees and butterflies. Because it blooms on new wood, you can cut it to the ground every spring, keeping it looking tidy.

Caryopteris x clandonensis

'**Worcester Gold**' is a yellow-leaved variety with lavender-blue blooms. They do best in a hot, sunny place with good drainage. This plant looks really great with the blue foliated grasses such as

blue oat grass or blue fescue.

Japanese Anemones are delightful perennials that thrive in the shade and slowly spread through the garden (although some gardeners might disagree on how slowly they really spread). It's such a joy to see these guys pop into color this time of year. They have been growing all season without much to show for their efforts, their dark green foliage blending into the surrounding vegetation. But now, all of a sudden, you can find their blooms on the end of 2-4 ft. high stalks in white, pink or rose. They are a happy flower that makes me smile every time I see them.

My all time favorite late summer bloomer has to be *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'. This is a tough-as-nails, no-brainer of a plant to grow and will literally fill your garden with seasonal happiness. Autumn Joy is a succulent with fleshy stems and leaves that grow quite upright throughout the season. By mid summer the green flower heads resemble large heads of broccoli. By September they have begun to turn a pinkish-red color, continuing to move toward the rust tones through fall. Even after a hard frost this plant continues to add interest in the garden for its leaves will hang on and turn a flesh tone and the flowers will dry to a rich brown. Now I ask you, who could ask for any more from a plant? '**Meteor**' and '**Brilliant**' are two variations that I like for their brighter pink flowers. 🌱

Steve Smith writes for several local publications and owns Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville. You can contact him at 425-334-2002 or sunnysidenursery@msn.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT WAS IN THE 80s TODAY—hard to believe it's the end of September. This summer has been wonderful, but for some unexplained reason I am ready for a change. I look at areas in the garden and think of what I want them to look like next year. I also wonder who is going to plant all those tulip bulbs I ordered?

Gardening is still new to me and every plant I see is a must-have. It makes for a "fruit salad" garden, though. One of this, one of that. If I could get over this must-have buying, I know my garden would look better. One, my eye could move more easily through the garden if plants and colors were repeated. Two, I could spend more time enjoying the garden, not looking for some small patch of dirt to pop a plant into. A lot of time is spent moving plants so they never have a chance to settle in!

At NHS lectures and classes I keep hearing how disciplined one has to be. If it doesn't work, it's gone! So far, during the last several weeks I've been trying to edit; always thinking, what will it look like next year?

I did have some self-control at the NHS Plant Sale. Well, except for the rare plant auction, but that was for a good cause, right?! But in most cases, I've been buying plants to repeat what I've already got in the garden.

All of this is both fun and frustrating. There is always hope that my garden will be just what I want it to be. Next year.

I hope all of you have enjoyed the lectures and classes, the Auction and the Plant Sale. These events always recharge my gardening batteries. Hopefully yours, too.

One last note. This fall construction of Merrill Hall and the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture will begin. Thank you to everyone for making this possible. We will all have something to look forward to next summer.

Thank you!



Pat Riehl, President

Editor's Note: December 1, 2003 is the deadline for the next issue of the GardenNotes newsletter.

GARDEN NOTES

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