



PROHORT

Vol. 10, No. 3

Summer 1992

PROHORT seminars for professionals are planned and conducted cooperatively by Urban Horticulture, University of Washington and Cooperative Extension Service, Washington State University. Edmonds Community College and South Seattle Community College also assist cooperatively.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL PROHORT SEMINARS

FOCUS ON WETLAND PLANTS

Tuesday, July 7

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Center for Urban Horticulture

\$47, includes lunch

Instructors: Linda Kunze, Wetlands Ecologist, Washington Natural Heritage Program, Department of Natural Resources; Ron Van Bianchi, Owner, Pacific Wetlands Nursery; Catherine Hovanic, Executive Secretary, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board; Kevin Fetherston, Wetlands Ecologist, L. C. Lee & Associates, Incorporated

I. USING NATURAL SYSTEMS AS PLANT SELECTION MODELS

Linda Kunze discusses characteristics of native wetland systems as models for developing, designing, or managing constructed or enhanced systems. Examples from a variety of Washington wetlands will be used.

II. PLANT SELECTIONS

Learn about collection, propagation, planting, establishment, and maintenance concerns of plants for freshwater wetland systems. Ron Van Bianchi uses live specimens and slides to discuss key western Washington species.

III. PLANT SELECTION CONCERNS

Catherine Hovanic reviews concerns, problems and policies relevant to the use of invasive introduced species.

IV. PLANT SELECTION IN RESTORATION DESIGN

Kevin Fetherston shares approaches to selecting plants for wetland restoration design. Topics will include: reference wetland ecosystems, wetland vegetation structural and functional characteristics, wetland plant life history characteristics, species hydrologic requirements, use of biological benchmarks, and wetland vegetation development. These topics will be integrated through the presentation of a number of case studies.

PROFESSIONAL'S GARDEN TOUR

Tuesday, July 14

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Leave from CUH

\$24, includes transportation, does not include sack lunch

Imagine creating your own five acre collector's garden. Then add a small nursery to support your plant acquisition efforts and to share your successes; call it Heronswood- a living classroom. Co-owner Dan Hinkley guides us through this unique specialty nursery and adjacent private gardens. Landscape features include a perennial border, woodland garden, bog garden, rock garden, pond garden, mixed shrub border and more.

Charles Price and Glen Whitney, co-owners of Whitney-Price Landscape and Design, have been responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of many outstanding area gardens. They are known for creating colorful landscapes using the most recent plant introductions available, and for innovative uses of perennials. Tour their half-acre garden that features perennial and mixed borders, and drought-tolerant plantings.

WEED IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT

This seminar earns 3 hours WSDA Pesticide Recertification Credit

Wednesday, July 29

9 a.m. to Noon

Center for Urban Horticulture

\$19

Instructor: Catherine Hovanic, Executive Secretary, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

A warm winter followed by water use restrictions provides an excellent environment for an invasion of summer and fall weeds into turf and landscape beds.

Learn to recognize landscape and garden weeds and understand their life cycles to ensure better management and control. To gain experience in identifying undesired invaders, live specimens will be provided; you may also bring along your own problem plants for identification.

Cultural, mechanical and chemical controls appropriate for each weed will be discussed.

Registration information
See page 3

POSSIBLE SEMINAR: TURF MANAGEMENT AFTER DROUGHT

Seminar content and date to be determined at a later time.

While considering relevant topics for our summer ProHort Seminars, landscape water use issues were considered a priority. The possible combination of summer sun and heat plus watering restrictions could create difficult conditions for establishing or maintaining turf. Program planning began in late April, so the operative word was "possible". No-one could predict what amount of rain might fall, what temperatures would be reached, or even what regulation changes might occur that would affect turf growers and managers.

Consulting with Dr. Gwen Stahnke, Turf Specialist at WSU-Puyallup, and George Pinyuh, WSU Cooperative Extension Agent, it was decided that we must wait until July to decide what, if any, turf management programs might be appropriate. Dr. Stahnke has agreed to present information on turf management, recovery, or renovation as dictated by summer conditions.

If a seminar is developed for later this summer, you will be mailed a separate flyer.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

COPING WITH DROUGHT: GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

July 7
7 to 9 p.m., CUH
\$10, pre-registration required

Many native plants are appropriate choices for low water use landscapes and function well in lower maintenance plantings. Art Kruckeberg, UW Emeritus Professor of Botany, will share his experience and knowledge in selecting and growing native plants. After this informative slide lecture, be prepared to ask questions.

BROAD-LEAVED EVERGREEN TREES

July 18
9 to 11 a.m., Graham Visitors Center,
WPA
\$5, payable at the door

Broad-leaved evergreen trees can provide an interesting foliage alternative to conifers. Arboretum Curator Tim Hohn leads this tour of interesting, useful trees in the Arboretum, focusing on trees in flower or fruit.

**Edmonds Community College
Summer Courses:** Herbs, Bamboos,
Turf. Greenhouse Studies, Summer
Pruning. For registration information,
please call 771-1679.

LOW WATER USE LANDSCAPES

by Dave Stockdale

Water conservation landscapes. Xeriscapes. Low water use landscapes. What they are called does not matter; the principles involved do matter.

These principles matter enough that for several years many communities and some entire states have enacted "xeriscape laws" regulating installation and use of sprinkler systems, plant selection, and placement. As water use issues once again make headlines in western Washington, we must address similar regulations and practices.

Actually, this process has already begun. The King County Council is currently considering landscape plant zoning codes. Recommendations are being refined, and a code could be ready for Council voting by early this fall. The current proposed code would require that 75% of new landscape plants be native or "naturalized" to the Pacific Northwest, and that at least 50% of plant materials be "drought tolerant". Such codes would be accompanied by (but not actually include) recommended plant lists.

The National Xeriscape Council, Inc., teaches seven basic low water use landscaping principles: planning and

design, soil analysis, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, efficient irrigation, use of mulches, and appropriate maintenance. As leaders in the landscape professions we should already be familiar with the content and application of these principles.

Landscape maintenance can be more efficient and less expensive when these seven practices are employed. Regulations may continue to change our landscape design, installation and maintenance practices. Water use issues are a legitimate concern in western Washington. Respond pro-actively. Start making changes because you choose to, not just because you may have to.

PROHORT BOOKSHELF

by Valerie Easton

INFORMATION SOURCES FOR LANDSCAPE GARDENING WITH LESS WATER

Information on how best to conserve our increasingly scarce and valuable water resources is available in books, pamphlets, newsletters and journals. The Miller Library has files on "Water Conservation" and "Xeriscaping", and an extensive bibliography of both books and journal articles on gardening during drought. Many of the articles have been collected in a *Drought Notebook* available at the library's front desk. Articles on water concerns appear frequently in *American Nurseryman*, *Landscape Management*, *Horticulture*, *Pacific Horticulture*, *Sunset* and other publications.

The National Xeriscape Council, Inc., an organization dedicated to making plantings and gardens more water efficient, publishes *National Xeriscape News*. Contact them for membership information, brochures, and other literature at P. O. Box 767936, Roswell, Georgia 30076-7936, (404) 998-5899.

Other valuable information can be obtained by ordering the following:

Water Conservation in the Northwest Landscape and Outdoor Water Conservation, free pamphlets available from the Seattle Water Department publication line, (206) 684-5849.

Drought Gardening by Sue Hakala, Garden Way Publishing Bulletin

To reprint material from this publication, obtain permission from the editor and cite ProHort.

A-73, Storey Communications, Schoolhouse Road, Pownal, Vermont 05261, Attn: Mail Order; \$2.95, including postage.

Regional publications of assistance in the Miller library include:

Beck, Beatrice M. *Drought Tolerant Planting Bibliography*. Claremont, CA: Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1990.

Black, Kathryn Stechert; Sunset Books. *Waterwise Gardening*. Menlo Park, CA: Lane Pub. Co., 1989.

Courtright, Gordon. *Trees and Shrubs for Temperate Climates*. 3rd ed. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1988.

Kramer, Jack. *Drip System Watering for Bigger and Better Plants*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1980.

Kruckeberg, Arthur R. *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Guide*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982.

Perry, Bob. *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes: Plants for Water Conservation*. San Dimas, CA: Design Publishing, 1981.

Saratoga Horticultural Foundation's *Success List of Water Conserving Plants*. Saratoga, CA: Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, 1982.

Wheatly, Margaret Tipton. *Successful Gardening with Limited Water*. Santa Barbara, CA: Woodbridge Press, 1981.

Other helpful publications available in the Library include:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. *Low-Maintenance Gardening: A Handbook*. Spring 1983 issue of *Plants and Gardens* (Vol. 40, no. 1, #100). New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Chatto, Beth. *The Dry Garden*. London: Dent, 1981.

Diekelmann, John and Schuster, Robert. *Natural Landscaping: Designing with Native Plant Communities*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982.

Duffield, Mary Rose and Jones, Warren D. *Plants for Dry Climates: How to Select, Grow and Enjoy*. Tucson, AZ: HP Books, 1981.

Knopf, Jim. *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener: A Waterwise Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region*. Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 1991.

MacLean, Jayne T. *Drip and Trickle Irrigation, 1985-87*. (Quick Bibliography Series, QB 87-680). National Agricultural Library, 1987.

Nehrling, Arno and Irene. *Easy Gardening with Drought-Resistant Plants*. New York: Hearstside, 1968.

Robinette, Gary O. *Water Conservation in Landscape Design and Management*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984.

Taylor's Guide to Water-Saving Gardening. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.

Miller Library is open Mondays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Center for Urban Horticulture is dedicated to research, teaching and public service in urban horticulture/urban forestry.

PLANT PROFILE

by Timothy Hohn

MELIOSMA VEITCHIORUM

I like bold ornamental plants. Big, brassy, loud, coarse plants on steroids. Habit and foliage are the most important contributors supporting this green fetish. With this firmly in mind, *Meliosma veitchiorum* does it for me.

Here's another case of a neglected E. H. Wilson introduction from China. Wilson introduced this tree to Great Britain in 1901 where it has thrived in relative obscurity at a few botanical institutions. Although it has been offered by Hilliers Nursery for quite some time, few other commercial firms have ventured to try it. Hence, the landscape goes lacking this unique plant.

In a family (Sapiaceae) of mainly tropical species from the Americas and Asia, *Meliosma veitchiorum* is one of a few from China and Japan that are hardy. Found nestled among the mountains of central and western China as high as 2,500 meters, this is an exotic looking small tree. It has large, pinnately compound leaves arranged aralia-like at the ends of coarse branches. Each parasol branch of big leaves is striking and bold. The overall architecture of the tree is deliberate, stout, and resilient.

The young branches are the thickness of carpenter's thumbs and emanate from rigid, upright growth, forming a conical young crown. The 18 to 30 inch long leaves stand out from the branches in a rigid, horizontal plane. Even the 9 to 15 opposite leaflets are braced for photosynthesis. Coarse, green, and bold isn't the entire story of this tree in foliage. The petioles and rachises of the leaves are often a

PROHORT Seminar Registration

<input type="checkbox"/> WETLAND PLANTS	\$47
<input type="checkbox"/> PROFESSIONAL'S GARDEN TOUR	\$24
<input type="checkbox"/> WEED ID & MANAGEMENT	\$19
TOTAL : \$ _____	

Group Rates: five or more persons, less 20%. Group registrations must be accompanied by ONE check or purchase order at least one week in advance. Portion of fees may cover refreshments and speaker expense.

Make checks payable to the University of Washington; receipts available at the door. Mail payment and registration to: Center for Urban Horticulture/ProHort, University of Washington, GF-15, Seattle, WA 98195. For information, call 685-8033.

Company Name

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bright red to reddish purple color as though striving to support the blades. In the fall, the compound leaves light up with a crisp, clear yellow before shattering.

The name *meliosma* refers to the honey-scented flowers of some of the species, including *M. veitchiorum*. The large drooping panicles, often 12 to 18 inches long and half as wide, are usually born in the upper part of the crown, often out of nose range. However, the large, fine-textured panicles of small flowers are a pleasant architectural contrast to the stout leaves. I haven't seen fruit on the Arboretum tree although they are reported to be pea-sized and black.

The lone specimen at the Washington Park Arboretum is covered with a craggy bark more typical of older trees. The gray fissures and plates are colonized with green populations of moss and lichen. Our tree is about 30 feet tall with a central leader and upswept scaffold branches forming a neat, pyramidal crown. Mature trees in China are said to develop irregular, dome-shaped crowns although older trees in Britain have yet to assume this shape.

The Arboretum tree is ideally placed in a small clearing of conifers and big leaf maples that is also home to many Asiatic maples. High winds can damage and desiccate the foliage, but our specimen is nicely sheltered. Its western exposure provides the right amount of sunlight and the sloping

ground assures good drainage. Although I can't provide any specific propagation information at this time, it's reported that *meliosma* has fleshy roots similar to magnolia and must be handled with care during transplanting.

I like to imagine a curtain of misty, dark green hemlocks cradling a threesome of *Meliosma veitchiorum* aglow in their autumn yellow dress. The dresses are complete with colorful petticoats of *Hydrangea quercifolia* and *Disanthus cercidifolius* splashed with crayola. See our *meliosma* in the Asiatic maple section of Washington Park Arboretum and let your imagination go. Interested growers should contact Barbara Selemon, Propagator, at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

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The Center for Urban Horticulture is committed to excellence in research, teaching and public service in urban horticulture.

The Washington Park Arboretum is a living museum of woody plants for research, conservation, education, and display.

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