



the **HPSO**
quarterly
SPRING 2020

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON



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front cover photo: *Clematis alpinus* ‘Blue Dancer’—photo by Amy Campion

photo this page: painting with plants—page 12 —photo by Darcy Daniels

A Message from the Hortlandia Committee

Dear Quarterly Reader:

By now you've likely heard the news that Hortlandia, HPSO's spring plant and garden sale, is cancelled. Faced with risks to the health and well-being of our vendors, volunteers, and the public, and uncertainty as to whether the sale could proceed on its scheduled dates, the choice to cancel, though painful, was clear.

Since 1988, the spring sale has brought together the finest specialty nurseries in the Pacific Northwest, along with talented garden artists and purveyors of fine garden accessories. For our vendors, Hortlandia contributed invaluable to their livelihoods. Let's support them this year to make sure they can return next year! Offer them your business through online sales and retail outlets. Sign up for their mailing lists to learn about their activities as the year progresses.

Keep an eye out on the HPSO website, your weekly member email, and on the HPSO Facebook account for other efforts to support the Hortlandia vendors. The vendor names appear here. If you have trouble reaching any of them, send an email to info@hardyplantsociety.org and we'll do our best to help you.

Gardeners are nothing if not optimists, and though this is a particularly challenging time, gardening—and our wonderful Hortlandia vendors—will help get us through it!

Your Hortlandia Committee

HELP SUPPORT THESE

Hortlandia

SPECIALTY NURSERIES & GARDEN ART VENDORS

NURSERIES & GARDEN PRODUCTS

Bridgetown GardenTools
Alpine Gardens
Arbutus Garden Arts
Blooming Junction
Brothers Peonies
Carni Flora Pdx
Cedarglen Floral Company
Cistus Design Nursery
Coast Range Nursery
Columbia River Carbonates

Columbia-Willamette
Rock Garden Society
Dancing Oaks Nursery
and Gardens
Eastfork Nursery
Evelyn's Garden
Fancy Fronds
Far Reaches Farm
Fuchsias and More
Full Circle
Garden Keeper LLC
Garden like a Girl
Garden Thyme Nursery
Gossler Farms Nursery
Greater Portland Iris Society

Green Seed Nursery
Highland Heather
Humble Roots Farm
& Nursery
Hydrangeas Plus
Imperfect Foods
Jockey Hill Nursery
Joy Creek Nursery
Keeping It Green Nursery
Killdeer Farms
Kiona Native Plants
Little Prince of Oregon
Nursery
Maple Twig Medicinals
Mary's Garden

Milkweed & Mustard Seed
Miller's Manor Gardens
N & M Herb Nursery
Noname Nursery
Nowlens Bridge Perennials
Old Germantown Gardens
One Earth Botanical
Oracle Delphinium
Oregon Palm Nursery
Our Little Farm & Nursery
Out In The Garden Nursery
Pearson Nursery LLC
Perennial Obsessions
Petal Heads

continues on next page



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In his new book, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* (Timber Press, 2019), Doug Tallamy outlines actions each of us as individuals can take in our yards and communities to help conserve and restore our local ecosystems. Among many significant points, he identifies hyper-productive native plants that are far more essential to sustaining insects and birds than other natives. He calls them keystone genera—oak, cherry, willow, birch, cottonwood, and elm trees; plus goldenrods, asters, and sunflowers. *Nature's Best Hope* will be for sale at the HPSO office (not to mention at Amazon, Powell's, and other book-sellers), or can be borrowed from HPSO's library. It is well worth your time.



I'm pleased to say that several articles in this issue of the *Quarterly* share Tallamy's views and underscore the importance of gardening with natives, conserving bees, and maintaining insect- and wildlife-friendly gardens.

And, as always, our writers offer advice and inspiration for the creation and design of gardens, including selecting plants with an online tool, developing the garden as sanctuary, and transforming your garden for aging in place.

We also introduce a timely garden project: how to build elegant, low fences to protect plant beds from dogs and children. Featured as well are an underappreciated plant, *Erodium* 'Stephanie'; one of HPSO's long-established interest groups, the Westside Group; and another new book, Jennifer Jewell's *Earth in Her Hands*.

Enjoy,

Eloise L. Morgan, Editor

MORE *Hortlandia* VENDORS

Petula Nursery
PNW
Potted Elephant, LLC
Rare Plant Research
Red's Rhodies
Rhododendron Species
Botanical Garden
Rita Lees Nursery
River Rock Nursery
Rogerson Clematis Garden
Sebright Gardens
Secret Garden Growers, LLC
Sedum Chicks
Shady Companions
The Christmas Bear
The Lily Garden
The Rose Gardener
Van Hevelingen Herb Nursery
Wild Ginger Farm
Wild Grown Farm
Windcliff Plants
Woodland Way Nursery
Woodlawn Nursery

ARTISTS

A Potter's Garden
Albe Rustic Furniture
Anachronism
At Wits End
byrkitwear
Copper Obsession—
Den of Interiors
Crafted from Scratch
Embroidery Expressions
Gretchen's Artistry
Herb's Daughter Custom
Soaps and Botanicals
Image Custom Ironwork
Indio Metal Arts
January 5th Designs
Mosaics by Leon
Nice Nests
Oh-Growup
One Little Blackbird
Pith to Bark
Pumpkin Ridge Pottery
Pursuesilver
Rachel Austin Art

Recycle with Soifer
Red Pig Garden Tools
Southbound ceramics
Spellwares
Steelhead Metalworks
Swarm Portland
TE Leaves
Three Sisters Nursery
Weld Metal Works
Wire Art by CC

ORGANIZATIONS

American Bamboo Society
Pacific NW Chapter
American Primula Society
East Multnomah Soil and
Water Conservation District
Friends of Portland
Community Gardens
Friends of the Portland
Memory Garden
Great Plant Picks
Oregon Association of
Nurseries

Volume 8, Number 2
the **HPSO**
quarterly
A publication
of the Hardy
Plant Society of Oregon

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Jolly Butler and Tom Fischer, copy editors
Linda Wisner, designer
Rod Diman and Bruce Wakefield, proofers

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www.hardyplantsociety.org

fly (upper left) on witch hazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Pallida')

cardinal meadowhawk male

INSECTS IN THE WINTER GARDEN

by Susan Masta

The sunny yellow flowers of our *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Pallida' witch hazel light up a gray winter day, and I love smelling their fragrance during breaks in our drizzling rain. This tree retains its dead leaves, however, so I pull off the brown leaves to expose the graceful limbs covered in bursts of yellow, sniffing each flower as I go. I need to take care not to get a fly in my nose, though, as I've discovered that our witch hazel also attracts a diversity of flies that feed at the flowers and hide among the dried leaves. This past week, a ruby-crowned kinglet has been visiting the witch hazel each morning, foraging for flies among the leaves. It has been fun to watch this small bird as it flits and twirls among the branches. I think I won't be taking any more leaves off this year.

I manage our southwest Portland garden for insects and biodiversity, although perhaps "manage" is too strong a word. I pull weeds and deadhead flowers, but often I just wander with a cup of coffee and admire the morning's happenings in the ever-changing garden. It always looks a little wild and rambunctious, but I see beauty in gardens that appear a bit messy, because insects thrive in such places.

To promote biodiversity in our little island of nature in the city, my husband and I maintain a diverse mix of plants that bloom and provide resources throughout most of the year. Insects attracted to flowers typically either sip their nectar or eat their pollen. Bees collect pollen to provision their young. When a bee, fly, beetle, or butterfly moves from flower to flower, it may inadvertently transfer some pollen, thereby pollinating the plants. Without

continues on next page

insect pollinators, most flowering plants cannot reproduce, and plants would not have evolved the diversity of colorful, fragrant flowers that we gardeners appreciate so much.

When people ask me what they can do in their yards to encourage bees and biodiversity, I often reply, "Do nothing!" This is only half in jest. Insects, spiders, and the myriad other invertebrates that make a diverse and healthy ecosystem need food and shelter to complete the various stages of their life cycles. Thus, in addition to not applying pesticides, it is important to leave areas of undisturbed soil, dead pithy stems from last summer's flowers, dead trees or logs, and piles of decaying leaves. A well-manicured landscape will simply not support the same biodiversity of beneficial insects that a less-maintained yard will. Because insects are the primary food for most birds, a garden rich in insects is a garden rich in birds.

What happens to all the insects in winter, when stems are bare and few flowers are blooming? Most of an insect's life is spent as a larva, or juvenile; and for most insects, the larval form differs from the adult in how it looks, what it eats, and where it lives. This is where the messy garden comes in. Insect larvae, being relatively immobile and flightless, need undisturbed areas to shelter in.

Our dragonfly pond is a good example. We leave some leaves and decaying vegetation in the pond at all times, as that is where dragonfly and damselfly larvae overwinter. The gorgeous red cardinal meadowhawks that hover over the pond in the summer spend most of their lives as drab brown larvae, hiding out in the pond muck waiting to grab an unsuspecting insect that swims by. We rarely have mosquitoes in the yard, as the dragonflies devour them all, both in their juvenile aquatic stage and their adult flying stage.

The essence of summer for me is to amble through the garden taking in its colors, textures, and fragrances and observing the vibrant diversity of insects and their behaviors. Some of the spring-to-midsummer bees, the *Osmia* mason bees, nest in tubular cavities. Typically these cavities are holes left behind by beetle larvae that matured inside a dead tree or stump before chewing their way out and flying away. Mason bees move in after the beetles move out and create little mud-walled cells. In each cell they deposit a ball of pollen and a single egg, then repeat the process until the tube cavity is filled. So, to have mason bees to pollinate my delicious heirloom Northern Spy and Ashmead's Kernel apples, I make sure our garden supplies nesting sites, mud, and plenty of pesticide-free pollen. We place sections of logs around the yard (obtained when neighborhood trees are cut or trimmed) to serve as beetle nurseries.

photo by Jay Withgott



dragonfly pond, with bare soil and stump for bee nesting around the pond



Ceratina bee on *Erigeron karvinskianus*

The adult beetles that emerge add color and character to the garden; the sight of a big, charismatic long-horned beetle is exquisite.

Most insects in our yard, however, are tiny and easy to overlook. This includes a wide diversity of native bees. Little bees feed on little flowers, and one stalwart such flower in our yard is *Erigeron karvinskianus*. Mexican daisy is a filler plant, willing to jump in at a moment's notice and claim any bare area of soil. Its tiny flowers are invariably full of tiny insects. I have netted four species of minuscule bees on a small patch of *Erigeron* flowers in a single sweep of the net.

One of these bees is the abundant *Ceratina acantha*, which typically nest in pithy old stems. Protected inside, the larvae spend the winter eating pollen provisioned for them the previous summer. In spring, it is captivating to watch a little bee chew its way out of an old *Salvia guaranitica* stem, its tiny glistening eyes seeing the light of day for the first time. It is one of the surest signs that summer is on its way.

So be content and enjoy wandering through your winter and early-spring garden. Relax and don't think about all the chores you "should" be doing. Leave a little mess, do a little less—and a whole miniature world of life will reward you for it!



Susan Masta is an associate professor in the Department of Biology at Portland State University and the curator of the Invertebrate Collections in PSU's Museum of Natural History. Her lab group has just completed a three-year survey of the native bees of urban Portland and their use of floral resources. Her garden was one of the sites used in this survey, and it will be open this year for HPSO's Open Gardens. You can learn more at <http://web.pdx.edu/~smasta/index.html>.



vivid dancer damselfly ovipositing in the *Mimulus* stems in the pond

PLANT PROFILE

by Amy Campion

Erodium 'Stephanie'

'Rozanne', 'Wargrave Pink', 'Samobor', 'Max Frei', 'Biokovo', 'Ballerina'. You'd be hard-pressed to find a gardener who doesn't grow a few hardy geraniums—those stalwarts of the spring and summer border. What I want to know, though, is where is the love for *Geranium's* captivating cousin, *Erodium*? I am thinking here of one underappreciated selection in particular, *Erodium* 'Stephanie'. Beautiful, long-blooming, easygoing, and dependable, she deserves to win a place in every Pacific Northwest gardener's heart.

The world's 126 *Erodium* species are found on every continent except Antarctica. Many of the most popular ones come from the Mediterranean and are especially well suited to our dry-summer climate. 'Stephanie' originated in Scotland of unknown parentage, but it resembles a Moroccan species, *E. heteradenum*. It thrives in my hot, gravelly Portland garden with only occasional water. (It also tolerates shade.) Good drainage is essential.

'Stephanie' makes neat, flat circles of frilly green foliage, spreading to about 18 inches in diameter. The leaves look pretty year-round. In May, a bevy of blossoms rises on five-inch stems. The clean white blooms are painted on the top two petals with splashes of lavender and a tracery of fine lines in a darker, Concord grape color. I like to plant 'Stephanie' in front of purple

foliage to echo those dark accents.

Blossoms come in waves, each one following on the heels of the last, so that flowering is virtually continuous from May through September. One year I counted four flushes of bloom. It's a good idea to tidy up the clumps after each wave by removing the spent flowers. This isn't as tedious as you might think, because the stems come out cleanly and easily when you tug on them. You don't need snips. Look carefully, however, as the new buds look a lot like the spent blooms.

Slugs and snails leave 'Stephanie' alone, and deer and rabbits generally avoid it too. It has been trouble-free for me, apart from the deadheading, which I find rather meditative. It's hardy to zone 7, at least.

Because of their long, beaky fruit capsules, erodiums are commonly called "storksills," though if you wanted to be a stickler for etymology, you'd call them "heronsbills." *Erodium* comes from the Greek word, *erodios*, for heron. (The related *Pelargonium* comes from *pelargos*, for stork, and *Geranium* from *geranos*, for crane.)

Other storksills I've seen locally available (like 'Stephanie', at Xera Plants) include 'Pickering Pink', 'Spanish Eyes', and 'Fran's Delight'. 'Pickering Pink' is distinctive, with three white and two pink-and-purple petals.



Erodium 'Stephanie' in my garden.



'Spanish Eyes' is pinkish with two small purple blotches and dark pink veins; 'Fran's Delight' is similar, but with a richer mauve-pink color and grayer foliage. I would assume that all of these would perform as admirably as 'Stephanie', but I haven't tried them yet.

One other *Erodium* that I do grow is one sold as *E. chrysanthum*. I say "sold as," because it appears the form in commerce is actually a hybrid. The true *E. chrysanthum* sports lemon yellow flowers, while mine has flowers so pale they read as white in the landscape. In any case, this is a fine plant. It's long-lived, tough as nails, and its foliage is a lovely silvery green. Unlike 'Stephanie', it's deciduous in winter, and it does not tolerate shade. It's hardy to zone 4.

Geraniums deserve all the accolades they receive. These workhorse perennials bring color and charisma to our gardens year after year. But don't think that the joys of Geraniaceae end there! Erodiums are worth welcoming into the garden too, and 'Stephanie' is one of the best. Even in dry, challenging sites, she performs like a champ.



An HPSO director and freelance writer, editor, and photographer, Amy Campion recently co-authored the acclaimed *Gardening in the Pacific Northwest* and writes for the online retailer Bower & Branch. A Portland resident since 2013, she blogs about gardening at www.amycampion.com.



photos by Tamara Paulat



Erodium chrysanthum

IN THE GARDEN

The Importance of *Native Plants*

by Sherri Morgan



red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)



Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) in summer

As a landscape designer, I'm called upon to choose plants for clients' gardens. Over the past 15 years, my approach to making these choices has changed. I share with other avid gardeners a love for plants in general, and certain plants in particular are favorites. *Daphne odora*, with its lovely fragrance and winter blooms, is something I frequently have placed near a shaded entry so that everyone can enjoy the scent. But I live in southern Oregon, and *Daphne odora* hails from China and Japan. So, lovely as it is, it would never be found in our natural ecosystems.

Why is that important, and why should we gardeners care? I teach a class in landscape design. In the first part of that class, I ask the participants to make a list of what they want to do in their gardens; then I ask them to make a second list of what they want their gardens to do. Similar questions, but very different ways to think about garden choices. I want my garden and those that I design to support the ecosystem where I live.

Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* and his new book, *Nature's Best Hope*, is a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. He has written widely about the importance of choosing native plants for our gardens. In a March 2015 *New York Times* article, titled "The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening," he tells of watching a pair of chickadees as they feed their young. Young birds don't eat seed from our feeders or berries off our shrubs. They need protein to grow and thrive, and that protein comes from caterpillars, 6,000 to 9,000 of them brought to the nestlings by their busy parents over the 16 to 18 days that it takes to raise their brood to the point when they can begin to fend for themselves.

Insects are specialists, especially when it comes to where they lay their eggs. Caterpillars, the larvae of butterflies and moths, develop from eggs laid on host plants that have co-evolved with their insect partners over the millennia so that the larvae can safely eat the leaves of a plant that might be toxic to other insects. Fewer host plants result in fewer caterpillars and a reduction in the numbers of birds. According to recent research, there are almost three billion fewer breeding birds in North America compared to counts from 45 years ago. This is a 30 percent decline.

In an a *New York Times Magazine* article by Brooke Jarvis from November of 2018, titled "The Insect Apocalypse is Here," the author relates that German scientists have reported a decline of more than 60 percent in insect populations worldwide. Along with habitat loss, climate change, and the importation of "exotic" plants from other parts of the world, this startling reduction in insect populations definitely contributes to bird species decline as well as other environmental impacts.

Some of us may have an aversion to insects or view them as the "enemy" when it comes to our plants. But let's try to think of them as critical bird food. Butterflies and moths, as noted above, have specialized so that they lay their eggs on just one or two host plants. If those host plants are not available, then, to quote Douglas Tallamy, "no caterpillars = no baby birds."

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blue gilia (*Gilia capitata*)

Native plants are not always easy to find in local nurseries. To check for sources, google the National Wildlife Federation/Native Plant Finder for information about natives for your area. Specialist nurseries and native plant societies are local sources. [Some of the vendors at HPSO's Hortlandia plant sale, on April 11-12 this year, offer native plants.] As more gardeners ask their garden to support insect and bird species, they can in turn ask nurseries to stock more native trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Here in southern Oregon, the Jackson County Master Gardener Association has undertaken a project to propagate native plants from cuttings and seeds. We're fortunate to have native shrubs and perennials in our demonstration gardens on the Oregon State University Extension grounds in Central Point, Oregon, which can serve as sources for the cuttings. We sell these at pop-up sales at our Extension site. To help folks envision how natives might fit into their own landscapes, we have a native demonstration garden and are expanding our use of native trees, an important contributor to insect support.

Home gardeners with the time and interest can propagate natives themselves or get together and trade cuttings from native plants with fellow gardeners. A great source for propagation how-to is Geoff Bryant's *Plant Propagation A-Z*, which gives specific directions as to the timing and type of cuttings most likely to strike.



false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)



camas (*Camassia*)

I encourage the members of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon to start to think about choosing more native plants for your gardens. Dr. Tallamy suggests that 50 percent of the plants in our gardens should be natives to support nesting birds. Native trees, if you have the space, are the most critical for supporting varieties of insects. A transition to more natives can be achieved over time, as we make choices about what to keep and what to remove in our gardens, and what we want our gardens to do. Help restore the earth by incorporating natives into your own gardens.



A resident of Ashland, Oregon, Sherri Morgan is a landscape designer, an HPSO member, and a Jackson County Master Gardener who teaches in the Master Gardener program. Some of the native plants she recommends are listed at right.

Native Plants

In addition to the native plants pictured on pages 7-8 and 12-13, the following are Pacific Northwest natives.

Large native trees are most useful in hosting beneficial insects. The National Wildlife Federation has a list of native trees, shrubs and perennials by zip code at www.nwf.org/NativePlantsFinder.

Small garden trees

Crataegus douglasii, Douglas hawthorne: 12-30' tall; 12-20' wide. Sun to partial shade; drought tolerant when established. Flowers attract bees, other insects, and hummingbirds. Fruits feed birds.

Cercis occidentalis, western redbud: 10-18' tall and wide. Very drought tolerant.

Cornus cornuta var. californica, California hazelnut: 10-20' tall and wide. Sun to shade; prefers moist soils, but can tolerate some clay and drought when established.

Shrubs

Ribes sanguineum, red-flowering currant: 7-10' tall; 6-8' wide. Sun to part shade. Flowers attract bees and butterflies; leaves feed butterfly larvae; berries feed birds and small mammals.

Physocarpus capitatus, Pacific ninebark: 8' tall and wide. Blossoms attract bees and other insects.

Amelanchier alnifolia, serviceberry or saskatoon: To 20' tall; spreads by rhizomes. Fruits are much-loved by birds. Good fall color.

Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case', coffeeberry: 4-8' tall and wide. Sun to part shade. Not fussy about soil. Moderate water. Berries eaten by birds and mammals.

Ceanothus prostratus, Prostrate Ceanothus: 2-3' tall; 4-8' wide. Full sun if possible. Very drought tolerant. Flowers attract bees, moths, hummingbirds, butterflies.

Smaller shrubs and perennials

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, kinnikinnick: Evergreen. 1'-2' tall; 2-10' wide. Sun to light shade. Low water requirements. Flowers attract bees and hummingbirds. Fruit feeds birds and small mammals.

Mahonia nervosa, Cascade Oregon grape: Evergreen. 2' high and wide. Part to full shade. Flowers attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Berries eaten by many birds.

Asarum caudatum, wild ginger: Perennial. 3-6" mounds. Likes mostly shade, moist soils. Provides cover for over-wintering insects.



The HPSO Lending Library, located at 4412 SW Barbur Blvd, Suite 230, Portland, is open Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. The library offers a wide selection of garden-related books and magazines for members to check out or use in the reading room. The library has recently acquired this notable new title.

FROM THE LIBRARY review by Phillip Oliver, Library Committee Chair

The Earth in Her Hands by Jennifer Jewell

At HPSO's recent winter meeting, author and radio/podcast host Jennifer Jewell presented brief profiles of some of the 75 women showcased in her remarkable book, *Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants*. If you did not get a chance to buy a copy of her book at the meeting, check out the sale book offerings at the HPSO office, or you can borrow a copy from the lending library.

In her introduction, Jewell states that the hardest part of writing the book was choosing the 75 women. In doing so, she selected women who work in various ways with plants. This includes scientists, botanists, journalists, photographers, nurserywomen, florists, and educators as well as those who have carved a unique niche in the horticultural world. It is a diverse coverage of both occupations

and the women themselves that are all connected by one common aspect—the love of plants.

The beautifully designed book features four pages on each subject, detailing their work and their "plant journey" and a list of women who inspired them. The book is illustrated with lovely photographs. The subjects hail from all over the world (United States, England, Ireland, Wales, Canada, Australia, India, and Japan). Several are from the Portland (and Pacific Northwest) area, including Francoise Weeks, Megan Twilegar, Elaine Ingham, Erin Benzakein, Lorene Edwards Forkner, Cara Loriz, Amy Stewart, Kate Frey, Debra Prinzing, and Milla Veera Tuulia Prince.



MY *Oasis* GARDEN

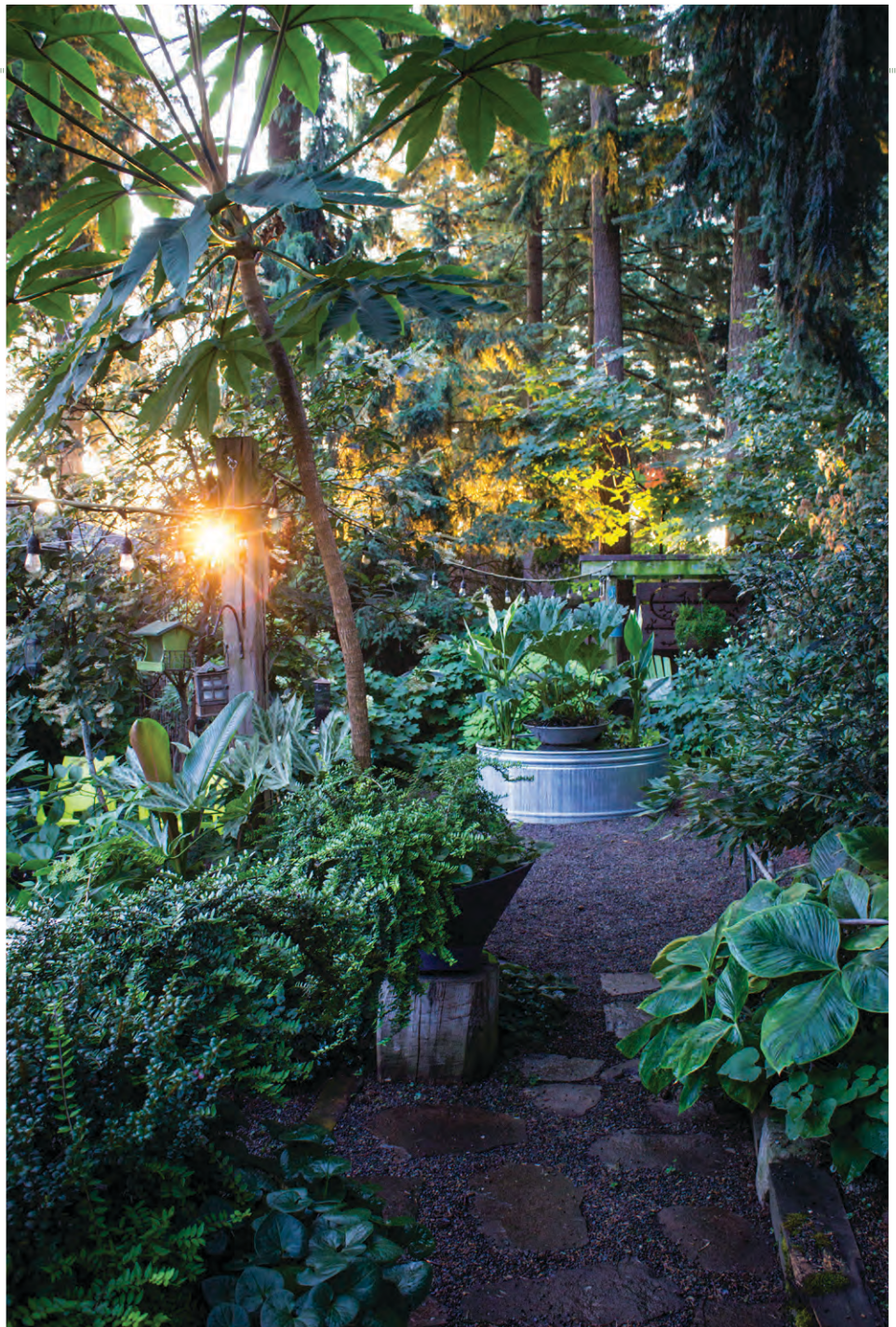
text and photography by Laura Heldreth

I originally created my oasis garden for me. Just me. But, over the years, as I continued to learn how to create a natural and organic garden, it has turned into an oasis for my husband, my 200-pound Great Dane (Mr. Barnaby), a great horned owl, possums, raccoons, squirrels, nesting chestnut-backed chickadees, hummingbirds, nesting black bottomed bumblebees, native pollinators, beneficial insects, slugs, aphids, and Pacific coast tree frogs. What was once just a sloping 40-foot by 100-foot rectangle of sod edged with bark dust in the back yard has been transformed into a paradise for all of us to enjoy in the middle of the suburbs in Vancouver, Washington.

For my oasis-themed back garden, I chose layers of green foliage with various shapes, sizes, and textures to create a sense of peace. When you surround people with the color green in the garden, they stop and pause. And that is what my oasis garden is all about. The human eye sees more shades of green than any other color, so I play with the various shades of green. I enjoy the sparkle of white flowers under party lights, so I chose white blooming plants with a long bloom time like oakleaf hydrangeas, Japanese clethra, and Japanese anemones.

I love to up-cycle materials that I gather from friends, garage sales, rebuilding centers, and metal scrap yards. My favorite containers in the garden are old, bridge light fixtures that we screwed down onto squared off stumps. We installed a green doorway that leads to a “parallel universe,” but it really was installed to prevent fence fighting with the neighbors’ dogs. I converted a shop table that my grandpa welded for me out of scrap metal into our outdoor dining table with a fresh coat of paint and a new top. We turned an old metal propagation table top into the roof of our shade shack. And wouldn’t you know it, a great horned owl loves to roost above it and rain whitewash and owl pellets down onto it.

Adopting a Great Dane puppy might seem like an insane choice for someone who loves her garden, but I was committed to making it



oasis garden in August

work. A good sense of humor helps. I walked Mr. Barnaby on all of the perimeter paths every day and even trained him to dig holes with me. He adopted the footrests of the patio furniture as his own. I plant in dense drifts to keep him out of the beds. And I constructed small bamboo fences to keep him from stepping on my favorite plants like the Japanese cobra lily and Chinese chain fern. We added more hardscape to prevent muddy footprints. I went up with containers and raised beds to

place plants above his pee line. Mr. Barnaby enjoys his time in the garden with me as I putter. Just don’t squat down to weed, or he’ll sit on your lap!

On a garden blogger shopping trip up north at Far Reaches Nursery, my husband fell in love with gardening. I credit the bloggers at Flutter and Hum, Danger Garden, Bonney Lassie, and The Outlaw Gardener with encouraging and complimenting his plant choices as he shopped. I no longer garden alone. And I’m so grateful. Every year my



It looks like a door, but it actually blocks Mr. Barnaby from fence fighting with neighbor dogs.



EDITOR'S NOTE: With great sadness we note that after this article was written Mr. Barnaby died suddenly, on Valentine's Day. His treasured memory lives on in the Oasis Garden.

husband goes to work on a big project. One year he added 120 feet of party lights, and the next year he added 120 feet of misters to cool the garden on hot days. What will he come up with this year?

Five years ago, we invited the local garden bloggers over to take a look at our newly completed projects and to meet Mr. Barnaby. We had such a great time that we've continued to host garden parties and participate in garden tours like the Clark County Natural Garden Tour. Our garden



another view of garden



the shade shack

community is so kind and generous. I highly recommend opening your garden.

My oasis garden has taken on a life of its own and led to so many riches in my life. I found my garden community, volunteer work, and paid work. I continue to learn so much from plant people, garden designers, bloggers, writers, and fellow gardeners. Growing a garden is a love story and an ongoing adventure. I know that my garden will never be complete; there will always be a new plant to try and a new project to

install. I count the days of my life by the seasons in my garden. Finding joy is simple when you know where to look for it.



Laura Heldreth is an HPSO board member, teaches gardening classes at Vancouver's Clark College, and was the 2017 Master Gardener of the Year in Clark County.

why I garden

text and photography by Alyson Cooper-Williams

I took a keen interest in vegetable gardening at about age 19. Some friends and I had taken a "just-for-fun" college course called "Living off the Land" in the mid-1970s. In the San Francisco Bay Area it was the era of *Mother Earth News*, Birkenstocks, and long skirts. My friends and I rented an old farmhouse in Walnut Creek on three acres with a couple of cottages. We had our own commune going, complete with huge vegetable garden, chickens, and goats. The goats were mine, and to this day I have a fondness for them. My very British mother would scratch her head, wondering where this all came from. Looking back over the decades I see that gardening actually was in my maternal DNA, mine taking a slightly different form from my mother's. I thought for sure I would one day live on 20 acres and be an organic farmer, but that was not to be.

My mother had grown up in World War II London. Postwar London was a dreary place, and as soon as she could, Mom joined the Women's Royal Army and was eventually posted to Singapore, where she lived for three years. Mom met my American dad there, and after marrying they soon ended up in southern California where they had a house built. My early memories are of playing with my brother in the tropical garden mother installed, filled with hibiscus, elephant ears, and horsetail. As we moved further north to Santa Barbara, Mom took on roses and camellias. Later, in the San Francisco area, Mom specialized in orchids.



California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) in summer



Erythronium pagoda in spring

When I was 21 I went to live in London with my Irish grandmother for the year. Gran and her friends loved to visit the National Trust homes and gardens. I would tag along and soak it up. I noticed that nearly every neighborhood had some sort of a garden, even if just in window boxes. I first saw *Campanula poscharskyana* there and have been smitten ever since. We lived in Wimbledon, and you know what is just a short train ride away? Kew Gardens. Need I say more? I spent many an afternoon at Kew wandering about, notebook in hand. If I only knew then what I know now, I would have managed somehow to stay and do courses there.

At the end of the year I returned home, finished college, met a guy, married him, got a real job, and took horticulture classes at Merritt College in Oakland. I joined the California Native Plant Society, and, as we lived very near the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley,



vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) in autumn



Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) in summer



young coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

I spent a lot of time there. In 1989 we moved up to Vancouver, Washington, where gardening was replaced with school, music, and dance lessons for the kids. Those were lean times, and I would sneak money from the grocery budget to buy bulbs. I was very thankful for the clearance section at Portland Nursery!

Over the years I kept hearing about the Hardy Plant Society from some friends who gardened. The time came when I was able to join, and it has been a pleasure to volunteer each year at Hortlandia. In 2016 I went through the Washington State University Master Gardener program and had the epiphany that I don't garden just for my own aesthetic but for other creatures as well. My interest in native plants was rekindled as well as gardening for wildlife. [Some of the natives grown in Alyson's garden are shown here and also at pages 7-8.]

This is the path of my journey to gardening, but as to the "why" all I can say is that there is something very primal and spiritual that beckons—which I'm sure you have all felt.

I garden for the smell of the soil, the soft air, the play of light in early morning, and that special time at twilight when it's just you, the birds, the bats, and the stillness that creeps in.

I garden for the deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness that rises up within.

I garden because I am a steward of whatever patch of earth I live on.



Alyson Cooper-Williams gardens in Vancouver, Washington, and is currently serving as secretary of the HPSO Clark County special interest group.



Garden Design Tips and an Online Design Tool

text and photography by Darcy Daniels

The simple little bungalow (before, at right) that my husband and I bought in NE Portland in 1998 had but a few scraggly plants on the whole lot. I quickly set out to rectify that.

Before long my life became all-gardens-all-the-time, leading to a career change—

I began designing gardens with clients as Bloomtown® Gardens. I've designed dozens of gardens in the Portland metro area and have continuously tinkered with my own (after, pictured above).



I love helping gardeners master the art and science of picking the best plants for their gardens and combining them in beautiful and functional ways. And I've created a free online tool—eGardenGo—to help them do that.

I didn't create eGardenGo in isolation, of course. I was lucky enough to discover gardening here in the Northwest, which is chock-full of inspirations that have influenced my ongoing development

as a garden-maker. Visiting gardens, scouring nurseries, attending lectures and workshops, reading books, and talking with expert gardeners—all have had a huge impact on how I think about planting design. And eGardenGo directly reflects what I've learned, and the way I've come to approach making gardens—in that it owes much to the scores of gifted gardeners and designers who have shared their horticultural gifts with me.

So, how do I think about planting design? Over the years, my thoughts on plant selection have become sharper and more confident. But like all gardeners, it's an ongoing and constant evolution. One of the ways that I make sense of it all is to focus on an iterative design process that I call "Describe to Design."

With so many exciting and beautiful plants to choose from, it can be hard to know where to start. Oftentimes, though, our

choices are dictated by the job we want the plant to do for us. For example, we know that we want it to “divide,” “block,” “carpet,” or “frame.” Or maybe we just want it to possess certain qualities: we want it to be a “mound,” a “spire,” or a “froth.” Bold, delicate, or flowing. Shiny, fuzzy, or spiny. Green, red, blue, or yellow. In other words, whether we are describing the job we need it to do or its physical qualities, we are first describing the type of plant we want before we even know what plant it will be.

Sometimes we do start with a particular plant. Maybe it's in your garden already, or it's one you fell in love with at the nursery. But again, how would you describe it in the abstract? Maybe it's an “evergreen” with a “rounded form,” “blue foliage,” and “fine texture”—what does that tell you about the attributes you'll need or want in the plants you pair it with?

Once I've described what I want, I look at plants that match that description in the light of a series of questions:

1. Is the plant a match in terms of the cultural conditions on offer?
2. If it has a job to do, does it get it done?
3. Are the plant's physical attributes in line with or adding to my overall design intent?

Then I rinse and repeat as I build possible combinations that are both artful and resilient.

An underlying premise of my method is that I don't rush to an “answer.” There's almost always more than one “right” answer, so I avoid naming plants for as long as I can. That helps me remain flexible and able to nimbly make design decisions. It's the key, I've found, to being able to adapt design ideas to real-life situations. By staying in describe-mode for as long as you can, it allows you to substitute different plants when you have trouble locating your first choice.

That said, at some point you need to make a choice from whatever number of right answers you accumulate. Later in my decision-making process, I'll narrow the results to a smaller number. With fewer choices, it's easier to nail down a final direction.

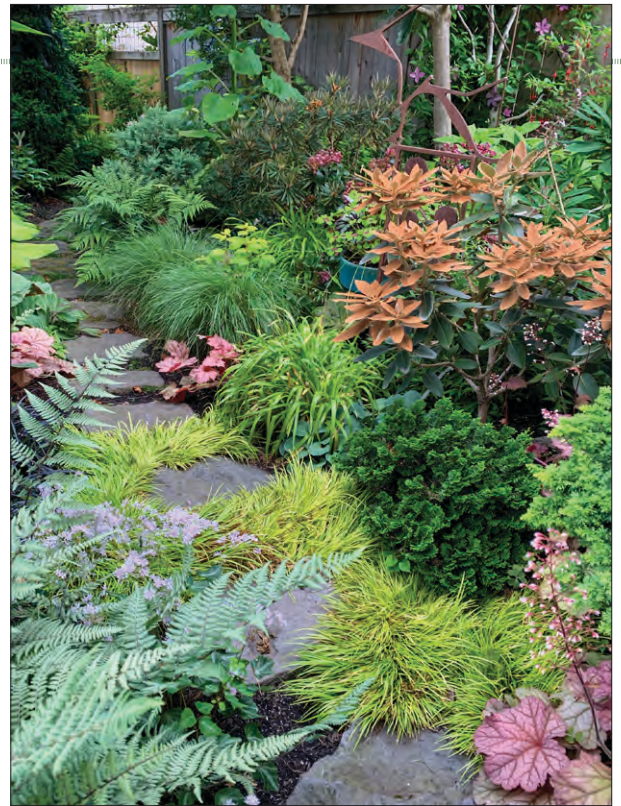
Now that you know more about how I think about planting design, you'll see why eGardenGo can be very helpful in your own process.

We can all feel a little overwhelmed by the many choices we make in building our gardens. eGardenGo is a dynamic tool that can help everyone, from beginning gardeners to experienced pros, sort through the many options they have when building plant combos. It's a website powered by a flexible and ever-growing database of plant profiles and carefully curated plant combinations.

Not ready to describe what you're looking for? That's fine. You can simply browse the website's extensive library of plants. If you search the plant database and then click through on a resulting plant, you'll learn more about it, and eGardenGo will offer up suggestions for what to plant with it.

You can also browse the database of plant combos. When you find one that you'd like to examine more closely, just click through to read more about why the combination works and get the recipe—a list of the individual plants included in the combination.

However, eGardenGo also shines when you can describe the attributes of the plant you're looking for in the way I wrote about above. Then it's easy to filter results in eGardenGo based on the cultural needs or design attributes you're looking for. Things like leaf size, foliage color, the overall shape and form of plant, the seasons it contributes, and whether it offers a progression of interest or remains static and unchanging throughout the year, all will be taken into consideration.



I've always been interested in painting with plants—creating artistic vignettes that flow with the seasons.



I love creating rich, textual plantings and the resourceful use of small spaces. Lush plantings occupy our narrow side yard where a driveway once was.

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I work to help my clients create outdoor spaces that will lure them into their gardens, and I strive to create planting schemes to delight the senses year-round.

The aesthetic and creative aspects of garden-making play a major role in my love of gardening. But I learned early on that in order to create a garden that looks wonderful and performs well it needs to be built on a sturdy, horticulturally-sound foundation. EGardenGo is my way of sharing this impassioned pursuit with you.

Dig in and discover more at www.egardengo.com.



Darcy Daniels gardens in northeast Portland, Oregon. She has been a garden designer at Bloomtown® Gardens since 2001 and is the creator of the free website, eGardenGo.com. Darcy's garden is currently featured in the spring issue of *Country Garden*.

welcome!

TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

December 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020

We're pleased that you have recently joined our ranks, which now number over 2,800 members! We hope HPSO offers you the same gardening inspiration, guidance, and camaraderie that has sustained so many of our longtime members, and we look forward to meeting you at events like our annual meeting, PlantFest, Hortlandia, other programs, and open gardens.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Maia Agranoff | Ethan Greeney | Kate Patrick |
| Judy Albertson | Michelle Griffin | Clara Pawlowski |
| Aeraby Allen | Ben Grimmer | Annette Peck |
| Kim Baller | Yvonee Grimmer | Jane Peters |
| Jaelen Baluyut | Mark Haidle | Juniper Porter |
| Julieann Barker | Eric Hammond | Hilary Price |
| Jesse Barnes | Maureen (Reenie) | Karla Rae |
| Ryan Bartal | Hanlin | Alexis Ramblings |
| Jamie Bellows | Philip Hardin | David Ramblings |
| Margret Bomar | Christine Henderson | Kati Robb |
| Hannah Booth | Denitra Henderson | Sharon Roberts |
| Lynne Bowman | Michael Henry | Joshua Roehrich |
| Jendy Brooks | Lawrence Herdman | Trish Rolin |
| Hayden Brown | PJ Herdman | Carlos Sathler |
| Storm Brown | Ken Hicks | John Schumacher |
| Sam Brugato | Ellen Hoffmann | Michael Scott |
| Marissa Burke | Ashley Holt | Barb Seekins |
| Celina Camacho | Megan Hughes | Pam Sheehan |
| Susan Carozza | Jessie Isaac | John Sherlie |
| Lin Casteel-Butler | Louis Jaffe | Linda Sherlie |
| Julie Cheney | Cory Paul | Camille Shumann |
| David Christopher | Tami Katz | Richard Simpson |
| Susanne Christopher | Candi Kim | Vera Slaughter |
| Angela Coleman | Zen Landis | Francheska Snyder |
| Brian Connelly | Jill Lee | Betsy Soifer |
| Marcy Coon | Frank MacMurray | April South |
| Rosa Davison | Emma Martin | Susan St Michael |
| Peter DeCrescenzo | Petra McCall | Sabra Steinberg |
| Charlotte Deutsch | Jemae McCanna | John Stephens |
| Sandra Doan | Teddy McCanna | Pascal Storck |
| Chelsea Dover | Dennis McCarty | Judith Thomson |
| Matt Downs | Sarah McCarty | Whitney Turner |
| Chandra Dragulin | Bev McConnell | Cynthia Valenti |
| Norma Dulin | Roy McGill | Barbara Vanamerongen |
| Carolyn Eadie | Marjorie McRae | Richard Vanamerongen |
| Susan England | Suzie Mead | Linda Weiss |
| Flynn Fedorczak | Huguette Michel- | Ryan Wickenberg |
| Jim Fenner | Fleurie | Lisa Wiebe |
| Lindsay Fowler | Liz Morrow | Will Wiebe |
| Nicholas Fox | Joan Newhouse | Lorrie Zeller |
| Sue Franklin | Kimberly Noel | Holly Zinnerman |
| Kate Frey | Wendy Palmer | Penny Zino |
| Lisa Fuller | Chris Park | Dejan Zivkovic |
| David Gerald | Jim Parks | |
| Marci Glenn | Kathy Parks | |

Rolling With the Punches Of Time

On Aging in the Garden

by Anna Kullgren and Marian Azorr
photography by Anna Kullgren



The two 25-year-old Japanese maples bring structure and dimension as well as cast a light, dappled shade. Surrounded by a sea of epimedium, it's a perfect spot for a bench. Well placed colorful furniture, art, or pottery can contribute additional sparks of joy in any garden.

Not unlike life itself, the southwest Portland garden of Marian Azorr and Rick Criswell has endured waves of transformation. Some decisions, like the early-on invitation of the sun by removing two massive big leaf maples, were easy. Others, like eliminating a beloved dogwood tree and an impressive wisteria arbor, were more painful and came at the behest of an injury. Suddenly, what will eventually catch up to any gardener was glaringly evident—what do you do when your body can no longer manage the care of your sanctuary?

This grievous moment was the impetus for what became a beautiful, adaptive garden renovation; anything involving too much work had to give way to less labor-intensive choices. The sloping, slippery lawn had to be reworked and reduced; hardscaped areas expanded for safe footing; and level changes defined to improve accessibility. A former focus on flowers shifted to that of longer lasting foliage, with emphases on textures, contrasts, ease of care, and seasonal interest. Over the years, the one-third-acre garden had morphed into multiple garden rooms—each with its own character. The changes that ensued served to tie it all together.

In an incisive move, through cut and fill and the installation of a low retaining wall, the steepest sloping part of the lawn was leveled and space made for a generously dimensioned gravel path below, spanning the length of the garden. Other smaller inclines were modulated using strips of sheet metal and rebar and surfaced with rocks, grasses, sedums, and well-placed shrubs. The large wisteria arbor was replaced with a timber and scrap metal entry that casts the most fabulous shadows, proving the point that, once in place, art demands a lot less effort than plants.

A generously scaled composite deck with built-in seating was constructed. Level with the interior floor, it vastly expands the perceived floor space of the small house and directs the eye of its inhabitants to the constantly changing views of the surrounding gardens. The combination of expansive windows and decking amplifies the healing connection with nature, even when

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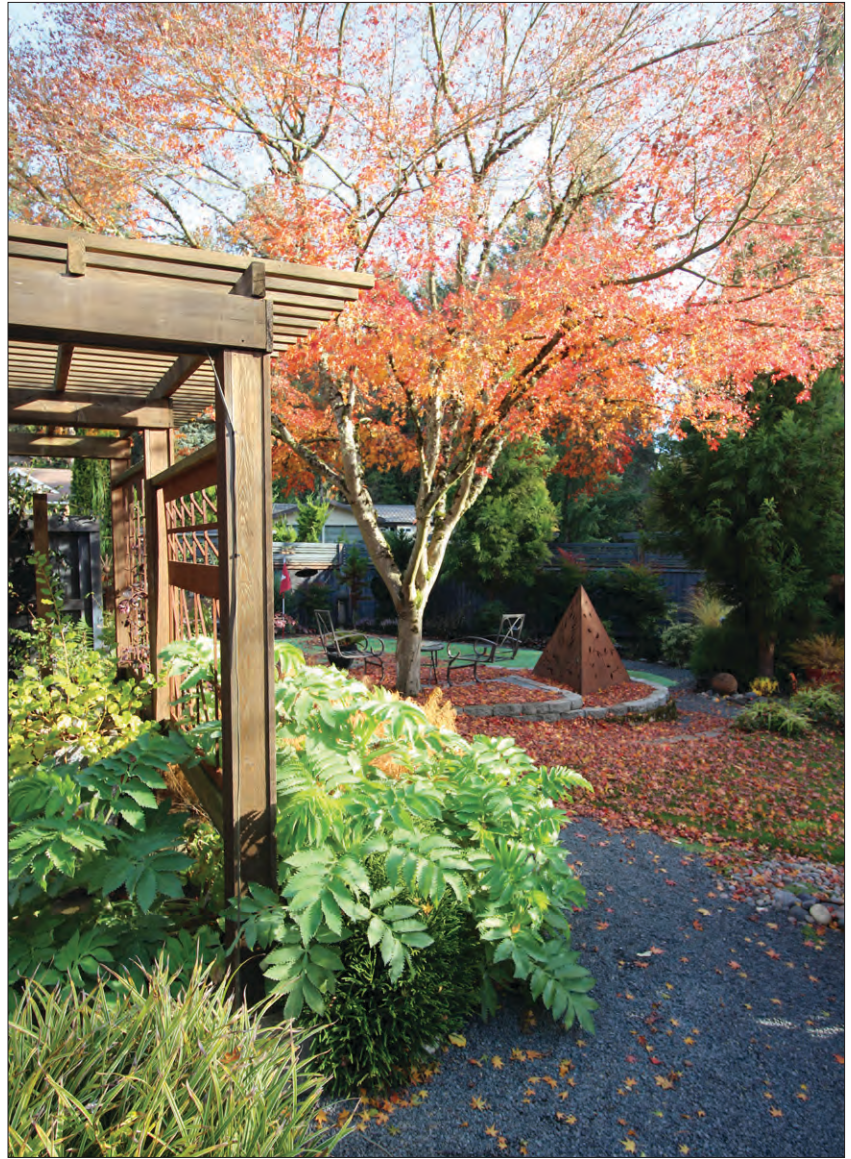
If a plant doesn't perform to expectation, replace it with art. Here, a complementary powder coated wire ball is masterfully placed under a *Callicarpa* 'Early Amethyst'.

one might not have the energy to go outside. Comfortable spots to sit and rest awhile outside are carefully placed around the many garden vistas, strategically created for contemplation or conversation—whatever the mood of the moment may be.

In gardens built for aging in place, ease of mobility is paramount. The new gravel pathway (lower right) became the spine of the garden, knitting together an already existing network of smaller paths and connecting the various areas of interest and destination.

After almost 30 years in the house, Rick and Marian have seen their grandchildren enjoy their garden and leave their own lasting marks on it along the way. At the base of the steps leading up to the vegetable garden are concrete pavers with moss-covered little handprints—a souvenir of sun-warm tomatoes picked during summers so long ago. Over the years, grandkid contributions have gained an increasing presence and importance in the garden. The tea house for example, which offers a cozy, dry spot to read and listen to the rain, was built by an adolescent grandson.

Now that the grandchildren are all grown with kids of their own, a new generation of children play hide and seek, catch tadpoles in the creek, splash in the pool, and make new memories. The remaining lawn also benefits scores of great-grandkids for whom this garden has irresistible allure at the many



Be sure to include play as well as pleasure. Rick's putting green is in the background behind another maple-shaded seating area. The scrap metal arbor in the foreground replaced the mature wisteria arbor. The steel pyramid can be lit up at night for visual aid as well as ambience.



Leveling the lawn, and creating the gravel pathway made a huge difference in both accessibility and safety. The new path connects all major parts of the garden and is wide enough to accommodate a walker should that become necessary.



The teahouse, built by a beloved grandson, holds comfy chairs, a little table for your teacup, a light, and some fun statuary. It's a favorite place to wait out the rain!

family gatherings. The paths arguably get used for play just as much. The kids love running along the winding curves around the garden on their quests for discovery. The painted rocks you can see around the garden were a gift to GG and GG-Pa from them.

Thanks to the smaller Japanese maples that replaced the original large trees removed a quarter century ago, the garden had some structure that carried it through the big, adaptive changes and provided a starting point for the new. While a mow-and-blow company is relied on to help with lawn care, the smaller scale plantings allow Marian and Rick to do most of their own pruning. The pursuit of minimal maintenance and seasonal visual interest led to choice conifers, broadleaf evergreen shrubs, ferns, grasses, succulents, and plants with textural contrasts and variegation, and features such as berries, intense fall color, and interesting bark.

To that end, this garden now holds more garden workhorses like mahonia, berberis,

heuchera, cotinus, and fatsia, juxtaposed to add lasting drama, and only a few herbaceous perennials like amsonia, anemone, and hosta. The less need for deadheading and other maintenance guilt, the more time for relaxation. Because of their minimal need for fall cleanup, trees with small leaves, like Japanese maples and crape myrtles, are ideal. A well-executed garden for aging uses primarily plants that make a mess one can tolerate. After all, in the autumn of life, who's got the time?



*Anna Kullgren is a Swedish transplant, designer, and proprietor of Optic Verve LLC, Portland, Oregon, where she gives form and structure to random space and helps clients define, develop, and create their own personal havens. She firmly believes everything is connected and melds what she knows and what is at hand with the endless inspirations, cultural influences, and stunning visual beauty of the natural world. She also maintains blogs: *The Creative Flux* and *Flutter & Hum*.*



The driveway entrance garden features a dry riverbed, a small sculptural fountain (not shown), and a low-care, low-water plant selection. This garden was conceived to require minimal additional water during our dry summers. The dry riverbed has become a river of *Sedum album* rapids.

How Does Repeated Sampling Impact Insect Communities?

text and photography by Gail Langellotto, Ph.D.



In order to identify this bee to species, the taxonomist needed to dissect the genitalia out of the abdomen before she could be sure it was a *Bombus sitkensis*.

Over the past few months, I have shared with *Quarterly* readers data on bees and other insects that the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab has collected from Portland-area gardens. For every garden insect we study (except for butterflies, which can be identified to species by sight), we use lethal collection methods. This is because most insects can only be identified to species after close examination under the microscope. In fact, some insects require dissection before we can get them to species.

It seems odd that we kill bees in order to better understand how we can build gardens that can help to conserve bees. By collecting and killing bees and other insects, what role are we playing in promoting insect decline?

That's an excellent question, and one that we often ask ourselves. When we collect bees, we work to make sure that we are

not needlessly causing harm. For example, our pan traps are good for collecting small bees but are not good at collecting larger bees, including reproductive queens. When we hand-collect bees, we avoid taking queen bees. In fact, of the 2,716 bees that we collected in 2017 through 2019, only three were queens. We limited our sampling frequency to three times per year and limited our sampling effort per garden to 10 minutes of hand-collecting time and six pan traps. Even with these precautions, we are still faced with the question: does our research, or the research of others who collect and kill insects, harm the very species we are trying to conserve?

To address this question, I turn to the scientific literature. Gezon and colleagues¹ set up an experiment to see whether lethal sampling for bees using pan traps and netting (the same methods we use in our research) has negative effects on bee

abundance or bee diversity. For five years, they sampled nine sites every two weeks during the flowering season. They compared bee abundance and bee diversity in these repeatedly sampled sites to metrics from 17 comparable sites that were sampled only once. They found no significant difference in bee capture rate, bee species richness, or bee abundance between sites that were sampled repeatedly versus those that were sampled once. When they partitioned bees according to nesting habit (e.g., cavity, soil, wood), social structure (e.g., eusocial or not), and body size (e.g., small, medium, and large bees), they also found no significant differences in bee capture rates of single-sampled versus repeat-sampled sites. They did catch more pollen specialists in repeat-sampled sites than in single sampled sites. However, the magnitude of the effect was relatively small and did not represent a large change in catch rate between single-sampled and repeat-sampled sites. I suspect that the authors caught more pollen specialists at their repeat-sampled sites because pollen



Douglas Aster (*Aster subspicatus*) is my current, favorite bee plant for home gardens.

specialists are fairly rare in time and in space. They drastically increased their odds of intercepting a pollen specialist on their repeatedly sampled sites.

Gezon and colleagues suggest a few hypotheses that could explain why increased sampling effort had no significant effect on bee abundance or diversity. First, they suggest that reducing bee populations by sampling could benefit the bees that remain by reducing competition for limited resources. If this is the case, bee populations can compensate for some losses due to sampling by increasing reproduction in the bees that remain behind. Second, they note that if bees were sampled after they have mated and laid eggs, the overall impact of removing a bee via sampling will be fairly small. Finally, they note that most bees are solitary and that most solitary

bees have short flight seasons. In this case, sampling every two weeks may not result in bee declines, if researchers are effectively collecting a new species during each sampling event.

I can breathe a bit easier. The data suggest that our research is not immediately responsible for documented bee declines. Still, I know that I can personally do more to help protect bees in my own garden. Even though our lab group studies native plants, I have not yet planted *Aster subspicatus* 'Douglas Aster' in my own garden. This will be my mission for 2020: to find and plant this gorgeous perennial at home. In 2018 and 2019, it bloomed from mid-June through mid-November at our study plots in Aurora, Oregon, with peak bloom (75 percent or more of the plant in bloom) lasting one month! And from 2017 through 2019,

it was always a top five plant for native bee abundance. I give this Pacific Northwest native plant my highest recommendation for home gardens. There are plants that attract more native bees, such as *Phacelia heterophylla*. But no other plant that we studied offers the triple treat of beauty, bees, and longevity.



Gail Langellotto is a professor of horticulture at Oregon State University and statewide coordinator of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program. She holds a B.S. in biology, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology, all from the University of Maryland.

¹Gezon et al, 2015. "The effect of repeated, lethal sampling on wild bee abundance and diversity." *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 6(9): 1044-1054.

We placed two white, two yellow, and two blue pan traps per garden each time we collected bees.



Elegant, Low Garden Fences

by Chris and Jim Mitchell
 photography by Jim Mitchell

Fences keep things in and out. They protect, and they also obscure. They define.

Gardeners generally like fences surrounding a garden. We have one, five feet high, around the edge of our suburban lot. It follows the property line and gives us privacy.

Inside our yard, we wanted short fences to define the garden beds as well as to keep grandchildren and dogs in check. We wanted the fences constructed in small sections and be removable, to allow easy garden access.

We tried fencing wire, which we thought unsightly, and then a few store-bought pre-made sections, which became costly for the amount we needed. Ultimately, we came up with a design inspired by the short bamboo and twine fences we'd seen at the Portland Japanese Garden.

In our final design, each fence section required two short posts—pre-made garden stakes—and steel rods called rebar. Both materials are readily available at most building supply stores. Common workshop hand tools can do the job, but a couple of electric ones make the job easier.

Each fence section required a pair of stakes and two pieces of rebar. We used cedar balusters for the stakes, since they come 2"x 2" and in 4' lengths. Rebar comes in various lengths, as short as one foot, and in various diameters. We used 1/2" rebar, cut to size from 10' lengths.

TOOLS

- Electric drill
- Electric circular saw (although a hand saw will work just fine)
- Level
- Hammer/mallet



Rebar and cedar will weather to blend with most garden landscapes; pressure-treated fir posts will retain a slight orange hue.

Fence sections work best when they are about four inches apart. Fence height can vary, with more rails added as desired.



- Optional: a hand-held hack saw with metal blade, for cutting rebar if needed. Files, for smoothing metal and wooden edges if desired.

ACTIONS

1. Cut the 4' baluster in half to make two 2' pieces.
2. Make a sharp edge on one end of each piece so it will pound easily into the ground.
3. Drill 3/4" holes through each stake, at 3" and 8" from the top. This allows for easy insertion and removal of 1/2" rebar and will forgive a hole that might be slightly crooked.
4. File rough edges of rebar and stakes if needed.
5. Pound stakes for each fence section into ground until stable, level the posts with each other, and insert rebar into the holes.



To reduce cost and save time, one post will work for two sections, with holes for rebar drilled at offsetting heights. This works only when fence is running in a straight line or at right angles.

Dogs (and children) quickly learn not to cross even a short fence, despite the tempting objects on the other side.

longer pieces of wood (cedar or pressure-treated lumber), but this is a lot more work.

FINALLY

Sit back and enjoy an elegant, functional fence you made yourself!



An active gardener for most of her life, Chris Mitchell is a former HPSO board member and regularly volunteers for many HPSO activities. She and her husband, Jim, garden on one-third acre in southwest Portland.

6. Add another fence section, allowing a 4" gap between each.

The dimensions in these steps can be modified to fit to terrain. In other words, the height of the stakes and the length of the rebar can vary. We found that fence sections about 36" long are best; they can be longer or shorter, depending on

conditions. One size rarely fits all, but the beauty of this design is that it is easily modified.

COST

For an average 36" fence section, it's about \$5.00. Cost can be reduced if making your own stakes from larger and

INTEREST GROUPS



Program Chair Shari MacDonald, left, and hostess Donna Rentfro enjoy the holiday social.

HPSO's Westside GROUP

*text and photography by
Sue Walcutt*

Like many HPSO members, I joined the Society as a recent retiree. With time on my hands during this new chapter of life, I hoped to learn more about gardening and make some new friends. At the new members' orientation, I asked someone, "With so many gardens to visit, where do I begin?" After I explained that I lived in southwest Portland, she suggested the Westside Group. "We meet monthly and visit some lovely gardens. It's also a great way to get to know people."

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Maureen Havenner, left, and Chris Mitchell discuss program ideas at the planning meeting,

When I inquired about joining the interest group, I received an invitation to the next gathering, the summer soiree. I arrived knowing no one, yet hostess Shari MacDonald greeted me warmly, making me feel instantly at home. Then I was surprised to see a former work colleague, John Hembroff, who I learned is Shari's spouse. Talk about a small world. People were so inclusive and interesting that I left feeling like I had stumbled upon something special.

Nearly six years later, this group is my tribe. Curious about its history, I contacted longtime member Diana Lamb. Diana served as HPSO membership secretary in the 2000s and recalled that interest and geographic groups had formed in the mid-1990s to build community. HPSO had grown in size, making it difficult for newcomers to feel connected. The Westside Group began, along with others, many still going strong 25 years later.

The Westside Group consists of women and men from diverse backgrounds who share a common interest in gardening. Most members live in Portland's west side, but not all. Any HPSO member may join for nominal annual dues of \$10. Although 60 belong, attendance averages 25. For more information, contact Jan Krier: jan@jlkglobal.com.

The group meets the third Thursday of each month in the morning for programs ranging from visits to noteworthy gardens



Jan Krier discovers a unique item at the plant exchange.

and nurseries to workshops on gardening design and techniques. Everyone looks forward to fall and spring plant exchanges. In recent years, some outings have extended to popular all-day trips like the O'Byrne's Eugene garden featuring hellebores and to weekends for the Bainbridge in Bloom Garden Tour. Diana Lamb and others who pioneered the small groups created a foundation that has withstood the test of time with today's activities mirroring those of the early years.

With members forging deep friendships, social events are just as popular as gatherings focused on gardening. A brief November planning meeting lets everyone submit recommendations for future gatherings before adjourning for a potluck lunch and leisurely visit. December holiday socials have included high tea, dinners, and most recently, a catered luncheon in Donna Rentfro's home decked out for the holidays. Chris and Jim Mitchell generously open their private backyard sanctuary for the summer soiree, an

evening potluck that gives members and their non-member spouses an opportunity to spend time together.

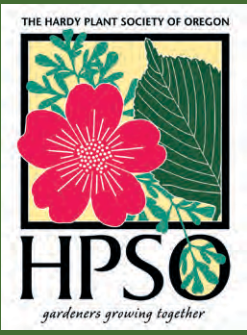
The Westside Group is the only interest group that hosts a fundraiser for the HPSO grants program. Last summer the group raised \$1,000 while enjoying a magical evening in HPSO President Jim Rondone's garden.

As Program Chair Shari MacDonald says with a smile, "This is a happening group!" In my relatively short time, I have gained an appreciation for how every garden reflects its owner's personality. While the style may differ dramatically from mine, each offers beauty as defined by its creator.



Sue Walcutt grew up in Portland's west side and now enjoys gardening not far from her childhood home. HPSO provides constant inspiration for her four-tenths-of-an-acre, ever-evolving landscape.





The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
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The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and whose mission is to nurture the gardening community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER PROGRAM IN CLARK COUNTY

Sue Goetz
July 25, 2020

PLANT FEST

with a panel of special guests
September 12, 2020

OPEN GARDENS APRIL TO OCTOBER 2020

For more program information visit www.hardyplantsociety.org



camas (Camassia)—page 8



cardinal meadowhawk male—page 3



Erythronium pagoda —page 12