



the **HPSO**
quarterly
SUMMER 2016

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON



*summer 2016
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photo this page: The garden of Sherry Sheng
— page 12 (photo by Janet Loughrey)

HPSO SPECIAL SUMMER EVENT

Fergus Fair!

Fergus Garrett Events in Portland, July 22-23, 2016



The long border in June — photo by Carol Casselden

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon proudly announces the visit to Portland of Fergus Garrett, head gardener and CEO of Great Dixter House and Gardens, one of England's most famed and beloved gardens and the home of the late Christopher Lloyd. Fergus perpetuates the groundbreaking work of Lloyd, his mentor, and at the same time leads Dixter in new and exciting directions only dreamed about by Lloyd while he was still alive. Together with his staff and the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, Fergus maintains Dixter's pivotal role in educating and inspiring passionate gardeners around the world.

A frequent speaker and leader of intensive workshops, Fergus Garrett is an accomplished teacher. His knowledge of plants and planting techniques, along with his charming personality and willingness to share information, makes him an exciting presenter.

Workshop: **Designing with Plants: Succession Planting and More!**

Friday, July 22
9:00am-3:00pm

SMILE Center,
8210 SE 13th Ave, Portland, Oregon

SOLD OUT

Fergus describes innovative gardening practices employed at Dixter, including long-season planting, under-planting and inter-planting bulbs, using self-sowers, bedding pockets, masking with climbers, and good maintenance practices. All these techniques are easily introduced into our own gardens in the Pacific Northwest.

Fee includes refreshments. Participants bring their own lunch.

Lecture: **Designing With Plants the Great Dixter Way**

Saturday, July 23
2:00 - 3:00pm

Doors open at 1:00 pm

PCC Rock Creek
17705 NW Springville Rd, Portland, OR
HPSO Members: \$25; Others: \$35

HPSO members can attend both the lecture and reception at a discounted combined price of \$80.

Fergus presents a detailed illustrated talk describing the how and why of plant design at this famed garden. He shares ways to incorporate Dixter's design principles and plant palettes in home gardens in the Pacific Northwest.

Sign up online at hardyplantsociety.org.

Reception: **An Afternoon with Fergus at Blooming Junction Nursery**

Saturday, July 23
4:30-6:30pm

Blooming Junction Nursery, 35105 NW
Zion Church Rd, Cornelius, Oregon
(15 mins. from PCC Rock Creek)

HPSO Members: \$65, or \$80 if combined with the lecture at PCC Rock Creek;

Others: \$85 (Reception only)

Join Fergus for a late afternoon visit to Blooming Junction Nursery and hear his thoughts on several choice plants he selects from the nursery's extensive offerings. Light food and drink, catered by Vibrant Table, as well as a discount on nursery purchases, round out the reception.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: *Our Summer "Abundance" Issue*

Dear Readers:

Our theme of "Abundance!" was so easy to select for this issue of the HPSO Quarterly. We, in the northwest, are privileged to savor the abundance of Summer—a season of plenty with sun and warmth; bounty in the buds on our tomato plants, if not actual fruit; and profusely blooming gardens.

In this issue we delight in the abundance of talent within our membership with not one, but *two* of Tom Fischer's delightful introductions of garden worthy plants. Amy Campion favors us with two articles: one on the copious writings of the HPSO bloggers and another on Tom Vetter's lovely garden.

Claudia Groth continues to help us understand the insects that plague us, this time azalea lace bugs and bronze birch borers, in Bad Bugs. An enormously successful Hortlandia 2016 is recalled in the photos of members and guests finding an amazing array of plants and art to carry home.

Why do we Garden? Jim Rondone reminds us as he recalls a life of gardening that we can all relate to with his ever evolving project list, sought after plant list, and memories of beloved plants lost to nature. Sherry Sheng shares the beauty of her garden—an impressive expression of abundance and care. Bob Hyland reminds us of the exquisite blues we find in nature and ably guides us to make the best of them in our gardens.

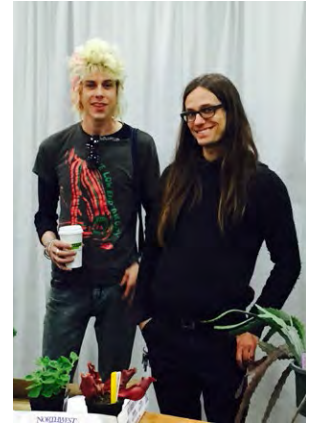
So many other of our regular columns remind me of how fortunate I am to be involved in a group with such a wealth of knowledge and deeply interesting gardeners—our new library acquisitions, Lisa Fuller's focus on member Madeline Forsyth, the Clark County interest group's rich experiences, and more. Please enjoy the abundance of HPSO and the summer Quarterly.

Annette Wilson Christensen
Editor, HPSO Quarterly



Hortlandia

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON'S
PLANT & GARDEN ART SALE



Volume 4, Number 3

the **HPSO**
quarterly

A publication
of the Hardy
Plant Society of Oregon

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To view a pdf of the *Quarterly*, please
visit our website.

828 NW 19th Avenue • Portland, OR 97209
Office and library hours: Tues-Fri 12 to 5pm;
503.224.5718

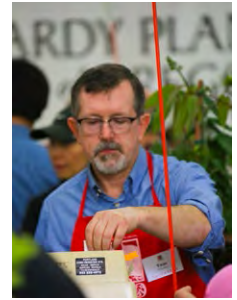
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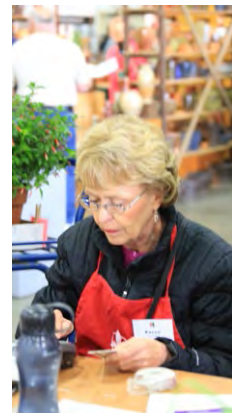
Hortlandia

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON'S
PLANT & GARDEN ART SALE



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Hortlandia 2016 a success!

The photos here are just a sampling. HPSO volunteers always work hard and have a good time. If you haven't joined in before, there will be lots of opportunities in the months and years ahead. Be an active part of HPSO!



Meet the Garden Bloggers

by Amy Champion,
amycampion.com



Mimulus aurantiacus by Tamara Paulat



Rubus lineatus
by Anna Kullgren



Iris sibirica by Evan Bean

Here in the Pacific Northwest, we're blessed with an abundance of plants that thrive in our mild climate. In fact, the choices can be overwhelming. Fortunately, our region is also blessed with a large contingent of garden bloggers to help us make decisions about what to grow and how to grow it. The HPSO member bloggers in particular have greatly influenced my own garden plans. Let's meet some of these engaging local garden writers.

Scott Weber enchants readers with his beautiful photography on **Rhone Street Gardens** (rhonestreetgardens.com). Scott gardens on clay soil in southeast Portland and has a special place in his heart for prairie plants and Piet-Oudolf-style gardens (you can even read about how he got to meet the master himself last year!). If you like ornamental grasses and other hardy perennials that put on a terrific show throughout the seasons, then this is the blog for you. Scott turned me on to such plants as *Pennisetum macrourum*, *Monarda bradburiana*, and *Teucrium hircanicum*.

Tamara Paulat of **Chickadee Gardens** (chickadeegardens.blogspot.com) recently gave up her small jewelbox garden in southeast Portland to start a new garden on a spacious spread in St. Helens, Oregon. Tamara's a huge fan of West Coast natives, such as *Limnanthes douglasii*, *Mimulus aurantiacus*, and *Polypodium scoloueri*, but she also has room (and now she has a lot more room) for well-behaved exotics, too.

Heather Tucker blogs about gardening and DIY home improvement with a healthy dose of humor at **Just a Girl with a Hammer** (justagirlwithahammer.com). For instance, after she'd discovered red tussock grass (*Chionochloa rubra*) and failed to find it at any nursery, she wrote, "I was complaining to Greg [her husband] that I want this grass so badly that I feel like I will perish if I don't get it. Then he was like, 'Okay this

is actually concerning me. Do you really feel that way?' and I flounced off shouting, 'My gardener friends will understand!'" (She did get the *Chionochloa rubra*.)

The Lents Farmer (thelentsfarmer.blogspot.com) belongs to southeast Portlander, **Matthew Hubbard**, a passionate gardener with a love for water lilies and a loathing for the raccoons who make a travesty of his lily ponds, while helping themselves to his goldfish. Matthew is also quite the peony connoisseur, and he can tell you the English and Chinese names for them.

Gardening with Grace (gracepete.blogspot.com) by **Grace Peterson** is a delightful account of the happenings in her western Oregon garden. If you're a fan of pink flowers, you'll want to see what she's growing. Grace is also into recycling and repurposing thrift store finds, and some of her posts will make you want to hit the rummage sales too. Grace is an author, and you can buy her books, *Gardening with Grace* and *Reaching: A Memoir*, via links on her site.

Evan Bean, who gardens about an hour north of Portland and works at Cistus Nursery as a propagator, calls himself "a young horticulturalist with a mad obsession for plants." His blog, **The Practical Plant Geek** (practicalplantgeek.blogspot.com), is where I go to get my plant geek fix.

I find plants there that I've never heard of but want to try, such as *Alyssum spinosum*, *Hutchinsia alpina*, *Salvia forskaohlei*, and *Satureja douglasii*.

I would be remiss in not mentioning **Loree Bohl's** popular blog, **Danger Garden** (thedangergarden.com), but since I highlighted her and her garden in the winter issue of the Quarterly, I won't go into detail about her blog here. However, I'd like to direct you to the **Plant Lust** blog (plantlust.com/blog), another blog to which Loree contributes, along with Megan Hansen and Patricia Cunningham. Each of these three writers adds her valuable insights and her own voice to this collaborative effort. I especially like Patricia's conversational style. "I feel it's only fair to tell you: *Scleranthus uniflorus* is terrific," she writes of a new find, "and quite possibly, you need it."

Flutter & Hum (flutterandhum.wordpress.com) is the creation of **Anna Kullgren**, a Swedish-American Portlander and garden designer. Her essays are thoughtful, and her photography is stunning. Anna introduced me to *Iris confusa* and *Alchemilla alpina* (and gave me pieces for my own garden). I'm hoping to talk her out of a start of the cool *Rubus lineatus* she turned me on to as well.

Linda Coombs blogs at **Whatsit-garden** (whatsitgarden.blogspot.com),



Nymphaea 'Mayla' by Mathew Hubbard



Centaurea rothrockii by Grace Peterson



Acacia pravissima
by Jane Finch-Howell



'Violetto' artichoke by Laura Heldreth



Helleborus Cherry Blossom strain by Jennifer Dennis

where she celebrates the change of seasons in her garden in Vancouver, WA. Linda's garden is a cottage garden of sorts—full of lovely old-fashioned favorites, welcome reseederers, some edibles, and more than a few new (at least to me) plants. Her posts are breezy and engaging and always a pleasure to read. She speaks to the reader like a good friend.

Jane Finch-Howell gardens in North Portland on sticky clay soil and blogs at **MulchMaid** (mulchmaid.blogspot.com). Her diverse plant palette includes Northwest favorites like *Camellia* 'Yuletide', *Daphne transatlantica* 'Eternal Fragrance', and *Rosa* 'Sally Holmes', but she's also profiled some intriguing lesser known beauties, like *Eucomis pole-evansii*, *Salvia desoleana*, and *Acacia pravissima*.

Paul Bonine, who co-owns with Greg Shepherd my favorite Portland nursery, Xera Plants, blogs at **Xera Plants** (xeraplants.wordpress.com). Paul is a self-proclaimed weather geek, and he explains the idiosyncrasies of our Pacific Northwest weather patterns and how they impact our plants. He's also one of the most knowledgeable plantsmen I've ever met, and I devour any post he has on flora. His article, "Proteaceous Plants for Portlandia," is required reading for anyone thinking about dabbling in grevilleas here.

Laura Heldreth of **Gravy Lessons** (gravylessons.com) gardens organically in

Vancouver, Washington and posts about vegetable and ornamental gardening, while relaying the stories of the critters who inhabit her garden, including the bushtits, the great horned owls, and the hummingbirds. Of course, her beloved Great Dane garden helper, Barnaby, isn't left out.

Amateur Bot-ann-ist (amateur-botannist.com) is where you'll find **Ann Amato-Zorich**, who has been a garden blogger for about nine years. Ann has a passion for seed starting (both ornamentals and edibles), and she raises a ridiculous number of seedlings at her southeast Portland home each year. She's also in love with all things Italian, including authentic Italian food, which she cooks for her friends and family.

Ricki Grady blogs at **Sprig to Twig** (bannersbyricki.com), sharing the goings-on in her Portland garden and taking us along for the ride on nature hikes and trips to area nurseries. Her floral arrangements are the highlight of her blog. Every Monday, she presents a delightful new arrangement she's created and gives tips on how you can achieve the same expert results. Ricki is the author of *BeBop Garden*.

Jennifer Dennis has been blogging for eight years at **The Rainy Day Gardener** (therainydaygardener.com). She gardens in West Linn at the house her

husband's great-grandfather built. Jenni grows both edibles and ornamentals using organic methods and seeks out plants that are friendly to kids, pets, the environment, and the budget.

But wait, there's more!

Check out these HPSO member blogs as well:

Bell and Star (bellandstar.blogspot.com) by Bria Phillips

Bloomtown (bloomtown.net) by Darcy Daniels

Bonney Lassie (bonneylassie.blogspot.com) by Alison Conliffe

Cultiverity (cultiverity.com/portland-garden-design-blog) by Kate McMillan

Dirt Therapy (phillipoliver.blogspot.com) by Phillip Oliver

Garden Magic (ann.nickerson.net/garden-magic-blog) by Ann Nickerson

GardenRiots (gardenriots.com) by Lance Wright

Goodnight Design—The Blog (goodnightdesign.com/goodnight-design-blog) by Beth Goodnight

The Milk Barn Farm (milkbarnfarm.tumblr.com) by Derek Powazek

The World's Best Gardening Blog (amycampion.com) by Amy Campion



Rosa 'Wingthorn' by Laura Heldreth

Marigold the Goat of Milk Barn Farm



by Derek Powazek



Chionochloa rubra by Amy Campion

Limnanthes douglasii by tamara Paulat



Hardy Agapanthus



Agapanthus 'Bressingham Blue'



Agapanthus 'Northern Star' with *Galtonia candicans*, *Echinacea* 'Maui Gold', and *Calamintha nepeta* 'Montrose White'



Agapanthus 'Kingston Blue'

I adore all blue flowers, from common-as-dirt cornflowers to fussy aristocrats I can't even dream of growing, like Himalayan poppies. But a few years ago I began a new love affair that shows no sign of cooling down. The object of my ardor is the genus *Agapanthus*—the African blue lilies. (They're also sometimes misleadingly called lilies of the Nile, even though they're native to southern Africa.) They're still somewhat scarce in northwestern gardens, I suspect because of worries that they aren't hardy. Some aren't (we'll get to that in a bit), but there are lots of beautiful cultivars that, given the right conditions, will bring a bounty of blueness to your garden from midsummer until early autumn.

The best agapanthus for the Pacific Northwest are primarily descended from two deciduous species: *A. campanulatus* and *A. inapertus*. (There may be touches of *A. coddii* and *A. caulescens* in there as well.) They're reliably hardy throughout USDA Zone 8, and probably Zone 7 (with luck). The selections that have given agapanthus a bad rap are evergreen cultivars deriving from *A. praecox*. These are the weedy things you see growing in median strips in California. Yes, they can have large flower heads, but they don't offer the intense dark blues of the deciduous cultivars, and they rarely make it through a northwestern winter. (If you ever see a plant labeled *A. africanus*, it isn't. This is an evergreen species from the Western Cape of South Africa that is nearly impossible to cultivate, even in its native haunts.)

Although there are a few dwarf cultivars, most hardy agapanthus are largish plants with long, strappy leaves. They all have thick, fleshy, white roots that enable them to withstand a certain amount of drought, but they will need an occasional deep summer drink. Twice a month should do it. They must have full sun and the sharpest drainage you can provide. And I mean *sharp*. If your chosen site gets standing water in winter, even briefly, look

elsewhere, or build a raised bed. You can, if you like, grow them quite successfully in a large pot. Bloom time tends to be about three weeks, but there are cultivars that begin as early as June and others that don't kick in until late August or early September, so you can have agapanthus in bloom all summer if you plan carefully.

Breeders in Europe have produced scores of cultivars, few of which have reached our shores. But that situation is changing fast, and local nurseries have also produced some very fine selections. I'm partial to the darkest, richest blues, which include the delicate, early-blooming 'Bressingham Blue' (selected by legendary nurseryman Alan Bloom), 'Northern Star' (a stunning mid-season bloomer), and the late-blooming, midnight-blue *A. inapertus* 'Graskop'. Among the medium blues, I've enjoyed 'Kingston Blue' (a British selection with no connection to Kingston, Washington) and 'Joyful Blue', selected by Joy Creek Nursery. There are quite a number of white-flowered selections, but I've never seen the point of a white agapanthus, so you're on your own there. (If you're looking for a specific cultivar, I suggest you use the search engine of your choice. All our local nurseries carry at least a few named selections.)

It may just be a figment of my imagination, but agapanthus seem to pair exceptionally well with other South African plants: white-flowered *Galtonia candicans*, kniphofias of all sorts, the exquisite *Gladiolus oppositiflorus* subsp. *salmoneus*, and flame-colored crocosmias. Among non-African plants, I can heartily recommend *Echinacea* 'Virgin' (the best white coneflower bar none), *Euphorbia* 'Dean's Hybrid' (whose chartreuse flowers last all summer), and any of the orange-flowered or salmon-flowered agastaches currently making the rounds.

Deciduous agapanthus are tough, hardy, long-lasting perennials. They love our climate. They're blue. They will make you happy.



Calamintha nepeta 'Montrose White'

We live in an age of pervasive hype, in which nearly everything is the best this or the best that. Mildly enjoyable performances get standing ovations. People get prizes just for participating, never mind winning. When it comes to superlatives, I'm about as cynical as they come. But I am here to introduce you to one of the best garden plants in existence. *Calamintha nepeta* 'Montrose White' comes as close as any plant I've ever encountered to the Platonic ideal of a perennial: tough, hardy (to USDA Zone 4), well behaved, drought resistant, long-blooming (on the order of four to five months), pleasantly scented, and a magnet for pollinators of every sort.

"Why haven't I heard of this paragon?" you may ask. I have no answer for this. The universe is full of unfathomable mysteries.

Calamintha nepeta, commonly known as lesser calamint, is a member of the mint family (Lamiaceae) with a wide range encompassing Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. From a woody base, the numerous stems reach about two feet tall and as wide. The tiny, abundant flowers can be white, pink, pale lilac, or anything in between. The small, light green, ovate leaves have a pungent, peppermint fragrance that would lead you to suspect that they might taste good. I can testify that they do not. Mrs. M. Grieve, the redoubtable author of *A Modern Herbal* (1931) states that they can be used to make "a pleasant cordial tea . . . for weaknesses of the stomach and flatulent colic." I have my doubts. And if you find yourself suffering from the latter condition, please stay at home and keep the information to yourself.

'Montrose White' was given its name by Mike Yanny of Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. His wife (whose first name I have been unable to discover) received the plant from Nancy Goodwin's renowned (but alas now defunct) Montrose Nursery in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and Mr. Yanny was quick to spot its merit. It forms a perfect dome of foliage that never splays open, and beginning in June, and continuing into October, is covered with a silvery haze of white flowers. The flowers are sterile, which I assume accounts for the

protracted flowering period and absence of self-sown seedlings. And oh my goodness, will the pollinators love you. Every honey bee, bumblebee, native bee, wasp, butterfly, and hoverfly in the neighborhood will engage in a summer-long orgy of nectar-gathering. Give it full sun (or very partial shade), good drainage, and average soil. Nothing more needed.

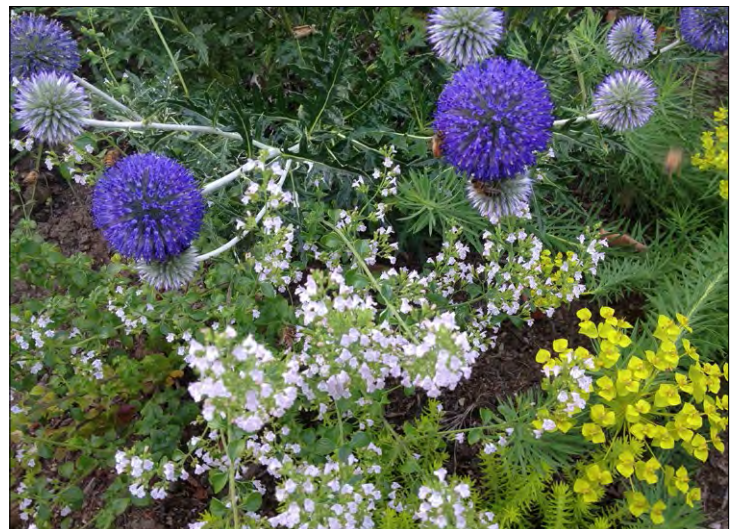
It is clear, I hope, that you should not expect an eye-blistering explosion of vulgar color from this plant. That is not its role in the garden. It is there to soften edges, to be a foil for brasher plants, to be charming, and to feed the insect world.

right: closeup of *Echinops ruthenicus* and *Euphorbia*

below: *Calamintha nepeta* 'Montrose White' used as a frontal plant

At present, the only source I know of for 'Montrose White' is Digging Dog Nursery in Albion, California, a tip-top mail-order nursery, but I hope this situation will change in the near future. According to Mr. Yanny, "it roots like a coleus," which ought to make it attractive to our local nurseries.

So, thank you, Mike Yanny, Mrs. Yanny, and Nancy Goodwin. You have given us a gem.





Berberis darwinii fruits hold longer into summer



Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glauca'



Penstemon heterophyllus 'Electric Blue' + *Allium karataviense*



Ceanothus x 'Topaz'

Blue

cools the summer garden

by Bob Hyland

Blue is the #1 favorite color of all people. It is nature's color for water and sky, embraced as the hue of heaven and authority, and worn universally in denim clothing.

Gardeners have a fascination with "true" blue flowers in the garden. We are enticed by photos of Himalayan blue poppies (*Meconopsis spp.*) and promises of an endless summer of blue mophead hydrangeas or a lacecap like *Hydrangea serrata* 'Bluebird'.

In our warm, dry, intensely bright Pacific Northwest summers, blue flowers, fruits, and foliage offer calming relief. For backdrop in my own garden, we've planted a few leafy blue evergreen trees, notably *Cunninghamia lanceolata* 'Glauca' with its fat, wide frosty blue needles and *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *debuzevillei*, a large-leaved version of the snow gum with chalky blue leaves that contrast nicely with its earth-toned copper-pink-green-white patchwork bark.

For blue summer fruit, nothing beats edible blueberries, either lowbush (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) or highbush (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). I am still amazed at the mind-blowing blueberry selections available to HPSO gardeners in Portland regional nurseries. Aside from the juicy summer fruit, multi-stemmed blueberries offer deciduous leaves that turn bright yellow, orange, and vibrant shades of red in autumn.

Oregon-grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*, aka *Berberis aquifolium*) is our state flower—yellow spring blooms that yield clusters of round, dusky blue summer fruit. The tart, edible berries don't offer the same sweetness of fresh-picked blueberries, but who cares? Mahonia is a dynamic shrub with four-season interest, particularly hybrid varieties like *M. x media* 'Arthur Menzies',

'Charity', 'Lionel Fortescue' and 'Winter Sun'. No garden should be without one... or two!

Another favorite blue-fruiting shrub is *Viburnum dentatum* 'Christom' BLUE MUFFIN (Arrowwood viburnum). Remarkable clusters of intense blue fruit ripen in late summer and fall. Songbirds love them as much as gardeners...ruffling a few feathers at times!

I delight in all forms of California lilac (*Ceanothus*) and their adaptability to our dry summers. Perhaps my new favorite is *Ceanothus* x 'Topaz', a great summer-bloomer with some of the darkest, deep blue-black flowers in the genus. Flower trusses on 'Topaz' are loose and airy, lending informality in the summer garden.

Among blue-flowering perennials, several really sing in summer. *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Electric Blue' leads the parade. Its zappy true blue flowers smother the foliage for up to six weeks in late spring and then sporadically through summer with some deadheading.

Lithodora diffusa 'Grace Ward' may seem a rather common box store perennial, but its flowers are among the most intense deep blue. It is a wonderful groundcover or rock garden accent with sprawling to slightly mounded form.

On our northwest Portland hillside, two blue-flowered perennials dominate the summer scene. *Catananche caerulea* (Cupid's dart) grows in clumps of narrow gray-green foliage with wiry flower stems of cornflower blue to violet-lavender fringed daisies. *Catananche* is a dynamic bedfellow with *Molinia caerulea* 'Variegata' on one of our terraces.

My other newly favored perennial is *Agapanthus* with strappy green foliage and powder blue, royal, and blue-black that drift across our summer plantings. Standouts are *Agapanthus* 'Joyful Blue' with soft blue flower heads fading to a milky lavender (a Joy Creek Nursery selection) and A. 'Blue Leap', a vigorous, hardy variety chosen for its ability to "leap" across our hillside. We purchased 'Blue Leap' from Dan Hinkley at Windcliff Plants. Dan originally selected and introduced 'Blue Leap' through Heronswood Nursery.

I use grasses and sedges liberally in my garden designs to knit plantings together at the ground plane. Many are blue-bladed like little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues'), blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens* 'Sapphire'), blue fescue (*Festuca ovina* 'Elijah Blue') and blue sedge (*Carex flacca* 'Blue Zinger'). I'm discovering the merits and best use of native *Festuca californica* and the South American blue wheat grass (*Agropyron magellanica*) which forms a striking evergreen clump of intense blue foliage. A couple of blue-foliaged perennials like *Euphorbia rigida*, *Parahebe perfoliata* (Digger's speedwell), and *Agastache* 'Blue Boa' work

wonderfully spiking up through some of these blue grasses and sedges. Blue foliage, flowers, and fruits offer cool summer moments, and at the same time make your garden ZING.

■■■■
Bob Hyland is the HPSO vice president and owner of Hyland Garden Design, hylandgardendesign.com

Photos by Bob Hyland, Hyland Garden Design



Catananche caerulea against a backdrop of *Molinia caerulea* 'Variegata'



Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp. debuzevillei



Yucca rostrata 'Sapphire Skies'

Design Lessons from the Vetter Garden

by Amy Campion,
amycampion.com

Abundance and serenity

If I had to describe the garden of my friend and longtime HPSO member, Thomas Vetter, in one word, abundant would spring to mind. This lush, layered garden in the northeast Portland neighborhood of Hazelwood is packed with an astonishing array of small trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs, tender potted plants, and artwork. Viburnums, euphorbias, epimediums, and geraniums spill onto the street. A paved path dotted with self-sown campanulas, scabiosas, and agastaches leads to a lush backyard retreat filled with beauties like *Choisya ternata* 'Sundance', purple-leaved *Physocarpus opulifolius*, *Drimys lanceolata*, *Cornus kousa*, *Impatiens omeiana*, *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola', ferns, hostas, and ornamental onions. No bare ground dares to show its face.

If I were to choose a second word to describe Tom's garden, it might be serene. Now, serene isn't a word that normally applies to the jam-packed gardens of plant fanatics like you and me, who have a knack for bringing home whatever catches our eye at the garden center—whether or not the new plant goes with our garden scheme. My friend, Tesan Warncke, calls this "magpie gardening," and it often leads to restless, disjointed effects in the garden. Tom's thickly planted garden, on the contrary, presents a cohesive look, and I always feel at peace there.

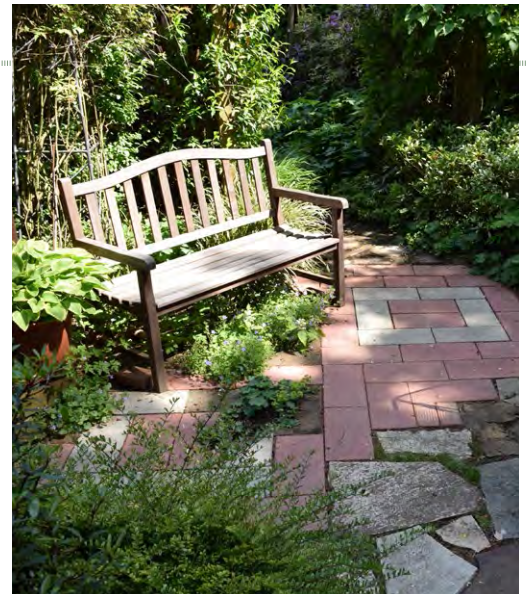
How has he accomplished this? His secret is good design, and he let me in on a few tips that may help us "magpie" gardeners create more restful spaces.

Leave some open space

Tom had a plan when he started his Portland garden 18 years ago. Like most of us, he laid out garden hoses to determine where his borders would go. And, like most of us, he soon realized he hadn't made his borders wide enough, so he grabbed his spade and expanded them by a couple more feet.

Knowing that an expanse of lawn or some other type of open space provides needed

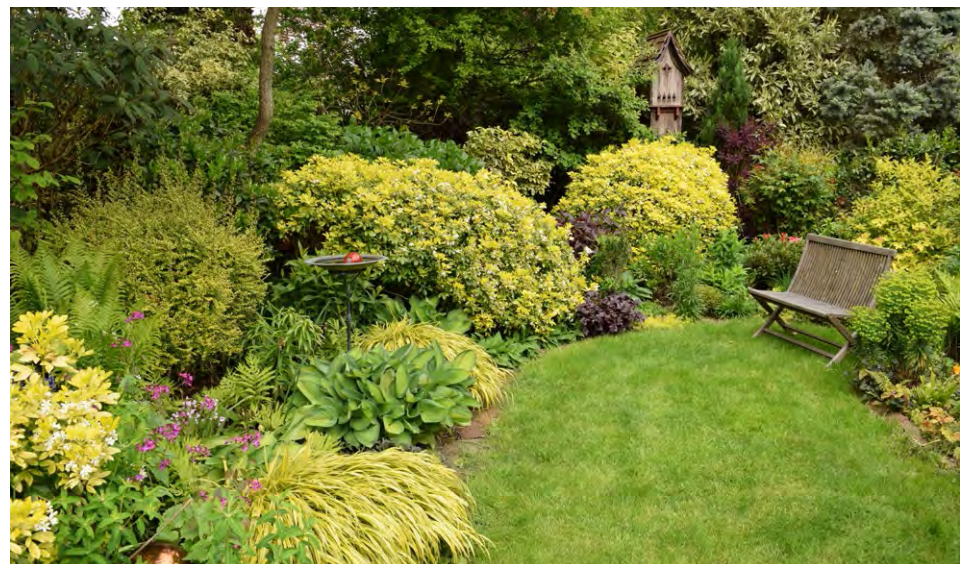
visual relief from the exuberance of dense plantings, however, he did leave a small patch of grass in the front garden and a larger sweep of lawn in the backyard. These negative spaces are important in giving the eye a place to rest from the spectacle of color and texture that surrounds the viewer.



A sitting area invites guests to linger.



Neatly trimmed shrubs keep the garden from becoming a jungle. An open space gives some breathing room.



Provide comfortable sitting areas

Leave room for a few sitting areas, too, so your guests can relax while enjoying a view of the garden. Tom's garden has benches, chairs, and small tables that welcome visitors to linger. In the backyard, a fountain bubbles near a small seating area. On the deck, potted plants bring the garden to guests sitting there.

Focus on foliage

Thomas studied horticulture and landscape design at Colorado State University, and while in Colorado, he visited author and garden designer Lauren Springer's garden. He was inspired by her approach. "What she was doing with perennials and grasses was amazing," he said when I visited him last April to talk about garden design, "and the effect was mostly from foliage. Her garden wasn't that flowery." He saw that foliage could be just as interesting as flowers, and the effects were more long lasting.

Tom's garden does have plenty of flowers, but in order to keep his garden looking

sharp over a long season, he primarily chooses plants for their foliage. He's especially fond of blue-foliaged plants, like *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Curly Tops', *Ruta graveolens* 'Jackman's Blue', and *Sedum rupestre* 'Blue Spruce', because they're good mixers with other plants. "They show up well at twilight, too," he added. Evergreens figure prominently in his design, extending visual interest into the winter months.

Limit your color palette

One reason Tom's garden is so soothing to look at is due to his restraint in the use of color. In several areas of the garden, the dominant color palette (expressed in both foliage and flowers) consists of pink, purple, blue, yellow, and white. Repetition of complementary colors like these brings cohesion to a planting, making it read as a designed space rather than a random collection of elements. This doesn't mean that the entire garden must follow the same color scheme, however. Different vignettes within the garden—whether separated by space or time—may feature different palettes.

Use a few bold structural plants or pieces of artwork

Too many plants with small or medium-sized leaves give the garden a busy look. Provide contrast with a few bold structural plants or use an object with some mass, such as a birdbath, a piece of statuary, or a fountain, to create a focal point. In Tom's garden,

large-leaved plants like *Ligularia*, *Cordyline*, agaves, and hostas provide relief from fine-textured plants, and birdbaths and gazing balls provide focal points. An oversized birdhouse in Tom's back garden is in perfect proportion to the large shrubs that inhabit that space, and it makes an effective accent.

Prune early and often

When Tom started to plant his Portland garden, he filled it mainly with perennials, some of which he'd brought from his Colorado garden. Later he began to add shrubs and was pleased with the bulk they added to the young garden. "Plants grow fast here, though," he warned, adding that shrubs can quickly turn a garden into a jungle.

To maintain order in his garden, Tom prunes a lot. He advises gardeners to begin pruning shrubs when they're young and to trim them regularly. "Don't wait until it's too late," he said. When possible, he prunes errant branches back to deep within the plant, hiding the cuts under the surrounding foliage. His efforts keep the garden looking tidy, but not rigidly controlled.

See Thomas' garden in person

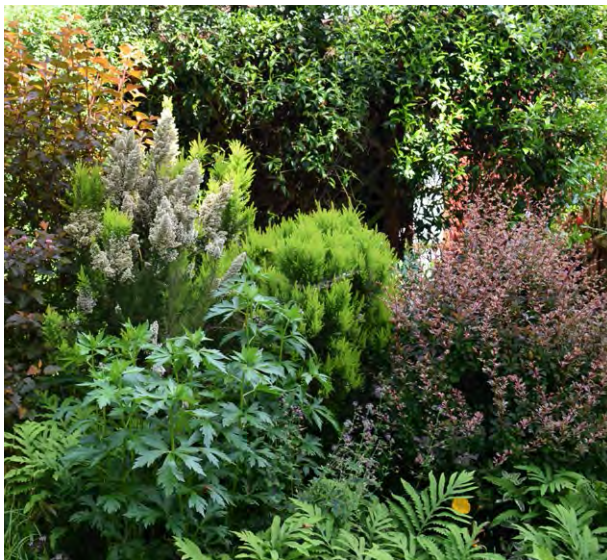
Tom graciously opens his garden several times a year to HPSO members and enjoys having visitors. You still have a chance to see it this year! Open garden dates for the remainder of the 2016 season are Monday, July 11 and on Saturday, August 6. His garden is also open by appointment.



An oversized birdhouse makes a strong focal point in the Vetter garden.



Foliage provides most of the color in this vignette.



Tom uses a palette of pink, purple, blue, yellow, and white in several areas of his garden.



Making My Final Garden

by Sherry Sheng

I am perfecting my fifth and final home garden. You would think I had figured out how to do it right after making four gardens from the ground up. Sadly, you would be wrong! Circumstances, aided by my willful mind, dictated a most circuitous journey!

On the plus side of the balance sheet were a supportive spouse and early retirement in 2004. Both allowed me to indulge in the endeavor. When we married in 2000, my husband thought ivy was beautiful. The man knew nothing about gardening! He certainly did not imagine that making a garden can be a lifetime pursuit. He finally stopped asking “When will you be done?” 10 years into our marriage.

To say I faced challenges would be an understatement. I won't bore you with all the trials and tribulations. Suffice it to say the current garden is going through the fourth remake.

I began the first garden in 2000. It was a product of tinkering with what we inherited, minus a few truckloads of ivy—covering trees, shrubs, the ground, and fence—and plus new plants to fill the gaps. This garden barely began to grow when a neighbor put up a 40-foot high house 7 feet from the property line. We had to add a new wing to preserve our view of the Willamette River. The garden lost ground; plantings were adjusted. No sooner had the plants taken root than the house on the other side was sold. Another mansion rose up, also 7 feet from the fence. Again, we extended the wing to save our view at a cost to the garden.

In the midst of these changes, I opened the garden several times. Two Garden Conservancy Open Day tours, in 2007 and 2012, brought masses of visitors and a few professional photographers. It was fun! Seeing my creation through the eyes of others was enormously instructive.



As I continue to revamp and edit the garden, a few vignettes remain favorites. The front circle is a space under a 40-foot cedar where competition from the tree makes gardening difficult. I created a circle with brick pavers encircled by a concrete border. Only tough characters live here. They include *Sambucus* 'Black Lace', *Rosa mutabilis*, *Salvia*, *Cerastigma plumbaginoides*, *Dianthus*, and *Sedum*. *Thuya orientalis* 'Sunlight' and *Cotinus* 'Golden Spirit' brighten the scene. Two *Picea pungens* 'Globosa' announce the entry; a pair of chairs invites lingering.

Our garden consists of three sections. The front garden, along the street and our 50-foot driveway, is shared with walkers. Entry into the private garden, above, is at a crossroad at the end of the driveway where the stairs lead up to the house. I announce the garden entry with a metal arch by artist Mark Frazer. Eight-foot high and wide, this arch frames the view of a *Prunus serrula*. Anchoring its beautiful peeling trunk in a gentle mound are drifts of lilies, *Acanthus spinosus*, *Hellebore augatifolius*, and black mondo grass.

Our wing additions were built on posts, forming 10-foot high ceilings over much dry ground in the center of the back garden. Designer Michael Schultz suggested a pond. Today, this rectangular pond, made of colored concrete, is the perfect negative space for my exuberant plantings. Against one wall of the pond, I placed hefty metal pieces to form a triangle and laid 'flat jack' rocks in a fish scale pattern within these borders. *Acorus gramineus* surrounds this geometric space and lends color contrast. A metal 'tree' stands at the far end of the pond, cloaked in purple clematis summer into fall. Wind plays a prominent role for gardening along the river. A wind sculpture by Andrew Carson beautifully accentuates air movement (see inside front cover). Andrew graciously allowed me to choose a color palette. To complement his art, I added an orange container, a small juniper, *Euphorbia* 'Glacier Blue', *Dahlia* 'Totally Tangerine', and *Anchusa azurea* 'Alkanet'.



Several water features echo the river. My favorite sits where garden paths meet a covered patio. I dug a giant hole, 5-foot diameter and 3-foot deep. Next, I lined the hole with a 5-foot high metal tube of the same diameter. In the center of this reservoir stands a concrete column, plumbed in the center, to support a giant pot. We are DIY-ers and found out what a back breaker this project turned out to be when it was too far along!

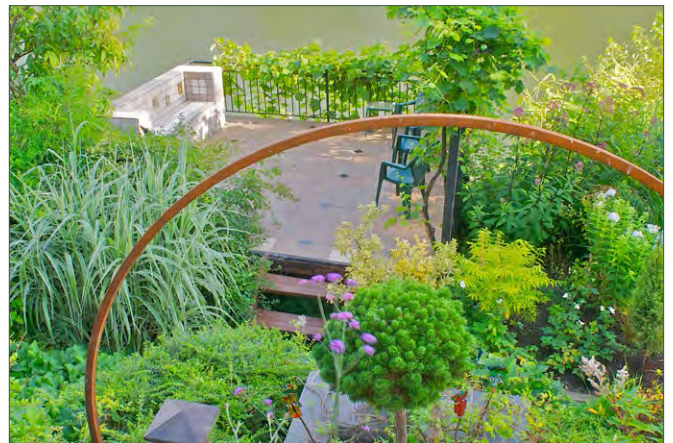


Our property is 220 feet deep. It is flat around the house then drops off toward the river. In 2000, the hill was covered with ivy, blackberries, and the worst spreading bamboo (*Sassa palmata*). Buried in this mess was a wooden deck. My husband cleared the area; I dug out foot paths and built steps and retaining walls. Then my husband did his magic—refurbished the deck, made a tile bench at one end, and added posts and metal railings on other sides. This new destination rewards us with views of teeming river life, including migrating salmon and sturgeon, a variety of fishing birds, and the occasional sea lion.



Along the river and next to the deck, I use low-care, drought-tolerant plants. They include red-osier dogwood, flowering currant, ninebark, snow berry, *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star', *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah', and *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gold Bar'. *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, *Verbascum nigrum* 'Dark Mullein', and self-sowing poppies add seasonal colors.

When I began, I was confident in my ability to learn design on the go. I devoured books and magazines, attended lectures and classes, and became an Oregon State University Master Gardener™. When I got stuck, I paid for brief consultations with garden designers. These sessions were enormously helpful. I loved meandering the garden together, noting their responses to my questions and spontaneous observations.



After 15 years, my garden has finally developed into a year-round structure that pleases me. This matrix of trees, shrubs, hardscape and art invites me to experiment with new plantings. For me, the pace has slowed but the joy and satisfaction remains high!



Abundance!

by Pat Elias

Yes, the Clark County HPSO Interest Group does indeed have an *abundance* of members, enthusiasm and dedication, not to mention the beauty and variety in members' gardens. Established over 20 years ago, the group now has 104 members, with some of its founding members still very active. Much like the *abundant* variety of flora and fauna in Clark County, this interest group has a diverse membership: some new to Clark County, others born and raised here, some in the landscaping field, and some who are Master Gardeners, while others are just learning to garden or expanding their existing gardens. From conifers to lilies to dahlias to maples and succulents, members enthusiastically share their love for particular species of plants and trees.

From March through October, the monthly meetings are typically hosted by members who open their homes and gardens to their fellow members. These lovely gardens are on urban lots as small as 10,000 square feet or in large, park like settings covering many acres. There is something to learn from every garden, large or small, and from each other. The meetings are well attended, often upwards of 50 people. The dedicated Program Committee diligently works to establish interesting topics and schedule knowledgeable speakers on plant education and specialty topics such as pruning, irrigating or garden lighting. Often there are plants for sale and always a lively raffle for an *abundance* of unique and favorite plants. Along with being artistically creative gardeners, members are phenomenal cooks, as demonstrated at the potlucks—recipes are traded just as often as plant cuttings!

Clark County has microclimates, varied terrain, and water sources that all contribute to the beauty and variety of area gardens, and beautiful gardens are designed to complement expansive vistas. As members meander through wooded paths, they often gasp in wonder as the creativity of the host is revealed at the turn of a corner. It is true that some of our members are obsessive gardeners with hundreds of species of a particular plant. Others are content with their little slice of heaven. But everywhere

generosity abounds as meeting hosts graciously share cuttings and plants. What a joy it is to find one of your own plants thriving in another's garden!

Occasionally meetings are held at one of our many fabulous nurseries, historic sites or just about any garden-related venue. Each year the gardening season closes with a social that includes live music and dancing, an abundance of delectable foods, and a raffle or silent auction in a venue festively decorated in fall décor. In the spring our group kicks off the garden season with the annual plant exchange. Along with a hundred or so plants, newcomers are treated to a warm welcome and an abundance of enthusiasm. They also discover that along with learning new garden techniques (and recipes), lifelong friendships grow and are nurtured within the Clark County HPSO Interest Group. *Abundance*, the perfect word to describe our group!



WHY I GARDEN — JIM RONDONE



To say gardening is in my DNA is no exaggeration. *Giardina*, derived from the Italian for garden, was a family name for my grandfather and my grandmother. That they were first cousins probably explains everything else about my DNA.

I grew up in the garden. My parents planted the garden of our first home, in a postwar tract in the suburbs of Los Angeles, with apricot, avocado, fig, lemon, nectarine, and olive trees. My mother tended a large flower border of the cottage garden variety. By the time we moved to a larger house, a bit farther out in the suburbs, the emphasis shifted to ornamental shrubs, and my mother's intensely manicured *Dichondra* lawn. By the time I was 10, I had an active role in plant selection and placement and managed a productive vegetable garden on the side.

My interest in gardening accelerated as I read the family copy of the *Sunset Western Garden Book* from the 1950s (I inherited it). Not only did it serve as a primer in sound gardening practices, but it opened up a world of uncommon flora that could be grown in the West. By the time I bought my first home in 1982, I was planting *Jacaranda*, *Hebe*, *Grevillea*, along with cycads and other exotics in the garden (but no *Agapanthus*; they were mostly used in parking lots). A move to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1991 forced me to learn a whole new plant

palette; while I enjoyed collecting *Agave*, I was frustrated by the extremely short growing season there.

Within a week of my arrival in Oregon in 1999, I went to HPSO's spring plant sale at Washington County Fairgrounds, where I realized I was in the Promised Land. Though my partner, Ky, and I lived in a condominium during our first three years here, I immediately made the rounds of nurseries in the region to familiarize myself with all the plants. When we purchased our home in Southwest Portland in 2002, the potential for the garden was as important as the condition of the house. Fourteen years later, I have made progress, along with many mistakes.

To me, garden making is the application of principles drawn from the fine and applied arts to shape the natural world. At the same time, I keep in mind the words of the philosopher Francis Bacon: "Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed." Gardening is for me mostly a solitary activity. I do it weekends and evenings, weather permitting, usually without a break and never with a phone or radio. I start one project, only to be interrupted by many others. I dislike watering and detest weeding. I keep one list of the plants I want to add and another list of the ones I want to move. I do have a compulsion about moving plants, usually several times until I find the right spot (or into the yard debris bin, if I don't). I like to think that I am unsentimental about plants, removing them if they don't work for one reason or another. But then I lose a favorite—a freakish gust of wind felled the tall, multi-trunked specimen of *Azara microphylla* that was the centerpiece of the front garden—and I am not so sure.

I've planted the front garden hoping to make it look reasonably presentable year-round, with boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffructosa') planted in asymmetrical drifts to provide some structure. More than the boxwood, gardeners notice the extensive use of black mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens'). It combines well with shrubs and perennials, and literally shines in winter, when it reflects the season's low light. If you grow it, don't be afraid to divide it every three or four years if you want it to spread. While I don't strive for a color scheme—my red-green color vision is deficient—I gravitate to more somber shades of purple, in foliage and in flower.

In the back garden, I use a completely different plant palette, with the emphasis on perennials. I am trying to apply the naturalistic style of the Dutch landscape designer, Piet Oudolf, in a much smaller setting. Pardon my pretensions, but three visits to his garden in Hummelo, the Netherlands, left a deep impression on me. The effort requires a lot of discipline, as I've limited my selections to perennials with smaller flowers, and grasses that don't get too big. Few of them would make a big impact on their own, but even modest plants like *Geum triflorum*, *Monarda bradburiana*, *Solidago riddellii* and *Sesleria autumnalis* perform beautifully in concert with others. With more work, and a lot more plants, I hope to replicate the sensation I've experienced in Hummelo: enveloped by the garden.

Some of my closest friends visit and say, "Oh, your garden is so pretty." And that's all they say. Frankly, I would rather have hours of criticism by passionate gardeners and hear how they use black mondo grass or how they grow *Arisaema*. The process of learning, applying, editing, and revising in the garden, even more than some final result, is what keeps me so engaged. However elusive my goals may be, I am indebted to HPSO for another, deeply gratifying sensation: enveloped by gardeners!



The young Jim and his garden.





Bad Bugs

Changing the Face of the Landscape

by Claudia Groth

Azalea lace bug damage on rhodie

© Robin Rosetta



Bronze birch borer damage

Insect pests: we usually think of their impact on the food supply—a plague of locusts destroying a farmer’s crop. But plant pests have the power to change our backyards, too, or even the urban landscape we share.

Remember the American elm—a much-planted species through the nineteenth century? It seemed ideal for the growing urban areas, thriving in compact soils and the poorer city air. These long-lived elms provided relatively fast shade and a graceful canopy.

After arriving in the Americas, the Dutch elm disease fungus was spread from tree to tree by native and imported bark beetles. Elms were destroyed by the thousands in an attempt to stop its advance.

In 1930, estimates put the number of American elms in cities and woodlands at 77 million. By 1989, despite the heroic efforts of governments, citizen groups, and individual homeowners, just a few million remained. Though other species took its place along streets, the look and feel of the stately elm was lost.

In Oregon today, homeowners face similar challenges. The bronze birch borer arrived in Oregon soon after the turn of the millennium and headed straight for one of our most striking landscape focal points, the brilliant white-barked European birch (*Betula pendula*) and the Himalayan birch (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*).

The insect begins its attack as eggs are laid in bark cracks and crevices. Upon hatching, the tiny larvae burrow quickly through the bark. Once out of sight and protected, they begin mining the interior of the tree, taking up nutrients and water meant for the tree limbs above. Starved and parched, leaves brown and branches die. Gardeners may not notice the start of damage high above their heads until a tree is severely compromised.

Stressed birches are more attractive to this borer, and the drier spring and summer of 2015 stressed our landscapes to an extreme. Even birches planted in a superior spot, with consistent care, are coming under attack, as borer numbers increase and birch hosts decrease. The loss of one of these trees in a yard has a tremendous impact on the remaining plants, as well as the overall design.

Azalea lace bug damage on azalea



VOLUNTEER PROFILE *by Lisa Fuller*

A more recent arrival to plague Pacific Northwest landscapes is the azalea lace bug, which attacks not just azaleas, but some rhododendrons as well, and, potentially, related species. The adult pierces cell after cell, emptying them of chlorophyll. Even if the insects are eliminated, the damaged, unsightly leaves remain. It can take a season or two of good pest control, judicious pruning, and vigorous growth to recover the look of an azalea or rhododendron that has been infested.

Pest control itself is a challenge. Gardeners are increasingly aware of the impact insecticides have on good-guy bugs and pollinators. In gardens stuffed with trees, ornamental shrubs, and perennials, isolating an insect control measure to one particular tree may be impossible.

So, will gardeners watch trees and shrubs decline before their eyes, becoming eyesores or dangers in the garden? How will gardeners react in the face of the loss of a tree, a prized collection, or a hard-won design?

We are not without resources. Researchers are breeding resistant varieties, finding natural enemies to unleash, and improving cultural recommendations. Plus, in this most temperate of climates, nursery availability lists are crammed with desirable substitutes. There may be no replacing the white bark of the birch, but there is no shortage of striking landscape trees to take its place.

Was it the birch's winter look that drew you? What about a coral bark maple, paperbark maple, or crape myrtle? Was it something else? Ginkgos have the rich fall color, and katsuras have a dramatic shape. Either would gladly stand in as a landscape star.

Insect pests will continue to change the face of our landscapes, but optimistic gardeners will always be able to withstand the loss of one garden favorite (even a signature one, such as the azalea) to find a new way to achieve their dream garden.

My thanks to Phil Wich of Bartlett Tree Experts, Stephanie Mack of Portland Nursery, and Robin Rosetta, OSU Extension entomologist, for their contributions to this article.



Claudia Groth is an HPSO member, technical writer, and horticultural lecturer on soils, integrated pest management, and beneficial insects.



Madeline Forsyth

The HPSO Open Gardens Book first brought Madeline Forsyth into the Hardy Plant Society, as it has many members. The pleasure of visiting the gardens of other plant and flower lovers is a great way to get new ideas, learn useful methods, and make new friends.

Madeline had a busy career as an oncology nurse, and gardening provided a wonderful source of refuge from a profession that demanded a great deal of dedication and energy. When she retired in 2005, she was able to channel some of that energy into her garden and the distinct pleasure of introducing her grandsons, now six and three, to the charms and mysteries of fragrance, bugs, and strawberries!

Madeline signed on for Master Gardener's credentials and spent many volunteer hours earning her certification. Volunteering in the Washington Park International Rose Garden became the highlight of her experience, and she earned a specialist tour guide designation, under the tutelage of the famed Harry Landers.

Her love of roses naturally expressed itself in her own garden. Madeline has entered the Royal Rosarians contest in spring for several years and won three awards! She's won the award for Rose Plantings (25-75 roses in a mixed bed)

twice, and the Senior Citizen Division (although she's quite the young senior!), as well. She modestly tells us that she only has "40 or so" roses in her garden, with fragrance ("really fragrant!") the paramount virtue in her choices. What beauties they must be! We can all look forward to enjoying her roses during future Open Garden seasons.

When Madeline and her husband Pete moved into their new home in Gresham 16 years ago (they've been in the Portland area for 40 years), our own Lucy Hardiman, of Perennial Partners, created the garden design. Madeline and Pete carried out the plan, installing irrigation systems and many, many truckloads of compost, and over the years they have realized their dream garden. Pete is the "lawn guy" and "the-digger-of-big-holes" and leaves the plant choices to Madeline. Along with her prize-winning roses, Madeline loves to grow delphiniums, hydrangeas, hostas, dahlias, and fuchsias.

When I commented on the classic English cottage garden assortment, another aspect of her gardening life became evident: garden touring. Madeline and Pete have travelled on HPSO tours to England, Italy, Ireland, and closer to home, Whidbey Island in 2013 and Vashon Island this year. This fall they'll take a dreamy cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. Their wonderful travels quite naturally have influenced the garden choices made when they come home.

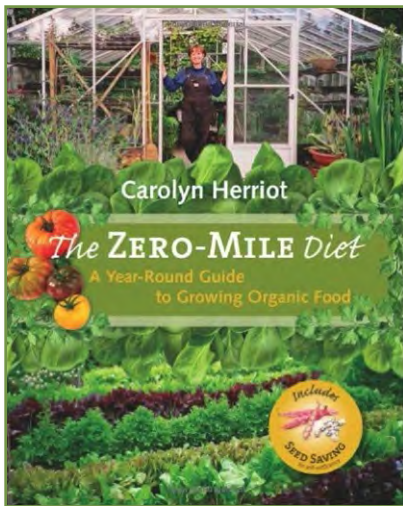
This busy lady is also a member of the Gresham Study Group and looks forward to volunteering at Hortlandia every year. She is an avid quilter (in the winter when she can't garden!), skis for exercise, and participates in an epic backpacking trip with her family in summer.

My favorite takeaway from my visit with Madeline is the sentiment we all share:

"The great thing about HPSO is that it is full of friends you have yet to meet!"

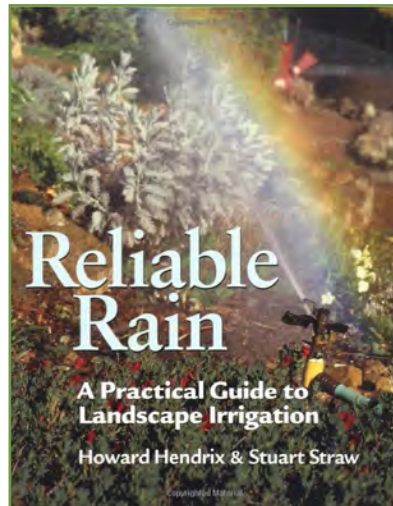


Here are more great books available in the HPSO library! The library/office is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5.



The Zero Mile Diet
by Carolyn Herriot (2010)

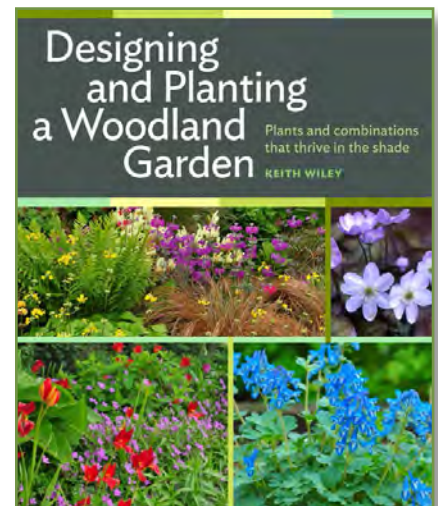
“Take a journey through a year of sustainable backyard food production with Carolyn Herriot, one of BC’s top organic gardening gurus. This definitive month-by-month guide brings gardeners into the delicious world of edible landscaping and helps take a load off the planet as we achieve greater food security” — *Harbour Publishing*



Reliable Rain by Howard Hendrix and Stuart Straw (1998)

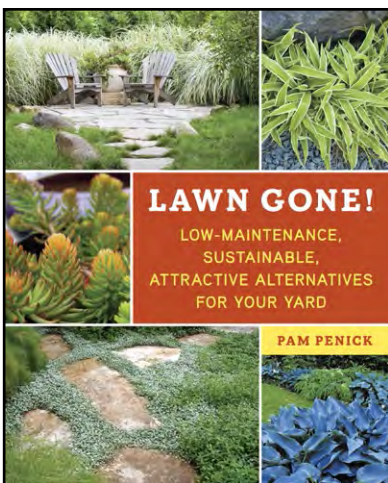
“Readers learn how to choose and use controllable water delivery alternatives to keep lawns, gardens and landscapes green and healthy.

Irrigation enthusiast Howard Hendrix explains in friendly, understandable language how new advances have put efficient irrigation systems within reach of the average gardener” — *books.google.com*



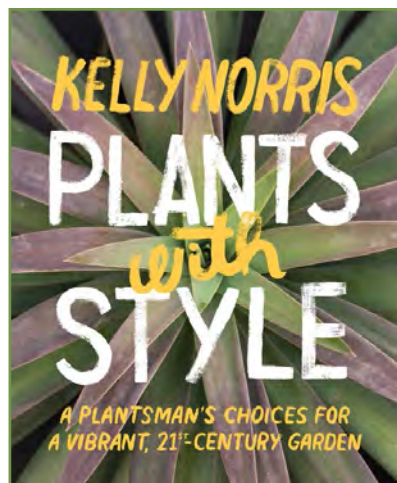
Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden
by Keith Wiley (2014)

“Woodlands are magical places and even small gardens can capture the atmosphere with a carefully chosen tree and some shade-loving plants. The owner of Wildside Nursery in Devon, England, Keith Wiley inspires gardeners everywhere with his dynamic, naturalistic style” — *Goodreads* (Timber Press)



Lawn Gone by Pam Penick (2013)

“A colorful guide covering the basics of replacing a traditional lawn with a wide variety of easy-care, no-mow, drought-tolerant, money-saving options that will appeal to today’s busy, eco-conscious homeowner.” — *PenguinRandomHouse.com*



Plants with Style
by Kelly Norris (2015)

“In this spirited, provocative book, plant guru Kelly Norris calls for a garden revolution: out with the boring plants and in with the exciting newcomers that will make your jaw drop and your pulse quicken!” — *Goodreads*



photo from *Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden*

welcome! TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

February 29 to May 6, 2016

Many of you recently joined our ranks. We're now at a record high membership — 2525 members as of last month! 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 programs, plant sales, and open gardens.

Nancy Abens	Robert Culver	Todd Jenkins	Teresa Meyer	Bill Pinaire	Shannon Smith
Sofia Almeda	Michael Cummings	Ray Johnston	Vikki Miller	Bruce Powell	Eliot Spindel
Gayle Aman	Barbara Cushman	Marcia Johnston	Larry Miller	Randy Rahn	Adrienne Stearns
Bob Aman	Larry Daane	Mary Jones	Hibiki Miyazaki	Chris Rahn	Marye E Steckley
Trisha Anderson	Lucy Davenport	Angela Jones	Margot Moore	Julie Reed	Barbara Steltz
Gregg Andrews	Mary Ann Dewey	Denette Keenon	Jane Morrison	Steve Reed	Sue Stepan
Bruce Andrews	Carole Docken-Baertlein	Steven Keenon	Jamie Morse	Amy Reiter	Kellie Thomas
Terrie Andrews	Kevin Donovan	Colleen Kelly	Vinette Mothershed	Makiko Reslier	Ralph Thompson
Clifford Babad	Sheri Dover	Diane Kendall	Mary Mullaley	Katy Riker	Rosemary Todd
Lynda Backman	Jeff Eccles	Kamala Kingsley	Liz Nakazawa	Chuck Robinson	Dan Upton
Barry Baertlein	James Ellis	Casey Knox	Angie Neff	Jennifer Rogers	Linda M Vognild
Vickie Baker	Nora Eskes	David Knox Jr	Christina Nemick	Lynda L. Ronell	Pam Warren
Jeffrey Bale	Sandra Ferguson	Diane Kondrat	Kristen Norquist	Judy Rooks	Mary Way
Shelley Banfe	Ellen Fineman	Alexandra	Namae NTumae	Yvonne Rorison	Roshanthi Weerasinghe
Marie Banfe	Christina Fowler-Thias	Kouzoukian	Bill O'Malley	Toni Ross	Pat Weiland
Marsha Barnes	Roger Fowler-Thias	Linda Krugel	Kathy O'Malley	Suzanne Rothwell	Tom Weiland
Sally Barrett	Bryce Fradley	Wendy Lambert	Wendy Beth Oliver	David Sandrock	Deborah Wenzel
Susie Barrios	Marcia Fromhold	Lee Ann Lawrence	Linda Olson	Jane Saunders	Kenneth Wenzel
KBarton	Carol Fuchs	Mark Leichty	Linda C F Opp	Larry Savides	Maribeth Wester
Craig Barton	Julie Gaudette	Mary Leineweber	Christine Over	Jo Scheer	Amy Westom
Michael F Bastian	Amy Gebhardt	Marlyn Lewis	Tom Over	Merrie Schippereit	David Westom
Cindy Beeler	Rachel Gering	Sheree Lloyd	Sandy Overstreet	Don Schmidt	Jan White
Guy Bellingham-Smith	Mary Gibbs	Jennifer Loughrey	David Overstreet	Marilyn Schmidt	Roy Whitlock
April Berlin	Charlie Gibbs	Mary Lyons	Gail Panzer	John Schumacher	Holly Whitney
Cindy Black	Lisa Graff	Denise Madden	Shannon Parks	Ed Sharick	Ruth Williams
Kate Blainstone	Brad Graff	Abby Martin	Daniel Peek	Julie Simmons	Allan Wood
Gary Bodker	Cynthia Grant	Shirley Mason	Rebecca Peek	Karen Sims	Harold Yaffe
Lynn Boe	Frank Gray	Dawn McCollum	Bette L Pepper	John Sitton	Jason Yen
Dennis Boe	Bob Grover	Anne McDowell	Karen Petzing	Cindy Sitton	Wes Younie
Vince Bogard	Sandra Hall	Susan McElfish	Gail Pflingsten	Rebecca Sluck	
Dean Bones	Denise Hannan	Ruth Menicosy	Antonya Pickard	Kent Smith	
Laurie Bones	Eric Hanson	Bonnie Messinger	Jan Pinaire		
Jack Borland	Patricia Hanson				
Scott Briggs	Kathryn Heath				
Jen Browning	Brian Hess				
Heida Bruce	Carol Holdt				
Susan Burdell	James E Holley				
Janet Byrd	Steve Hootman				
Amy Champion	Cathy Huck				
Brian Chadwick-	Valerie Humke				
Robinson	Joan Hurl				
Sarah Cheverton	Ron Hurl				
Natasha Colette	Carol Innes				
Paul Colvin	Mary Jacobs				
Heather Cook	Jim Jarzabek				
Elizabeth Cryan	Pat Jeffries				



HPSO members enjoy Lucy Hardiman's garden

HPSO now has over 2,500 members!

NURSERY PROFILE:



OUTDOOR LIVING

4933 NE 23rd Avenue

by Nancy Goldman

We love nurseries big and small. And in our area of the world we are blessed with many fine options for our shopping pleasure.

Thicket is a garden boutique filled with a lush selection of plants from old favorites to rare and unusual finds. Just south of N.E. Alberta Street on N.E. 23rd Avenue in Portland, it provides a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of one of our fair city's busiest and most eclectic neighborhoods. Nestled in between restaurants, a brew pub, and other venues, it's a mecca of calm and beauty.

What was once an empty lot is now a haven for plants and shoppers. Plans are underway and permits submitted to install a working bee hive. Gravel walkways and plant tables, along with an adorable office shed, gives the nursery the feeling that it's firmly grounded in the local environment. The addition of quirky, vintage ephemera adds to the charm.

Thicket is the brainchild of Adria Sparhawk, a floral designer and lover of plants. The nursery manager, Bee Lackner, below, has



been onboard the last two years. He has extensive knowledge about plants and gardening and had prior experience working at Dancing Oaks Nursery under the tutelage of his uncle Leonard Foltz, co-owner of Dancing Oaks. He is one of five employees who keep the nursery humming and provide sound advice about plant selection. Bee is especially proud that plants are locally sourced. The nursery offers a wide range of organic products, along with potting soil, compost, flower and vegetable seeds, selected quality tools, and containers in a rainbow array of colors. The day I visited, the nursery had rainbow displays of winter-hardy containers, from turquoise to orange to a fabulous "grass" green.

Along with specialty plants, the nursery offers organic and heirloom vegetable starts, medicinals, and natives. Rounding out the offerings are air plants, succulents, annuals, and bonsai. Past workshops offerings included bonsai instruction, seed starting, air plant terrariums, botanical illustration, guided nature walks for foraging tips, herbal infusions for cooking, and a "back to the future" macramé plant hanger session. The owner's background in floral design drives the do-it-yourself Bridal Parties workshops. Check out the website for the current class and event listings.

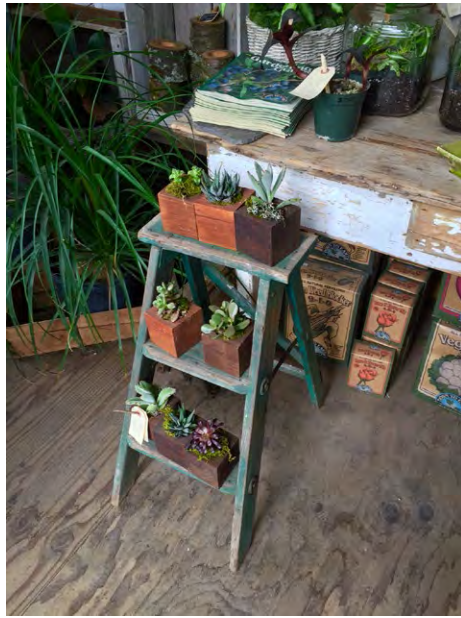


The nursery is open daily from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm during the gardening season and is closed in the winter. Check the website for a compendium of blogs along with current information on upcoming events, including the HPSO After-Hours Thicket "Block Party" on Thursday, July 14th, starting at 6 pm. We hope to see you there!



"A charming tangle of botanical curiosities, vintage finds, and modern craft to inspire life lived in the garden."

from the Thicket website: thicketpdx.com



"My favorite little plant-haunt in all of PDX.. A little bit of everything to be found here: succulents, indoor plants, outdoor edibles, ground cover, water plants, you name it - Thicket has a great variety!"

Comment from Kat A. posted on Yelp April 4, 2016



Visitors enjoy the Bailey garden during the 2016 HPSO/Garden Conservancy Open Days event.



Abundance



The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
828 NW 19th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209

www.hardyplantsociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

AFTER HOURS
Block Party at Thicket
Thursday, July 14

GEN(I)US PROGRAM
Keeping the Color
Coming
with Dan Heims
July 19

FERGUS FAIR!
Workshop: Designing
with Plants for
Succession Planting
Friday, July 22
Program: Designing
with Plants the
Great Dixter Way
Event: An Afternoon
with Fergus Garret
Saturday, July 23
(see page 1)

AFTER HOURS
Pomarius Nursery
Thursday, September 8

PLANT FEST!
with Richie Steffen
Saturday, September 17

SAVE THE DATE:
HPSO Annual Meeting
with Andrea Wulf
Saturday, October 22

PLUS OPEN GARDENS
April to October.
HPSO members can visit
other member's gardens
from spring through fall.

for more program
information visit www.hardyplantsociety.org

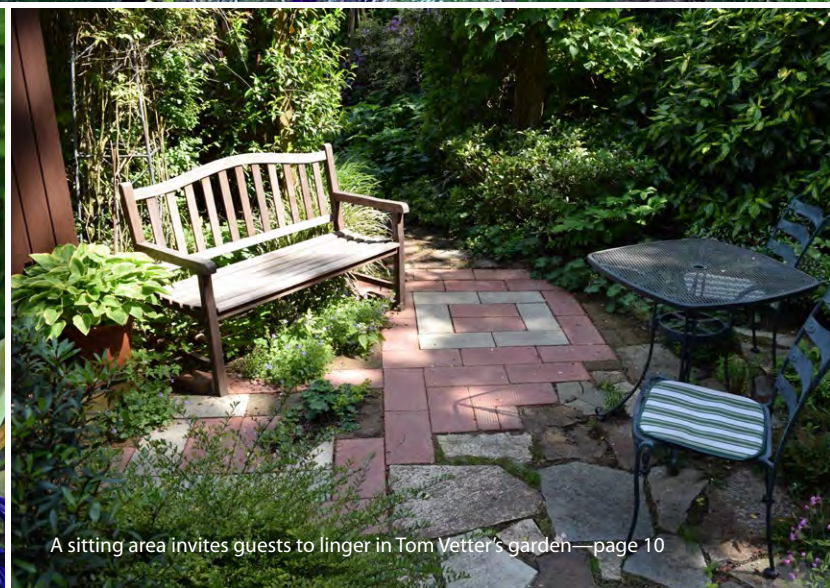
The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and whose mission is to nurture the gardening community.



Calamintha nepeta 'Montrose White' used as a frontal plant — see Plant Profiles, page 7.



Agapanthus 'Northern Star' with *Cypella coelestis* — page 6



A sitting area invites guests to linger in Tom Vetter's garden — page 10