

# THE PERENNIAL POST

NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE



SPRING 2017 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 2

## Hooray! The NPA Spring Plant Sale is April 9

### NPA SPRING PLANT SALE SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 9 AM – 2 PM

North Seattle College  
9600 College Way North, Seattle

**A**MONG THE PLETHORA of plant sales in the Seattle area, gardeners have long harbored a particular fondness for our own NPA Spring Plant Sale. It's not only our biggest plant sale of the year, it's one of our most important fundraisers. And the good news is, it's coming a bit earlier than usual, on Sunday, April 9, at North Seattle College.

Once again we've gathered a select group of local growers, small nurseries owned by hardcore plant geeks, offering plants you'd be hard-pressed to find anywhere else. In fact, many of our vendors aren't open to the public, so sales like ours are your only chance to shop their unique selections.

Browse an amazing selection of perennials, natives, grasses, groundcovers, evergreens, shrubs, small trees and more. These are healthy, locally grown, locally adapted plants that have the best chance of doing well in your garden. As an added bonus, you can shop tax free, saving almost ten percent, while you help support the educational programs of NPA.

Inside tip: As experienced hands know, for quick plant sale access, park in the lots on the west side of campus, along College Way North. Parking is free in these lots on Sunday. (See our Spring Sale vendors list, page 3)



*Cyclamen, select leaf*  
Bouquet Banque



*Trillium sessile*  
Great Plant Picks



*Anemone nemorosa*  
Great Plant Picks



*Trillium erectum*  
Taking Root Nursery



*Epimedium x perralchicum 'Wisley'*  
Bouquet Banque



*Penstemon davidsonii*  
MsK Rare & Native Plant Nursery

# NPA EVENTS



- APRIL 7 & 8** **Miller Library's Garden Lovers' Book Sale**, Friday – Saturday, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle
- APRIL 9** **NPA Spring Plant Sale**, Sunday, 9 am – 2 pm, North Seattle College, 9600 College Way N, Seattle (details, page 1)
- APRIL 20** **Border Weed & Feed**, Thursday, 10 am – noon, NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. (details, page 6)
- APRIL 23** **"Butterflies of Cascadia: Life Histories and Conservation"** lecture with David G. James, PhD, Sunday. Doors open at noon for book signing and plant sales, lecture begins at 1 pm. Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue
- MAY 5 - 6** **Open Gardens season begins.** Watch your mailbox this month for your copy of the 2017 Open Gardens Directory. (details, back cover)
- JUNE 9 – 11** **Sorticulture Garden Arts Festival**, Friday – Sunday, Legion Memorial Park, Everett. Visit the NPA booth.
- JUNE 10** **Bellevue Botanical Garden's 25th Anniversary Celebration**, Saturday, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. Visit the NPA booth.

## A warm welcome to our new members

Jan Agosti	Karen DeMers	Bryn Homsy	Darcanne Nixon	Linda Soper
Barbara J. Anderson	Georgina Douglas	Jo-En Huang	Diane O'Connor	Beth Struckhoff
Melissa Anderson	Karen Dubose	Janet Hunter	Pam Owen	Melinda Stuart
Sharon Augenstein	Cindy Duncan	Chad Inks	Katie Padwick	Allison Sutton
Susan Avery	Sheena Eaton	Eleanor Ittner	Gayle Palmer	Alison Templin
Shirley Baker	Valerie Enger	Nancy Johnson	Julie Perkins	Alexandra Thomas
Jeanne Bayley	Carly Erickson	Melody KirkWagner	Diane Perman	Carol Thompson
Elizabeth Baze	Janet Fennelly	Grace Kline	Kenneth Plaisted	Terry Traner
Leanne Bergford	Nancy Finelli	Maureen Knight	Judy Quackenbush	Barb Trzebiatowski
Bonnie Berk	Patty Finnigan	Elizabeth Kozleski	Teresa Ramirez	Becky Vacanti
Dawn Blanch	Eva Fisher	Harvey Kriloff	Ann Rapelje	Joy Wannamaker
David Brenner	Betty Foster	Renee Kuehn	Connie Rezendes	Genevieve Warren
Barbara Bruya	Elaine Frazel	Erin La Montagne	Shelley Roberts	Florence Wellborn
Chanetta Bryant	Janie Gabelein	Deborah Lawrence	Carol Ross	Susanne Whalen
Jane Burns	Joan Garrow	Susan LeDeue	Elizabeth Ryll	Suzanne Whitehead
Fran Calandra	Ellen Glauert	Jean Look-Krischano	Jimmie Sale	Nancy Wieland
Michael Campbell	Chen Yen Goh	Barbara MacKenzie	Orna Samuelly	Jennifer Willham
Claudia Casebolt	Dorothy Grainger	Gillian Mathews	Susan Sanders	Mark Williams
Viola Ching	Cynthia Gross	Jean McGibney	Scott Satterthwaite	Cheryl Williams
Rebecca Christie	Mary Jane Hardessen Shaw	Marsha McGough	Canan Savrun	Karin Williamson
Lori Cook	Penelope Harger	Myra Menchaca	Judy Scheuffele	Helen Willis
Laura Cooper	Denise Hartzell	Linda Messier	Elaine Schumy	Renee Wissbrod
Joann Copperud	Elizabeth Haycock	Scott Meyer	Linda Sedgley	Judith Woodstrom
Gordon Cromwell	Debby Hermfeld	Peter Meyers	Joan Sharp	Kris Woolpert
Rhonda Dafforn	William Hiatt	Kim Mikkelsen	Kathy Sinclair	K. D. Woolpert
Diane Dancer	Gayle Hickey	Diana Moran	Roberta Skaggs	Jane Wu
Shannon Darrow	Sandra Hille	Peg Morgan	Russ Smith	
Paula Dekker	Caryle Hitchcock	Marina Nepom	Patty Snyder	



# NPA Spring Plant Sale Vendors

## BLUE FROG NURSERY

Russ & Miriam Smith

A tempting assortment of perennials, ground covers, shrubs, trees and azaleas  
[www.bluefrognurseries.net](http://www.bluefrognurseries.net)

## BOUQUET BANQUE

Judy Zugish & Bill Roeder

Uncommon perennials and inspirational plants, including loads of hardy cyclamen and epimedium.

[www.twigtwisters.com/nursery.html](http://www.twigtwisters.com/nursery.html)

## CELESTIAL DREAM GARDENS

Celeste Erickson

Heathy, well-grown plants, both tried and true or rare and few

[celestialdreamgardens@hotmail.com](mailto:celestialdreamgardens@hotmail.com)

## DAN HINKLEY'S WINDCLIFF

Dan Hinkley & Robert Jones

Specializing in collections from around the world, including unusual vines, perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses and container plants  
[www.danieljhinkley.com](http://www.danieljhinkley.com)

## FANCY FRONDS

Judith Jones

A choice variety of ferns, plus many plants for miniature, trough or rock gardens  
[www.fancyfronds-nurseries.com](http://www.fancyfronds-nurseries.com)

## GROWING GIRLS

Beth Burman

A North Bend nursery offering unusual shade-loving perennials  
 425-888-0960

## LEE FARM

Carrie & Dean Lee

Outstanding trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and hardy fuchsias  
[www.leefarmandnursery.com](http://www.leefarmandnursery.com)

## MSK RARE AND NATIVE PLANT NURSERY (Kruckeberg)

Roseann Beaudry, manager

Pacific Northwest natives and rare and unusual species to bring home to your own garden  
[www.msknursery.com](http://www.msknursery.com)

## NPA PLANTS

An assortment of Clematis, Hosta and Dicentra, spring bulbs such as Camassia leichtlinii, Corydalis and Allium, donations from members' gardens and plants from the NPA Border  
[www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org)

## QUEEN'S CUP NURSERY

Pat Parks

Puget Sound easy care native perennials, including rare and hard-to-find plants  
[pat@queenscupnursery.com](mailto:pat@queenscupnursery.com)

## ROBINWOOD NURSERY

Carole Lynn Ives

A Vashon nursery featuring hardy fuchsias, dwarf conifers and woody groundcovers  
[www.robinwoodnursery.com](http://www.robinwoodnursery.com)

## Look for NPA at Sorticulture

*Sorticulture*

EVERETT'S GARDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

Friday, June 9, 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday, June 10, 10 am to 6 pm

Sunday, June 11, 10 am to 4 pm

Legion Memorial Park, Everett

Look for the NPA booth this June at Sorticulture in Everett. The immensely popular festival features garden art, specialty nurseries, a wine garden and live music. Our booth will be staffed by volunteers from northend NPA neighborhood groups. Stop by and say hello.

## Thank you, garden show volunteers!

Diana Davidson

Many thanks to the 38 volunteers who worked three-hour shifts at the NPA booth at this year's Northwest Flower & Garden Show, recruiting new members and taking membership renewals. It was a great team effort by all.

This year our booth display used cutouts of plant photos from the NPA border at BBG, adding bobbleheads of NPA volunteers. The three-dimensional humorous attraction was a traffic stopper that brought numerous visitors. It was created by Linda Gray, Craig Wagner, Linda Kline and Diana Davidson.

The drawing for this year's prize, a blue pot filled with an array of plants, was won by Judy Rivas of Bellevue.

Thank you, to all who participated.



Bobbleheads of volunteers were a big hit in NPA's booth

# IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

Wendy Lagozzino

**Y**EARS AGO, I SAW A PERENNIAL at one of the plant sales that caught my eye. As plant lovers, we are always attracted to the rare and subsequently difficult-to-grow plants. This perennial certainly fit the bill with the unusual appearance of its heart shaped leaves. I was immediately smitten just looking at them and had to think of a place in my garden I could make a go of it.

Thinking it needed a warm, protected place, I squeezed it into my zone 9 micro-climate where I have a Lemon Verbena, *Aloysia triphylla*, growing against the house under a roof overhang. Well drained, winter protected, sunny and warm made it the ideal spot. I give this area supplemental water in winter as it does not receive enough, being under the eaves, to sustain winter roots.



Surprised by yellow blooms in November

OK, so how many special plants have you lost? Yes, that's right, I never saw it again after this herbaceous perennial died back after the first frost. (I'm waiting to tell you the name of it on purpose so you can identify with the general concept of this experience.) Never mind that I know several people who easily grew it very successfully. Right out in the open I might add. Now is that fair?

I was determined to try again except I couldn't find it again—for years. Finally a friend spotted it on her trip to Cistus Nursery in Oregon in 2012 and nabbed

it for me. (If you ever have a friend like that who remembers what plants you are searching for, NEVER let them go.) I researched what this plant wanted, once again trying to determine where else I could place it. The tag said "Exotic-looking perennial from Eastern Mexico, grows 2-4 ft. wide x 3-6 ft. tall. Full sun with summer water and good soil. Top hardy to 20F, USDA zone 9 and root hardy to at least the single digits, upper zone 7." I found a spot with better moisture, but still warm and sunny. I endowed it with rich compost and mulched it heavily for winter. Never saw it again.

## FAST FORWARD TO MAY OF 2016.

Here I was at another spring plant sale and there it was again, calling my name across the room. Oh Wendy! Here I am again, buy me and you won't be sorry. Yeah, right. Then, did I hear a little snicker? This time Keeping it Green Nursery had my difficult-to-grow plant, darn them. What is it that makes us gardeners fail to give up on the most obvious of impossible dreams? What made me think my budget allowed me to buy this failure yet AGAIN? Who knows, but the minute I saw that plant I didn't hesitate for a second to snatch it up. I felt like I'd struck gold and was ready to cash in. I wanted to do a little happy dance all around the room. I'm going to find a place to make that grow if it's the last thing I do! My *Angelica gigas* 'Purpurea' had just finished its biennial life last summer, so I had another possible location for it.

This time, we had one of our hot summers and my southern perennial amigo took off like never before. It was a highlight of my summer NPA open garden and caught the eye of many a guest. Now I am going to tell you what it was. *Amicia zygomeris* 'Gotta Pea'. Yes, it is a member

of the pea-flower subfamily of legumes, so someone had a big laugh naming this cultivar. The leaves are glaucous green, grow on long pink stalks in pairs of leaflets that have the coolest shape. They even



Glaucous green leaves close at night

close up at night just to be different. An added attraction that really appealed to me is the purple stipule, which grows off the tops of the leaf junctions of the main stem. It doesn't seem to fade over the growing season making it look like it's blooming all the time. However, it is just that, only a stipule, so the flowers appear later. Although the tag says large yellow pea-like flowers appear through summer, my newbie didn't bloom. Then, in late November, it surprised me with what I thought was yellow fall color. After watching it from a window for several weeks, I happened to be outside on a rare dry day walking nearby. On closer inspection, to my surprise, it was in full bloom and had been all that time! Luckily we hadn't had a frost yet. The fairly large (1 ¼ inches across) flowers were so welcome for late November and weren't marred at all by the abundance of rain we had.

By early December 'Gotta Pea' had been blooming for weeks. The bees had no chance to pollinate the flowers to develop seed pods, but I still have hope this time will be a success and not another one-act show. Because I know I wouldn't be dumb enough to buy it a fourth time, would I?



# Interested in volunteering? Start at the top.

Michele Cournoyer

**T**HE NPA IS RUN by volunteers. From our lectures and plant sales to the NPA Border, volunteers provide the drive, the fun and the friendships that keep this organization humming. And nowhere are those volunteers more important than at the top, as members of the NPA Board of Directors.

Every year the board needs new people as terms expire and new opportunities occur. This year, a number of board members are bumping up against term limits and will be leaving soon. They're eager to get new people on board to show them the ropes before they go.

Here are the positions we need to fill:

**Co-Membership Chair:** This person checks members in at our lectures, answers questions and also handles our business memberships. He or she would work in partnership with Co-Membership Chair Jan Jensen, who runs the Neighborhood Groups program.

**Education Chair:** This chair lines up speakers and organizes

the four NPA lectures each year. Also works closely with the Classes & Workshops Project Chair.

**Plant Sale Chair:** Plans and runs our two great plant sales in the spring, March Mania at Bellevue Botanical Garden and the Spring Plant Sale at North Seattle College.

**Directors at Large:** These board members do not run a specific project, but contribute ideas, energy and support at events. Many new board members start out in this position while they learn more about running NPA, before taking the lead on a specific event or area.

Board candidates must be willing to devote the time required to attend monthly board meetings the first Tuesday of each month from 6 - 8 pm at locations in Bellevue

and Bothell or via conferencing. They are also expected to volunteer for NPA events. Specialized skills or experience in planning, organizing and communication as well as an enjoyment of effectively working with others are important assets. But most of all, we're looking for enthusiasm. Directors are elected by a vote of the board and serve three-year terms.

NPA also has a number of Project Chairs who are not required to attend board meetings. However, if desired, a board member can also run these projects. Current project chair openings include:

**Classes & Workshops:** This chair plans and supervises classes and workshops throughout the year for NPA.

**Northwest Flower & Garden Show:**

Runs the NPA booth, recruits and supervises volunteers.

If you would like to get involved, please contact NPA President Kit Haesloop at [haesloop.npa@gmail.com](mailto:haesloop.npa@gmail.com) or call our office at 425-647-6004. We'd love to hear from you!



## Garden Lovers' Book Sale

**APRIL 7 - 8**

**ELISABETH C. MILLER LIBRARY**

Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

THOUSANDS OF USED GARDENING, horticulture, botany and landscape design books will be for sale at the 12th Annual Garden Lovers' Book Sale at the Miller Library April 7 - 8. All proceeds will be used to purchase the best new horticultural books and journals for the library.

Be among the first to browse the books at a party with silent auction on Friday, April 7, from 5 - 8 pm. Party tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, and directly fund the Miller Library book budget. Enjoy a glass of wine, mingle with other gardening enthusiasts, and bid on specially selected books in the silent auction. For tickets call the Miller Library at 206-543-0415.

On Saturday, April 8, the book sale will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Admittance is free. Shoppers will find a wide range of topics on all things horticultural, at great prices.





# Come grow with us in the NPA Border

*Michele Cournoyer*

**T**HE FAMOUS NPA BORDER at Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) is a showcase for what works best in Northwest gardens, with thousands of perennials, shrubs, bulbs, evergreens and trees that provide color and beauty year round. This garden is our gift to the community—and the most amazing thing about it is that it's maintained entirely by volunteers.

In fact, volunteers are the only reason the Border has continued to thrive and grow since it was first planted for the grand opening of BBG in 1992.

Volunteering a few hours in the Border is the ideal way to expand your knowledge about gardening while you enjoy the company of plant lovers working together. Our members include some of the area's most knowledgeable gardeners, and they are always happy to share information. The more you volunteer, the more you learn and more friends you meet. So grab your gloves and nippers, and join us!

Volunteers work every Thursday from 10 am to noon. If you can only come once a month, make it the third



Volunteers work to keep the Border beautiful.

Thursday, which turns into a party called the Border Weed & Feed. We spend two hours working in the Border, then enjoy a potluck lunch. There's rarely been a more fun-filled way to give back and support a community treasure.

## **NPA BORDER WEED & FEED** **Third Thursday of the month** **10 am - noon**

NPA Border at Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main Street, Bellevue 98005



Looking north past the Border's central stairs



Craig Wagner and Linda Kline enjoy a Weed & Feed potluck lunch.





*Colchicum autumnale*



A view south over an upper bed in the NPA Border



A BBG intern joins Kit Haesloop for a Weed & Feed lunch.



The NPA propagation shed and workyard



Astilbe in bloom



Border volunteer Connie Adams



Aster 'Monch', *Caryopteris* and *Hydrangea* 'Limelight'



## Great book picks for spring

Gayle Richardson

### MEADOWLAND: THE PRIVATE LIFE OF AN ENGLISH FIELD

by John Lewis-Stempel

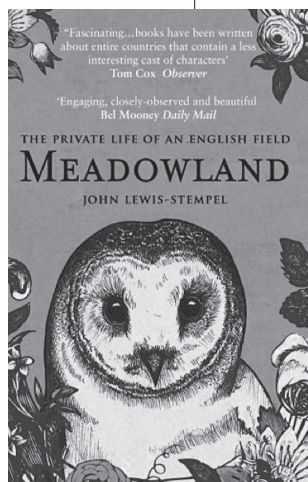
How to do justice to such a marvelous book? One which is not in my normal range of reading, but one I'll likely remember forever. The author is a Herefordshire man who farms and raises sheep a mile from the Welsh border, a stone's throw from where his ancestors did the same in the 1300s. Through the year, January to December, he records his observations on the land about him and the wildlife on it, above it and under it. The lucky reader seems to be right there beside him. In addition to the absorbing descriptions, a huge bonus is the author's beautiful writing style, which often strays into the poetic.

E.g., on a snowy night as he takes fodder to his sheep he notices that "the slough of the sledge is the only slander in the moonlight." Thought I knew what a slough was, but how delightful to learn from the OED that it is also a cart track, and slander can simply mean "offense." I could go on and on, but perhaps should leave it to Tim Smit (forever in the gardeners' pantheon for his rescue of the Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall), "A magnificent love letter to the natural world...written with wit, poetry and love. I want to scream from the rooftops: buy it, give it, read it."

### PLANT: EXPLORING THE BOTANICAL WORLD

by Phaidon Editors

To paraphrase Jane Eyre, "Reader, I bought it." And hang the cost! Right from the get-go, its thrillingly beautiful three dimensional cover demands your attention--and reverential caressing.



Inside, 315 pages (5# 10 oz. of them) offer huge, spectacularly reproduced botanical illustrations, every one in full color. Ranging from a very un-ancient-Egyptian-looking stone carving of emmer wheat dating from the time of Akhenaten to the most modern Digital C Print of the deep, deep innards of a rosebud, they command countless viewings. Modern botanical illustrators are given great prominence, which is gratifying, and perhaps the most unexpected appearance is that of Emily Dickinson,

whose 66 page herbarium is to be found at Harvard University. A ten page timeline at the back presents great moments in botany from 9400 BC to 2016.

### OXFORD COLLEGE GARDENS

by Tim Richardson

Maybe it was that year I spent at the UW's Hansee Hall (it had four "houses," just like Hogwarts) which looked like some Scottish manor, leaded casements and all, from which I could peer down at young females, clad in white blouses and short, pleated, navy-blue wool skirts, whacking away with hockey sticks on an emerald green lawn, but I have been a lifelong sucker for this type of college representation. And here it is in spades in a gorgeous coffee table book about 34 of Oxford's finest. In addition to descriptions of the gardens, supplemented with page after page of glorious photos, histories of the colleges are given as well. Sure to delight anyone who is even vaguely contemplating a trip to Oxford or perhaps just a fervent fan of Inspectors Morse and Lewis. Owned by several local library systems, so you don't have to make the big \$\$\$ splurge yourself. And a tip for travelers: if you go at the right time (between terms) you can actually stay very

economically in many of these colleges and live among the great halls and gardens yourselves, for however brief a spell.

### REPRISE

In a conversation not long ago with our president Kit Haesloop I was stunned to learn how huge the membership of the NPA has become. Why, there are hundreds and hundreds of you out there who haven't seen the very first column I did which included my two most beloved garden books of all time. So, herewith the novel, and next issue the non-fiction title. Just call it equal opportunity reading!

### RADICAL PRUNINGS: A NOVEL OF OFFICIOUS ADVICE FROM THE CONTESSA OF COMPOST

by Bonnie Thomas Abbott

Garden columnist Mertensia Corydalis happily dispenses horticultural wisdom to her newsletter's readers, but her personal life is no bed of roses. First of all, there's her annoying ex-husband who, despite having absolutely none of her gardening knowledge, has somehow managed to finagle his way into a job as a cable TV garden show host, thus acquiring riches and fame. And who is thoroughly obnoxious about it. Then there's the disturbingly attractive and appealing younger man she's hired as an assistant for her garden design business. Not to mention her new office manager, Miss Vong, who rules with an iron fist. The action takes place via letters which start out with actual sound garden advice but then slide into confessionals of our heroine's trials and tribulations. All of this is told in a hilarious, laugh-out-loud style that's witty, clever and at times affecting. Not to mention those unforgettable lines about lilies and orchids that I quote at the drop of a hat. I can't even count the times I've read this book. Certainly five or six. Be sure to treat yourself to it as well.



# Thank you to our donors

Sincere thanks to our generous donors for supporting the many educational programs of NPA, including Open Gardens, the NPA Border, lectures, workshops and student scholarships. Membership dues alone do not cover the cost of providing these benefits; your gift supports our tradition of offering a broad range of activities that can be enjoyed by both new and seasoned gardeners alike.

## \$5,000 AND UP

Anonymous

## \$500 - \$999

Chitra & Zak Parpia

Joanne White

## \$250 - \$499

Nancy Daar

Gayle Richardson

## \$100 - \$249

Barbara BonJour

John and Karen Bullivant

Dana Burns

Sandy Earnest

Bethany Faulkner

Jeff Graham & John Longres

Linda & Jan Gray

Carolyn Gross

Sandi Larsen

Linda & Roger McDonald

Janet & Mel McIntyre

Linda S. Park

Millie Russell

Patricia Ryttonen

Carolyn Whittlesey

Charles Price & Glenn Withey

Woodinville Garden Club

Marcia Zech



## \$51 - \$99

Diana & Gary Davidson

Tohnnie & Byron Ingalls

Nancy Wieland

## \$26 - \$50

Annette Barca

Kathryn A. Crosby

Luann Cunningham

Carol Glass & Jeff Haley

Catherine Hayes

Annie Horton

Jane & Conrad Messmer

Peggy Ostrander

Elizabeth Post

Rosalie Preble

Stephanie Rodden

Diane Sawyer

Cee (Cleo) Schacker

Judith Silk

Frances D. Spicer

Carol Thompson

Myrna Torrie

Sheila Walter

Lia Ward

## \$5 - \$25

Bruce Alverson

Joan Baldwin

Sandra Booren

Jean Bowman

Barb Danek

Edna & James Dam

Sara & Jesse Drogin

Judy Giniger

Joyce Greenwood

Harvey & Bea Kriloff

Linda Hall & Mike Lubrecht

Jackie Henry

Genene Kluck & Douglas

Pook

Jeanne MacDonald

Cheryl Marshall

Maggie & Myron Medearis

Jean Moore

Virginia Olsen

Mary Powell

Marilou Rush

Jean Savory

Patricia Siebens

Becky Vacanti

Joyce Voldal

MaryAnne & Bob Wilkie

Patricia & Bob Wilshusen

# Why Belong to an NPA Neighborhood Group?

Jan Jensen

**D**ID YOU KNOW that fewer than half of NPA members belong to a neighborhood group? Yet this is often mentioned as one of the top reasons to join NPA! Belonging to a neighborhood group can open up a new world of gardening: forming new friendships, learning about propagation and planting techniques, sharing information on books and notable gardens, visiting gardens and garden centers, creating garden art, and many other fun and exciting activities. It makes the large NPA organization feel friendly and inviting.

I decided that I would ask some neighborhood group members to contribute their thoughts about why they love their groups. Here are some comments I recently received from group members:

From Sharon Augenstein, Shovels and Hoes group: "I love this great group of avid gardeners! We share knowledge, enjoy great programs, tours and wonderful friendships!"

From Jeanne MacDonald and other members of Late Bloomers: "I felt a sense of camaraderie when I walked into my first meeting and heard excited talk about sharing slug pellets."

"We accept each other, dirty fingernails and all, learn from each other, and laugh together."



Late Bloomers Edmonds and South Snohomish County groups on a garden tour.



Some members of Petal Pushers having a great time at a work party in Lakewood Gardens. Petal Pushers includes members from Federal Way, Gig Harbor, Puyallup, Lakewood, University Place, Fircrest, Olympia and more.

"Our group comes from all levels of gardening know-how, so we're always learning from each other. While visiting each others' gardens there is always encouragement. The compliments are like organic fertilizer for each other."

Joyce Voldal, also from Late Bloomers: "I belonged to a Bellevue garden club prior to moving to Edmonds and the fact that I knew very few people in Ed-

monds made me decide to join the NPA neighborhood group that was just forming in South Snohomish County. The ladies in this group are terrific and we have become good friends. They've made me feel a part of the Edmonds community. Friendship was certainly the greatest value of our group



Shovels and Hoes, North Bend group

ness to share makes for an educational experience as well."

Lynda Raymond from Monday Nighters also sent me a few comments from her group: "We met through our interest in gardening and now we are a group of good friends who like gardens."

"I love being able to find people to go with me to open garden excursions beyond our locale."

"There are lots of enthusiastic gardeners sharing their knowledge with others who want to learn."

Do you see the common themes of friendship, learning, laughter and encour-



agement mentioned by each group? Would you like to experience this? Currently there are 17 neighborhood groups in Western Washington, ranging from as far north as Arlington/Everett, south to Lakewood/Olympia, west to Gig Harbor, east to Carnation/Fall



The Monday Nighters group from Maple Leaf/Lake City/Northgate and Pinehurst areas

City and many others in between. Groups range in size from around ten members to over 50, and meet at various times, based on members' preferences. The group size is often determined by where the group meets.

Take a look at the list of groups on the NPA website, [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org).

Don't see a group that fits you? Many new members ask to join a neighborhood group when they join NPA. However they are sometimes frustrated that the group in their area is either closed or meets at a time not convenient to them. Or you may live in an area where there is not an active group. If you can't find a group that meets your needs, there are probably several others in your area who feel the same way. Right now there is a need for new neighborhood groups in areas such as West Seattle, Federal Way, Puyallup/Sumner/Bonney Lake and Olympia/Lacey/Tumwater. Why not think about starting a new group? I can help you with that! Here is a brief summary of the initial steps:

First, any NPA member in a particular area can contact Ramona Hensrude at the NPA office at [info@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:info@northwestperennialalliance.org) or call her at 425-647-6004. Request a list of active members sorted by the zip codes in your area. After you get the list, email me, Jan Jensen, at [groups@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:groups@northwestperennialalliance.org) for details and guidance on the next steps. You can

also contact me for any other information pertaining to neighborhood groups. I look forward to hearing from you so I can share my excitement about this special aspect of NPA!

*Jan Jensen is NPA Membership Chair, and Co-Coordinator of the Petal Pushers neighborhood group*

## Farewell from the Editor

*Michele Cournoyer*

THIS IS MY LAST ISSUE AS EDITOR of the Perennial Post. I'm feeling a bit sentimental as I wrap things up, but the time has come to pass the baton. I've truly enjoyed the last several years promoting the people, fundraisers and events that make NPA such a great organization. I'd like to thank my talented husband, Paul, for designing the format and putting each issue together. Many thanks also go to our skilled proofreaders, Sara Drogin and Wendy Lagozzino, who've helped give the content a professional polish. A new team is now in place—watch for their first issue in September. We hope they have as much fun with the Post as we did and we wish them the very best.

*Readers can reach Michele with comments at [michelemc@frontier.com](mailto:michelemc@frontier.com).*

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### Northwest Perennial Alliance

*The Northwest Perennial Alliance is a community of friends, neighbors and experts who share a passion for gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Everyone is welcome.*

Website: [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org)  
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#### Membership:

Memberships are \$35 for individuals, \$45 for household, \$75 for business, \$20 for students. The membership year runs from January-December. To join, visit [www.n-p-a.org](http://www.n-p-a.org) to pay electronically or download a membership form. You may also mail a check payable to NPA, to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number. NPA accepts certain credit cards and debit cards by telephone at 425-647-6004.

#### Donations:

NPA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donations are used to support our educational programs, including Open Gardens, lectures, workshops, the NPA Border and student scholarships.

#### Submissions and paid advertisements:

Contact the Post Editor at [post@northwestperennialalliance.org](mailto:post@northwestperennialalliance.org)

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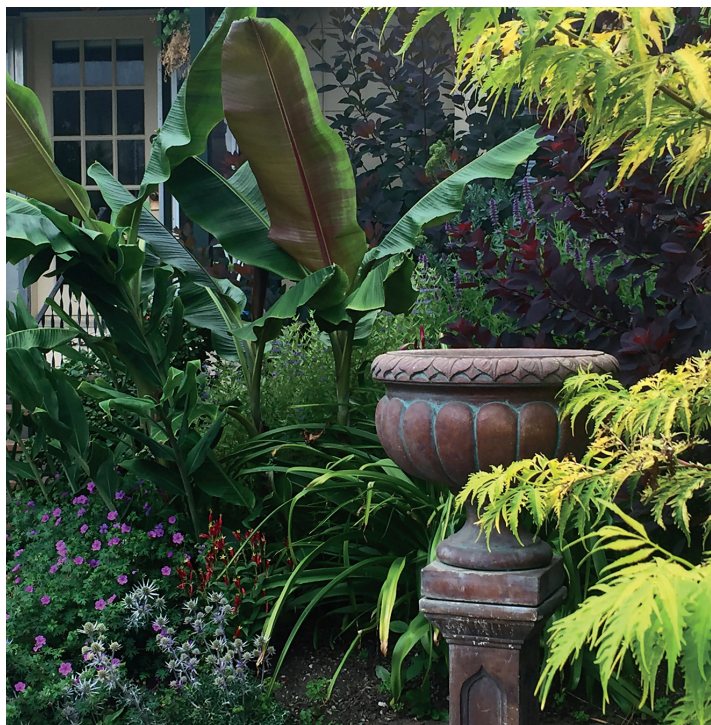
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## *Spring Plant Sale April 9*



## *Your 2017 Open Gardens Directory arrives this month!*

Check it out right away to plan a season full of garden tour adventures from May to October. The Open Gardens Directory is your invitation to visit 90 gardens located throughout Western Washington and east to Yakima. The vast majority are unique private gardens, not generally open to the public. Also included are special public gardens and nurseries with display gardens. Experience a wide range of gardening styles, sizes and maturity levels. Have fun meeting the garden hosts and seeing their accomplishments and works in progress. You are sure to come away with lots of new ideas and inspiration to enhance your own piece of paradise.



Top left: Mary and Whit Carhart garden. Bottom left: Chris and Don Hoerner garden. Right: Alden Gannon garden