spring 2017
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WINTER PROGRAM

HPSCAN EVENTS sampler

The Winter program with Karen Chapman and Nerd Night, co-sponsored by the Rogerson Clematis Garden and the Salem Hardy Plant Society

NERD NIGHT

Photos by Michael Strubel, Salem Hardy Plant Society
News of the passing of Dorothy Rodal reached us as we were finalizing this issue. Dorothy, who retired from teaching art in the Bay Area and moved with her husband, David, to establish a clematis nursery on Sauvie Island, was an extraordinarily passionate plantswoman and collector. Fortunately for HPSO and its members, she was equally passionate about the society, serving on the Board of Directors and as an officer, composing the newsletter and editing the Bulletin, co-organizing the Gen(i)us Series, providing all the plant identifications over the years for the HPSO botanical exhibit at the Yard, Garden & Patio Show (many of the specimens for which originated from her own Exuberant Gardens), volunteering at Hortlandia and so many other events. Her contributions in building the society that we know and enjoy cannot be overstated. Recollections of Dorothy by members and friends will appear in our next issue. In the meantime, doing things Dorothy would enjoy—working in her own garden, reading a garden book, participating in an HPSO activity—are wonderful ways to honor her memory.

Jim Rondone, President
LIBRARY NEWS by Lisa Fuller, Library Manager

Introducing the “New and Improved”
HPSO Library and Reading Room

Despite prognostications by the internet-inclined, books and libraries are alive and well, thank you very much!

The wonderful space allotted the HPSO library at our new location has delighted the Library Committee to no end, and we are eager to have you come and visit. Stay a while and enjoy the spacious and private space, complete with large windows and even a river view to hold your gaze for a moment while you ponder the next volume you want to locate. Spread out a few volumes to compare the merits of one book on grasses to another, or peruse the research available on your favorite genus at our own conference table.

Our 1500 volume collection includes books on the history of horticulture and gardening all over the world, the adventurous plant-hunters, and sought-after books written by the most influential designers through the ages from ancient Persia to LeNotre in France to Capability Brown’s masterpieces in England. But wait! You want contemporary inspiration? Oudolf, Garrett, Shirley Watt, Thomas Stuart-Smith and David Culp are here to enthral you, as well as many others.

Want to know more about edible landscaping? Sustainability? Beneficial insects? Are you traveling to Cornwall this summer and want to know more about the gardens? Always wanted to learn how to prune your Japanese maples? We have the answers here, conveniently available to check out for a month at a time. There are also current periodicals, videos, reference works, and a fascinating collection of classics. Look for notices of our Saturday in the Library series kicking off this spring with Barbara Ashmun’s reading from her new book, Love Letters to My Garden on April 22.

Thanks so much to all the HPSO volunteers who helped with the move. Packing 1500 volumes into boxes, then out again, is no easy task. Our library manager, Lisa Fuller, was out with a broken wrist so logistics were challenging, but with the generous help of former committee member Liz Wiersema, Board Vice-President Barbara Christopher, Treasurer Lois Moss, and the many hours provided by the committee—Carol Gaynor (Chair), Sandy Gravon, Jepi Martin, Catherine Trzybinski, and Ann Williams—it’s mission accomplished!

You’ll have no hassles with downtown traffic or parking. The new HPSO offices and library are conveniently located a mile south of downtown at 4412 SW Barbur Blvd. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 3pm.
There is nothing like the fresh emergent green of springtime. Green is symbolic of new beginnings, vitality, and photosynthesis. We’re all chlorophyll addicts but tend to think of green as nature’s background color and often don’t celebrate its importance in garden design. Interestingly, Pantone (the arbiter of color in fashion and design) has chosen Greenery as its color of the year for 2017. As described, Greenery is a fresh and zesty yellow-green shade that evokes the first days of spring when plants revive, restore, and renew.

In April and May, gardens come alive with a vibrant parade of emerald-green lawns and vivid yellow-green mosses clinging to trees, rooftops, walls—even the driveway. One of my favorite springtime scenes is the contrasting color pattern across Forest Park hillsides behind our house as new yellow-green foliage of bigleaf maples (Acer macrophyllum) contrasts against swaths of evergreen Douglas firs, hemlocks, and cedars. I also delight in the patterned fresh leaves of our native wood sorrel (Oxalis oregana) and the annual unfurling of bright green western maidenhair fern fronds (Adiantum aleuticum).

In my container plant business I often plant containers with Irish moss (Sagina subulata) for quick and easy doses of dazzling spring green.

Conifers and broad-leaved evergreens that have been omnipresent background throughout winter take on new vibrancy as spring temperatures and soils warm. Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis), Japanese cedar (Cryptomeria japonica), rhododendron, Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium and hybrids), and cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) intensify and lend customary, but renewed, green texture, structure, and form.

Green mixed with other colors gives us a range of hues—lime green, olive green, emerald green, blue green, and celadon—often used to categorize plant colors. In
my garden, we rely on *Chamaecyparis pisifera* ‘Boulevard’, *Juniperus deppeana, Arctostaphylos pajaroenensis* ‘Warren Roberts’, and *Eucalyptus pauciflora* var. *debeuzevillei* (ghost gum) to provide blue-green foliage accents. Sadly, our beautiful teenage ghost gum toppled in the heavy snow and ice of January and had to be removed. I often include *Juniperus virginiana* ‘Gray Owl’, *Cupressus arizonica* ‘Blue Ice’, *Juniperus scopularum* ‘Skyrocket’, and *Ozothamnus rosmarini-folius* for silvery gray-green color and textural contrast in my designs.

Bold lime- and yellow-green foliage brings a fresh, crisp vibe to the garden. Mexican orange cultivars (*Choisya ternata* ‘Sundance’ and ‘Gold Fingers’) can really heat up spring compositions. *Choisya* offers added value with fragrant white spring flowers evocative of the sweet, heady smell of blooming orange groves. Other deciduous shrubs like *Ribes sanguineum* ‘Brocklebankii’ and ‘Xera’s Lime Punch’, and *Corylopsis spicata* ‘Aurea’ (aka ‘Golden Spring’) offer limey and acid-yellow-green hues, respectively, as miniature leaves unfurl, enlarge, and mature. Down closer to the ground, perennial bleeding heart (*Dicentra [Lamprocapnos] spectabilis* ‘Gold Heart’), Hosta ‘June’, and golden woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica* ‘Aurea’) offer similar spring color play.

Spring greens can be suffused and overlaid with red, burgundy, and bronze tones that fade out later in the growing season. New whorls of foliage on *Mahonia* and *Pieris* hybrids often sport this look. The leaves of *Epimedium x rubrum* are a mottled pattern of green and burgundy-merlot; and the fresh spring leaves of *Rodgersia podophylla* ‘Bronze Form’ offer a brazen metallic sheen.

Green is my favorite color, no doubt about it. While I am easily teased by a yellow spring rockrose (*×Halimiocistus*) or Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis*), my mantra remains “foliage (in all its shades of green) rides the season; flowers are fleeting.”

Bob Hyland is a Portland-based plantsman, garden designer, and vice president of HPSO. hylandgardendesign.com
eclectic garden

Mix and match

Take a closer look and you’ll find Nancy Goldman’s exuberant garden to be a skilfully worked mingling of plants and ephemera.

WORDS NOEL KINGSBURY  PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS
Nancy Goldman has always been serious about her gardening. "I got involved with the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon early on," she says. "I’ve been on the board, was president for four years… I’m knee deep in gardening, maybe waist high now." But not too serious. This is Portland, Oregon, after all, where the eccentric and the whacky are more or less mainstream, and where 'Keep Portland Weird' is almost the city motto.

Perhaps Nancy’s, and indeed Portland’s, secret is to combine creativity with good organisation and clear forward planning. “I went to Portland Nursery with a wagon, and I bought perennials A through M,” remembers Nancy. “And then later went back and bought them from N through Z.” That’s serious plant buying, however, plants are only part of the story. For much of the 30 or so years Nancy has worked on her modest-sized suburban garden, it was most notable for crazy sculptural displays of found objects, many discovered in skips, from what Nancy calls “dumpster diving”. The planting now takes centre stage, although there are still plenty of reminders of her older style. Look and you will find a washbasin, two seats, a supermarket trolley, and a typewriter, all planted up.

The planting here is incredibly skilful. Anyone walking past Nancy’s house gets a taster, as the front garden is densely planted, €
make it into this plantaholic’s garden. “I have a strict colour code, plants. “When you have a habit of buying too many plants, you
on, but now there’s little room for one anyway among so many
arrangement of the plants, but the level of care too: “I’m always out
mosaics, courtesy of Nancy’s friend Jeff Bale a local landscape
What is immediately obvious in the front garden, and which is
carried on in the back, is the density of Nancy’s planting. This is
absolutely not because plants are crammed in, as a closer look
reveals how well everything is layered. “I try to get the right place
for everything, and I don’t want things looking forced,” explains
Nancy. “The garden is systematic, even though it looks blowzy, or
outrageous or crazy or whatever.” It is not just the physical
arrangement of the plants, but the level of care too: “I’m always out
there doing something maintenance wise,” she says.

There is almost no lawn. Nancy’s friend Lucy Hardiman, a well-
known local writer and garden designer advised against one early
on, but now there’s little room for one anyway among so many
plants. “When you have a habit of buying too many plants, you
have to figure out where you are going to put them,” says Nancy.
That doesn’t mean there is no careful editing of the plants that
make it into this plantaholic’s garden. “I have a strict colour code,”
she explains, “I don’t do red and I don’t do blue, well maybe the
odd accent; I have blue containers, but not blue plants.
I do chartreuse, through green, orange, yellow, and I love, love,
love pink.” It is, however, the green that is dominant; endless
shades of green, and a huge, but subtle range of foliage shapes
and textures. Nancy sees her garden as part of a wider aesthetic.
“The way you dress and the way your house looks, is the way
your garden looks too,” she declares.

There has been plenty of hard work, Nancy started with
an unforgiving clay and added ‘quarter ten’ – a local crushed
basalt – and compost to some part of the garden every year. The
rewards seem to be good growth, although with the hot, dry
summers typical of Portland there still needs to be some summer
irrigation. Above all, however, this is a garden that represents half
a lifetime of learning about plants and putting them together, and
that is exactly what makes it such a success. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION
Nancy’s garden is not generally open to the public, but she does open
on selected days for members of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon.
See hardyplantsociety.org for details.
8 favourite plants from Nancy’s garden

1 **Colocasia esculenta** ‘Mojito’
A type of a common tropical vegetable (taro), but with variegated leaves – up to 60cm long – that have a different pattern on each leaf. It requires warm summer nights to succeed, and in the UK should really be grown indoors. Certainly needs to be brought inside over winter 90cm. USDA 7b-10b.

2 **Clematis** ‘Princess Diana’
An herbaceous species, so starts up again every year from ground level. Long summer flowering. 2.5-4m. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 4a-11.

3 **Salvia** ‘Amistad’
A very long-flowering, herbaceous salvia that originates from a nursery in Buenos Aires in Argentina. Sun and fertile soil needed. 1.2m. RHS H4, USDA 8a-11.

4 **Ligustrum sinense** ‘Sunshine’
An evergreen privet with golden-variegated leaves. Can be kept clipped if needed. Best in full sun, and tolerant of a wide range of conditions. 2m. RHS H6, USDA 7a-9b.

5 **Miscanthus sinensis** ‘Gold Bar’
Horizontal gold bands on fine leaves make an impact from spring onwards. Will produce flower/seedheads at the end of warm summers. Non-seeding. 1.5m. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.

6 **Lysimachia congestiflora** ‘Persian Chocolate’
A very dark-leaved foliage plant, useful for edging and containers. Relatively strongly spreading. Yellow flowers in summer. 15cm. RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.

7 **Clematis** ‘Étoile Violette’
A vigorous species but with light growth, making it suitable for scrambling over shrubs; flowers late summer. Hard annual pruning needed. 3m. RHS H7, USDA 6a-9b.

8 **Lilium** ‘Lionheart’
This hybrid Ailatilily produces long-lasting flowers in midsummer, and has a reputation for increasing well over time. Likes sun or very light shade in moist, well-drained soil. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

www.hardyplantsociety.org
I always fret a little when people visit us on open garden days, wondering if they’ll “get it.” Will they scratch their heads over why we don’t clear some of our big fallen branches or leave unraked leaves in places? Will they wonder why we choose some weedy-looking native wildflowers over more refined hybrids, or why our pond is choked with duckweed?

We hope that by the time they leave, they will understand and appreciate our garden philosophy and see beauty in what may look a bit chaotic.

We measure the aesthetics of our garden a little differently than some. Our metrics include the volume of bird songs in the air; the beauty of birds, butterflies, and bumblebees; the number of dragonflies buzzing mid-air before purple martins nab them to feed their babies; the numbers of red-legged frogs hiding in the leaf cover or in the base of untrimmed sword ferns; whether turtles are basking on our pond.

Many people do seem to get it. On one tour a sweet visitor commented on all the bird songs, saying that was what her garden was missing. Another said our garden had changed her thinking, and she was going home to make major changes.

That’s what we’re hoping for. We want our garden to be an inspiration and testament to how gardens can be both beautiful and wildlife-friendly simultaneously.

Here are some things you’ll notice when you visit:

- We use big downed branches and cut up log rounds as “sculpture.” You’ll see them everywhere, and if you pick them up, you may find a northwestern or long-toed salamander underneath.

- Closest to our house, we have many nonnative ornamentals, but farther away we strive for all natives.

- We define “native” as native to Sauvie Island. These are the plants local birds, insects, and other creatures evolved to make use of. Plants that are native to other ecosystems are less likely to be useful to our local wildlife.

- Our grounds are people-friendly as well as wildlife-friendly. Strategically placed benches and outdoor “rooms” provide places to relax and watch birds.

Left to right below: Five species of native amphibians call our plantings home, including this Northern red-legged frog, an especially dark-flowered version of the native red flowering current; Mark is a collector of outdoor art, like Esther the Giraffe by Joe Clifton. (Photos by Jane Hartline)
When visitors come (like on HPSO open garden days) we put out laminated signs for a self-guided tour that explains the method to our madness. As you tour our pond you’ll learn, among other things, about the virtues of brush piles, why red-flowering currant is important to hummingbirds, why you’ll get more nesting birds if you plant native trees, and so on.

We choose some plants that are less showy but much more attractive and useful to wildlife than more floriferous species.

Here are some things you won’t notice but help guide our decisions about our property.

I worked with the Oregon Flora Project to assemble a list of plants native to our island, using herbarium records dating back to the late 1800s.

I’ve done significant research on creating habitat and food sources for various species. There’s more involved than just plants.

We’ve been restoring plants on our property for over a decade, and it has been paying off. Mark keeps a “yard list” of birds that visit or fly over our property and we are up to 139 species! During this winter’s largest snow event, twenty-two different species visited the feeders in front of our house. We host six species that are on the state or federal lists of sensitive species. Salamanders are aplenty, and it’s hard to walk in the fall without stepping on chorus frogs. Painted turtles bask on our pond. We think that more than makes up for some flowers that are a little less showy.

Don’t expect perfection when you come to visit. It’s daunting gardening amid agricultural weeds, and the “gardened” area of our property is more than three acres. This is a lifelong project without a quick fix.

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Checkermallows are one of many native species that attract bumblebees and other native pollinators.

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Checkermallows are one of many native species that attract bumblebees and other native pollinators.
As I’ve mentioned, near our house you’ll find many nonnative plants acquired from too many visits to our neighboring nurseries, Cistus and Joy Creek. We frequent these nurseries a couple of times per season and always return with treasures. We also have some unusual trees and other plants I acquired in the ’70s and ’80s from sales at the Berry Botanic Garden and the Leach Botanic Garden. Mark is a tree aficionado and has planted many unusual specimens.

You know how one thing leads to another? Our appetite for native plants was so insatiable that I learned to propagate. It’s so fun that I soon had an excess to give to friends and neighbors. Then I realized there was a market for my plants, so now I have a small native plant nursery. I don’t advertise and mostly sell wholesale to City Farm in St. Johns, but if you visit on a garden tour (or call and ask to stop by)

I’m happy to send you home with some. They come with as much advice as you want about best choices for your situation.

Look for our garden in the Open Gardens book and come visit. Plan on spending a while to breathe a little and listen to the songs of birds.

Clockwise from below: Darmera peltata, a native of the Umpqua River area makes a statement on the path around the house.; Come visit on an open garden day and relax on our back patio.; We don’t exclusively plant natives. Plants closest to our house are more likely than not to be non-natives. (Photos by Jane Hartline);

This lesser goldfinch represents one of 22 species that visited our feeders during this winter’s snow storms. Over the years, we’ve observed 139 bird species on or from our property. (Photo by Jane Hartline);
Lise Storc and Andrew Comeau garden on a portion of their four acres on Skyline Blvd. in Northwest Portland. It is a challenging site that might make a timid gardener cringe, but they have approached it with something beyond enthusiasm -- maybe unmitigated glee. The property is forested on three sides and bordered on the last by a roadway. They call it a peninsula, which had huge soil, erosion, and invasives issues. In a few short years, they have managed to analyze, evaluate, and address these challenges in many creative and innovative ways. Their work has garnered the attention of many in our gardening community, and ideas about workshops, blogs, and even books are bubbling up, just like their enthusiasm!

Both Lise and Andrew come to the soil through family experiences, though from different parts of the country. Lise grew up in and around Austin, Texas, where she helped her dad with his prize-worthy tomatoes and absorbed inspiration from her mother's talents with fruit and nut trees and the rare exotics she grew in her small greenhouse. Andrew spent summers as a child on his grandparents working farm outside Redding, California, so all the practicalities, as well as benefits of living on the life-sustaining land, were part of his upbringing. When Lise and Andrew were ready to settle down, having a garden was a natural part of the dream. Many of our members have similar starting points. Few kids nowadays still have this opportunity!

They make quite a team, companionably researching design ideas, selecting good candidates for the best plants for their conditions and requirements and working together to build hardscape and to place and plant the treasures they find. After countless workshops and classes offered through Joy Creek Nursery and HPSO, and abundant use of the HPSO library, they have managed to acquire a considerable amount of knowledge. The essential book they reference for the Mediterranean conditions of their garden is Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates, published by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, photography by Saxon Holt, illustrations by Richard Pembroke, and layout and design by HPSO Board member Beth Hanson-Winter (and we have it available in our library!).

Andrew is the resident expert in the essential elements to successful performance: native species, beneficials, pests, and invasives. Working with the soil variables to produce good growing material is a big part of their success. Hugelkultur swales, a permaculture method of utilizing rotted logs, brush, and assorted compostables, has become an efficient and valuable practice as they continue to reclaim the property for their Eden.

The most significant design challenge in their garden is working on the steep slopes, but they are artfully solving this with beautifully built paths and raised beds to take full advantage of the southwestern exposure they enjoy. Sitting various plants and trees to be enjoyed from above, on the terraces, and from below, up towards the house, have been particularly satisfying. Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin) and rhododendron (R. ‘Medusa’) are two favorites for this purpose. Many treasure hunts to our fine local nurseries have produced great performers in their garden. Key plants include Grevillea australis and Rhhamnus alaternus variegata (Xera Plants), Elaeagnus angustifolia ‘QuickSilver’ (Cistus), and Argyrocytisus battandieri (Dancing Oaks). Viburnum propinquum, a treasured evergreen acquisition from Roger Gossler, has been replicated several times in their landscape after trials. Arctostaphylos in its many forms are another backbone genus finding purchase in the garden. Lise and Andrew joyfully share their garden during open garden season to reveal their always-in-progress work and garner great ideas from their visitors.

Since retiring, Lise and Andrew have had more time to devote to the garden. She was elected to the HPSO Board of Directors last October and also volunteers on the Open Garden Book Committee. They enjoy the Seedy Characters and Westside Interest Groups; and they are dreaming of garden tours, including one to Lise’s home territory Austin, Texas, in the future.

Lise and Andrew are actively engaged in many other things, including architecture (Lise is designing a tool shed and a greenhouse to complement their personally designed home), music (they both play guitar, Lise also plays piano), cooking and “putting up” from the garden, and reading. Andrew points out, “We adore any flat spot we can find, where the bucket doesn’t fall over or the wheelbarrow doesn’t roll away, and we can stand and rest flat footed.”

Talented, enthusiastic and generous members like Lise and Andrew are what make HPSO the fine organization that it is!

Lise Storc & Andrew Comeau

VOLUNTEER PROFILE by Lisa Fuller

www.hardyplantsociety.org

the HPSO quarterly ~ 15
WHY I GARDEN

Lauren Hall-Behrens

My garden is a place that brings me joy, teaches me how to let go, connects me to the process of the seasonal changes in the natural world and is my creative partner. Yes, I realize that I personify my garden. I find my garden beautifully imperfect, intellectually and artistically stimulating, challenging, and fun. I simply cannot imagine my life without a garden and feel incredibly fortunate to have one with which I live.

I find joy in the rich complexities of the garden environment; new birds moving through, the seasonal changes of light, wind, scent and sounds. I love stomping around in my muck boots hauling debris, my clothes covered in dirt and plant goo. I love cleaning up the garden, bringing more oxygen to the young emerging plants covered in decomposed leaves. I love pruning a dense shrub to reveal dappled light which ultimately increases breath in the entire garden.

To garden is to be in process. I study what works, what doesn’t work and why. I practice the spiritual and practical art of identifying when it is time to ‘let go’ and actually letting go of what doesn’t work, isn’t adding to the garden, no longer belongs. I learn to try new things, to recognize my own resistance to change and my simultaneous excitement to change everything all at once in an effort to re-boot my brain when I need to start fresh.

Gardening is ever-changing in expected and unexpected ways. I must have patience while I wait for a new design, that only exists in my mind, and accept the unattractive and gawky plant in form and balance in the meantime. Simultaneously, I must be aware that my design may never be realized or, if I’m lucky, turn out better than I expected. I find it a challenging and valuable lesson to learn and re-learn that being a gardener is about being engaged in the constant state of process; making peace with what I do not and cannot know and the lack of finality.

Lauren Hall-Behrens

We’ll need to balance this planting

Time to edit.

Goodbye lilac

new view

Photos by Lauren Hall-Behrens
I enjoy looking backward and looking forward. Every year, I’m delightfully surprised when the autumn season rolls around. I, almost unconsciously, begin to assess the garden; looking toward new ideas and areas that need refinement. By the late winter or early spring, when the spring fever hits, I’m ready to rip out and re-plant. With the summer heat comes rest and play. Then we start all over again.

Similar to not being able to imagine my life without a garden, I cannot imagine being without the gardeners with whom I’ve shared some of the best fun and adventure. I have met the most generous people in the horticultural world. They have taught me about plants, design and guided me toward my occupation which I adore and find endlessly fascinating. The world is more open to gardeners. It warms me greatly and often still surprises me how quickly strangers become friends in the horticultural world. We open our gardens, and often our homes, to one another in order to share what we love and create in the endless study of horticulture, design and living.

To garden is to be in relationship with the natural world, the creative process and those with whom you share it. Joy!

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Time for a new front garden. There are new opportunities to create a new front garden. The anticipation is building as the work progresses.
Secret Garden Growers is a place where “mad gardeners” can immerse themselves in their favorite pastime—discovering and collecting fabulous plants for their gardens! People who visit the nursery a few miles south of Canby walk around in kind of a daze with smiles on their faces. We hear hushed giggles and peals of laughter; there is obviously something to this “buzzed on plants” thing. I know there is nothing this mad gardener would rather do than discover and shop for cool plants!

My mission was to create the nursery that I would love to visit and I think I am starting to realize that dream. We grow over 1,000 different varieties of rare, unusual, heirloom and hard to find plants. Deciding which plants in our collection to propagate is an impulsive process as we refuse to abide by any rigid plan. There are no huge quantities of any particular plant and sometimes only one flat of 4” pots per choice.

Inventory is in a constant state of flux. Having fun is valued over alphabetizing blocks of plants, so don’t expect any library arrangement of species here. Things are grouped loosely—shade, sun, shrubs, ground-covers, etc. Customers are encouraged to bring pictures of garden spaces so we can make some sound suggestions. Many of our shoppers buy plants indiscriminately, having NO idea where they are going to put them when they get them home…but that’s half the fun, isn’t it?

Emphasis is on plants that perform well here in the Pacific Northwest, so many are planted out in our gardens for trialing where you can see how they present themselves in the ground. Plants are rigorously tested by our own resident deer herd, flock of Indian Runner Ducks, and an exploding population of gophers, moles, and voles. We are located in the colder part of USDA Zone 8 but are usually protected from the ice storms of the Columbia River Gorge. Perennials are our RAGE category, followed closely by plants that thrive in some degree of shade. Over the years, a significant number of exceptional shrubs have been added (including some choice own-roots roses) followed by phenomenal trees, vines, and grasses.

Our degree of enthrallment with any given plant or plant group waxes and wanes, but currently we are beguiled with the genera Alstroemeria, Aspidistra, hardy Begonia, Bilkibergia, Disporum, Eucomis, Farfugium, Fatsheidera, Gladiolus, hardy Impatien, Iris, Kniphofia, Liriope, Lobelia, Melianthus, Nepeta, Ophiopogon, Osmanthus, Penstemon, Podophyllum, Rehmannia, Romneya, Ruscus, Sanguisorba, Saxifraga, Titanotrichum, Tulbaghia and Zingiber. It’s all about diversity! You cannot have TOO many plants. I am a firm believer that “she who dies with the most plants wins,” and I am pretty sure that I am at least in the contest (if not, it sure was fun trying).

Ferns are another cherished plant group at Secret Garden Growers, and a few of our fondest fronds include Blechnum chilense, a buxom, beautiful evergreen selection that is sadly underused, Dryopteris koidzumiana with glowing coppery new fronds and the larger Woodwardia unigemmata with very showy brick red to pink new growth.

We travel near and far, searching out specialty nurseries, checking those dark and weedy corners for that elusive, freakin’ fabulous plant! Last year we went on “plant safari” to British Columbia in search of amazing, wonderful horticultural treasures and came back with a truckload. Many of those treasures will be offered this year. Some of these gems include: Sanguisorba hakusanensis ‘Lilac Squirrel’, Vancouveria hexandra ‘Randy’s Evergreen’, Hosta ‘Munchkin Fire’, Clematis recta ‘Lime Close’, Carex laxiculmis ‘Hobb’, Epimedium sp. ‘Spine Tingler’, Geranium macrorrhizum ‘Snow Sprite’,...
Limonium latifolium, Ophiopogon 'Edge of Night', Fauria crista galli, Astilbe x criba 'Lilliput', Bergenia ciliata ‘Susan Ryley’, Spiranthus cernua and Soldanella montana.

Many plants are offered in smaller, more affordable sizes that fit many more in an average car trunk or minivan cargo area. Unless you are putting your place on the market in the next week or two, there is really no need to spend a huge chunk of change on an old plant in a big pot. The young ones will perform better and grow faster.

To round out your plant immersion experience, we offer services to coach and help you create your very own successful garden: consultation and design services, installation (LCB# 12931) and specialty maintenance. Horticulturists and ISA Certified Arborists are on staff and ready to brainstorm your problems and answer your questions. We DON’T sell soil amendments, work gloves, hoses or shovels. We DO sell PLANTS and plenty of them. Whoever said that money can’t buy happiness has obviously never been to our nursery!

The first part of our week is spent packing and shipping plants for the mail order side of our business. You can buy our plants online at www.SecretGardenGrowers.com and get them delivered to your doorstep, but visiting Secret Garden Growers is so much more fun! You will find many plants not listed in our shippable selections. You can wander through the display gardens, bring lunch, and enjoy our picnic table Thursday through Saturday from 10-5, April to October. You are always welcome to come soak up some of our peaceful country vibe. Be sure to check out our Cascade Nursery Trail event—these are plant-lover happenings you'll not want to miss! We are celebrating 19 years of propagating bliss this year. We hope you will come and see what we have been up to. We are growing.
Some Rather Seedy Characters

photos and story by Amy Campion

“Do you not realize that the whole thing is miraculous?” wrote Beverley Nichols in *Down the Garden Path*. “It is exactly as though you were to cut off your wife’s leg, stick it in the lawn, and be greeted on the following day by an entirely new woman, sprung from the leg, advancing across the lawn to meet you.” Plant propagation is indeed nothing short of a miracle, and every month I look forward to meeting with the HPSO propagation study group I formed to explore this fascinating subject. We call ourselves the “Seedy Characters.”

My first experiences with plant propagation go back to growing up on a Minnesota farm and sowing seeds in the vegetable garden with my mom. However, my true passion for propagation wasn’t sparked until many years later.

I was in grad school with plans to become a sociology professor when plants suddenly began to pique my interest. I decided to try to grow some mixed coleus from seed in the windowsill of my office. Well, if cuttings are miraculous—akin to sticking your wife’s leg in the lawn and producing a new woman—then seeds are just as wondrous. From a pinch of tiny, dead-looking specks sprouted a little forest of multicolored leaves. I was enthralled.

Soon, I had a problem. I became more and more excited about plants and less and less interested in sociology. I finished my master’s degree out of a sense of obligation, but then took an entry-level job at a nursery and never looked back.

Twenty-two years later, I feel that same thrill when I see a crop of seedlings coming up. I often actually gaze at them in adoration, like a mother watches her child sleeping. If I’m fortunate enough to be doing this when I’m ninety, I think I’ll still feel the same way.

Learning to propagate plants by cuttings has greatly expanded my horizons. I’m now able to clone a fantastic array of perennials, shrubs, and tender plants. I can easily make more plants to create drifts in the garden, to have insurance against a harsh winter in the case of borderline-hardy plants, and to have presents to give to friends.

A lot of people think you need advanced learning or special gifts to be a good propagator, or that you need expensive equipment. None of these things are true. While some plants are trickier to root than others, and fancy equipment may make the job more efficient, in general you can get excellent results using good old-fashioned, common sense methods and simple tools. These are what we explore in Seedy Characters.

Our group tries to meet on the second-to-last Sunday of the month at 3:00, usually at the HPSO office, but that plan is by no means set in stone. We have to work around other HPSO events, and sometimes we have meetings that take us out of the office, and we have to coordinate with someone else’s schedule. I’m talking here about field trips, which have become a popular feature of Seedy Characters.

As of this writing, we have taken five nursery field trips and have been given a warm welcome by our hosts and an invaluable peek behind the scenes at their propagation facilities.

At Little Prince of Oregon, Mark Leichty showed us their high-tech greenhouses, which carefully regulate the temperature inside automatically. Amazingly, they still water everything at this large wholesale nursery by hand, because they feel that humans do a better job than machines!
At Cistus Nursery, Sean Hogan and Evan Bean rolled out the red carpet for us. They showed us their propagation area, “Plant Parenthood,” and then Evan led us through a cuttings workshop, and we got to take the potted cuttings home.

At Xera Wholesale Nursery, Greg Shepherd went over cuttings and seed propagation, and we soaked up all the information we could. A font of knowledge, he is, and so generous in sharing what he knows.

At Marbott’s Greenhouse & Nursery, Larry Marbott took us on a whirlwind tour through their many greenhouses of young, thriving plants and explained how they get them started. It’s remarkable that they grow so many plants so beautifully with such a small staff.

At Jane Hartline and Mark Greenfield’s Lost Lagoon Farm, Jane led us on a tour of the grounds. Then, back at her Sauvie Island Natives Nursery, she taught us how easy it is to propagate many of the plants we had just seen by hardwood cuttings.

“We were thrilled to successfully propagate favorite border-line hardy shrubs that had outgrown their pots. That way, we were able to plant them in the ground while growing on replacements in case they didn’t survive. This included Correa, Prostanthera, and our less hardy Hebes. It is beyond exciting to plant your own propagated shrubs and perennials in the garden!”
—Andrew Comeau and Lise Storc

“I started a lot of seeds already, everything that had a longer germination time or might bloom the first year if started early. Having a windowsill full of seedlings feels like spring has arrived early!”
—Tesan Warncke

“I love learning how each propagator has his own way of doing things—his own potting mix, his own methods, hormone or no hormone? (the Marbotts don’t believe in it)—yet all approaches seem to work. In propagation, there are many paths to success.

After two years, seventy people have joined Seedy Characters, of which about fifty are active members and thirty are very active. We do have room for a few more, so if you’d like to join us, please email me at amycampion@live.com. If you’re a propagator and are willing to come and talk to our group, or would like to host our group for a field trip, I’d love to hear from you, too! You would have a very attentive and appreciative audience—even if we are some rather, ahem, seedy characters.
Extension Master Gardeners Nurture Their Communities from the Ground Up

This summer Portland will host the biennial International Master Gardener Conference. The gathering, July 10-14 and centered at the Oregon Convention Center, will attract more than one thousand avid horticulturists and gardeners from the US, Canada and South Korea. Registrants—non-Master Gardeners are invited and encouraged—will attend garden tours, speaker sessions, a film series and a trade show in addition to networking opportunities and social events. There will also be tours to unique places that make Portland and its environs memorable.

Cisco Morris, always an amusing master of ceremonies, will introduce the keynote speakers—Dr. John Marzluff, Professor of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington; plantsman-adventurer, Dan Hinkley; and seed developer and writer, Renee Shepherd, owner of Renee’s Garden.

An impressive roster of session speakers will offer information on an astonishing array of subjects throughout the event. For detailed information about the conference, visit http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/.

An important part of the conference is recognition of Master Gardener chapters which have undertaken projects worthy of the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award.

Search for Excellence projects fall into one of seven categories: Youth Programs, Demonstration Gardens, Workshop or Presentation, Community Service, Innovative Projects, Special Need Audiences or Research. Each project must be deemed by judges to be meritorious, simple to replicate, and compatible with the Extension Master Gardener mission.

Oregon’s four award-winning projects include Clackamas County’s 10-Minute University™, Lincoln County’s Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and School Garden, Marion County’s Grafted Vegetable Garden Trial and Wasco County’s Northern Oregon Regional Correction Facility (NORCOR) Spring Fair Project. Together, they represent the spectrum of Master Gardener services to local communities.

In the Workshop or Presentation, Clackamas County’s 10-Minute University™, the realized vision of two former Chapter presidents, provides science-based information in a quick and efficient format. Sometimes likened to speed dating, the program depends on expert, highly articulate Master Gardener Volunteers who give short, concise talks on a variety of frequently requested subjects. The talks are augmented with fact-focused handouts. At the end of each presentation, evaluation forms are completed by attendees. This feedback allows presenters to keep the program fresh and relevant. Forty-three 10-Minute University Handouts are available online at http://cmastergardeners.org, and the chapter has filmed 20 ‘OSU Master Gardener: 10-Minute University Series’ YouTube videos. Each year, 10-Minute University reaches thousands of people during garden-related events.

Lincoln County’s Youth Programs project, the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden, is an educational heritage garden meant to recreate kitchen garden and ornamental plots maintained by lightkeepers and their families in the 1870s. It is a collaborative effort between Newport’s elementary schools, Lincoln County Master Gardeners, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Friends of the Yaquina Lighthouses, Lincoln County School District and the local Food Share and community food pantries.

The garden’s goals: to demonstrate, educate, and inspire, are furthered by involving elementary school students in organic sustainable gardening and landscaping activities while creating an inspiring venue for visitors. The students start plants from seed and, under the tutelage of Master Gardener Volunteers, follow the project through the seasons to harvest and to prepare the beds for overwintering.

Fresh vegetables and herbs from the garden give the students tangible evidence of the benefits of their work and the bulk of the produce goes to local food pantries.

International Master Gardener Conference.
July 10-14 at the Oregon Convention Center
With their Research entry, Grafted Vegetable Garden Trial, the Marion County Master Gardeners lay to rest once and for all the question of whether it is financially and gastronomically feasible to pay the relatively high price for a grafted tomato plant.

In multi-year side by side comparisons of a full range of tomato varieties, the Marion County team demonstrated that grafting results in significant improvements in production, better disease resistance and a longer fruiting season while maintaining the flavor and character of the individual variety.

In 2014, the Oregon Garden invited the project to establish a grafted vegetable demonstration garden showcasing not only tomatoes, but peppers, eggplant, melons, basil, and a popular tomato-potato graft named ‘Ketchup ‘n’ Fries.’

The Chapter continues with its highly visible display at the Oregon Garden and pursues innovations including a new method of pruning tomatoes that has resulted in even greater production.

Wasco County’s Special Need Audiences entry, the Northern Oregon Correction Facility (NORCOR)/Spring Plant Sale, has provided multiple benefits to county residents.

Begun in 2009 in a greenhouse obtained by the NORCOR teaching staff as a part of their science curriculum for youth inmates, the program linked Master Gardener Volunteers and facility teachers to produce a broad variety of plants which are sold to raise funds for the chapter during its spring plant sale.

Students in the program are selected after demonstrating exemplary behavior and, because many are short-term residents, the project uses instructional mini-sessions to teach basic gardening concepts that can be applied to the project.

For inmates, the positive reinforcement of their greenhouse bursting with colorful plants gives a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Some of the residents have gone on to use their skills in agriculture, and many receive certificates of accomplishment that are used as job references.

These projects and many more are brought to life by the combination of enthusiasm, creativity and sleeves-rolled-up work ethic that exemplifies Volunteer Master Gardeners.

The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener program makes its science-based information available to everyone through classes, phone-in clinics, farmers markets, information booths, gardening practices clinics and workshops.

More information is available at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/

To explore becoming an Extension Master Gardener, Google “Master Gardener - Oregon State University” or visit http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/ for more information.
Sucking Insects: Stabbing at the Heart of Landscape Plants by Claudia Groth

Though chewing insects and marauding slugs leave gaping, often ragged holes in landscape plants, there is a sneakier cadre of pest insect. The insects that pierce plant tissue and suck plant juices from leaves, twigs, and stems can be even more destructive than the chewers and shredders. They can often be found at fault in distorted leaves, twisted tips, declining growth, and the spread of disease.

Many times the first clue a sucking insect is at work is the sooty mold coating leaves and branches. This fungus takes hold on both indoor and landscape plants as honeydew rains down from scale feeding above. An infested plant is weakened both from the feeding by the scale (or mealybug or aphid) and by the loss of photosynthetic ability due to the sooty covering.

Possibly the most widely recognized of the sucking insects are the lowly aphids. They are frequently found clustered on the most succulent portion of our plants—new growth and twig tips. Aphids are also copious producers of honeydew—those excess sugars excreted by the insect. Ants are attracted to this easy source of nutrition. The ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps that would normally attack an aphid colony and reduce its numbers are fought off by ants, eager to defend their “livestock.” A line of ants racing up and down a tree is frequently an early warning signal of an aphid infestation.

Early-spring spittlebugs and aphids, damaging the growing points of rapidly expanding leaves, cause twisting and curling as they feed. Some feeding by “plant bugs” results in distorted growth as the insects inject a toxin into the plant. Unsightly and discouraging as this is in the landscape, sucking insects are a bane to nursery growers as well. The balsam twig aphid, for example, feeds at the tips of fir branches. The shape of the tree is affected, and many trees become unsaleable.

Of even more economic and landscape concern is that sucking insects are capable of moving disease organisms from plant to plant as they feed. Viruses are notably moved by thrips, leafhoppers, or aphids, and control of the insect is the only practical method of stopping the advance of the disease. A recent threat to Oregon’s wine industry comes from the Xylella bacteria, spread by the blue-green sharpshooter and the common spittlebug. And though our wine growers are currently most concerned, Xylella can go on to affect dozens of fruits, trees, and shrubs found in the home landscape.

The watchful eye of the gardener is the most effective tool in discovering these devious pests and preventing damage to landscape plants.

### Ash Whitefly on the Run
(a follow-up)

The fall of 2015 was marked by destructive and annoying clouds of ash whitefly. Department of Agriculture entomologists moved quickly. The plan was to raise tiny parasitoid wasps and distribute them into affected areas. These would increase their numbers and begin an assault on the ash whitefly pest.

Rearing the tiny wasp proved more difficult than expected, but releases were made. And though the ash whitefly has been found from Scappoose to Eugene, the parasitic wasp is now found right along with it. Indeed, gardeners throughout the region reported greatly decreased numbers in late 2016. Another victory for our beneficial insect superheroes.

Claudia Groth is a technical writer, horticultural lecturer on soils, integrated pest management, and beneficial insects, and a member of HPSO.
Many of you recently joined our ranks. 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.

Susan Anderson
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Keith Anderson
Klay Arsenault
Wesley Bennett
Cheri Benson
Trudie Brooks
Beth Burdick
Cynthia Burgener
Katy Campbell
Leslie Campbell
Teresa Carlson
John Carlson
Alana Chau
Jason Chau
Amanda Clark
Marilyn Clark
Corinne Coles
Heather Coles
Alex Copeman
Alex Corcoran
Nina Corenault
Regan Cronin
Sally Crowley
Aliana Culp
Matt Culp
Marci Degman
Jon Dempster
Dean Dikeman
Eric Dingeldein
Paula Dungan
Steve Early
Beverly Eckman-Howell
Sherri Ellsworth
John Evans
Cynthia Ferrier
Sue Fitzsimons
Jackie Flowers
Nicole Forbes
Susan Fredikson
Pat Freeman
Jill Freeman
Bruce Fuller
Carol Fuller
Phil Gouy
Carolyn Gregg
Ron Gronowski
Laura Hammond
Patrick Hannigan
Nancy Hicks
Brian Hiestand
Mary Holland
Angela Hoyt
Brian Hunter
Bob Hyland
Patty Keizer
Suzy Knutson
Dawn Larson
George Lasch
Cindy Lindstrom
Sam Linse
PK Mandel
Shelley Marrs
Randy Marrs
Judith Maule
Chiyoko Meacham
David Morganstern
Glenn Nardelli
Claire O’Laughlin
Kristin Ohlson
Judith Okulitch
Audrey Oldenkamp
Alanna Pass
Claire Potter
Chris Rhostedt
Brian Ridder
Shannon Rini
Carmen Robinson
Elizabeth Rocchia
Andy Rocchia
Karen Schaaf
Lisa Schaefer
Mary Shepard
Robert Sibley-Morahann
Pat Sibley-Morahann
Devlin Simmons
Idanna Smith
Tom Smith
Becky Smith
Neely South
Cindy Spak
Donald Spencer
Mark Stevens
Laura Tomanka
Warren Trumbo
Niels van Noort
Erika van Noort
Jenny Vaught
Marleen Weissbach
Nancy Whiteaker
Pete Widin
Jennifer Williams
Elaine Woehlert
Terri Zensen
Ann Zitzelsberger

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

HPSO After Hours

HPSO After Hours programs are an opportunity to socialize, learn, shop, explore, meet, and greet. Each HPSO After Hours will be different and hosted by locally-owned horticultural and garden businesses that make our region special. All will be free or nearly-free!

ONE GREEN WORLD
Thursday, May 18

One Green World will host our next After Hours at their retail location. This family-owned nursery and garden center focuses on fruiting trees and shrubs, berries, vines, citrus, and nut trees. Wander their facilities and get expert advice on interesting and unusual plants for your garden. One Green World is less than a mile from Leach Botanical Garden, so consider visiting before coming to the After Hours events.

LITTLE PRINCE OF OREGON
Thursday, June 15

Little Prince of Oregon will host an After Hours event at their facility in Aurora. Little Prince was started by two friends in 1997 and has now grown to a whopping 160,000 square feet of greenhouse space. They are a wholesale grower but are opening their business to HPSO members at this event.

Check the HPSO website for more information and exact timing.

By now you should have received your Open Gardens book in the mail. It’s also available on our website. Check out what gardens are open and mark your calendar to visit

welcome!

TO THESE NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS
December 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017

Many of you recently joined our ranks. 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.

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Sally Crowley
Aliana Culp
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Marci Degman
Jon Dempster
Dean Dikeman
Eric Dingeldein
Paula Dungan
Steve Early
Beverly Eckman-Howell
Sherri Ellsworth
John Evans
Cynthia Ferrier
Sue Fitzsimons
Jackie Flowers
Nicole Forbes
Susan Fredikson
Pat Freeman
Jill Freeman
Bruce Fuller
Carol Fuller
Phil Gouy
Carolyn Gregg
Ron Gronowski
Laura Hammond
Patrick Hannigan
Nancy Hicks
Brian Hiestand
Mary Holland
Angela Hoyt
Brian Hunter
Bob Hyland
Patty Keizer
Suzy Knutson
Dawn Larson
George Lasch
Cindy Lindstrom
Sam Linse
PK Mandel
Shelley Marrs
Randy Marrs
Judith Maule
Chiyoko Meacham
David Morganstern
Glenn Nardelli
Claire O’Laughlin
Kristin Ohlson
Judith Okulitch
Audrey Oldenkamp
Alanna Pass
Claire Potter
Chris Rhostedt
Brian Ridder
Shannon Rini
Carmen Robinson
Elizabeth Rocchia
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Tom Smith
Becky Smith
Neely South
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Jenny Vaught
Marleen Weissbach
Nancy Whiteaker
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Jennifer Williams
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After Hours at Portland Nursery last Fall
Let us confront the spring-blooming-purple-salvia conundrum, hardy planters. They’re a great group of plants—tough, colorful, long-blooming, and easy to care for—and the odds are good that you’re familiar with at least some of them, because they’re getting to be as numerous as grains of sand on the beach. In fact, it gets a bit daunting when you’re trying to choose one. But we’ll try to sort it out.

We’ll start with the basics. Many of them are selections of Salvia × sylvestris, which is a cross between S. nemorosa and S. pratensis. But some are listed as pure S. nemorosa, and still others as S. × superba, a hybrid of unknown origin. It’s all rather muddled. I suggest you disregard the specific epithet and just concentrate on the cultivar name.

Most of the selections are May-blooming and bear narrow, upright stems of densely clustered small flowers in some shade of purple, which may be lighter, darker, pinker, or bluer, depending. (There’s also a rather nice pure white—‘Schneehügel’ (“snow mound”).) One of the earliest and darkest is ‘Mainacht’ (“May night”—you’re just going to have to get used to the German names, because most of these plants were selected by German nurserypersons.) ‘Ostfriesland’ (“East Friesland”) is very similar. ‘Blauhügel’ (“blue mound”) does indeed veer toward blue, but its habit is a bit squat and dumpy for my taste.

Nevertheless, Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf used it to great effect in the stunning “salvia river” in Chicago’s Lurie Garden. Along with ‘Mainacht’, ‘Rügen’, and ‘Wesuwe’ (a favorite of designer and nurseryman Roy Diblik), it’s planted in great, undulating swaths that do indeed suggest a river. Google it if you want to be wowed. If deep purple isn’t your color, you might try ‘Amethyst’, ‘Rose Queen’, ‘Sensation Rose’ (all various degrees of rosy lilac), or the almost-pink ‘Merleau Rose’. As I said, it gets daunting.

It’s time for me to lay my cards on the table and declare a favorite. Of all the selections I’ve seen or grown, the prize goes to S. nemorosa ‘Caradonna’.

Selected by German nurserywoman Beate Zillmer, it stands out both for the richness of its color—which is deepest blue-violet, with dark, almost black stalks that add depth and richness—and for its tall, graceful habit. In bloom, it reaches at least two feet; out of bloom, it forms a neat, tidy mound of textured foliage about twelve inches across. Whether planted singly or in a group, it is a joy to gaze upon, not to mention a superb foil to blue, white, orange, yellow, or chartreuse flowers. If you hanker after Piet Oudolf-ish effects, plant it among the yellow-green prairie dropseed, Sporobolus heterolepis, and pale, frosty Amsonia ‘Blue Ice’. Or you might even try for a miniature salvia river.

In my own garden it consorts with the white form of Centranthus ruber, Achillea ‘Moonshine’, Linum narbonense, Verbascum ‘Clementine’, and Euphorbia ‘Dean’s Hybrid’.

‘Caradonna’ is about as foolproof as they come. Give it sun and good drainage and it will prosper. Don’t be surprised if it stays in bloom well into July. Deadheading is said to prolong the flowering period, but I’ve never bothered. If you want more, simply dig up the clump when the foliage emerges in early spring, chop it into chunks, and replant it. It doesn’t seem to need rich soil or even much in the way of feeding. I would call it reasonably drought tolerant, meaning that it will need watering maybe twice a month in the driest parts of the summer. It’s hardy to USDA Zone 4, so you can grow it on either side of the mountains. Bees—especially bumblebees—adore it.

While ‘Caradonna’ will always be my first love among the salvias, I confess that a newcomer has caught my eye: S. nemorosa ‘Crystal Blue’. I haven’t seen it in the flesh, so to speak, but in photos the flowers gleam like pale-blue porcelain. ‘Caradonna’ may be getting a new playmate soon.
The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
828 NW 19th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209
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.

UPCOMING 2017 EVENTS

HORTLANDIA PLANT & ART SALE
Saturday & Sunday
April 15-16

SATURDAY IN THE LIBRARY:
How Gardening Changed My Life
with Barbara Blossom Ashmun
Saturday, April 22

GEN(I)US PROGRAM
Carnivorous Plants
with Jacob Farin
Tuesday, May 2

AFTER HOURS:
One Green World
Thursday, May 18

INVITING VINES GARDEN TOUR
Saturday, May 27

AFTER HOURS:
Little Prince of Oregon
Thursday, June 15

STUDY WEEKEND in Victoria, BC
Friday – Sunday
June 23-25

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENERS CONFERENCE
Monday-Friday
July 10-14

OPEN GARDENS
from April to October.

For more program information visit www.hardyplantsociety.org