the HPSO quarterly

SUMMER 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

SUMMER 2023
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front cover photo: *Eucomis comosa* 'Sparkling Burgundy', photo by Linda Wisner
this page: Fishingham Garden, page 7, photo by Jeff Fisher

HPSO Has New Staff and New Office Hours

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is pleased to welcome two new staff members, Amy Coulter and Hayley Anderson, and to announce expanded office hours. Both Amy and Hayley assumed their new roles in May. The new office hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Amy Coulter is HPSO's first Executive Director. She will work half-time and will manage the financial aspects of the organization along with membership development and community partnerships. Amy may be a familiar name and voice to some of you. She has been working part-time for HPSO since December, 2022, in membership management and is able to "hit the ground running." She brings 20-plus years of experience as a small business owner and has been the treasurer of three nonprofit boards. As a community leader, she founded the South Portland Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET). Her outside interests include the restoration of grasslands in Oregon and Montana. She holds an M.A. from University of California, Davis, and a B.A. from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Under Amy's supervision, HPSO's routine bookkeeping activities have been outsourced to a specialist in non-profit accounting, which will result in significant savings and efficiency.

photo by Campbell Salgado Studio

Executive Director Amy Coulter

photo by Hayley Anderson

Membership Manager Hayley Anderson

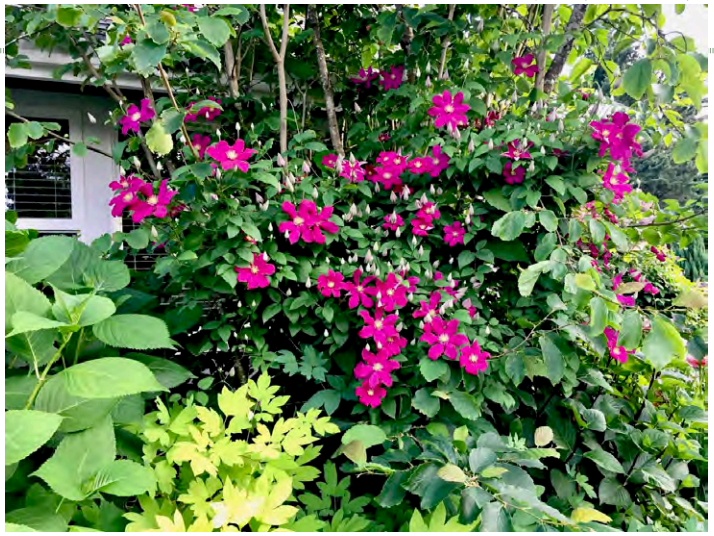
Hayley Anderson has joined the staff as our full-time Membership Manager. She will be supporting all of the programs and committees, managing membership, and compiling the GROW newsletter as well as taking care of all of the administrative work of the organization. Hayley will also be assuming the digital program coordination responsibilities that Hayden Brown so skillfully performed these last two years. A fourth generation Oregonian, Hayley grew up in Scappoose and has lived throughout the varied ecosystems of our state, from the rolling hills of Roseburg to the high desert of Bend. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of Oregon and has extensive administrative experience working with both nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Growing up in a family of gardeners, Hayley was instilled with a love of plants that has stayed with her all her life. While she currently does not have space for a garden, she tends to what has been described by friends and family as "too many" houseplants.

We look forward to benefiting from Amy's creative problem-solving skills, expertise in the area of nonprofit financials, and passion for supporting volunteers and from Hayley's experience in communications, fundraising, and community outreach, as they work with us to build on the efforts of many dedicated members over the years to ensure that the organization continues to thrive.

The HPSO phone number remains the same: 503-224-5718; and the email address, admin@hardyplantsociety.org, remains active. You can reach Amy at amy.coulter@hardyplantsociety.org and Hayley at hayley.anderson@hardyplantsociety.org. If you are planning to visit the office, it is always a good idea to call first to confirm that staff is available.

OPEN GARDENS

photo by Madeline Forsyth



This year HPSO's Open Gardens program has again featured our popular mini-tours, in which members living near each other open their gardens on the same day or, in one case, opened to share a common Climate-Wise theme.

And there are more mini-tours to come!

On the weekend of July 8 and 9, eight gardens in the Gresham and Corbett, Oregon, area will be open: five on Saturday, July 8, and four others (including one repeat from Saturday) on Sunday, July 9. Located within a few miles of each other, the gardens vary in size from small, cozy city lots to an acre and a half. Come prepared to enjoy gardens ranging from four or five to 70 years old, filled with beautiful, sun- and shade-loving foliage and flowers.

Wrapping up the 2023 mini-tour series, another group of gardens in Southwest Portland will welcome visitors in August. Watch the HPSO website and weekly emails for the date and more details as they become available.

HPSO's very successful mini-tours were inaugurated last year. The concept was expanded this year to include more tours, additional gardens, and the welcome advent of printable mini-tour guides that include the address and description of each garden and a link to a map of their locations and nearby plant nurseries and eateries. The tour guide is also cell phone friendly.

In addition to mini-tour participants, other HPSO gardeners have invited members to their open gardens this summer. Details are available on the HPSO website at the Open Gardens page where you can search for mini-tours or for individual gardens by owners' names, locations, or dates. And watch for updates in HPSO's weekly emails.

Our thanks go to the Open Gardens committee—chair Vicki Green, Tom Barreto, Ruth Clark, Barry Gates, and Pam Skalicky—for all of their work planning and coordinating this inspiring and rewarding member benefit.

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photo by Kathleen Shelman

Forsyth garden (top) and Shelman garden will be open for the July 8 & 9 mini-tour.

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Eloise L. Morgan, managing editor
Jolly Butler, copy editor
Linda Wisner, designer
Bruce Wakefield, proofer
Beth Winter, proofer

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

4412 S. Barbur Blvd, Suite 260
Portland, OR 97239 | 503.224.5718
(Office hours 10:00 am-3:00 pm Mon-Thurs)

www.hardyplantsociety.org

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the spring *Quarterly*, we mentioned two urban habitat guides co-authored by HPSO member Mark Griswold Wilson. Both are available from Portland metro area soil and water conservation districts:

Mark Griswold Wilson & Mary Logalbo. *The Meadowscaping Handbook*. West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. (2016). https://wmswcd.org/order-meadowscaping-handbook/

Mark Griswold Wilson & Ted Labbe. *Conserving Oregon White Oak in Urban & Suburban Landscapes*, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation Distrrict. (2017). https://conservationdistrict.org/wpfb_dl=557

CLIMATE-WISE

Resilient Plants for Gardens West of the Cascades

text and photography by Jim Gersbach

Although the bark is not exfoliating like on our native madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), the strawberry tree (*A. unedo*) still charms with its white flowers and showy fruit ripening from yellow to orange to red. It tolerates heat and moderate drought quite well. Gardeners with small yards might want to seek out the cultivar 'Compacta', which at mature height (6-10 feet) is a third or less the size of the regular species.

Anyone who gardens in the Northwest knows our typically moderate, well-mannered climate has begun to act like an unruly teenager. Gardeners are having to cope with more extreme weather events, from record-breaking heatwaves to prolonged droughts, freak late-season snowstorms, and torrential downpours. As carbon dioxide levels in the air have risen relentlessly, these extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more intense. Climate scientists at Oregon State University are forecasting continued rises in average temperatures through the end of this century and beyond.

For gardeners, this means the climate we designed our gardens around is changing in ways that makes it tough even on what we have long considered tried-and-true plants.

Like people, plants are sensitive to extremes of heat or cold. We all know that hard frosts signal the end for many of our bedding and potted plants, such as lantana, cuphea, and angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia*). But at the other extreme, high temperatures can cause plants to shut down photosynthesis, retarding growth, inhibiting fruit production, and eventually leading to starvation as the plant can't produce the sugars it needs to survive the coming winter. Even if protected from direct sunshine, plants reaching the high end of their heat tolerance can no longer transpire enough water to prevent wilting and may lose their leaves.

So what adaptations do gardeners in the western counties of Oregon and Washington need to consider to make their gardens flourish in an increasingly harsh climate? I have four recommendations:

1. Understand your microclimate and choose plants that best fit those conditions.
2. Have a plan for supplemental watering.
3. Take care of your soil.
4. Choose climate-resilient plants.

Microclimate. That first bit of advice has long been something garden experts have recommended, but it's even more important in today's roller-coaster climate. For example, our traditionally overcast and rainy skies made it possible to put some shade-loving plants in more open sites and generally have them squeak by. Many of us have had success for years with mophead *Hydrangea macrophylla* or a fuchsia in an unshaded site that in a less benign climate might have spelled disaster. But longer spells of hot, cloudless days make such gambles at the margins of a plant's tolerance more likely to lead to failure as leaves scorch or wilt. Where gardeners might have been able to water only every few days, relying on the soil to remain moist, they now can find the soil dried out the next day.

The solution is to read up about a plant's particular tolerance for sun and find spots in the garden where shade lovers will be protected from too many hours of sun, especially afternoon sun which is usually the hottest and most intense. Gardeners can also plant shade trees to lower the temperature at ground level by several degrees, protecting shrubs and perennials (see suggested shade trees on page 5).

Watering. Like many gardeners west of the Cascades, I have long relied for most of the year on rainfall alone to water my garden. Formerly, watering the garden was a temporary chore needed only during the dry days of July and August. Recent years have played havoc with that notion.

If you don't have an irrigation system, consider investing in one. Drip irrigation is a way to deliver water right to plant roots with minimal waste. Plants with broad leaves benefit during prolonged droughts from having dust and pollution washed off their leaves, making photosynthesis more efficient. Consider hosing them down periodically early in the morning to give them time to dry off before the full heat of the day.

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Tough as nails in poor soil and able to withstand hot, dry summer winds, Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) grows from a gawky teen into a lovely small to mid-sized tree. Fall color in the best forms can be anywhere from orange to scarlet.

Reddish new leaves are a nice spring surprise on the evergreen Mexican oak (*Quercus mexicana*). An added bonus is the tree's ability to withstand drought and heat.

Surprisingly tolerant of heat and drought considering its origins in eastern China and Japan, the trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) is an alternative to overplanted red maples. The tri-pointed leaves differ from the more common maple species. In autumn they can turn many different colors depending on sun exposure.

One of the most heat-resistant small trees are the hybrid crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* x *fauriei*) introduced in the 1970s and 1980s by the National Arboretum, such as the cultivar 'Tuscarora'. One planted in full sun in Northeast Portland produces luscious reddish pink flowers in mid- to late summer. Generous watering in spring helps ensure better flowering.

Unless you have an Oregon white oak or California live oak, which can be killed by summer irrigation, consider deep soaking even mature trees at least monthly in July and August or in exceptionally dry springs. Trees up to 10 years old may require watering weekly or every two weeks once leafed out. Irrigated trees grow much faster and are less stressed than ones left to rely on rainfall alone. A wide variety of trees planted in 2010 and 2011 at Alliance High School at Meek Campus in Northeast Portland and consistently watered every summer are easily twice the size of street trees of the same species where irrigation stopped after three years.

Soil Care. Clay soils are good at holding nutrients but when dried out can become almost impervious to watering. Many plant roots also have a harder time penetrating rock-hard clay soils. Consider amending clay soils with lots of humus—well-rotted vegetable and kitchen waste from your own compost pile if possible, enriched with a dash of animal manures. Sandy soils are well drained—a boon in soggy winters—but detrimental in long droughts. Consider also enriching these. In all instances it is better to work up an entire border or planting bed than just the area right around a single plant. Applying a top dressing of mulch annually or every other year can help keep soil in good condition, protecting it from compacting rain, drying sun, and erosion. It also makes weeding much easier. Avoid bark chips, which offer little in the way of plant nutrition, can take forever to break down, and are a potential fire hazard. While many xeriscapes suggest crushed rock or gravel mulches, be aware that they can absorb heat and make gardens uncomfortably warm on hot summer days, and they don't decompose. Gravel is probably best confined to purpose-built rock gardens or paths.

A Hopeful Note. Facing up to climate change can leave anyone feeling anxious and despondent. One encouraging bit of knowledge is that plants may have an ace up their sleeves. Researchers from Japan have discovered that plants can better adapt to future heat stress thanks to a particular mechanism for heat stress "memory." In a study published in *Nature Communications*, researchers from the Nara Institute of Science and Technology have shown that a family of proteins that control small heat shock genes enables plants of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to "remember" how to deal with heat stress. This Eurasian annual is considered a model for plant physiology, making the results likely valid for many other species. Nobutoshi Yamaguchi, lead author of the study, says, "Once plants have undergone mild heat stress, they become tolerant and can better adapt to further heat stress."

Still, it is prudent to pick plants that are more likely to be resilient in the face of a changing climate. This last bit of advice requires two caveats. First, don't assume that all native plants will be drought tolerant. Understory plants from moist woodlands like false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), *Vancouveria,* and wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) can whither or burn in hot sun. Western red cedar trees (*Thuja plicata*) are in decline in many parts of their range, largely due to intolerance of rising temperatures and drought. Natives that grow on forest edges, meadows, and other open areas are better bets.

Second, tolerating drought doesn't mean a plant won't flourish better if given some supplemental water. True, a few western natives are intolerant of summer irrigation and can be killed with kindness (including a number of manzanitas and the aforementioned oaks). However, for most plants periodic summer watering can reduce drought stress and encourage fuller and faster growth. This is especially

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Drought- and heat-Tolerant annuals and perennials

- Agastache – native to drylands of the interior U.S., reputedly deer and rabbit resistant
- Black mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* var. 'Nigrescens')
- Cistus – well-adapted to our Mediterranean climate
- Lantana – invasive in tropical countries, is a dieback annual in this area
- Red yucca (*Hesperaloe*) – tubular dark pink flowers on long, arching stems
- Salvias – many species with wide variety of colors from red to blue, purple, and violet
- Yucca – large white flowers on tall stalks; cultivars with variegated leaves are especially showy, such as 'Color Guard' and 'Garland's Gold', both of which require almost no special care other than pulling old dead leaves and flower stalks

Drought- and heat-Tolerant SHRUBS

- Ceanothus – various sizes up to very tall shrubs; relatively short-lived
- Blue beard (*Caryopteris*) – great in full sun; blue flowers from mid-summer; cut back each year
- Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *sanguineum*)* – some summer water important until well established
- Glossy abelia (*Abelia* x *grandiflora*) – late-season flowers for hummingbirds and other pollinators
- Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) – from small trees to groundcovers; some dislike any irrigation and need good drainage
- Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)* – can get quite tall (up to 12'-15'); spent white flowers blooming in summer turn an unattractive brown, but attract pollinators; does better with a bit of shade

Sun- and heat-Tolerant Shade trees

- Amur maackia (*Maackia amurensis*)
- Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)
- Japanese pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) – late summer white pea-shaped flowers attract pollinators
- Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) – require irrigation and full sun to flower well, fall color and exfoliating bark
- Oaks from the Southwestern U.S. and Mexico – silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) and canyon live oak (*Q. chrysolepis*) are evergreen; loquat leaf oak (*Q. rysophylla*), the Mexican royal oak (*Q. germana*), and Mexican oak (*Q. mexicana*) have attractive reddish or pinkish new growth; deciduous California black oak (*Q. kelloggii*) has gold to orange fall color

* Oregon native

Trees that don't need much supplemental water in summer after their first three years

Oaks

- Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*)* – underappreciated southern Oregon native broadleaf evergreen
- Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) – the spongy bark is the source of cork for wine stoppers and sustainable flooring
- Holly oak (*Quercus ilex*) – very long lived; specimens in the U.K. are known to be 500 years old
- Hungarian oak (*Quercus frainetto*) – deep green leaves on the cultivar 'Forest Green'© makes for a pretty tree
- Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) – despite the name, fall color varies and may only be brown or yellow
- Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) – should NOT be watered after first three years
- Silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) – has proven well adapted to Portland through snow, ice, and record heat

Pines

- Willamette Valley ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *benthamiana*)* – tolerates both wet winter clays and bone dry summer soils
- Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) – extremely tolerant of drought and heat, this Mediterranean native grows 50-80' feet tall
- Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*) – native to the Balkans and Greece; has nice, dense, deep green foliage

Other conifers

- Baker cypress (*Hesperocyparis bakeri*)* – although slow-growing, over time reveals attractively colored bark
- Blue Spanish fir (*Abies pinsapo* 'Glauca') – the blue form is a nice alternative to the common Colorado blue spruce of suburbia
- Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)* – naturally columnar form has an attractive silhouette

Other broadleaf trees

- Cascara (*Frangula purshiana* aka *Rhamnus purshiana*)*
- Lavalle hawthorn (*Crataegus* x *lavallei*) – extends fall color into December; showy reddish-orange haws in winter
- Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)* – plant in its permanent home while quite small; demands good drainage; can reach 80' or taller so those with smaller gardens may want to select its Mediterranean cousin
- Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) – evergreen with white flowers in fall and edible although insipid fruit ripening from yellow to orange to red, with fruit in each of the three colors often present at the same time
- Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) – I am astonished at how such an attractive tree can be so tolerant of heat and sun; grows to about 30' or slightly more.
- Trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) – although native to China and Japan, seems to tolerate dry summers fairly well and still provide an attractive multi-colored fall spectacle; usually grows no taller than 30 feet in gardens.
- Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) – seedling trees are variable, with fall color from yellow to scarlet; often mult-colored. Purchase in fall or buy a cultivar with known traits, such as 'Vanessa', which has reliably orange to orange-red fall color. Requires careful pruning to ensure properly spaced branching.

* Oregon native

The queens of Oregon's original savannas, Oregon white oaks, like this teenage one in Portland's Ainsworth Linear Arboretum, have stood tall through both drought and heat of recent summers without any supplemental watering.

What it lacks in fall color, Amur maackia (*Maackia amurensis*) makes up for with its drought tolerance. Cream-colored flowers make a modest show in June, and the compound leaves create a fuller tree than honey locust.

true of plants hailing from regions where summer rainfall is more dependable.

With that in mind, at left and on previous page are options I've found do well in my Northeast Portland garden and neighborhood. (These suggestions might not be advisable for coastal gardeners experiencing frequent fogs, salty winds, and high rainfall.)

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Jim Gersbach, Oregon Department of Forestry Public Affairs Specialist, is an avid gardener and longtime volunteer tree steward with the Concordia Tree Team. He has championed the preservation, expansion, and diversification of Portland's urban forest for over 25 years. He conceived of and was the moving force behind the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum in Northwest Portland, which displays some 60 tree varieties in a two-mile span. He frequently contributes to the Quarterly.

Not Your Grandmother's Landscape

text by Jeff Fisher

photography by Jeff Fisher, except as noted

The final phase of hardscaping came about when Ed tired of mowing the last remaining small oval of lawn at the front of the house. It was replaced with another paver patio, where we often sit listening to the garden comments of unsuspecting passersby on the sidewalk below the retaining wall.

In an older working class North Portland neighborhood is a "Big Small Garden in the City" that has developed an international following. The 50'x100' inner city garden has thousands of social media followers, its own Facebook page, and even a trendy square business card. There are almost constant requests for the hours the garden is open to the public or the cost of admission. This is not a public garden, but rather the personal garden of me—Jeff Fisher—and my husband, Ed Cunningham. The Fishingham Garden.

In part, the public perception and interest in the garden have been guided by the eye-catching color palette of orange, chartreuse, and purple. The hues are found throughout in flowers, foliage, containers, furniture, and garden art. During the summer of 2016, paint colors with the names Spanish Olive, Black Tulip, Cream Silk, and Stunning Shade appeared on property structures, adding intensity to the surrounding natural elements. The new paint colors brought increased attention to the garden in the form of national garden magazine features, industry blog entries, and local garden television exposure.

My 40-plus year career as a graphic designer, with added lifelong interests in fine art and interiors, translates well to garden design, plant selection, and staging all elements to an end result that presents well in person to the human eye and online in intriguing photo images. Some familiar items are in place for the viewer, but the vibrant Fishingham Garden is not your grandmother's traditional cottage landscape.

When the house was purchased in 1997, the "landscaping" consisted of three rhododendrons, a Peace rose, and a maple tree and a locust in the parking strip.

The 1929 bungalow, in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood, found us while we were house hunting. Early one Sunday morning we pulled up in front of the house, across the street from a two-block city park, and I immediately told Ed, "This is where I want to live." The street eyesore (and former drug house) was in the process of being flipped. The structure was looking pretty good. The small yard; not so much. The ragged lawn had a slight slope to the sidewalk. The "landscaping" consisted of three mature rhododendrons, a Peace rose near a front corner of the property, and a sad maple and very messy locust in the parking strip.

Although we were renting for the first year, with an option to buy at an already agreed upon price, we knew we would be purchasing the property when able. That

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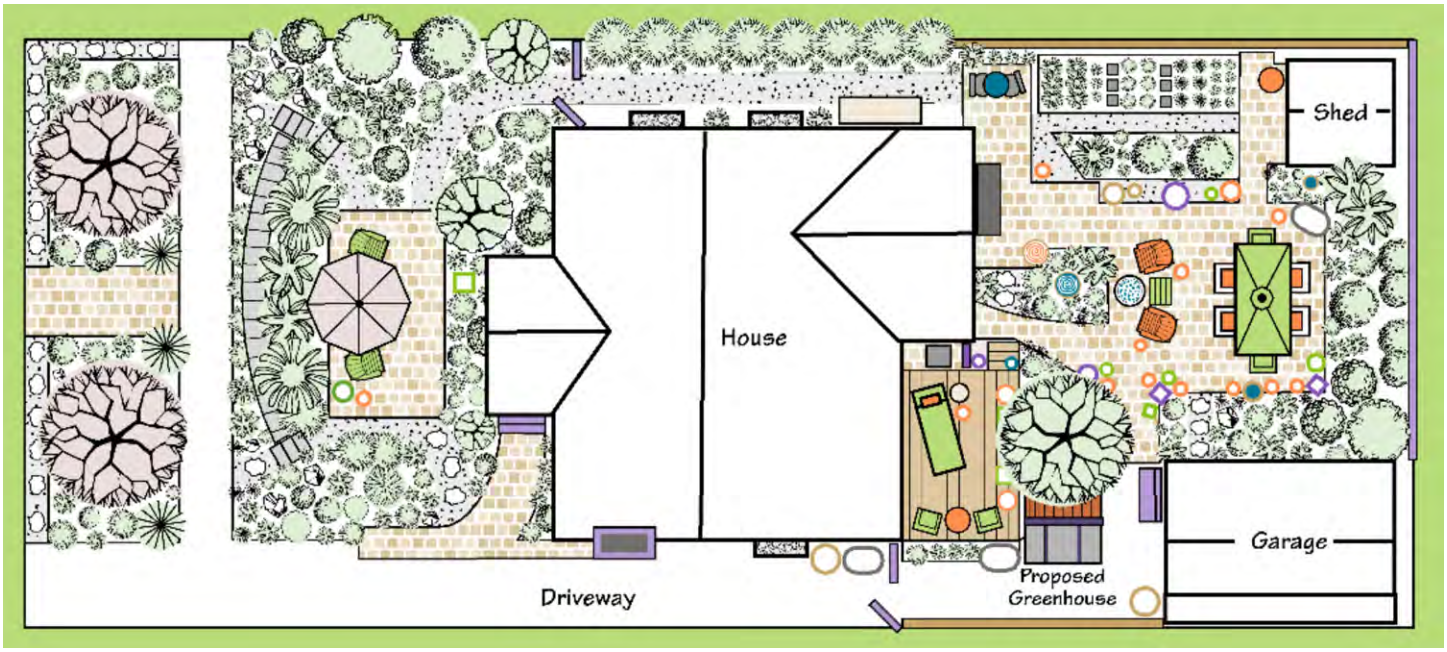

I created this current layout of the Fishingham Garden so social media viewers can get a better idea of the placement of elements within the garden. Many assume it's a large garden, when it is actually only 50' x100'.

photo by Janet Loughrey

Garden photographer Janet Loughrey visited the garden after the house was painted in 2016. Her images were for an article in the national publication *Small Gardens*, focusing on the impact of the house color on the garden. She also captured the unique firebowl by New York artist John T. Unger.

led to some early garden discussions with our friend Mike Smith, who had a fairly new business called Joy Creek Nursery (now permanently closed). He provided a lot of input and introduced us to landscape designer John Caine. Caine, in planning what was initially the hardscape of the front garden, was excellent in determining how we wanted the garden to perform for us, what we liked in regards to all aspects of plant material, and—more importantly—what we didn't like. His design included the installation of a curved retaining wall that leveled the front lawn, set the house up on a visual pedestal, and created a borrowed view into the city park across the street.

"Flow" was an important consideration to the designer, including how air, light, and the garden owners would move within the space. Stair steps at each end of the wall, and several compacted gravel paths, allowed for easy gardener access to all borders and beds. Most planting areas could be maintained with a garden user's three-foot reach into the space. Seating and resting spots dotted the garden design. Years after implementing the plans, considerations such as these allowed me to garden during the decade I dealt with the chronic pain condition known as CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome).

The original plantings were primarily Joy Creek Nursery suggestions. In fact, at times we've been referred to as the "Joy Creek test garden," as plants would appear from nowhere to be tested in one of Portland's many microclimates. Items introduced in the original design that are still present 20-plus years later include *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Sugar Tip', two *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' in the hellstrip, *Clematis* 'Romantika' and 'Polish Spirit', and a star jasmine that has traveled around with us from home to home for over 30 years.

Some original plantings became victims of extreme snow, ice, and cold over the years. Two large bronze phormiums were killed by cold and ice, to be replaced by two Chinese windmill palms, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, that are now 12-15 feet tall. A 17-year-old *Daphne caucasica* collapsed under the weight of ice and was replaced with a *Daphne* 'Summer Ice'. When our huge, flattened *Lavandula* 'Twickel Purple' was removed, the 20-year-old nursery label was found, and the plant was replaced with the same.

With time, and my growing confidence as a gardener, much more color became evident in the garden. It was as if the artist/designer in me was being channeled

Large purple alliums provide the shape to be mimicked by Lisa Francolini's fused glass gift to the gardeners and the Phil Beck steel wind catcher that honors late friend Sara Perrin.

into the garden through the selection of flowering plants like echinacea, abutilon, coreopsis, lewisia, fuchsia, and many more. Common annuals and hundreds of bulbs added to the color fest.

Original garden art has always been an important element to Ed and me, reinforcing the implemented flower colors and the use of rusted metal pieces. Some art is made by those we know. Others have been found at nurseries, garden stores, on Etsy, and at outdoor festivals. A few have been commissioned.

The centerpiece of the Fishingham Garden collection is a unique firebowl by New York artist John T. Unger. Ceramic works by various artists appear throughout the garden. Glass art is represented in the safety of the back garden. Metalwork artists are also featured. Colorful birdhouses welcome visitors each year.

The Fishingham Garden breaks many of the traditional "rules" of gardening. It is an explosion of colors, textures, art forms, and cleverness. The "Big Small Garden in the City" is not for everyone, but it is not a garden anyone is likely to forget anytime soon after visiting.

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Jeff Fisher, Weeder-in-Chief of the Fishingham Garden, is an internationally honored identity designer of over 40 years, author of the book Identity Crisis!*, speaker/educator at design conferences and educational facilities, and the Portland Rose Festival clown Toots Caboose. His job is to make things pretty. Ed Cunningham, Fishingham Garden's Chief "Irritation" Officer, is responsible for the irrigation system, the raised vegetable beds, and anything requiring technical ability or tools. In real life he is the Executive Director of a Portland law firm. Together, they are the Fishinghams. The Instagram user name for the Fishingham postings is thefishinghamlife. The garden may be found on Facebook by searching for The Fishingham Garden.*

Hortlandia 2023

HPSO's 2023 Hortlandia plant sale was another outstanding success, drawing more than 2,100 shoppers to the Westside Commons in Hillsboro, Oregon. Sixty-six vendors, split almost equally between plant nurseries and garden-inspired artists/community organizations, were on hand as over 470 shoppers attended HPSO's Friday evening early shopping event and another 1,650-plus shoppers enjoyed Saturday's all-day sale.

photo by Hayden Brown

The Garden's Gifts

text and photography by Barbara Blossom Ashmun

An exciting surprise beneath a tree: a nest of soft duck feathers sheltering eggs.

The garden changed my life for good. Looking back to my first city garden where I'd just barely begun to grow tomatoes and cucumbers, I remember how my professional career began to pale by comparison with gardening. As I sat at my desk interviewing a client, I glanced out the office window. Landscapers in yellow raincoats and tall boots were planting pansies, and a thought flew through my mind: "I'd rather be out there with them!"

Another memorable "aha" moment was while watching a slide show presented at an HPSO study weekend in Seattle. Without any narrative, Loie Benedict let each slide remain on the screen long enough for us to absorb the beauty of a red rose with a drop of dew at the tip of a petal, an iris with a furry beard and a ruffled purple petticoat, a bright pink cyclamen with a skirt of heart-shaped leaves. Not one word was spoken as we all watched in silence, awestruck at this beauty. Too marvelous for words!

Those riveting moments and many more called to me so irresistibly that I determined to earn my living through gardening. I began to garden for others, to teach gardening, to write about gardening for newspapers and magazines, and, eventually, to publish gardening books. What makes gardening so compelling?

The many gifts of the garden have been way beyond those early vegetables and flowers. At the heart of it is the chance to create beauty—yet there is so much more. As plants arise from the damp soil, leaf out and flower, and ultimately decline and go dormant, questions arise along with the greenery. Where does it all come from? What is our part in it? How does gardening bring us in touch with the great mystery of life? How does witnessing such an amazing process change us?

I remember vividly the first time I finger-raked a pile of damp leaves at the edge of a bed and discovered a rubbery-looking amphibian that my young neighbor Wesley identified as a newt. A pair of ducks came visiting too, and one spring I spotted a nest with seven white eggs hiding inside an island bed. Before long, the shells cracked open, and mother duck led her tiny ducklings to the creek at the south end of the garden. As a former New Yorker, this took my breath away.

On a more down-to-earth level, the garden became my teacher. First lesson: improve the soil. It took quite a few deaths before I learned to amend the native clay and to raise the beds for better drainage with layers of manure, fallen leaves, grass clippings, and compost.

Once I got the plants growing well, their colors were like a huge box of crayons. I began to arrange them in seasonal vignettes that pleased me. Before this, despite many art classes, I'd never mastered the art of painting with watercolors, oils, or pastels. But with the garden as my canvas, I learned to paint with flowers and foliage, experimenting and editing until I was happy with the results.

The garden also made me stronger and healthier. Working outdoors in fresh air,

Sharing the joys of my garden with visitors gladdens my heart.

Visiting open gardens is fun, inspiring, and a chance to get away from your own weeds!

A new patio encourages me to sit and enjoy the view.

exerting my body and becoming more fit, became another unexpected gift. As a studious child, I'd hated gym, yet here in the garden I was reveling in exercise.

What's harder to convey in words is the mantle of tranquility that the garden floated upon my shoulders. After an hour out in the garden, I'd enter a solitary place of quiet reflection. At first, I'd be thinking about daily concerns; but eventually I'd reach a place of complete attention to what I was doing. Stopping to lean on my shovel, I'd become aware of the song of chickadees, the warmth of sun on my hair, the fragrance of lilacs. My mind calmed, while all my senses woke up.

Despite working hard toward the illusion that someday the garden would be perfect—every plant would be in the right place, and the overall picture would be finished—the garden taught me reality. Wet winters and dry summers, pounding hail and ice storms, as well as destructive rabbits, moles, voles, and slugs, all took a toll. I had to face impermanence, a quality that permeates our life on earth. I settled for occasional moments of perfection, followed by decline, learning to accept the process of continual change.

Still there was plenty to celebrate. When an ancient sweet gum tree broke apart, after weeks of removal, and the grief that followed, I took the opportunity to have a patio built. Sitting there on summer evenings and sharing the beauty with my husband Tom became an unexpected new pleasure. We watched iridescent hummingbirds flit amid orange pokers and purple sages. On especially lucky days we'd glimpse a heron floating overhead on its way home from the neighborhood pond.

The overarching joy in the entire process made me want to share the wonder of gardening, and it led me to teaching and writing. I was on a mission to convert everyone into gardeners! Long before my garden was fully developed, I was so eager to share it that I opened it to visitors. Some would linger far beyond the open hours, and conversations would continue into the early evening.

Visitors became friends, and soon I was invited to their gardens. There's no friend quite like someone who is as excited about plants as you are, who's willing to drive miles to a specialty nursery, and who encourages you to buy even more plants. "So what if you don't need them—you want them!" said more than one enabler.

Beyond individual friends, I discovered a gardening community, and soon I joined the Iris Society, the Rose Society, the Rock Garden Society.... Eventually a small group of us started the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, which has grown beyond all expectations. The pleasure of belonging to something bigger than ourselves, of celebrating regular rituals like Nerd Night, Hortlandia, and PlantFest, is exhilarating. Missing this community during the pandemic made it clear how much we need this feeling of interconnectedness.

I've heard that communal activities like singing together, dancing together, and meditating together, generate a feeling of "collective effervescence." I recognize this same feeling about gardening in community.

Can you imagine what it would be like if there were no other gardeners in Portland, and you were the only one? Can you even contemplate what life would be like then—no garden centers, nurseries, landscape supply places, open gardens, garden clubs? Thankfully our garden community continues to grow, and the garden continues to give us an overwhelming number of life-changing gifts.

■■■

Barbara Blossom Ashmun is a Portland-area gardener, designer, teacher, and writer. She is the author of several books, including Love Letters to My Garden *and, most recently,* A Gardener's Haiku, *a chapbook of haiku verses, as well as countless articles for magazines and newspapers. She gardens in Southwest Portland and is a regular contributor to the* Quarterly.

A Landscape Renovation for Seasons of Change

text and photography Patti Elias

backyard prior to renovation

view from patio after renovation

The change in our environmental seasons evokes a welcomed sense of anticipation, joy, and heightened awareness of transitions in our gardens. With adequate planning, we can look forward to aging into our gardens with equal happiness and satisfaction. My husband, Brian, and I faced this experience as our bodies began to resist the physical exertion that came with maintaining our two-and-a-half-acre property. When we purchased this Vancouver, Washington, property 13 years ago, the attributes of the home allowed for aging in it. The property was beautiful and included everything we desired in landscaping: a water feature, extensive lawns, and a perennial bed, all encompassed by a large variety of soaring evergreen and deciduous trees providing privacy. The thought of parting with this unique property led us to creatively and energetically focus on considering what changes could be made that would enable us to minimize maintenance and costs while continuing to thoroughly enjoy our garden.

First, we made a list of issues: maintenance of 15 Thundercloud flowering plum trees; a large boggy area containing a wood-burning firepit; and the half acre of lawn in the front and backyards and the perennial garden, both needing increasing amounts of water and physical effort to maintain. Then we made a list of what we desired in our garden: the ability to walk safely around garden beds; an irrigation system to reduce hand watering and to regulate watering as needed; seasonal interest, both from inside the house and outside seating areas; plants attracting birds and butterflies; garden tools and plants that would allow me to do a bit of pruning without overtaxing my back and knees; and, finally, hard- and soft-scaping with WOW factors. This list included everything we dreamed of with the idea that once a budget was established, we would prioritize our dream list, paring down the list from the bottom up as our budget warranted.

We addressed one of the most difficult changes first. The Thundercloud plum trees, 20 years old, while beautiful in bloom and providing lovely curb appeal, were becoming damaged due to disease and were reaching the end of their 15- to 20-year life span. Spraying the trees with a copper fungicide, continuously removing leaf debris from the ground, and propping them up had become arduous tasks. We found that letting go of the emotional attachment and addressing issues pragmatically was essential in making progress towards our landscaping goals. Remembering our goals, the trees were professionally removed. A few months after they were removed, the lawn and Sawara cypress lining the driveway became much healthier, an unexpected bonus! Along the east side of the front yard, we replaced the Thundercloud plum trees with Hinoki cypress, more Sawara

dry creek beds after renovation

pathway surrounding perimeter of garden

cypress, and *Euonymus japonicus*. These trees and plants are low maintenance, and their texture and color add multi-seasonal interest. Once established, they will require little water.

Since this was going to be a large-scale project encompassing over an acre, we hired landscape designer Michael Martin of Dennis' 7 Dees Garden Center. His attentiveness to our garden issues and desires resulted in a magnificent and unimagined garden design.

The back lawn and perennial bed were replaced with large bark covered plant beds separated by dry creek beds to help with drainage of our gently sloped backyard. The selection of 28 different trees, shrubs, and plants provides a natural looking landscape with stunning seasonal interest along with berries and flowers for birds, butterflies, and bees. These additions to our landscape include 'Coral Bark' maple, 'Divinely Blue' cedar, 'Elk Blue' rush, 'Orange' New Zealand sedge, autumn fern, 'Artic Fire' dogwood, 'Sunset' manzanita, 'Eternal Fragrance' daphne, and evergreen huckleberry, just to name a few. The planting beds are encompassed by a new three-foot-wide, quarter-minus gravel walking path, providing peace of mind during our evening walks. Along the path are benches on which to sit and experience the landscape.

No more carrying firewood over the slippery boggy grass and sitting in chairs that sink into the ground now that the path leads to walkways extending to a patio where comfortable chairs surround a gas fire pit. The new curved wall next to the patio doubles as a seating wall and a platform to work on potted plants, minimizing bending. Access to the backyard patios was intentionally designed to be welcoming to all guests, regardless of physical abilities.

My large and beloved perennial garden was decreased in size and relocated to the planting beds situated next to the house, providing roomy access via the adjacent pathway. The new view of these flowers and plants from daylight basement windows more than made up for the decrease in size. I have consciously switched to ergonomic pruners, my favorite brand being Barnel, and use a portable, lightweight garden seat.

Added for aesthetic appeal are birdbaths, feeders, and garden lighting to extend interest during winter and from living room windows. We installed an irrigation system that has a phone app so we can remotely regulate watering cycles.

We ventured into our landscape redesign recognizing that the initial investment would be recompensed over time through savings in hired maintenance and reduced water bills. More importantly, we will enjoy our landscaping for many years to come, which we couldn't put a cost on.

■■■

For Patti Elias, gardening has always been a passion, but she had little time for it until 2010 when she retired to Battle Ground, Washington. Along with enjoying gardening, she volunteers by facilitating art therapy classes. In the past few years her home pottery studio has become a place of creativity and joy during the winter months when gardening is less appealing.

Grow Native Annuals to Reduce Irrigation Need

bluehead gilia (*Gilia capitata*)

text and photography by Eric Hammond

In the West we can expect tight water restrictions in the future. There isn't enough stored water to meet the need in summer, and home irrigation is the earliest place these cutbacks happen. But contrary to traditional practices, it is possible to grow colorful flowers in your garden without irrigation. All it takes are the seeds of native annuals and a little planning.

Planting native annuals boosts plant and pollinator biodiversity in most home gardens. Swaths of garden covered by bark or mulch are useless for the environment. But those areas can be converted to a biodiverse and productive environment when native annuals are grown in the space instead. And these annuals can succeed without any irrigation. Western Oregon's annuals and nearby natives from California are adapted to Pacific Northwest rainfall patterns and temperature regimes. Even grown without irrigation they offer pollen and nectar to their insect visitors and beauty to my garden. Succeeding with native annuals isn't difficult once you understand their basic needs, and you should be able to buy seeds online or from native plant nurseries using the Latin names.

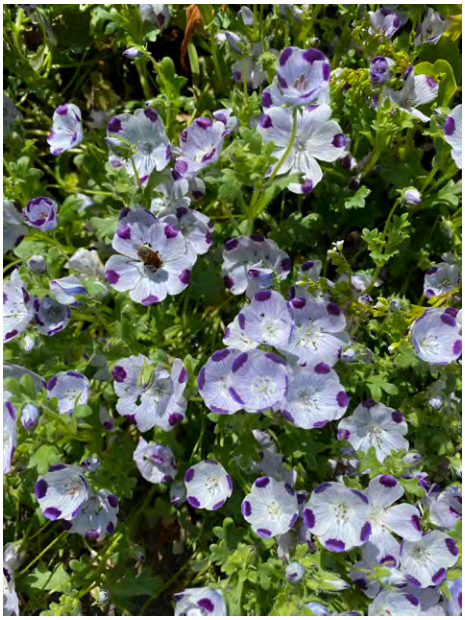
To ensure the drought tolerance of native annuals, establish their root systems early. Plan to buy seeds during summer and sow them directly onto the soil in autumn. The seeds germinate with rainfall and grow over the winter so early sowing is the key to success. Irrigation isn't necessary. I have found, though, in my garden that with a little irrigation—much less than non-native annuals require—natives' growth and bloom is more robust and extended than those grown exclusively with rainfall.

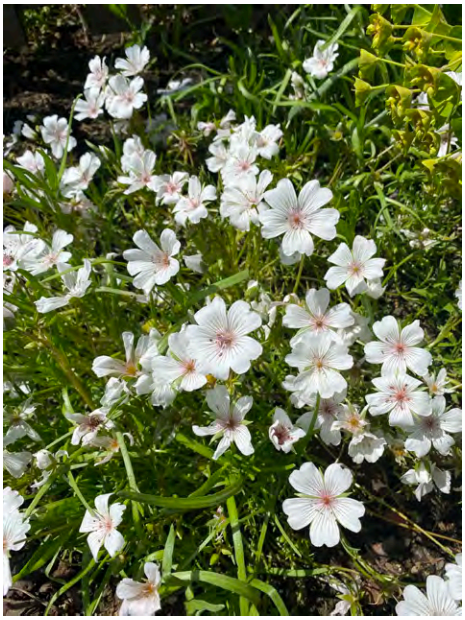
To succeed, select a site where the soil can be cleared of other plants, mulch, or bark. Expose the soil in August, let weeds germinate in September, and hoe or pull them out in early October to eliminate winter-growing plants and grasses that will smother tiny annual seedlings. Then break the soil crust by raking prior to sowing the seeds. Do not smooth the soil. Next scatter the seeds onto the soil surface. Don't cover them. Let rainfall incorporate them into the soil. The annuals will germinate in autumn, or in spring if they need stratification, and begin blossoming in late March. They endure winter as small seedlings. Controlling slugs kept my seedling population a lot larger.

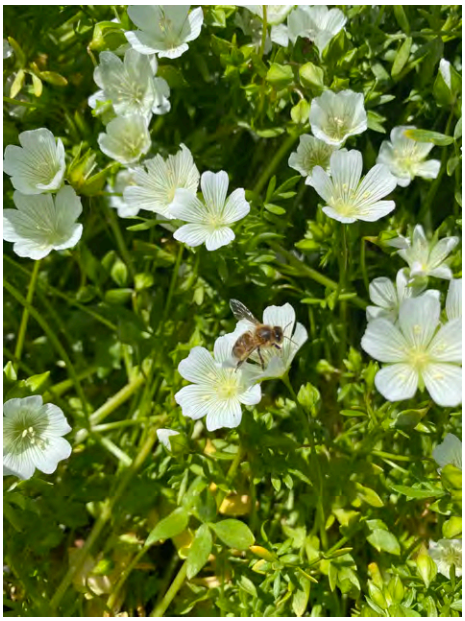
It's possible to get five months or more of flowers from a mixture of native and nearby native annuals. Avoid commercial seed mixes that incorporate nonnative species, such as true poppies, bachelor buttons, coreopsis, cosmos, forget me nots, and the like, as they can outcompete native annuals for space. Native annuals better meet the specific needs of declining populations of native insects.

In my Silverton, Oregon, garden the first annual natives to flower are low growing, large flowered species of meadowfoam, baby blue eyes, and five spot. Their growth spreads making colorful groundcover throughout spring. There are several species and subspecies of meadowfoam. They have flowers with five petals and are up to an inch-and-a-half across. *Limnanthes douglasii* is native as far north as the mid-Willamette Valley and has white flowers with a broad, bright-yellow center. Snow white meadowfoam, *Limnanthes douglasii* ssp. *nivea*, grows wild in California and has pure white flowers and silvery veins. Rosy Douglas' meadowfoam, *L. douglasii* ssp. *rosea*, also from California, has white flowers that glow pale pink from within. All these are easy to grow and self-sow in my garden where they knit with winter-dormant crocosmia and lilies.

Fivespot, *Nemophila maculata*, baby blue eyes, *Nemophila menziesii,* and its variety, 'Penny Black', all follow the same pattern as meadowfoam, but for me they continue flowering into late June. Each also has five large petals on flowers up to an inch-and-a-half wide. Baby blue eyes is a very diverse species, with flowers ranging from white to bright blue. The blue forms are often available as seed. Fivespot has an unusual large purple blotch at the apex of each of its five petals. The whole flower of 'Penny Black' is very dark purple, banded narrowly in white. It's unique.







There are several species of native annuals growing on the steep grassy canyon walls at Silver Falls State Park southeast of Salem, Oregon. They are small and wispy there, and nobody would blame you for thinking they'd make terrible garden plants. But they turn out to be very showy in the garden. Fragrant popcorn flower, *Plagiobothrys figuratus,* has masses of small white flowers with yellow eyes. Its heavy bloom is very effective and quite fragrant. This sprawling, many-stemmed species will also grow with wet feet; in the wild it's found in wet prairies and vernal pools. Sea blush, *Plectritis congesta*, might be my favorite, and once you know what to look for, you'll see tons of them while walking on the park's Ten Falls trail. In richer garden soil, it has cherry-sized heads of small pink flowers. The round heads appear in great quantity and offer a sweet fragrance. An upright grower, it too will grow with wet feet, though it also grows in drier upland sites. Blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia grandiflora*, offers whorls of blue and white flowers on its ankle-high spreading stems. None needs a wet garden site to put on a spectacular show.

I fell in love with the annual lupine, *Lupinus polycarpus* (synonym of *L. micranthus*), in the native seed production fields at Heritage Seedlings & Liners when I worked there. Bitter blue lupine has small brilliant dark blue and white flowers. Like all legumes, it moves nitrogen from the atmosphere into the soil. It will grow on poor soil where many other annuals won't succeed. I haven't found the right spot for it in my small garden yet, but I look forward to its bright flowers.

The next group of annual natives I'd suggest planting grow taller and bloom a little later. My favorite, bluehead gilia, *Gilia capitata*, is visited by our native, yellow-faced bumble bee. It's also a larval host for the moth species, *Adela singulella*. A tall, thin-stemmed plant, bluehead gilia has round heads of blue flowers with turquoise

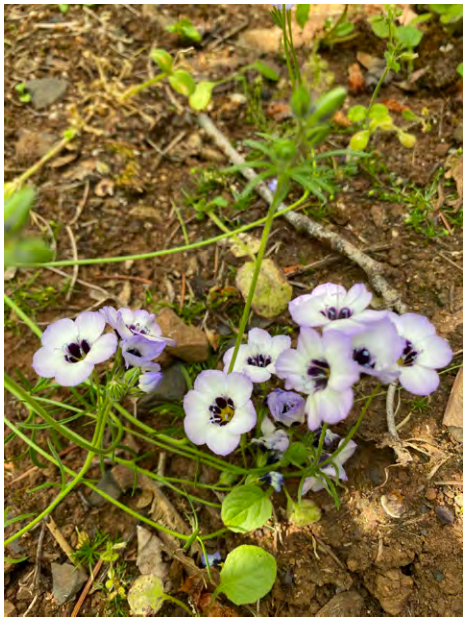
continues on next page

Left, top to bottom:

fivespot (*Nemophila maculata*)

Rosy Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthus douglasii* ssp. *rósea*)

snow white meadowfoam (*Limnanthus douglasii* ssp. *nivea*)



Right, top to bottom:

large-flowered collomia (*Collomia grandiflora*)

baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)

birds' eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*)

anthers. In late June and early July, I find them growing in the margins around Silverton, Oregon. There are never many, so adding it to your garden would help the environment.

Climate and plant adaptation models show plants from more southern populations may be better adapted for the climate we will experience in the future. Learning about the effects climate change will have has helped me adjust my notions about seed transfer zones. We should start growing plants adapted to the climate we will have, not the climate we have had. Using annuals with more southern native range, such as bird's eye gilia, *Gilia tricolor,* is an example. It has large white and lavender flowers with dark eyes that have prominent turquoise anthers. They are growing well in the bright shade under my *Heptacodium* shrub, and the flowers stand out against the dark reddish soil.

In my previous garden, I had too much success growing large-flowered collomia, *Collomia grandiflora*. There I had lots of exposed open rocky ground; the large-flowered collomia scattered its seeds wide, and it spread rapidly. Its tubular, salmon-colored flowers explode from heads on stems up to two feet tall when in good soil.

Clarkia are noted among our native annuals for feeding the widest range of insects, including leafcutter bees. Farewell-to-spring, *Clarkia amoena*, has large flowers in pink shades that bloom into July. The species has flowers in shades of pink or not-too-dark purple, some with bold blotches on the petals.

One of our tallest annuals, showy tarweed, *Madia elegans*, can grow to five feet and has large yellow daisies that close during the heat of the day. The flowers, loved by small sweat bees, provide both nectar and pollen. The stems and foliage are covered in sticky hairs. Despite the sticky foliage, tarweed is host to several species of moth larva, which like the monarch butterfly are also in decline. Its seeds, akin to sunflower seeds, are loved by goldfinches.

It's uncommon to find large or dense showy patches of annuals growing wild; habitat competition is too fierce. But in our gardens, it is easy to create favorable conditions. Controlling competition allows cultivated native annuals to grow strong and become very floriferous. Don't crowd the seeds too much when sowing annuals, or the seedlings won't have enough space to mature. Shoot for about five plants in a square foot. I start with more seed, assuming a lot of things will go wrong. You can thin seedlings if they are too crowded, but transplanting them isn't likely to succeed. Fertilize the seedlings in January and February with a balanced fertilizer like 13:13:13 if you want to boost growth and flowering. I've found that in poor soil they are much smaller and aren't showy.

A mix of species works well because the species most adapted to the conditions in each location succeed. A rewarding part of growing native annuals stems from their ability to self-sow and come back the following year. Let them bloom and wither on their own natural schedule for in-place sowing. Clear away the debris in late summer leaving some for insect habitat. Harvest the plants when half withered if you want to collect seeds. After the dead plants are thoroughly dried, you can free seeds by rubbing the plant with your hands.

seed of *Limnanthes* collected by rubbing dry seeds from plant

The species I've mentioned are easy to start with, but there are many others worth searching out to include in your garden.

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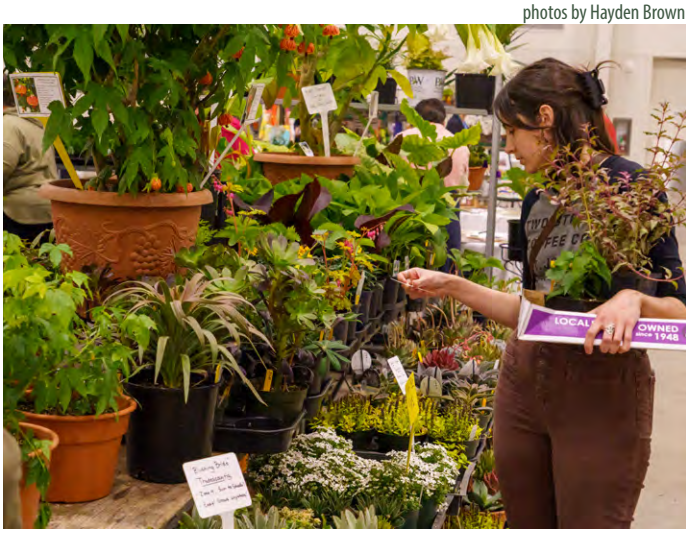
Chief Horticulturist at Trella Urban Forestry Technology, LLC, Eric Hammond, onlygrowinthesun@gmail.com, is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. He serves as an elected City Councilor in Silverton, Oregon. He has many years of experience in plant propagation and production management at Heronswood Nursery and Heritage Seedlings & Liners. Eric earned his B.S. from Washington State University, and his writings can be found at https://growinthesun.substack.com.

photos by Hayden Brown



Hortlandia buyers chose among plants offered by 34 different specialty nurseries.

Hortlandia 2023

Adria Sparhawk, garden designer, former owner of Thicket nursery, and past HPSO Board member, was among the many visitors perusing hundreds of used garden books that the Society offered for sale at Hortlandia.

Kathleen Emmerson

1946 – 2023

It was the year 1989 when Kathleen Emmerson, one of the founders of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, pulled off a triumphant coup from her home in Lincoln City, Oregon. Against the counsel of wary Portland voices, she nearly single-handedly brought to life the tenth Northwest Hardy Plant Society Study Weekend that continues to get hearts racing among those who attended and live to tell its story.

"People won't drive all the way to the coast!" came the response from Portland. "In the fall?!"

But they did. Over 200 gardeners—from British Columbia, Montana, Washington State, California, and throughout Oregon—filled the conference venue at Lincoln City's Shilo Inn that October weekend. Andy Van Hevelingen, who had recently come onto the HPSO Board, co-MC'd with President Martin Hanni. "Everyone enjoyed being there," he remembers. "It became the standard for study weekends."

Against the backdrop of sea and sky, weather ranging from drizzle to sunshine, that "Pacific Interlude" study weekend introduced us to Princess Greta Sturdza, renowned gardener from Normandy, France; Jack Elliott, famed alpine gardener from England; New York's Wave Hill horticulture director Marco Polo Stufano; Judith Jones, Seattle's "grande dame" of ferns; Brewster Rogerson, recent California transplant with a notable clematis collection; Jan Palmer, who shared innovative propagation techniques; Ned Jaquith, commercial grower of bamboo; and Palo Alto horticulture book seller and publisher Barbara Worl. The stunning lineup of speakers, lectures, pre-conference workshops, small-scale clinics, open gardens, plant and book sales, and coastal hikes with local guides set a new bar for originality and pizzazz.

Kathleen had been "in" from the beginning. Before The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon even formed in 1984, she had volunteered as registrar for our first toe-dip into the study weekend business. Offering the same for our second, in 1987, she made that four-hour round trip to serve on the Board and become HPSO's first treasurer. Along with sister gardener Constance Hansen, she was first to sign up for our stand-alone plant sales in 1988. Her "Pacific Interlude" cemented our place in history and, while it brought neither fame nor fortune to Kathleen, it did endear her to those of us who participated in the bold venture.

She learned while developing a small garden in Lincoln City. Kathleen became a wizard with seeds, introducing us to new species and varieties, always with exuberance and cheerful grace. In the '90s, the Emmersons moved into a home designed and built by husband, Jim, north of Lincoln City. Over the years, Kathleen created a wonderland of a garden that continues to surround the house. Coast-worthy plants fill a south-facing slope and woodland. Jim built fences to keep out the elk, an arbor for climbing roses, and greenhouses for her growing orchid collection.

Kathleen Emmerson died in her home in Neskowin, Oregon, on March 25, 2023. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Jim, a plethora of friends, and two rescue cats. She graced the planet with a thirst for knowledge, a lust for reading, unfailing honesty, a voracious appetite for gardening, and an infectious laugh. She was gentle, and she was fierce. She gave freely of her talents, time, and energy. We are forever grateful.

■■■

Written by Sharon E. Streeter, who was also one of the founders of HPSO in 1984 and its first president. She was also the first editor of the Society's Bulletin*, a predecessor publication of today's* HPSO Quarterly*. Sharon remains an active HPSO member who now gardens in a community garden in Milwaukie, Oregon.*

photo by Jim Emmerson

BACKYARD HABITAT GARDEN

text by Virginia (Ginnie) Ross
photography by Virginia (Ginnie) Ross except as noted

backyard: large leaf lupine in foreground and background; birchleaf spirea in center covering nurse log

John Muir has been quoted as saying, "And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul." It's been adapted by some, exchanging "forest" for "garden." That's what inspired me in 2017 when I moved from Portland, Oregon, to Vancouver, Washington. I bought a newly constructed home with a horrible lawn that was rolled in with plastic mesh. Everything that wasn't house was lawn with a few ornamental plants thrown in. This, I decided, would be the place where I would start a new adventure. This would be a backyard habitat. The Backyard Habitat Certification Program was started in 2009 by the Audubon Society of Portland and the Columbia Land Trust to encourage natural, low-maintenance gardens to support wildlife, people, and the planet.

I had never gardened other than growing the usual tomato, squash, and cucumber plants in pots of soil. Some individuals hire professionals to landscape their backyard habitats. Not me! At 77 years of age, I just started by using the Backyard Habitat Certification criteria as a guide. Sheet mulching was in order. In the spring of 2018, I mowed the lawn very short, put heavy paper over the top of it, and added six inches of mulch on top of that. This was done to the entire lawn in front and most of it in back. It was ready to plant in the fall. By summer 2019 my yard was Gold Certified, and in 2021 it was Platinum Certified, in recognition of its high percentage of native plants and optimal levels of vegetation.

I planted over 80 species of locally native plants (those found on the Portland Plant List) with multiples of many. Five layers of native plants, with a few disasters, seem to thrive in this sunny yard. Some of my ground layer plants are western red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), meadow checker mallow (*Sidalcea*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium idahoense*), Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*) and large leaf lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*). The lupines are prolific, and I "affectionately" call them the soldiers. Deadheading before they go to seed is a must.

Some of the small to medium shrubs in my yard are kinnickinick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), birchleaf spirea (*Spiraea betulifolia*). For large shrubs I used red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), and Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*). Small trees include vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) and cascara (*Frangula purshiana*). Last, but not least, the canopy tree. I have killed several western hemlock, western dogwood, Pacific madrone, and incense cedar trees. Those are the disasters. But a western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) I planted last year is still alive and growing. A new western dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) sapling is leafing out, so fingers crossed. Western dogwood and madrone are very hard to grow in urban landscapes.

I would say my gardening technique is cram and jam. Fill every bare space with something green. I even planted my bioswale with plants that like wet feet. The backyard slopes down, so the bioswale at the base of the yard serves as a storm water manager. To filter out pollutants and keep water from running into the neighbor's yard and into the watershed, the bioswale has stones and vegetation. Douglas spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), spreading blue rush (Juncus patens), and common rush (*Juncus effusus*) are a few of the plants.

There have been many challenges. The soil is landfill and solid clay. I often find beer cans, broken glass, strange metal objects, and the occasional syringe. Every time I dig a hole, the netting under what was once grass has to be cut out and disposed of properly. I haven't had good luck with seed germination, so this last winter I

photo by Eloise Morgan

front yard in 2019 (left): red columbine foreground; a few non-native grasses and plants; birch leaf spirea, lupine, and broadpetal strawberry ground cover; and (right), in late May, 2023: now a Platinum Certified Habitat garden

back yard: red osier dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, with ripening berries in mid-June

five layers of vegetation in backyard: cascara and brush pile in far left; red twig dogwoods, western red cedar, and ceanothus (two varieties) in background; lupine, birch leaf spirea, and blue-eyed grass in foreground

winter-sowed different native seeds in milk jugs with fairly good results. I have taken a no-chemicals pledge, so hand weeding is necessary. Any sign of ivy, vinca, or blackberry causes apoplexy. I am fighting off my neighbor's annual bloom of tansy ragwort and the persistent blackberry infestation. It is not uncommon to see me out in the yard, butt in the air, trowel in hand, pulling all those darlings. Eighty years have taken a toll, and I can't squat anymore, so bending over has to do. I'm proud of my accomplishment. I have done all the work myself. I've done the sheet mulching, hole digging, planting, relocating, and weeding. Warm soaks help.

Would I do it again? Absolutely! The bees, butterflies, bunnies, and birds that come to the yard make it all worthwhile. My five-year-old neighbor, Nolan, came running over last weekend and said, "I love your garden." Me too, Nolan. Me too.

■■■

Virginia (Ginnie) Ross was a classroom teacher prior to working for the teachers' union as a labor relations specialist. She volunteered in the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center for 15 years after retirement. She knew very little about plants before launching into this project.

WINDOWS TO MY WORLD

text and photography by Jan Dempsey

the garden view from the front door

My home was custom built in 1964. The first time I saw it in 2004, one of the elderly original owners and her sister met my mom and me at the front door. I saw the house three times after that before buying it, and the owner and her sister sat watching us wander through each time. She wanted to make sure that I would love her home as much as she had.

I knew the moment I walked in what the house was going to look like after I remodeled it. The '60's decorating scheme needed to vanish. The wall separating the living room from the rest of the house had to go, as well as the high-lo gold carpet, the rust-colored kitchen tiles, and the vinyl flooring; and the kitchen had to move to the family room. And windows! There were few, and none looked onto what would become a charming, enclosed backyard.

The path to the remodel was long and rocky, but eventually the roof and the front and garage doors were replaced, and the walls started to come down. I wanted to walk in the front door and see nothing but the garden facing me. The kitchen was moved into what was the family room, and now there is a bank of windows that opens the entire interior of the house to the back garden. If there was a wall that I could put a window in or a window I could enlarge, I did it.

floor-to-ceiling doors and windows uniting the dining room and patio

The master bedroom closet (originally with wood colored vinyl accordion doors) covered the entire wall that is now open to the back garden. By moving the closet to what had been the dining room and with the addition of wall-to-wall windows, I now have a front row view of the changing seasons. My hummingbird visits me every morning at 6:30 as we watch the day begin. The master bath is tiny but adding a full height frosted glass window to the exterior wall, bringing the cabinet and toilet off the floor, and enclosing the shower in sea green glass tiles with a wall-to-wall glass door gives the illusion of a room much larger than it is.

My luckiest discovery was finding scissor beams (angled beams crossing each other to support the pitched roof) above the ceiling (who knew?!). They saved me thousands of dollars as it wasn't necessary to add a support beam in the ceiling when I had the original kitchen pulled out and the living room/back of the kitchen wall removed. Opening the great room showcases the vaulted ceiling giving the illusion of vast space that belies the house's modest 1,700 square foot size. And the views! No matter where I am in the house, the front and back gardens are in front of me. I was lucky enough to

have an enormous existing living room window facing the front garden. In the two bedrooms, my office, and the TV room, I had the existing windows enlarged, so as I work, I have views to the front garden, my neighbors walking to the park, and the plethora of plantings and wildlife.

The original owner's yard guy had cut all of the 60-year-old azaleas and rhodies into Jackie Kennedy hat shapes. The Japanese maple looked like a popsicle, and there was not a worm, slug, or insect on the property for three years. Agent orange?! My first spring in the house, the blooms were a circus of color everywhere: raspberry rhodies, orange and yellow azaleas, purple lilacs, and a few roses. Some friends are landscapers, and we had a mini Cat excavator brought in and shuffled the colors between the back and front yards. I have allowed the rhodies, azaleas, and the Japanese maple to return to their full-grown shapes. At least that was the first transformation. There have been two more major shuffles and many mini ones. I'm sure there will be more.

I have planted for year-round color, and there is not a month that I don't have something in bloom. I especially cherish the fact that I can move from room to room, looking onto the garden, where I have specially curated mini scenes near the windows, with the backdrop of the garden in the distance. Early spring starts with hundreds of ephemerals, camellias, and magnolias. I am not a summer color person, so I wait for the riotous front yard rhododendrons and azaleas to fade, letting the evergreen of the shrubs and trees take over. There is a bank of 'Nikko Blue' hydrangeas across the backyard that comes on in early summer, bringing a soft blue haze to that panorama. Fall is my favorite, with my many beloved sasanqua camellias beginning their show in October and on into early spring. Their pink blossoms contrast dramatically with the shocking deep red and rust of the maples and the deep purple of dozens of colchicum bulbs.

With views onto my world, my house and garden are now everything I first dreamed they would be.

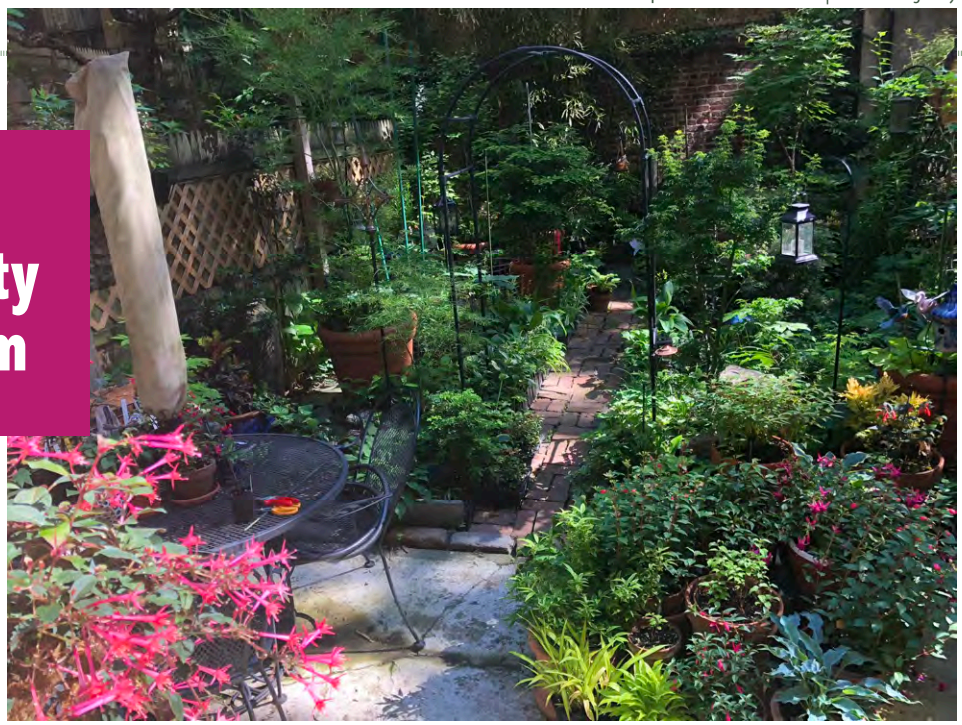
a front row view of the changing seasons from the master bedroom

kitchen windows bringing the outdoors in

Jan Dempsey has been a real estate agent for 38 years, during which time she has flipped at least eight homes for clients. Her own home was the most complicated, with contractors, subs, and permits galore. She has gardened extensively for 40-plus years, holding memberships in HPSO and its Westside group and the Northwest Horticultural Society in Seattle. Her iPhone has hundreds of photos of gardens she thinks are spectacular, and some of their ideas drift into her garden. She loves that her gardens are always a work in progress, and she is always looking for her next house to flip.

photos © The Fuchsietum | R. Theo Margelony

From Fuchsias in the City to The Fuchsietum



Fuchsias in the City, Manhattan 2019

text and photography by R. Theo Margelony

Where does a "Tale of Two Cities" start? It starts in New York City. For the longest time I gardened there. It was a small oasis cloistered among the high-rises of Manhattan's Yorkville, a half block from the East River. I was avidly growing fuchsias on one ninety-fourth of an acre in the middle of a city block.

Even before NYC, I'd been growing fuchsias since I was a teenager. My mother grew them. So did my grandfather in Germany. I sometimes joke that I was born in a bed of fuchsias. I called my urban hideaway "Fuchsias in the City." It was a slight play on *Sex and the City*. I blogged from there on gardening and fuchsias. I called the Manhattan blog *The Urban Fuchsia*.

In the summer of 2019, everything was about to change.

My partner, Kevin, was unexpectedly offered a job in Portland, Oregon. We questioned it. The answer came back "Heck, yeah!" I decided to take an early retirement from my own job as Administrator in the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. I'd been there for a few decades. Possibly centuries.

At The Met, we were celebrating our 150th Anniversary in 2020. After 150 years, I figured I could move on to some new adventures, too. It wasn't that hard a decision really. Kevin graduated high school in Walla Walla, Washington, and we've both been attached to the Pacific Northwest. In few places do fuchsias grow as well as in the PNW.

By that fall, I'd finished setting my worldly affairs in order, packed up the apartment, and bid a (really) tearful adieu to my old garden at Fuchsias in the City. At 6:00 am the morning after my last working day at

fuchsia border, Phase 1 of the Evil Master Plan & Garden Makeover in our Portland garden, September 2021

The Met, I got into the car, drove across the George Washington Bridge for the last time, and set off on an epic 4,300-mile road trip. Oregon, here I come! It wasn't quite the Oregon Trail. It was more the southernly route. It was fall, and I wasn't going to hazard early-season snowstorms or go anywhere near the Donner Pass. I zig-zagged across the continent, visiting friends, botanical gardens, museums, and a host of other places for a few weeks. It was the great adventure!

There was a temporary apartment waiting as a base camp in Portland. Kevin got here first. House hunting was another adventure. I'm sure I don't have to explain how much of an adventure that can be. The perfect garden-with-house-in-it finally came along; and, snap, it was ours.

We moved in on December 1. I'd imagined doing lots of things in the new garden.

photos © The Fuchsietum | R. Theo Margelony

installing the new path along the west side of the house, June 2022

front walk work, July 2022

Filling it with all the fuchsias of the world I could only ever dream about in Manhattan. I started to call the project the "Evil Master Plan & Garden Makeover." There was a bit of wild and pent-up plant energy about to get loosed. Or so I thought.

Then, of course, we fell straight into the arms of the pandemic. It overcame us so quickly. The world came to a screeching halt. I took out a lot of frustrations ripping out clichés from big box stores the previous owner had planted. For about a year, I ripped. Things slowly slipped back into some semblance of normality, and the garden started getting some real attention, not just my dreaming and scheming.

First off, a new name. Calling the new garden Fuchsias in the City wasn't doing it anymore. That "City" in Fuchsias in the City was very specific to New York City. I considered "The City of Fuchsias." Portland actually is; but, well, it's also the "City of Roses." Bummer. I eventually hit on "The Fuchsietum | A Garden in Portland." "Fuchsietum" is a word I made up. Like an *arboretum* has trees, a *pinetum* has pines, and a *palmatum* has palms. A *fuchsietum* has fuchsias.

We managed to get Phase I of the Evil Master Plan & Garden Makeover finished by early fall 2021. The new patio and driveway were done. The raised bed filling wasted space on the patio behind the house was planted with many hardy fuchsias right off. I can watch hummingbirds from the kitchen now.

We had a lot of time to plot from the front porch during that first year of the pandemic. Especially at wine-o'clock. New steps. New retaining walls. Paths, formal and informal. A "moon gate" arbor to frame a view. Places to sit and muse. Room for a small greenhouse even. That's my long-time dream come true. Lawn went away for more planting beds. Meaning more room for fuchsias. I didn't really want to waste time mowing when I could be weeding, and there's no herd of sheep to keep a lawn under control.

But then there were delays, delays, and more delays due to the pandemic. Planning on Phase II started at the beginning of February 2021. Actual work on the rest of the garden didn't start until May 2022. Still. Progress! I decided to tackle all the planting and mulching. I got the feeling I was playing 3-D chess. I still have a lot of plants to go. I'm afraid to count how many.

You might think I'm a bit fuchsia mad. I am. I'll confess there are a lot of other plants too. Maybe I'm just plant mad with a specialty in fuchsias. Who knows. I talk about fuchsias a lot and not just to myself or to people who make the mistake of lingering a moment too long on the sidewalk. I do talks on Zoom and in person. At the Seattle Flower Show this spring, as well.

I love writing about fuchsias. Especially their history. I'll be talking about that at the 80th Anniversary celebration of the British Fuchsia Society at the RHS-Malvern Autumn Show in the UK. Fuchsia history is not so strange, considering my own long history at a museum. The Met Cloisters has some killer medieval gardens. My other obsession is heraldry. Shields and coats of arms. I wrote a bit about "The

continues on next page

photo © The Fuchsietum | R. Theo Margelony

the Evil Master Plan & Garden Makeover, spring 2023

Garden in Heraldry." There were no fuchsias in the Middle Ages, but that was still two for one!

One of the goals of my Evil Master Plan & Garden Makeover is a stage for fuchsias. I have a higher authority to answer to. I'm currently vice-president of the Oregon Fuchsia Society. There will be an HPSO open garden at some point. I'll love to welcome you to this end of the Tale of Two Cities.

■■■

Long gardening in a small urban garden in Manhattan in the Northeast and now establishing a new garden in Portland in the Northwest, R. Theo Margelony talks and writes on fuchsias and other gardening topics. He spoke most recently at the 2023 Seattle Spring Flower Show on growing hardy fuchsias; and he will be one of the featured speakers at the British Fuchsia Society's 80th Anniversary Celebration at the Royal Horticultural Society-Malvern Autumn Show in the UK.

photos by Hayden Brown

Hortlandia 2023

Buyers found a wide range of beautiful shrubs, trees, and perennials available in early April at Hortlandia.

HPSO volunteers greeted shoppers, almost half of whom had made advance reservations to the Hortlandia sale.

Biodiverse Gardens Improve Bee Nutrition and Reduce Bee Disease

text and photography by Gail Langellotto

Container gardens can be used to provision diverse floral resources for bees, when space or soil is limited.

You are what you eat. This phrase can be traced back to an 1826 essay by Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, who wrote, "Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are." Diet and health are inextricably linked for almost all animals, including bees.

Bees foraging from flowering plants obtain carbohydrates from nectar. Pollen provides protein, fats, and vitamins. While the quantity of food is provided by the abundance of floral plantings, the quality of food is determined by the diversity of floral plantings. This is because different flowering plants offer different nutrients to bees' diets. And different bees have different nutritional requirements that vary among species, or that vary across life stages of a single species. For example, scientists found that mason bee larvae (*Osmia bicornis*) performed best on carbohydrate-rich diets. Fluctuations in protein made little difference to bee health, but carbohydrate deficiencies slowed mason bee larval growth and reduced survival.[1] Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) foragers select foods that provide a target mix of 71 percent proteins, 6 percent carbohydrates, and 23 percent lipids.[2]

Diverse floral plantings also help to reduce bee disease. Flowers have been shown to be hotspots for bee disease transmission. If you think of a flower as an elementary school drinking fountain, it makes sense that a sequence of bees could be exposed to disease carried by previous floral visitors. Following a visit by parasite-infected bumblebees, some flowering plants (such as milkweed or bee balm) harbored more bee pathogens than others (e.g., thyme or snapdragons).[3] And here's a fun fact you have likely never come across before: bees preferentially poop on seaside daisy (*Erigeron* daisies) compared to a variety of other flowering plants in the Malvaceae or Verbenaceae families or composites with less floral area in disk flowers.[4] Planting diverse flower types diffuses interactions between healthy and diseased bees. Not all floral morphologies effectively hold and transfer disease. And planting diverse plant types provides more foraging options for bees, which can limit opportunities for healthy and diseased bees to come into contact.

Gardens with diverse and abundant flowers provide healthy nutritional landscapes for bees.

While some flowers may be hotspots for bee disease transmission, others provide anti-microbial compounds that help some bees to naturally fight disease. The common eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*), but not the brown-belted bumblebee (*Bombus griseocollis*), was able to fend off parasite infection after consuming sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) pollen.[5]

Research on the nutritional ecology of wild bees is relatively young. It's thus impossible to provide a specific garden plant recipe that can promote optimal bee health. Nonetheless, a few key points are clear. Monocultural cropping systems are harmful to bee nutrition. Just as you or I could not achieve optimal health by limiting our diet to one food item, neither can bees. And this nutritional harm that monocultural cropping systems presents to bees doesn't even consider the increased pesticide applications that single-cropped systems generally require. Gardens, on the other hand, are better poised to meet the nutritional requirements of bees by virtue of the diverse flowering plant community that is typical of most gardens.

■ ■ ■

Gail Langellotto is a professor of horticulture at Oregon State University. She holds a B.S. in biology and an M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology, all from the University of Maryland. She is a regular contributor to the Quarterly.

[1] Functional Ecology 35: 1069-1080.
[2] Current Zoology 65: 437-446.
[3] Ecology 99: 2535-2545.
[4] Journal of Insect Science 19: 1-3.
[5] Proceedings of the Royal Society B 290: 20230055.

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

text and photography by Amy Campion

A few years ago, I planted a pot of pearly everlasting in my garden in hopes that it would attract butterflies. I've always loved butterflies and have raised quite a few of them, and pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) is said to be a host to a beautiful butterfly called the American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*). Well, I've yet to see the spiky little caterpillars of *Vanessa virginiensis*, but I'm far from disappointed. The abundance of other cool creatures the plant has brought in has more than made up for the no-shows.

In my Portland garden, pearly everlasting starts blooming in mid- to late July and goes for a good six weeks. Dainty flowers with white bracts and mustard-yellow centers rise to a height of about three feet over cottony, gray-green leaves. The papery bracts hold up well when the flowers are dried—hence, the name everlasting—and the flowers can also be used in fresh arrangements.

Pearly everlasting is a member of the aster family, and it's one of the few members of the aster family that's dioecious, which means that male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. My plants are female, and their nectar attracts an amazing array of insects. Therein lies the real appeal of the plant to me!

On warm, sunny days in late summer, I'll often sit in front of my pearly everlasting patch, camera in hand, and watch

A weevil wasp stops by.

Pearly everlasting, in full bloom at the end of July, attracts an array of insects.

the parade of creatures passing through. Many bees come to visit, such as leafcutter bees, sweat bees, longhorn bees, and small carpenter bees. Many cool wasps come to fuel up, too, like grass-carrying wasps, weevil wasps, and spider wasps. I've spotted interesting Lepidoptera species (butterflies and moths), such as pretty gray hairstreak butterflies, bizarre-looking plume moths, and a striking clearwinged moth, the strawberry crown borer. I've seen lacewings and hover flies and a curious black-and-red bristle fly that parasitizes stink bugs. I never know what I'm going to see, and that's what makes this humble patch of flowers endlessly fascinating to me.

Anaphalis margaritacea is a wide-ranging perennial that's native not only to Portland, but also to most of the western United States (and into Canada and Mexico), the Upper Midwest, and New England. It's even native to much of East Asia. Its extensive range is an indicator of how hardy, adaptable, and easy to grow it is. It thrives on neglect. You know that far corner of your garden where the hose barely reaches and you only water when you absolutely have to? That's where my pearly everlasting lives—quite happily. It gets full sun there until late afternoon, when the sun moves behind the neighbor's trees. It could probably handle a little more shade, but then the insect action wouldn't be as intense.

above: Female flowers attract loads of pollinators to their nectar.

left: An iridescent blue-black spider wasp makes an appearance.

One might say that pearly everlasting is too easy to grow. My patch increases steadily by rhizomes every year, attempting to escape its allotted space. In early spring, I have to intervene. When the fuzzy gray leaves first appear, I cut around the clump with a spade and pull up the excess. It's a simple job, as the shoots are not deeply rooted, and they come up easily. I often pot up pieces that have a bit of root attached. They quickly fill out their containers, and then I have a bunch of plants to give away to friends. I want others to enjoy the visitors that I get to see, and I want them to appreciate the diversity that can be found right in their backyards, too! I wouldn't even be resentful if they happened to get American lady caterpillars on theirs.

Well, maybe a little.

■■■

Freelance writer, editor, photographer, and former HPSO director, Amy Campion co-authored the acclaimed Gardening in the Pacific Northwest *and writes for the online retailer Bower & Branch. A Portland resident since 2013, she blogs about gardening at www.amycampion.com. She is a regular columnist for the* Quarterly.

welcome!

TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

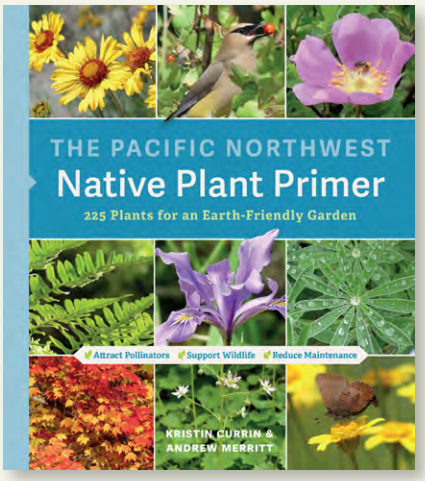
March 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023

We're pleased that you have recently joined our ranks, which currently number some 2,900 members. We hope HPSO offers you the same gardening inspiration, guidance, and camaraderie that has sustained so many of our longtime members, and we look forward to meeting you at events like our annual meeting, Hortlandia, other programs, and open gardens.

Judy Ables
Wendi Aguiar
Kristen Andrews
Sheila Bailey
Lynne Barnes
Richard Barnes
Megan Barnett
Jonathan Barragan
Heidi Barth
Cassey Bauer
Jill Beech
Steven Beilman
Marilyn Berti
Carol Biederman
Bonnie Birch
Mark Bitterman
Tom Blanchard
Leslie Blanding Perrin
Donna Bloomfield
Robyn Bluemmel
Sherry Bohannan
Amy Boulle
Molly Brady
Phil Brooke
Shelly Brown
Jodi Burton
John Burton
Lori Callister
Laura A. Calvache
Kim Campbell
Jessica Carlin
Dawn Carson
Ann Cekoric
Brian Cekoric
Lorien Chang
Tracy Christensen
Logan Collier
Carina Crabtree
Terese DeManuelle
Ryan Dillard
Luke Dolkas
Cindy Duffy
Susan DuPree
John Ewan
Stephanie Ewan
Elizabeth Ferguson
Andrea Flint
Joe Fram
Kate Franken
Danell Goracke
Becky Gross
Susan Hall
Merrie Hampton
Kaitlin Hansen
Karen Hansis
Alan Helfen
Jane Helfen
Beth Hergert
Candi Hibert
John Hicks
Barbara Hildebrandt
Christine Hill
William Hill
Dawn Hoy
Mark Hoy
Julia Hungerford
Hilary Hutler
Laura Iler
Mary Isles
Karen Jackson
Connie Jacot
Carol Jeanne
Todd Key
Nancy Klass
Amy Knittel
Jeanne Krinsley
Wendy Kunkel
Irma Lagomarsino
Amy Lake
Gigi Lambert
Jessica Lanoue
Ann Laurier
Megan Lea
Rachel Lindsay
Ruthie Macha Petty
Britt Magneson
Peri Mahaley
Bobbi Marling
Jonathan Matthias
Polly McCarter
Lorrie McCullough
Danielle McQueen
Donna Medica
Brent Miller
Don Moe
Marceen Moe
Pamela Morgan
Evelyn Murphy
Lauren Murphy
Blayney Myers
Baraa Naeb
Neal Naigus
Summer Neville
Marina Nims
Karen Norgaard
Steve Norgaard
Robin Occhipinti
Kristin Ohlson
Haley Paddock
Jacki Paddock
Natasha Park
Carla Pastore
Karen Peele
Anthony Phillips
Dena Raffel
Sashi Raghupathy
Kiley Reese
Sandy Rich
Mary Ann Rodal
Monica Rodal
Gail Rodgerd
Alex Rose
Patty Rueter
Nancy Schwartz
Christine Semeniuk
Becky Serabrini
Kathleen Shaffer
Renee Sheehan
Daniel Smith
Sheri Smith
Liz Smyth
Vicki Sparks
Abby Steinbrook
Mary Ellen Stinski
Craig Stone
David Taylor
Deborah Taylor
Sabrina Trembley
Carlos Tronco
Wendy Van Leuven
Ivy Voelkel
Gail Warren
Laura Warren
Heather Weddle
Todd Weddle
Stephanie Welty
Teresa Whelan
Ruth Wiens
Doug Wills
Kathy Wolff
Heather Woods
Peggy Wros
Richard Wros
Sylvan Zimmerman

FROM THE LIBRARY

The HPSO Lending Library, located at 4412 S. Barbur Blvd., Suite 260, Portland, is currently closed. Phillip Oliver, HPSO Library & Book Committee member, reviews three books of interest to gardeners.

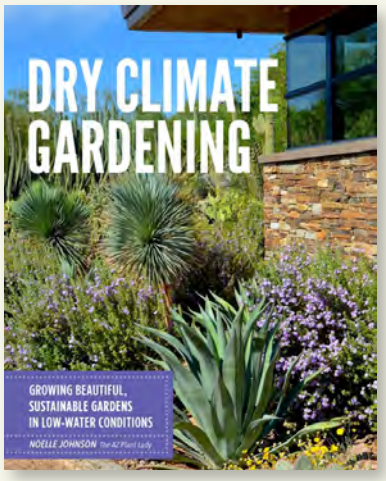


The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer

by Kristen Currin and Andrew Merritt
(Timber Press, 2023)

Currin and Merritt, owners of Humble Roots Nursery in Mosier, Oregon (www.humblerootsnursery.com), present an attractively designed and valuable reference for gardening with native plants of the region with a predominant focus on Washington and Oregon.

Beginning with the basics of creating and maintaining a wildlife garden and tips on attracting butterflies, birds, and insects, the heart of the book is an encyclopedic profile of plants arranged by wildflowers, grasses and grass-like plants, ferns, shrubs, and trees. Each profile gives information on habitat/range, seasonal interest, wildlife value, and cultivation. Symbols indicate what wildlife (birds, hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, caterpillars) the plants attract. Lists of plants for specfic purposes (shade, drought-tolerant, wet sites, etc.) are included. In addition to the wealth of information, the book is heavily illustrated with gorgeous photographs.



Dry Climate Gardening

by Noelle Johnson
(Cool Springs Press, 2023)

As our summers have become drier and hotter, there is an increasing interest in adapting gardens to meet the changing times. Noelle Johnson is a garden blogger (*AZ Plant Lady* at www.azplantlady.com/desert-garden-blog) from Arizona, and her book is geared toward Southwest gardeners with desert or desert-like conditions. There are beautiful garden photos accompanied by advice on every aspect of gardening in dry environments. A directory of appropriate plants (trees, shrubs, groundcovers, cacti, and succulents) is included; but very few would be practical in our Mediterranean climate (dry summers, wet winters). The Pacific Northwest climate can sometimes be challenging, and recent books like *Gardening in Summer Dry Climates* by Nora Harlow and *Fearless Gardening* by Loree Bohl have addressed the topic.

The Hummingbird Handbook

by John Shewey
(Timber Press, 2021)

Oregon-based Shewey is a fly angler, journalist, photographer, and frequent contributor to *Birdwatching* magazine. This nifty little primer on hummingbirds covers just about every aspect of these fascinating birds, and there is an excellent chapter on how the author turned his backyard into a hummingbird paradise with a selection of 21 recommended plants. The basics of hummingbird feeder maintenance is very helpful and offers information on the best feeders to use and how to keep them clean and healthy. Fascinating trivia, facts vs. fiction, and folklore enliven this book which includes stunning photos of hummingbirds from all over the world.

■■■

Phillip Oliver is a former member of the HPSO Board and serves on the HPSO Library & Book Committee. He regularly reviews books for the Quarterly. *He gardens in Vancouver, Washington (his garden has been featured in* Fine Gardening *magazine), and works at Yard 'n Garden Land near his home. He also documents gardening happenings on his blog* Dirt Therapy *(http://phillipoliver.blogspot.com). He opens his garden as part of HPSO's Open Gardens program and by appointment.*

Patti Elias' photo of her renovated garden, page 12

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
4412 S. Barbur Blvd, Suite 260
Portland, OR 97239

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 EVENTS

GRESHAM/CORBET OPEN GARDENS MINI-TOUR
July 8-9, 2023

SOUTHWEST PORTLAND OPEN GARDENS MINI-TOUR
August, 2023

See page 2.

AFTER HOURS
at The Garden Corner in Tualtin
July 31, 2023

PLANTFEST
at PCC Rock Creek Campus
September 30, 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

GARDEN STUDY WEEKEND 2025
in Portland, Oregon, hosted by The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

June 27-29, 2025

Watch for more program information and open garden information in the weekly emails and at **hardyplantsociety.org**

Barbara Ashmun's photo of visitors to her garden, page 10

A weevil wasp on pearly everlasting, page 26, photo by Amy Campion

Nemophila maculata, page 14, photo by Eric Hammond