



the **HPSO**
quarterly
SUMMER 2013

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON



*summer 2013
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*Cover photo by Scott Weber.
Photo this page by Linda Wisner.*

*Clematis 'The Velvet' with
Jasminum officinale 'Fiona Sunrise'*



Fall PlantFest

Saturday, September 7, 2013
PCC Rock Creek Campus

Program:

**9:30am-11am — Water-wise Plants for
Northwest Gardens: Expanding the Palette**

David Salman, High Country Gardens, New Mexico

Plant Sale:

**Noon - 5pm — Nurseries and growers selling
great plants for fall planting** — free entry and free parking

Early shopping for lecture attendees at 11:00am.

After a two year hiatus rethinking and revisioning how we might celebrate autumn, the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is excited to announce our new event, the Fall PlantFest. This one-day extravaganza features both a lecture and a plant sale on Saturday, September 7, 2013, at the Rock Creek Campus of Portland Community College, 17705 NW Springville Rd. Portland, OR 97229 (just off NW 185th Avenue north of Hwy. 26).

David Salman of High Country Gardens in Santa Fe, New Mexico, begins the day with a lecture tailored to Northwest gardeners at 9:30 am. His talk titled "Water-wise Plants for Northwest Gardens: Expanding the Palette" is a timely topic in this age of diminishing resources. At the plant sale, vendors will have their own cashboxes and will accept cash, checks and credit cards.

In a show of support to our members, those who sign up for the lecture have first rights to an hour of shopping before the sale opens to the public. People who attend the lecture shop from 11:00am to 12:00 and all comers start loading their boxes at noon. Vendors pack up and head for home at 5:00pm.

Register for the lecture online at www.hardyplantsociety.org

Pennisetum macrourum



Share Your Gardening Passion with HPSO

by the Quarterly committee

HPSO is a society devoted to its members' passion for plants. Sharing information, some laughs, and experience is what makes participating in this group such a joy. Help us all grow as gardeners by sharing what you know and love about gardening with your fellow members in an article for the *Quarterly*.

Article submissions have two simple guidelines: they should be no longer than 1,000 words and any photos should be high-resolution (5MB+). A member of the committee will let you know when your article will be published and offer recommended edits. Space availability may create publication constraints, but if this occurs we will work with you to publish an abbreviated version, or post your full submission on the HPSO website. If you have questions or an article to submit, contact Whitney Rideout at whitney@skygardensdesign.com.

We look forward to hearing about your adventures in the world of gardening.

from the president:

HPSO Board Contemplates Calendar Changes

Taking steps designed to serve members better and enhance Board effectiveness, the HPSO Board of Directors will consider several changes to the Society's Bylaws at its August 28, 2013 meeting. The changes, if approved, will allow the Board to realign the Society's fiscal year, which is currently from March 1 to the end of February. The new fiscal year would be October 1 to September 30.

For the most part, the changes affect activities going on "behind the scenes" in HPSO, overseen by Board members, committees and our part-time staff, including such work as budget preparation, program planning, and director and officer recruitment. Up until now, these activities have been "wedged in" with a host of other ones. From mid-January to mid-April, for example, we prepare for, and stage, Hortlandia, our biggest event of the year, conduct a winter speaker's program, participate in the Yard, Garden & Patio Show, produce and distribute the Open Gardens Directory, schedule a few Gen(i)us and Garden School events, and process the membership renewals for approximately 40 percent of HPSO members. Moving budgeting, program planning, and Board recruitment ahead by six months will help spread the work out more evenly throughout the year.

Members will notice one significant change if the proposed Bylaws revisions are approved: our Annual Meeting will

take place in September or October, rather than in March. The meeting's format, mixing together Society business, director and officer elections, a speaker program, fundraising and a bit of socializing, will remain the same.

If the revisions to the Bylaws are approved, the Board will proceed with steps to achieve the realignment of the fiscal year and the Society's election cycles. It will shorten our current fiscal year and bring it to a close September 30, 2013. It will extend, on a one-time basis only, the terms of all officers and directors by seven months, so that they will conclude at the Annual Meetings in 2014 or 2015. As our members have already voted for directors at the March 2013 Annual Meeting, no additional election is foreseen for this year. In order to comply with Oregon law governing nonprofit organizations, however, an open house in December, 2013, will serve as our Annual Meeting for the shortened fiscal year ending September 30. Details regarding this meeting will be announced if the Bylaws revisions are approved.

Members who are interested in obtaining a copy of the proposed Bylaws revisions, or attending the Board meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at 7 p.m., should contact HPSO President Jim Rondone by email at jim@rondonekemp.com, or call the HPSO Office at 503-224-5718.

Jim Rondone, President



Deschampsia caespitosa

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Whitney Rideout, Editor
Linda Wisner, Designer

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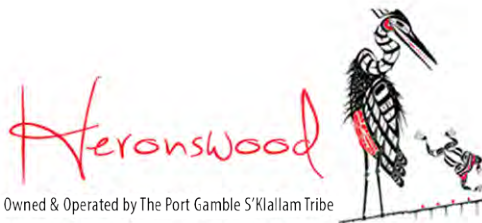
Heronswood Garden Open & Plant Sale

July 6 and September 7, 2013

Heronswood is excited to announce a Garden Open & Plant Sale July 6th and September 7th. While plants from Heronswood won't be available for purchase, nurseries from around the Puget Sound area will be on hand to bring patrons a wide variety of unique and unusual plants perfect for home gardens. In addition to the vendor plant market, attendees will be able to tour the garden and experience the progress being made in its historic renovation. A series of afternoon lectures will also be offered.

For more information about Heronswood and these events please visit www.Heronswood.com.

*photos from
the website*



SOME HISTORY:

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe purchased Heronswood during the summer of 2012. In the interim months, volunteers working to restore the garden areas have done a lot of work, under the leadership of one of the original co-founders, Dan Hinkley. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation is responsible for ensuring that the garden's integrity is maintained while managing community events and activities, such as memberships, plant sales, open garden days, and other fundraising efforts to benefit the gardens.

Established in 1987 by renowned horticulturist Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones, Heronswood features thousands of plant varieties that have been carefully documented, cultivated and preserved for scientific, educational and ornamental purposes. Gardeners, scientists, researchers, students, and plant lovers alike traveled from around the world to admire and study the expansive plant collection. As it became established in the early 1990s, Heronswood received international acclaim for its large and diverse display garden and became a favorite destination for gardeners, researchers, students and plant lovers alike.

W. Atlee Burpee purchased the property in 2000. Except for a few select annual events, the company closed Heronswood to the public in 2006. The situation seemed sad and hopeless until the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe took ownership of the property and they quickly moved forward with plans to restore this botanical treasure.

To help advise on restoration efforts and guide the Foundation's activities as they relate to Heronswood, a Steering Committee has been formed. This group consists of tribal leaders and members, passionate Heronswood supporters, and plant experts.





Wisteria and Banksia roses were recurring themes on the wonderful May HPSO tour in southern France, organized by Bruce Wakefield. For information about upcoming HPSO tours, including Spain and Portugal in 2014, visit www.hardyplantsociety.org.



garden school

NOTE: For more information about these and other HPSO programs, including the Gen(i)us series, visit www.hardyplantsociety.org

Upcoming Events & Workshop

by Jolly Butler, Garden School Committee

This summer, HPSO members can join a trip to see unusual gardens, attend a session focusing on seed propagation, or "Get Growing!" with Darcy Daniels in a three-day workshop. Registration and further information for all events are online at hardyplantsociety.org.

Saturday, July 13, 2013,

Wildlife Botanical Gardens Tour

Learn how you can create your own backyard wildlife sanctuary in your visit to the three-acre Wildlife Botanical Gardens. The Garden is devoted to demonstrating and teaching gardening concepts for attracting birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife to residential gardens. You will see garden plants attractive to birds and wildlife, landscaping techniques to encourage wildlife habitat, and models for planning your own garden.

TIME: 10 AM – 1 PM

**PLACE: Wildlife Botanical Gardens,
Brush Prairie, Washington**

Fee: \$5.00

Maximum number participants: 25

Registration now open.

Thursday, August 15, 2013,

Seed Propagation

Fall is a great time to sow seeds of many hardy plants. Join Jan Jeddelloh for a lecture/hands on workshop covering why you should want to try your hand at seed sowing. Topics include seed collecting and saving, soil mixtures, when to sow seed, and special treatments for special seeds. You will actually sow some seed in class to take home!

TIME: 7 – 8:30 PM

**PLACE: HPSO Library,
828 NW 19th Ave, Portland**

Fee: \$15.00

Maximum number participants: 20

Registration open soon.

THREE-DAY WORKSHOP:

**Friday-Sunday,
September 20-22, 2013**

Get Growing! An Exploration of Planting and Garden Design FUN-damentals

Back after a hiatus, the popular Get Growing! series returns, taught by Darcy Daniels of Bloomtown Gardens. This three-day intensive workshop features slide-lectures, hands-on exercises and field trips designed to energize your garden planning and plant selection process. Geared for the beginner but suitable for gardeners of all experience levels, Darcy's workshop will challenge you to think in new ways about your garden and how you select plants for it. Some topics: tips for creating visually engaging planting combos with all-season appeal, incorporating edibles into your garden, specific plants for specific settings (shade, sun, dry, screening, hedging, maintenance considerations). NOTE: This workshop is open to both HPSO members and non-members.

TIME: Friday, September 20, 5-8 PM

Saturday, September 21, and

Sunday, September 22, 10 AM -4 PM

**PLACE: Bloomtown Gardens,
Northeast Portland**

Fee: \$150 for HPSO members;

\$165 for non-members

Maximum number participants: 13

Registration open soon.



Photo taken at the Wildlife Botanical Gardens by nature photographer Terry Covington.

Save the date:

On Thursday, August 8, at 7pm, there will be a talk by Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones from Crûg Farm Nursery, a mecca for extraordinary plants on the north Wales coast, England. Details will be announced soon at www.hardyplantsociety.org

plant profiles

We've asked some of our favorite plant people to share information about some of their favorite plants.

Clematis alpina 'Pamela Jackman'



by Linda Beutler, curator,
Rogerson Clematis Collection
www.rogersonclematiscollection.org

At the Rogerson Clematis Collection, we like to say we can have April in August. Thanks to the long growing season gardeners enjoy in the Pacific Northwest, clematis species and hybrids said to bloom early can often give a second (or third!) show without much coaxing. Such is the case with *Clematis alpina* 'Pamela Jackman'.

It is not uncommon for the small nodding bells of this *Clematis alpina* selection to be produced in such proliferation they obscure the delicate light green three-part leaves. The color is a more than usually blue shade of purple; clematis folks have the same desire to see blue where it might not, precisely, exist, as do daylily breeders and rose growers. Inside the four blue sepals (just nod like you agree they are blue) are creamy-white staminodes, spatulate stamens serving to provide a focus for the rich flower color. Clematis don't have petals and what we see as a corolla of petals is actually the calyx. As plant ID students know, a calyx is made up of sepals, and if there are no petals, those sepals are called tepals. This is a tom-a-toes/tomah-toes kind of thing. If you say sepals instead of petals, most clematis cognoscenti will be grateful you tried!

After the April/May blooms, prune the vine to whatever degree seems necessary (it can climb to 10' tall in about two years), or simply deadhead it. Give it a taste of any organic rose & flower food, and in 30-45 days, it will repeat nearly as bountifully as it did in April. If you do not deadhead, or forget to fertilize, it will rebloom anyway, just more slowly, and with fewer flowers.

Clematis alpina 'Pamela Jackman' is a selection of *Clematis alpina*, named by UK nurseryman Rowland Jackman for his daughter, in 1960. In 2005 the plant received an Award of Garden Merit from the RHS, proof positive that good plants stand the test of time and stay in the market regardless of fashion.

Cyrtomium falcatum 'Rochfordianum' – Japanese Holly Ferns



www.outinthegardennursery.com
20% Discount to HPSO members

by Carol Westergreen, *Out in the Garden Nursery*

Cyrtomium falcatum 'Rochfordianum' (Rochford's), also called Japanese holly ferns, are one of my favorite ferns for the shade garden. This fern differentiates itself from all other ferns with shiny, dark green color and unusual heavily serrated foliage, contrasting nicely against other popular shade garden plants, helping to enhance the visual texture of the garden. Rochford holly ferns grow to be approximately 18 inches tall and 24 inches wide, forming a soft, upright vase shape. They thrive in dappled, woodland shade, but can tolerate a range of conditions from part to full shade. While they can take morning sun, they really prefer to be out of any hot, intense sun. As with most ferns, they prefer rich, moist woodland soils, but can tolerate heavier soils. They perform best with regular summer water.

Some of my favorite combinations with Rochford Holly fern include *Carex* 'Bowles Golden' and *Heuchera* 'Can Can' or 'Plum Pudding'. For those with limited ground space, this versatile fern also does very well in containers. With the mild micro-climate in my former Portland garden, the Rochford holly fern stayed evergreen most years. Here in Molalla, where winter temperatures are a bit colder and my garden is more exposed to the elements, the foliage will die back for the winter most years.

Since this plant often starts to push new growth very early in the spring, I often wait to cut back any old, damaged foliage until after the threat of frost has passed, leaving the old foliage to protect the new growth. Rochford holly ferns are winter hardy to zone 6 (or -10 degrees Fahrenheit). Rochford holly ferns are a must have plant for every shade garden—easy to care for and beautiful with its companions. What more could you want out of a fern?

Pinus contorta 'Spaan's Dwarf'



www.oregonsmalltrees.com
15% Discount to HPSO members

by David Leckey, *Oregon Small Trees Nursery*,

I frequently get asked, while wandering through the nursery with customers/friends, "Which one is your favorite?" Might as well ask "Of all your children, which one is your favorite?" My stock answer? "Generally, whichever one I happen to be working with at the time."

Anyway, if I have to pick one to brag about, I'll start with an old time favorite called *Pinus contorta* 'Spaan's Dwarf'. This sturdy little *Pinus contorta* is one of at least four species of pines that most commonly fall into the category called lodgepole pine. The shore pine is a more coastal variety that is native to the Pacific Northwest, typically growing in sandy, gravelly sites and growing with a wide and deep taproot.

'Spaan's Dwarf' has unusually short needles (generally two needles to a group) and forms a wonderfully open, rounded-to-conical tree that will get to be 5-6 feet across and about the same in height in 12-15 years. As you can see from the photo, it becomes a bonsai shaped, sculptural tree with plenty of stature to stand on its own or, because it is so open, posing in a mid-distance.

A mid-distance placement allows the viewer to see both this wonderful tree as well as what is behind it, and appreciate the whole garden.

Like most pines, it can be shaped to be taller, fatter, go to the left, go to the right, whatever you want. Every few years it may get a bit bushy, so take ten minutes and clear out a couple of interior branches that, in my opinion, clog up the view. Like most pines, it is cold tolerant (USDA Z5) and drought tolerant once established. Plant it where it can get lots of sun, has good drainage and is visible from your deck or front window!

plant profiles

Add Ornamental Grasses ...Blend Well

by Carolyn Kolb,
Wind Dancer Garden



Gardeners arrived through the years at Wind Dancer Garden with hopes of incorporating ornamental grasses in their landscape, but they were not sure how to begin. There is a process to use to determine which grasses will work best for a given situation, but first, let's begin by understanding the characteristics and categories of grasses.

Grasses are divided into two groups by season—cool and warm. The cool-season grasses such as *Carex* and *Helictotrichon* prefer cool temperatures (up to 75 degrees), bloom in the spring, and may be evergreen. Warm-season grasses, such as *Pennisetum* and *Miscanthus*, begin to grow when the soil warms and the temperature rises, bloom in the fall, maintain their structure all winter, and need to be cut down in the spring.

Grasses are divided into other categories that include running vs. clumping, perennial vs. annual, and evergreen vs. deciduous. Each has their place and purpose in the landscape.

Determining which grasses will work best in your space is a process that consists of a series of questions:

- 1. What is the overall look you want?** Your personality and occupation will play a large part in this decision process. Informal and blowsy, or more formal and controlled?
- 2. What is the purpose you want the grass to serve?** Movement and sound, winter interest, intriguing seedheads, eco-friendly, easy maintenance? A hedge, border, screen or container plant?
- 3. Do you have sun or shade?** (Six hours of sun is considered full sun.) Is it morning or afternoon shade? Variegated grass will take more shade than their green counterparts.
- 4. How will you irrigate?** Deep soaking is necessary the first year—encouraging deep root growth and resulting in more drought-tolerant plants in future years. Drip systems and soaker hoses provide water directly to the roots and discourage weeds in between.
- 5. How tall do you want your plants to be?** Convey height in actual inches or feet, as tall means 16' to me and maybe 4' to you.
- 6. Shape?** Upright, vase-shaped, mounding, tufted? Use will determine this many times, but personal preference is important too.
- 7. Color?** Grasses grow in an amazing array of colors: blue, gold, lime, orange, red, all shades of green, as well as variegation and striations. Some grasses change color with the seasons, such as *Panicum* 'Shenandoah'. Warm season grasses turn tan after a frost.
- 8. What color is your house?** With so many color choices, why not choose grasses that complement your house?

The answers to these questions will lead you to the best genera and species for your area, so now you can turn your attention to design. When adding grasses to established gardens, the common rule of "tall in the back" doesn't necessarily apply. Grasses such as *Stipa gigantea* have 6-foot-tall stalks, but they are airy (I call them the negligée plants since you can see through them) so they provide intrigue at the front of the bed.

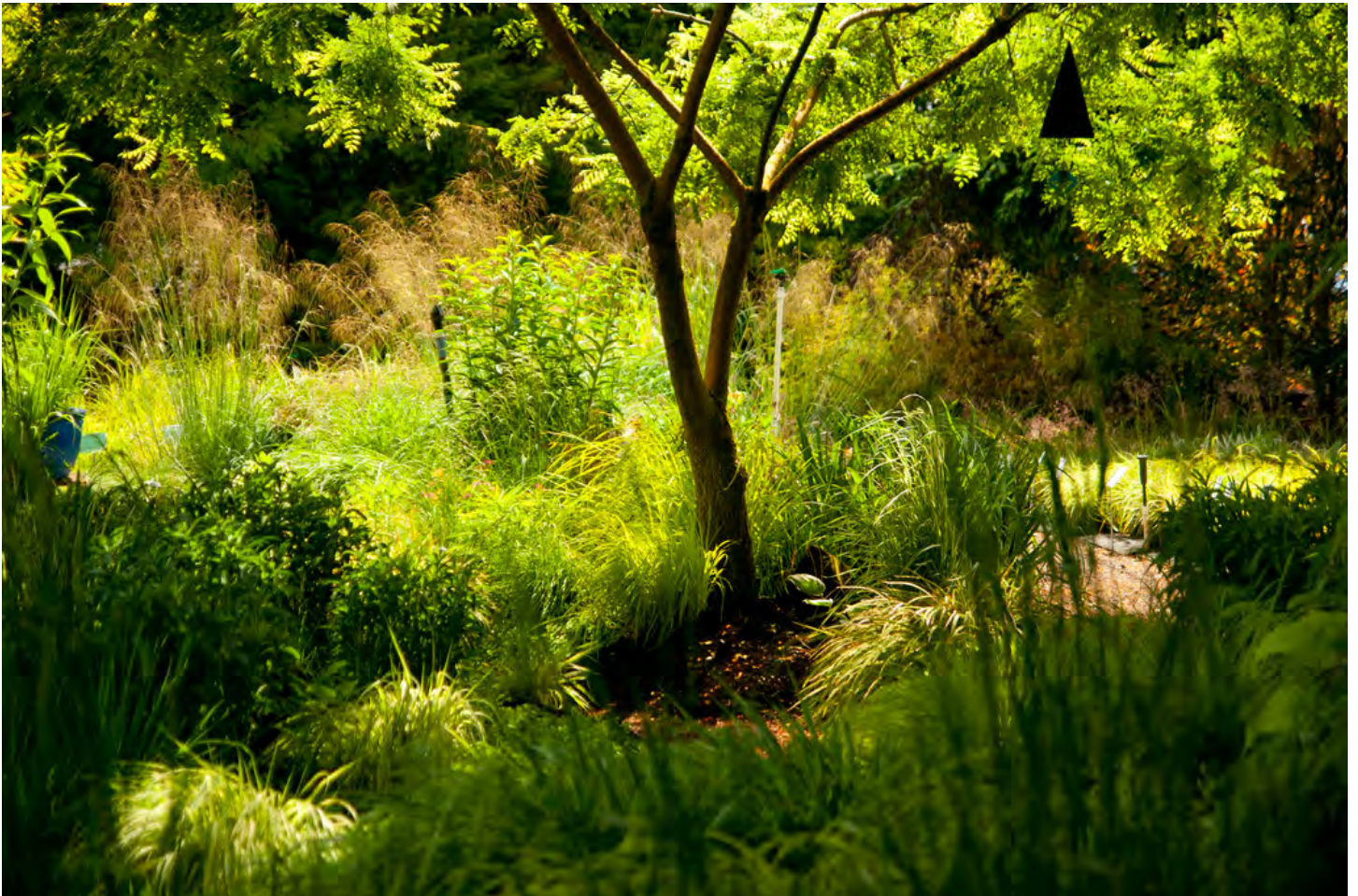
When using grasses in a new space, I suggest creating a meandering pathway and bringing in top soil to make berms.

continues on page 10



*Achnatherum
calamagrostis*

*below: Sun
and shade.*



Choose a few small conifers and some grasses and determine their placement. Add boulders and river rock, topping the landscape with compost. It's an elegant, sophisticated look with low maintenance, and a huge "Wow" factor.

That last comment brings up the final topic for this article: maintenance. Maintenance is a consideration, and the amount of work required depends on whether the grass is evergreen or deciduous.

- Evergreen grasses may have their ends trimmed up in late winter, but never remove more than a third of the foliage. After a few years, the leaves underneath the edges of the plant may die back. Simply lift the healthy leaves and trim the old leaves off at the ground with scissors.
- If the plant is deciduous, enjoy the tan foliage all winter as it dances and rustles, and cut it off 3-4" above the ground when you see the new green shoots in the spring. For large grasses, tie a bungee cord around the foliage, and cut the grass off with an electric hedge pruner. It will fall over in a bundle, making cleanup a snap. Use it to thatch your roof!

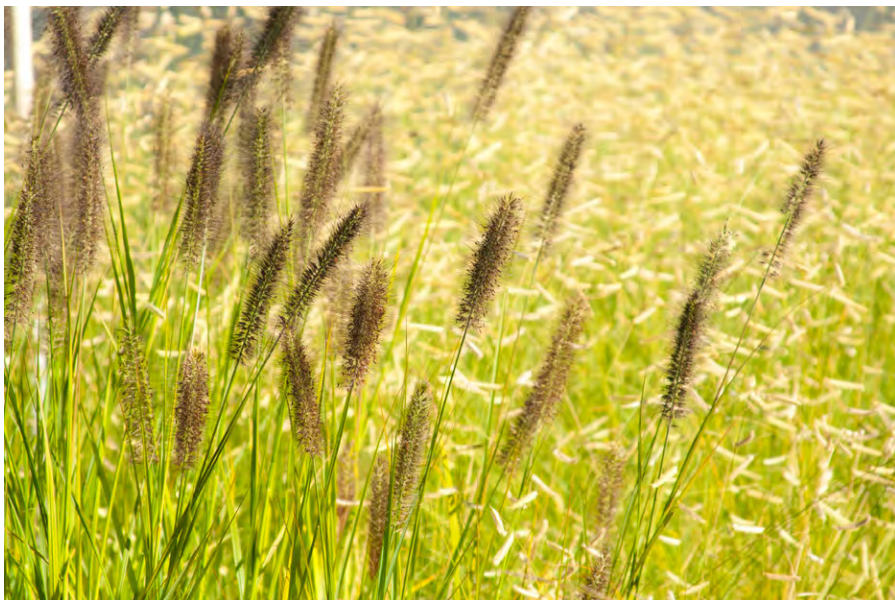
Many grasses will need to be divided after a few years. When the middle starts to die out, creating a "donut hole," it's time to divide. Once, this was a daunting task, but here is the secret. Dig around the part you want to remove, about a foot down. Then take a reciprocating saw with a ripper blade, and cut right down through the middle. You will be amazed how easily the blade cuts. (This is true for bamboo as well.) If the plant is large, you may want to make several cuts through the root ball. Then simply pop out the divided part. The optimal time for dividing the grass is when you cut it down, just as it has started to grow. Since the roots of the grass in the ground have not been disturbed, the plant will recover more quickly. Simply add compost to the hole.

Don't be daunted about using grasses in your landscape. It is easy, the choices are vast, and the results are stunning.



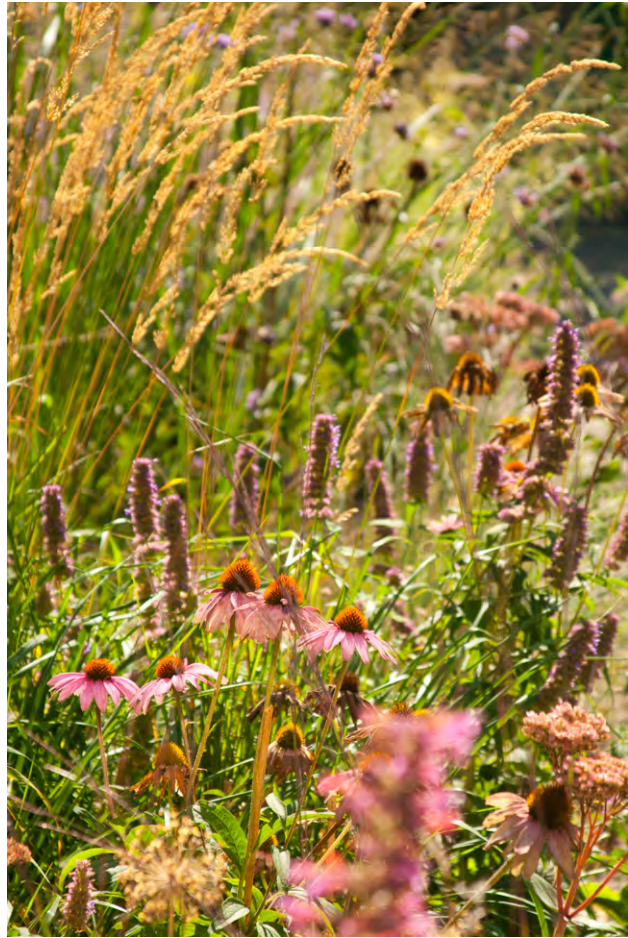
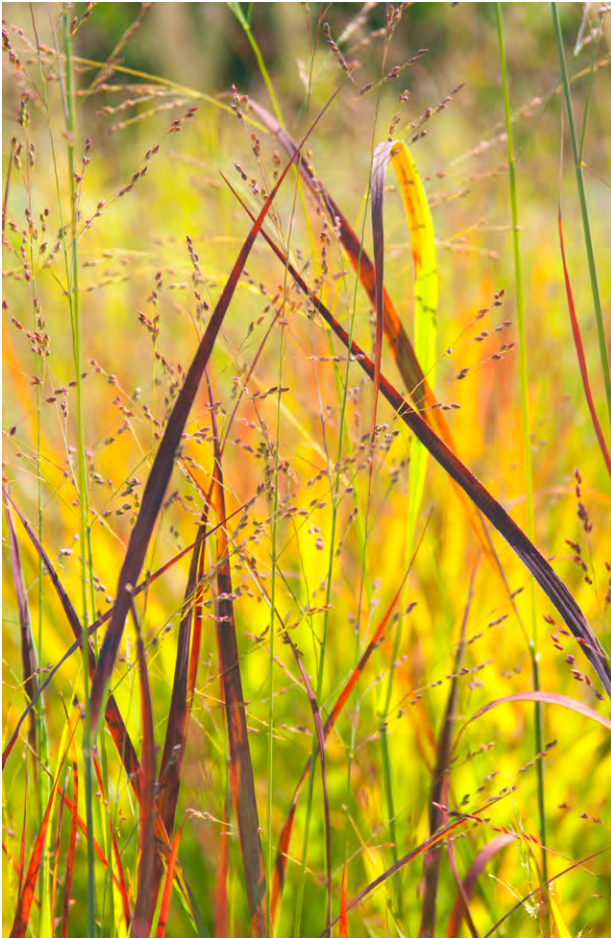
Since 1999, Carolyn Kolb has specialized in growing ornamental grasses at her nursery, Wind Dancer Garden. During that time, she enjoyed helping gardeners add grasses to their landscapes. So when the physical demands of growing the grasses became more challenging, she decided to focus on garden coaching, with an emphasis on ornamental grasses.

Her new website is gardencoachingbycarolyn.com.



above: *Pennisetum* 'Red Head' and *Bouteloua* 'Blonde Ambition'
below: Wind Dancer in autumn





Calamagrostis
'Karl Foerster'

above: *Panicum* 'Cheyenne Sky'; below: *Shady Carex*

Photos by
Scott Weber.



A Well-Kept Secret:

Our South Waterfront Park Garden

by Jepi Martin, HPSO Member



I love to visit gardens! From a neighbor's new pot on the deck to the most intensely planted HPSO Open Gardens, there is just something inviting about a space that is intentionally planted. I love the well-known garden spots. I visit the Japanese Garden every month and Bishop's Close annually.

But I also love my secret gardens. I didn't read about them in *Sunset Magazine* or the Home and Garden section of the *Oregonian*. I didn't hear about them from every garden friend I talk to. I stumbled upon them on a walk or a drive or learned about them in an overheard conversation.

The South Waterfront Park Garden is one of those gardens. A few city blocks at the end of the path along the Willamette River's west side, it is a calm, green gem set in the hustle and bustle of Portland city center. The garden is located at River Parkway and Montgomery with the Marquam Bridge soaring overhead.

Visitors enter the walkways lined with green grasses. In the early spring I cannot identify them except from the garden map list: *Calmagrostis*, *Carex*, *Cortaderia*, their names are exotic. *Miscanthus* and *Molina*, *Sorghastrum* and *Stipa*. Later in the spring as they emerge from their brown and green mounds, the beautifully sited grasses unite the garden. From 12" compact sedges to a towering grass waving 5 feet and taller, the grasses respond to the breezes off the Willamette River which bounds the east side of the garden.

It is early in the spring when I start visiting. These garden beds are full and I love seeing some spring favorites, hellebores, columbine and bleeding heart. As I stroll to decide which bench to sit on, I catch the sweet scent of daphne drifting around the corner.

The beds create a formal framework around the garden rooms and all contain rich, lush plantings. Each area has its own personality and visitors can usually find a place to sit in quiet contemplation.

A Portland Park Bureau garden, the occasional weed is a reminder of budget constraints. I see a visitor wandering with a weed hanging from one hand, "There aren't many of those are there?" I query. "No, but when I see one, I just have to pull it out," she smiles.

Gordon, a Park Bureau employee cleaning out the pond filters, calls the garden "a very well kept secret." One gardener with an occasional assistant

tends all the park area along the Southwest Waterfront, but the overall feeling is of a garden well cared for. Indicating a mallard wandering close to the ponds, Gordon says there has been a nesting pair in the garden every year for eight years. "The same pair do you think?" I ask. "Well, they all looked the same!" he laughed.

A toddler stands by the ponds and points at the drake, "Duck, duck," she cries. Her dad leads her on through the garden labeling plants and objects. Her mother follows slowly, murmuring, "It just goes on and on."

Where the path is closest to the river, her father lifts the toddler with one hand for a humorous photo-op. With the Marquam Bridge soaring behind her, she appears to be flying under the bridge. The family walks on past a bed of tall roses where bleeding heart marches into a swath of well established ajuga.

Two window washers, who moments before were dangling well above the ground on the high-rise apartment south of the garden, finish a run of windows and come to sit down. They laugh and chat and rest surrounded by the quiet beauty.

A lone visitor sits on one of the many benches, arms stretched on the bench back, face to the sun, and talks on his Bluetooth. A handy map of the garden instructs: "the Southwest Waterfront Garden was created to be a meditative space swathed in large sweeps of ornamental grasses." I sit and meditate on the juxtaposition of a half acre of flowers, trees and shrubs surrounded by the busyness and business of the city.

It is a few weeks later when I visit again, walking 15 minutes down from Portland State. The sidewalks are full of students between classes, hungry lunchers lining up around food carts, bikes and skateboards whizzing by; it is a noisy urban cityscape. I feel relief as I walk into the garden passing the handkerchief tree waving its pure white bracts in the morning breeze. Last time its branches were hanging with seed pods and not a leaf was open. The peace of the garden surrounds me. I can't say the quiet, because the sound of traffic from the bridge is constant. I try to imagine the sound as wind in the trees or burbling water and after a while, I don't hear it anymore.

Since my last visit about three weeks ago, the handsome mallard has found a pretty mate. She follows him quacking happily

across the grass into the bushes. From there they start out of the garden towards the street where a parking patrolman hops off his bike and tries to shoo them back to the safety of the garden.

I laugh as I think about the children's classic *Make Way For Ducklings* where a policeman stops traffic with his whistle to let a mother duck and her babies cross a busy Boston street.

The Waterfront ducks return to the garden only to turn back to the street when their guardian angel starts towards his bike. Finally he admits defeat, "They will do as they wish; I have to go back to work."

I take over herding the ducks for a few minutes, and then I realize that unless I stay here all day they are going to cross the street.

Curiosity takes over as I watch as the ducks quack and waddle to the curb, jump off and cross the street safely. They march right to the doorway of the small market across SW River Street. They quack demandingly and wait.

A minute later there are bread crumbs on the sidewalk. The ducks share their bounty with a few pigeons and then hop into a garden bed by the store and settle in for an after-lunch snooze. It is clear that they own the neighborhood.

I laugh with a passing walker about the ducks. "I live in a condo close by and we feel like this garden is our backyard. The beauty is that there is always something new blooming here. We love it," she gushes. I walk back into the garden and notice the tender hostas that have just opened. So far they have escaped the

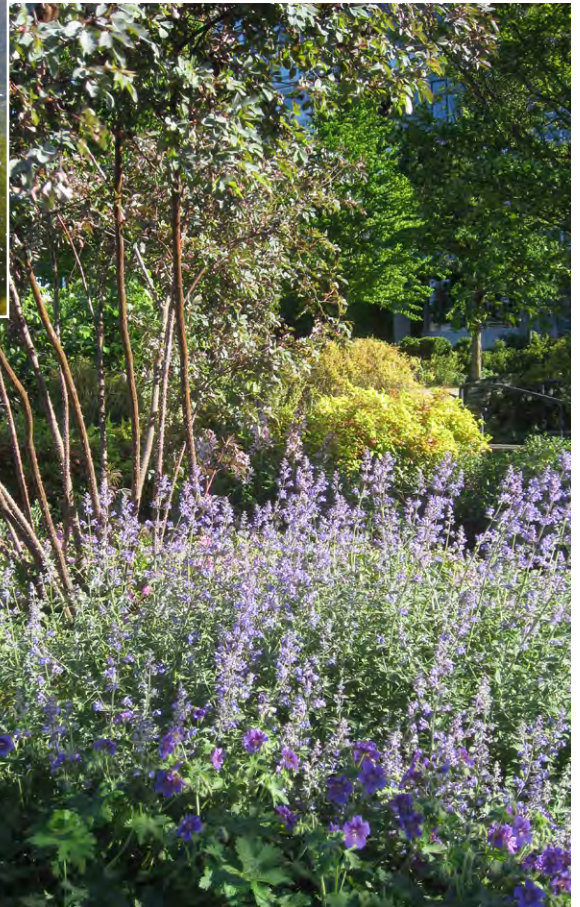
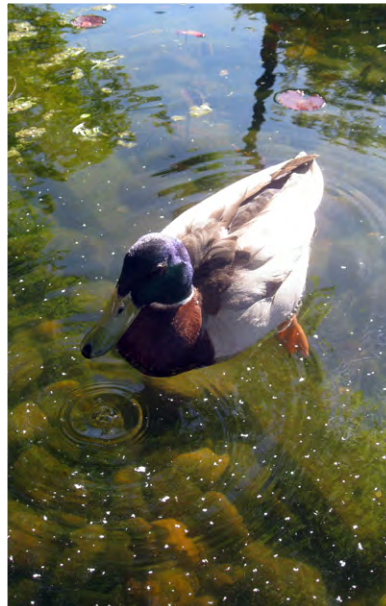
slugs. The *ligularia* shines in the sun and I admire the soothing greens and golds of spring growth.

Brothers about three and six years old run the outside path of the garden as their parents stroll inside. They boys pause at the four small ponds. "Any fish?" one boy asks. A park gardener says she has heard of people putting gold fish in the ponds, but she has never seen one herself.

I can see the *daphne* is beginning to fade and I look to hints of future bloom. *Rosa rugosa* wave long arms, *Delphinium* are popping up and iris buds are swelling. I look forward to another visit soon.

The grasses, the perennials, the trees and shrubs create a garden worth visiting. The urban setting with the constant coming and going of neighbors and visitors adds stories worth watching.

Whether you have business downtown or make a special trip to see the South Waterfront Park Garden, you can find respite from the city here in a house of garden rooms waiting for company, a green and well-kept secret in the middle of our city.





BOOK REVIEW:

by Cori Bacher

Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener: How to Create Unique Vegetables and Flowers

For those of us who love to mess around with plants, plant breeding offers a lifetime's worth of activity, absorption and enjoyment.

Author Tychonievich, currently nursery manager for rare plant nursery Arrowhead Alpines*, truly directs this text to the amateur gardener and the beginning plant breeder. From his early, inadvertent, experiences with a crop of violas, which eventually developed into

a strain customized for his garden's conditions, to his current, very deliberate efforts to improve the quality of his summer squash, the author has been working with plant genetics for many years. This volume distills and presents that accumulated knowledge in a clear, orderly way and in a voice so warm, enthusiastic and natural that it feels as if Joseph is in the room coaching you personally.

Chapter subjects include a review of genetics pertaining to plants, techniques for pollinating and protecting your subject plants, and criteria for selecting the cream of the resultant crop. In addition, he explores the world beyond basic breeding, and offers case studies of how to breed specific plants such as tomatoes and hollyhocks. Comments from other plant breeders are sprinkled throughout the book and appendices include a bibliography for those who wish to pursue the subject further, plant and seed sources and useful websites. There is even information on marketing your creation should it prove to be exceptionally

continues on page 15

Garden Tour:

green on green

**Saturday, September 21
11:00am-4:00pm**

**Pre-tour event at Garden
Fever Nursery, 9:30-11:00am**

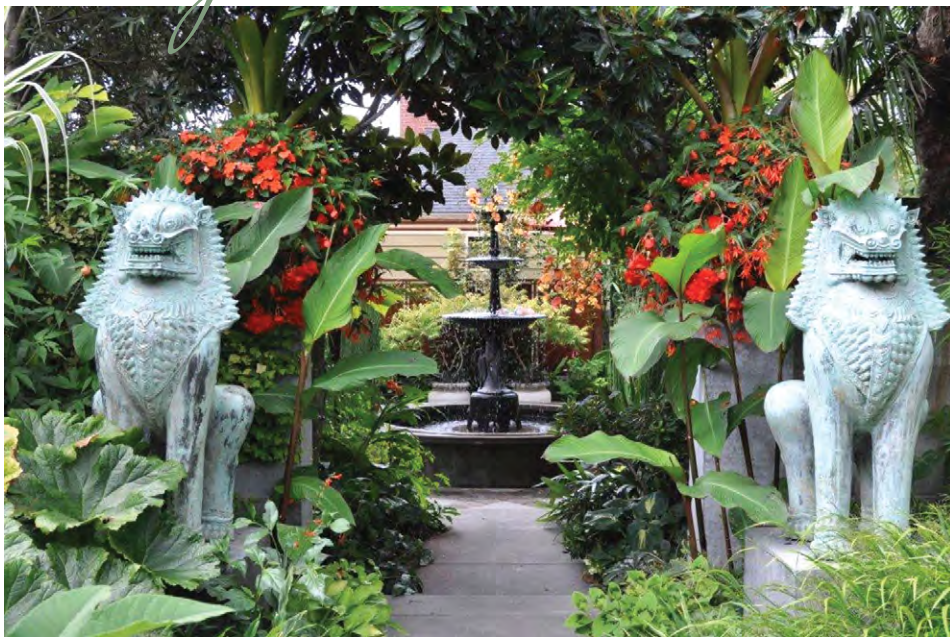
Join us for a fabulous tour of six gardens in North Portland. Gardens include a small treasure garden, a garden plot with chickens and other interesting accoutrements, two gardens designed by one of Portland's premiere landscape architects, and much, much more!

Tour tickets are \$20. Tickets for the pre-tour event at Garden Fever, featuring owner Lori Vollmer's presentation on plants for the fall garden, are \$15 and include a continental breakfast (enrollment to pre-event limited to 40 participants).

The tour supports the Portland Reading Foundation, a local organization that delivers a reading intervention program to primary grade children.

Ticket sales to the tour and pre-tour event go online August 9th via the Foundation website: portlandreading.org

Ticket sales are also available at local nurseries. Check the website in August for details.



worthwhile. While the dream of designing the next Mortgage Lifter tomato to put us on Easy Street might be a fun one, this book made me dream a more modest dream. From start to finish I kept thinking of what a special gift a custom-designed plant would make to a loved one. Celebrating a marriage, an anniversary, or a birth with a plant created and named for its recipient seems like something all of us plant-obsessed individuals could be doing. And *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* certainly gives us all the information needed to do so. I know I will be pulling this book off my shelf often to coach me through the creation of plants designed just for me and mine.



Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener: How to Create Unique Vegetables and Flowers by Joseph Tychonievich, Timber Press, 2013, \$19.95

*Joseph also writes a very fun blog on their website arrowheadalpines.com.



Photos here and on the previous page are of Michael Schultz gardens, which will be open during the Green on Green garden tour.

volunteer "bud"

by Cori Bacher

Nancy Stober

If you have ever bought a book at an HPSO event, from Hortlandia to the annual meeting, you might have done so from Nancy Stober, the lady with the big smile and fancifully decorated glasses. Nancy is head of the book sales committee which is in charge of raising money for HPSO through sales of both new and used books and magazines. Nancy took over book sales the year Hortlandia migrated from the Washington County Fairgrounds to Expo. She is also part of the team which introduced the book sale area at the HPSO office, so that you can treat yourself to a new or used book whenever you stop in during office hours.

Nancy has been a member of HPSO for about 20 years, learning about the organization from fellow Tualatin Valley Garden Club members Jim and Judy Emerson, who, in turn, introduced her to Bruce Wakefield. She comes from a family of gardeners who grew both food and flowers in Texas, and remembers as a child picking, without permission, the special iris her mother had been carefully saving for a flower show. Having spent the early years of her marriage living and gardening in Texas and Colorado, Nancy revels in the benign gardening conditions of the Portland area. She and her husband Gary moved here very deliberately

because it is "a gardening paradise." She also thinks that her HPSO volunteer work has made her a better gardener, saying, "I think I've learned a lot from my books."

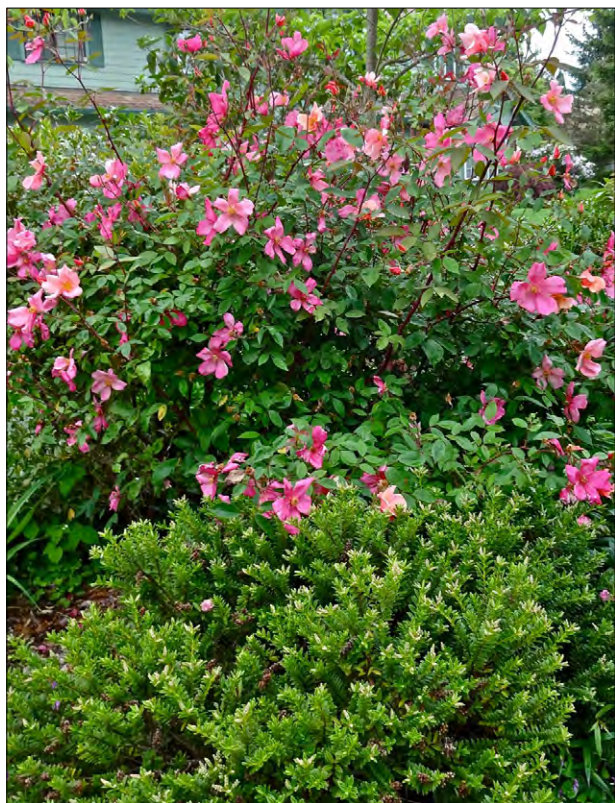
All in all, it is a most appropriate avocation for a woman whose very first job at age fourteen was as a library page at a dollar an hour. She says she qualified for that first job with an excellent knowledge of the alphabet, and a "thing" for organization. That organizational knack, now in the service of HPSO, is clearly still with her as she spends several days for each event coordinating the packing, moving, displaying, selling, re-packing, and returning of the books. At other times she is researching titles and prices, and processing book donations from members. She "loves doing the books," and those of us who appreciate the opportunity to expand our gardening knowledge through them hope we will be buying them from Nancy for a long time to come. Thank you, Nancy, for all you do for HPSO and its members.

Nancy is opening her colorful, eclectic garden for the very first time this year. She says it is at its peak in June, but if you didn't see it then, there will be an additional day on August 24th. If you visit you will see a garden as lively as Nancy herself.



Nancy with her gardening pal, Rowdy.

Photo: At the front of a border, *Hebe buxifolia* anchors *Rosa 'Mutabilis'* with its evergreen foliage and pleasing shape.



TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVES: PLANT LUST AND BEAUTIFUL DESIGN

by Barbara Blossom Ashmun

Maybe I'm driven by plant lust because I didn't have a garden early in life. Up until I moved to Portland in 1972, I tended only indoor plants like African violets and Swedish ivy in the milky light of a north-facing Manhattan windowsill.

My first year in the City of Roses I was overwhelmed by the dazzling array of outdoor color. When dreamy drifts of flowering cherries and plums burst open, my eyes grew wide with wonder. I was in a continual state of excitement at the sequence of bloom as peonies, irises,

roses, daylilies, and asters exploded in turn.

By 1986 I had filled every inch of my first small garden with flowers, tearing out every morsel of lawn. I collected every perennial I could find, never even dreaming about design. Thirteen years went by, until I was so desperate for more space to experiment that I moved most of my Northeast city garden to an acre of sunny land in West Slope.

With experience, and a better understanding of what a garden could become, gleaned from visiting well-designed places, I was no longer satisfied to stick plants in the ground willy nilly. I couldn't spell it out at the time, but looking back, I see that I longed to create a

sense of peacefulness in my new garden.

So how does a plant nerd rein in the passion for collecting plants in order to build a more composed garden? I still struggle with these two warring desires, so here's how I attempt to mediate between them.

At first I played it safe with pastel flowers, following a garden book's advice that this would avoid color clashes. It worked for a while, and my garden became a sweet blend of pink, lavender, pale blue, buttery yellow and creamy white.

But inevitably I fell in love with bolder and more saturated colors. Like the Sirens calling to Odysseus, electric orange, lipstick red, cobalt blue, royal purple and even brilliant yellow, seduced me. What to do with all this riveting color and still have a semblance of tranquility?

Experimenting to see what would work, I removed most of the pink and lavender flowers, which helped a lot. With most of the flowers now intense and vibrant, the balance between them was better. I selected plants with smaller flowers so that colors were not big splashes like phlox, peonies, and irises, but more modest dots and dabs. Instead of screaming colors vying for attention,

now glimmers of orange, red, purple and yellow sparkled amid green leaves.

Even more important I paid attention to framing the edges of beds with well-shaped leaves. In shade, I relied on heart-shaped *Epimedium*, lobed leaves of *Helleborus* and rosettes of *Saxifrage*—all evergreen and hardy. In sun, I planted many *Geum* hybrids with green, maple-shaped leaves ('Cooky', 'Mai Tai', 'Tequila Sunrise') and *Heucheras* with dark wine and bronze leaves ('Chocolate Ruffles', 'Obsidian', 'Licorice', and 'Mahogany'.)

When the front lines of beds look tidy and organized, I feel more relaxed. If the edge holds together, there's room for more commotion behind it, and I can go crazy with flowering perennials without especially good foliage. In one island bed, for example, *Kniphofia* and *Hemerocallis* hybrids cavort in a wild array of red, orange and yellow, while *Geum* and *Heuchera* hybrids frame them at the edge.

Even though I'd prefer to grow one of every kind of plant, the need for peacefulness convinced me to divide and propagate some favorites and plant sweeps of them on the edge. Fortunately many of the edgers just mentioned multiply easily. Sometimes even one big pot of *Heuchera* can be separated almost immediately into divisions and grown on in smaller pots until planting time.

I've become pickier about good leaves, even within the beds and borders, seeking out the succulent leaves of upright sedums like 'Matrona,' 'Chocolate Drop', and 'Frosty Morn', and a few grasses for fine texture, especially *Carex* 'Bowles Golden', which has held up well for many years without any fussing. With occasional dividing, I can repeat these through the garden, thus linking the beds.

Finding a way to connect beds with each other, and also to connect the plants within them, has been the most challenging and yet the most satisfying process. I think this process is common to all forms of art, and it's often called flow. Like a symphony, where a melody repeats from time to time, golden, silver, blue-green, bronze or burgundy foliage repeated at intervals helps unify garden beds. In a satisfying garden, you might not even notice the artfulness of flow, but you'll likely feel peaceful and at ease.

I also think about the plants as friends at a party who like each other and mingle companionably. To get the look of a relaxed gathering, I shift textures gradually, moving from small leaves to slightly larger ones and eventually to bolder foliage, and similarly I shift tints of color gradually. Contrast makes for drama, while gradual change enhances flow.

Recently I'm discovering the unifying benefit of brown leaves, including bronze, coffee-colored, orange-brown and mahogany. These especially complement the many orange flowers that I've been smitten with lately.

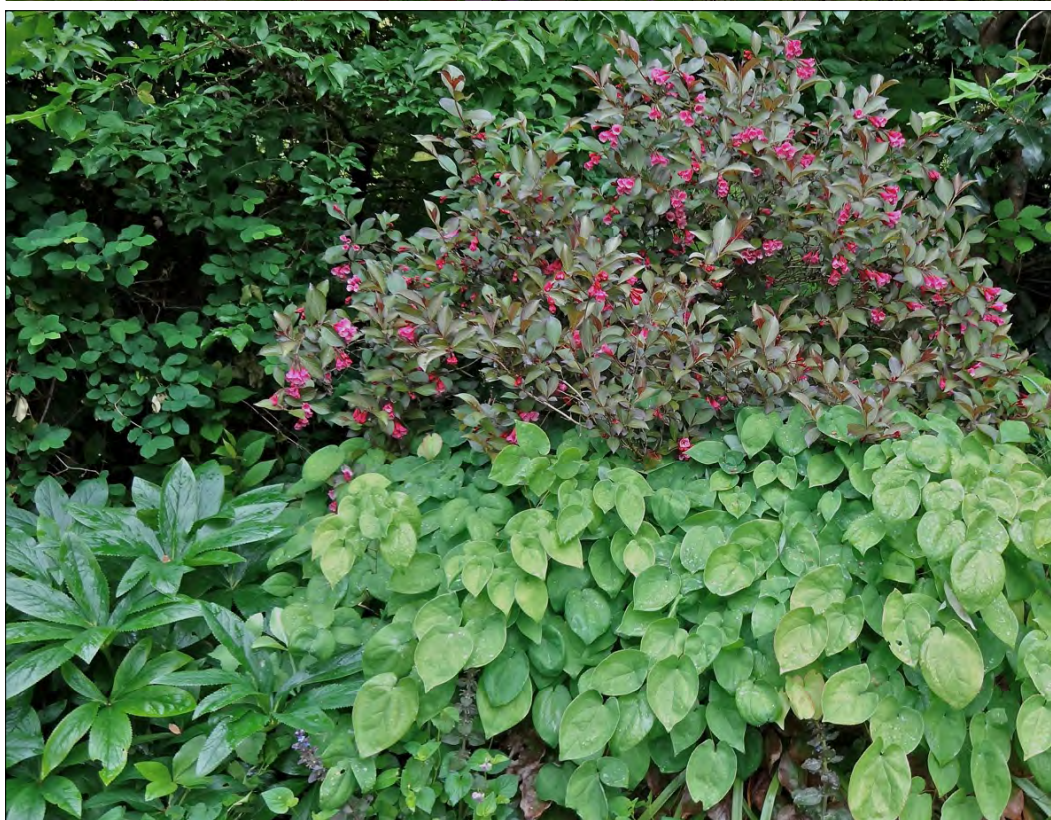
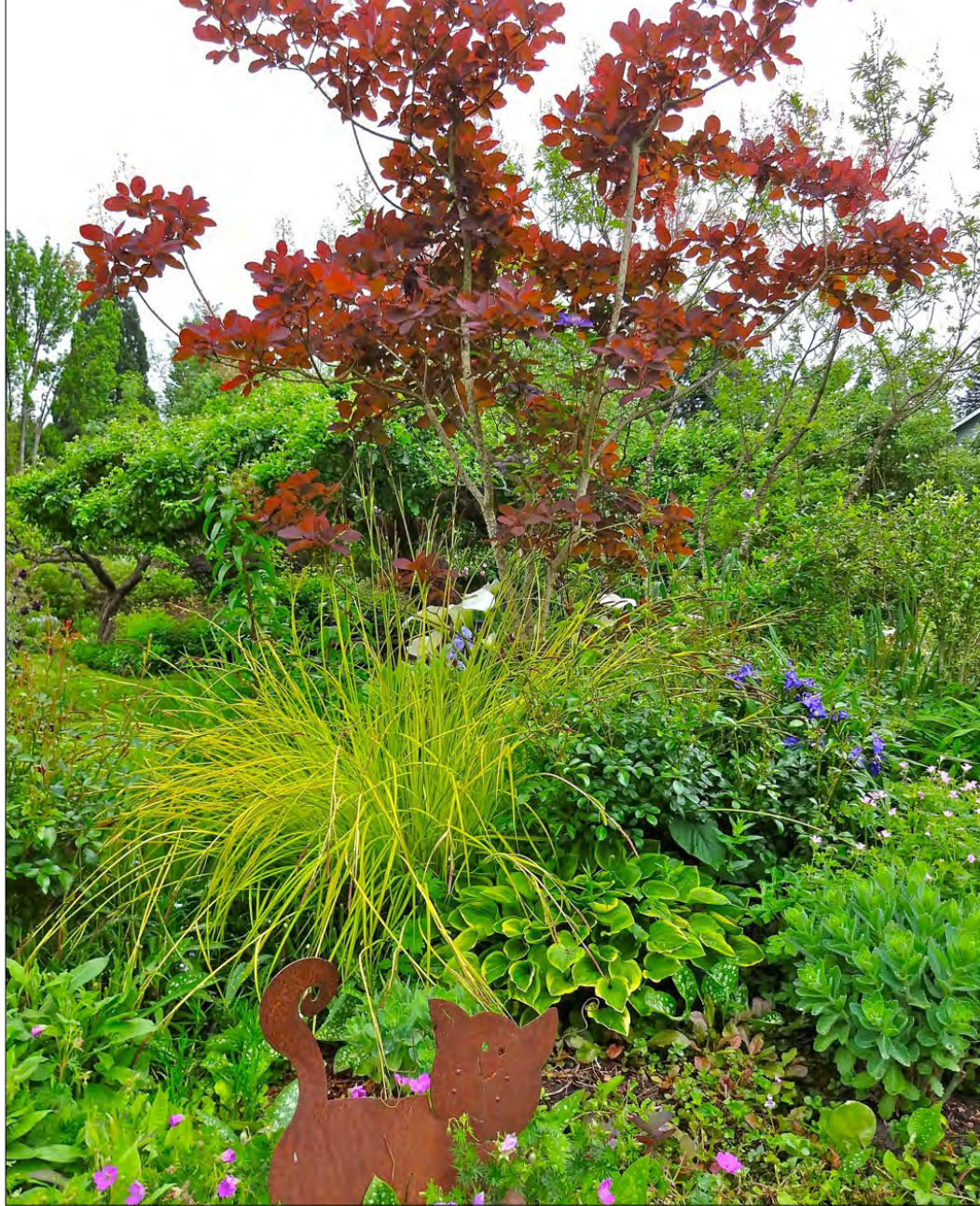
In a planting area surrounding a new stone patio in full sun, *Physocarpus* 'Amber Jubilee' and *Carex* 'Cappuccino' offer brown tints, while *Vaccinium moupinense* chimes in with bits of bronze at the tips of the green branches. Brownish-red heucheras keep the theme going, while a few libertias with gold and green in their upright leaves add a little punch. For flamboyance, I've planted orange-flowering geums along with brilliant red-orange 'Outrageous' and 'Bandit Man' daylilies.

The designer in me tries to rule, but the plant nerd keeps clamoring to add more color. "How about some 'Landini' lilies tucked in there, and look, there's room for some penstemons, and don't you want to plant a few 'Rozanne' geraniums because you love that blue-violet color?" The two voices keep whispering in my ear, and I do my best to listen to them both.



Top photo: I plant Carex 'Bowles Golden' in many beds to link them together. Here it makes an eye-popping accent with Cotinus 'Grace'.

Bottom Photo: Hellebores and Epimedium make an evergreen frame, unifying a border where Weigela 'Wine and Roses' is just one of many flowering shrubs.





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

www.hardyplantsociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday July 13, 2013:
Garden School Work-
shop: Wildlife Botanical
Gardens Tour in Brush
Prairie, WA

Thursday, August 8:
Talk by Sue & Bleddyn
Wynn-Jones, Crûg Farm
Nursery, Wales

Thursday, August 15:
Garden School Work-
shop: Seed Propagation

Saturday, September 7:
Fall PlantFest Lecture
and Plant Sale

Tuesday, September 17:
Gen(i)us Program:
"Tropicalismo Lives"

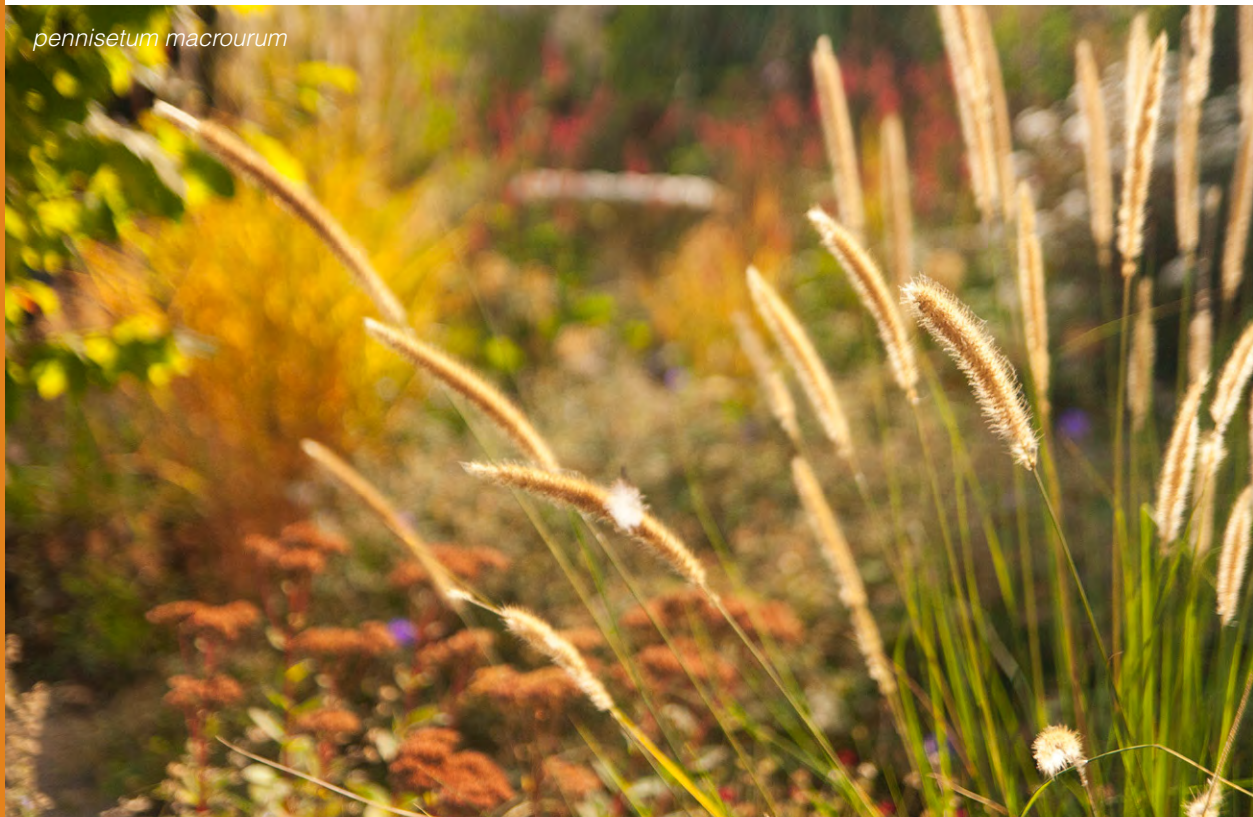
Friday, September 20,
through Sunday,
September 22:
Three-Day Workshop:
Get Growing! An
Exploration of Planting
and Garden Design
FUN-damentals

PLUS OPEN GARDENS
every week. HPSO
members can visit other
members gardens from
spring through fall.

for more program
information visit [www.
hardyplantsociety.org](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org)

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

pennisetum macrourum



*Pennisetum
macrourum and
Miscanthus
malepartus*

