



the HPSO
quarterly
SUMMER 2015

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON



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Visit Gardens...

at the **GARDEN CONSERVANCY/HPSO OPEN DAY TOUR**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2015 ~ 10am to 4pm (see page 2)

also at **GREEN on GREEN**, six gardens plus Bob Hyland demo,
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015 ~ tickets and info at
 albertinasplace.org and Garden Fever.



Thank you to all
 who helped make Study
 Weekend 2015 a success!



Study Weekend photos by Annette Wilson Christensen and Linda Wisner

Fall PlantFest

Saturday, September 12, 2015 — PCC Rock Creek Campus



PROGRAM: 9am-10am
Stunning Ecological
Plant Combinations

Claudia West, Ecological Sales Manager, North
Creek Nurseries Landenberg, Pennsylvania
 HPSO Members \$10; non-members \$20; students \$5

11am-2pm
Plant Sale
Great plants for fall planting!
FREE entry and FREE parking
 Early shopping for lecture attendees
 10am-11am

www.hardyplantsociety.org to register for the program or for more details. 503.224.5718

Dear Readers,

We need your help! In the next issue we are going to begin a new series of articles called **The Garden Shed**. It will be a place for us to toss in all kinds of interesting bits of trivia, important gardening tips, your thoughts on a favorite garden tool, or any other gardening ideas you think other readers might like to hear about. It might be a photo of a special gardening moment, a poem or joke we all should share. If you have a garden shed of your own, we would like to see it and possibly include it in the Garden Shed article. Please send your contributions to the Garden Shed to annette@wilsonfjordvineyard.com

Below is the garden shed my devoted husband finished for me this year—baby Zinnias are growing there already!

Annette Christensen, Editor



Extending Your Garden Season



2015 HPSO/Garden Conservancy Open Day Tour: Saturday August 29th from 10am to 4pm

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and Garden Conservancy Open Day Tour is one of the premier events of our gardening year, when extraordinary private gardens that are not usually open to the public are available for touring. Three of this year's five gardens have never been opened before. All of the gardens, located in or near Beaverton, are designed to be interesting throughout the four seasons. Go to the HPSO website to see specific addresses and directions.

This year's lead garden, **Winchester Place Garden**, is hosted by Zachary Baker and Leon Livengood, who have combined the best of English gardens with the charm of southern gardens. Boxwood-lined perennial beds and a basalt rock and iron fence define garden rooms, and a two-tiered cast fountain, a dining terrace, and a cocktail terrace are featured.

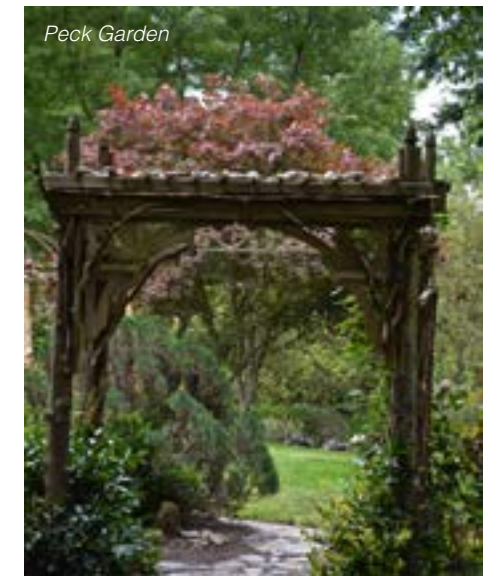
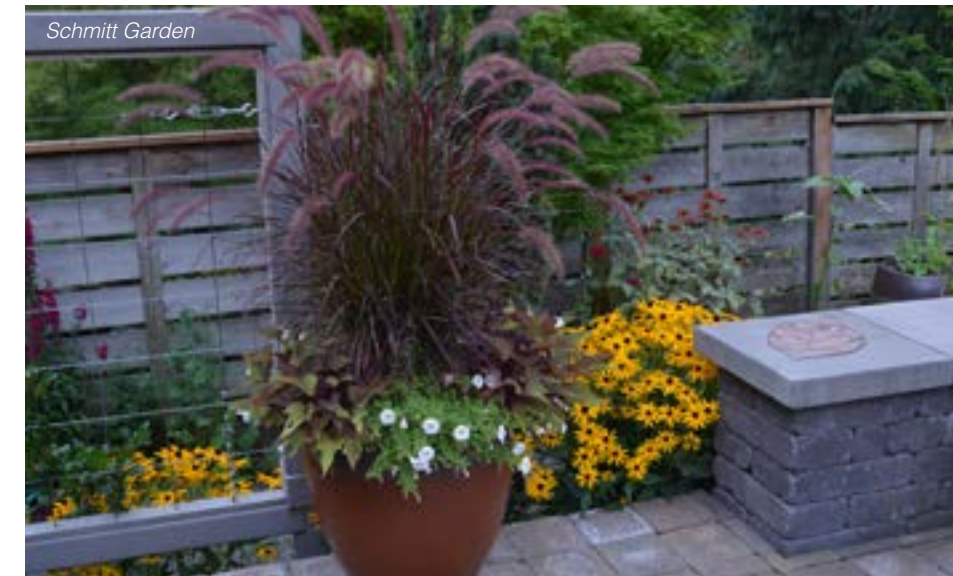
The **Mitchell Garden**, a "private paradise" of Christine and James Mitchell, has been edited and revised over 15 years to be a lush Northwest garden with perennials blooming from early spring through late summer. The garden is designed for year-round use and features brick patios, multiple trellises for hops used by the home brewer, a large raised stone bed, bird houses and feeders, and an edible garden.

Nancy and Gordon Prewitt have spent 39 years perfecting their one-third acre. They now have 1000 square feet of raised garden beds, a greenhouse and a hoop house, all of which allow them to harvest edibles and enjoy tender succulents and perennials throughout the year! Added to this are fruit trees, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, and a front yard that is all perennial beds. Their garden has year-round appeal and utility.

The Schmitt Garden is a modern Mediterranean space that emphasizes outdoor living. Hosts Cathie and Al Schmitt have recently worked with landscape designer Marcia Westcott Peck to enhance their garden of 16 years with water features, custom trellises, potted vegetables, year-round flora, and a meandering path that make it a delight at all times of year.

Marcia and Dennis Peck use their quarter-acre garden space as a constant source of projects that are featured in their column for the "Home & Garden" section of *The Oregonian*—some may look familiar, including stone mosaics, water features, a gazebo and a rustic arch, and a fire pit. Plantings include bottle bush, rice paper plant, ornamental grasses, and unusual sedums. *Peck and Schmitt garden photos by Marcia Westcott Peck.*

Buy your tickets ahead and save: For HPSO members, the advance purchase price to visit six gardens is \$23.00. The day of the event and for the general public, the price is \$35.00 to see six gardens, or \$7.00 to enter each garden (no ticket required). Buy tickets online at HPSO's website.



Volunteer at the Open Day Tour!

As a volunteer, you can work a shift, then tour the gardens for free! See the HPSO website to sign up for a shift at an admissions table or as a garden monitor at one of the 5 gardens on the tour. Shifts are from 9:30am to 1:00 pm, or 12:45 to 4:15pm. Sign up on the HPSO website, or contact Liz Wiersema at floraroost@aol.com or 503.620.9188.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ticket sales for the HPSO/Garden Conservancy Open Day Tour help fund HPSO grants for projects such as the Oregon Savannah Oak Project featured on page 12. See the grants announcement on the same page for all 2015 recipients. In addition, a portion of the sales supports the Garden Conservancy mission to preserve exceptional gardens across the United States for the education and enjoyment of the public. Members can enjoy a spectacular day of garden viewing while supporting these very worthy projects.



MEMBER PROFILE:

In Memoriam:

Brewster Rogerson (1921-2015)

by Linda Beutler, Curator Rogerson Clematis Collection



Those new to HPSO may not realize Brewster Rogerson's long history with the organization, but it was elemental in my evolution as a "clemateer." It was at an otherwise uneventful board meeting during his tenure as HPSO Newsletter editor in the late 1980s that he identified Clematis integrifolia for Lucy Hardiman, then new to the board. This was the famously mislabeled Clematis montana I had purchased and brought to Lucy's garden, which I shared with her as both one of her tenants and as the sister I should have had.

She and I were both amazed to learn that fully a quarter of the 300 or so clematis species worldwide are herbaceous perennials. Now although Lucy managed to walk away from this nugget



of revelatory information mainly unscathed, I, on the other hand, being of a more addictive personality, fell in love with both the genus and the man.

In part, I was predisposed to like him because he had been a professor of English Literature, and that was my major too. He was a Shakespeare and Milton man. We also shared a love of Bombay gin. He was a martini man, and his glass will have a place of honor in the Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection's new office later this summer.

Now about that clematis collection: In 1971 Brewster purchased his first four clematis vines to enhance the house he had built for himself in Manhattan, Kansas. He began describing himself as a collector of the genus Clematis in 1975. Once retired, Brewster determined to move to a more amenable climate, the Pacific Northwest. In 1981 he brought his plants first to Eugene, Oregon, and then to Hillsboro in 1986. The clematis were all in containers, housed at Gutmann Nursery—beautiful objects Brewster collected that happened to be alive! He became a renowned scholar of the genus and was considered the American expert in this field until the time of his passing. He was a founding member of the International Clematis Society. He wrote 100 entries in their Clematis of the Month feature, publishing his last plant description in March 2015. Brewster was generous with his plants as well as his knowledge.

The Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection (FRCC) took over the ownership of Brewster's clematis in 2005 (at that time 450 taxa, 900 plants), and in partnership

with the City of Lake Oswego moved the clematis to Luscher Farm in December of that year. They provided the place, FRCC the plants. Brewster moved to Lake Oswego and visited his plants weekly, Thursday mornings with me, and other days with various volunteers, if he felt up to it, until the autumn of 2014, when his health began to fail. (There are now 700 taxa, 1,600 plants).

Brewster Rogerson, 94, passed away on May 26th, 2015. The Friends of the Rogerson Clematis collection will hold an event in his honor later this summer. Please watch their website, www.rogersonclematiscollection.org for further details.

From the Rogerson Clematis Collection website:

"We shall miss the rigor of his scholarship, the wit of his writing, the breadth of his vision, the firmness of his guidance, and the unique and not inconsiderable pleasure of his company. We are honored to carry his legacy forward."

Donations in Brewster's name may be made to the Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection, PO Box 734, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, or www.rogersonclematiscollection.org. All donations to FRCC are tax deductible. Questions may be directed to 971.777.4394.

above: Brewster wanders the Rogerson Clematis Garden on an August evening with its curator. Photo by Larry Beutler.

left: Clematis 'Esprit', a seedling saved and named by Brewster Rogerson. Pictured in the Founder's Garden within the Rogerson Clematis Garden. Photo by Linda Beutler.

Plant Profile: Erigeron 'Wayne Roderick'

by Tom Fischer



As I get older, I find I'm asking more and more of the plants I add to my garden. I don't have a lot of unused space, and I'm not willing to sacrifice those precious square inches to a plant that puts on a brief display and then just sits there. Thank goodness for Erigeron 'Wayne Roderick'. This peerless, ground-covering perennial has almost too many virtues to list. A presumed hybrid between Erigeron glaucus (which is native to coastal California and Oregon and commonly known as seaside daisy) and an unknown Erigeron or Aster species, it will tolerate drought, wind, sea spray, and bad soil; grows as a tight mound of evergreen, grayish foliage one foot high by two to three feet across; is irresistible to butterflies and native bees;

and is covered with cool lilac, yellow-centered daisies for about ten months of the year. I hope you're impressed. This leads to one of the great unexplained mysteries of the universe, which is why this plant isn't in every nursery in the Pacific Northwest. I have no answer for this, other than to look beseechingly at our good friends in the nursery trade and beg them to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

There's a bit of a controversy about the plant's name. It was discovered as a chance seedling by the late, great Bay Area plantsman Wayne Roderick. He delivered it to the owners of Las Pilitas Nursery in Santa Margarita, California,

photos by Tom Fischer



with a label reading simply "WR," so you are apt to find it listed as Erigeron 'Wayne Roderick', Erigeron 'WR', Erigeron x glaucus 'Wayne Roderick', or some variation thereof. Take your pick.

Given the plant's low stature, it works best at the front of whatever area you may be planting. In my own

garden I have enjoyed it paired with the white-flowered perennial snapdragon Antirrhinum sempervirens; with the tall, deep violet spikes of Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna'; and with the huge, bowl-shaped, lemon-yellow flowers of Oenothera macrocarpa. I can easily picture it with one of the smaller, blue-gray fescues like 'Elijah', or with other West Coast natives like California poppy, Penstemon 'Margarita BOP', and various buckwheats (Eriogonum spp.).

Although it will tolerate a bit of shade, you'll want to give it full sun for the most lavish flower display. No need to worry about soil, other than making sure that drainage is good. If flower production flags a bit in the fall, just cut the stems back to one or two inches and wait. Some extra water, though not essential, will also help. Las Pilitas Nursery lists it as hardy to 0°F, so it might be worth trying on the east side of the mountains, although it's said to get crispy during hot summers in the California interior.

True, it doesn't bludgeon you over the head the way, say, a dinner-plate dahlia might. Its modus operandi is to charm, which I find far preferable. And if you can show me another perennial with as many sterling virtues, I'll eat it. Perhaps with tart vinaigrette.

Sources

Dancing Oaks Nursery www.dancingoaks.com

Annie's Annuals and Perennials www.anniesannuals.com

In Praise of Ordinary Plants

by Barbara Ashmun

All photos by Tom Barreto



Spiraea 'Magic Carpet'



Acer 'Seiryu'



Physocarpus 'Center Glow'



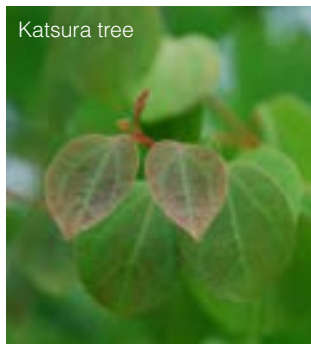
Acer 'Fireglow'



Mahonia 'Charity'



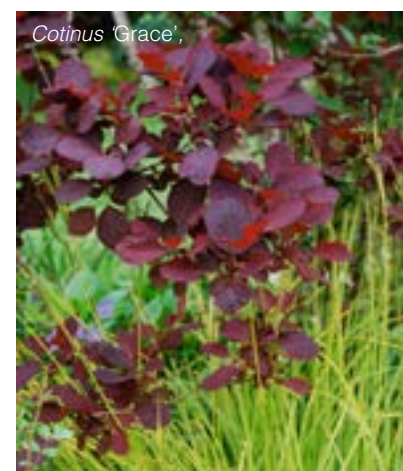
Spiraea 'Ogon'



Katsura tree



Hosta 'Krossa Regal'



Cotinus 'Grace'

When I first started gardening, every plant was a miracle. When the pink cosmos that I grew from seed danced in the summer breezes, when the sunflower seeds that I started in paper cups turned into towering flowers, I was thrilled. My next-door neighbors, Frank and Sadie Curtis, gave me slips of cottage pinks, rooted cuttings of lacecap hydrangeas, and chunks of their dahlia tubers, none of which had names. Life was sweet.

"Is your garden good enough? If you don't get the choicest new cultivars, you'll be left in the dust!"

But as the years went by and hybridizers introduced newer varieties, the excitement built. I became more intent on finding the hottest, rarest forms of ordinary plants, those with variegated leaves, double flowers, and darker stems. I dug up dozens of lady's mantle which once edged my front garden with a froth of chartreuse flowers—they were just too ordinary—and replaced them with new cultivars of *Epimedium*. Not the original, totally reliable yellow *Epimedium x sulphureum*, but more enticing varieties like 'Pink Champagne' and 'Cherry Tart,' 'Spring Wedding' and 'Red Queen.'

Eventually, though, this enthusiastic search for more glamorous plants began feeling terribly urgent, like a strobe light flashing at the edges of my vision. I discovered that some of the cutting edge plants were not only more expensive, but also less vigorous. But mostly my own competitive streak was alarming. Inner voices shouted,

I was becoming frantic to find the latest, greatest plants. But wasn't gardening a peaceful endeavor? Wasn't the garden a place to unwind, putter and even daydream? All this obsessive plant collecting made me anxious and spoiled the pleasure I'd taken earlier in my tranquil garden retreat.

Maybe it was time to return to a more relaxed style of gardening, to revisit the ordinary, time-tested plants: ones that held up over the years, that grew without pampering. They were like old reliable friends that you could hang out with comfortably, without showing off.

When I stop to consider my 30 years of gardening on a wet acre once covered with buttercup and horsetail, the time-tested plants are the ones I enjoy every day.

Gone are all but one of the half-dozen *Eucalyptus* that succumbed to wet winters,

but wide-spreading *Parrotia persica* and narrower *Parrotia 'Vanessa'* have flourished and grown more beautiful each year. The new leaves unfold fresh green, as beautiful as beech leaves (but without the aphids that plague the beeches), and turn shades of orange and crimson each fall.

Every katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) I've planted has been healthy and beautiful. Each spring heart-shaped, bronze leaves pop up along the branches like tiny valentines. By summer the leaves are blue-green, then turn gold in fall, when they also emit the delicious aroma of cotton candy!

I've always loved Japanese maples, but a wet garden is not the best place for them. So growing them in large ceramic containers, with either "feet" or bricks placed below the pot to keep the drainage holes free, has worked well. With so many choices and color changes through

the seasons, some favorites are 'Fireglow,' with wine-colored leaves that take sun; 'Katsura,' with golden leaves turning green in summer and orange in autumn; 'Seiryu,' with delicately dissected light green leaves turning yellow and orange; and yellow-green 'Osakazuki,' that brightens to glowing red in fall.

Lately I rely on evergreen shrubs with staying power. *Mahonia x media* 'Charity,' first introduced in the 1950s, has been a happy shrub in my garden for at least 15 years, slowly growing close to ten feet tall and spreading about five feet wide. Dramatic holly-like leaves are prickly, but worth the trouble when upright clusters of yellow flowers light up the winter garden and bring on the hummingbirds. Later,

blue berries appear, more subtle than the flowers, but still decorative.

Camellias have taken a back seat to some of the more exotic shade-loving shrubs, but fall and winter-blooming *Sasanqua* camellias especially delight me. One whose label has disappeared has single white flowers with pink edges and makes a lovely espalier against a cedar fence.

Spring-blooming 'Tinsie,' a single red peony-form with white centers, and a neighboring single pink camellia frame the entrance to a hut with their lustrous evergreen leaves.

Choisya 'Aztec Pearl' is so reliable that two frame a path in the side garden, their white fragrant flowers a treat in spring.

And the entire tribe of *Osmanthus*, with small, fragrant white flowers, has been a boon to the garden, whether variegated or green, holly-leaved or round-leaved.

Deciduous shrubs with colorful leaves repeat throughout the garden. Golden *Spiraea* 'Ogon,' and *Spiraea* 'Magic Carpet,' with tints of lime, gold, orange and burgundy, add sunshine, while burgundy ninebarks like 'Center Glow' and 'Summer Wine,' and purple smoke trees like 'Grace' and 'Royal Purple' provide punch.

Selections of *Hosta*, *Heuchera*, *Epimedium*, *Sedum* and *Polystichum* make a carpet of reliable foliage and texture. If I could only grow two hostas (but thank heavens that is not my limit!) they would be blue-green 'Krossa Regal' and golden 'Stained Glass.' And 'Dolce Licorice,' 'Marmalade' and 'Frosted Violet' are some favorite cultivars of *Heuchera*.

Don't get me wrong: I still search for unusual plants, and just the other day I found myself falling in love with *Larix decidua* 'Pendula Twist' for its quirky and intriguing shape. I sprung for *Epimedium* 'Simple Beauty,' and put *E. 'The Giant'* on my wish list for next year. But I truly appreciate the old reliables in my garden and tell them how beautiful they are, trying my best not to compare them to my newer children.



The First of Many Trips to Joy Creek Nursery

by Amy Campion <http://amycampion.com>



Mike Smith and Maurice Horn

First, a confession. I had never visited the highly lauded Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, Oregon, until this past May. (In my defense, I've lived in Oregon for only two years and have had a garden of my own here for only one.) What an honor it was, then, for my first visit to include a personal tour of the grounds by the co-owners of Joy Creek, Maurice Horn and Mike Smith. These master plantsmen graciously took time from their hectic schedules to show me around the lush display gardens they've built at their nursery over the past 23 years.

Eager to show me the plants that were especially dear to their hearts, my guides led me along the crunchy gravel paths that wind through the gardens, stopping to point out an eight-foot winterhazel (*Corylopsis*) they'd grown from seed, a heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) selected for its massive panicles of red fruit, and a glorious variegated weigela like the one Mike remembered from his grandmother's yard. We admired a wonderfully fragrant *Abelia mosanensis*, an orange-blooming Chilean firebush (*Embothrium coccineum*), a lacy-leaved *Sophora davidii* with pale blue flowers, and a *Viburnum cinnamomifolium*, which Mike described as "the big brother to *Viburnum davidii*." We marveled at their seed-grown delphiniums, some of which they insisted were 20 years old (I'd assumed hybrid delphiniums were always short-lived.) And, of course, there were dozens of *Clematis* representatives, many of them in bud or bloom.



A dry border flourishes at Joy Creek Nursery

Joy Creek Nursery is renowned for its clematis selection, and Maurice (pronounced like "Morris") is recognized as an authority on the genus. I asked him if *Clematis* was his favorite group of plants, and he replied, "It's one of them, but you know, whenever I see a well-grown, vigorous, healthy plant of any type, it's always a thrill."

Indeed, the primary purpose of the display gardens at Joy Creek is to help Maurice and Mike determine which plants perform best in the landscape and learn how to grow them well. They then pass that information on to other gardeners via numerous workshops and tours held at the

nursery (see this season's schedule at www.joycreek.com/education.htm), at speaking engagements and plant sales held throughout the region, and on their blog at <https://joycreeknursery.wordpress.com/>. Teaching is vitally important to them. "We made a commitment to education early on," Maurice said, "because we want people to succeed. We're ardent about that."

This support system was lacking when Mike and Maurice started out in the nursery business in 1992. Maurice recalled, "Not only were we not finding the plants we wanted to grow, but we weren't finding the information we wanted, either." The information they did find often came from England

All Joy Creek Nursery photos by Amy Campion



Chilean flame bush (*Embothrium coccineum*)



Clematis 'Hikarugenji' is usually double but not this year.

or the eastern U.S., where growing conditions are quite different from ours. Eventually, they learned to not blindly follow advice from other regions, such as English "rules" on pruning clematis. Maurice discovered, for example, that he could cut back *Clematis alpina* after flowering and enjoy a second flush of blooms—something that isn't possible in areas with shorter growing seasons.

Besides serving as a valuable source of information, the display gardens at Joy Creek Nursery have also been the birthplace of some happy accidents. *Miscanthus* 'Gold Bar' and 'Gold Breeze', two variegated ornamental grass introduc-



Maurice Horn leads a tour



Mike's grandma's weigela



A worker stocks the tables at Joy Creek Nursery

JOY CREEK
NURSERY

tions from Joy Creek, appeared on the grounds as chance seedlings. Mike and Maurice have also introduced a *Helenium* selection that originated in the gardens called 'Tijuana Brass', which features large golden flowers on strong, sturdy stems. During our walk, Mike pointed to a plucky little rose that had seeded itself on the north side of an English walnut tree. "It doesn't get a bit of black spot," he said with surprise. Such serendipitous finds are the natural result of a garden that's rich in diversity and allowed to produce volunteers. As Maurice put it, "The moral of this story is, don't be too tidy in your garden!"

Tending a garden isn't something that has always been a part of Maurice's life. A self-described "army brat," he didn't get much exposure to gardening growing up because his family never stayed in one place long enough to have a garden. He lived in Japan for several years, staying there after high school to study his passion, the theater. But a love for plants began to creep in. "I didn't realize what was happening to me at the time," he told me, "but I became truly fascinated with plants." He said he originally learned many of them by their Japanese names—even the American ones.

I asked Mike when he first became interested in plants, and he held his hand about three feet from the ground. "I grew up in eastern Oregon," he said, "and my family had a big, big, big vegetable garden, an acre of flowers, an acre of lawn, and 10 or 12 acres of apricots and peaches." He cupped his hand around an imaginary softball to indicate the size of the apricots he used to enjoy right off the tree. As an adult, Mike's involvement with plants was put on hold while he pursued a corporate career, but upon an early retirement in 1991, he purchased the farm where Joy Creek now stands. He still lives in the house that's nestled among its display gardens.

Mike oversees Joy Creek's landscaping division, which does garden design, renovation, installation, and maintenance, while Maurice heads up the nursery. Joy Creek Nursery currently specializes in *Clematis*, *Dianthus*, *Fuchsia*, *Hosta*, *Hydrangea*, and *Penstemon*, though it carries a dizzying array of other perennials and shrubs. True to its origins as a mail-order nursery, it ships its expertly grown and often hard-to-find plants across the country.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, though, Joy Creek is known as a premier destination nursery. Just 20 miles north of Portland, it makes an easy excursion for those of us in the metro area and a lovely day trip for those further afield. Charge your camera, pack a lunch, and bring your wallet. If it's your first trip, I guarantee it won't be your last!



Guarden Dog

by Dave Eckerdt



left: Nyssa the dog above: *Nyssa sylvatica*; below: deer and deer



tall and six feet wide in 10 years. A prostrate beauty with soft bluish grey foliage.

Despicable, detestable, diabolical deer. Specters of obliteration. Ravagers of beauty.

The trees were reduced to compost within days of their planting. The two uprights had served as head scratchers, their limbs broken and their trunk's excoriated. The deer resistant 'Feelin' Blue' was too short for rubbing and too spiny

for eating so it had been stomped to death out of sheer spite.

We had four choices. A: Accept Mother Nature's scheme and live in harmony with the deer. B: Apply Bottles of coyote urine or other repellants. C: Erect Chain link or other deer fencing. D: A new Dog.

Acceptance of evil is unacceptable; on to choice B. We have tried most every repugnant home brew and bottled nasty with no success. We do have coyotes but I doubted they would cooperate by providing urine samples. I discussed Plan C with Pat but we both faced frustration over a front facing fence making our home more closely resemble a fortress than a fantasyland.

Cone of *Pinus x Schwerinii* Wiethorst

a cross between eastern white pine and Himalayan pine. It is a dwarf growing only to a modest six feet in 10 years. Wiethorst sports light green needles with a white underside

and is remarkable for its abundance of large spiraled cones at a very young age. *Cedrus deodara* 'Feelin' Blue' is a wonder, a weeping dwarf topping out at one foot



Delightful, debonair deer. We are pleased to share the earth's bounty with such noble creatures.

When it was time to expand our garden, Pat and I wanted plants that would be both very special and also low maintenance. As card-carrying members of the American Conifer Society, we are committed coneheads, and we focused on extraordinary evergreens.

Included in the planting were three special trophy trees. *Picea pungens* 'Hugo's Weeping' is a rare form of the Colorado blue spruce with an erect central leader and weeping side branches. *Pinus x Schwerinii* Wiethorst began as a witches broom on

There had to be a workable solution. New Zealand for instance has an enlightened policy on deer control. Kiwis view deer as a danger to biodiversity, and their eradication outside the confines of fenced deer farms is highly encouraged. The requirement for deer hunting permits has been removed. New Zealand will not allow an introduced animal species to destroy its native fauna and flora. Conversely, I felt just as justified in not allowing our own native deer to destroy my introduced plant species.

We revisited the idea of fencing. I had heard positive endorsements of the "Virtual Fence" for containing canines. An invisible barrier is created with a buried electrical line and a shock collar. As the pet approaches the line, the collar emits a warning beep followed by an electrical shock if the approach continues. In some countries where fencing is impractical, this system is even used to contain livestock. Logically, if a barrier successfully ends exits it should also exclude entrances. Of course system modifications would be necessary due to the extra body-mass of the beasts and the greater distance from ground level to collar height. We would need a larger gauge electrical cable and a significant increase in amperage. It did seem a possibility but then there was that cumbersome complication of collaring each of our neighborhood deer.

Our previous dog, Mason, had been with us for many years and for most of that time

was a decided deterrent to deer destruction. In his last years, however, he relied more on his reputation than his reactions. It was now quite some time since Mason was gone and the new generation of deer no longer suffered trepidation of trespassing.

Plan Dog was our final possibility. We had been pondering the perfect garden dog for some time. Short hair would be critical on our acres of brush and briar. We wanted a medium-sized, intelligent, easily trainable, loyal dog with fresh minty breath. We wanted our guardian to be hostile to hooved horrors but welcoming to garden visitors and plant delivery persons.

Our shortlist of possible protector pets was headed by the Vizsla. We contacted the Oregon Vizsla Club and received a prompt reply. Asked if we were looking for a puppy or a mature dog we opted for the latter. The club has a goal of keeping the breed pure and watches for Vizslas in want ads and on internet sales sites. A few weeks prior to our request, the club had responded to an item on Craigslist offering to sell a seven-year-old female. The dog owners had recently retired and now wanted to travel. They decided the animal that had shared their lives since it was a puppy was now a bother. I fail to sympathize. Indeed, may all their flights be delayed and all their baggage misdirected.

The dog was purchased by the club and was staying with a doggy foster family

while a permanent home could be found. Pat sent me to check on the dog, knowing full well that I was not likely to leave an abandoned dog behind. I met the dog and any hesitations I may have had were licked in more ways than one.

Our purebred dog came with an embedded microchip, a documented family lineage, and the dubious name of Dagny. She was now going to live with us commoners, and she needed a new name to go with her new life. I took my canine friend over to our Italian neighbor to introduce her. He took one look at her and said "That's a nice-a dog". Our dog is named Nyssa, which in Scandinavian lore is a friendly elf. In our garden we also grow both *Nyssa sylvatica* and *Nyssa sinensis*.

Nyssa the tree, like Nyssa the dog, is medium-sized, strongly branched, and sleek. They each suffer very few pests. Their bark is rarely noticed. In fall Nyssa the tree offers beautiful red-hued color, a trait Nyssa the dog sports year round.

We have had Nyssa for four months and in that time she has not done anything wrong. Deer sightings are becoming more rare, Nyssa's response to cervid intruders is immediate and damage has been significantly reduced. Nyssa has even helped me become a more complete gardener: though I always considered myself a tree and shrub guy, I find I now pay considerably more attention to ground covers.



Save the date...

**HPSO Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 18, PSU Hoffmann Hall
Featuring Lucy Hardiman**



Perennial favorite Lucy Hardiman will regale us with a presentation on the "Color Full Garden: Personalizing Your Garden With Art and Furnishings". Lucy is a nationally recognized garden designer, writer, teacher, and speaker and is the owner and principal of the award-winning Perennial Partners, a collaborative garden design group in Portland. Her broad experience provides us with valuable information and insight on how colors affect each other and how we respond to color. Lucy's talk also focuses on how to create vignettes that incorporate color and allow us to express who we are as gardeners.

The Annual Meeting is open to HPSO members and is free; doors open at noon and program begins at 1:00pm. Register on <https://hpsso.memberclicks.net/event-calendar>.

The Oaks Are Growing at the Inspiration Garden

by Kay Beatty and Darrell Ward, The Polk County Master Gardener's Association

All photos by P. J. Plunkett



An Oregon white oak savannah is growing at the Inspiration Garden in Independence. On a piece of land that a year ago was cottonwood trees, blackberries, Scotch Broom, and the neighborhood dump, the small *Quercus garryana* have survived their first winter and leafed out with the arrival of spring.

In the fall of 2012, the city of Independence made available to the Polk County Master Gardeners a much neglected and unused piece of parkland, the Mountain Fir Park. This former industrial site, a long narrow seven-plus acres alongside the South Fork of the meandering Ash Creek, is slowly being converted into a demonstration garden. There the Polk County Master Gardeners can teach and demonstrate the latest research-based gardening practices and horticultural developments and spread the word about recommended plant varieties.

The restoration of a small native white oak savannah is the latest demonstration area to take shape. The land was cleared in the late summer of 2014. More than 30 large cottonwood trees were removed, several large truckloads of trash were hauled to the dump, and a mass of berry vines, Scotch broom, and other invasive weeds was rogued out. Enough cottonwoods were left to provide shade and structure to the approximately two and a half acres. The cottonwoods will be removed after the oaks are well established.



Forty *Quercus garryana* were planted that fall and had a remarkable survival rate of over 85%. Another forty were planted this spring. A variety of other hardy native plants have been planted within and around the savannah, including *Ribes sanguineum*, *Mahonia aquifolium*, *Cornus sericea*, and *Oemleria cerasiformis*. A native wildflower garden on *continues next page*

the banks of the gorge that drains the area into South Ash Creek complements the savannah. Over 1,000 *Camassia quamash* bulbs will be planted this fall, underscoring the importance of the savannah's edible bulbs to the native populations.

A graveled path has been laid through the oaks, providing an important link that ties together the park/trail system that circles the city of Independence. The Inspiration Garden has been a total community effort, with donations of cash and grants totaling over \$25,000. The Polk County chapter has spent almost \$35,000 of its own funds and is committed to a long-term budget of about \$10,000 for yearly operating costs.



The cash and grants have helped to build our "Gathering Place," a building where we can hold classes and workshops and gather for fellowship. The Gathering Place is also open to the community.

The Polk County Master Gardeners appreciate the assistance the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon has given toward the savannah's development. We hope that members of the society will come visit what they have helped to create. Directions and information can be found on at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/mg>.



South Ash Creek with Inspiration Garden streambank plantings



the medicinal plant garden at the Inspiration Garden

2015 HPSO GRANT RECIPIENTS

Six organizations were awarded HPSO Grants and Scholarships this year from funds collected at the HPSO/Garden Conservancy Garden Tour and through raffles held at the Annual Meeting and Winter Program. We are funding projects from Hazel Dell to Salem. In future articles, we will follow these projects, so that our members can share in their successes and recognize the value of contributing to them.

Portland Youth Builders Outdoor Education Classroom

Portland Youth Builders provides education and vocational training for low income young people between the ages of 17 and 24 years old who have struggled to complete high school and who frequently rely on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food benefits. The grant will fund an outdoor classroom where students will learn about cooking and nutrition skills and will pay for berry plants, herbs and vegetable starts for the garden.

Springwater Environmental Sciences River Otter Native Plant Garden

Springwater Environmental Sciences School serves students grades K-8. The grades 5 and 6 "River Otters" will establish a native plant garden to study weather, topography, water flow, and land use and erosion issues. HPSO will fund plants and garden materials.

Marion-Polk Food Share Youth Farm Urban Orchard Project

MPFS is the regional emergency food bank serving Marion and Polk counties. The Youth Farm involves youth in sustainable agricultural practices and harvesting food for local use. The MPFS Youth Farm Urban Orchard Project will install an orchard in a food insecure neighborhood in Salem at Chemeketa Community College. HPSO will fund 60 fruit trees.

Hazel Dell School and Community Garden

The Hazel Dell School and Community Garden serves the school and the Boys and Girls Club nearby. Children learn about growing food, community members use garden spaces for organic gardens, and the program donates produce to the local homeless shelter and the school weekend backpack program for children

continues next page

who may not get enough to eat at home over the weekend. The garden has 35 raised beds, a native plant bed, blueberry/raspberry/kiwi beds, a hummingbird garden, and a classroom space with a leaky greenhouse. HPSO is funding repairs to the greenhouse and plants and materials for a raised bed in the greenhouse.

Center for Research in Sciences and Environmental Technology – West Linn-Wilsonville School District

CREST is an environmental education center serving the school district where students can conduct hands on science projects, do field research and community stewardship projects. One Boy Scout is completing his Eagle Scout project by building a green roof pole structure to provide shelter and outdoor classroom space as a demonstration project on the benefits of green roofs. HPSO is funding plants and materials for the green roof.

Sauvie Island Center Grow Lunch Garden

The Sauvie Island Center's Organics Farm provides nutrition and science education to Portland youth. Students see a working farm environment on field trips, at summer camps, and family farm days, where they learn how growing food connects to a healthy diet. The Grow Lunch Garden is a 125-foot row farmed exclusively by children who plant, tend, and harvest the vegetables. HPSO is funding garden materials.



Music & Gardening

by Susan Franklin

Two of my great passions in life are music and gardening. Which is fortunate, because there are some surprising correlations between these seemingly disparate art forms. Think of shape, architecture, color, intensity, sharpness or softness, emotional impact. All of these are as important in gardening as they are in music. The shape of a phrase, the shape of a plant or grouping of plants; the color of a musical passage, the color of an orange rose paired with purple nepeta; the staccato or legato of a note or notes, the sharpness of a yucca plant beside the softness of a horse-tail fern; the dynamics of a musical passage, the loudness of oranges and yellow blossoms compared to the softness of blue and white flowers; and the emotional impact of it all on our minds and hearts.

There is one other concept common to gardening and music that has been intriguing me most just recently—that of space. In music there is the space between the notes just as in gardening there is space between the plants. In both, the spaces are sometimes so small as to be undetectable and sometimes much larger and more apparent. And in both, these spaces are as important as the notes or the plants themselves.

The space between the notes is that slight breath, that suspension of time that is sometimes not even noticeable unless one is listening closely. The best musicians create these moments effortlessly. Used well, these suspensions create a relaxation

of tension and then an anticipation of what will come next. This adds to the power of the music because it allows the listener to absorb the beauty of what she has heard and then have time to look forward to the next part. The best composers know this and use it to full effect.

I had the perfect opportunity to study this while listening to the Oregon Symphony playing Haydn's Symphony no. 64 ("Tempora Mutantur"). I had heard this work before but not really listened to it closely. On this occasion, as the orchestra was rehearsing the piece, I became aware of the many spaces that Haydn deliberately created in this music. As I listened, I noted that my breathing changed with each space, that I became more attentive to the shape of the music as the spaces defined it and that these spaces created in me a sense of stillness and anticipation of the ensuing music. This piece, which might simply have left me feeling contented and happy, as Haydn's music so often does, did much more this time. I found myself profoundly moved.

Garden architects have long been aware of the impact of space in landscape design. Think of Capability Brown in eighteenth-century England and the way in which he used long swaths of sloping lawn to draw the eye to bordering hawthorn hedges and then fields and a church steeple beyond. The idea was to cause one to stop and contemplate the vista, and perhaps feel oneself moved beyond the clutter of everyday thoughts.

In gardens less grand than those of an English manor it is still possible to create an architecture that will allow for both the romance of massed color and places that hold a

more restful beauty. You can find inspiration for this in the winter garden when plants are dormant. At this time of year the colors and shapes of trees and shrubs stand out in stark relief against the brown earth. We have a paperbark maple that is positioned so that, when illuminated by the low sunshine, its peeling cinnamon stems are enhanced by the slanting light above and the darkness of the earth below. It is a sculptured, spacious beauty that is different from, but no less pleasing than, that which arises when it is surrounded by the rich blooms of spring and summer.

Wandering one day through the gardens of Lewis & Clark College in early spring, I came across a dogwood tree spangled in pink blooms. It was planted in a bed covered in dark mulch with scatterings of snowdrops just coming into bloom. That was all—no other shrubs or plants filled out the bed. I stood there for a while allowing myself to absorb the simplicity of the scene. I realized that my reaction was very similar to my experience of listening to the Haydn symphony. My attention was drawn to the shape of the tree, the whiteness of the snowdrops, and the way in which the spaces of the branches and the earth below defined the whole. It was a moving, contemplative moment in an otherwise busy day.

I am paying more attention these days to the impact of space in my garden. I love the English cottage look with its profusion of color and shape and the plants all nestled together. These beds are joyful and stimulating. Now I am finding that I also need more restful areas that cause one to pause and think. So, in my gravel garden each plant has its own space so that the eye is drawn to the specific color and shape of the plant before moving across the pale beige of the gravel in anticipation of the next plant. The same thing applies in my "Mediterranean" garden. There I want to create an effect of lingering—almost like the effect of a really good Italian meal where one wants to be aware of every taste.

So for me, music informs gardening and gardening informs music. As with most good things in life, both are works in progress.



BOOK REVIEWS: NEW IN THE LIBRARY

by Carol Gaynor, HPSO Library Committee Chair

Learn new skills and add zest to your garden with one of the Hardy Plant Society library's many new, beautifully written and illustrated gardening books. Either check books out or peruse them in the library—it's open from noon to 5pm Tuesday through Friday. Here are reviews for a few of our latest acquisitions.

Roses Without Chemicals by Peter E. Kukielski



"Don't ever shop for roses without this book in hand—it's too easy to fall for their beauty and scent, and forget how much trouble they can be. The author has trialed roses for disease resistance and less chemical usage since 2008, and here he offers the results of that research. Every page features a color photo of a sweetly ruffled rose, along with an exposé rating for disease resistance, flowering and fragrance." (review by Val Easton)

The Creative Shrub Garden: Eye-Catching Combinations for Year-Round Interest by Andy McIndoe



"In this book McIndoe puts the shrub in its rightful place: front and center. This groundbreaking approach shows you how to make the most of the many benefits of shrubs, including their hardiness, their year-long beauty, their size, and their low maintenance nature, by making them the main element in a garden design. The author teaches you the basics first, with tips on choosing shrubs based on a garden's size, determining soil and climate needs, and pruning and maintenance. He then offers hundreds of shrub combinations that work with many garden styles." (Timber Press)

Lawn Gone by Pam Penick



"With beautiful photographs and down-to-earth advice, Pam Penick has created the ultimate guide to replacing a lawn with a more natural and inviting landscape. *Lawn Gone!* will inspire you to turn your front yard from lawn into luscious." — Amy Stewart, author of *Wicked Plants* and *Flower Confidential*

A NEW STUDY GROUP



Seedy Characters

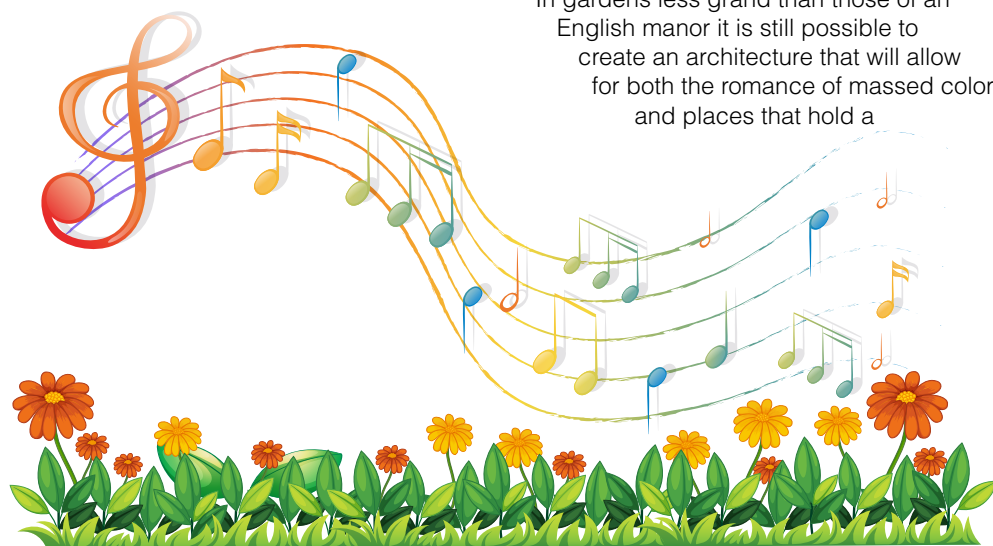
Amy Campion, an HPSO board member, has started a new study group—the "Seedy Characters" who get together monthly to swap seeds and cuttings and to learn about all forms of plant propagation. Contact amycampion@live.com for details.

welcome! TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

April 1 to May 31, 2015

We give a "shout out" to those of you who recently joined our ranks. You're joining in record numbers! We hope HPSO offers you the same gardening inspiration, guidance, and camaraderie that has sustained so many of our longtime members, and we look forward to meeting you at programs, plant sales, and open gardens.

Christopher Ames	Ben Fajen	Arlene Kimura	Viviane Pulis
Joyce Anderson	Jodi Fechner	Lawrence King	Peter Pulis
Anna Bandick	Linda Ferreira	Susan Kirkbride	Nandini
Linda Barnes	Tammi Foehlinger	Mark Kirkbride	Ranganathan
Arva Bartos	Penny Gale	Laura Kruss	Christina Redman
Paul Bartos	Marvin Gale	David Kruss	Nathan Roe
Jenna Bayer	Jennifer Garland	Emily Kuo	Mary Rundle
Tina Bissett	Lori Gibson	Jason Kuo	Mary Scott
Nicole Blanchette	P Gibson	Olivia Lahti	Jill Sekerman
Karen Bondarowicz	Jane Gragg	Linda Leber	Nancy Seton
Marv Bondarowicz	Susan Gray	Barb Ledbetter	Maxine Small
Tricia Brown	Lou Ann Gustafson	Kim Ledbetter	Eric Sogge
Clayton Brown	Douglas Hanes	Leslie Lee	Vicki Sparks
Catherine Buley	Mary Hansen	Bobbie Lindsay	Dieterich Steinatz
Peter Calabrese	Jay Harris	Shirl Lipkin	Kimberly Stevens
Emily Canibano	Molly Hartmann	Bethany Manza	Elizabeth Stoltz
Deborah Cannon	Sue Hays	Carol Markewitz	Leslee Strubel
Fernando Carrillo	Carol Hazzard	Janice Mathern	Peggy Sullivan
Gillian Carson	Tom Herrick	Bonita McCain	Colleen Sullivan
Ryan Carson	Carroll Hutchinson	John McCarthy	Rich Van Winkle
Dixie Daniel	Beth Hutchison	Linda McDonald	Wendy Vance
Alexandra Danielsen	Daniel Hutchison	Michael McDonald	Juan Luis Vazquez
Carla Danley	Tracy Hyland	Carol McMurdie	George Vogt
Joanne Day	Peter Hyland	Sally McWilliams	Elizabeth Voss
Ken Day	Haley Joyce	Kay Meyers	Joan Wells
Kate Day	Brendan Joyce	Jan Monical	Vonne Wilcox
Charis Deutsch	Pat Kane	Gabriel Mros	Kandis Wirtz
Marsha Doyle	Sasha Kaplan	Pat Norris	Nonnie Wong
Marna Elliott	Marina Kwall	Kathleen OConnor	Barbara Zavanelli
Joy Ellis	Alice Kembal	Thad Orr	Morgan
Nancy Entrikin	Mark Kembal	Susan Perdue	



WHY I GARDEN...

by Connie Schweppe

Almost everyone I know loves a beautiful garden and dreams of having one. Yet, most either don't have the time or inclination to create one. I, on the other hand, can't restrain myself from gardening, thinking and reading about gardening, and seeking inspiration from others' gardens. I often wonder how this happened? Without getting into the weeds, I'll just say that I like to surround myself with Mother Nature's infinite beauty. Gardening allows me to create my own vision of what that can be.

My prominent partner in life and all projects, garden and otherwise, is my husband, Dennis. If you come to our garden, you'll see how he has made all of my garden dreams come true. An arbor here, a vine house there, perhaps an outdoor shower would be fun, what do you think about an obelisk there where we had to remove the Japanese Maple this spring? It never stops.

So, 30 years into it, we've turned our "yard" into a "garden" with no intention other than to get down and dirty and, hopefully, have a beautiful garden to show for it. Several years ago I joined the Portland Chapter of the Hardy Plant Society, volunteering for a few plant sale posts and attending lectures and open gardens. It wasn't until 2014 that I worked up the courage to host an open garden.

Who knew! A second, charitable open garden would follow and then an opportunity to participate in the 2015 Open Garden Tour for the HPSO Study Weekend held June 26 - 28. What a life!

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was our garden. You may have noticed that we're pretty much "do it yourself."

Our 1926 vintage house is on a 50 x 100 ft. lot in southeast Portland.

The lawn was the first to go. A stone wall shored up the slope to allow for a perennial border. In place of grass, we used crushed rock to fill the space. Inspired by a particular bed in the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris, we used *Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy' to create a V-shaped hedge at the top of the garden opening to the gravel and the street-facing perennial bed. Later, we added a 30' arbor for grape vines and clematis, along with a few trees—*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Twisty Baby,' *Cornus* (Pink Dogwood), and a Hinoki pine—as anchors and structure. A barberry shrub that came with the house flanks the front porch to provide all-season interest with its burgundy color mirroring



that of the hedge. A bird bath fountain decorated with blue glass "rocks" and black stones sparkle by the front door and shaded window boxes hold *Hellebore*, *Epimedium*, *Hakonechola macro* 'Aureola', begonias and all manner of changing ornaments to match the seasons.

Perennials come and go with our changing interests. I've long been a fan of salvia, (purple to be exact); however, this year I've planted 'Wendy's Wish,' a long-blooming, reddish-pink. Talk about a happy accident! I'd attended a plant lecture at the Northwest Garden Show this spring and wrote down "Wendy's Wish" as a potential salvia. Generally speaking, when I take a note about anything, I never look at it again. This time though, many weeks later, I was looking through the copy of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine that I'd gotten at that show and came across my note – "Wendy's Wish," salvia, blooms early summer through fall. That very day, there it was at Cornell Farms Nursery. Eureka!

We also love *Liatris*, daisies 'Butter Crème', *Allium*, Fox Lily, sedum of all kinds, foxglove (this biennial comes up where and when it wants to and we try to accommodate it), various *Euphorbia*, lavender, ferns, *Hydrangea*, hellebores, hosta and one of my favorite scores from Heronswood, *Paris polyphylla*.

Of the many blessings that grow with gardens, patience is not to be underestimated. Waiting for the *Podophyllum* to be a regular presence each year has been a multi-year adventure. Looking for the

Arisaema keeps us entertained from early spring until it eventually pops some time in May. The *Rodgerseria* that I planted several years ago and have moved three times is buried somewhere in the shade garden without even a sprout to let me know that, at last, I've found the right place for it. Waiting to see if the fox lillies will bloom can be disappointing and then, last year, there were blooms, one of them six feet tall! There are some plants to which I am particularly attached. For example the *Agapanthus* was carried on a plane from California between the feet of my very good friend, Dolores. Now, years later, it's healthy and a beautiful, Central Oregon sky blue, but it's touch and go in this climate and has never really progressed to the "mass planting" I envisioned. That was brought home to me this spring on a trip to New Zealand where *Agapanthus* grow in mass and gay profusion along roadsides and in gardens and are considered to be more like weeds, according to a plantswoman at the Christchurch Botanical Garden. Oh well, I think about my friend's sacrifice and I know I've waited long enough. I want a mass of *Agapanthus*, and I want it now!

No garden essay would be complete without at least mentioning garden pests, and I don't mean slugs! Slugs are easy to control; squirrels are fun to watch and don't cause any real damage; raccoons are mischievous and destructive, but I can live with anything they dish out. It's the mice that are a force to be reckoned with, and I'm in a quandary over how to deal with them. It's not like there are all that many of them but I've seen three in one



evening racing through the yard to who knows where. Last year, they munched on the stems of the hosta in one bed, and I've found mouse holes along the fence and in the rock garden. Despite all new sewers in the neighborhood, they seem to be thriving. Last summer we set traps, and after several attempts (squirrels also like peanut butter and set off all the traps before the mice could get to them) we caught one small mouse. Unfortunately, it only injured him and we were then witness to a large crow who swooped down and pecked him to death before our eyes (my eyes anyway,

Dennis couldn't watch). In desperation, I Googled to find some non-poisonous remedies. Among them, a mix of flour and baking soda left in tuna cans where the mice will eat the mixture and because they cannot pass gas, die of complications. Still, they are earth's creature and they must have a purpose. Also, I'm sure the squirrels would eat it too so I Googled, "can Squirrels pass gas?". Scientific responses aside, one answer was, "no, but they do scratch their nuts"! I didn't make that up!



photos by Luci Hardiman





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

www.hardyplantsociety.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOUR OF IRELAND

July 1-19, 2015

GEN(I)US PROGRAM:

"Keeping the Color Coming: Late Summer Flowers for the Garden"
Tuesday, August 11

2015 HPSO/ GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAY TOUR:

Saturday, August 29

FALL PLANTFEST PROGRAM AND PLANT SALE:

Saturday, September 12

HIGHLINE TO THE HUDSON TOUR

September 13-19, 2015

GEN(I)US PROGRAM:

"Uncommon Fruit for the Home Gardener"
Tuesday, September 15

ANNUAL MEETING:

"The Color Full Garden"
with Lucy Hardiman
Sunday, October 18

PLUS OPEN GARDENS

April - October.
HPSO members can visit other member's gardens from spring through fall.

for more program information visit www.hardyplantsociety.org



Gravel paths wind through the gardens of Joy Creek Nursery (see page 8)



Wildflower meadow at Editor Annette Wilson Christensen's

