

Virtual Hortlandia 2020

Noname Nursery

www.nonamenursery.com

This week, Joanne Fuller interviewed Robb Sloan from Noname Nursery and edited their conversation for this article.

Robb, what are some of your favorite plants that are currently available at the nursery?

When I like a genus, I try to grow as many selections/cultivars in that genus as possible. For example, I currently have fifteen varieties of *Metasequoia* which you don't find in very many places.

I really like *Monarda*s. We currently have some native selections from the Midwest. One is *Monarda* 'Claire Grace' with lovely raspberry colored flowers. Also, *Liatris microcephala* which is native to the Southeastern U.S. It has graceful rose-purple flowers which are shorter than many of the cultivars.

I love *Liquidambar* trees. A few years back, we discovered a chance *Liquidambar* seedling with tight crinkly leaves, that is quite dwarf-- growing only 4" a year. We named it, *Liquidambar* 'Gnarly Bob'. One of the things I am very interested in is conserving unusual cultivars that are often "lost to cultivation" because big commercial growers quit growing them. These special plants are a part of keeping biodiversity in our world.

How did you get started?

I was 18 years old and working as a firefighter. To keep us busy in the winter months, we worked on the farm where they grew seedlings to plant in the forest. I decided to go back to school and ended up working at the Village Nursery in Sacramento. We visited the Far West Show every summer, and in the economic crash of 2008, we decided to move to Oregon to see if we could work in the nursery industry. Here, I worked as the head gardener at McMenamins in Forest Grove-- they really allowed me to try new things. In California, I had a small nursery called Noname Nursery. So, a few years ago, I decided to restart a Noname Nursery here.

How can customers shop from you now?

We are mostly a wholesale nursery. For our retail business, we sell a lot of plants on 'Plant Lust' www.plantlust.com. Customers can also sign up on the website www.nonamenursery.com for availability lists and email us at robb@nonamenursery.com