

## Virtual Hortlandia 2020

### Windcliff Plants Nursery

[www.danieljhinkley.com](http://www.danieljhinkley.com)

This week Joanne Fuller interviewed Dan Hinkley by email and edited the conversation for this article.

#### ***Dan, what are some of your favorite plants that are available from the nursery right now?***

Hydrangea species collected from afar are one of my loves; mostly trying to figure out their identities as the taxonomy is quite muddled. Right now, we have *Hydrangea serratifolia* HCM 98166. It is a self-clinging climbing hydrangea from South Chile that has glossy green foliage and large white corymbs. It will take sun or shade with evenly moist soil. Hardy Begonia species are another that I am smitten by. A proven one available now is *Begonia baviensis* DJHV 13034. Here at Windcliff, it has been successfully cultivated outside for numerous years. It has bristly red stems, hairy leaves and large white flowers. It is best cultivated in partial shade and provided with some overstory protection.

In my mind, all species of *Polygonatum*, *Disporum*, *Disporopsis* and *Maianthemum* are worth pursuing. *Disporum longistylum* 'Lift Off' is a Windcliff selection that is available right now. It has noticeably fatter stems, in spring rising to four feet carrying evergreen foliage and clusters of yellow flowers. I am a generalist however, so there are very few plants that I cannot get excited about-- except Echinaceas. I totally cannot get excited about Echinaceas.

#### ***How did you get started?***

Being a nurseryman has been in my blood for as long as I can remember. I propagated plants in junior high school. Heronswood was the realization of my need to do it larger. Windcliff became the second reiteration of that in an attempt to do it smaller, more intimate and better. I cannot say we have done it better, but we certainly have made the process more intimate.

#### ***You have found, bred and grown so many great plants. What are the two plants you believe every Pacific Northwest garden should have for sunny conditions?***

*Agapanthus inapertus* 'Graskop'. Hardy, dependable and the richest blue you can possibly get from an *Agapanthus* of any type. *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'County Park Dwarf'. It's a dependably hardy dwarf mounding selection with light green new growth deepening to black purple for the remainder of the year -- one of the best dwarf shrubs I can grow.

#### ***And two must-haves for shady conditions?***

*Helwingia omeiensis* which is a curious evergreen shrub with flower pedicels adhered to the leaf midrib. It has pointed glossy green leaves and will grow to be medium sized shrub in the Northwest shade garden. And, *Maianthemum henryi* which is an extremely fragrant green flowered Chinese species of False Solomon's Seal resulting in crops of deep red fruit.

#### ***How do customers shop for plants from Windcliff right now?***

Right now, we have lots of plants that need to find caring homes. There are currently two ways to shop; pick-up or visit by appointment. For plant pick-up, you can browse plants on the website at

[www.danieljhinkley.com](http://www.danieljhinkley.com) and submit an order online. Customers then pick up the order at the back of our property. For on-site shopping, we are open by appointment to view the garden and shop the nursery Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 am- 4 pm. People can check our website to get the details and make an appointment.

***Do you have plans for events at Windcliff later this summer?***

We hope to have a plan in place to open our garden and nursery on Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25 in conjunction with the Northwest Perennial Alliance Open Garden program. The decision to open is made one week prior to the event. If successful, we will have open days in August and September.

If organized plant sales in the area are offered, we would like to support them. There is a Northwest Perennial Alliance Fall Plant Sale scheduled on Sunday September 6, a Northwest Horticultural Society Fall Plant Sale on Friday September 18 and the Fall Foliage Festival at the Rhododendron Species Foundation on Saturday October 17. If these go forward as planned, we plan to be there.