



the **HPSO**
quarterly
FALL 2013

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Time and the Garden: Lessons from a Quarter Century

Rick Darke, Pennsylvania-based design consultant, photographer, and author of award-winning books including *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest* and *The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes* (Timber Press). His writing and images have been featured in the recent collaborative work *On The High Line: Exploring America's Most Original Urban Park* (Thames & Hudson)

photo: Garden designed by Rick Darke

fall 2013 table of contents

Fall PlantFest	1
Share Your Gardening Passion with HPSO	2
From the President	2
Garden School	3
HPSO Member Garden Profile: Made in the Shade	4
Transformation: The Long Bed Morphs	6
Great Plant Picks: Building an Educational Program	8
A Fantastic Garden Conservancy Tour	11
HPSO New Member Portrait: Doug Barragar	12
Get Involved—Join a Study Group	13
HPSO Walkers Group	13
Fall is My Favorite	13
A Remarkable Garden: Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie	14
Upcoming Events	back cover



Fall PlantFest

Our first PlantFest was held Saturday, September 7, at the Rock Creek campus of Portland Community College. The speaker, David Salman of High Country Gardens in New Mexico, inspired the over 300 attendees to head straight to the plant sale right after the program. Nearly 30 nurseries and growers had hundreds of plants to tempt us, and happy shoppers wandered the sunny parking lot making their selections. Fall is such a perfect time to plant, and this was a great opportunity to acquire some treasures.

more photos on page 3



photos courtesy of Scott Weber and Richell Chiu-Yap

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 Bylaws Revisions Triggers Annual Meeting "Open House"

After adopting changes to the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's bylaws in August, the Board of Directors also established a new fiscal year calendar and election schedule for officers and directors. Our first Annual Meeting under the new calendar takes place this year on **Saturday, November 9, 2013, from 1-4 p.m.** Admission is free, but the meeting is open to members only.

Having already held one Annual Meeting earlier this year, with elections and a speaker, this meeting will simply be an open house at the HPSO offices at 828 NW 19th Avenue in Portland. Information about state of the Society will be available

to members, and Board members and chairs of many of our committees will be on hand to answer your questions regarding our activities, and possibly convince you to be more active in one or more of the Society's programs.

We will return to our standard Annual Meeting format in the fall of 2014, replete with officer and director elections, and a featured speaker.

I hope you'll have time to stop by our Annual Meeting open house this year.

Jim Rondone, President

please join us at the

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 1:00 to 4:00pm
HPSO Office, 828 NW 19th Ave.

The annual "books at cost" event and the Annual Meeting are combined this year, and it's happening on November 9. All HPSO members are invited to join us at the HPSO office from 1:00 to 4:00pm for snacks, conversation, a short meeting, and the opportunity to buy our great books at cost. This is a wonderful time to expand your library and buy gifts for your gardening friends and relatives.

You're a volunteer* and can't make it on November 9th? The book sale will continue for volunteers only during office hours through December 20. Please email or call Linda Carson with questions: lindacarsonor@frontier.com or 503-537-0525. And THANK YOU for volunteering!

*If you have volunteered in any way this past year, and there are a lot of ways to volunteer—plant sale, program, open garden, garden conservancy, yard, garden and patio show, garden school, HPSO committee member, and on and on—you can keep buying through December 20.

Don't miss this "Books at Cost" Sale!

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quarterly

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of the Hardy
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Whitney Rideout, Editor
Linda Wisner, Designer

NOTE: The printed version of this publication is in black and white. To view the *Quarterly* in full color, visit our website.

828 NW 19th Avenue • Portland, OR 97209
Office and library hours: Tues-Fri 12 to 5pm;
Closed Saturday - Monday
503.224.5718

www.hardyplantsociety.org

garden school workshop

by Jolly Butler, Garden School Committee

Registration and further information for all events are online at hardyplantsociety.org.

Saturday, November 23, 2013,
Rain Gardens 101

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**East Multnomah Soil & Water
Conservation District, NE Portland**

Fee: \$5.00

Maximum number participants: 24
Registration now open.

Learn how to build your own rain garden!
We'll explore the critical role rain gardens
can play in urban stream restoration, and

how they add beautiful landscaping to
your yard at the same time.

You will learn how to assess your site to
determine the best location and size,
calculate impervious surfaces, deter-
mine soil suitability, choose appropriate
plants, and how to maintain your new
rain garden. You will also receive a
comprehensive manual that guides you
through all the steps in constructing your
rain garden. Workshop includes tour of
demonstration rain garden installations.

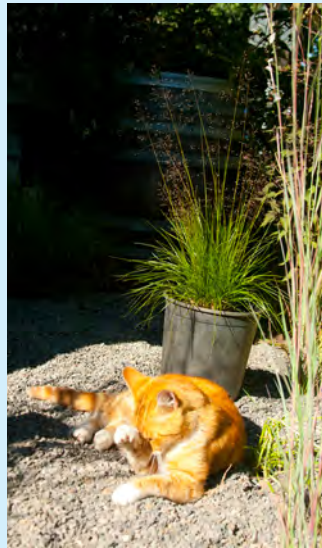
give the gift of **HPSO**

**Celebrate the special
gardeners in your life. Give
an HPSO gift membership
during the holiday season.**

Go to: [https://hpsso.memberclicks.net/
gift-membership](https://hpsso.memberclicks.net/gift-membership)

**Or stuff a stocking with
an HPSO gift certificate.**

HPSO gift certificates can be used at
Hortlandia and HPSO book sales too!
Contact the HPSO office at 503-224-5718
for more information.



scenes from PlantFest



Made in the Shade

by Barbara Blossom and Shari MacDonald

The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies.

- Gertrude Jekyll

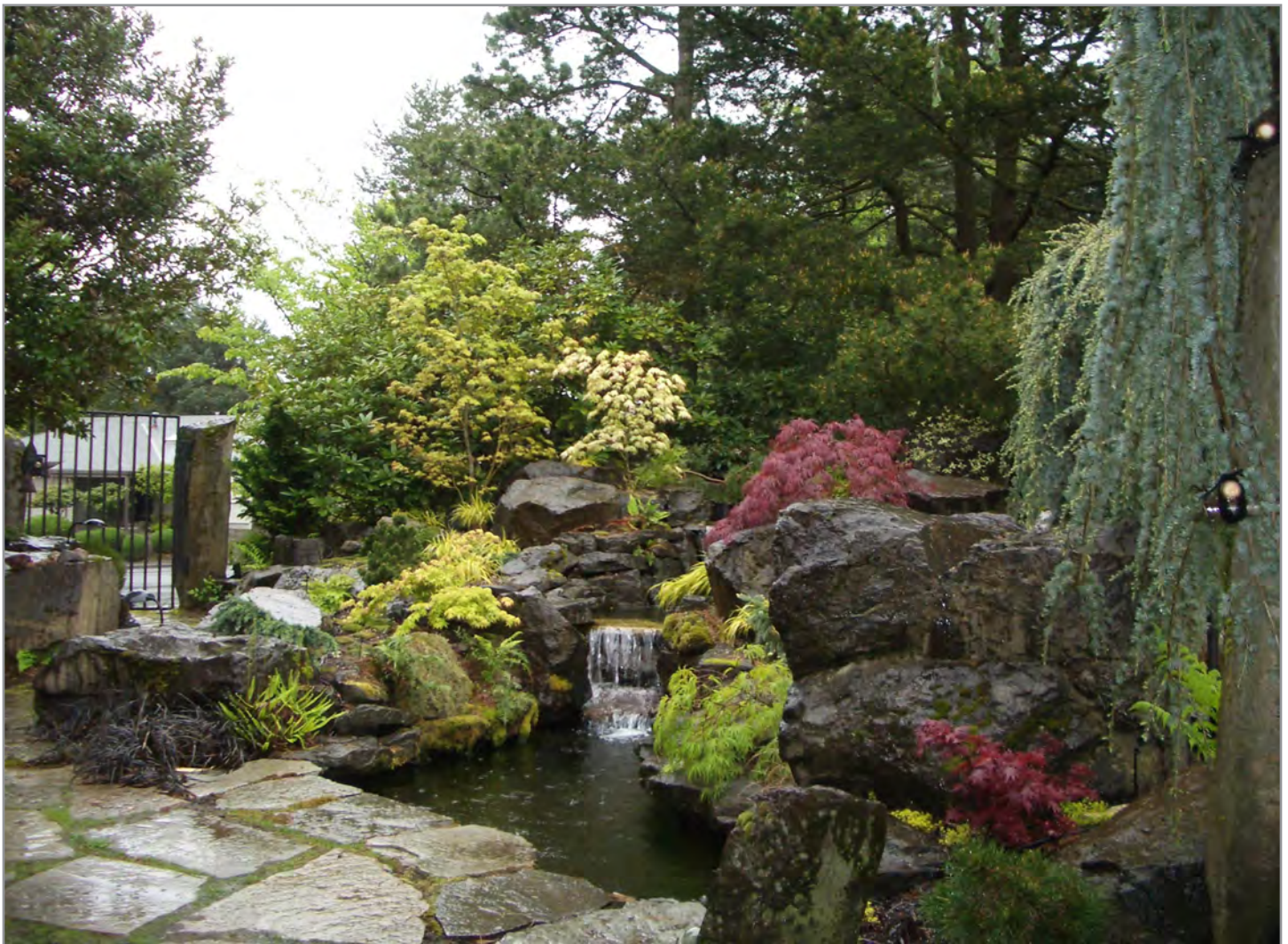
Step inside Shari MacDonald's garden gate and discover an entry courtyard where the calming sound of a waterfall greets you. A weeping white pine and a weeping Atlas cedar, meticulously pruned to form a blue-green, 25 foot living fence, provide year-'round greenery. A grove of Chinese timber bamboo (*Phyllostachys vivax*) with bold golden canes makes a sculptural statement and sets the stage for an Asian/Northwest-style garden.

Shari traded in her half-acre garden for an entry courtyard 35 feet deep and 40 feet long and a back courtyard 14 feet deep and 60 feet long. "We left our big garden after ten years - it was just too much to maintain. But I've been able to take everything I've learned from that garden and apply it to a small space." What are the keys to her success? Repetition, using plants that are to scale, and emphasizing foliage.



Also, a small space requires more use of evergreens. "When you look out the windows everything is right there and in the winter, you don't want to see those dying perennials up close."

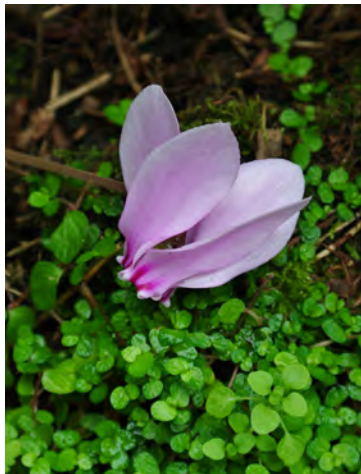
Foliage is Shari's focus, not flowers. The leaves of ginkgo, Japanese maple, hosta, ferns, dwarf conifers, black mondo grass, golden Japanese forest grass, as well as unusual rhododendrons with variegated and bronze leaves, create an enchanting tapestry. Shari even has a small forest of black bamboo along the edge of her back



courtyard. Baby's tears form a ground cover that runs through the front and back courtyards, unifying them. And the small space hasn't squelched her use of trees; she has 18 Japanese maples to provide summer foliage and amazing fall color.

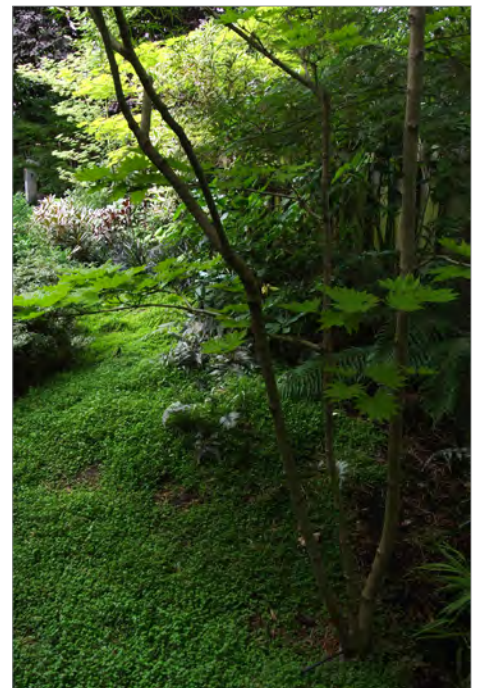
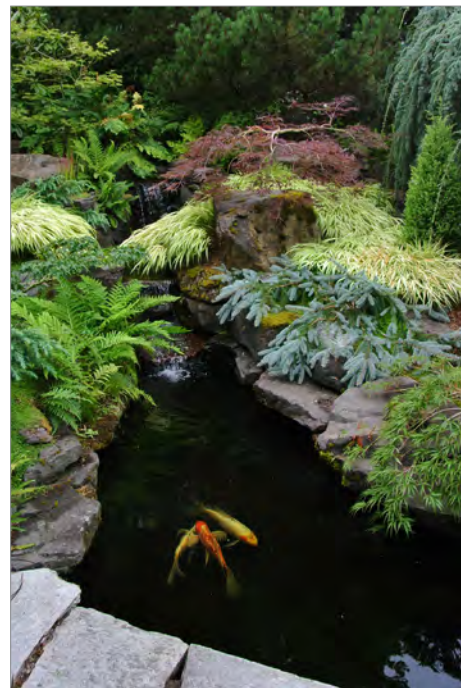
"When you move from a large garden to a small one there are challenges and joys that come along with the switch. A large garden allows you the space to feed plant acquisition addiction. With a small garden, when you find a new plant—that means you need to sacrifice an old one. However, a small space allows you to perfect the garden."

Her great joy is caring for the plants. "I like to prune," she says. "I'm always pinching and pruning—in a small garden you have to stay on top of it, or things can get out of control." She snips back shrubs regularly and artfully to keep them from outgrowing their spaces, and even thins out ferns when they interfere with their neighbors. "I let everything breathe," she explains.



When asked where she gets her inspiration she mentioned the Elizabeth Miller Garden and Great Plant Picks. *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Tansu', *Daphne tangutica*, *Hosta* 'Blue Mouse Ears', *Hosta* 'Lemon Lime', *Disporum uniflorum*, *Trillium albidum*, *Trillium sessile*, *Dicentra* 'King of Hearts' and *Fargesia angustissima* are a few of the GPP plants in her garden.

Because her garden is small, she enjoys sharing it with only a few people at a time. If you want to learn about small space gardening, plants that thrive in shade, gardening without a lawn, or establishing wonderful views from your windows, Shari's garden will teach you a lot. You may contact her for an appointment by e-mail at Shari@hembroff.net.



Transformations:

The Long Bed Morphs

by Lisa Fuller

One lesson to learn immediately if one wants to garden in earnest is that adaptation is essential to success. In my own garden I have applied this lesson repeatedly in transforming its centerpiece, which I call the Long Bed. Although it is only 15 by 60 feet—so tiny compared to the wonder of Gertrude Jekyll's 200-foot beds—it serves the same anchoring purpose on my smaller lot that those did in the estate-sized gardens which she created. I have a very small house, and can see this part of my garden from every east-facing window. My living room faces this direction, as does my desk, so whenever I move through my home, or sit pondering my next sentence I am also absorbing the scene. It is the vista I see as I sip my first cup of tea in the morning, and the last I see when I bring in the cats at night. Therefore, since nearly my entire interior living space is oriented to this garden bed, my Long Bed, it has been the focus of a great deal of my gardening effort.

Since I can study the composition endlessly, I conjure up the next "scene" frequently. (I like to move the furniture around inside, too, to accommodate the seasonal view outside.) I have been doing this for all of the six years I have lived here. In the beginning, being a lease-to-purchase tenant, I was thrilled to look out of these same windows and just enjoy the view of the woodland, sloping down to a tiny, unnamed creek.

dawn view from my living room



With the neighbors sufficiently far away to disappear behind the trees, and on a half-acre lot, I felt like I was in the country instead of two miles from Washington Square mall. I also took enormous pleasure in the breathtaking blazing sunrises I can see through the Douglas fir trees. Before too long, however, I began to focus more on my view of the foreground.

Dominating this vista, like a pile of debris in my visual path, was a ragged arborvitae "hedge", defining some sort of boundary between the ratty "lawn" and the beginning of the slope into the woodland. I have never liked arborvitae hedges. They are dusty, itchy havens for spiders and are often weak and wonky after a rain or snowstorm. In my opinion, they have been misused for far too long in far too many otherwise innocuous landscapes.

However, since this was not then my property to change by removing them, I sought solace in planting a few dozen daffodil bulbs that first fall. I probably planted some primroses from Freddie's early that spring, too. All the while I clucked as I dodged the spiders and

what I started with...



pried out the crab grass infiltrating every inch of soil I dug into below the hedge. I made a spaded edge between my plantings and the scruffy, weedy grass where there was no edge before. It took a while since it was heavy clay that turns to brick about June. Beyond the lawn and this hedge, on the slope down to the creek, the woodland descended into the endless hell of blackberries and ivy. So here I drew a line in the dirt, a line between garden and wilderness. And that was the beginning of my Long Bed.

During those first few years, before I decided to buy the place, I continued to plant modest perennials and bulbs (campanula, salvia, coreopsis, phlox, allium) that gave me pleasure with a minimal investment. I knew, however, that the bed would never be right until that hedge had been removed.

I have owned the property for four years now, and the Long Bed is coming along nicely, providing a very pleasing view with my morning tea. It has certainly evolved over that time, as my own experience has increased in this climate zone and on this particular plot of earth. The exposure is



left and far left: Season Two "mash-up"

below: construction in 2011

right: Season Two, August 2011, now planted with alliums, below



marvelously varied, running north to south longitudinally with a slope to the east, facing the woodland and the seasonal creek, and flat, hot and dry right next to the house.

While I was developing the Long Bed, I was simultaneously planning my potager (my not-so-pompous appellation for the vegetable garden) on the other side of the lawn. This opened up a forgotten world of satisfaction (edibles!) that I began to plant enthusiastically wherever I could. Having good sun exposure for 6-10 hours a day, the Long Bed became the home for the edibles that could not fit in the potager: my delectable persimmon 'Fuyu', the half dozen blueberries that were patiently waiting in pots, the four apple trees, and the two figs. So are seven fruit trees in 60 feet a little snug? You bet. It is especially crowded when you add artichokes and lavender and ground covering herbs for contrast of form and color...oh my.

By season two of my Long Bed transformation, the addition of edibles, and a better understanding of our Mediterranean conditions from July to September, I came to a rude awakening about water consumption. My water bill skyrocketed that summer to unimagined Crater Lake size. Although the potager was productive, if I was going to eat anything else besides tomatoes and beans, and pay the mortgage during the summer, I had to regroup. The next transformational phase began. Now I needed to grow plants that could tolerate seasonal drought, and if they were edible, that was a huge plus.

The fruit trees required a certain amount of deep watering, but the spring bulbs needed to dry out and slip into dormancy. By creating watering basins for the trees to keep the moisture in the root zone and away from the bulbs, I addressed that issue. I will install a drip system to deliver water to the fruit trees eventually, but meanwhile, it's not too troublesome to regularly hand water them in the basins I created. I also relocated most of the water-hungry perennials to a sunny clearing in the woodland near the creek, where the soil is damper and they require no supplemental water.

As I continue to develop the Long Bed in its present state, I try to select shrubs and seasonal-color plants for their texture and foliage interest, but with drought-tolerance a key requirement. I have built a colorful and (somewhat) drought-tolerant planting, with the addition of several varieties of berberis, hardy geranium, lavender, thyme, heaths, grasses, daylilies, and crocosmias. I removed four of the fruit trees to give everybody more room.



adding drought tolerant plants in Season Three

The allium now thrive. Today as I sip my tea, I see an area I have transformed from a weedy, forlorn hedge into a gardener-gone-wild mash-up of color and form, then to a low-water Long Bed, liberally spiced with edibles. However, we gardeners keep changing, and our gardens change with us, so who knows what the future will bring. I do know, however, that I look forward to seeing "what happens" next.



"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." — Charles Darwin



Building an Educational Program

by Richie Steffen

When I moved to the Pacific Northwest, I had little understanding of the exceptional climate and multiple gardening opportunities this region had to offer. The rich diversity of plants and the great selection found in the local nurseries and garden centers was astounding. I immediately began trying to identify what was growing in the neighborhoods surrounding me. I went often to see what was new in the nurseries and visited public gardens for inspiration. With the knowledge I gained I began my Northwest gardening career growing a lot of plants and killing a lot of plants! With each dead plant I tried to learn something from its sacrifice and over time I learned the nuances of our unique climate. For those who want to take the sting out of losing plants and their wallet by purchasing plants that grow exceptionally well in our region there is a phenomenal resource at their fingertips: Great Plant Picks.

Great Plant Picks (GPP) is an educational program of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden that focuses on helping gardeners find the best and most reliable plants for the maritime Pacific Northwest. The program covers the area from Eugene, Oregon north to Vancouver, British Columbia and from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains west to the ocean. The staff of the Miller Garden built the GPP program with the help of horticultural experts throughout the region who select the Picks. These members of the selection committee are equally divided between western Oregon, western Washington and south-western British Columbia. They represent public gardens, large and small retail and wholesale nurseries, city parks, and garden designers. It is one of the only programs in the country to use such a wide range of professionals with such diverse experiences to select the best performing plants. For example, GPP is fortunate to have the talent and experience of these Oregonians: Paul Bonine (wholesale/retail nursery/Xera Plants), Ian Connor (retail nursery/Connor Bamboo), Lucy Hardiman (landscape designer/Perennial Partners), Maurice Horn (retail nursery/Joy Creek Nursery), Guy Meacham (wholesale nursery/J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.), Martin Nicholson (public garden/Hoyt Arboretum), Fred Nilsen (city parks/Portland Parks & Recreation-retired).

GPP Mission and Goals

The mission of the program is to build a comprehensive palette of outstanding plants for maritime Pacific Northwest gardens. As part of the outreach of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden the program hopes to provide a forum for sharing horticultural information with the wider gardening community. The information gathered is distributed through a first-rate website and on our widely circulated posters and informational handouts making it easily accessible to the gardening public. An important goal of GPP is to provide accurate names and proper identification of the selected plants. This is a goal that is definitely easier stated than accomplished! A tremendous amount of time is spent sorting out confused cultivars, determining the characteristics of each cultivar and researching the latest in name changes with the correct spelling.

Campanula 'Birch Hybrid'

GPP selection committee

continues next page



The Process of Picking Plants

GPP held its first meeting in September 2000. Since that day, over 900 plants have been selected to receive a GPP designation. The members of the selection committee meet three times a year in March, July and October. Each member serves on one of three subcommittees: Trees and Conifers, Shrubs and Vines and Perennials and Bulbs. The process starts with a plant being nominated. These nominations are discussed with members sharing their experiences and knowledge of the plant. There is a set of criteria each plant must meet. These include resistance to diseases and pests, longevity in the garden, a long season of interest, hardy throughout the region as well as several other factors that are listed on the website. One important consideration is availability. We try to make sure there are at least two sources for each plant.

Nominations that meet the criteria are moved to a short list where they are likely

destined to become a GPP. The staff will research availability and make sure that a short-listed plant has been properly identified and matches the correct characteristics of the specific cultivar. If there are unanswered questions about the plant's performance, it will be moved to the "evaluate" list. If a plant does not meet the criteria, it will be eliminated with a reason for the elimination recorded in our records for future reference.

Plants selected to receive the GPP designation will have additional information gathered on them through the "Great Plant Quips" form. This form helps record actual comments from committee members regarding their personal experiences with this plant and to add their recommendations for companion plants and cultural tips for growing the plant at its best. With this information, new GPPs are added to our website each year just before the Yard, Garden and Patio Show in Portland and the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle.

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Berberis darwinii

Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'





at left: 2009 sedum evaluation at Closed Loop Park in Lacey, WA.

below: *Cotoneaster cooperi* in Victoria's Abkhazi Garden



Plant Evaluations

Selected plants needing additional evaluation will go through a process of field evaluations or be reviewed by a special advisory group. Selection committee members visit special collections to survey particular genera or cultivar groups. Participating members fill out evaluation sheets, rating the merits of each plant. Full evaluation can take as long as three to seven years to complete. Often the plant group is assessed in different seasons over different years to capture a full picture of each plant's performance. The compiled results of these evaluations are provided to selection committee members to complete their assessment of the plant group. Some plant groups have a large number of cultivars and selections making them too expensive and difficult to perform a traditional evaluation, but these diverse groups often have dedicated collectors and enthusiasts who hold a wealth of knowledge. GPP Advisory groups are composed of these specialty plant experts and prepare a list of recommended GPPs to the selection committees. Advisory groups are

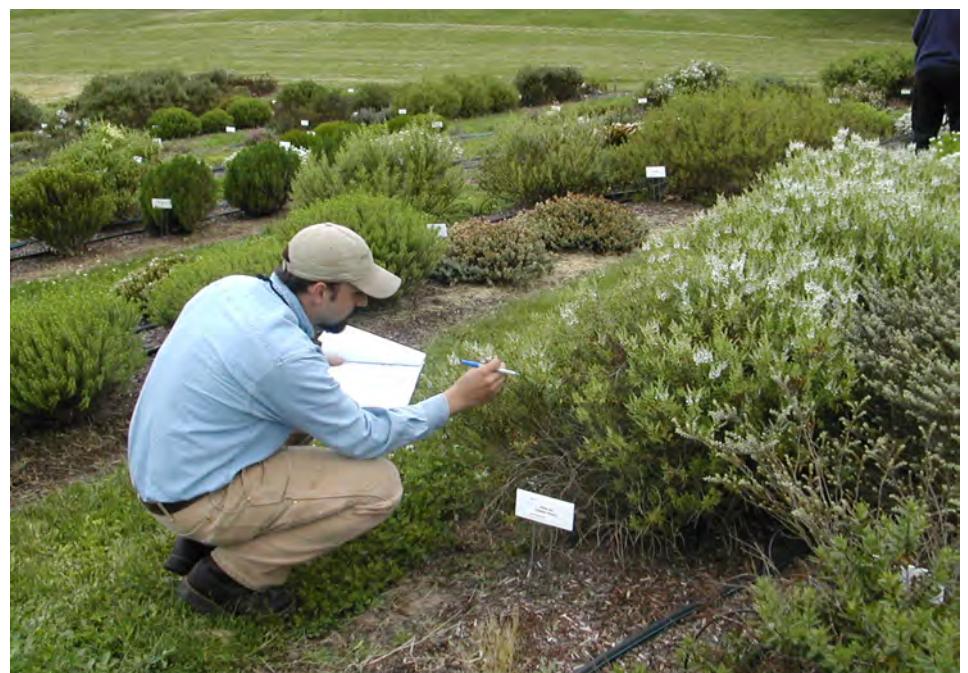
invaluable to properly assess groups like roses, rhododendrons, ferns, and clematis.

Through this complex and thorough process we try to make sure any gardener can find a great plant that will work in their garden. We hope that this will provide gardeners a solid foundation for their landscape and build the confidence of newer gardeners by encouraging them to plant more and try something new or unfamiliar. GPP is a great way to learn about the most unbeatable plants for the Pacific Northwest garden.



Learn more at www.greatplantpicks.org

GPP's Dan Moeller looking at herbs



Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'



A Fantastic Garden Conservancy/HPSO Open Day Garden Tour

by Terry Wagner, Garden Conservancy/HPSO Open Day Tour Committee Chairperson

This year's Garden Conservancy garden tour was a resounding success with over 2,700 visitors, the largest turnout ever. The day was warm with high humidity, but that did not dampen the interest of the many visitors who wanted to see the fabulous gardens. Listening to the conversations of the visitors, it was apparent they were enjoying the garden they were in, had seen great things in gardens they had visited, and were looking forward to the gardens they had yet to see.

There are many people to thank for making this such a great tour:

- The garden hosts—Charlene and Bill Tuttle, Rogerson Clematis Botanical Collection, Sherry Sheng, Mike and Linda Darcy, Bob and Mignon Ervin, and Susan Bates—all went above and beyond to make their gardens picture perfect for the tour.

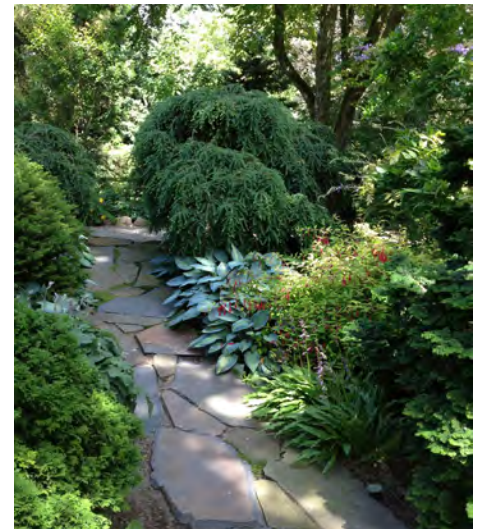


- The 49 volunteers who helped keep everything moving smoothly at the gardens on the day of the event.
- The committee members who organized this event: Carol Gaynor, Jan Krier, Kelly Lord, Shari MacDonald, Sally Martini, Celia Murray and Liz Wiersema.
- Jim Card from the Tsuru Island Gresham Japanese Garden and Erin August from the PCC Habitat Restoration Team. They presented their HPSO grant approved projects

to visitors at the Tuttle garden. This completes the circle for garden visitors, making the connection between entrance fees and funding grant programs.

- The generous contributors of items for the raffle: Mark Frazer Designs, Deby Barnhart of Cornell Farms, Shari MacDonald, and Two Sisters Kicking Glass. The raffle raised additional funds for the HPSO Grant and Scholarship program.

Everyone involved with the HPSO Grant and Scholarship program and Garden Conservancy wishes to thank all of you for the wonderful event.



Doug Barragar

by Barbara Blossom

On a walk in my neighborhood, my husband Tom and I were a minute away from home when a dazzling rose garden caught my eye.

"I've got to find out who lives here," I said.

"No time like the present," Tom said, and rang the doorbell.

Doug Barragar stepped outside, greeted us with a friendly smile, and gave us a tour of his garden. Although we didn't linger that day, a glimpse of several stewartias, kousa dogwoods, and Japanese maples told me this man was a serious gardener.

As it turns out, Doug's love for plants began in childhood, while backpacking with his father and admiring stretches of penstemon and pulsatilla.

"We called the pasqueflowers, with their big shaggy mops of seedheads, hippies," Doug recalled.

In his twenties, he helped his grandmother tend her big rose garden in Northeast

Portland. Although she's passed on, her influence lives on in his collection of seventy hybrid tea and floribunda roses. He also helped his parents in their garden, where his dad's passion for rhododendrons ignited his own desire to grow as many rhododendrons as roses.

Doug's garden on one-third of an acre, sited on a corner lot, had plenty of challenges ten years ago when he moved in.

"The foundation plantings were photinia and laurel, and the bank was baked clay. Tortured catalpas stuck under the power lines looked like Disney haunted trees," he said. "I dug out as much of the clay as possible, and amended the soil to give the plants something to drink from in the summer."

He added copious amounts of compost, Nurseryman's Black Forest, some peat, and "whatever's on sale." He also mulches with fine dark hemlock bark, which doesn't have many splinters.

Beyond roses, rhododendrons, dogwoods, stewartias, and Japanese maples, Doug began collecting perennials, especially echinacea, penstemon, salvia, tricyrtis, lilies, cannas and hostas.

"I would find a perennial like echinacea, get excited about it, and then go on a binge," he said. "The more gardens and nurseries I visited, the more plants

I wanted, until I became the plant junkie I am now."

Doug's garden has become a neighborhood magnet as walkers stop to chat and drivers slow down to admire his flowers, rolling down their windows to say, "I love your garden!" It doesn't hurt that Doug is so friendly, and always willing to take a break from his labor of love. "I like talking to people more than I like weeding," he says.

A member of HPSO for about three years now, Doug appreciates the connection with like-minded folks. "I like plant people," he says. "The garden community is a friendly bunch of really nice people. It puts a smile on my face."

His latest passion is hardy hibiscus, for their late season huge flowers. He's especially drawn to the newer varieties with dark and incised foliage, even ordering some by mail from The Sooner Plant Farm in Oklahoma.

Doug's enthusiasm for gardening is contagious, and very likely children in the neighborhood who've gone home carrying a tulip or a rose that Doug cut for them will some day be growing their own flowers.

I've learned that Doug enjoys hiking and playing his guitar, but when I asked him what he does when he's not gardening, his reply was not too surprising.

"I think about gardening," he said, chuckling.



Get Involved— Join a Study Group

Study groups or interest groups are sometimes the first introduction that a gardener has to HPSO. These small groups are composed of gardeners that share a local or a topical interest and they meet in homes and neighborhoods around the Portland and Vancouver metro areas. These groups allow gardeners the opportunity to share their interests in an informal, friendly setting. Activities may include nursery visits, garden visits, potlucks, walks, group discussions, presentations by local experts, book reviews, cooking and recipe sharing for edible plants, knitting and nature hikes. Groups range in size from 20 to 40 members and all must be HPSO members.

For more information, a full list of study groups, and contact information, please visit the HPSO website.



scene from PlantFest—Agastache 'Blue Boa'

HPSO Walkers Group

by Jenna Barnett

Need a break from the garden? Consider joining the HPSO Walkers group for a stroll. We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. for a four mile walk, rain or shine. Some people come every month and some people come once a year—it all depends on schedules.

We walk all around the metropolitan Portland area and try to keep driving minimized; our farthest destinations have been the Tualatin Wildlife Refuge and the West Linn Wilderness Park. We have done a few walks from *Walk There! 50 Hikes In and Around Portland*, some from Laura Foster's *Portland Hill Walks*, several in Forest Park and Hoyt Arboretum as well as neighborhood walks. And it's worth mentioning that well-behaved dogs on leashes are invited to join the fun.

Since we are all HPSO members we always talk about the flora and fauna we see on the walks, and about our own gardens and what is going on in them. Walkers may bring plants to trade or a leaf with a problem to get the group's opinion. We share gardening tips, innovative ideas, bargains, etc. We would love to have you join us. If interested please contact Jenna Barnett at jennabarnett@hotmail.com.



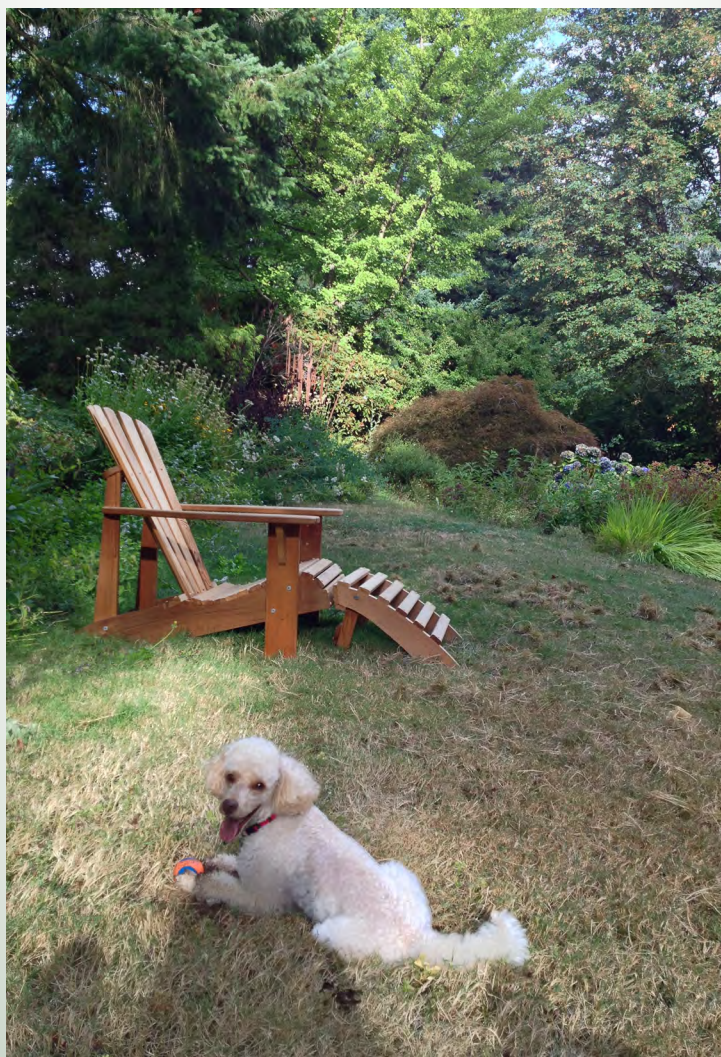
fall is My Favorite

by Gardennia nutii

Fall is my favorite time of year. All the promises, all the ideas, and all the longings of having a gorgeous garden evaporate and I'm allowed to put everything off for another season. How relaxing.

When I sit on my moss- and weed-ridden 'lawn' reading a book, I don't see all the space I should turn into well structured and balanced planting beds, I see a soft play patch my dog enjoys. When I look at the old railroad tie walls that should be replaced with beautiful hardscape that provides clean definition and beauty, I see materials that have provided service holding up a sloped yard for over 40 years. And when I look at the area I keep promising to turn into a formal seating area with pergola and fire pit, I simply drag my lawn chair around the yard to seek sun or shade at my whimsy and revel in the flexibility.

Fall is many things to many people. It's a time to enjoy the gorgeous colors and crisp nights. It's a time to plant and allow your new garden members a chance to establish their roots. And it's a time to gather the last of the fruit and veg for canning. But for me, fall is my time to enjoy my yard as it is, not as I hope it will be.





a remarkable garden:

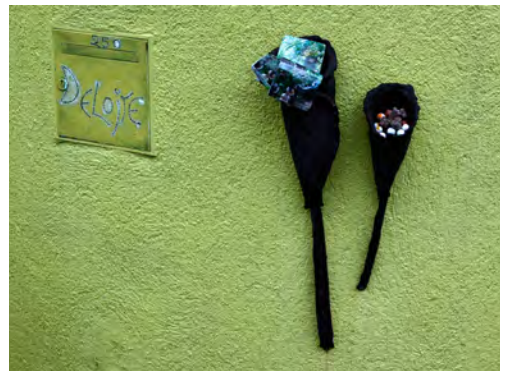
Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie

by Bruce Wakefield

In the foothills of Gattieres, France, a small village not far from Nice, there is a remarkable garden that should be on every visitor's list, *Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie*, loosely translated as the Garden of the Pottery Flowers. A convergence of vegetative and mineral elements, this unique garden surprises the visitor at every turn. As luck would have it, this garden was on our HPSO tour group's list of visits, and we were surprised indeed.

Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie is a creation of avid ceramics artist and gardener, Anne-Marie Deloire, and her husband, Raymond. The property, purchased in 1982, was an old olive grove with a small farmhouse. At the time, the gently sloping property was being sub-divided into smaller city lots, and most of the olive trees, protected by city regulations, had to remain. Anne-Marie and Raymond decided to purchase a lot with the farmhouse along with its twelve olive trees. They began to renovate the house, doing much of the work themselves, and then turned their focus towards a garden. What they created is an amazing garden, recently seen by the participants of the HPSO tour to southern France this past spring.

It was a showery day. Our HPSO tour group had just visited two beautiful private gardens earlier that day, plus a lunch stop in the lovely hilltop town of Saint Paul-de-Vence. Our tour bus couldn't make it up the narrow lane and had to park a bit away from our afternoon garden stop at *Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie*. It was quite a trek up the hill, especially after lunch, and the general sentiment was that a nap was preferred over another garden stop. This garden had better be good. Our first indication that this was no ordinary garden came in little bits—the artistic touch to the mailbox, a lovely hanging ornament on a chartreuse wall, potted watering cans.



We were greeted by the owner, Anne-Marie, wrapped in a chartreuse scarf with a chartreuse umbrella, and even wearing shoes with a touch of green. Very color coordinated. Just like an artist, we thought, and we were encouraged. We had also noticed the pebble mosaic driveway entrance to the garden. The pebble colors, having been washed by the rain, were unusually beautiful. And, then it hit us—not all of those pretty stones were pebbles. Many were ceramic “fossils” embedded among the stones. Our eyes were now wide open with surprise. The sheer scale of creating so many pieces for this large expanse was a bit mind-boggling.

Anne-Marie Deloire

As we continued into the small entry courtyard, the garden began to incorporate more artistic elements. The paths were lined with curbs, embedded with shells, ceramic pots, and more ceramic “fossils.” The lawn was edged in little clay sculptures, giving the appearance of clusters of exotic fungi. The black bamboo was contained by ceramic barriers. Tall ceramic totems echoed the banana stalks. Everywhere we looked, the fusion of these “mineral” and “vegetative” elements abounded. And, all of these ceramic pieces were made by hand by Anne-Marie in her little workshop. The words “over the top” popped into my mind. I heard plenty of “oohs” and “ahs” from others in the group.





Proceeding around the side of the house, we came upon a small swimming pool. Because of the slope of the property, the pool had a large retaining wall on one side. Of course, an artist like Anne-Marie wouldn't have an ordinary retaining wall. The wall was the perfect candidate for incorporating more ceramic creations. My immediate impression was that of an archeological dig. But it made perfect sense. With embedded pots in the wall, Anne-Marie was able to provide more area for her garden plants. In other words, it was a sort of vertical garden. The overall effect was fascinating.

Unique works of art were everywhere. Even the rock wall behind the house was adorned with hand-made ornament.

In the back garden, Anne-Marie created a small potager highlighted by a chartreuse wall on one side, the grey-foliaged olive trees left to their own devices behind. Woven bamboo planters framed the vegetable beds. Decapitated watering cans lined the top of the bamboo planters. A pedestal bathtub (painted chartreuse, of course) had center stage, providing a space for a water feature and water garden. Once the spring vegetables are done, the garden beds are replanted with heirloom tomatoes and other summer vegetables and flowers.

Le Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie is a garden that reveals itself slowly. Having gone around the house once in one direction, I decided to reverse course. I was glad that I did. An incredible number



of new scenes were unveiled, scenes that had escaped my notice the first time through. I eventually had to put my camera down. I had taken so many photos the first couple times around that I felt I had only seen the garden through a lens.

Ever the charming hosts, Anne-Marie and Raymond Deloire made our tour group feel right at home. Tasty cookies were brought out to the patio table. (Yes, we checked the cookies to make sure they were real—not ceramic.) Toasts were made with Raymond's homemade *vin d'orange*. We were given free rein in the house. (The house interior was also "plastered" with ceramic accents although not to the same extent as the garden.) Despite the occasional spring shower, our spirits were high. Our trek up the hill was well rewarded and most definitely worth it. *The Jardin des Fleurs de Poterie* is a remarkable garden. The French government recently agreed, awarding it the official designation as one of the Remarkable Gardens of France!







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

www.hardyplantsociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

Garden School:
Fall Color Revisited
Sunday, October 20
Eugene
SOLD OUT

Annual Meeting
and Book Sale
1:00-4:00pm
Saturday, November 9
HPSO Office

Garden School:
Rain Gardens 101
9:00am Saturday,
November 23
HPSO Library

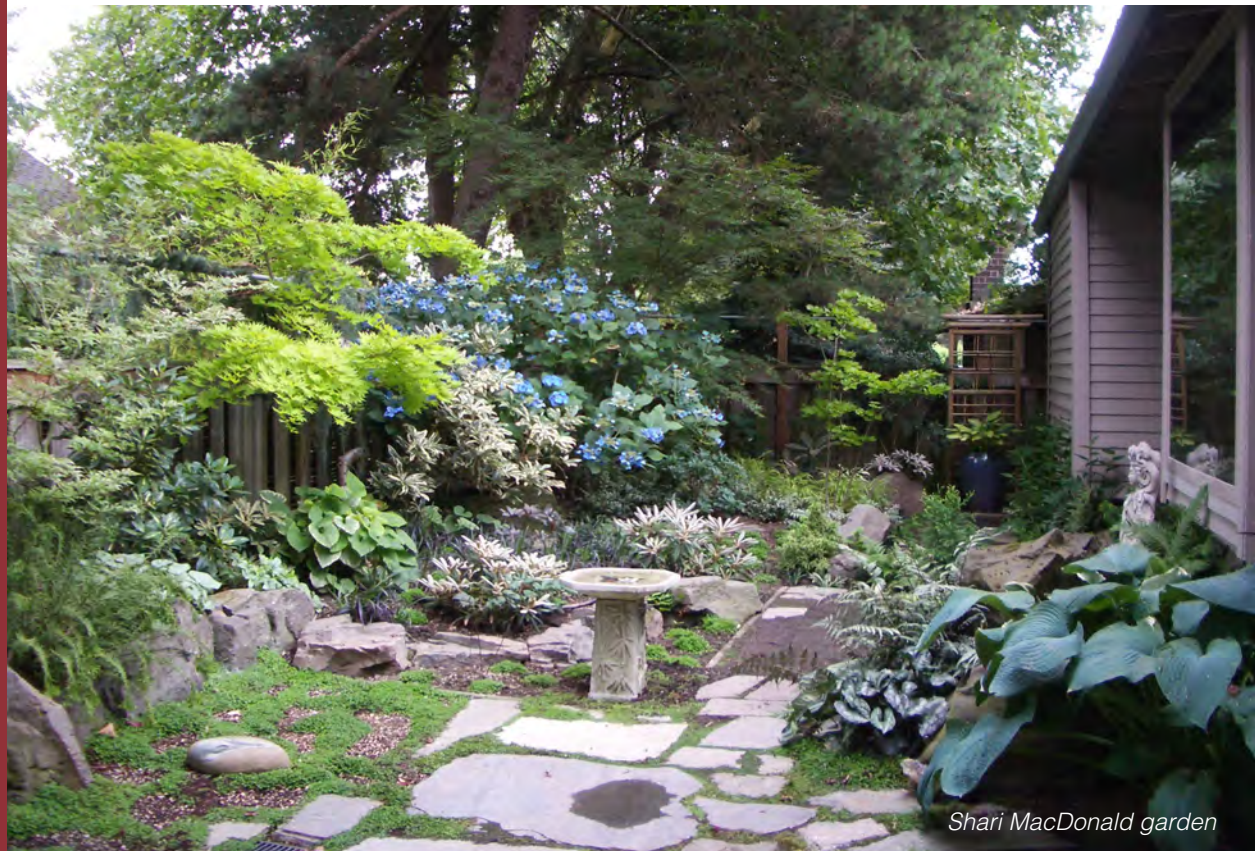
PLUS OPEN GARDENS
through October 20.
HPSO members can visit
other members gardens
from spring through fall.

SAVE THE DATE:

Lecture by Rick Darke
Sunday, January 19, 2014

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

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and whose mission is to
nurture the gardening
community.*



Shari MacDonald garden

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane'

