Tibouchina urvilleana. Photo by Daniel Sparler.
When I announced that I wanted to write about ground covers for the next issue of The Buzz, my Plant of the Week co-hosts exhibited big frowns. “They’re too aggressive, and if they’re not, what’s the point?!” they said. I was sure I could come up with eight ground covers that even they would like.

Sarah Price, co-designer of the 2012 Gardens at Olympic Park in London, says that gardens should be designed in three vertical layers: the lowest layer is the ground cover layer and contains plants with a low hummock form that are shade tolerant. American designer, Thomas Ranier, co-author of Planting in a Post Wild World, further emphasizes that the lowest layer should be comprised of plants. “I’m not sure why we use as much mulch as we do” says Ranier, “Stop ‘mulchscaping’ and start landscaping!”

In my garden, it’s fun when a group of ground covers knit themselves together creating a tapestry effect. One such grouping gracefully drapes over my boulder retaining wall and includes Acena inermis ‘Purpurea’ (New Zealand Burr), two inches tall by three feet wide with tiny dark burgundy foliage, Parahebe lyallii (synonym Veronica lyallii) four inches tall by three feet wide, and Parahebe catarractae, twelve inches tall by two feet wide. Parahebes are low growing, spreading, semi-evergreen subshrubs native to New Zealand. Graham Stuart Thomas referred to them as “little treasures, and once you grow them, you will know why.” P. catarractae produces a flurry of bright-white tiny flowers with a purple ring around a green eye. The flowers of P. lyallii are similar, but in pink. Both have exceptionally glossy green foliage. These plants grow in sun to part shade and appreciate regular watering.

Another parahebe is P. perfoliata (Digger’s Speedwell) that spreads by underground roots. The new growth initially grows upright before arching over to cover the ground. When I first moved to Seattle twenty years ago, this was the first plant I bought for my new house. I bought it because I thought it was a Eucalyptus, which I had grown when I lived in Atlanta. P. perfoliata produces terminal spikes of veronica-like blue flowers in late May through June and has evergreen blue-gray leaves that “grasp the stem in opposite pairs” according to the Great Plant Picks website.

I created an accidental ground cover combination when I dug out my P. perfoliata (it had grown too large for the space) and replaced it with two Deutzia ‘Yuri Cherry Blossom’®, a deciduous ground cover-type shrub that cascades over another portion of my boulder retaining wall. In May through mid-June, it covers itself with small bicolor pink and white flowers and grows one foot high to two feet wide. Apparently, I missed some of the roots of the P. perfoliata when digging it out, so now, it grows between the two deutzias. It is not a
combination I would recommend, but I enjoy looking at these plants every day.

Denise Lane, a member of the BBGS board of directors, has planted a combination of the native *Sedum rupestre* ‘Angelina’ (Yellow Stonecrop) with *Impatiens omeiana* that creates a dazzling color effect. While the sedum will grow in full sun and tolerate drought, the impatiens requires part-shade and consistent watering; however, both plants co-exist happily in her garden in part shade with regular watering. *S. rupestre* has brilliant four-inch tall bright golden-yellow needle-like foliage that spreads to form dense mounds. When I questioned Denise about its aggressive behavior, she said, “It pulls out easily! Then you can plant it somewhere else.” *I. omeiana* slowly spreads with beautiful whorls of slender deciduous dark green variegated leaves. It blooms yellow snapdragon-like flowers in late summer.

One of Denise’s favorite groundcovers is *Gaultheria procumbens* (Wintergreen) because its small bell-shaped flowers become bright red berry-like edible fruits that persist through winter. It is an evergreen low-growing shrub that spreads by shallow long rhizomes, thus forming small colonies.

Both Denise and I love saxifrages, and especially *Saxifraga stolonifera* (Strawberry begonia or geranium) and *S. x geum* ‘Dentata’. Both are low-growing evergreen perennials that creep along the ground and are more admired for their beautiful foliage than for their sprays of tiny white flowers that appear in late spring. *S. stolonifera* has beautifully scalloped rounded, slightly variegated leaves with reddish undersides resembling those of a begonia. *S. ‘Dentata’* has spoon shaped leaves that are strongly serrated. The serrations are symmetrical, giving the plant a very architectural look.

Another saxifraga is *Saxifraga x arendii*. With consistent moisture in part shade, it forms dense clumps of bright low-growing evergreen foliage and upward facing, cup-shaped bright pink flowers in late spring.

Am I up to eight, yet? Or so?
Please Join Us!

Hidden Treasures Garden Tour
Saturday, July 24, 12-5pm
$100 per person

Explore the flora of five spectacular Bellevue gardens! Start your tour by checking in at a specific garden. Your personal itinerary will lead you through five gardens, while ensuring safe social distancing. Nibble small bites, sip mocktails, and enjoy garden-themed shopping and a celebrity guest appearance!

Tickets are limited and available exclusively to Society members. Tickets go on sale on July 1, so watch for your invitation by email. When purchasing tickets, please indicate the names of your touring partners so we can match your itineraries.

This is a BBGS fundraising event. $75 of your ticket price is a donation to BBGS.

Kniphofia is named for eighteenth century German botanist Johann Hieronymous Kniphof. In German, virtually every letter is articulated individually, so we should pronounce this genus like this: “Knip” as in the first two syllables of “conniption” (said very fast) and “hof” as in “oaf” with an initial “h.” All together, it would be “Kah-nip-HOFEE-uh.”

Tower ing out of the Pleistocene epoch, stately bronzed stems shoot towards the sun. Conspicuous spikes ignite into dramatic apricot-stained flowers while green foliage peers out. The genus Kniphofia is a perennial treat that has graced the planet for many years, blooming in July and August with a unique burst of natural charm. It is hypothesized that Kniphofia is linked to earth’s Quaternary period where climate cycles encouraged plants to expand their ranges, coalesce, and ultimately diversify.

A member of the Asphodelaceae family, there are about seventy ‘torch lily’ Kniphofia species, mostly found in high-altitude, moist, temperate grasslands in Africa. The genus is named after famed German doctor, botanist, and author Johannes Hieronymus Kniphof (1704-1763), a commemorative honor from his friend, Professor Conrad Moench (1744–1805) of Marburg University.

Kniphofia are adaptable to many soil conditions but prefer richer, well-drained soils. Although they tolerate maritime climates, Kniphofia requires water and sunlight. They are often used as an ornamental feature to attract pollinators (hummingbirds love them!) or passersby. It is also used as a specimen statement for borders or along garden steps, both of which capitalize on its three-to-four-foot upright habit that enable visitors to gaze upon its mesmerizing, exotic flowers.

In horticulture, Kniphofia are known for readied hybridization and are often called ‘red hot pokers’ because of their bright flowers. The artificial hybrids in cultivation range in color from creams, corals, yellow, limes and browns. These are perfect for gardens that favor calm undertones or those that prefer shocking jolts of color. Notable companion plants include asters, cosmos, crocus, dahlias, heleniums, ornamental grasses, rudbeckia, and sedum. Pair Kniphofia with orange, pink or yellow specimens for increased effect.

Photo courtesy of Alamy.com
Q

I’ve been trying to grow the tall *Delphinium elatum* cultivars for years. I love these gorgeous plants, but I’ve found them to be short-lived, and I’ve never found a staking system that isn’t unsightly and prevents the slightest windstorm from knocking them down. Can you share any tips?

I can’t imagine life without delphiniums in my garden. There are varieties of delphinium that grow anywhere from two to six feet tall, and they come in every color from blue, purple, red, yellow, or white. But the queen of this royal family of plants has to be *Delphinium elatum*. These glorious perennials produce six-foot tall, towering racemes packed with brilliantly colored blossoms that are highly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Despite their regal charm, however, there’s no denying that growing these prima donnas can be a pain in the kazutsuki. *Delphinium elatum* is truly a high maintenance plant, but it’s so spectacular it’s worth the extra effort to keep them looking their best in your garden.

The trick to getting the tall-growing delphiniums to come back every year, as well as to bloom twice per season, is to never let them dry out. Incorporate plenty of compost when you plant them and water as often as necessary to make sure the soil always remains slightly moist. Delphiniums are also big feeders. Work a couple cups of alfalfa meal with a cup of organic flower food into the soil around the root zone every four weeks beginning in early April. To produce stronger, more robust growth, thin out weak shoots when new growth emerges in spring, allowing only the seven strongest stems to remain.

After the first blooms fade, delphiniums begin to die back. When that happens, cut the flower stalks back to secondary flowering branches that form immediately below the spent flowers. The secondary flowering branches will be much smaller and less showy, but they make colorful additions in flower arrangements. After the secondary flowers fade, cut all the stems down to ground level. Keep the soil moist and continue to feed regularly, and your delphinium should quickly grow back and re-bloom again in late summer.

Over the years I’ve suffered quite a number of spectacular failures when it comes to staking the tall delphiniums. I used to use rebar, but it looked horrible. Then, a few years ago, while wandering through a local nursery, I discovered circular grid supports. This staking system consists of a metal ring filled with a pattern of cross wires. The ring is held above the crown of the plant on wire legs that attach to the edge of the circle (pictured below). The grid supports the stems while at the same time the foliage hides the staking system as it grows through the circle.

The rings and support wires come in different sizes. The secret to success is to locate two different-sized rings at varying heights directly above the crown. Locate a smaller ring at about one-and-a-half feet high and place a second wider ring one-and-a-half feet above the first one. Prevent disaster by securing the rings to the support wires with plastic zip ties to ensure that the ring won’t come loose or fall apart. Make sure the staking system is in place as soon as the foliage begins to emerge in spring to allow the stems to grow up through the grid.

Even with the circle grid system, a ferocious windstorm is capable of wreaking havoc with the flower display, but since I’ve started using the circle grid system this way, my delphiniums have withstood some pretty tough storms to bloom beautifully in my mixed border.

Don’t forget to bait for slugs and snails as new growth emerges in early spring. I forgot that step one year and I didn’t have to worry about staking my delphiniums, or ever again for that matter. There wasn’t anything left to stake!

Delphinium with wild salvia. Photo by Nita-Jo Rountree.
Like a dazzling supernova that commands all attention but flares out and dissipates into the void, Ellen Willmott (1858-1934) luxuriated at the apex of the horticultural world in the twenty years leading up to World War I before fading into obscurity. Although widely acclaimed for her profound knowledge of plants and ceaseless creative energy, Willmott was a bundle of contradictions. Branded “sparkling and malicious” by one of her biographers, she was as prickly and profligate as the architecturally elegant but treacherously spiny biennial Eryngium giganteum, whose vernacular name is Miss Willmott’s Ghost.

Her botanical legacy is broader than this stalwart sea holly: The specific epithets willmottiae, willmottianum or warleyensis in plant taxonomy refer to her. More than sixty species and cultivars of genera including Ceratostigma, Corylopsis, Epimedium, Iris, Primula, Rosa, Salvia, and Tulipa, bear her name or that of her thirty-three-acre Essex estate, Warley Place. In Warley’s heyday, Willmott employed 104 gardeners who toiled along with her in naturalistic, bulb-strewn meadows, elaborate alpine, Chinese and Japanese gardens, orchid and carnation houses, a rose bank, and a fern grotto.

Her earliest fame came as grower and hybridizer of Narcissus. She named and brought to market dozens of cultivars. The Royal Horticultural Society bestowed on her daffodils heaps of Awards of Garden Merit each year from 1900 to 1906, and for four consecutive years she was awarded the coveted RHS Gold Medal.

She maintained a decades-long friendship with Gertrude Jekyll, who called Willmott “the greatest of living women-gardeners.” These two, along with William Robinson, became the primary advocates of naturalistic and artistic gardening, eschewing the rigidity and restrictions of Victorian style. In 1897 she and Jekyll were the only women among the first sixty recipients of the Victoria Medal of Honour, the RHS’s highest accolade.

In 1903 she was instrumental in establishing the RHS gardens at her friend George Wilson’s sixty-acre Wisley estate and was named one of its first three trustees. In turn, Wilson held Willmott in such esteem that he wrote to her, “It seems to me that your garden is the happiest combination of alpine, herbaceous and florist flowers, I have ever seen.”

Willmott was enlisted in 1906 to persuade E.H. Wilson to return to China for a third plant-collecting expedition under the sponsorship of Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum. She not only contributed financially, but also prevailed on well-heeled friends to pitch in. For her troubles, Wilson sent to her from China thousands of bulbs and hundreds of seed packets of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees for her to trial. She often beat the Arnold to the punch in germinating them. By 1912 Willmott was raking in RHS Awards of Merit for many species she grew from Wilson’s seed collection, including Clematis, Corylopsis, Deutzia, Iris, Lilium, Lysionotis, Michauxia, Primula, Rhododendron, Rosa, Styrax and Verbascum.

In 1907 she was among the first women admitted to the Linnaean Society. Her greatest contribution to horticultural writing was a massive, two-volume monograph, The Genus Rosa, which she worked on for six years, finishing in 1910. Yet it was a big money loser for the publisher, continued on page 9
Bellevue Botanical Garden is, in many ways, the serene soul of the city. It is a beautiful, peaceful place where visitors can find respite from an increasingly noisy, hurrying world. No wonder people treasure the Garden and want to preserve and support it as it grows and takes on new dimensions.

“From day one, the BBG founders knew that the Garden would grow and change, and they really wanted it to do that,” explains Nancy Kartes, BBG garden manager. “They wanted it to become a full-fledged botanical garden which would endure for generations.”

Having a vision is never enough to make something a reality, though. The Garden founders understood that, so they put various financial “engines” in place to help make it happen. One of those important engines was an endowment (called the “Bellevue Botanical Garden Endowment”) to support the operation and maintenance of the Garden.

More recently, a second endowment was also established to help fund the two objectives of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society (BBGS): education and garden development. It is called the “BBGS Mission Endowment.”

Endowments are unique in the world of financial instruments. First, unlike other forms of gifting, donations made to endowments are not given and then spent, they are given and then saved. It works like this: An endowment has two phases. During the first phase, donations to an endowment are saved and invested until enough funds are accumulated to generate interest income in an amount which can be of use. The principal amount, however, remains untouched. In this way, an endowment can keep creating income to support its specified purposes over an exceptionally long time.

“Those who contribute to one of the endowments know that they are helping to set up the Garden for long-term success,” says Courtney Voorhees, BBGS manager. “Their gift truly can go on forever.”

Revenue generated by each of the endowments is restricted for very particular uses. This gives donors assurance that their contributions will be spent on the activities they value the most. Donors can earmark their gifts for Garden operations and maintenance, education programs or Garden development.

“Endowments give those who love the Garden and want to support it a way to build something much larger than they could do alone,” notes Nancy. “It allows them to leverage their own resources to create a lasting, collective impact. As a donor myself, I find that comforting and I am grateful for it.”

To learn more about making a gift toward one of the endowments, please visit bellevuebotanical.org/donate or contact Courtney Voorhees at 425-452-5248 or cvoorhees@bellevuewa.gov.
Today’s great landscape garden designers are celebrities. Even outside the horticultural world, people know who to credit for the public gardens they admire and love. Piet Oudolf, for example, is acclaimed for gardens in the United States and abroad, such as his instantly famous High Line in New York (pictured above).

His work, like that of many other contemporary landscape designers, has been dubbed “the New Perennial Movement.” It is characterized by plantings which combine herbaceous perennials mingled with grasses, trees and woody shrubs deployed in large waves and swaths of color and texture to create a “natural,” almost random look.

This style is by no means random, however. Far from it. Every plant grouping, every walkway curve and garden feature is carefully designed to contribute to the desired effect and the garden’s purposes, which today might include such far-reaching goals as protecting biodiversity, building community and enhancing human health and well-being.

These inviting new gardens feel fresh and modern, but they also have deep roots in the past and strong ties to garden designers who were celebrated in their own times for their innovative visions and concepts. John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843), for instance, would certainly understand and applaud gardens like the High Line and Bellevue Botanical Garden’s own Perennial Border, not only for their designs, but for their purposes.

Loudon was an early advocate for public parks accessible to the working classes. He also favored what he called “the natural or irregular style” of gardening that he came to refer to as “gardenesque.” George Plumptre, in his book *The Garden Makers: The Great Tradition of Garden Design from 1600 to the Present Day* (Random House: 1993), quotes Loudon: “By the gardenesque style is to be understood the production of that kind of scenery which is best calculated to display the individual beauty of trees, shrubs and plants in a state of nature.” When he published his 1,200-page *Encyclopaedia of Gardening* in 1822 laying out these views, it was an immediate success. Eight editions were released in just twelve years.

It is no wonder that William Robinson (1838-1935) dedicated his gardening magazine, *The Garden*, to Loudon’s memory. Robinson’s still-popular book, *The Wild Garden*, detailed his own outspoken advocacy for using native plants in “natural and uncontrived” settings. It is not hard to imagine Robinson enthusing over new perennial gardens as logical extensions of his ideas. In fact, some consider him to be the father of the modern perennial garden.

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) is the first name that usually comes to mind in any discussion of perennial borders, however. Her design innovations are everywhere imprinted on today’s gardens. An early contributor to Robinson’s magazine, Jekyll, like Robinson, was dedicated to replacing the so-called “carpet bed” plantings favored by wealthy Victorians. Carpet beds featured rigid geometric patterns cut out of the turf and planted with brightly colored annuals and newly introduced tropical plants. As soon as these plantings reached their peak, they were pulled out and replanted anew. The whole process was called “bedding out,” and it was often repeated three or four times in a season.

By comparison, Jekyll’s painterly garden designs featuring what she called “drifts” of color, were considered revolutionary. Now they have become a regular practice. Her firm belief that gardeners must know their plants’ habits and needs to be successful is also shared by contemporary plant-savvy designers who deem horticultural knowledge and skill essential to good garden making.

“We must always remember that the fashion of one generation becomes the commonplace of the next, but that is no reason why we should not pay a grateful tribute to the person who first had the idea,” wrote garden designer and writer, Vita Sackville-West. It also might be said that most gardens, in some way, pay their own wordless tributes to the innovative garden designers of times past.
Now that a semblance of normality is returning to our lives as pandemic restrictions ease, many of us may be tempted by pent-up travel fever to stray from our gardens this summer. While visiting far horizons certainly has its appeal, let us not forget that the garden still needs our tender loving care just as it provides us with so much comfort. Although the options are endless, here are a few key tasks:

**Sow seed**—You can still plant fast-growing annuals in July. This includes four-o’clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*), colorful morning glories (*Ipomoea indica*), nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*), zinnia, cosmos, and marigold (*Tagetes spp.*). In August and September, plant seeds or starts of autumn and winter-harvest veggies, such as beets, cabbage and carrots.

**Clean up**—Don’t dread, just dead head! It’s more fun than you’d imagine, and almost as satisfying as weeding.

**Pinch**—Do this in early summer to encourage attractive, compact, better-blooming perennials, such as dahlia, aster, chrysanthemum, and impatients. In the case of coleus, pinch out forming blossom buds in order to concentrate growth on the showy foliage. Edible herbs including basil, oregano, sage and thyme also benefit from this. Check out Denise Levine’s article “To Pinch or Not to Pinch” on the Master Gardeners of Napa County website. Her advice is clear and helpful.

**Divide**—Irises, daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), coralbells (*Heuchera*) and lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) benefit from division when they finish their blooming season; this is usually in July, but sometimes extends into August.

**Order bulbs**—Now’s the time to get the best selection to plant in fall. If you plant in quantity, save a bundle by ordering through wholesalers such as Van Engelen. It’s a snap on their user-friendly website, www.vanengelen.com.

**Be still and enjoy**—Make time to sit in your creation among the birds, bees and butterflies.

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**The Ghost of Ellen Willmott, continued from page 6**

who sold only 260 of one thousand copies printed. (Of interest to us, Seattle Public Library possesses both volumes!) More successful was her 1909 book, *Warley Garden in Spring and Summer*, consisting almost solely of photographs—Willmott was a pioneer in the nascent field of garden photography. Reviewing this, Gertrude Jekyll wrote, “Brava! Brava! Our greatest gardener.”

Ever restless and ambitious, Willmott acquired gardens in Tresserve, France, and Boccanegra, Italy, outfitting them with thousands of mature shrubs and trees at mindboggling expense. As Jane Brown wrote in *The Pursuit of Paradise* (HarperCollins, 1999), “A necessity of Ellen Willmott’s existence was that she must have the best, and have it without stint, and without needing to count the cost.” She was “deaf to the voice of common sense and moderation,” thus her reckless and indiscriminate expenditures overwhelmed her, and she was in debt for her last twenty-five years of life, gradually selling off everything but her decaying manor house, in which she died alone at age seventy-six.

Nearly a century after her death, her gardens have vanished, but her spectral immanence endures, not only in the form of a handsome eryngium, but also in the eponymous restaurant Willmott’s Ghost at the base of Amazon’s Spheres on Sixth Avenue in Seattle.
Like so many things, volunteer activities at the Garden took a big hit in 2020. By summer 2020, we could have five volunteers at a time in the Garden, and each of those volunteers had special safety training and did daily health screenings. That meant that a lot of work fell on the shoulders of just a handful of people. Those volunteers and staff have done a truly incredible job keeping up with the weeding, mulching, and pruning care that is needed to keep the Garden healthy and beautiful.

Recently I had the pleasure of chatting with Cathy Louviere, one such volunteer with the Northwest Perennial Alliance (NPA) who works in the Perennial Border. Here is an edited writeup of our conversation:

Tell me a little bit about yourself
My husband and I moved here about five years ago. We’ve lived all over the place in the US, Canada, and most recently Australia for twenty years. It was hard leaving the friends and community there, but we came back to the States to be closer to family, and really like the climate. We live in a condo in downtown Bellevue.

How long have you been volunteering at the Bellevue Botanical Garden? What got you interested in volunteering here?
I’ve volunteered for three years now. I’m in between gardens since I don’t have a space to garden at home. BBG is your garden when you can’t have a garden.

I got started because I’d been visiting the Garden frequently, enjoying every space and taking photos. Someone suggested I volunteer, so I looked it up, came to an orientation, and the rest is history.

Describe your role as a volunteer in the Perennial Border?
I weed and tidy up plants—the “fiddly” gardening. I do what I call a “plant hug,” reaching around plants to get at weeds and ending up with a face full of plants. I’m not as physically able to do the big things like pruning or planting as the other volunteers and staff, but Cheryl [Van Blom, Border Supervisor] always has a job for me. We are a small team, and each has things they are best at.

What do you like about volunteering here?
It’s rewarding to be a part of something big and important and wonderful like BBG. I can contribute to society in a small way that makes people’s lives better. And it’s like discovery for me, I’m always learning about plants and gardening. Both Cheryl and Kit [Haesloop, a lead NPA volunteer] will take time to explain things and show me plants.

Do you have a favorite part of the Garden?
Wherever I’m standing and whatever I’m looking at! But if I have to choose, one would most certainly be this one (photo at left), in the cool of the shade garden. There’s so many though! I love the Perennial Border, it’s so big and colorful, a tapestry woven and designed. I notice little vignettes when I’m working up close and personal, like the purple tinge to a grass seed head that is growing next to a crocosmia with buds the same color. A lot of design and thought goes into everything.

What do you wish the community knew about the Garden?
The talent and dedication of the staff and volunteers is evident. That, and that plants and labor are donated in virtually all the different gardens by partner groups. It’s quite remarkable.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?
Gardeners are so generous of spirit. They share knowledge and they share plants, and it’s not a competition. There’s always something to be gained and shared. I’m so grateful to have the opportunity to be a volunteer at BBG. It’s a big part of my life, and I don’t know what I’d do without it.

We are slowly ramping up volunteer activity. At the time of this writing, we are not yet bringing in new volunteers, but we hope that can happen again soon! If you are interested in joining one of our many volunteer teams, learn more online at bellevuebotanical.org/volunteer or contact Cynthia at cwelte@bellevuewa.gov.
If you have visited the Bellevue Botanical Garden recently, you may have noticed some changes happening in the planting bed across from the Trillium Store. An exciting new project, “The Exotic Inspirations Garden,” is beginning. Thanks to very generous gifts from Steve and Doreen Winslow and Family, and Cathy McCaffrey and Carl Schroeder, a new retaining wall and planting bed will be completed in late summer.

The idea for this project began about two years ago. Drainage in the existing bed was very poor and the plants were drowning. Also, in this high traffic area, with no delineation between the walkway and the bed, plants were being damaged by foot traffic. A new retaining wall and raised garden bed would solve both issues.

When Steve and Doreen Winslow visited the Garden to learn about several upcoming projects, they decided that the retaining wall project was the perfect one to honor Steve’s late wife, Connie, in a lasting way. Steve and Doreen and their family made their donation in loving memory of Connie Nance Winslow, whose family was one of the founding families in Yarrow Point and who was a longtime member and supporter of the Garden. Steve commented that the friendships he has made at the Garden and the Garden itself have been near and dear to him.

Cathy McCaffrey and Carl Schroeder also wanted to support the Garden with a meaningful gift. When Cathy was a student at Seattle University, the importance of giving back to the community became ingrained in her. “Donating gives me the opportunity to show gratitude,” Cathy said. She and Carl feel that the courtyard garden project will create a vibrant colorful entrance garden that welcomes and gives visitors a terrific first impression of the Garden.

The retaining wall, designed by Richard Vandermark, will be poured in place of colored concrete to coordinate with the existing buildings. With a capstone of black basalt, the seventy-foot long wall will run parallel to the sidewalk and will be the perfect spot for sitting while waiting for events or lectures to begin, or while family members shop in the Trillium Store.

This unique opportunity to design a new planting bed in a prominent location near the Garden entrance was seized by Nita-Jo Rountree, a BBGS board member and garden designer who came up with a bold, tropical planting theme and prepared a design. Cleo Raulerson, Heather Babiak-Kane, and Denise Lane, members of the Exotic Inspiration task force and fellow BBGS board members, enthusiastically agreed with the concept. In keeping with the BBG’s Garden Collections Policy, most of the plants selected are either Great Plant Picks or Award of Garden Merit winners from the Royal Horticultural Society. Featured plants will include *Musa basjoo*, *Schefflera taiwaniana* ‘Winged Phoenix’, and many varieties of perennials, groundcovers, and bulbs. An evergreen backdrop of three camellia varieties will provide winter interest, as this prominent new planting bed is intended to have four seasons of color and inspiration. All the plants will be hardy and will not require any winter protection. The eye-catching plants with vibrant colors will be a striking focal point. The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society will be planting and maintaining the bed, although in time, its maintenance may rotate to another partner group.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is extremely grateful to the generous donors whose gifts enabled this project to move forward. You will not want to miss visiting the Exotic Inspirations Garden this fall!
Many of us have had the pleasure of visiting Bob Hyland’s fabulous garden in Portland, so we know that he is an accomplished plantsman and designer. In fact, he has managed plant collections, displays, and educational programs at internationally recognized public gardens including Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, San Francisco Botanical Garden, and Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York for over twenty-five years. Through his current company, Hyland Garden Design, he offers residential garden design, coaching, container planting, and wizardry. His gardens are “plant-driven,” exuberant, and sustainable.

“I love potted plants in the garden,” says Hyland, “I think of pots as an integral part of garden design: moveable living art and investment pieces.” He feels that the choice of container is just as important as the plants that are planted in them. He illustrates his lecture with compositions of climate-adapted plants for sun and shade, succulent bowls, and flowing pots of grasses, sedges and restios.

**Contained Exuberance**

*Wednesday, July 14 | 7pm*
*Zoom Webinar*

$10.50 BBGS members/$15 non-members

Register at bellevuebotanical.org/webinars. All webinars are recorded, and you will receive the recording the next day via email and you will have two weeks to watch it.
Our annual joint Heronswood/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society symposium will have the most illustrious list of speakers ever! We anticipate that this will primarily be an in-person day of inspirational lectures and a light lunch, but if restrictions are still in place for indoor gatherings, we will need to adhere to them.

Starting the day will be a Zoom webinar, “William Robinson, The Wild Gardener and his Legacy,” by Tom Coward, head gardener at Gravetye Manor, former home and garden of one of the most influential garden writers of his generation, William Robinson. Previously, Tom was the assistant head gardener for Sir Paul McCartney and assistant head gardener at Great Dixter where he assisted Fergus Garrett with the management of the garden. Check out the article written in Gardens Illustrated magazine: gardensillustrated.com/gardens/gardeners/gravetye-manor-tom-coward. Because Tom is in England, his presentation will be via Zoom in the Aaron Education Center.

Our in-person speakers include:

**Thomas Ranier**, a landscape architect, teacher, and author living in Washington D.C. He will speak on “Translating the Wild.” Thomas, a leading voice in ecological landscape design, has designed landscapes for Arlington National Cemetery, the Philadelphia International Airport, The New York Botanical Garden, as well as over one hundred gardens from Maine to Florida. He is the co-author of the award-winning book *Planting in a Post-Wild World*.


**Panayoti Kelaidis**, a plant explorer, gardener, and public garden administrator associated with the Denver Botanic Garden (DBG) where he is the Senior Curator and Director of Outreach. He has designed plantings for many of the gardens at DBG including their renowned Rock Alpine Garden. He has introduced hundreds of native ornamentals from throughout the Western United States to general horticulture.

**Patrick McMillan**, the new director of Heronswood Garden. For over twenty years, he was producer, writer, and award-winning host of the popular ETV nature program, *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan*. He received his PhD in Biological Sciences from Clemson University, is the former director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, and has worked as a professional naturalist, biologist, and educator.

**Wild by Design**
Saturday, October 9
Aaron Education Center
Welcome check-in 8:35am
$100 BBGS and Heronswood members
$125 non-members
Tickets go on sale in July at bellevuebotanical.org

We hope that this will primarily be an in-person event, but if restrictions for indoor gatherings are still in place, we will need to adhere to them.

**Special thanks to**

[Great Harvest Bread Co.]
BBGS Needs Your Talents!

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Welcome New Members!

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Teri Kopp
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Susan & Robert Adler
Marian Easton
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Thuy & Benjamin Barnett
Miao Zhang & Eli Block
Judith & Chris Carlson
Anne Clark
Andrea & Ben Congdon
Bill Cooper
Mary Dodds
Farida & John Elliott
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Clare Pedersen
Janet Polley
Barbara Potashnick
Pat Robbins
Lynne Robinson
Michele Scaha
Theresa Schmidt
Mary Schweikl
Maureen Seidenstein
Lisa Siegfried
Kathryn Skalak
Barb Sundgren
Kim Swanson
Bobbin Teegarden
Diane Tremaine
Mary Ann Unger
Gretchen Vankekerix
Jo Wilson

* February 16 - May 15, 2021

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Member Discount Program
BBGS members receive a 10% discount at the following nurseries, garden centers and garden service providers. Please see bellevuebotanical.org/membership for details.

- Bartlett Tree Experts, Lynnwood
- Bellevue Nursery, Bellevue
- Bouquet Banque Nursery, Marysville
- Cedar Grove, 5 retail locations and online
- City Peoples Garden Store, Seattle
- City People’s Mercantile, Seattle
- Classic Nursery, Woodinville
- Crown Bees, Woodinville
- Davey Tree Expert Co., Redmond
- Gray Barn Nursery & Garden Center, Redmond
- Kent East Hill Nursery, Kent
- Jungle Fever Exotics, Tacoma
- MsK Rare and Native Plant Nursery, Shoreline
- Old Goat Farm, Orting
- Pine Creek Farms and Nursery, Monroe
- Ravenna Gardens, Seattle
- Swansons Nursery, Seattle

Bellevue Botanical Garden Society
Our Mission is to perpetuate and further enhance the Bellevue Botanical Garden as a learning resource in partnership with the City of Bellevue.

The Garden is located at 12001 Main St., Bellevue, WA 98005 and is open daily from dawn until dusk.

Visitor Center buildings are closed until further notice
To reach Society staff, please email us at bbgsoffice@bellevuebotanical.org
www.bellevuebotanical.org

OFFICERS OF THE BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
CO-PRESIDENTS Heather Babiak-Kane & Cleo Raulerson
TREASURER Amy Doughty
SECRETARY Jim Livingston

DIRECTORS
Tracy Botsford, Barbara Bruell, Anne Dziok, Chuck Freedenberg,
Denise Lane, Nita-Jo Rountree, Kathleen Searcy,
Gretchen Stengel, Lisa Wozow

THE BUZZ TEAM
JG Federman, Kathryn Highland, Tracy Landsman,
Wendy Leavitt, Darcy McInnis, Ciscoe Morris,
Nita-Jo Rountree, Daniel Sparler, Cynthia Welte

SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR CISCOE MORRIS
askciscoe@bellevuebotanical.org

CONTACT THE BUZZ TEAM
buzzteam@bellevuebotanical.org

What’s New!
Family owned and operated, Winfield Designs of Whidbey Island creates beautiful metal home and garden art. Enhance flower beds and container gardens with bold, colorful pieces and contemporary art. Small Puffs are garden stakes made up of four layers of swirl pieces. Each layer is welded together then each individual swirl is bent to create a unique “puff.” Garden stake lengths vary from twenty-six to thirty-four inches.

Button Flowers provide continual color when added to container gardens and flower beds. Created from eighteen-gauge mild steel and multiple, painted layers. Flowers are six inches wide, and stake lengths vary from eighteen to twenty-four inches.

Celestial Garden Stakes are made of mild steel in celestial designs and come in five assorted patterns. Each will weather outdoors to a nice rustic finish. Mix and match one or all five!

Stakes measure five inches wide by seventeen inches long.

Metal ferns can be used indoors and outdoors as a collection or added individually by wiring to a basket or decoration. They measure seven-and-a-half inches long and two inches wide.

Trillium Store Summer Hours
Wednesday-Sunday
11am-4pm
Or use this handy QR Code to shop online. We will contact you to arrange in-store pick up.

Email trillium@bellevuebotanical.org for your member discount code.
The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that supports the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Our Vision: Through education and community involvement, we inspire all generations to advance Northwest horticultural knowledge, and preserve natural beauty and our local ecology.

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Good to Know!

Plant of the Week. Join Ciscoe Morris, Nita-Jo Rountree, and Daniel Sparler every Thursday at 1pm on our Facebook page for Plant of the Week. Like our page at facebook.com/bellevuebotanic.

Mindfulness in the Garden: Basking in Summer’s Beauty, July 7, 9:30-11am.

Horticultural Treasures of WA, OR and BC. July 7, 7-8:30pm.

Contained Exuberance, July 14, 7pm.

Designing the Compelling Photograph, July 22, 24 & 29, 6:30-8:30pm.

Hidden Treasures Garden Tour, July 24, 12-5pm.

Fall Garden Planning, August 19, 7-8:30pm.

Plein Air Oil Painting, August 21, 10:30am-2:20pm.

Pruning Tool Talk, September 2, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Fall Tasks in the Garden, details to be announced.

Arts in the Garden, August 27-29. Details at bellevuebotanical.org/arts-in-the-garden.


Connect with Us!

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