Throughout my gardening life, I’ve anxiously awaited the January issue of gardening magazines featuring that year’s new plant introductions. My frantic search would immediately ensue because I wanted to be the first to find and grow the newly introduced plants. I finally realized that many of the introductions were being marketed to growers who had to grow the plants for another year or two before they would be available to the public. And, occasionally, they’re duds.

In this article, the following plants will be available in 2020; they have been adequately trialed and are proven performers:

**Actaea (Cimicifuga) japonica ‘Hillside Splashdance’**—This gem popped up at Hillside Nursery, www.hillside nursery.biz, a number of years ago, and they’ve finally amassed enough stock and are excited to offer it for sale in 2020. The large leaves have amazing variegation in shades of chartreuse and light and dark greens and really light up a shady area. The bottlebrush-looking white flowers reach two to four feet tall.

**Stylidium graminifolium** (Grass Trigger Plant) is fascinating on multiple levels. Foremost is that it is extremely attractive both in clean, architectural foliage and in impressive spikes of pink flowers. Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm, www.farreachesfarm.com, will be introducing the plant in 2020. He says, “This Australian native has a fascinating pollination mechanism: the unique flowers are triggered by pollinating insects.” The trigger stays cocked until an insect probes the flower. It then springs upwards and deposits pollen onto the head or back of the insect, which then flies off to pollinate another flower. Cool! The flower spikes rise up to fifteen inches tall from a basal rosette of leaves in sun or light shade.

**Clematis florida hybrida ‘Taiga’** was introduced at the 2017 Chelsea Flower show and has finally made it to this side of the Atlantic. At Chelsea, it shocked the plant world with blooms unlike any seen before on a clematis. The stunning doubled flowers have unique spiky sepals that open purple with yellow-green tips. It blooms on old and new wood, so it continues blooming all summer long. Only growing to eight
feet high and three feet wide, it’s perfect for a container or in the garden in full sun to part shade.

*Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Corsage’ is so new that even Wikipedia doesn’t know about it! Ozzie Johnson, a frequent plant exploring buddy of Dan Hinkley’s, found this beauty at a garden center in Japan. Even though it’s technically a lacecap, you’d never know it because the doubled full-blooming sepals cover the fertile flowers within. Bloom color begins blue, purple, or pink (depending on soil pH) and slowly ages to green. Kristin VanHoose of Hydrangeas Plus, www.hydrangeasplus.com, says, “I’ve never seen anything like it. It blooms for a very long time, so we had fresh blooms all through September.” It reaches five feet by five feet and grows in part sun to part shade.

*Heucherella* ‘Peach Tea’, introduced by Terra Nova Nurseries, www.terranovanurseries.com, has large, peachy-red leaves that contrast beautifully with its creamy white flowers. Several years ago, *H.* ‘Sweet Tea’ was all the rage, so of course, I bought several. Amazingly, they’re still alive! *H.* ‘Peach Tea’ has similar breeding, and is hardy, vigorous, and compact, making it perfect for the edge of the border or in a container. *H.* ‘Peach Tea’ is twelve inches high and twenty-two inches wide with a flower height of seventeen inches in full sun to part shade.

*Rosa* ‘Tangerine Skies™’—is a climbing rose bred by Kordes of Germany, known for their ground-breaking disease-resistant breeding. Small for a climber, it grows to eight feet high and four feet wide, so it can be grown as a large shrub, on a low fence, or on a pillar. The buds are classic-shaped that open into huge, exceptionally fragrant, beautiful tangerine flowers. This rose is a prize winner!

Happy plant hunting!
Plants that bloom during the dark days of winter are especially treasured. Legendary garden writer Graham Stuart Thomas said of *Hamamelis*, “They are the very life of the winter garden.”

The common name for *Hamamelis* is witch hazel, but the name “witch” isn’t for the cackling witch stirring magic potions in a black cauldron over an open fire. It comes from the Middle English word “wiche,” which in turn comes from the Old English word “vice,” meaning “bendable.” The genus name, *Hamamelis*, is Greek for “together with fruit.” This name refers to the fact that the plant produces its new set of flowers while the previous year’s fruit is ripening.

Witch hazels are deciduous shrubs that grow ten to twenty-five feet tall in full sun to part shade. They are popular ornamental plants grown for their clusters of spider-like flowers of rich yellow to orange-red (depending on the cultivar) that expand in autumn as the leaves fall, and continue through the winter, January to March. As an added bonus, many cultivars have intoxicating fragrances and vivid fall foliage color. In small gardens where size needs to be contained, they can be pruned immediately after flowering.

The genus is composed of four species: two that are native to North America (*H. virginiana* and *vernalis*), and one each from Japan (*H. japonica*) and China (*H. mollis*). *H. virginiana* is the only fall blooming species and has long been known for its medicinal qualities.

The increase in popularity of witch hazels came when breeders crossed *H. japonica* with *H. mollis*, resulting in many named cultivars of *H. x intermedia*. These hybrids are more compact, sturdier, and showier than their parents.

You can find four cultivars growing in the Curbside Garden of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Our *Buzz* editor and graphic designer, Darcy McInnis, says when she walks through the parking lot in winter, “I’m in heaven.”

Pictured on the cover is *Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Jelena.’ Pictured this page is *Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Arnold Promise’. Both photos are courtesy of Daniel Sparler.

**This past August, we welcomed seven new docents to the Garden!**

These docents took part in seven weeks of training to learn about the Garden’s history and design, and to prepare to greet weekend visitors to the Garden, answer questions, and conduct Garden tours.

Pictured at left are: front row, left to right, Cathy McCaffrey (instructor), Linda Mank, Jody Anderson, and Elaine Fisher. Back row, left to right, Jim McNey, Andie Simons, Jane Ramsay, Susan Ivory, and Sue Johnson (instructor).

A warm welcome to our newest group of docents!

If you are interested in becoming a docent, our next training will start in March 2020. Please contact Cynthia at cwelte@bellevuewa.gov or (425) 452-6826 for more information.
Last year I received a beautiful moth orchid as a holiday gift. The blossoms lasted for almost three months, but after the flowers faded, I've never managed to get it to bloom again. I've tried putting it in different locations and used orchid fertilizer. The plant looks healthy and the leaves look good but how can I make it bloom again?

A: It’s not surprising that moth orchids (Phalaenopsis) are among the most popular holiday gift plants. They come in a wide variety of colors and sizes, and their elegant, arching wands of gorgeous moth-shaped flowers last for months. Although it’s easy to keep them alive, getting them to bloom again is a bit trickier. After a year or two with no flowers, most people give up and relegate them to the compost bin.

The first step to induce moth orchids to rebloom is to keep them growing healthy and strong close to a window with bright light. Overwatering kills or maims more Phalaenopsis than anything else, and figuring out how to water them often frustrates the living tweetle out of people. Watering once a week in summer, and once every other week in winter is generally sufficient, but only when the top feels dry and the pot feels light when lifted. Some people water once a week by placing ice cubes on the medium, but in my opinion, you’re better off watering thoroughly until water drains out of the bottom of the pot. Always remove any excess water from the saucer.

In order to build up the energy to rebloom, moth orchids need regular feeding year-round. You can use special orchid food, but any balanced soluble houseplant fertilizer will do. Look for equal numbers of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (such as 10-10-10). Feed with a half-strength dilution of the dose recommended on the container. In summer feed once per week and every other week in winter. Once a month, run extra water through the potting medium to flush out any accumulated salts.

Even if you keep your moth orchid growing strong, there are a couple of tricks which are necessary to initiate rebloom. After most of the flowers have faded, immediately cut the wand to one inch above a plump node about two-thirds of the way back from the top. A new flower stalk should grow from that location in six or seven weeks. The other option is to cut the spike down to the level of the leaves. This method usually results in a stronger wand and bigger flowers, but it generally takes about a year for the new wand to appear.

Finally, simply cutting the wand back probably won’t induce the plant to rebloom if you don’t employ the most important trick. In the jungles where moth orchids come from, temperature fluctuation is the primary trigger that encourages them to initiate flowering. Although Phalaenopsis prefer daytime temperatures of around seventy degrees, in order to set blooms, they must experience nightly temperatures that are about ten to fifteen degrees lower. If you move the plant into a room that is ten to fifteen degrees cooler every night for one month, you can expect to see a new flower wand appear within a year. Be forewarned that this method will not work if you are married to a Canadian who insists on opening all the windows in the house each night, even in winter. If night temperatures drop into the forties, you can forget about flowers. Dead plants just don’t bloom well!

Love Ciscoe? Be sure to join us for our special event, “An Evening with Ciscoe,” coming up in March! See details on page 12.
Dorota Haber-Lehigh is an artist, educator and naturalist with a passion for native plants of the Pacific Northwest. She has over twenty years of experience teaching Botanical Drawing, Natural Science Illustration, Art of Ethnobotany, Ethnobotanical Sketchbook, Spanish, and English as a Second Language.

Dorota was born in Poland, where she first became interested in botanical drawing. She was inspired by her grandparents, who were avid mushroom hunters and gardeners, as well as her mother’s fabric art and Ikebana arrangements and her father’s travels.

Dorota’s love of botanical drawing and teaching was so strong that she earned two degrees in Art and International Studies, with a focus on indigenous cultures, as well as a master’s degree in teaching. She also holds a diploma in Botanical Illustration from the Society of Botanical Artists in London, as well as a graduate bilingual certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Dorota enjoys depicting native flora of the Pacific Northwest, with a particular interest in portraying the sculptural and ephemeral beauty of individual plants. She is passionate about bringing attention to the importance of nature’s ecological diversity, while also emphasizing the fragility of humans and nature. Dorota is also interested in the healing power of plants and nature and enjoys drawing plants that have medicinal properties.

For her illustrations, Dorota uses one hundred percent cotton acid-free paper and enjoys staining it with walnut ink to create a unique surface. Her colored pencils of choice are Faber Castell Polychromos or Caran d’Ache. For art mounted on woodblock, she uses multiple layers of Dorland wax as protective cover.

Dorota has authored two ethnobotanical coloring books: ABC of Native Plants of the Coastal Pacific Northwest and Native Berries of the Coastal Pacific Northwest.

We are pleased that Dorota has come to teach at the Bellevue Botanical Garden to share her talent and passion for native plants. She taught two drawing classes in 2019, and will teach two more in 2020: Botanical Drawing: Butterflies and Botanicals on March 28, and Botanical Drawing: Leaves, Cones, and Seed Pods on October 3. We hope you’ll join us for one of these fantastic classes!

Instructor Spotlight: Dorota Haber-Lehigh

By Kathryn Highland

Please see page 12 for details on Dorota’s March class, as well as our entire class line-up for winter!
What is more welcome on a gloomy day than a glimpse of azure sky? Especially in winter, blue is a valuable commodity often in too short supply not only in the heavens, but also in our gardens. Consider the wealth of psycho-emotional connotations in the very names of its varied shades: gentle (baby blue, powder blue), strong (cobalt blue, steel blue), reliable (navy, true), luxurious (sapphire, royal), mysterious (midnight, ultramarine), cosmopolitan (Egyptian, Prussian), and of course, botanical (gentian, lilac, periwinkle, cornflower).

As the most powerful hue on the cool end of the spectrum, blue in its multifarious manifestations draws the eye onward, pulling it further as it enhances sensations of depth. This can be used to advantage in gardens of all sizes. British horticultural designer and all-around luminary Penelope Hobhouse in her indispensable 1985 book *Color in Your Garden* maintains that “Plant color becomes a tool to extend and reduce dimensions, to give sensations of warmth or coolness, to provoke stimulation or induce moods of restfulness.” Hobhouse also cautions that blue is “a color of emotional contradictions.” Yes, blue reflects the tranquility of calm sky or vast ocean, but tranquility resides not too far from melancholy, and this might bring on a case of the blues. For some, too much blue might evoke the restlessness or boundless depth of the sea and thus seem disorienting. But when properly framed within and surrounded by the reassurance of verdure, and when used as accent in hardscaping, blue elements in moderation serve as stabilizing and stimulating links between earth and sky, grounding the garden and giving it gravitas.

Although Hobhouse specifically refers to the three essential “Fs” on the horticultural side of color (flowers, fruit and foliage), we will also consider chromatic effects of blue tones in our hardscaping choices.

**Flowers:** Much has been written on this, so I’ll limit my comments to a resounding recommendation of Robert Geneve’s *A Book of Blue Flowers*, published in 2000 by Portland’s Timber Press.

**Fruit:** What says summer more delightfully than edible blueberries in the genus *Vaccinium*? Our native *Mahonia aquifolium* also shines with clusters of cerulean fruit; later *Decaisnea fargesii* does the same with its “dead man’s fingers” of iridescence. Well worth trying in sharply draining soil is *Dianella tasmanica* for its otherworldly orbs of turquoise-blue beauty. Both evergreen *Viburnum davidii* and deciduous *Viburnum dentatum* flaunt copious crops of deep blue berries in autumn.

**Foliage:** Plants don’t sport truly blue foliage, though some grasses, such as *Festuca glauca* and *Helictotrichon sempervirens*, come close. More common are glaucous beauties such as *Hosta sieboldiana* ‘Elegans,’ *Hosta* ‘Blue Angel,’ ‘Krossa Regal’ and the like. All manner of cyanic and succulent agaves, cacti and yuccas invite us to place them in containers.

**Hardscaping:** Here’s where you can let your freak flag fly with creatively crafted and strategically placed blue vases, containers, glass art or ceramic sculpture, along with a painted bench, Adirondack chair, concrete column, wooden trellis, cut bamboo canes or even a dead tree trunk. The sky’s the limit!
Each September at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, we celebrate our incredible volunteer team. The event this past September was a fun evening of food, games, door prizes, and mingling with new and old friends. We’re so happy so many of you were able to join us!

Volunteers who work over one hundred hours between July 2018 and June 2019 are given awards at the annual party, and we were pleased to recognize the following honorees:

**Gold Awards:** These volunteers received awards for volunteering over five hundred hours in the last year:

Ruth Edwards, Sue Johnson, Cleo Raulerson, Carl Schroeder.

**Silver Awards:** These volunteers received awards for volunteering over two hundred fifty hours in the last year:

Amy Doughty, Anne Dziok, Tom Furin, Kit Haesloop, Robin Root James, Jim Livingston, Helen Lu, Michelle McBeath, Cathy McCaffrey, Candi McIvor, Betty Peltzer.

**Bronze Awards:** These volunteers received awards for volunteering over one hundred hours in the last year:

Heather Babiak-Kane, Tracy Botsford, Debbie Chapman, Diana Davidson, Gary Davidson, Dan Edwards, Aranca Ehrenwald, Jackie Foushee, Debbie Girdler, Linda Gray, Michael Grey, Susan Hawkins, Lorayne Hendrickson, Peggy Herron, Bob Jewett, Iris Jewett, TJ Johnson Wing, Janet Kaseda, Linda Kline, Denise Lane, George Lindeberg, Rita Litsinger, Linda Mank, Nanci Peterson-Vivian, Monica Privat, Margaret Ralph, Jan Rogers, David Roubinet, Nita-Jo Rountree, Jill Ryan, Patricia Rytkonen, Joe Scott, Gretchen Stengel, Al Visser, Doris Wong-Estridge, Julia Wood, Jody Yoder, Marty Zollner.

Those service award winners who were in attendance are pictured below.

Thank you to these volunteers, and to all our amazing volunteers, who contribute their time to the Garden!

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Beginning in spring 2020, the Garden will have a new volunteer position: Garden Greeters. These volunteers will be at the front entry on weekends to welcome visitors to the Garden, offer directions, and talk about what’s happening in the Garden. Greeters will be the first person many of our visitors encounter and will set the tone for a positive experience in the Garden.

If you are friendly and customer service-oriented, and enjoy chatting with people from all over the world, you can serve as a welcoming ambassador for the Garden! If you happen to be multilingual that’s a huge plus, but it is not a requirement. You don’t need to be an expert in the Garden or plants, but a strong interest is needed.

Trainings for Garden Greeters begin this March and will run over three Saturdays. For this pilot year, greeter shifts will be on weekend days from April to October.

If you’d like to learn more, email or call Cynthia (cwelte@bellevuewa.gov, 425-452-6826). We’ll get you on the list and let you know training dates soon.
Yao, Japan (near Osaka) was Bellevue’s first sister city, going all the way back to 1969. This means this year we are celebrating the fifty-year anniversary of this relationship!

The Yao Garden was first planted at Kelsey Creek to honor the sister city relationship between Bellevue and Yao. The wet site of the original garden at Kelsey Creek was not ideal, so the garden was relocated to the Bellevue Botanical Garden in 1992.

Large trees were moved at that time, as well as some shrubs and stones. One key piece that was brought over is the lantern pictured below, which Yao gifted to Bellevue in 1970. Two more lanterns and the water basin were donated by the Yao Sister City association when the Yao Garden opened at BBG in 1994. That marked the twenty-five year anniversary of the cities’ partnership.

To honor fifty years of friendship, a delegation from Yao (including elected officials and members of the Sister City Association) came to Bellevue in early November. Their first stop was a visit to the Bellevue Botanical Garden, where they participated in a ceremonial tree planting in the Yao Garden with dignitaries from the City of Bellevue. This peaceful, reflective ceremony took place on a perfect autumn day, made even more beautiful and bright by early Garden d’Lights installations.

This tree, *Acer japonicum* ‘Attaryi,’ (Fullmoon Japanese maple) was obtained as a small tree by Garden Manager Nancy Kartes in 2015 in preparation for this momentous milestone. Though small now, it will grow to about twenty feet and should grow and thrive for many years as a symbol of our friendship with Yao.

You can see this tree in the northeast corner of the Yao Garden. Watch for leaves which will turn bright orange or red in fall. The Yao Garden is a northwest interpretation of Japanese Garden design principles, using plants that work well in our area. Japanese maples, camellias, azaleas, and grasses all help create a peaceful garden that encourages visitors to pause, reflect, and explore.
We are eager to equate flowers with gardening, made very apparent to me during my frequent travels about the country to speak on gardening or simply visiting nurseries or other gardens in the Pacific Northwest. Seldom will a host grab your arm and lead you to a display of foliage alone at Wells Medina nursery. Flowers rule.

The perfection of each flower and their associated natural histories can indeed provide a dazzle to the novice as each layer upon layer of mystery is revealed. Yet what I have come to embrace in my middle earth of gardening is the same reverence for the leaf. Its individual shape and color, its edge and petiole, its carriage and texture are the end result of its voyage to faultless survival and procreation. Pedantic as it may seem, there is certainly enough entertainment in four billion years of design to occupy my senses and encourage a greater appreciation of this marvelous platform of photosynthesis.

Yet, it is probably mostly my fault, and others like me, who push their Kodachrome, now digital, moments of flora flawlessness to those to whom I give presentations, as if the scenes are something much less ephemeral than is the case. Scene after concocted scene of precise color during the, oh, four and-a half minutes they are at their best. Not included are the associated black holes they offer in the garden while not in blossom. This is not a good thing.

There are numerous ways in which we can entrust our gardens to the strength of foliage. Creating scenes of leaf upon leaf is undoubtedly the most lasting composition. I have memorized a photo of a small slice of Linda Cochran’s garden on Bainbridge Island that I have used in countless talks to illustrate this point. There are two mounding specimens of Rhododendron ‘yakushimunum’, with deep green, somewhat revolute foliage, undersurfaced by tawny brown indumentum. Jutting above is the jagged, pink, green, and white ivory-striped knives of Iris foetidissima ‘Variegata’ that provides a sturdy and handsome presence throughout our deflated winter perennial borders. The list is only limited by our timidity in trialing new plants.

This concept is no revelation to those who have recognized the strength of foliage to the garden. I am not forging new territory here. Yet, for the freshman gardener, there seems to be no coercion or simple pleading that will force a retreat from floral flirtation. Foliage is like losing weight or quitting smoking. You simply have to be so inclined. Christopher Lloyd once said, “…it is an indisputable fact that appreciation of foliage comes at a late stage in our education. It is undoubtedly an acquired taste, one that grows on us…”

We don’t exactly make it easy for the uninitiated. Our nurseries become blossom dens, not only thwarting the quantum leap to foliage but also pushing floral addictions. Weekly congregations of featured color spots annihilate the sensibilities of even the most secure in their convictions for foliage first.

Continued on next page.
No matter how dark winter days may be, once we’ve staggered past the third week of December we can revel not only in holiday spirits, but also in the assurance that the days are inexorably lengthening. There is light at the end of the tunnel! Chilly temperatures notwithstanding, there are still tasks to be tackled in our gardens. Happily, many of these can be accomplished indoors.

Order bare-root roses, either through your favorite neighborhood garden center or online. Be sure to choose varieties that are appropriate for our climate. For this there is no better source than Nita-Jo Rountree’s comprehensive guide, *Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest*, published in 2017 by Sasquatch Press.

While you’re at it, now’s the time to dig into your catalogs and order summer-blooming bulbs. In addition to the lists of luscious lilies calling your name, don’t overlook the rarer but easy to grow smaller bulbs, such as *Nerine*, *Sparaxis*, *Hymenocallis* (“Peruvian daffodil”) or my personal favorite, the alluring and ephemeral *Tigridia pavonia*, often called Mexican shell flower. I think you’ll agree that its botanical name, derived from Latin for tiger and peacock, has much greater resonance than the common moniker.

Investing in edibles? Get a leg up on spring by starting your vegetable seeds indoors, setting your seed trays in a south-facing window or under a grow light. Do this about six weeks before your average last frost. Remember that most veggies require daily doses of six to eight hours of bright light to thrive.

Enjoy the masses of late-winter blooming bulbs you planted last autumn. Examine them and take note of which are standouts you’ll want to increase next year, and which are underperformers not worth the effort. You’ll surely want to double your orders of carefree and gorgeous *Galanthus*, *Chionodoxa*, *Puschkinia* and *Crocus*.

**Foliage 101, continued from previous page.**

spears of *Phormium cookianum* ‘Tricolor’, while the golden fluid strands of the indispensable Golden Hakone Grass, *Hakonechloa macra* ‘Aureola’, and the bold, orbicular, deeply fingered foliage of *Boehmeria spicata* flank each side. It is a scene that is amplified in spring and summer as the herbaceous elements come into their own, yet it is far from silent in the depths of winter. No flowers needed here.

Though perhaps more ephemeral, the use of foliage as effective foil for flowers throughout the year represents its true strength. Directly outside the picture window on the south side of Heronswood once grew *Acer palmatum* ‘Seiryu’, with frilly dissected fronds of foliage held on distinctly upright branches. Here this tree added a sombrous green infusion to the window light during the summer while warming the air of autumn with toasty colors of burnished orange and red. In spring, however, it served its greatest purpose by offering the green luxury of its newly expanded foliage as a backdrop to the rich burgundy flowers of the iris. The textural difference of the two adjacent plants provided weeks of continual pleasure. The tree was sadly too derelict to be saved after we returned in 2012 to begin the restoration process and had to be removed.

It is a foolish thought that we, as gardeners, could bypass the seduction of flowers. Yet the hard lessons learned in the odysseys of senior gardeners should be heeded. The sooner we learn the unperturbable disposition of foliage, the more years of contentment in one’s garden might be garnered.

Our sincere thanks to Dan Hinkley for contributing this article to *The Buzz*.
Urban Gardening Series: Indoor Plants, Thurs., January 23, 6:30-8:30pm. Taught by Penny Kriese. Penny Kriese will help you select indoor plants and show you how to care for them.

Paper Icelandic Poppies, Sat., February 1, 1-3pm. Taught by Kate Alarcon. $55/$65. Start spring early by making your own colorful blooms! This dainty Icelandic poppy will look cheery in a multicolored bunch or as a focal point in a bouquet.

Intro to Pruning, Wed., February 5, 6:30-8:30pm. Taught by Shawna van Nimwegen. Learn the different types of approved cuts to make on trees and shrubs, and how much of each plant to prune each season.

Winter Watercolor, Sat., February 22, 10am-12pm. Taught by Molly Hashimoto. $35/$45. Create watercolor sketches of individual botanical specimens, as well as paint a landscape. All abilities are welcome.

The Art of Bonsai, Sun., February 23, 1-3:30pm. Taught by Lucy Davenport. $35/$45. Explore the hands-on practice of bonsai, from choosing a nursery plant to styling a bonsai and maintaining it for the first year of growth.

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Richie Steffen has rocketed from a regional favorite to a published author and international star of horticulture. Few people have the passion for plants or an excitement about gardening more than Richie. He is the executive director for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, overseeing the development of the garden, its programs, and the rare plant collection.

Richie supervises the popular primary educational program of the Miller Garden: Great Plant Picks (GPP), www.greatplantpicks.org. GPP is committed to building a comprehensive palette of outstanding and reliable plants for maritime Pacific Northwest gardens and has become the “go to” website for the best information about plants for our region.

Richie recently co-authored the *Plant Lover’s Guide to Ferns* with long time BBGS member, Sue Olsen. Richie was the recipient of the prestigious American Public Gardens Association 2018 Professional Citation award for his achievements in public gardening.

**Ferns: A Bellevue Botanical Garden Legacy**  
Wednesday, January 15, 7pm  
Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden  
$5 BBGS members/$15 non-members  
Buy tickets at www.bellevuebotanical.org/lectures

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We are honored to welcome Dr. Ari Novy as our March speaker. He is an award-winning, nationally recognized plant biologist and researcher and President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden. Previously he was the Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden. After graduating from college in 2000, he decided to live in Italy to burnish his Italian, his major at New York University. While in Florence, he volunteered as a gardener at a villa and ran a student gardening group, both new experiences for him. When he returned, he was determined to learn everything about plants and flowers, and ultimately received a Ph.D. in plant science at Rutgers University.

“Plants and flowers elicit a visceral response,” says Novy. “They are familiar yet exotic, rarified yet common...They are also complex biological machines, providing a window into so many critical aspects of the human experience, from the highly emotional to deeply scientific.”

That’s the kind of eloquence and passion you get from Novy. His primary goal is inspiring people to connect with plants and nature.

**The 21st Century Botanic Garden: Where We’ve Come From and Where We’re Going**  
Wednesday, March 18, 7pm  
Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden  
$5 BBGS members/$15 non-members  
Buy tickets at www.bellevuebotanical.org/lectures

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Thanks to Wells Medina Nursery for sponsoring this lecture.
What do the following US botanical gardens have in common, other than being beautiful, famous, and included on numerous lists of the best gardens in the US?

- Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY
- Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO
- Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA
- Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ
- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, FL

You can get into them for free as a BBGS member!

You may not know that your membership includes what we call Reciprocal Admissions. This means that you get free admission and/or additional benefits at more than three hundred gardens throughout North America just by showing your BBGS membership card. The gardens listed here have varying admission costs, from a high of $25 at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, to a low of $12.50 at the Denver Botanic Gardens, so you can see how much you can save by visiting these gardens! This is a fantastic benefit for our members who love beautiful gardens and love to travel.

You can view a complete list of participating gardens online at ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap.
What's New!

It’s the start of a new year and everyone needs a daily dose of inspiration. Begin each day with one of artist Carrie Schmitt’s affirmation cards. Beautiful art cards and quotes will lift your spirits, $19.95. If you’d like to learn to paint like Carrie, her book, Painted Blossoms, will guide you with basic design elements and techniques using mixed media, $24.99. We also have a selection of Carrie’s gorgeous greeting cards available, $5.

From Jenny-Did-It Note Cards are journals made of heavyweight blank pages suitable for writing, planning or sketching. They are perfect for pen, pencil, and charcoal. Available with assorted garden-themed covers and one hundred pages, $10. Jenny’s collections of cards are $3.75 and come in variations of garden and nature themes.

You might have seen the work of local artists from Bedrock Industries during Arts In The Garden last August. We have curated their Lovestone hearts, which are handmade from one hundred percent recycled glass. These charming hearts, each with slight variations, are available in shades of red, green and blue and are perfect for a sweet expression any time or as a Valentine’s Day gift, $5.95.
Spreading the Seeds of Information

Upcoming Events

All events take place at the Bellevue Botanical Garden unless otherwise noted. Visit bellevuebotanical.org/events for more info. See page 12 for upcoming BBGS classes.

Ferns: A Bellevue Botanical Garden Legacy, a lecture by Richie Steffen, Wednesday, January 15, 7pm

Puget Sound Dahlia Association Meeting and Lecture, Thursday, January 16, 7pm

Northwest Perennial Alliance Lecture and Event, “The Promise of Spring,” Sunday, January 19, 10:30am

Puget Sound Dahlia Association Lecture & Meeting, Thursday, February 20, 6:30pm

Cascade Gardener Class, Thursday, February 27, 7pm

An Evening with Ciscoe, Tuesday, March 10, 6pm

The 21st Century Botanic Garden: Where We’ve Come From and Where We’re Going, a lecture by Dr. Ari Novy, Wednesday, March 18, 7pm

Docent Tours

We’re accepting docent tour requests for 2020! If your group would like to take a tour this year, submit your request now to make sure you get your preferred date. Tour request forms can be found on our website at bellevuebotanical.org/request-a-docent-tour.

Connect with Us!

Thank You

Garden of Lights

Volunteers

for another amazing event! We couldn’t do it without you.