The importance of bees as pollinators cannot be overstated. China is a prime example of what can happen when bees become extinct: In the 1980s, China introduced the “Household Responsibility System,” which allowed farmers to choose which crops they would grow. Many found it economically beneficial to replace their rice paddies with fruit orchards. When farmers reaped a bigger harvest than was required by China’s collectivized farming program, they were allowed to sell the surplus on the open market. They began to increase their use of pesticides. The bees disappeared. Beekeepers were driven to relocate their beehives out of the cultivation areas, and farmers were forced to learn the arduous process of pollinating their pear and apple orchards by hand.

Articles began appearing in the news media describing the alarming diminishing populations of honeybees in our country. They stressed the importance of selecting plants to help our pollinators—especially plants that bloom in winter and spring when fewer plants are available for food.

Here are some smaller, early blooming “Trees for Bees”:

**Azara microphylla**—Native to South America, this evergreen, narrow, slightly weeping tree is perfect for narrow spaces. It grows slowly, reaching fifteen feet in ten years. In March, the tiny leaves provide a backdrop for the tufted yellow fragrant flowers that have the heavenly sweet scent of vanilla. This elegant tree likes full to part sun, is hardy to Zone 7, and is a Great Plant Pick. You can see it at the Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) in the Woodland Garden.

**Cotinus coggyria ‘Royal Purple’**—Also called Purple Smoke Tree or Smokebush, this tree is known for its dramatic, rounded leaves that emerge maroon red in spring, mature to deep wine in summer, then turn red in fall. Starting in spring, its tiny spring flowers change to feathery, pink billowy hairs creating hazy “smoky” plumes that last throughout the summer. It only grows ten to fifteen feet tall and likes full sun to part shade. Gardeners often cut the tree back to the ground every one to three years in early spring to manage the size and get the boldest foliage color, but by doing so, they sacrifice the flowers. It is a Great Plant Pick and has received the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of Garden Merit. You can see it at the BBG in the Waterwise Garden.

**Cornus sericea ‘Hedgerows Gold’**—If ever there was a tree with year-round...
interest, this is it! Also called redtwig dogwood, it is an upright, suckering shrub or tree that grows six to nine feet high. It is native to much of North America where it can be found growing in swampy areas. In spring, the leaves emerge emerald green with irregular yellow margins followed by tiny white clusters of fragrant flowers that turn into white fruits in summer. In fall, the leaves turn interesting shades of red and orange before they drop revealing blood-red stems that decorate the winter landscape. This tree takes pruning very well. The red color on the stems appears on the new growth, so some gardeners cut them back hard every year to bring the red color closer to eye level. It is a Great Plant Pick, is hardy to Zone 7, likes full sun or light shade, and can be seen at the BBG in the Perennial Border.

**Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'**—This dogwood is one of many dogwoods that provide food and nectar in the early spring for bees. It is an unlikely cross between our native Western Dogwood, *Cornus nuttalli*, and the Eastern North American species, *Cornus florida*. In spring, ‘Eddie’s White Wonder’ is smothered in stunning clusters of flowers with dazzling white bracts on horizontally tiered branches. It grows to twenty feet high in ten years, is hardy to Zone 7, and likes full to part sun. It is a Great Plant Pick and can be seen at the BBG on the Lost Meadow Trail and in the Native Discovery Garden.

**Chionanthus retusus and C. virginicus**—Both of these species produce outstanding spring floral displays with slightly fragrant pure white flowers with fringe like petals. *C. retusus*, or Chinese Fringe Tree, is native to Asia, and *C. virginicus*, or American Fringe Tree, is native to the eastern part of the United States and as far west as Texas. Both are dioecious (separate male and female plants), like full sun, and usually grow fifteen to twenty feet tall in the landscape. The flowers are usually more abundant on the male plants, but the females can produce showy dark blue fruits. The Chinese fringe tree has a neater, more orderly appearance in flower and throughout the season than its American counterpart. *C. retusus* is a Great Plant Pick, and *C. virginicus* can be seen at the BBG Pond Garden.

Why not go on a treasure hunt at the Garden to find each of these bee-u-tiful trees for bees? Seeing is bee-lieving!
Pelts of snowball blooms dab the borders of a woodland realm, their soft vibrancy mirrored against puffs of cumulus clouds scattered aloft.

A member of the Hydrangeaceae, *Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Annabelle’ is a natural showstopper and winner of the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit.

Harriet Kilpatrick discovered this naturally mutated forest variety with unusually large blooms (upwards of one foot!) in 1910 in Anna, Illinois. Harriet and her sister-in-law, Amy, dug up the beautiful specimen and transplanted it in Harriet’s yard. Local demand soared, and in 1962 the cultivar was named ‘Annabelle’: “Anna” referring to Anna, Illinois, and “belle” honoring the two ladies who cultivated it.

Hydrangeas typically prefer dappled shade to full sun and well-drained soil. When properly cared for, ‘Annabelle’ may reach a height and spread of five and six feet respectively.

Besides flower size, this specimen yields seasonal interest. Blooms begin in late spring as green puffs, then shift to mature white in summer, and finally light brown in autumn. Coupled with a natural rounded habit and bushy nature, it fills out garden spaces with ease.

This particularly smooth hydrangea is commonly used in mixed borders, beds, hedges, containers, and cottage-style gardens. Companion plants include but are not limited to azaleas, begonias, dogwoods, hostas, lilies, rhododendrons, and spirea.

You can see *Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Annabelle’ in the Perennial Border and the Shorts Ground Cover Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

One of our most popular member benefits is a ten percent discount at seventeen local participating nurseries, horticultural suppliers, and tree service companies. On page 15, you will find the complete list of participating nurseries and horticultural suppliers offering the discount. You can also visit our website at bellevuebotanical.org/membership for locations, websites, restrictions and other details.

When visiting one of our partners, simply show your membership card, or mention your membership when making your appointment. It’s that easy!

As spring begins, this is the perfect time to visit one of our partners to shop for plants and gardening supplies, buy mulch for garden beds, arrange for tree work, and purchase supplies to encourage pollinating bees into your yard. Our nursery partners can help you with all of that!

Whether you are planting trees, shrubs, vegetables, perennials, or annuals, local nurseries are well stocked and offer a wide selection. Spring is a great time to refresh your containers, too.

We encourage you to take advantage of this fabulous member benefit, and get ready for spring and summer!

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is grateful for the generous support of our nursery partners.
Are there any exciting advances in gardening that we should be aware of?

Yes! Read on for the latest discoveries in the world of gardening.

A new study finds a foolproof way to reduce garden maintenance

Research done by a local garden expert has revealed that adopting a new puppy will drastically reduce garden maintenance. Among the findings is that puppies are highly effective rototillers. Just tell the puppy where not to dig, and the entire area will be tilled within minutes. Let it go to work in the vegetable garden and before you know it the entire crop will disappear, saving you the work it would have taken to tend and harvest all of those crops. The biggest labor savings are in weeding and general maintenance. In no time your puppy will find his way into your ornamental garden, and you can kick back and watch him rip out the weeds for you. Of course, he will also rip out all of those fussy, expensive high maintenance plants as well. You can take the summer off because you’ll have practically no plants left to care for at all.

Renovate your lawn the easy way

Remember the aerator shoes sold in many garden catalogs? They’re the shoes with spikes on the bottom that aerate your lawn as you walk on it. Now the inventors of the aerator shoes have come up with the newest thing in lawn care: “Total Lawn Renovation Footwear.” In addition to the aeration spikes, these shoes contain razor sharp blades to remove thatch, and a tiny rake on the heel to help you collect and pile up the thatch. The best comes last. The new, deluxe wing-tip model is not only attractive—it actually contains a powerful micro vacuum that sucks up the debris into a backpack collection device. Now spring lawn renovation is as easy as walking across your lawn.

Koi owners urged to watch their fish for aggressive tendencies

Reports of an aggressive gene in some koi have been substantiated. Concern surfaced after a well-known BBGS board member was attacked in February by Howard, the biggest and previously favorite koi in her collection. She escaped without serious injuries, but has been hesitant to go out in public since the incident occurred. Rumors that she was bitten are not true, but it’s believed she suffered a very noticeable hickey on the left side of her neck. Howard’s virility is well known, and it is feared that the aggressive gene may have been handed down to his many offspring, thousands of which have been sold to unsuspecting pond owners throughout the Pacific Northwest. There is only one known diagnostic trait at this time. Avoid, and immediately report to authorities any koi that appears to be smiling at you.

Brussels sprouts discovered to be brain food

Brussels sprouts were already well regarded for turning a well-known TV and radio gardener, who just happens to also be a Buzz contributor, into an incredible physical specimen, but now scientists have discovered that brussels sprouts may also be the reason he is so intelligent. New research has found that brussels sprouts contain “bull-tweetle,” a substance known to cause massive proliferation of brain cells, especially on the right side of the brain. There was some fear that release of this information could cause a run on brussels sprouts leading to a severe shortage of this wonder vegetable at grocery stores, but readers of The Buzz have informed this author that there is little fear that he will run out of B.S. anytime soon.

Happy April Fool’s Day!

Watch koi for aggressive tendencies! Photo © Pokko3 | Dreamstime.com
April is the cruelest month,” declared Nobel Prize laureate T.S. Eliot in “The Waste Land” exactly one hundred years ago. Although the title of his apocalyptic poem resonates today, it seemed particularly apt in early January as I surveyed the devastation of my moribund, frozen garden. However, I exonerate April; December is to blame for my woes. The week of frigid temperatures that ended 2021 marked the longest subfreezing stretch in the thirty years I’ve cultivated my corner of Eden in Seattle’s Seward Park neighborhood.

Granted, the devastation would have been immeasurably worse if not for the spot-on forecast provided by our professional meteorologists. Their warning, a full week of advance notice, gave me ample time to rescue hundreds of horticultural treasures (my babies!)—that is, those small enough to transport or shroud, or tolerant enough to survive digging up and dragging under cover. Here’s a brief outline of my endeavors, and yes, please take this as a cautionary tale, lest you, too, fall prey to the siren song that lures weak-willed hortheads such as I to acquire hopeless quantities of half-hardy plants that in mild winters can get through on their own outdoors if kept dry.

The simplest part was the schlepping: A couple of hundred containers of agaves and aloes, clivias and cactuses, pachypodiums and palms found refuge in the living room and kitchen, which they were obliged to share with resident houseplants, true tropicales that had been indoors since October. Larger containers quickly covered the floor of the dark basement den, where we set up jury-rigged grow lights clamped to folding wooden chairs. A hundred or so jumbo-sized specimens (including dozens of waist-high aeoniums) sought shelter in the garage, where we switched out two ancient, eight-foot-long cool fluorescent bulbs for a couple of warmer, plant-friendly tubes I discovered at a wonderfully accommodating lighting store in Fremont just hours before the arctic onslaught arrived.

More angst-inducing, although less physically demanding, was the protection process for my main collection of South African clivias. The principal bed of these citrus-colored, spring-blooming, evergreen amaryllids is a rectangle under wide eaves next to our front door. I procured a thirty-two-foot “Eco-roll” of three-and-a-half-inch thick fiberglass housing insulation, cut it into two strips, duct-taped the halves together, lay it over the top of the plants, swaddled this blanket under burlap gunnysacks from a local coffee roaster, and held everything in place with a hodgepodge of paving stones and concrete adornments. It did the trick: When uncovered in early January, the clivias looked fabulous.

Easiest of all was our south-facing succulent bed hard against the relative warmth of a brick wall, also sheltered under wide eaves. Here we snapped into place a series of double-walled, wood-framed polycarbonate panels my husband Jeff built a few years ago to protect our mature, blooming five-foot-tall aloe, a pair of waist-high thirty-year-old crassulas (jade plants), a dozen agaves, and other prized succulents.

As I write these lines in the mildness of mid-February, resigned to the probable loss of phormiums and cordylines, cestrums and grevilleas, I ponder the status of several of my prized arboreal possessions that were too large to protect. The jury is still out on my twenty-two-year-old, ten-foot-tall Daphne bholua (in full bloom when the freeze fell), and my eight-year-old, seven-foot Citrus junos (whose final fruit I harvested the night before temperatures plunged). At present completely defoliated, both these normally robust evergreens now look skeletal. I’m holding out hope, as the vascular systems (cambium and xylem) of their main branches seem intact and healthy. Perhaps April’s celebrated showers will revive them.

Jeff and our south-facing succulent bed.
The Bellevue Botanical Garden celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year! Since opening in 1992, the number of people visiting the Garden has grown dramatically, as has the diversity of Garden visitors. Last year, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, the non-profit organization that supports the Garden, observed the changes in Garden use and the needs of visitors, and concluded that this was a critical time to develop an updated Interpretive Plan.

An Interpretive Plan is an important strategic tool that serves as a guide to communicate information and stories to better meet visitors’ needs and expectations. The goal is to enhance visitor engagement and foster an impactful and meaningful experience. The previous Interpretive Plan for the Garden was completed twenty-three years ago in 1998.

Lennox Insights (Chuck Lennox, Principal) was hired to facilitate and write the Plan. The Core Planning Team began meeting in early 2021. Interviews were conducted with representatives of the BBGS, the City of Bellevue, and various partner organizations. A visitor survey was completed by 755 respondents. In the survey, visitors identified their two most important reasons for visiting the Garden: to enjoy being around plants and gardens, and because they find the Garden a relaxing place for a walk or exercise.

The overarching theme for the Plan is that “the BBG is an urban refuge where people, plants and community thrive. The Garden is built by and for the community.” Beginning with the generous donation of the property by Cal and Harriet Shorts and continuing for the past thirty years, the Garden has thrived because of the community’s contributions. The Garden welcomes the community, and the hope is that a visit to the BBG will open visitors’ eyes to the world of plants and the natural world, inspiring them to be good stewards of land and water.

An important improvement identified in the Interpretive Plan is to provide clear orientation for entering and navigating the Garden. Visitors enter the Garden from many locations. New signage (one of which is pictured at right) will make it clear that visitors are arriving at a botanical garden rather than a park, with reminders about the importance of staying on paths and not encroaching into native woodlands and wetlands. Wayfinding signs will help orient people, providing information about routes to follow to reach certain destinations within the Garden. The Gathering Place will feature new informational displays.

Interpretation also includes telling the story of the Garden. The BBG is a unique partnership between the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, and nine other partner organizations: Bellevue Utilities, East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs, Eastside Fuchsia Society, Hardy Fern Foundation, Master Gardener Foundation of King County, Northwestern Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, Northwest Perennial Alliance, Puget Sound Dahlia Association, and Washington Native Plant Society. Signage will be added to identify and explain the important work and contributions of each.

In the future, we will enhance the visitor experience and provide additional interpretive content with Garden Greeters as well as fun and engaging hands-on Discovery Carts. Technology will also be explored to provide meaningful and easily accessible content. Providing better tools to search the Garden’s plant collections will be an additional priority.

Another objective noted in the Interpretive Plan is to foster a positive experience for visitors upon leaving the Bellevue Botanical Garden—what they know, feel, and do after their visits. For example, visitors may learn that the Garden has a wealth of information about plants, which may create a broader interest in plants and the natural world, and may lead to a closer look at plants, their needs, and an application of the newly gained knowledge to the visitor’s own space.

Tracy Botsford, BBGS Board member and Core Planning Team member, remarked when discussing the Interpretive Plan, “There are a lot of opportunities to make some meaningful investments.” The BBGS is most grateful to Amazon for its generosity in supporting the implementation of the Interpretive Plan.

The BBGS and the City of Bellevue are currently working collaboratively to prioritize the recommendations. We look forward to the changes that will be happening in the Garden over the next few years.
Growing like ‘Wildfire’: BBG Turns Thirty  By Wendy Leavitt

It seems like only yesterday that the Bellevue Botanical Garden celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday. To commemorate that day, staff and volunteers planted *Nyssa sylvatica* ‘Wildfire’ (black gum tree) in the Urban Meadow. The selection of this dramatic and magnificently beautiful tree was a prophetic choice. One day, ‘Wildfire’ will be as much as seventy feet tall with a spread of thirty feet—large enough to shade the PACCAR Plaza, just outside the Aaron Education Center.

Since then, as the great tree has grown, the Garden itself has had its own period of astonishing growth and development, amazing even those who have worked to make it happen. “It is hard to believe what has occurred since the opening of the Aaron Education Center in 2014,” observes Garden Manager, Nancy Kartes. “We really did not expect the impact it would have. Looking back, it was the watershed moment in our history. Now we tell Garden time in terms of Before and After 2014.”

The list of changes is remarkable by any measure. For starters, the opening of the Education Center allowed Garden management to repurpose the Shorts House, which had been both the visitor center and the only meeting space for staff and volunteers. “Before 2014, everything, from meetings to educational programs, took place in the Shorts House,” recalls Nancy. “The restrooms and the Trillium Store were there, too. It could feel awkward for visitors, especially if they stepped inside and felt as though they were ‘interrupting’ an event in progress. Today, the Shorts House is a much more welcoming and comfortable place for visitors with its coffee shop and seating inside and out. It has become a place for people to gather, rest and socialize,” she notes.

The Trillium Store was also transformed in 2014. What was once a closet-sized space just inside the entry to the Shorts House has become “a shopping destination,” according to Nancy. “The new Trillium Store is one of the first things people see now when they enter the Garden,” she says. “Its importance goes far beyond retail. It is an amenity to enjoy.”

Making the Garden more welcoming and accessible for everyone has been a key focus since 2014. Most recently, that has meant the addition of new benches around the Garden and the replacement of others. The concrete ramp near the Gathering Place has also been widened and wheelchair charging stations have been installed there and at the Shorts House. There is a new footbridge in the popular Yao Garden and a new Assisted Listening System in the Trillium Store.

Something new and wonderful seems to be everywhere you look. Today’s Garden visitors, for instance, are not only delighted by the redesigned Courtyard Garden with its almost tropical-looking plantings, but they can also enjoy the wide edging around its raised bed, purposely built to provide additional places to sit while waiting for events or before further exploring.

Like many other areas of the Garden, this newest project was a team effort, made possible in this case by generous gifts from Steve and Doreen Winslow and Family and garden volunteers Cathy McCaffrey and Carl Schroeder. The planting bed was redesigned...
by Bellevue Botanical Garden Society board member, horticultural expert and garden designer, Nita-Jo Rountree and supported by fellow task force and BBGS board members, Cleo Raulerson, Heather Babiak-Kane, and Denise Lane. Richard Vandermark designed that thoughtful retaining wall/seat based on Garden Manager Nancy Kartes’s vision.

Just beyond the new Courtyard Garden and past the Education Center, the Urban Meadow, which opened in 2017, beckons. Beyond that, the new Plant Propagation Exhibit and potting shed bring additional dimensions to the Garden experience, as does the reworked Native Discovery Garden.

“Each of these additions and changes to the Garden have been very mindful and intentional,” Nancy says, “and it shows. We strive to do everything we undertake with excellence and to stay true to our mission,” she adds. “A donor to the Garden recently observed that ‘quality draws quality,’ and I believe that.”

The opening of the Aaron Education Center not only enhanced the Garden for visitors, but also opened new opportunities for the Garden’s ten partner groups who can now use the space for special events like plant sales. “After 2014, we could suddenly bring everyone here, draw everybody home,” Nancy reflects. “It is a wonderful feeling to be able to do that.”

Growth and change to the Garden itself are only part of the story, though. Following the opening of the Education Center, BBGS began steadily increasing the variety, quantity, and quality of the educational programs it delivers. Beginning in 2016, for example, BBGS began hosting Scout Days in the spring and fall. In 2020-2021, participating scouts had the opportunity to work on a landscape architecture badge and gardening and tree badges.

During 2020-2021, approximately 390 students in the Bellevue School District and beyond also participated through their various online school platforms in BBGS’s popular Living Lab program for children—this time in a virtual version of the field trip program.

In fact, the biggest changes and the greatest growth in programming have taken place online. “In April 2020, because of the pandemic, we had to go all-virtual,” recalls Courtney Voorhees, BBGS Manager. “As tough times do, it put our creativity and resiliency to the test. Kate Sorensen, Education Program Manager; Darcy McInnis, Communications Manager; and guest lectures planner, Nita- Jo Rountree, were on the front line.

“The growth and success of our webinar programs have been amazing and gratifying,” Courtney notes. “It has allowed us to reach more people from all over the world. It has also made it easier and more affordable to include gardening experts from around the globe as special guest speakers. Our BBGS Education Program has not only grown, but it has reached new levels in terms of excellence and variety.”

As detailed in the 2020-2021 Annual Report, as of June 30, 2021, BBGS had already produced fifty-six different webinars and eleven world-class, online lectures; these programs reached 5,726 people. Two unique symposiums, produced in partnership with Heronswood Garden, have featured renowned authors and horticulturists from around the

Continued on page 11

The original Trillium Store located in the Shorts House, circa 2008. Photo courtesy of BBG Archives.

The Urban Meadow, which opened in 2017. Photo by Rebecca Randall.
A warm spring day feels like such a special event it is almost impossible to resist rushing outside to join in nature’s most extravagant, exuberant celebration of the year. So, don’t waste time resisting; just give in and make a day of it. Happily, you don’t have to go far. The City of Bellevue has more than ninety parks encompassing over 2,713 acres of developed parks and open spaces, and nearly one hundred miles of trails, including the beloved Bellevue Botanical Garden.

The only tough decision is, besides BBG, which other parks should you add to your celebration? A great place to begin building your spring day in the parks is at the Bellevue Parks & Community Services website: bellevuewa.gov/parks. If you start at the Garden, for instance, it is just a short walk to Wilburton Hill Park with its soccer fields, large picnic area, and children’s play area, including a zip line. Parents can work out on exercise equipment positioned so they can watch their kids in the play area.

A mile-and-a-half long trail through the woods, beginning at the southeast corner of the BBG parking lot, leads to yet another unique Bellevue Park, Kelsey Creek Farm. It includes 150 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands plus two beautiful historic barns and resident farm animals to see from sheep to ducks. If the connecting trail is not for you, it is an easy drive to Kelsey Creek located at 410 130th Place SE. Kelsey Creek Farm is open 365 days a year and is free to visit.

For spring-in-the-parks celebrations that include children, Colin Walker, department marketing administrator, Bellevue Parks & Community Services, recommends adding the new play area at the Bellevue Downtown Park to your day. “There are great play areas at Wilburton Hill, Kelsey Creek, and the Downtown Park,” he says. “The kids could stay busy and happy all day. Inspiration Playground at the Downtown Park is universally accessible to people of all ages and abilities. The common language there is play.”

Adults who are looking for a little more serenity and quiet time to savor the emergence of spring, also have a lengthy list of choices. “Mercer Slough Nature Park is especially beautiful as things start to leaf out in the spring,” recommends Walker. “You can stroll the park or rent a canoe or kayak at Enatai Beach Park and paddle or float along the slough to enjoy it from the water.”

Bird watching is a nature-lover’s bonus at Mercer Slough. Look for nesting swallows and female wood ducks steering their ducklings through the shallows among the greens and golds of spring. The bustle of the city just disappears in this still, set-apart place.

Meydenbauer Bay Park is another unexpected treasure in the center of a major city. According to Walker, it took years to realize this lakefront park because so many individual properties had to be acquired to create it. “Bellevue is often referred to as a ‘City in a Park,’” he notes, “and it is definitely an incredibly special place.”

“I will be the gladdest thing under the sun! I will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one,” enthuses Edna St. Vincent Millay in her short poem of celebration, “Afternoon on a Hill.” It seems like high time to go outside and be glad again, and there are more than enough parks right out the front door for many glad days!
With the gales of March behind us, it will take more than a few April showers to deter intrepid Northwest gardeners from tending to their plots of paradise now that daylight is rushing the dark hours into rapid retreat. The to-do list may be long, but it’s a labor of love, isn’t it? In addition to a general spring cleaning of the garden, which includes pruning of shrubs and applying a fresh layer of compost to beds and borders, here are a trio of other joyous tasks to tackle.

Try your hand at propagating! You can do this by one of three methods: through division, via cuttings, and by sowing seed. Perennials that respond well to division in springtime include aster, astilbe, delphinium, dianthus, hellebore, hemerocallis (daylily), heuchera, hosta, lobelia, monarda, penstemon, phlox, pulmonaria, sedum, solidago, tricyrtis and many ornamental grasses. (For a fine, on-line how-to guide, search for “New York Botanical Garden dividing perennials.”)

It’s easy to increase your supply of certain ornamentals by rooting herbaceous or softwood cuttings taken at the beginning of the growing season. Prime candidates include begonia, dahlia, dogwood, fuchsia, hydrangea, lilac and salvia. (Straightforward online instructions are at: empressofdirt.net/grow-softwood-cuttings).

Now’s the time to get your edibles growing by sowing seed procured from your favorite garden center or seed catalog. If you plant seed stored from your last season’s crop, prepare for disappointment, as seeds of hybrid varieties will not come true. Also, be aware that cucumbers, melons, squashes and peppers crossbreed promiscuously, so if you’ve grown more than one variety of these, next year’s seedlings will be a crapshoot. However, seed from “open pollinated” (genetically stable) veggies and heirloom varieties will usually produce what you’re hoping for.

For expert advice on propagation techniques, you may want to register for the BBGS/NPA class, “The Art, Science and Magic of Propagation,” on April 16 (details on page 12). The Master Gardener Foundation of King County is also a fantastic resource. Their website offers fifteen free “Tip Sheets” on topics ranging from edible gardening to growing houseplants. Find them at mgfkc.org.

“BBG Turns Thirty,” continued from page 9

globe. A third symposium is already in the planning stages for 2022.

Another online program introduced during the pandemic, “Plant of the Week,” featuring plant experts Ciscoe Morris, Nita-Jo Rountree, and Daniel Sparler (who recently bowed out of the program due to other commitments) is now well into its second year. You can find past Plant of the Week videos on the BBGS Facebook page at facebook.com/bellevuebotanic.

Behind the scenes, there has also been enormous activity in recent years. A perfect example is the complete revamping of the Garden’s Plant Records System. Lead by the multi-talented Cleo Raulerson, co-president of the BBGS board of directors, the system has been shifted to a new software platform that makes it easier to expand and use. “Visitors won’t be aware of it, but it is a huge undertaking that is already yielding benefits,” observes Nancy. “As far as I know, BBG is the only botanical garden using this software system.

“Covid changed everything in our world,” Nancy continues. “It sent people out of doors and caused the Garden to become more appreciated. It opened people’s eyes to the value right here in our own backyards.”

So Happy Thirtieth Birthday, dear BBG. Thirty years from now, may people who likewise cherish this special place stand in the vast shade of Nyssa sylvatica ‘Wildfire’ and celebrate together what the love and dedication of like-minded people can do.

Join us for our 30th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, June 25, 11:00 a.m. Bellevue Botanical Garden

See more historical photos at bellevuebotanical.org/bbg-30th-anniversary.
Pre-registration required for all classes and lectures. Register at bellevuebotanical.org/learn. Prices vary; see our website for pricing information. Webinars and online classes are recorded and you will receive the recording the next business day.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Fermentation: Making Sauerkraut, Sat., Apr 2, 10am-12pm. Learn the basics of vegetable fermentation and then have fun making sauerkraut. You'll go home with a jar filled with the beginnings of sauerkraut to practice fermenting in your own kitchen.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: The Art, Science and Magic of Propagation, Sat., Apr 16, 10am-12pm. Covers basic propagation techniques, along with some tips and tricks. Includes video demonstrations of how to make a Forsyth Pot, and a great way to divide big, tough perennials.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Right-Size Gardening, Wed., Apr 20, 7pm. See details at right.

ONLINE CLASS: Tea: the journey from plant to cup, Thu., Apr 21, 7-8:30pm. Taste three delicious styles—white, green and pu’erh—that come from the “true tea” plant Camellia sinensis, while we explore the science, history and culture of tea. Prior to the class, each registrant will receive a tasting kit of loose-leaf teas, tea sleeves for ease of steeping, and instructions.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Fall and Winter Edibles, Thu., May 5, 6:30-8:30pm. Learn what fall and winter vegetables to grow and when to start them, in this unique look at vegetable gardening in our maritime climate that splits the year into seven mini-seasons.

ONLINE CLASS: Drawing Spring Flora, Sat., May 7, 1-4pm. Celebrate the beauty of spring by creating a drawing of a flower, flower petals, or a flowering branch. We will use a variety of colored pencil techniques and approaches to drawing and sketching from observation.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Hardy Orchids in the Garden, Wed., May 18, 7pm. See details at right.

IN-PERSON OUTSIDE: Mindfulness in the Garden, Wed., May 25, 10:30am-12pm. Integrating elements of Mindfulness Meditation and Shinrin-Yoku (Japanese Forest Bathing), we will stroll slowly, opening our senses to the vibrant wonders of spring while learning to soothe mind, body and spirit.

WEBINAR: The History and Art of Bonsai, Thu., June 2, 7-8:30pm. Learn where bonsai comes from and why it is considered an art form. Satisfy your curiosity about who does bonsai and why, what kinds of trees work well, and how old they can get.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Paper Bearded Iris Workshop, Sat., June 11, 12pm-3pm.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Fermentation: Kimchee Sat., June 18, 10am-12pm. Learn the basics of vegetable fermentation and then have fun making kimchee. You'll go home with a jar filled with the beginnings of kimchee to practice fermenting in your own kitchen.

IN-PERSON INSIDE: Intro to a Summer Garden Pollinator: the Leafcutter Bee, Thu., June 23, 6:30-8pm. In this conversational approach to learning, you'll walk away with fresh understanding of why the bees show up in the summer, how to care for them, and precisely what to do for best success.

Register for these educational programs at bellevuebotanical.org/learn.
Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp is the “Hoosier Gardener” from Indianapolis. She is a twenty-five-year award-winning veteran of print journalism and owns Write for You! LLC, a freelance writing and editing business. Her newsletter, The Hoosier Gardener, has won national and regional awards. She also blogs for several corporations and is a frequent guest on television, radio, and web broadcasts.

Jo Ellen is the author of *The Visitor’s Guide to American Gardens,* and a contributor to *Oxford Companion to the Garden* and Phaidon’s *The Gardener’s Garden.* A popular speaker, she is a member of Great Garden Speakers.org, where she has fifty-five-star reviews.

In her presentation, Jo Ellen will illustrate how to make the most of smaller spaces, whether a patio, balcony, or other temporary garden area.

**April Speaker:**
Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

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Dr. Peter Zale’s passion for plants began in his teen years. For his sixteenth birthday, he asked for an *Acer palmatum dissectum* ‘Viridis’. When he was a freshman in high school near Cleveland, Ohio, he participated in a leaf collection identification project as a lesson in taxonomy. After the project ended, he realized that he wanted to be involved with plants for the rest of his life. And has he ever!

Peter holds a master’s degree and Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from The Ohio State University and is currently Associate Director, Conservation, Plant Breeding, and Collections, at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. His main efforts at Longwood have centered around development of a comprehensive conservation horticulture program focused on U.S. native orchids and temperate terrestrial orchids from around the world. In his spare time, he has been building his own “private botanical garden” with extensive collections of native plants, hardy orchids, geophytes, woodland plants, and more!

In his presentation, Peter will emphasize that hardy orchids fill a special role in temperate gardens where they often challenge traditionally held notions about the diversity of plant palettes for cold climates, perplex gardeners with their sometimes exacting cultural requirements, and lend exotic intrigue to garden spaces. Many orchids are as rare in the wild as they are in gardens, providing an additional and often underlooked function for gardeners to consider: Conservation. His lecture will cover a diversity of hardy orchids that are useful for home gardeners including those he grows in his personal garden.

**May Speaker:**
Peter Zale, Ph.D.
Youth Programs Return!

We are pleased to announce that, after a two-year hiatus, our youth programs will return this spring!

One of our popular youth programs, Kids in the Garden, will offer two spring sessions, two summer sessions, and one autumn session this year.

Kids in the Garden is a four-week program that teaches preschoolers about the many parts of a garden, from birds to bugs and lots in between. Classes meet on Tuesdays from 10am to 11:30am and each week covers a different topic. Spring sessions will meet April 19-May 10 and May 17-June 7. This is a perfect program for parents or grandparents of preschoolers!

Youth Education staff is also gearing up to resume in-person Living Lab field trips this spring, as well as scout programs.

“We are looking forward to spending more time outside with youth and children to help them develop a positive attitude towards plants and gain knowledge of the role plants play in our local and global ecosystem,” said Kate Sorensen, Youth & Children’s Programs Manager.

For more information, visit our website at bellevuebotanical.org/childrens-education.

Welcome New Members!

**Contributing**
Susan & Richard Hanson
Denise Beaudet & Gary Posner

**Supporting**
Elizabeth Hunt
Tammy & Larry Joy
Sergey Maximov
Kathryn & Donald Rule

**Dual/Family**
Judith Byron
Joel Teal & Kate Casey
Amy & Bryan Chapman
Durga & Gandhi Cherukumilli
L. Dietemann
Allison Gott & Andrew Dixon
Miranda & Marlene Eiseman
Anna Morris & Jon-Andre Facey
Leigh Riday & John Glenn

Angela & George Hansen
Lisa Hilbert
Jane Klausen & Dave Hoerlein
Anna Novikoff & Hal Itzkovics
Sheila Jacobson
Diana & Paul Johnson
Debbie Lester-Jones & Alun Jones
Mary & Thomas Kelly
Bruce Kimura
Janyce Lauhon-Horton
Robin Lettire
N. Olcott & K. Liu
Nancy Coe McClane
Lorena Medina-Dirksen
Lisa Merrill
Leslie Smith & Doug Moore
Lisa Moses
Christie Brown & Luisa Motten
Kuwabo Mwila
Eddie Ng
Andrea O’Malley-Jones

Tarah Blanchard & Julie McClain
Oppenheim
Michelle & Mark Rainville
Mary & Patrick Ross
Juli Sampson
Smita Shah
Angela Shenoy
Andrea Skerry
Gretchen Stronks
Mansi Kaushik & Bhudev Vats
Ruth Brogan & Alan Vaupell
Linda Andrews & Eugene Walker
Carol & Julia Walker
Marion & Patrick Welch
Kathy & John Willson
Donna & Jeff Wilson
Jan Vander Woude
Diana Pearce & George Wright
Carolyn & Steven Yuen

**Individual**
Susanne Annand
Ronald Borowski
Cathy Cline
Nicole D’Auria
Sarah De la Cruz
Brian Ficken
Laura Fielding
Malissa Ford
Barbara Ghaffari
Tiffany Gikas
Andrea Hanses
Christie Higgins
Karen Houlding
Mary Johnston
Teresa Kalista
Katie Keller
Ariya Kilpatrick
Susan Leiter
Genevieve Macdonald
Bob Mahlstede
Kathi McMurtry
Theresa Meyer-Gabel
Lynn Miller
Lois Moss
Libby Finnigan
Nielsen
Linda Patrick
Diane Pernan
Barbara Ponder
Jinky Raymond
Lisa Rich

Mariko Ruark
Jeannine Ryan
Maura Sandrock
Michelle Scannell
Susan Simmons
Joy Stephens
Michele Stewart
Kari Tai
Linda Tarte
Nancy Tochko
Tyler Ulrich

*November 16, 2021 through February 15, 2022.

“...spending more time outside with youth and children...”

-Kate Sorensen

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Special Thanks to Our Sponsors
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

What's New!

“Roses are red, violets are blue….” From renowned jewelry artist Michael Michaud, stunning blue violet post earrings are cast bronze with patina finish and accented with cast glass. Every detail is inspired by nature and handcrafted in the USA. Enjoy this fine jewelry for years to come, $72.

This adorable flowerpot and measuring spoon set is in “full bloom” and ready to bring color and cheer to your kitchen. They are functional and so cute as décor when not in use. Made of ceramic, the striped pot includes a ¼ tsp., ½ tsp., 1 tsp., and 1 Tbsp., $24.

Wrap up in a beautiful floral scarf designed in London. Soft and luxurious, these scarves are oversized so they can be worn as a shawl, too! They make a lovely gift when presented with the scarf hanger and gift bag, included, $36.

Trillium

Spring Hours

Tue-Sun 11am-3pm
Closed Easter Sunday
Open Mother’s Day
10am-4pm

“Spring is a lullaby of flowers” from Ashley’s Organic Mix. The soft colors of pink and yellow mix perfectly to make a lovely way to walk in the Garden. This annual mix is perfect for beds, borders, and cutting. $5.50孵

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The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.

Good to Know!

Fermentation: Making Sauerkraut, Apr 2, 10am-12pm
Scout Day, Apr 3, 12:30-3pm
NARGS Plant Sale, April 9, 10am-2pm
The Art, Science and Magic of Propagation, Apr 16, 10am-12pm
Right-Size Gardening, Apr 20, 7pm
Tea: the Journey from Plant to Cup, Apr 21, 7-8:30pm
NW Perennial Alliance Plant Sale, May 1, 10am-2pm
Fall and Winter Edibles, May 5, 6:30-8:30pm
Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale, May 7, 9am-2pm
Drawing Spring Flora, May 7, 1-4 pm
Chinese Floral Exhibit, May 14 & 15, 10am-5pm
Hardy Orchids in the Garden, May 18, 7pm
All Shook Up: An NGC Standard Flower Show, presented by Terra Tillers, May 21, 12-4pm & May 22, 10am-3pm
Mindfulness in the Garden, May 25, 10:30am-12pm
The History and Art of Bonsai, June 2, 7-8:30pm
Hardy Fern Foundation Plant Sale, June 4, time TBA
Paper Bearded Iris Workshop, June 11, 12pm-3pm
Fermentation: Kimchee, June 18, 10am-12pm

Docent Tours
Docent tours are back! Tours begin in April, and are available each Saturday and Sunday at noon. Meet at the Shorts House. No reservations needed. You can also request a private tour for your group. To request a tour, please complete the online form at bellevuebotanical.org/garden-tours-more.

Connect with Us!

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