Lilium ‘Conca d’ Or’, an Orienpet hybrid lily. Photo by Nita-Jo Rountree.
I love lilies! However, a few years ago, the dreaded red lily beetle (Lilioceris lilii) invaded Bellevue. This bright red pest is about the size of our good lady bugs, but they feed almost exclusively on true lily (Lilium spp.) foliage. Accidentally introduced into North America through Montreal, Quebec in 1943 and discovered in Massachusetts during the summer of 1992, the red lily beetle can be found in all six New England states, New York, and in Bellevue (!).

Adult beetles overwinter in the soil or in plant debris and begin laying their eggs early in spring. The adults are easy to see, but they are fast, and their hard coating makes them difficult to squash. If they sense movement, they immediately drop to the ground on their backs and quickly vanish into the soil. Their larvae cause the most damage and are the most difficult to control. They are soft and slug-like, and to protect themselves, they carry their disgusting excrement on their backs.

The adults can be controlled by checking plants daily while carrying a small bowl of soapy water. Carefully hold the bowl under the leaf with the beetle. When you barely move the leaf, they will drop down into the water (Ha!). You will need to look under leaves to find the larvae. It is easiest to snap off the whole leaf and drop it into your bowl.

The University of Rhode Island Biological Control Laboratory, in collaboration with CABI-Bioscience and colleagues in France, have identified several European insects that parasitize the larvae, which subsequently hatch and kill their host. These insects have been released at research sites in all New England states and have been effective at decreasing the lily leaf beetle populations for several miles in the surrounding areas. These controls are not yet available for gardeners, but hopefully, help is on the way!

Neem Oil, a botanical insecticide made from the neem tree, kills larvae and repels adults if used every five to seven days early in the season. Because of the larvae’s “fecal shield,” coverage must be heavy and complete.

Controlling red lily beetles is frustrating, but it’s not hard.

More About Lilies

According to Greek mythology, the lily stands for motherhood and rebirth because it is believed that the lily was formed or created from the milk of Hera, wife of Zeus. The name, Lilium, is the Latin word used by Theophrastus for Madonna lily. There are one hundred or more species in this genus.

Lilies are best grown in moist, well-draining, organically rich soil in full sun to part shade. The bulbs will rot if the
ground is too wet, but they require consistent moisture. Most lilies are hardy from Zones 3 to 8. As with other flowering bulbs, the foliage will slowly die after flowering. Do not cut it back until it turns yellow.

While many lilies reappear every spring, some do not for a variety of reasons. Here are some of my best performers:

*Lilium martagon*, known as martagon lily or Turk’s cap lily. The common name, “Turk’s cap lily,” refers to the reflexed sepals and petals of the flowers which are said to resemble a “Turk’s cap.” They are one of the first lilies of the season to bloom and have a lovely fragrance. The bulbs may not bloom their first year in the ground, and they should not be moved once established. The cultivar, ‘Claude Shride’, has bountiful, elegant red to mahogany blossoms with tiny orange spots. ‘Sunny Morning’ is very floriferous with golden orange flowers liberally sprinkled with tiny burgundy dots. Both grow vertically two to three feet tall.

Asiatic lilies were once called *Lilium asiatica*, but now are referred to as *Lilium* sp. “Asiatic Hybrids.” They have upward facing flowers similar in size to Oriental lilies, bloom earlier, and come in a vast array of beautiful colors and patterns. Growing two to four feet tall, Asiatic Hybrids are derived from crosses of over fifteen different species. Because most have no fragrance, with my limited garden space, I prefer the fragrant hybrids.

Oriental lilies, like the Asiatics, are the result of crossing numerous species. They are the last to bloom and are the most flamboyant in the “World of Lilies.” They can grow up to six feet tall and have immense outward facing or pendant flowers in shades of gold, white, pink, and red and have intense fragrances. Orienpet lilies are a breakthrough in lily breeding and combine the best characteristics of Oriental and Trumpet lilies. Lily bulbs are best planted at a depth of two and a half times the height of the bulb.

Two of the most famous and reliable Oriental Lilies are ‘Casa Blanca’ and ‘Stargazer’. Favorite Orienpet Lilies include ‘Conca d’Or’, ‘Corcovado’, ‘Anastasia’, ‘Pretty Woman’, and ‘Scheherazade’. But these only scratch the surface. Many more hybrids and species are magnificent.


One simply cannot have too many!
Simple, yet spherical succession. Tufted domes of geometric greenery stamp the earth in perfect harmony. Such fashion is revealed in this month’s featured plant—*Pittosporum tenuifolium*—as it dramatically dots urban to informal garden schemes.

This dwarf variety reigns with glossy leaves and seasonal winter interest. From its versatility to decades-long vitality, *P. tenuifolium* is an ideal garden accent. Potted patio plants and crisp walkways are only a snapshot of the upsides to this ‘Golf ball’ cultivar.

This mint evergreen prefers sun and well-defined soil. A hardy plant with compact growth, a realm of sweet flowers emerges from May to June. Propagated by highly planted cuttings, it is best to give the base of *P. tenuifolium* space from the soil. Be sure to avoid planting in areas where standing water accumulates. The specimen may reach a height and spread of four feet by four feet when mature.

Given its mounded, bushy habit, *Pittosporum* are often used *en masse* for low foundational hedges or borders in a variety of garden settings. They may even be planted as a screen or in containers for interest. To maintain the thick multi-stems, corded shears may be needed.

Ideal companions include but are not limited to grasses, Asiatic lilies (*Lilium*), rock roses (*Helianthemum*), and palms (*Cordyline*). Ornamental partners paired for effect are shrubs such as *Choisya* or *Physocarpus*.

*Pittosporum tenuifolium* may be found in the BBG’s Rock Garden, Rill Plaza, Perennial Border, and Yao Garden. Moreover, other specimens at the BBG include *P. colensoi, P. eugenoides, P. Illiciodes var. angustifolium*, and *P. tobira*. Come and visit these incredible plants today!

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The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is pleased to welcome Joe Abken as our new Society Manager! Joe started his new position on June 1. Please join us in welcoming him to our team and to the Garden!

Joe comes to us from Kruckeberg Botanic Garden in Shoreline, where he served as Executive Director for five years. Prior to that, Joe was General Manager at Sky Nursery in Shoreline for ten years.

“I’m excited to join the BBGS Team!” says Joe. “I look forward to getting to know this community and working with you to grow the Garden. Thank you for this opportunity to serve in this capacity and for the generous welcome I have received.”

Courtney Voorhees, our departing Society Manager, left the Garden on June 30. We thank Courtney for her many contributions to the Society and the Garden, and wish her and her family the best on their next adventure moving to Hailey, Idaho.

You will hear more about Joe in the next issue of *The Buzz*.
I love the look of bamboo, but I don’t want to deal with its tendency to take over. Is it true that clumping bamboo doesn’t run? Are there some attractive ones you recommend?

It goes without saying that clumping bamboos are definitely better behaved and lower maintenance than running bamboos, which require expensive barriers and constant vigilance to keep them in bounds. I wouldn’t, however, say that they are low maintenance. The problem is that clumping bamboos are like people: As they get older, they tend to get wider. Clumping bamboos don’t run, but they do creep. Every spring, underground rhizomes extend the clump six inches to a foot in every direction. The slow expansion is no problem if you have a large garden with plenty of room for an ever-widening clump. In a small, crowded garden like mine, however, having bamboo shoots come up in the middle of highly valued neighboring plants can be a real headache. Even worse, I made the mistake of planting a clump too close to the property line, and culms started to show up in my neighbor’s garden.

After several failed attempts using a shovel to cut through the offending rhizomes, I realized that the only way I could keep the clump a manageable size was to buy a special ‘bamboo spade’ (available online). I paid more for shipping than the price of the tool, but this one-of-a-kind forty-pound spade comes equipped with a hand-operated pile driver that allows you to cut through unwanted rhizomes. Even with this specialized tool, it requires a lot of effort. Every spring I work my way around the plant to slice through the wayward roots to prevent the size of the clump from enlarging. Other than the fact that I’m so sore I can barely move for three days, the bamboo spade really does a great job of allowing me to keep the size of my clumping bamboo within bounds.

Having said that, if you have the room to let them grow, or want to stay in great shape by using a bamboo spade once a year, clumping bamboos can be a wonderful addition to the garden. Many sport attractive culms and feature finely cut leaves that add a tropical flair to the garden. Since they’re evergreen and come in a variety of sizes and shapes, they work equally well planted as a specimen or as a privacy hedge.

One of the most attractive clumping bamboos is *Chusquea culeou*. This Chilean native reaches anywhere from twelve to twenty feet tall and features colorful bluish culms adorned with white leaf sheaths, and it’s one of the few bamboos that can withstand full-sun. Another spectacular clumping bamboo is *Fargesia murielae* (umbrella bamboo). As is true of all fargesias, this bamboo prefers light shade. It can reach twelve feet tall, but culms bend down from the top, creating a striking umbrella form. Another spectacular clumper is *Fargesia nitida* (blue fountain bamboo). It’s a beauty with showy, purple-striped corms, contrasted with powdery white nodes. In my opinion, the queen of the fargesias is *F scabrida*. This ‘oh, la, la’-inspiring bamboo features bright orange sheaths among steely blue and purple culms. The leaves are long and narrow, giving the plant a uniquely tropical aspect. I don’t have an *F scabrida*. Only a fool or a madman would make even more work for themselves by adding yet another clumping bamboo into a small garden like mine. Something tells me I’d better keep eating my brussels sprouts. I just saw them unloading some gorgeous specimens at my local nursery!
Anyone who enjoys eating, especially those who pursue a plant-based diet as I have for forty-nine years, owes heaps of gratitude to those who produce and harvest the vegetative bounty that graces our plates. Rarely, however, do we consider the debt we owe to those who sailed the seven seas in search of new, nourishing material for our farmers to grow. In this regard, no one is due more recognition than David Fairchild (1869-1954), who devoted his life to enriching our country’s kitchens and gardens.

Before we consider the culinary, let’s acknowledge Fairchild’s contributions to horticulture. He was instrumental in arranging Japan’s donation of more than three thousand flowering cherry trees that now grace our nation’s capital. (There’s a local connection here: The trees were shipped from Tokyo to Seattle, where they were transferred to special rail cars for shipment to the “Other Washington.”) His name also graces Miami’s fabulous, eighty-three-acre Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Associated with the US Department of Agriculture from age twenty until his death sixty-five years later, Fairchild began his career as plant pathologist; within a few years he was called to head the USDA’s new Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction. In this capacity he traveled to more than fifty countries on five continents, gathering goodies along the way.

Either collected personally by him, or later by designees on ventures he organized, expeditions resulted in the introduction of new or improved varieties of a host of fruits: watermelon, avocado, seedless grape, pomegranate, pineapple, date, nectarine, peach, papaya, mango, mangosteen and Meyer lemon; vegetables, seeds and grains: kale, soybean, hopvine, alfalfa, pistachio; and other essential botanicals such as Egyptian cotton and bamboo.

By far the most significant of his protégés was a Dutch immigrant, Frank Meyer (of Meyer lemon fame), whom he sent on four forays to East Asia. In a letter of encouragement sent to Meyer in China, Fairchild succinctly summed up his philosophy, “We have only one life to live and we want to spend it enriching our own country with the plants of the world which produce good things to eat and to look at.”

To learn more about Fairchild, grab a copy of Daniel Stone’s book The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats (New York: Dutton, 2018). Among Stone’s keen comments is this: Fairchild lamented that “people wouldn’t eat something new just because someone suggested it. Food introduction required cajoling and persuading, and a generous helping of luck.” Sometimes Fairchild was unsuccessful: One of his great disappointments was that his favorite fruit, the mangosteen, never caught on with growers or the American public.

Equally engaging is Fairchild’s autobiography, The World Was My Garden: Travels of a Plant Explorer (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1938). Seattle Public Library and the UW’s Miller Library have copies. I was hooked from the outset by Fairchild’s schoolboy observation that “Anyone who has never looked into the heart of a flower has not fully lived.”

A fitting finale is Fairchild’s eulogy of Frank Meyer, who drowned in 1918 while on assignment for the USDA: “Meyer’s work is done. Whether his body rests beside the great river of China, or under some of the trees he loved and brought to this country, will matter little to him. He will know that throughout his adopted land there will always be his plants, hundreds of them—on mountainsides, in valleys, in fields, in the backyards and orchards of little cottages, on street corners, and in the arboreta of lovers of plants. And wherever they are they will all be his.” Thanks to him, they are ours, too.
Gardeners are accustomed to starting over; it happens every spring. Without this predictable, regular arrival of fresh beginnings and renewal, there could be no gardens or gardeners. So, you would think that, of all people, gardeners would take setbacks in stride, responding with a vigorous can-do attitude to any vicissitude.

Alas, this is not always the case. I am ashamed to admit that my husband, Mike, and I recently lapsed into despair when a large section of our own back garden took an unexpected beating. It happened in late February. Just as we were looking forward to seeing if all our extra fall efforts to prune, compost and mulch would pay off, our aged wood fence collapsed. At first, we were philosophical and calm. “Well,” we told one another, “It was rotting and wobbly and truly needed replacing anyway. And thank goodness many plants have yet to come up, so if we had to build a new fence, this is the ideal time.”

We got right to work, found a fencing company, selected a design, and waited for the process to begin. When the team arrived to tear out the old fence and build the new one, we fussed over our plants like helicopter parents hovering anxiously. “Please do your best to spare the plants,” we pleaded nervously. “Please don’t stand on those tiny little curls of Adiantum venustum; you can hardly see them right there, see? See? And over there…” We were pitiful.

By the time the crew was digging deep holes to set the fence posts in concrete, despair was oozing in through the cracks widening in our on-with-the-show bravado. There seemed to be no stopping it. With every posthole, another mound of heavy clay, sand and rock subsoil covered more plants. “What else could we have done to save them?” we whispered hoarsely.

Now, the plain fact of the matter is that fencing, like many other big outdoor tasks, is hard, heavy work, especially in the close spaces of a tightly planted garden. Although it was nerve-wracking to watch, it was clearly time for the gardeners to toughen up.

At last, the project was finished. The tired fence builders were gone, and all was quiet when Mike and I walked out to survey the new fence and what remained of the perennials and shrubs we had been tending in the decades prior. The fence looked great, but the garden was another matter. Although it was getting dark, we grabbed buckets, hand trowels and headlamps and set out to look for plant survivors in the rocks and rubble. Every little rescue was a cause for celebration.

About three months have passed since this backyard drama played out. In the end, we were the ones who had lessons to relearn about the work and trust the verb “to garden” really entails. For starters, more old plants are slowly pushing their way out into the light again than we had thought was possible. “It is a miracle to see a tiny maidenhair fern with a stem like a thin black thread push up through several inches of hard-packed clay,” Mike says with awe and appreciation. “We should be so resilient.”

The loss of some plants also gave us the opportunity to buy new ones (always a pleasure) and to address a few garden design problems. All this has made watching the garden come back to life this spring especially wonderful to see. The spirits of the gardeners, like the garden itself, appear to be benefiting from our unexpected “renovative pruning,” and we are grateful for the gift.
In nature, color is a sophisticated tool to capture the attention of all living creatures, a vital component of pollination, ripening, and other biological processes that are fundamental to life. Yet, from a human perspective, color is often treated as simply surface décor—an afterthought or, at best, a slightly indulgent finishing touch. Still, as in the case of a bowlful of berries that have been sugared to draw out deeply flavorful juices and topped with a dollop of cream, we know that sometimes a finishing touch can be transformational.

Along with pollinators searching for pollen and nectar and hungry animals foraging for ripe fruit, we humans are under the spell of color. Color is seductive.

According to physics—the branch of science that deals with properties of matter and energy—color is light and vitality. Color needs light to activate its energy. Yet light is fluid, constantly changing by the hour, from season to season, and even where you are in the world. This makes color slippery, an ever-changing almost sentient presence in the landscape.

As gardeners, we can use color and place plants to manipulate space, harness time, and leverage light to spectacular effect. Pastels, those colors that are infused with light or tempered by white, appear to advance in the landscape and may be used to illuminate shady corners. Placed at intervals throughout a border, these bright spots create an inviting rhythm that visually draws us through the space.

As dusk falls, color transitions to contrast. Shimmering white and light-colored blooms pick up the echo of the sun’s light as it bounces off the surface of the moon, an accessible bit of botanical wizardry that animates the night garden. Darker, less reflective shades—such as deep red, plum, or dark blue—recede into shadows and vanish as the day’s light gives out.

I began using watercolor to record the colors in my garden shortly after the death of my father in early 2018 as a simple distraction, a daily opportunity to quiet my thoughts and focus. There’s a delightful feedback loop to identifying color. The more we look, the more we see. The more we distinguish, the greater our ability to discern further detail. It’s as if the generosity of our attention enlarges our perception.

Focusing our attention opens a portal to particulars. Noticing reveals once-invisible now clearly evident details hiding in plain sight. Four years into my color study practice, I find I look more expansively at the world around me. It sounds dangerously like admitting that I “hear voices,” but authentically, I see more than I used to.

From the Afterword to Color In and Out of the Garden:

“A garden makes room for our human impulse to organize while also offering us a means to comprehend wildness. It is a humble practice fraught with snails, failure, and loss, that also holds the promise of transcendent moments of exquisite beauty. Tending our gardens helps us to make sense of nature and find our role in ongoing creation.

“My garden is a beautiful distraction that taught me how to cultivate a daily practice. Along with joyous highs and days of celebration, these past several years have held plenty of hard, noisy, and broken parts. To do something—anything really—on a daily basis is to court tedium. Sometimes, all I can do is ride out the doldrums and watch for the next lifting wave of wonder and awe. It always, always arrives. My practice is the walk between this day and that.

“I guess what I’m saying is pay attention to your life, including the uncelebrated, the overlooked, and the weedy parts. Look with heart and compassion, embrace the broken and the beautiful. Then share what you see with others. Our world needs your perspective.”

Lorene Edwards Forkner is an artist as well as a writer who gardens and a gardener who writes whose work centers on exploring the wonders of the natural world. She is the author of the newly released Color In and Out of the Garden: Watercolor practices for painters, gardeners, and nature lovers (Abrams Books, 2022), pictured at left. Her book is available in The Trillium Store.

Our sincere thanks to Lorene Edwards Forkner for contributing this article to The Buzz. Lorene will be speaking at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 on “Cultivating Color.” Tickets will be available in August 2022.
My adventures with houseplants began in my sophomore year of college. I grew up in a family passionate about botany and horticulture, but my involvement in gardening was always outdoors. So, when I announced to my college roommates that I was thinking of growing vegetables inside, their incredulous looks matched my own apprehension. Nonetheless, I proceeded with the task in our north-facing apartment and ended up with some spindly leafy greens and carrots that were so skinny they could have broken a record. Thus ended my experiment. Over the following years, my efforts to bring plants inside tended to end similarly, until the only plant left was a spindly *Aloe barbadensis* still clinging to life.

Fast forward to early this year. I walked into my new office and there waiting for me—you guessed it—were two houseplants: *Coffea arabica* and *Microsorum puntatum*! They looked like a couple of teenagers plotting how to push my buttons over the coming months. Challenge accepted. I decided to step up my game, do some research, buy another houseplant for my home (a *Schlumbergera* or Christmas cactus) and turn my numb thumb into a green one.

There are several benefits of keeping houseplants, aside from the aesthetic ones. They can be useful. Take my *Aloe arbadensis*, commonly known as true aloe vera, as an example. It’s not just a nice centerpiece. It’s also a living first aid kit to help soothe those pesky kitchen burns. In addition, seasonal in-home gardening allows gardeners to grow plants that require a warmer growing zone and can turn some tender 8b annuals into perennials. Starting a garden inside your home also makes for a healthier living environment. Houseplants are known to boost your mental health. Being surrounded by greenery leads to lower levels of the stress hormone, cortisol.

There are physical benefits too. Houseplants increase oxygen indoors and reduce airborne toxins such as trichlorethylene, formaldehyde, benzene, xylene, and ammonia. With wildfire season just around the corner, those benefits are worth considering. Thankfully, our friends at NASA have published extensive studies about the best plants for cleaning and oxygenating indoor air. My favorite on the list is *Sansevieria trifasciata* ‘Laurentii’, or the variegated snake plant (pictured above). It has minimal light requirements, so it can survive in most areas of the home. Snake plant can be a highly invasive weed in zones 9 to 11, which makes it very forgiving when grown indoors, and that’s good news for those of us who have a knack for sending houseplants to an early grave.

My research taught me that houseplants are worth the effort to learn to care for, and I discovered the root causes contributing to my in-home plant massacre: moldy soil, poor light conditions, and shock.

Whenever I tried to grow a houseplant, I ended up with soil mold. At first, I assumed this was due to overwatering, but correcting the watering schedule did not fix the issue. As it turns out, mold in the soil is most often caused by poor light or lack of airflow. Unlike outdoors where my green thumb shines, inside where the wind doesn’t blow, there is limited airflow to help excess moisture evaporate on the soil surface. The solution? Bottom watering! You can buy special containers for this, or simply fill a basin with water, submerge the pot a couple of inches, and allow the soil to wick up the water it needs. This also helps keep the foliage dry and can be beneficial for root-bound plants.

A lack of light is also a challenge. I could purchase grow lights, but this is an expensive solution that is also not very environmentally friendly. A good alternative is to take houseplants outside in the summer when the climate meets the plant’s needs. A few months of better light and more natural growing conditions will allow a NW houseplant to gather strength in preparation for another season of overcast, low-light conditions inside.

Lastly, it’s important to understand that outdoor plants experience shock when they are moved to an indoor setting. Those spider plants and Christmas cactus cuttings I brought back from the Caribbean were used to eighty-five-degree heat and bright indirect light, and I brought them into a dim enclosed porch that was sixty-seven degrees. When purchasing new plants or propagating from cuttings, try to find specimens that thrive in conditions that most closely match your home environment.

Hopefully these epiphanies will help me keep my two new office mates happy and healthy. If you’d like to see how they’re faring, become a volunteer at the Bellevue Botanical Garden and stop by my office!
Volunteer Nicole Price is something of a legend around the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Not only is she a superstar who has spent many hours working in the Garden, she is also a talented contributor to the Society’s educational mission.

Gardening and landscaping have been long-time passions for Nicole. A Western Washington native, Nicole grew up in Bothell and earned a BS degree in Landscape Architecture from WSU. After college, she worked at Nakano Associates in Seattle for many years. “When the economy tanked in 2011, I decided to start my own landscape design firm,” she says. Nicole owned her firm for eight years, but grew weary of doing everything herself. She closed her business and decided to take time off from working.

That’s where the Bellevue Botanical Garden came in. In 2017, Nicole joined the BBG volunteer corps and began working in the Garden with the grounds crew. “I started in the parking lot gardens pulling weeds, and then graduated to the Perennial Border and Urban Meadow,” she says. “It was great for me to be working with plants again and learning about plants from a different perspective.” After a while, she even began supervising corporate volunteer groups that worked in the Garden.

She says she has met many amazing people. “The great thing about plant people is that we all come at it from different places, and we all have something to teach and something to learn. I learned a lot from BBG staff and other volunteers.” Nicole has been especially inspired by Kit Haesloop, Alison Johnson, and Cheryl van Blom of the NW Perennial Alliance, all of whom, she says, “are incredibly skilled and knowledgeable.”

To round out her list of accolades, Nicole also enjoys working with the BBG grounds crew, and in particular, Scott Lewis. “Scott is great at working with volunteers,” she says. “He gives clear directions, shares information readily, and is easy to work with.”

Nicole’s dedication and talent did not go unnoticed, and she was invited to join two key committees: Education and Garden Development, where she could have an even greater impact. Says BBGS board member and fellow volunteer, Tracy Botsford, who chairs the Garden Development Committee and worked with Nicole to select the new containers at the BBG entrance, “Nicole was instrumental in designing the layout and selecting the planters for the entryway. She was very thorough and persistent in finding the best options. She always brings a great attitude and willingness to help.”

When Nicole is not volunteering, she is spending time with her husband, Eliot, and their two children, Ann and Theo, at their Newport Hills home. She also recently began working part-time at Darwin Webb Landscape Architects in Issaquah. “Volunteering fits with my schedule,” Nicole says. “I can choose how much I want to volunteer.”

For Nicole, volunteering at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is a labor of love and she is honored to support this community jewel. “Whatever you’re looking for, the Garden has a place for you,” she says. “There are immaculate perennial beds, acres of natural areas, the Urban Meadow, Tateuchi Pavilion, the Waterwise Garden. There truly is something for everyone.”

Volunteer Spotlight: Nicole Price  
By Darcy McInnis

Become a BBG volunteer and join hundreds of volunteers who provide over 20,000 hours each year supporting the Garden! For more information, visit our website at bellevuebotanical.org/volunteer, or contact Colin Wick at cwick@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6826.
We’re bombarded with articles and podcasts saying, “How to Plan a No Maintenance Garden” and “No Maintenance Ideas for a Front Yard.” They are missing the point! “No Maintenance” equals “No Connection.” An article in *The American Gardener* magazine says, “The rewards between garden and gardener are ten-fold. Nurtured carefully, the relationship that develops invites intimacy…and creates contentment through process, not result.”

Here are some tips to help you connect with your garden this summer:

- Water Water Water—especially your container plants. They may have become so dry that the surface of the soil is too crusty and hard for the water to penetrate. If that happens, stand pots in a shallow container of water for a few hours. The water will wick up into the pot and thoroughly saturate the soil.
- Weekly, if not daily, deadhead roses, dahlias, sweet peas and any other plants that have spent blooms to tidy them and encourage them to produce more flowers rather than making seeds. Deadheading is one of my favorite garden tasks because it’s instant gratification!
- If needed, prune spring flowering shrubs: *Deutsia*, *Forsythia*, *Philadelphus* (Mock Orange), and *Syringa* (Lilac). Always take out “the three D’s”: Dead, Diseased, and Damaged branches.
- Cut spent delphiniums to the base when they finish blooming for a possible second flush of flowers.
- Divide large clumps of perennials by digging out the entire clump and slicing through the roots. By doing it now, the smaller portions will have time to get established before frost.

- Cut back lavender, but don’t cut into the old wood.
- Plant lettuce seeds or starts in mid-August in prepared ground for a second crop. Remember to keep them well-watered. There’s nothing like picking lettuce for your “freshest of fresh” salads.
- In the early morning or late evening, walk around your garden taking pictures. When you see plants and flowers through the lens of a camera, you will see things you never noticed before.
- You have probably been receiving advertisements for spring blooming bulbs from mail-order catalogs or seen them on the internet. For the best selections, order now. Two excellent sources are johnscheepers.com and brentandbeckysbulbs.com. For the PNW, request a delivery time of mid-October. Exciting!

Join us every Thursday at 1 pm on the BBGS Facebook page for Plant of the Week with Ciscoe Morris and Nita-Jo Rountree, as these two plant experts tell you about their Plant of the Week!

Like our page at facebook.com/bellevuebotanic so you are notified of our broadcast! You can also access all past videos via our website at bellevuebotanical.org/plant-of-the-week.
Pre-registration is required for all webinars and in-person classes. Register at bellevuebotanical.org/learn. Prices vary; see our website for pricing information. Webinars are recorded and you will receive the recording the next business day.

Crazy for Nature Photography, July 7, 9, & 14, 6:00-7:30pm, online and in-person. Taught by Ray Pfortner. Do you love nature? Do you want to learn how to capture it through your camera? Then this workshop is for you! This 3-part photography class will focus on the time-tested principles of composition, when to apply them, and even when not to.

Flower Hour Summer Sampler Series, July 14, August 11, September 8, 5:00-6:00pm. In-person. Welcome to “Flower Hour”—the Bellevue Botanical Garden Summer Sampler Series. Join us after work to connect with the outdoors in a relaxing setting and find out what makes the Garden special.
- July 14, Native Discovery Garden & Yao Garden
- August 11, A Tour of Art in the BBG
- September 8, Perennial Border

Herbs: Easy to Grow, Easy to Use, July 16, 10:00am-12:00pm. In-person. Culinary and medicinal herbs are easy to grow in your backyard. In this class we will cover common garden herbs that are simple to grow almost anywhere—even in container gardens. We’ll also discuss some fun herbal products and how to incorporate them into your meals.

Children’s Workshop: Moths Among Us, July 17 at 1:00-3:00pm. In-Person. Come and celebrate National Moth Week! We will have moth related activities, a craft project and a tour of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Suitable for 3-7 years olds.

Moths: Welcome to the Night, July 21, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Webinar. David Droppers will introduce you to moths, and get you excited for National Moth Week. What exactly do moths do in the environment? How are they beneficial to us? Can you make a moth garden? We will answer all this and more!

Plein Air Painting: Mixed Media Floral Still Life, July 23, 10:30am-2:30pm. In-person. Get artistic in the beautiful setting of the Bellevue Botanical Garden with artist Rohini Mathur. You will create a colorful Mixed Media Floral Still painting using different art mediums such as watercolor, acrylics, inks, and markers along with techniques in mark making, mixed media layering, and paper collage. All supplies included.

Hypertufa! August 3, 1:00-3:00pm. In-Person. In this hands-on class, you will learn the basics of creating hypertufa planters. These lightweight rustic planters are a great addition to any garden or patio. You will make two small/medium containers and go home with directions, care instructions and creative ideas to further your knowledge.

Art for the Garden: Charms, August 10, Session 1: 12:30-1:30pm; Session 2 - 2:00-3:00pm. In-Person. Garden charms are fun and easy to make. Learn how to create unique ornaments for yourself or for friends. You can make up to six charms in this class. All materials provided.

Designing the Compelling Photograph, August 11, 13, and 18, 6:00-7:30pm, online and in-person. Taught by Ray Pfortner. A three-part photography class focusing on exploring the time-tested principles of composition, when to apply them, and even when not to.

Art for the Garden: Garden Totems, August 17, 1:00-3:00pm. In-Person. Add a pop of color to your garden with your personal touch! Paint your own colorful totem to place in your yard or garden (an example is pictured above). We will go over tips for painting outdoor art and review best practices for working with materials in an environmental manner. All materials provided.

Mindfulness in the Garden: Awakening to Autumn, September 7, 10:30am-12:00pm. In-Person. Taught by Deborah Wilk and Jessica Hancock. Focus on opening your senses and fully awakening to the combined healing power of nature and present awareness. Utilizing elements of Mindfulness Meditation and Shinrin-Yoku (Japanese Forest Bathing), we will restore mind, body and spirit.

Perennial Vegetables and Hardy Herbs, September 15, 7:00-8:00pm. Webinar. Taught by Bill Thorness. Are you tired of fussing over tender edibles that need pampering to provide you food? Then you’re ready to explore the lower-maintenance world of perennial vegetables and hardy herbs. Learn about the perennial crops that are simply grown, and tips about proper planting, care and use.

Register for these educational programs at bellevuebotanical.org/learn.
Our annual symposium gets better every year, and this year’s may be the best yet! Because of the pandemic, the first two were necessarily converted to webinars, but this year, it appears that the symposium will be held live and in-person in the Aaron Education Center! The ticket price includes sandwiches donated by Great Harvest Bread Company.

The four outstanding speakers will be:

**Carol Reese**—a recently retired Extension Horticulture Specialist based at West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center. Carol is a popular writer and speaker, mixing humor with solid gardening information. In a recent interview with *Horticulture* magazine, when asked about her horticultural education, she said, “I came back to school in my mid-thirties. I had saved just enough brain cells from my partying years to ace the plant courses...because I was fascinated with all things plant.” Her lecture, “Native Plants: Facts and Fallacies,” will separate fact from fiction about whether native plants are more likely to succeed, and if they are always a better choice for supporting insects.

**Dan Hinkley**—The name says it all, but for those of you who are new to gardening, you may not be familiar with the iconic Dan Hinkley. He is known and revered around the world as a plant explorer, author, and speaker. With his partner, Robert Jones, he established the world renowned Heronswood Nursery (Now Heronswood Garden) as well as famed Windcliff. Dan has won a vast number of prestigious horticultural awards too numerous to name. His latest book, *Windcliff: a Story of People, Plants, and Gardens*, will be available for purchase at the symposium, and Dan will even sign your book! His presentation, “Twenty-Five Plants (but who’s counting?) I’m Glad I’ve Had,” will showcase plants that span the seasons in the Pacific Northwest.

**Wambui Ippolito**—Wambui was the 2021 Best in Show award winner at the Philadelphia Flower Show, the largest show of its kind in North America. Born in Kenya, East Africa, she was influenced by her mother’s garden in Nairobi, her grandmother’s farm in the countryside, and the natural landscapes of East Africa. A graduate of the New York Botanical Garden’s School of Horticulture, *Veranda* magazine named her one of “Eleven Revolutionary Female Landscape Designers” and she is a much-in-demand speaker. The title of her lecture is “Immigrant Landscapes; Following Immigrant Footprints through the American Landscape.”

**Andy Sturgeon**—Andy is one of the United Kingdom’s leading garden designers. Inspired by art and architecture, his work explores the relationship between plants and structure and the wider landscape. Andy is the winner of eight RHS Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show, and three times “Best in Show.” In both England’s *Sunday Times* and *Garden* magazine, he is placed in the Top Ten list of landscape designers in Britain, and he has received recent accolades including Gold Awards from Singapore, South Korea, and Philadelphia. Andy lectures around the world and is a published author, broadcaster, and active commentator in the international garden design sector.

**Annual BBGS/Heronswood Symposium**
Saturday, Sept. 17, 9am-3pm | Bellevue Botanical Garden

BBGS & Heronswood Members: $95/Non-members $115 (by Sep 1)
BBGS & Heronswood Members: $105/Non-members $125 (after Sep 1)

Visit our website for registration information: 
[bellevuebotanical.org/lectures](http://bellevuebotanical.org/lectures)

Thanks to Great Harvest Bread Company!
Welcome New Members!*

**Contributing**
Janet & John Wick

**Supporting**
Susan & Peter McClung
Susan & Jerry Posten
Jill & James Whitaker
Colin Wick

**Dual/Family**
Debora Akers
Julie Baima
Cat DeLeonardis
Alexandra Epinosa
Erika & Kyler Farr
Charlene & Tim Forslund
Sarah Golden
Lynn A. Hales
Phuong Huynh & Alex Ho
Gavin Howell
Laura Taft & Candace Janda
James Killingbeck
Naomi & Alex Lawrence

Elaine Loiselle
Leeda Croasmun & Brandon Long
Jamie & Christopher Lotta
Yuie Higashi & Jerry Nick
Lounsbery
Alex Wojcik & Greg Magram
Nicole JeNaye & Corey Malmer
Peg Blanchard & Keith Maw
Regina Sin Lam & Kenneth Mui
Lisa & Robert Nash
Szu-Chieh Kuo & Nhan Nguyen
Kalpana Patankar
Christina Petty
Elizabeth Polnerow
Valeri Probert-Baker
Alex Rackoff
Sharon & David Remagen
Kate Rennem
Carolyne Pinkston & Beau Richards
Kathryn Ries
Avi Robinson-Mosher
Whaley Sharp
Jolene Stevens
Rozanne Stevens
Helen Chang & Lennart Tan
Sue Taylor
Erin Thompson
Anne Tuttle
Polly Widen
Katherine Iritani & Barry Wong
Qiu Yue Yang & Mingbo Zhao

**Individual**
Gaylen Akira
Kathleen Badiozamani
Marvin Bame
Paige Behrbaum
Constance S. Berkowitz
Alicia Williams
Blansfield
Christie Bonner
Greta Bornemann
Delora Buckman
Kate Butt
Kathleen Carlson
Juliette Dahl
Marissa Dallaire
Michelle Daniels
Lauren Datz
Kathy Flugstad
Suzy Fox
Linda Fuller-Ward
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Laura Hauser
Lindsey Hoffman
Valerie Huang
Janet Huguenin
Tona Hung
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Kristine Schaffner
Lora Schuld
Sandy Sedgley
Shirley Sing
Mary Beth Smith
Carrie Stengel
Margaret Stine
Shauna Temple

Soren Thomas
Machiko Wada
Brittany Ward
Cathy Watt
Mary Watts
Brian Weiss
Lilian D. Wilcox

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Save the Date! Virtual BBGS Annual Meeting

Save the Date for the virtual 2022 BBGS Annual Meeting and Trillium Celebration, which is a free event for all BBGS members.

The event will take place on Tuesday, August 2 at 7pm. To accommodate our ever-growing membership, the meeting will be held as a Zoom webinar.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for BBGS members to hear an update from board and staff leadership, learn more about what is planned for the coming year, take part in a vote for our new board members, and find out who will win our annual Trillium Awards. This is a fun and informative evening for all. We hope you will join us!

Look for your invitation, arriving in July!

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Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

*February 16 through May 15, 2022.*
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. 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 Robin Root James

DIRECTORS
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SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR CISCOE MORRIS
askciscoe@bellevuebotanical.org

CONTACT THE BUZZ TEAM
buzzteam@bellevuebotanical.org

What’s New!

Visit the Trillium Store for unique gifts inspired by our beautiful Garden. Whether shopping for yourself or for friends and loved ones, you are sure to find fabulous gifts while enjoying a tranquil shopping experience!

Featured Products
Charming little stoneware plates each feature a different vase with flowers.

They are ideal for olive oil or as a salt dish and may also be used as a dainty jewelry holder. Each trinket dish varies in colors and patterns and are microwave and dishwasher safe, 3” x 4”, $8.

Delicate floral images of multiple colors decorate the sides of these stoneware footed bowls. Perfect for adding a special touch to decor, or they may be used as a small bowl for an eight-ounce serving of ice cream, soup, or fruit. Each piece has a unique pattern and they are microwave and dishwasher safe, $15.

Trillium Summer Hours

Tue-Sun 11am-3pm
Open 4th of July, 11am-3pm
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!

Crazy for Nature Photography, Jul 7, 9, & 14, 6-7:30 pm

Flower Hour Summer Sampler Series, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8, 5-6pm

Safer Cleaning, Jul 15, 12-1pm

Herbs: Easy to Grow, Easy to Use, Jul 16, 10am-12pm

Children’s Workshop: Moths Among Us, Jul 17, 1-3pm

Moths: Welcome to the Night (webinar), Jul 21, 7-8:30 pm

Plein Air Painting: Mixed Media Floral Still Life, Jul 23, 10:30 am-2:30 pm

BBGS Annual Meeting, Aug 2, 7pm. Look for your invitation in July!

Drawing Herd, Jul 27, 5-7pm; Jul 30, 10am-12pm; Aug 6, 10am-12pm

Super Sorter, Jul 29, 12-1pm

Hypertufa! Aug 3, 1-3 pm

Reduce Wasted Food, Aug 8, 12-1pm.

Art for the Garden: Charms Aug 10, Session1: 12:30-1:30pm; Session 2: 2-3 pm

Sustainable Shopping, Aug 15, 12-1pm

Garden Totems, Aug 17, 1-3 pm

Designing the Compelling Photograph, Aug 11, 13 & 18, 6-7:30pm

Arts in the Garden, Aug 26, 12-5pm; Aug 27 & 28, 10am-5pm

Third Annual BBGS/Heronwood Symposium, September 17, 9am-3pm.

Connect with Us!