



the **HPSO**
quarterly
SUMMER 2026

A PUBLICATION
OF THE HARDY
PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON

SUMMER 2026

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After Hours, Cornell Farm Nursery.



After Hours, Farmington Gardens.

photo by Kim Campbell



After Hours, Adelman Peony Gardens.

AFTER HOURS

FOR HPSO MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY

After a busy spring, HPSO's popular After Hours gatherings will continue into the summer and fall.

These well-attended evening events offer HPSO members and their guests exclusive, free-of-charge opportunities to visit independent retail nurseries, and wholesale businesses usually closed to the public, where they can buy plants (often at a discount), enjoy light snacks, and chat with each other and nursery owners. For host nurseries, After Hours is a chance to introduce or re-welcome avid gardeners (aka plant buyers) to their facilities. HPSO is delighted to provide its members with these win-win experiences.

By the end of this year, more than a dozen nurseries, from Salem, Oregon to Vancouver, Washington, will have opened their doors after regular business hours for HPSO's members. At least five more evenings are scheduled. Don't miss out.

July 8, 6:00-8:00 pm [Paradise Acres Garden Center](#)

24010 SE Hwy 212
Damascus, Oregon 97089

This is a family-owned, full retail garden center, offering a wide selection of locally grown shrubs, grasses, evergreens, deciduous trees, houseplants, annuals, and veggie starts, not to mention hard-scape and landscape supplies, including bulk materials like mulch, pavers, rock, and soil. And they deliver.

July 23, 6:00-8:00 pm [Portland Nursery on Stark](#)

5050 SE Stark Street
Portland, Oregon 97215

One of two Portland Nursery locations, the Stark Street shop offers a comprehensive and ever-changing collection of plants for homes and gardens—including Pacific Northwest natives, fruit trees, vines, grasses, and houseplants. Much of its inventory is grown in Washington and Oregon. Today's nursery is a descendant of a wholesale nursery opened in 1907.

August 8, 5:00-7:30 pm

[Sebright Gardens](#)

7185 Lakeside Drive NE
Salem Oregon 97305

This nursery specializes in shade-tolerant plants, including over 1,000 varieties of hostas, 150 fern varieties, and 135 varieties of epimediums, which are available on site or by mail order. Adjacent to its retail shopping area is a four-acre botanical display garden, including many mature hosta specimens and other perennials planted around rare shrubs and trees. The nursery is open from late March through October.

Mid-September Date To Be Announced [Yard 'n Garden Land](#)

1501 NE 102nd Street
Vancouver, Washington 98686

The largest retail nursery in Clark County, this family-owned business has been in operation since 1965. Located on five acres with a 10,000-square-foot garden store, it offers fruit, evergreen, and deciduous trees; shrubs, roses, perennials, berries, herbs, and vegetables; and indoor plants, pottery, tools, seeds, garden accessories, and more.

November Date To Be Announced. [Al's Garden & Home](#)

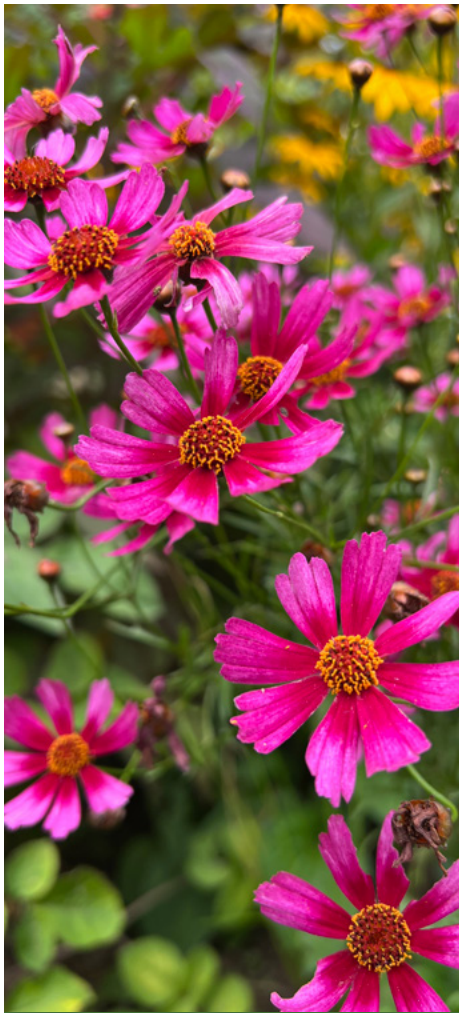
16920 SW Roy Rogers Road
Sherwood, Oregon 97140

This 10.5-acre, family-owned nursery and garden center features a retractable roof the size of a football field. It is stocked with an extensive selection of top-quality plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, and other garden supplies, along with a wide assortment of home décor items, gifts, garden accessories, and outdoor living products.

DON'T MISS HPSO's UPCOMING WORKSHOPS—See page 10.

Coreopsis rosea 'Heaven's Gate', seen in the background on the cover photo.

photo by Linda Wisner



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Recent news articles emphasize the dangers of relying on AI for, among other things, medical advice or legal analysis. AI has told people not to worry about it, when "it" turns out to be a serious, even fatal, ailment. Lawyers have been disciplined for filing papers filled with inaccurate and fictitious assertions. Even Sullivan and Cromwell, an elite New York City law firm, made headlines for submitting a court filing riddled with AI's fabricated case citations and misquoted authorities.

Given that AI is prone to generating serious errors or outright hallucinations, it made me wonder if relying on AI's responses to horticultural and gardening questions might be risky too.

The *Quarterly* encourages our copy editors and proofreaders to refer to websites to confirm the accuracy and spelling of Latin plant names. A trusted source for horticultural names is the Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot, which is said to be an authority used for North American plant names by the Royal Horticultural Society). If MoBot doesn't provide an answer, we try to refer to generally reliable local sources, such as Monrovia, Cistus Nursery, or Xera Plants.

But recently I've found myself simply accepting the "AI Overview" that Google presents at the top of its search results. It's so quick and easy to do, I'm sure I'm not alone. But not only might the overview be inaccurate, relying on it means that legitimate websites are getting fewer hits and their owners less revenue.

The consequences of using erroneous or misspelled Latin plant names supplied by AI are hardly as dire as receiving inaccurate medical advice or presenting fictitious case citations to court. But it did make me give myself a firm talking to. And I have made a commitment to try to take the extra step of checking with more reputable sources.

In any event, this issue offers excellent articles on a wide range of topics: garden design principles, a community-oriented local nursery, a long-time HPSO volunteer, food forestry projects, the beauty of camellias, the Oregon Camellia Society, ecology "laws" violated by home gardens, creating a dry garden, garden book reviews, gardening with chickens, a gardener's seasonal checklist, and growing raspberries for pollinators—and yourself.

Enjoy.

Eloise L. Morgan

photos by Linda Rectanus



The popular Camellia 'Donation' is a hybrid of *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica*.



Camellia sasanqua 'Egao Corkscrew' has contorted branches and a loose peony flower form.

Camellias

Color and Joy for Winter and Spring

text and photography by Linda Rectanus

During our dark and dreary winter, and the soggy spring days here in the Pacific Northwest, camellias offer up bountiful blooms in bright and cheerful colors. The spring bloomers remind us that our slumbering gardens will be awakening soon. Camellias are long-lived, low maintenance, broadleaf evergreen shrubs—worthy of a place in most of our gardens.

Originating in China, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea, these Pacific Rim plants are well adapted to our moderate climate and acid soils. They are common shrubs in home gardens and public spaces, with very old plants often seen providing profuse flowers. Most people would recognize a camellia but have no idea of the tremendous variety in bloom time, habit, flower form, and size of both flowers and shrubs.

There are more than 200 species and thousands of varieties. Unfortunately, only a fraction of them are widely grown and commercially available. Many are used for hybridizing to produce garden worthy shrubs. Flower forms include



Camellia japonica 'Elegans Splendor' is an example of an anemone flower form.

single, double, anemone, rose, and peony. They vary in size from miniature to very large. Colors are predominately pink, red, and white, with some yellows (usually more cream than true yellow); and there are many beautiful bicolor, striped, and blotched patterns.

The plants themselves tend to be large, though there are some dwarf varieties available. They are quite amenable to pruning for size, though, and some are excellent candidates for espalier. The preferred pruning is a more open form, as used in China and Japan, and described

as open enough for "a bird to fly through it." Unfortunately, too many are chopped into balls and lollipops—but even these deliver a great floral show. Maintaining camellia shrubs as hedges is another option. After flowering is finished, the glossy dark green foliage is a beautiful backdrop to other garden highlights. Foliage is seldom troubled by insects or disease.

By far the most common species is *Camellia japonica* and its hybrids. These are late winter and spring blooming and

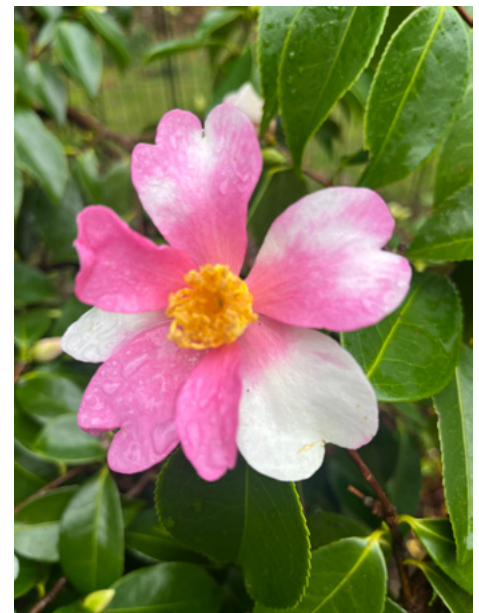
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Camellia japonica 'Haru-no-utena' produces a single flower form in pink with dashes of red.



Camellia japonica 'Tsuki-no-wa' displays a double flower form and cloud-like blotches.



Camellia 'Yume' is a hybrid of *C. sasanqua* x *C. yuhsienensis*.



Two contorted *Camellia japonica* 'Unryu' are espaliered on trellises.

continued from previous page

often have large, voluptuous blooms, but all flower forms are represented. They are best grown in a shady spot and need protection from hot mid-day sun. Those with white or pink flowers also need more protection from harsh sunlight.

Camellia sasanqua and its hybrids are fall-winter bloomers. They are sun-tolerant and called "sun camellias," though they will also tolerate shade. The popular red-flowered 'Yuletide' is perhaps the best-known *sasanqua* in our area, but other varieties offer plenty of options in flower color and form.

Camellia reticulata often has very large, loose flowers. The hybrids of *C. reticulata* do better in our climate as the species is less cold hardy. However, they are not widely available.

Camellia sinensis is the species from which tea is grown. Flowers are small but pretty, and these plants can also be grown in our gardens.

Camellias grow best in slightly acidic soil that is high in humus and well drained. The root ball should be high—about one inch above the soil surface and not more than two inches below. Mulch only to the drip line and well away from the trunk. Camellias should have consistent moisture but not wet soil; though when established they will tolerate drier conditions. Do not let them dry out during the flowering period as small blooms and buds may drop. Fortunately, in our climate dryness at bloom time is seldom a problem!

Though not susceptible to many pests or diseases, one problem is fungal petal blight. This can turn petals brown and soggy. Choosing early flowering varieties and practicing good hygiene, such as open pruning and cleaning up fallen

ANOTHER PLANT SOCIETY

Oregon Camellia Society

For Winter and Spring Blooms

by Linda Rectanus

If your interest in camellias is piqued and you want to learn more, consider attending a meeting of the Oregon Camellia Society (OCS). The group meets in Portland on the third Saturday of the month, September through May. Meeting location may vary, and times and places are announced on the OCS website, oregoncamelliasociety.org.

The Society welcomes new members. Some already love camellias and want to meet other enthusiasts; some are newly interested and intrigued and want to learn more; some have inherited long established shrubs that came with a home they purchased. If you attend meetings, you will meet some very knowledgeable camelliarists who are eager to share their passion. Annual dues are only \$10 for one person or \$15 for a family.

Meetings cover care, culture, propagation, spotlights on new varieties, and camellia history. There are occasional field trips to gardens, and hands-on pruning demonstrations. There is an annual summer picnic with a fun auction of plants grown



Judges from the Oregon Camellia Society, Denis Dooley, left, and Brady Sheets, center, evaluate entries at the Newberg Camellia Festival Show.

and donated by members. Here you will find unusual varieties not typically available from local nurseries.

The group has been a long-time supporter and participant in the City of Newberg's annual Camellia Festival, with a judged display of blooms and a plant sale. Attending a show in April will give you plenty of inspiration.

Visit the Oregon Camellia Society website at oregoncamelliasociety.org for more information.

petals, will help. (There are plenty of old camellias that are neglected and still beautiful.)

A carefully selected plant will give you many years of satisfaction and beauty with minimal maintenance. Doing some research is worthwhile in selecting a plant appropriate for your garden. Do you have a sunny or shady garden? Are there consistently wet areas that would not be favorable? Do you want a sturdy and upright shrub, or one more lax and loose,

or perhaps one suitable for espalier? How large a shrub can you accommodate? Do you want an early bloomer (mid-September to November), a midseason bloomer, (December and February), or a late bloomer (March and April)? What color and form of flower do you prefer?



Linda Rectanus has been a member of HPSO since the early 2000s. She gardens in rural East Clark County, Washington. Special interests include camellias, fuchsias, clematis, and hostas.

Creating a Dry Garden

text and photography by Kyle Connall

When we first moved to our two-acre West Linn, Oregon, property in 2003, I had no intention of creating a dry garden. I grew up in southeastern Oregon on the semi-arid side of the Cascades where plant options were very limited—Zone 4 country. My grandparents lived in Canby, near Portland, and my family would visit during spring breaks and summer vacations. It was there, in their small garden, that I first learned that a huge variety of plants could grow on the western side of the Cascades. I knew that once I went to university over here, there was no going back.

Before moving to this West Linn property, I was very attracted to English gardens—boxwood hedges, large perennial borders, roses, and the like. After we purchased this place, we walked the yard with the previous owner. He told us his water bill was \$1,000 a month when he seeded the lawn. I immediately knew that I had to develop a new garden plan, as an English-style garden design would be too expensive.

I checked out library books on gardening, and my research led me to drought-resistant and drought-tolerant gardens. It seemed like exactly the right direction. At some point during my research, I heard about Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island. I had much to learn, and Sean Hogan at Cistus was a willing guide.

We started with our long driveway and courtyard, widening the borders on each side of the drive and planting nearly 500 lavender plants—*Lavandula* 'Hidcote' and 'Munstead'—along with eight *Eucalyptus pauciflora* var. *debeuzevillei*. The eucalyptus trees were initially six-inch starts, but now are quite stunning in their maturity, creating an archway over the drive.

Our next endeavor was removing most of the lawn behind the house, along with a couple of maple trees. This created our largest border, which includes



Evening sunset over the south border.

a meandering pathway and firepit. We added drought-resistant trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials, with a cacti section in the far back featuring agaves, opuntias, and yuccas. We did lose three very large and mature *Ceanothus* (California lilac) shrubs. We thought it was due to the cold, but later learned they typically live for only 10 to 20 years. After mourning their loss, we embraced the opportunity to watch new vignettes take shape around the border.

The south border was created nine years ago. We used a narrow plant list to create unity and harmony—repeating *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, Spanish lavender, hebe, Mexican ponytail grass, *Penstemon pinifolius*, red hot pokers, santolina, and *Verbena bonariensis* throughout the space. Large groupings of *Tetrapanax papyrifer* (rice paper plant) provide bold texture, while shrubs including manzanita, bottlebrush, *Grevillea*, coffeeberry, and tea tree give the border structure.

A new path was installed in the front courtyard a couple of years ago with two-feet by four-feet concrete slabs surrounded by cream-colored gravel. This area includes a water feature, palm trees, jasmine vines, and a *Brugmansia* 'Charles Grimaldi'. There are also agaves, aloes, and a sago palm in pots. They're

all brought into the garage during winter. The agaves in particular do not like wet roots, so an indoor vacation from the wet winters is a bonus.

In spring 2024, we created a new border close to the back property line, near our neighbors, tearing out weeds, wild trees, and brambles to make way for some plants unique to the garden: cork oak (*Quercus suber*), *Lithocarpus densiflorus* (intermediate form), *Ferula communis* (giant fennel), *Eryngium yuccifolium*, *Cephalaria gigantea* (giant scabiosa), *Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius*, and *Carex spissa* 'Diego Blue'. The goal for this new border was to eradicate the weeds and bramble, while providing a sense of privacy between our property and our neighbors' space. This allowed us to experiment with the new plants above, while also incorporating some tried and true plants shown to be successful in other parts of the garden.

This spring, we've begun developing yet another new border, taking out a large expanse of front lawn. When finished, the oval-shaped space will be made up of six smaller beds surrounded by pathways. This will be a dry garden consisting of yuccas, agaves, cacti, sedums, and manzanitas. Knowing these plant varieties require excellent drainage and do not like wet roots in the winter, we are creating a

series of raised borders, using a blend of pumice, 1/4"-10 gravel and topsoil. Hopefully we will achieve a bit of the desert Southwest here in the great Pacific Northwest.

Dry gardening's significance will continue to grow, as the effects of climate change create more extreme weather events and less predictable water availability. Dry gardens tend to be lower maintenance, and plants typically are less fussy, use less water, less fertilizer, and often need less pruning. Native drought-tolerant plants also support local pollinators and wildlife.

Dry gardens or drought-tolerant gardens are not just practical and sustainable solutions to climate change. They provide us with the opportunity to create havens for nature as well as for ourselves.

Little did I know 23 years ago that it would become a blessing that water was so expensive. Dry gardens are easily capable of providing year-round visual interest, and a multitude of textures, sizes, and colors. It is a style of gardening that I have come to fully embrace, and I am extremely passionate about it.



Kyle Connall has been a self-taught gardening enthusiast for over 45 years. He and his wife, Iva-Marie, reside on Pete's Mountain in the unincorporated West Linn area of Oregon.



South border with euphorbias, lavender, agaves, and yuccas.



Mixed back border featuring *Stipa gigantea* (now *Celtica gigantea*) (giant feather grass), *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' (purple cone flower), and *Echinops ritro* (globe thistle).



Lavender and *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *debeuzevillei* along the front drive.



Back border with cacti in blossom and a sea of Mexican ponytail grass.

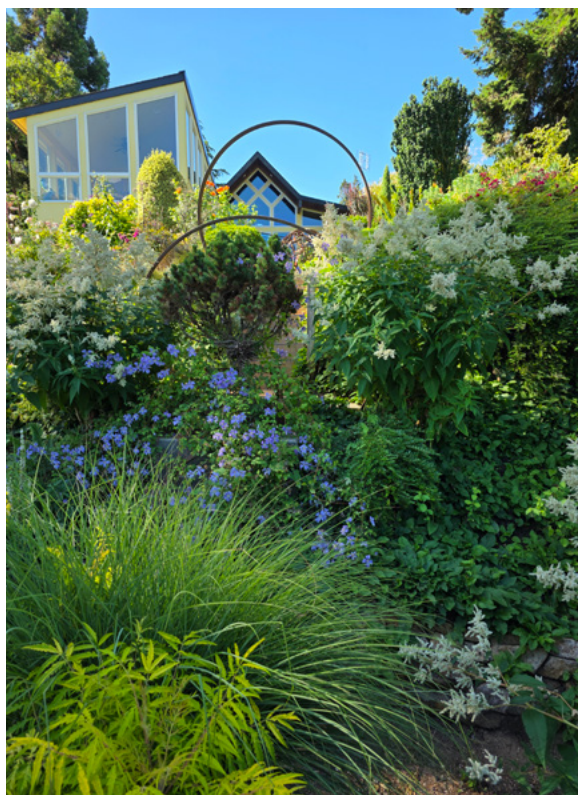
Principles I Live By

text and photography by Sherry Sheng

My West Linn, Oregon, garden demonstrates the following design principles that have guided my plant selection and placement over the years.

Mimic Natural Forest Layers

In designing my garden, I strive to replicate the structure found in the nearby Douglas fir and bigleaf maple forests, where hazel, snowberry, Oregon grape, salal, and sword ferns coexist in a rich ecosystem. By incorporating multiple layers, I create a dynamic landscape that reflects these natural surroundings. This approach involves planting shrubs, perennials, grasses, and groundcovers beneath the trees, resulting in a garden that captures interest at every level—whether at eye level, above, or close to the ground.



As one looks up from the river-level deck, metal hoops frame the view.



Dense plantings along the wide driveway tempt passersby to take a closer look.

Each layer adds to the overall beauty and ecological function of the garden, offering a diverse habitat and a visually engaging environment throughout the year.

One area of my garden is beneath the neighbor's 80-foot-tall Douglas fir. Using it as a backdrop, I textured and painted an eight-foot-high wall in a coral color, placed a pair of Italian cypress trees at one end, and installed a 20-foot-high steel structure at the opposite end. Between them, plants like rose, coppiced smokebush (*Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple'), honeybush (*Melanthus major*), euphorbia, dahlia, and *Veronicastrum* offer a long season of color. Dwarf plumbago, stonecrop, hardy geranium, hosta, fuchsia, and trailing bellflower carpet the ground. Steel structures hung on the wall support several clematis for added interest.

At the opposite corner of the garden, I limbed up an 85-foot-tall Atlantic cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) where a climbing hydrangea scales up the trunk. Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace'), dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Hedgerow Gold'), rose (*Rosa* 'Mutabilis'), mahonia (*Mahonia x media*

'Charity'), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo'®), and tea olive (*Osmanthus* 'San Jose') proved tough enough to create an understory. Hardy geranium, dwarf plumbago, artemesia, and agastache cover the ground.

Our city's setback requirement is seven feet. To block the neighbor's tall three-story house, I built a plant "wall." Anchored with Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Yoshino') and underplanted with a dogwood (*Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eyes'), camellias, and hydrangeas, this border extends into sunnier areas where Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku') and columnar Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Cupressina') serve as a backdrop for a mixed planting of shrubs and perennials.

Cover the Ground

The warming climate has made covering the soil ever more important. Among the many options for mulch, my favorite form is "living mulch" made up of dense plantings.

A steep hill connects my flat backyard to a pollinator meadow. Not leaving the soil bare is especially important on hillsides where rain exacerbates soil erosion. Small evergreen shrubs, including box honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida* 'Twiggy'), New Zealand orange sedge (*Carex testacea*), Little Rascal® holly (*Ilex x meserveae* 'Mondo'), and daisy bush (*Brachyglottis greyi*) form the framework. In between, giant angelica (*Angelica gigas*) and



Native goldenrod is one of the top pollinator plants.

Orienpet lilies add height, while *Brodiaea* and germander (*Teucrium hircanicum* 'Purple Tails') bring seasonal interest to the ground plane.

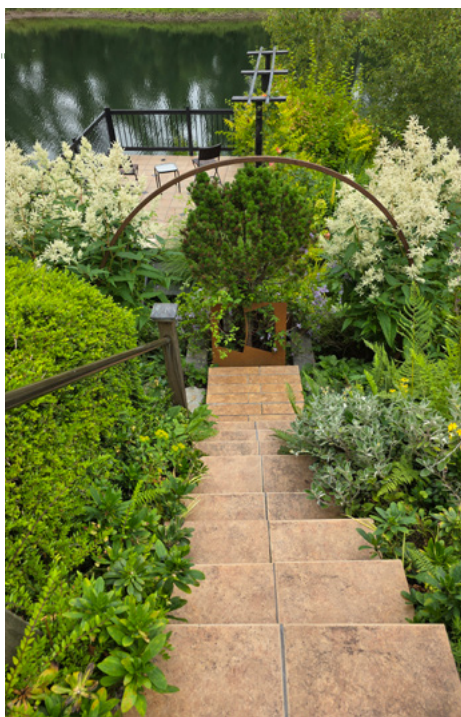
Mulching with living plants offers another benefit. We all know that photosynthesis captures the sun's energy to fuel plant growth. A lesser-known fact is that plants share a portion of their carbohydrates with soil microbes near their roots. This root "exudate" varies by plant, and each appeals to specific microbes. When we grow a variety of plants, we feed a variety of soil microbes and diversify the soil community.

Feed Pollinators

Even small gardens can conserve bees. Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab Director Dr. Gail Langellotto [a regular HPSO *Quarterly* contributor] and her colleagues have demonstrated this through their research. Native bees, unlike butterflies, birds, and other wildlife, require little to survive. Providing a small area for nests and some flowers as food makes a big difference.

But not all flowers are of equal value to bees. Some are great sources of nectar while others are rich in pollen. When the Garden Ecology Lab studied flower-bee relationships, they learned things of interest. First, most (65 percent) garden bees are generalists, feeding on a broad array

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Stairs create a bridge from the upper garden down to the river level.



Groundcovers protecting the soil in a dryland corner contrast with a colorful container.



Closely spaced plants along the path create an immersive experience.

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of flowers. In contrast, specialist bees feed from one or a few specific plants. For example, short leafcutter bees favor farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*), con-fluent miner bees use Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and Titus' sweat bees like common madia.

If I plant it, will they come? I did my own trial. In a narrow strip just off the street, I planted farewell-to-spring, Oregon sunshine, checker mallow (*Sidalcea*), riverbank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), and beachside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*). Sure enough, the petals of the farewell-to-spring showed the signature cut to line the nests of short leafcutter bees. Casual observations throughout the season showed a greater variety of smaller bees using this area.

The lowest level of my garden backs up against an island in the Willamette River, where over 70 great blue herons nest. With bigleaf maple and cottonwood dotting the riverbank, it makes sense to focus this bed on native plants. Large swaths of Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*) and Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) now dominate the area. I added mullein and vitex for greater variety and to extend the season.

Balance Public Viewing and Private Use

While gardens offer solitude and a connection with nature, they also afford opportunities to meet like-minded people. A driveway dominates our front garden. I chose to combine tough shrubs along the street with a colorful mix of flowers and vegetables along the drive. This invites passersby to wander into the driveway. Many stop to ask questions and, occasionally, one or two are given a tour of the back garden.



After leading the Seattle Aquarium, Oregon Zoo, and the State of Oregon Economic Development agency, Sherry Sheng retired to pursue a life-long interest in gardening. Her garden on the Willamette River, West Linn, Oregon, has gone through several remakes with new constructions on neighboring properties. Her current passion is funding the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab (gardenecology.oregonstate.edu) and sharing gardening science through 10-Minute University™ (clackamascounnymastergardeners.org).

HANDS-ON HPSO WORKSHOPS

Encouraged by the success of last year's inaugural workshops, HPSO established a formal Workshop Committee to plan additional small group workshops for 2026. Two, held in June, sold out weeks in advance, but there are still two more for member enjoyment.

photo by Linda Beutler



Lilies in bloom.

photo by Seth Pauley



Garden tools prepared for winter storage.

How to Love Lilies

On July 25, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, you can join HPSO member and Rogerson Clematis Garden Curator Linda Beutler for an all-about-true-lilies (*Lilium*) presentation. Learn to easily propagate lilies, by "scaling" lily bulbs to develop lily bulblets, leading eventually to majestic flowers. Accomplished teacher and lily propagation expert, Linda will take participants step by step through the process. Attendees will go home with everything needed for do-it-yourself lily propagation: two or three bags of "scales," one or two small pots of planted bulblets, a mature lily bulb in a one-gallon pot, and the information to grow their scales into bulblets and eventually mature bulbs. Location of workshop: [Rogerson Clematis Garden](#), 125 Rosemont Road, West Linn, Oregon 97068

Ticket price: HPSO members—\$75.
Non-members—\$85. Maximum size: 25.

Garden Tool Care and Techniques

On September 5, this one-hour morning session will be presented by Seth Pauley, owner of Red Pig Garden Tools, the only blacksmith in the United States specializing in a full range of hand-forged garden tools for home gardeners, nurserymen, landscapers, and farmers. Seth and two assistants produce 4,000 to 5,000 hand-forged tools annually. Seth will discuss common issues with garden tools, including general care and maintenance, some basics of sharpening, and a few weeding tips to wrap up the gardening season. Attendees will learn how to prepare their tools for winter storage and each will receive a rust eraser, a neat, lightweight, simple way to remove small bits of rust from blades without sharpening. Location of workshop: [Red Pig Garden Tools](#), Commercial Driveway, 2122 SW Borland Road, Building 2, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034.

Ticket prices and exact time of presentation will be announced on HPSO's website and emails.

A GARDENER'S SEASONAL CHECKLIST

Summer

by Katrina Alfano

As we step into the summer season, here are some things you can do to help your garden thrive.

July

- Summer has arrived, and it's important to focus on watering. Any plantings that are less than three years old should be top priority. Water deeply and infrequently, two or three times a week, for approximately 30-minute sessions (if using a drip system). Aim for one-half to one gallon two to three times a week for perennials and shrubs, and one to five gallons for large shrubs and trees. Water at dawn or dusk and at the base of the plantings. It truly is an investment that pays off as the garden ages. Even mature trees and shrubs will benefit from occasional deep watering during the dry season.
- Harvest garlic and onions when their leaves have yellowed.
- Thin fruit of orchard trees and discard any insect damaged fruit. Keep the base of your tree tidy and sow buckwheat cover crop for pollinators.
- Mason bee nesting material should be capped with mud indicating the work is done for the year. It's time to place the reeds, mud-capped ends face up, in a breathable mesh, transparent bag. You can purchase these bags from Crown Bees or your local nursery. The bags should be stored in an unheated, un-air-conditioned garage or shed until October, when it will be time to harvest and clean them. If you cannot do this, it's fine to place the bagged reeds back into the bee houses. Visit crownbees.com for more information.



Don't let your peaches get this big before thinning the fruit!

August

- Prune stone fruit trees. Cut out dead and diseased limbs and strategically thin congested areas in the canopy to provide more airflow and sunlight.
- Deadhead, water, and fertilize roses.
- Keep birdbaths clean and supplied with fresh water. Rocks placed on the sides of shallow water dishes can help insects safely find hydration.

September

- It's time to plant bulbs, such as tulips and daffodils, for next spring. Fertilize and soak them once planted.
- Continue monitoring water needs depending on rainfall. Because September can be wet or it can be very hot and dry, watering can be easily overlooked.
- Getting cool season vegetables, such as lettuce, kale, broccoli, and a second round of onion and garlic, in the ground will help fill our kitchens until the end of the year.

CORRECTION: In my last column I mentioned April as a good time to set out mason bee houses. Daily high temperatures are the best guide, however, and early March is a better target for setting out mason bees most years now in this area. Thank you to HPSO members, Josh Hinerfeld, a long-time, experienced mason bee grower, and Amy Campion, pollinator expert, for their advice on this point.

Katrina Alfano is an HPSO member and has worked at Portland Nursery for over a decade. She specializes in establishing mason bee and bird habitat. Residing in Southeast Portland with her husband, she enjoys their garden, which includes fruit trees, herbs, and plenty of birdbaths.



Tronchuda kale.

photo © Claire Takacs



Linda Wisner

by Eloise L. Morgan

I first met Linda Wisner in the fall of 2018, shortly after I agreed to become the new editor of the *Quarterly*. I was wandering around an HPSO outdoor plant sale hoping to find the woman who was responsible for the magazine's beautiful design. Bruce Wakefield, then HPSO Office Manager, pointed to a woman in the middle of the crowd whose back was turned away from us. "There, the woman with long white hair. That's Linda."

I'm sure neither of us imagined at that brief first meeting that we would be working together on the *Quarterly* for the next eight years. And at the time, I had no idea how much Wisner did for the organization in addition to the magazine.



One of many areas of Linda's Flicker Farm Gardens.

By then Linda had already been an active member of HPSO for more than 15 years. She first discovered the society when she was gardening on a large lot in the Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, in the 1990s. The spring plant sales, not yet called Hortlandia, were then held at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Ads in *The Oregonian* lured her to the sale and introduced her to HPSO.

She decided it was time to become a member after she moved to one-and-a-third acres of land on Sauvie Island in 2003, in search of "more dirt."

and Lucy Hardiman, among others. They in turn created the pathway for Linda to join the board.

By 2014 she was the President.

Both before and since her presidency, Wisner has contributed an impressive amount of time and energy to HPSO. Take Study Weekend, for example. She sat on the committees organizing the last four Portland-hosted weekends and designed the logos and put together the booklets and signage for each. She co-chaired Study Weekend with Nancy Goldman in 2015 and opened her "Flicker Farm Gardens" for the 2019 event.

But that only scratches the surface. Since 2011, she has provided graphic design services to HPSO on a pro bono basis—a real blessing for any nonprofit. She started with the print newsletter that predated the *Quarterly*. In 2013 she designed the first issue of the *Quarterly* and has designed and produced every issue since then (55 and counting), working with three different editors (with a fourth on the horizon). That



Linda designed the HPSO logo in three colorways—spring, summer, and fall.

Linda remembers that a few years later, in 2009, a chance conversation with an HPSO board member during a program intermission led the board to hire her to design a new logo.

Through that process she got to know HPSO leaders Jim Rondone, Nancy Goldman,

photo by Linda Wisner



Plants in her front woodland garden.

sentence understates the value she brings to the publication. A talented photographer with a seemingly endless archive of garden images, Linda has been a go-to source for gorgeous photos that appear in the magazine, including many striking cover images. She also identifies HPSO news articles, reads proof with the eye of a knowledgeable grammarian, and oversees publication of both the print and digital editions.

Oh, and in 2020-24 she again served on the HPSO board.

Her HPSO commitments are only part of the story. Through her business, Wisner Creative, she has had a long career as a graphic designer and book designer. For 47 years, she has designed and edited sewing books, in addition to other design projects, and recently she completed biographies of Portland's Schnitzer and Director families for client Jordan Schnitzer.

Linda's first job, in 1973, was as assistant director in the News & Publications Department at her alma mater, Macalester College, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. A move to Eugene, Oregon, in 1976 and a job as the designer at the Stretch & Sew company evolved into establishing her own creative services studio and then ad agency. In 1987 she decided to scale back and move to Portland, where she worked primarily on book design. Working from a home studio also gave her a chance to slip in gardening hours during the day.

In 2000, Wisner added historic exhibits to her repertoire. For the Port of Portland, she and her partner, historian Chet Orloff, created the now-lost-to-renovation "Mighty Columbia, River of Trade" museum space at Portland International Airport, and,

later, historic images and stories etched into street-car shelters in downtown Portland and the central Eastside. Historic panels and story walls that she designed line the walls of the Pioneer Courthouse, the Oregon State Bar offices, and the Oregon Education Association headquarters.

Meanwhile, she actively participated in a number of Portland organizations—as a board member and Land Use Chair of the Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood

Association, as President of the Portland Culinary Alliance, as a member of the City of Portland Design Commission and other city-related urban design committees, then as board member and president of the Sauvie Island Community Association. These days her volunteer activities are primarily for HPSO.

Linda's extensive gardens on Sauvie Island are familiar to anyone following her on Instagram, [@lindawisneroregon](https://www.instagram.com/lindawisneroregon), or who has attended her HPSO open gardens over the years. What started as a blank slate in 2003 is now a rural paradise. (Her garden images on Instagram vie in appeal with her culinary posts.)

Linda created her first garden at age seven, a miniature project made up of plants dug up in the woods and transplanted to a small area in the yard. It wasn't very successful. However, she grew up around gardens, with grandparents on both sides actively gardening on large properties, and her father always had a landscaped yard and vegetable garden. In the late 1970s she studied landscape design at Lane Community College.



One of four Study Weekend logos Wisner designed.



Linda got an early start with gardening at her grandparents' property.

As an adult she's had a garden of some sort everywhere she has lived.

In 2013 Wisner started designing gardens for others, beginning when a Sauvie Island resident who had driven past her gardens mailed her a note asking if she was a garden designer. Deciding that would be a good counterbalance to all the hours spent sitting at her computer working on graphic design projects, she said yes.

Though she turned 75 this year, Linda has yet to retire fully. But bit by bit, there's more time to spend gardening and less time spent on client projects. Let's hope that the HPSO *Quarterly* is an exception.



Eloise L. Morgan will retire as Quarterly editor with the next issue, after moving to Carlsbad, California, in 2025. She is now busy trying to figure out how to garden in Southern California.



Just a few of the 55 Quarterly covers she has designed.



SHARING THE BOUNTY

Red Raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*)

text and photography by Amy Campion

When I planted raspberries in my garden 12 years ago, it was a purely selfish act. I wanted to be able to go out my back door and eat homegrown raspberries by the handful. Now that I garden primarily to support pollinators and other insects, I've come to regard raspberries as a key component in that goal as well. They truly are win-win plants.

Here in Portland, Oregon, the ecological benefits of raspberries start in March with the emergence of the small carpenter bees (*Ceratina* spp.). These tiny, shiny black bees nest in pithy perennial stems, and in my garden, they prefer raspberry canes above all others for homemaking.

The bees can't chew through the tough outer layers of the stem to get to the soft pith, so I cut the canes to provide access. When I prune them back in February (leaving about one strong cane per square foot for that year's crop), I leave about 15 inches of cane standing, so the bees have room to make their nests inside.

Soon, I'll see perfect, round holes in the ends of the stems that tell me the bees have found them. Canes may be reused after the first brood has matured, so I don't cut them down after the initial pruning. I let them break down on their own.



Each hole indicates where a small carpenter bee has made her nest.

Raspberry flowers appear in April and May, when bee populations are ramping up. Small carpenter bees have a short commute to work the blooms. European honey bees are frequent visitors to raspberry flowers, though I'm never thrilled to see them in the garden, because they compete with our native bees for resources. I'm happier to see bumble bees dotting on the blossoms, and mining bees, too. Bees collect both pollen and nectar from the flowers.

Raspberry foliage and other plant parts support even more insects. According to the National Wildlife Federation, native *Rubus* species serve as host plants to 96 moth and butterfly species in the Pacific Northwest. Are raspberries native? Well, not all cultivated red raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*) are native here, but the European ones (*Rubus idaeus* ssp. *idaeus*) are so closely related to our own subspecies (*Rubus idaeus* ssp. *strigosus*) that they probably provide equal wildlife value.

One fascinating insect I've seen laying eggs on my raspberries is the raspberry crown borer (*Pennisetia marginata*). With its yellow-and-black stripes, it disguises itself quite convincingly as a yellowjacket, but it's just a harmless moth. I suppose



A small carpenter bee peeks into a nest in a raspberry cane.

raspberry farmers wouldn't consider the raspberry crown borer harmless, since, after all, it does lay its eggs on raspberries, but I've never noticed any damage to my plants because of it. I'm glad to see this moth in the garden. I think it's cool.

The many caterpillars that raspberries support attract other insects that prey on those caterpillars, like potter wasps (*Eumenes* spp.). Potter wasps get their name from the cute nests they build out of mud that look like little brown jugs. The mothers capture caterpillars, sting them to paralyze them (and keep them fresh), stuff them into the nest, and lay their eggs on them. Potter wasps are brutal to caterpillars, but harmless to humans.

I've also seen spiders preying on insects on my raspberry plants, and I've seen wasps preying on those spiders. I've seen robber flies and assassin bugs and damsel bugs hunting insects on my raspberries, and I've seen lacewing larvae hunting aphids. I've heard tree crickets chirping on warm summer nights, and I've traced them back to my raspberry patch. I've seen grass-carrying wasps searching for those tree crickets to feed their offspring.

Occasionally, leafcutter bees (*Megachile* spp.) will steal pieces of my raspberry



I found this lacewing larva cruising around my raspberries.



A leafcutter bee has bitten off some building materials.

leaves. The mothers take the pieces back to their nests and use them to make cozy nursery cells for their babies. The distinctive circular or oval cutouts are a dead giveaway that these bees have been gathering building supplies.

Oh, yeah—in addition to all the entertainment and ecological value my raspberries provide, they also give me raspberries. Lots of raspberries. My nine-by-four-foot plot gives me a bounty of berries for smoothies, for bars, for muffins, for pies, for cobbler, for jam. I have berries for freezing and berries for giving away to neighbors and friends.

And I have plenty of berries for eating by the handful, right off the bush, in my backyard.



Freelance writer, editor, photographer, speaker, and former HPSO board member, Amy Campion co-authored the acclaimed Gardening in the Pacific Northwest. A Portland resident since 2013, she blogs about gardening at amycampion.com. Amy currently works at Garden Fever nursery in Northeast Portland and is a regular columnist for the Quarterly. She is available to speak about increasing garden biodiversity with native plants.

welcome! TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

March 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026

We're pleased that you have recently joined our ranks, which currently number just over 3,100 active members. We hope HPSO offers you the same gardening inspiration, guidance, and camaraderie that has sustained so many of our long-time members, and we look forward to meeting you at events like our annual meeting, Hortlandia, PlantFest, After Hours, and open gardens.

Jennifer Allen
Gail Anderson
Jan Barber
Zemula Barr
Susan Carol Bennett
John Bier
Erin Bockelman
Joanne Bowman
Jerry Bradshaw
Karen Briggs
Josie Brignoli
Cheryl Brock
Anne Bulger
Susan Burdell
Vallory Burke
Jessica Butzen
Trevor Byman
Ameryllis Cafferky
Shannon Cappuccio
Frank Cappuccio
Miguel Carreon
Nancy Carter
Jennifer Chase
Meredith Cockburn
Chelsea Coogler
Julie Cramer
Brennen Cramer
Keni Cyr-Rumble
Barbara Davis
Robin Davison-Fleury
Wendy Dittrich
Margaret Drinkwater
Priscilla Elliman
Joy Ellis
Marsha Emerson
Rebecca Enberg
Kristien Evans
Kendra Flora
Kathy Fruth

Kari Furnanz
Anne Furr
Michelle Gans
Elaine Gillaspie
Treasure Gilmore
Joan Gilroy
Belinda Graham
Charlie Graham
Karen Griffin
Janice Guziec
Leslie Halleck
Talia Halperin
Patricia Harding
Daniel Harris
Brian Haskins
Katy Heasty
Hannah Hendrickson
Margaret Hess
Carol Howe
Nan Hunter
John Jaramillo
Jennifer Jones
Cynthia Kandoll
Kevin Kazala
Margaret Keasey
Samone Khouangsathiene
Rebecca Kinman
Amber Kohlenberg
Daniel Kraus
Terri Krevanko
Carol Lincer
James Lofthus
Alison Lopakka Joy
Jacob Luedloff
Wayne Luscombe
Barbara Marcille
Dulcie Martin
Laura Masterson
Gwyn Mauritz

Kim McDermid
Kim McMillan
Claire Mendez
Amanda Miles
Andrea Moore
Jacob O'Scannlain
Birdie Adaire
O'Scannlain
Johan Otter
Jessie Palmer
Paul Parker
Michelle Parker
Julie Pendleton
Miles Perry
Virginia Piercy
Jonah Pritchett
Drew Prochniak
Jessica Prochniak
Diane Quintin
Audrey Ragsdale
Scott Ragsdale
Elizabeth Rathbun
Abigail Rennekamp
Theresa Jane
Rickloff
Tim Riley
Kevin Rock
Tamra Rooney
Erin Ruark
Aubrey Russell
Janis Saiki
Morgan Sapp
Jeff Sconyers
Grace Sheufelt
Oliver Sheufelt
Julie Shore
Katherine Showalter
Mary Skinner
Ann Smith

Tanner Sorensen
Kristine Stanik
Noah Stanik
Clara Steiner-Jay
Ciera Steinhaus
Lana Stern
Cynthia Stewart
Jim Stewart
Kathryn Stillings
Lynn Strathman
Brenda
Sweetnam-Liguore
Lisa Taylor
Sarah Thielman
Anastasia Tsimbidis
Kelly Ure
Garrett Van Der Spek
Kathy Verble
Karen Voorhees
Elizabeth Watts
Cecilia Weber
Patrice West
Sheila White-Clark
Rebecca Williams
Lindsay Winchester
Angie Windheim
Karen Wise
Bethany Wittig
Victoria Wolf
Denise Wurtz
Sally Yackley
Darlene Zanella



A mining bee visits my raspberry flowers.



Potter wasps patrol my raspberries for caterpillars.



It looks like a yellowjacket, but the raspberry crown borer is actually a moth.

PORTLAND FOOD FOREST INITIATIVE

An Interview with Dan Sloan

by Sara L. Sumpter

Behind an unassuming private home in Northeast Portland's Cully neighborhood lies an urban food oasis. Designed and stewarded by Dan Sloan of Portland Food Forest Initiative (PFFI), Cully Food Forest #1, which is now in its fourth year of development, is just one of numerous such projects dotted about the East Portland area. My visit takes place on a cool spring morning, when many of the perennial plants are still waking up, and the summer annual vegetables have yet to be planted out. The layout of the garden is deceptively simple, with alternating rows of perennial plantings and annual vegetables running from the entry gate toward the property line.

"We're trying to take up space in ways that make sense," Sloan tells me. "Other sites are planted in a forest garden orientation, where there are meandering pathways and circular guilds, and I prefer that aesthetically, but production-wise, this design is where it's at."

The design of Cully #1 is based on the concept of syntropic agroforestry, where rows of food-focused forest ecosystem—each of which contains different layers of a perennial polyculture (canopy, subcanopy, shrub, herbaceous, rooting, and vining)—alternate with annual vegetable rows. The perennial layers, which include fruit trees, berry shrubs, and perennial vegetables, such as artichokes, tree collards, and mushrooms, work to keep as much sunlight from hitting the ground as possible. Instead, light hits the various plant layers, creating photosynthesized carbohydrates, building plant matter and biomass, and thereby making the most of whatever space you have on hand. At the same time, the annual vegetable rows provide instant gratification. "With this system," Sloan explains, "you're not waiting for the perennial ecosystem to provide

food; you're getting food immediately, the very first year."

The PFFI approach is grounded in community engagement and mutual aid. Anyone with 1,500-plus square feet of full-sun garden space can make their yard available for stewardship, in an agreement of at least six years where the homeowner pays for the plants at wholesale cost and for water; and PFFI designs, creates, and cares for the garden. The resulting produce is equally shared, with excess donated for mutual aid food distribution—something that generally becomes possible in the fourth or fifth year of the garden's production cycle. It is a project born of Sloan's personal ideals. "I was always, deep down, interested in eating plants," Sloan tells me. "When I first moved to Portland, I took an herbalism course through the Arctos School to learn what plants I could and couldn't eat. For a long time, though, I didn't do anything with that knowledge."

A bike shop owner for nine years, Sloan ultimately realized he wanted to do more with his life. After taking a permaculture course through Oregon State University, he decided to pursue a career in the field. Sloan traveled to multiple permaculture sites—both in the Pacific Northwest and in locales as far afield as Mexico City and Devon, England—to study how permaculturists approach the

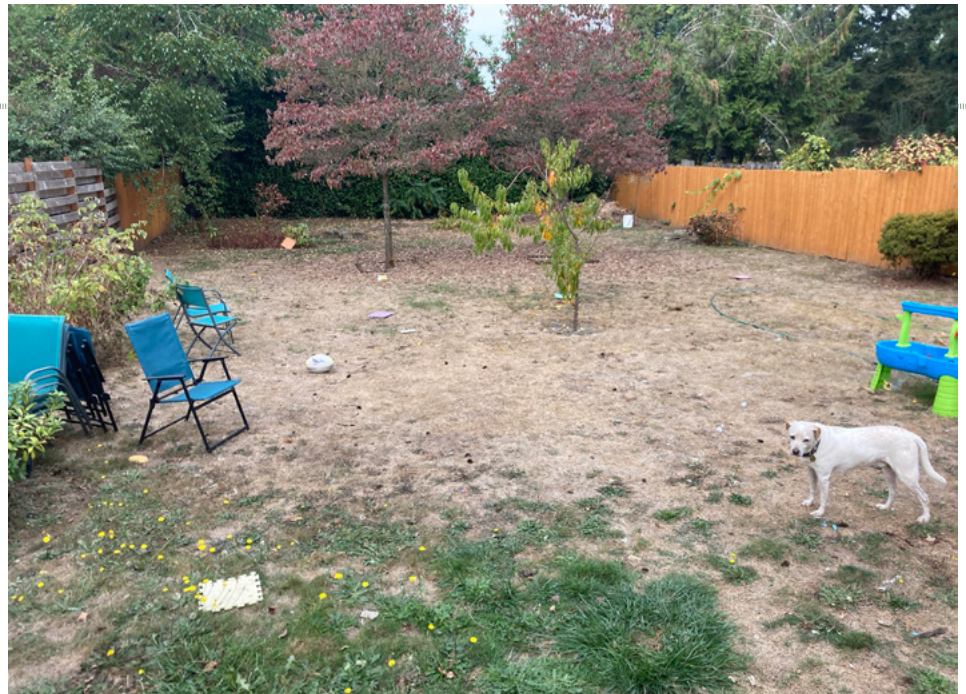
question of tending land in a sustainable, waste-free way—before returning once more to Portland. He started PFFI as a nonprofit and put out a call on the Cully Neighborhood Facebook group looking for available sites to transform into food forests. The homeowners at Cully #1 responded. There are now nine sites in total that are stewarded by the organization and several other sites that are stewarded by community groups.

Though the movement is growing, finding suitable sites remains an ongoing issue for Sloan and his team. "Land access is the biggest challenge we face," he notes. "People who own land are often unaware of the possibilities of food forest development, and it takes a bit of advocacy and evangelizing to get them on board."

Even among those who are aware of the possibilities, not everyone who is interested has a space that meets the project's requirements of at least 1,500 square feet of contiguous, full-sun land. For that reason, Sloan has pursued collaborations with school districts, taking expansive, but generally unproductive, schoolyard spaces and transforming them into dedicated food forests that provide a wealth of benefits to students, teachers, and custodians.

Some schools have shied away from the concept of installing food forests due to poor experiences with labor-intensive

photo by Dan Sloan/Portland Food Forest Initiative



The backyard of Cully #1 garden in October 2022 prior to planting.



The Cully #1 backyard in May 2024 following two seasons of stewardship, planted with a mixture of annual and perennial edible and pollinator plants, including cucumber, daikon radish, and pole beans (annuals); strawberries (ground cover); artichokes, tree collards, and kale (herbaceous edibles); gouda berry and hardy kiwi (shrubs); and medlar, apple, and fig trees (subcanopy).

classroom annual vegetable gardens that often start strong but quickly fall to neglect. Others, however, have been open to Sloan's approach—which focuses on the creation of perennial forest gardens that require far less work over time. One such project is the perennial food forest at Oliver Middle School in Portland's Centennial School District, an 8,000-square-foot garden designed with some of the school's seventh-graders. "My hope is that this garden will serve as a proof of concept for other districts," Sloan tells me. "This garden has enormous benefits. It feeds the kids, provides educational space for the teachers, and it's less maintenance for the custodial staff."

Such projects are fully in line with PFFI's mission, which is to popularize and advocate for the planting of food forests in place of grass lawn. "There are so many intersectional benefits to food forestry when community is involved," Sloan says. "It takes all of these needs that we have—improving soil, improving water filtration, improving habitat for pollinators, and improving habitat for humans—and addresses them. Problems as varied as heat island effect and gang violence reduction and food insecurity can be addressed. Everything that needs to be addressed can be addressed in the context of a food forest."



Dan Sloan is the founder and director of Portland Food Forest Initiative. A permaculturist and professional tree pruner, Sloan teaches courses on permaculture design for Portland Community College, provides volunteer opportunities for community members to tend land, and offers on-site garden tours and classes. Learn more about his work by visiting pdxfoodforest.org.



The Cully #1 backyard in early April 2026 following four seasons of stewardship, with artichokes, tree collards, strawberries, and blossoming cherry in the perennial row and overwintered brassicas in the sparsely planted annual row.

Sara L. Sumpter is a professional editor and translator living in Northeast Portland. A determined, though still relatively junior, gardener, she is interested in expanding her knowledge of gardening to include methods of seed saving, food preservation, and foraging. She is a regular contributor to the Quarterly.



Cully Food Forest #1 garden is fenced so that residents may keep dogs without compromising the quality of the harvest.

The avid gardener and...chickens?

text and photography by Linda Golaszewski



Reboot of the bed with water feature in progress.



Completed bed with some new plantings, the “dry-pond” water feature, and protective chicken wire in place.

Can a garden and chickens coexist? Yes, maybe. You can sacrifice a portion of your garden for a chicken run and keep them enclosed, or you can constantly move them around in a portable chicken tractor.

Or you can decide that flora and fowl will somehow co-exist: you will have beauty and chickens. And a lot of chicken wire.

In the BC years (before chickens), one project in our Northeast Portland, Oregon, garden was developing a white garden, inspired by Sissinghurst. We tore out an old laurel hedge and put in a bed amid a strip of lawn, creating a 10-foot by 40-foot space. We brought in compost and soil amendments to make up for the laurel roots and chose plants for their adaptability to sun and shade. Hopes were high.

The white garden was a reasonable success for about three years, and then our neighbors planted a stand of birches and a maple on the property line. The greedy trees grew big enough to suck up the moisture and nutrients of the soil in our yard too.

Back to the drawing board.

About this time, the city allowed homeowners to have chickens, and we took the plunge. With portions of the white garden a failure, chickens seemed (at the time) like a logical next step.

My husband, David, set to work building a bombproof coop and enclosed run with the idea we could also let them out into the garden. We got three fluffy little chicks to move into the new digs. So far, so good. They got let out during the day to run around the back garden. It would not be the dreamy moonlit white bed, but it would be okay.

Well, scratch that, literally. If you have ever observed chickens, you know that they will munch on pretty much any tender greenery. The existing plants were at their mercy. To deal with that, each yummy plant was given its own little “fence,” which worked fairly well and didn’t look too bad.

Pretty soon though, the grass was gone. The pullets’ digging and pulling basically left little more than dirt—an increasingly sorry scene. Between greedy trees and chicken degradation, unhappy was the view.

Sigh, another reboot.

The bed needed to look good from the deck and from our neighbors’ back windows should they look out. Plus, withstand the chickens. Oh, and a water feature would be nice.

This new plan included taking out an old daphne hedge and replacing it with hardscape of large rectangular pavers and rock. At about five feet wide, this created a solid pathway from the house to the chicken coop.

Compacted grass was rototilled before we added more amendments and a boatload of compost. We were able to keep some plants: two hydrangeas, two volunteer callas, a white rose bush, and a few hostas.

David designed and built a water feature based on something we'd seen in The Oregon Garden. We had our stone contractor put in a rill from the gutter downspout to a place where a large storage pot would live. We replaced the downspout with a rain chain and added rocks on top of the area to create a kind of dry pond look.

By now we had had five years of experience and a better understanding of chicken proclivities. We decided that the best approach was to mainly use shrubs. I wanted to have fruit, so we planted a couple of honeyberries. We also planted a small plum for privacy and for fruit. Unfortunately, the plum grew to be neither small nor fruiting. Still, it's a lovely dark foil at that end of the garden.

Because the hydrangeas were doing well, I added another. We also added a buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis* 'Sputnik'), a shrub we'd seen in the Netherlands. A hardy variegated fuchsia also seemed like it would work. To protect the plants from the predation of the chickens at root level, we laid down chicken wire. Some plants required "wire girdles" that keep the chickens from eating the lower leaves. These are virtually invisible as the plant grows and greens up. There are some things chickens don't seem to eat, but there's no guarantee. One chicken may eschew a plant while its girlfriends will find it quite tasty.

This is not a garden for strolling through to see the intriguing plants. It's best viewed from our deck or the top of the bed, through the scrim of the water feature. We are constantly trying new things to fit conditions. This includes setting pots around the garden first to determine if the chickens will leave things alone before I commit them to ground.

It's not all perfect, of course. The chickens may suddenly chow down on a previously uneaten plant. But all in all, our chicken garden has been a pretty good experiment—you can have greenery and fresh eggs. Just keep your chicken wire handy.



Linda Golaszewski is a poet, writer, floral designer, traveler, and dancer who gardens in partnership with her husband, David, in Northeast Portland.



A ground level view of hen-pecked grass.



Chickens settling in soon after stonework path was laid.



Cascade Greenhouse: A Family-Run Legacy Rooted in Community

text by Keri Wosepka and Jim Mitchell

Maybe it's the Golden Eggs. Maybe it's the Boneyard. Maybe it's the personal service. Or maybe it's the tremendous variety of plants, baskets, trees, and shrubs available at this rural Clark County nursery. Whatever it is, customers keep coming back—season after season.

Started by brother and sister Randy and Lori Wosepka in 1982, Cascade Greenhouse quickly became a beloved local destination. Not long after, another sister Keri Wosepka took the reins and grew the business into what it is today—a trusted nursery that's been serving Southwest Washington and beyond for 44 years.

Their first location on 112th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington, opened the door for generations of gardeners and became a true community staple for more

photo by Jim Mitchell



Mother and son team, Keri Wosepka and Joey Roberts, ensure visitors to their nursery feel welcome.



Cascade offers perennials, bedding plants, shrubs, trees, and more.

than three decades. In 2013, the family relocated to north Vancouver, where Cascade continues to thrive—both in what they produce and how they give back to their community.

From the beginning, the family's mission has been simple: provide high-quality plants at fair prices while treating every customer like family. "Many of our customers have been with us since the 1980s," Keri says. "They're not just shoppers—they're part of our story."

Cascade Greenhouse takes pride in growing the majority of its plants right on site. Around 70 percent of what's sold is grown in-house, including thousands of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets—over 3,000 baskets each year, all hand-planted and grown with care. Because Cascade grows successive crops of bedding plants and other annuals and small perennials, it is often possible later in the season to find plants there that are out of stock at other nurseries that outsource their inventory.

photo courtesy Cascade Greenhouse



Hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora and climbers—roses all—frame the entry to Cascade Greenhouse, a nursery less than two miles east of the I-5 and I-205 junction in Vancouver, Washington.



Cascade's greenhouses overflow with large selections of colorful plants.

The team recently invested in a new germination chamber, allowing them to start even more plants from seed and keep prices low despite rising supply costs. "It's about doing more ourselves," Keri's son Joey Roberts explains. "It helps us stay creative, sustainable, and affordable."

And when the greenhouses fill to the brim? That's when shoppers discover one of Cascade's most beloved secrets, the

Boneyard, where everything is 40 percent off. "We grow so much in-house that we often have more than we can fit," Keri says. "The Boneyard is just another way we share the abundance."

Community is at the heart of everything they do. Cascade is known for its fun holiday giveaways and events, which bring people together year after year. On Easter, the team hides over 100 eggs, including five golden eggs with big prizes. On Mother's Day, they've given away a \$500 gift card, and for Father's Day, a \$300 arbor. "Our community supports us, so we want to celebrate with them," Joey says.

Cascade is open daily, from March through October. In the "quiet" season they are at work planning and preparing their greenhouses and, after the first of the year, planting the coming year's first wave of seedlings.

Keri and Joey's family have deep roots in the local nursery scene. Before Cascade's current location, the

Cascade Greenhouse

Open Seasonally
March–October
360-892-9494
6005 NE 139th Street,
Vancouver, Washington

Cascadegreenhouse@gmail.com

Cascadegreenhouse.net

family operated Garden in the Heights, managed by Joey's late father, Jim Roberts. The family embedded itself in the Vancouver Farmers Market for more than 20 years, where a young Joey began selling strawberries at just five years old.

Today, Cascade remains a true family operation, with relatives contributing their creativity, hard work, and heart, season after season. Keri's three furry canines—Rocco, River, and Lillie—can usually be found relaxing under the green tent, ready to greet anyone who stops by. "Family and community mean everything to us," Keri says. "Without our community, we are nothing."

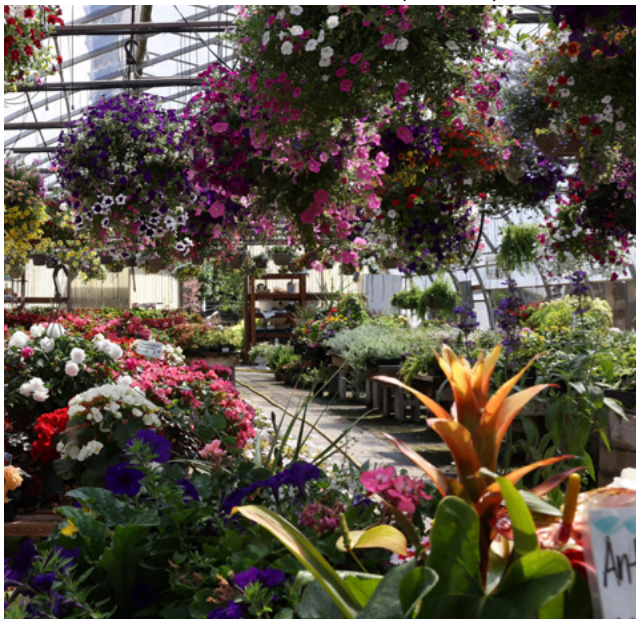
They're why we do what we do—and why we love doing it."

Keri's words are backed up by her customers. Just read the reviews for yourself. Navigate to Cascadegreenhouse.net, and feel the love. You can also see many more photos and nursery-related messages on Facebook and Instagram.



Keri Wosepka is the owner of Cascade Greenhouse. Jim Mitchell is a retired journalist and long-time HPSO member, who loved his recent visit to this jewel of a nursery in rural Vancouver.

photo courtesy Cascade Greenhouse



This greenhouse displays Cascade's popular hanging baskets.

Garden Plant Communities Break the Rules of Ecology

by Gail Langellotto

The study of ecology is often a frustrating exercise of trying to find patterns that we can use to predict how the natural world might operate amid the high degree of variation that characterizes most natural systems. As a result, there are relatively few established “laws” in the field of ecology, compared to physics, chemistry, and even physiology.

And confoundingly, two rare, but widely accepted “laws” of ecology that are applicable to natural biological communities do not apply to human-made gardens. Further study and a better understanding of this dichotomy may have implications for gardeners’ success in designing ecological, sustainable home gardens.

One of the rare laws in ecology is the species-area relationship, which has been described as “ecology’s most general, yet



The OSU Garden Ecology Lab’s study of pollinator garden flora found that plant assemblages do not conform to expectations of the species area and species accumulation concepts.

protean pattern.”¹ Briefly, the relationship predicts that the number of species will increase as habitat size increases. The number of new species increases rapidly, at first, until a plateau is reached after which few or no new species are added even as the habitat size increases (see Figure A, below left). This plateau is known as the saturation point, and there are multiple explanations for why this might occur. Some think the plateau is due to how the balance of immigration (into an area) and emigration (out of an area) change with habitat size. Others suggest the plateau is due to increased inefficiencies in energy transfer within an ecosystem as habitat size increases.

The relationship between species richness and habitat area has been studied for more than a century. In 1772, while sailing with Captain Cook in the South Pacific, naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster observed that larger islands held more species.² Alfred Wallace and Charles Darwin shared similar observations in the mid- to late 1800s: species richness increased in a somewhat predictable fashion in relation to island circumference. The relationship was formalized into a mathematical equation that could predict species richness based on habitat area in 1921, in a foundational study in ecology,³ which was modified in 1922.⁴ This relationship appears to be so common that by 2000 it was suggested to be “much more expedient to report the few exceptions . . . than the many hundreds, and possibly thousands of studies reporting this pattern for a wide variety of taxa and types of ecosystems.”¹

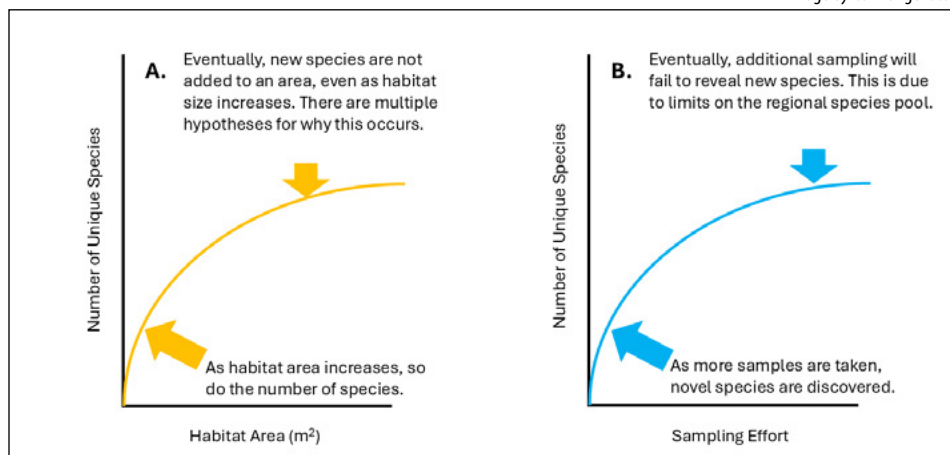
Whereas plant communities in natural ecosystems reflect local climate, geology, and ecology, garden flora are additionally and heavily influenced by gardeners’ preferences, practices, and purchases. Thus, perhaps unsurprisingly, the relationship between garden size and plant species richness is weak or absent for gardens.^{5, 6} Depending on a garden’s planting design, small garden spaces can host as many (or more) plant species as larger gardens.

A second “law” in ecology is that the number of species that are discovered in an ecological community will increase as sampling effort increases,⁷ until after many samples, the rate at which new species are discovered will eventually decline. Ecologists graph this relationship (known as a species accumulation curve) and look for the point where the graph starts to plateau (see Figure B, at left). When the curve plateaus, it indicates that further sampling is unlikely to discover additional species.

Ecologists who study biodiversity must sample until they reach these plateaus to ensure that subsequent analyses are based upon a complete dataset of ecosystem biodiversity.

Although biological communities demonstrate the typical curvilinear increase to a plateau, studies of garden flora have failed to find evidence of a plateau. Each new garden sampled has the potential to hold one or more plant species not found in other gardens

image by Gail Langellotto



The “species area” (A) and “species accumulation” (B) curves are superficially similar, but illustrate two different ecological concepts.

studied, depending on the gardener's ingenuity and resources.

I find it fascinating that garden plant communities defy two of the rare rules of the ecological sciences. But perhaps I shouldn't be surprised. Eric Grissell, author of the excellent book, *Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology*⁸ notes: "What a garden is, by definition, is a humanly contrived, artificial construct of plants from all over the world that is usually assembled with little regard for ecological or biological principles. At the same time, this assemblage of plants exists in a world whose entire life force, whose every purpose of being, is driven by universal principles of environmental or ecological balance."

He then goes on to say that "... a garden might be thought of as a struggle between a piece of land trying to restore itself to a natural balance and a gardener who hasn't a clue what that means. Thus begins the eternal battle between the gardener, the garden, and the forces of nature."

If garden ecosystems break these two rules of ecology, what does that mean for the food chains of herbivores, pollinators, and predators who depend upon the garden plants for forage, prey, and shelter? Despite a seemingly limitless palette of plant species and cultivars that are found within and across garden spaces, we at the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab have found that insects and arthropods at these higher trophic levels assemble into ecological communities that align with the species-area and species accumulation curves that characterize natural biological communities.⁹ In other words, garden flora does not follow these laws in ecology, but the insects and arthropods in the garden do.

Gardening is not habitat restoration, and garden plant assemblages are distinct from natural systems. Unlike most natural systems, non-native plant species dominate most garden spaces. In addition, garden plant assemblages violate two bona fide rules in the ecological sciences: species area and species accumulation. All that said, we know that gardens can contribute to wildlife conservation. For example, new bee species have been discovered in urban gardens,¹⁰ and at least one species of endangered bumble bee appears dependent upon urban garden plantings.¹¹

But maximizing the conservation value of gardens will require further study to understand how natural ecological food webs are formed and maintained in human-contrived gardens. It is truly an interesting area of study, given the unique space that gardens occupy. Gardens are not natural systems, even if they mimic many elements of natural systems.

Given the increasing interest in what is sometimes referred to as ecological gardening, I think it is important to understand how gardens do or do not conform to ecological theory. There is also an opportunity to explore whether and how degrees of resemblance or distinction to natural systems affect community structure and ecosystem function. Developing this level of understanding about garden ecology has direct implications for sustainable garden design, as well as for attempts to design natural systems in artificial spaces.^{12, 13} The effort to design self-sustaining ecological systems will be the focus of my next article.



Gail Langellotto is a professor of horticulture at Oregon State University and Principal Investigator of the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab. She holds a B.S. in biology and an M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology, all from the University of Maryland. She is a regular contributor to the HPSO Quarterly.

Endnotes

¹Lomolino (2000) Ecology's most general, yet protean pattern: the species-area relationship. *Journal of Biogeography* 27, 17–26.

²Quamen, D. (1996). The song of the dodo. *Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction*. Pimlico, London, 702.

³Arrhenius (1921) Species and area. *Journal of Ecology*, 9, 95-99

⁴Gleason (1922) On the relationship between species and area. *Ecology*, 3, 158-162

⁵Smith et al. (2006). Urban domestic gardens (IX): composition and richness of the vascular plant flora, and implications for native biodiversity. *Biological conservation*, 129, 312-322.

⁶Cavender-Bares et al. (2020). Horticultural availability and home-owner preferences drive plant diversity and composition in urban yards. *Ecological Applications*, 30(4), e02082.

⁷Ugland et al. (2003). The species-accumulation curve and estimation of species richness. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 72, 888–897.

⁸Grissell (2001). *Insects and gardens: In Pursuit of a garden ecology*. Portland: Timber Press.

⁹Langellotto et al. (in preparation). A garden biodiversity atlas: how garden flora and fauna conform to or differ from ecological principles.

¹⁰Sheffield (N.D.) *Lasioglossum ascheri* Gibbs, 2011. Bees of Canada. <https://www.beesofcanada.com/species/lasioglossum-ascheri-gibbs-2011>

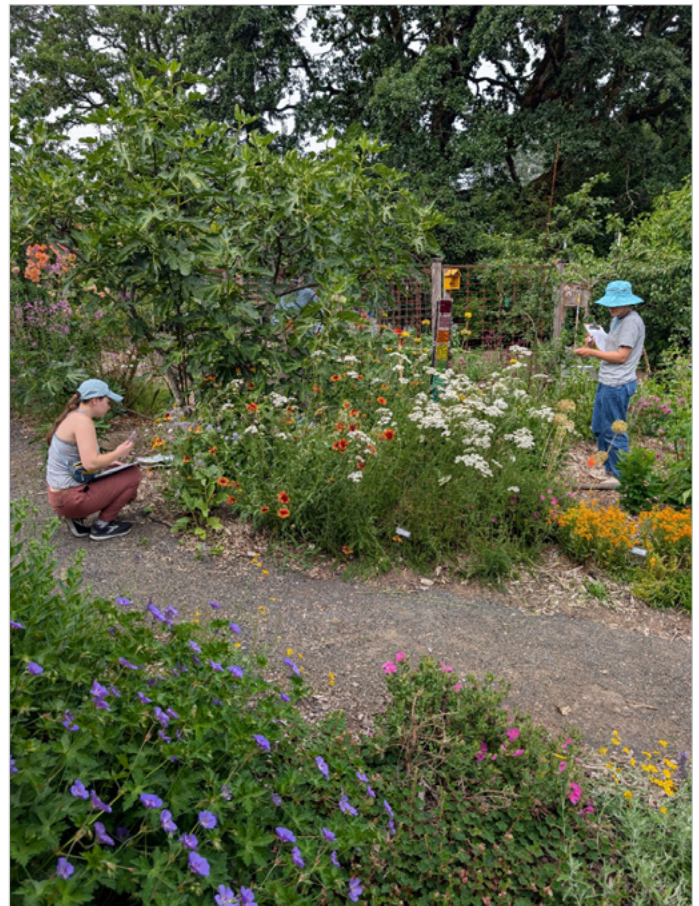
¹¹Boone et al. (2023). Occupancy of *Bombus affinis* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) in Minnesota is highest in developed areas when standardized surveys are employed. *Environmental Entomology*, 52(5), 918-938.

¹²Mortimer & Gilliam (2022). SpaceHort: redesigning plants to support space exploration and on-earth sustainability. *Current opinion in biotechnology*, 73, 246-252.

¹³Axel Pollard, Rachel Allen, Katherine Black, Riley Brown, Lucky Pichler, Taylor Janacek Smith et al. (2020). The artemis program: An overview of nasa's activities to return humans to the moon. In *2020 IEEE aerospace conference* (pp. 1-10). IEEE.

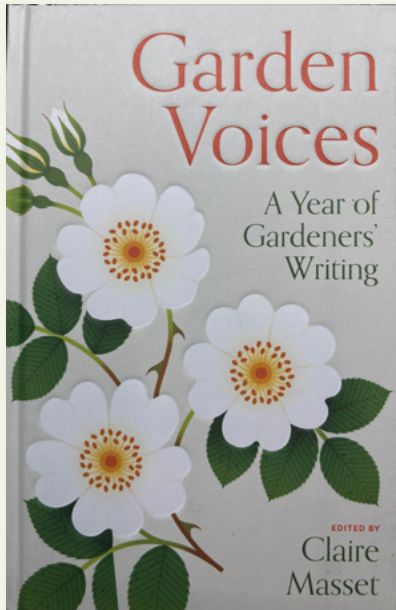
Many gardens contain an array of plant species in relatively small spaces, which is not typical of what is found in natural areas of temperate regions.

photo by Taylor Janacek



BOOK REVIEWS

Phillip Oliver, a retired librarian and former HPSO board member, reviews two new books from British publishers that will appeal to American readers as well.



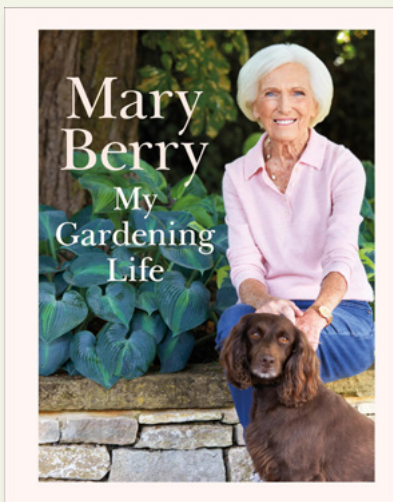
Garden Voices: A Year of Gardeners' Writing

Edited by Claire Masset
Batsford Books, 2026

Editor Claire Masset offers a unique approach to the annals of horticultural writing in this hefty volume. For each day of the year, she features two or three snippets from the diaries, letters, and books of not only horticultural figures, but also other famous personalities who expressed keen observations of the natural world. The diversity of subjects ranges from the 1600s (Samuel Pepys) to modern-day (Monty Don, Dan Pearson). In addition to gardeners, there are poets, artists, philosophers, political figures, and nobility.

The daily observations recorded here depict musings about the weather, everyday activities, and happenings in their gardens. For example, on January 22 (1950), Vita Sackville-West writes about her ideas for making “a grey, green, and white garden.” Derek Jarman records his observations of the stark, bleak atmosphere of his garden at Prospect Cottage, Dungeness, Kent, in beautiful poetic prose. Vincent van Gogh writes to his brother Theo, describing sketches and paintings of garden plants.

Reading these daily writings reveals that little has changed; and gardeners today experience the same pleasures and delights—morning birdsong, the smells of fresh earth and flowers, or waking up to a snow-covered landscape. They also have the same concerns that we face today, such as drought, frost, weeds, and bugs. In addition, some entries offer travelogues of gardens and estates visited.



My Gardening Life

by Mary Berry
DK, 2026

It should come as no surprise that people in the culinary world also like to garden. The latest celebrity cook to share the love of gardening is Dame Mary Berry, the former host of “The Great British Bake-Off.” Berry, 91, has written 98 cookbooks, but now she has published her first book about her passion for gardening.

She developed a love of gardening during her childhood in Bath, England. Her first garden was a tiny plot in London, followed by a vast three-and-a-half acre spread in Buckinghamshire, northwest of London. Her current garden is a “more manageable” one-acre garden in Henley-on-Thames, west of London in Oxfordshire.

Although not a trained professional gardener, she has been influenced by Alan Titchmarsh, Sarah Raven, and Bunny Williams, among others, and interviews of them are included in the book. She also loves gardening books, saying that her desert island book would be *The RHS Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*.

In this book, Berry provides a history of her past gardens and present garden, favorite plants with tips on growing them, the therapeutic value of gardening, and an ode to her favorite garden task—deadheading.



Phillip Oliver is a former HPSO board member. He gardens in Vancouver, Washington, and documents happenings in his garden (which is often opened to HPSO members) and elsewhere on his blog Dirt Therapy (phillipoliver.blogspot.com).

Mixed back border in Kyle Connall's garden featuring *Stipa gigantea* (now *Celtica gigantea*) (giant feather grass), *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' (purple cone flower), and *Echinops ritro* (globe thistle). Photo by Kyle Connall.





UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN GARDENS MINI-TOUR
Sunday, July 19 —
NW Portland, 11-3 pm

AFTER HOURS:

Wednesday, July 8 —
Paradise Acres, 6-8 pm

Thursday, July 23 —
Portland Nursery on Stark,
6-8 pm

Saturday, August 8 —
Sebright Gardens, Salem,
5-7:30 pm

Mid-September (date to be
announced) — Yard 'n Garden
Land, Vancouver, WA

November (date to be
announced) — Al's Garden &
Home, Sherwood

See page 1 for
After Hours details.

WORKSHOPS:

Saturday, July 25 — How
to Love Lilies, Rogerson
Clematis Garden

Saturday, September 5
— Garden Tool Care and
Techniques, Red Pig
Garden Tools

See page 10 for
workshop details.

PLANT FEST

Saturday, September 26,
10 am-4 pm, Clackamas
Community College

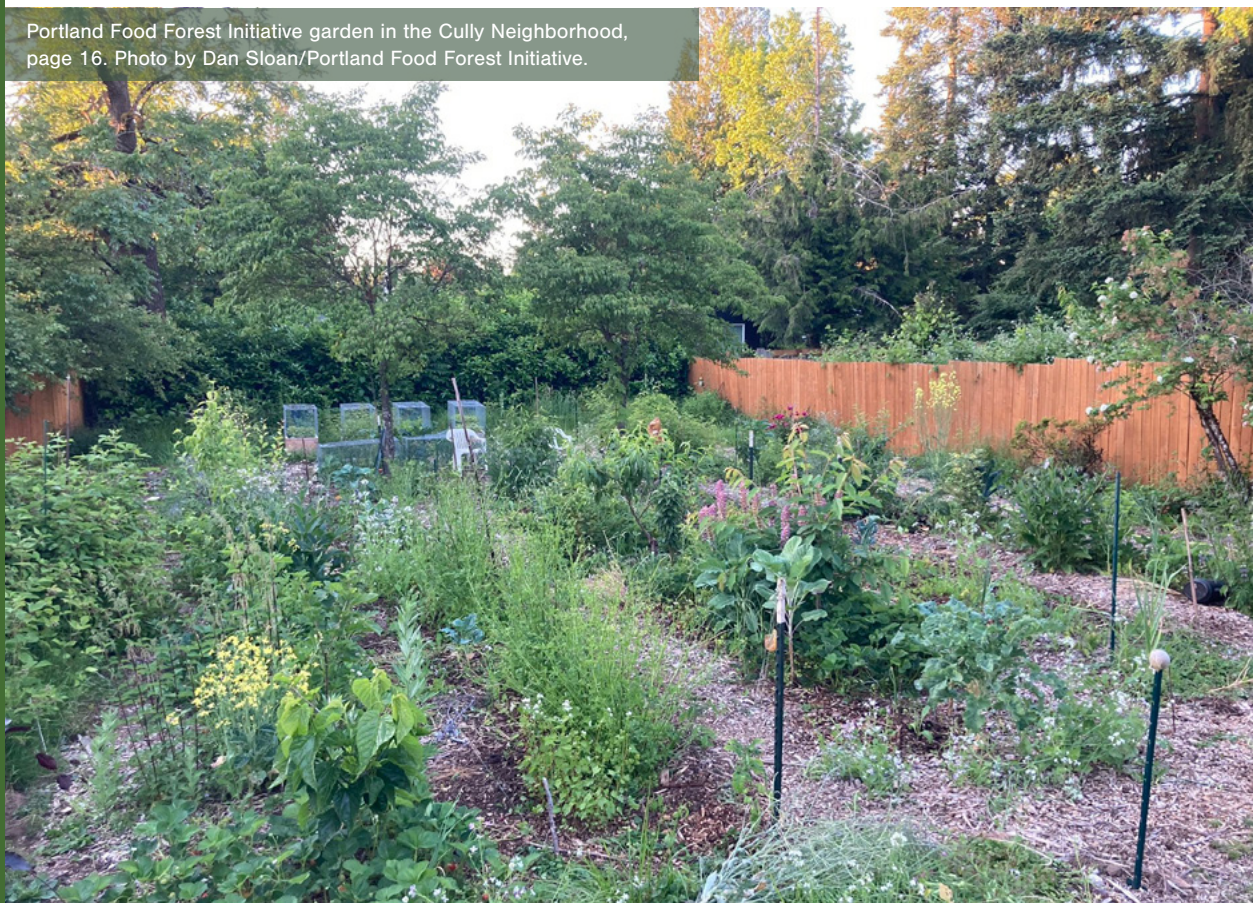
Watch for more program
information and open
garden information in
HPSO emails and at
hardyplantsociety.org

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon
11800 S Military Lane
Portland, OR 97219

hardyplantsociety.org

*The Hardy Plant
Society of Oregon is
a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization whose
purpose is educational
and whose mission is to
nurture the gardening
community.*

Portland Food Forest Initiative garden in the Cully Neighborhood,
page 16. Photo by Dan Sloan/Portland Food Forest Initiative.



A lacewing larva cruising Amy Campion's rasp-
berries, page 14. Photo by Amy Campion.



Chicken's in Linda Golaszewski's garden,
page 18. Photo by Linda Golaszewski.

