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THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION

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The Hardy Fern Foundation was founded in 1989 to establish a comprehensive collection of the world's hardy ferns for display, testing, evaluation, public education and introduction to the gardening and horticultural community. Many rare and unusual species, hybrids and varieties are being propagated from spores and tested in selected environments for their different degrees of hardiness and ornamental garden value.

The primary fern display and test garden is located at, and in conjunction with, The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden at the Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters, in Federal Way, Washington.

Satellite fern gardens are at the Stephen Austin Arboretum, Nacogdoches, Texas, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, Alabama, California State University at Sacramento, Sacramento, California, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Boothbay, Maine, Dallas Arboretum, Dallas, Texas, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado, Georgeson Botanical Garden, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, Harry P. Leu Garden, Orlando, Florida, Inniswood Metro Gardens, Columbus, Ohio, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, Virginia, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York, and Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco, California.

The fern display gardens are at Bainbridge Island Library, Bainbridge Island, WA, Lakewold, Tacoma, Washington, Les Jardins de Metis, Quebec, Canada, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, and Whitehall Historic Home and Garden, Louisville, KY.

Hardy Fern Foundation members participate in a spore exchange, receive a quarterly newsletter and have first access to ferns as they are ready for distribution.

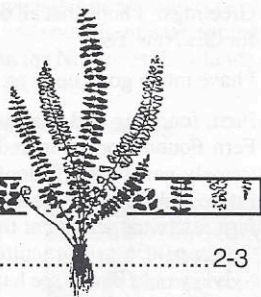
Cover Design by Willanna Bradner

HARDY FERN FOUNDATION QUARTERLY

THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY

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JAPANESE PAINTED FERN HONORED

The Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' as their 2004 Perennial Plant of the Year.

It is the first time a fern has been recognized for this award.

The Spore Exchange Needs You!

Please send your spores to our Spore Exchange Director:

Katie Burki
501 S. 54th St.
Tacoma, WA 98408

President's Message - Winter 2003/2004

Greetings. I hope that all of you have had a wonderful Holiday Season and Best Wishes for this New Year.

I have much good news to tell concerning the Hardy Fern Foundation.

First, founding and continuing Board Member Sylvia Duryee has gifted to the Hardy Fern Foundation an incredible donation of 8500 shares of Dow Chemical. This extremely generous gift doubles the size of the HFF Endowment Fund and assures the future viability, success and growth of this organization. Establishing a comprehensive fern reference section at the Elisabeth Miller Horticultural Library, located within the Center of Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington is one of the goals that Sylvia would like to see happen. With Sylvia's gift this can happen and steps are being taken to make this so. Also because of this wonderful gift we will be able to increase our efforts in working towards the goals of the foundation. Thank You Sylvia for your dedication and most generous gift to HFF.

This past October, the installation of the Fern Display Garden was completed at the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle, WA. Over two hundred ferns representing sixty fern species and varieties were planted in the sixty foot by six and one half foot planting area along with a mix of a few select small trees and shrubs, and a smattering of perennials and grasses. The construction of the garden includes an arbor that covers the entire space and was designed and built to blend in with the large arbor that covers the adjacent courtyard. It will provide shade for the ferns especially in the sunny summer months. A rock lined dry stream traverses one-half the length of the space contributing a natural look to the entire garden. All the ferns and plants were laid out and planted in one four hour period by most of the HFF board and members & friends of the HFF. It was a pleasure to see this group, all working together using their accumulated knowledge of ferns and fern culture in properly placing, spacing and planting the 60 species and varieties of ferns and companion plants into a beautiful cohesive and natural looking display. A sincere Thank You to Dr. John Wott (Arboretum Director), Randall Hitchin (Collections Manager), David Zuckerman (Head of Maintenance) and the staff of the Washington Park Arboretum for their assistance and guidance in making the Fern Display Garden possible. Also a sincere Thank You to the HFF Board and Members for all their time, enthusiastic planning and work in putting the display together. It turned out beautifully.

The Northwest Flower and Garden Show will be held this coming February fourth through the eighth. Each year HFF puts up an educational display. This year the HFF Display will primarily showcase native ferns of the Northwest in connection with this year Show's title 'Discovery Blooms', which refers to the two hundredth anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This has always been a looked forward to event, for not only do we get to meet many fellow garden enthusiasts, see beautiful display gardens, check out new plants and products offered by hundreds of vendors, and meet with other Horticultural Organizations, but it gives HFF a venue to inform the gardening and landscape public about ferns, fern growing and the Hardy Fern Foundation.

We are already planning ahead for the HFF Fern Festival in the first weekend of June, which will take place at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington. More on this event in the next HFF Quarterly.

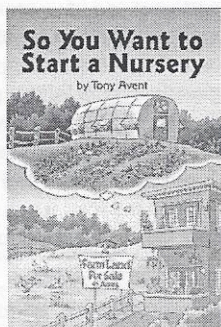
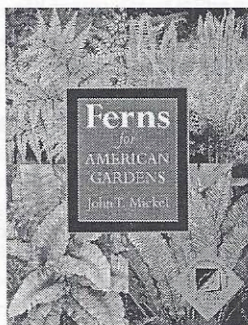
Last week (first week of January) brought the coldest temperatures to the Northwest that we have seen since the winter of 1996. Temperatures over the 3 day cold spell got down to twelve degrees Fahrenheit in some areas of Greater Puget Sound. Some of the

tender ferns such as tree ferns and tender species of *Blechnums* have displayed burning on the frond tips and edges. Whether this cold damage has been more severe will remain to be seen. But high temperatures have hit fifty degrees Fahrenheit this week. *Sarcococca* and *Hamamelis* are in bloom with their delicious fragrances, and snowdrops are popping up through the soil surface. Spring is just around the corner in the Northwest Lowlands, but wait, a late January or February storm could be around the corner.

May this message find you in good health and spirits. Happy fern gardening.

Best regards,

John van den Meerendonk



A SHORT NOTE ON BOOKS

I'm pleased to report that Timber Press has re-released *Ferns for American Gardens* by John Mickel. This comprehensive and extremely useful work was originally published by Macmillan in 1994 and is one of the best available books for fern growers. Martin Rickard in his complete review published in the Hardy Fern Foundation Newsletter Volume 4, Number 3, Fall 1994 writes, "I have no hesitation in recommending it to all serious growers of hardy ferns."

The text is the same as in the original edition although the printing is crisper. The source list, and society lists have been updated and the cover has changed. Ironically the illustration on the back cover should be identified as *Blechnum spicant* 'Rickard's Ser-rate' rather than just *Blechnum spicant*!

It is available for \$24.95 from Timber Press, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527 or 1-800-327-5680.

SO YOU WANT TO START A NURSERY authored by Hardy Fern Foundation member Tony Avent is not a fern book but it offers a lively discussion of how to get established in the nursery business. Tony is the owner of the very successful Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, NC and gives the reader an information-packed book covering all aspects of the industry from overall basics to the fine details...both practical and philosophical. John Bryan in the October 2003 issue of Gardening Newsletter writes, "This is an essential book for all those considering horticulture as a profession. For those already owning or working in a nursery it should be required reading." I thoroughly agree.

This is also a Timber Press publication or you can order it directly from Plant Delights, 9241 Sauls Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603, web www.plantdelights.com for \$24.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. Should you not be contemplating a career in the nursery business, I can also recommend his catalog which is available for 10 stamps or a box of chocolates.

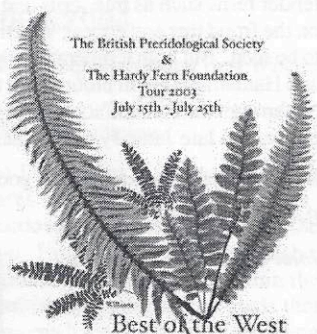
Sue Olsen

"Best of the West"

British Pteridological Society/ Hardy Fern Foundation 2003 Fern Excursion Part I - Gardens

Bill Plummer - Painted Post, NY

I grew up in the northeast, went to colleges in the northeast and have spent my entire professional life in the northeast. I am used to our winters, rejoice in our all too brief spring, luxuriate in the summer and glory in our fall foliage displays. Were I to relocate in the years left to me, it would be to the Pacific Northwest. But oh, the myriad of choices not only in ferns, but in flowering plants as well, e.g. rhododendrons. Over the last two dozen years, I have had many occasions to travel in the northwest - meetings of both the North American Rock Garden Society and the American Rhododendron Society and now the British Pteridological Society/ Hardy Fern Foundation US Pacific Northwest Excursion.



Day 1

I rose at 5:00 EDT, ate breakfast and left for the airport at 6:00 for a 7:00 flight to Philadelphia and a connecting flight at 10:00 to Sea-Tac arriving at 1:30 PDT. After collecting my baggage I boarded the Shuttle Express to Terry Lander Hall at the University of Washington. After checking in, I walked down the corridor to find my room, but was waylaid at the Husky Room where Becky Reimer greeted me at the door. On entering the room I was immediately pounced upon by Patrick Acock who introduced me to his fellow Brits. Sue Olsen was there as well and seated at a table was a familiar face, Sylvia Duryee who was on the Mid-Atlantic Fern Foray last summer. Then it was up to my dorm room to unload my suitcase and carry on bag. My roommate for the ten days had already unpacked and I was to meet him later.

After unpacking I descended to the first floor to await instructions for going to the Betty Miller Botanical Garden. It was there that I met Robert Sykes with whom I was going to share accommodations. We were assigned vehicles to drive us to the Miller Botanical Garden on Puget Sound in Shoreline, 10 miles north of Seattle. The garden, located in an exclusive community on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound, was the home of Pendleton and Elisabeth Miller.



Miller garden -
L-R Becky Reimer, Rose Marie Schieber, Sylvia
Duryee, Bill Plummer. Photo by Sue Olsen.

A semi-circular sitting area with a view of the lower garden and of Puget Sound adjoins the parking area. We proceed to the lower garden where food and drink await us. We were greeted by the Director/Curator Carolyn Miller and Richie Steffen, Coordinator of Horticulture. Richie was to join us on several days during the week. A large deck provided a place to sit, relax and enjoy views of the garden and the Sound. Both sides of the path in this section were covered with *Epimedium perralchicum*. Many of these will be removed to provide a more diversified planting.

Finishing our repast, they offered a brief history of the garden and the life and accomplishments of Betty Miller. The house was built in 1949 on five acres. Betty, a consummate plantswoman, played a major role in the founding of the Northwest Horticultural Society and the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington where she and her late husband funded the Betty Miller Horticultural Library. Betty died in 1994, but she established an endowment that enables the garden to continue and to evolve. Although there is no admission to the garden, tours are limited to respect the wishes of the neighbors.

From the parking area we ascended up the steep slope to the modest-looking house. This is a west-facing slope that receives plenty of direct sun and is home to Mediterranean-type plants. A small lawn, bordered by a selection of trees, deciduous and coniferous, shrubs, flowering plants, ferns and grasses, provides one of the few level areas in the entire garden. We then proceeded to the back of the house where the tall firs provided shade in marked contrast to the slope below the house. At the corner was a *Cornus kousa* in full bloom. Here, Richie said is the collection of hepaticas that are spectacular in the spring when in bloom. Here among ferns, such as *Adiantum aleuticum* 'Subpimum', were planted numerous dwarf plants. I was impressed by a large Sargent's weeping hemlock and a variegated dogwood in this small area. Proceeding up the hill we enter the woodland garden and view a striking specimen of *Polystichum setiferum* 'Plumoso-multilobum'. Of the 200 plus ferns and cultivars in the garden, I recognized only a small percentage. There was one large bed of *Blechnum penna-marina*, a fern which, unfortunately, I am unable to grow. A plant of *Polystichum munitum* was spectacular with the western sun lighting up the tall, erect fronds. There were familiar ferns such as *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, albeit growing more lustily, and *Osmunda japonica*, bearing a resemblance to *Osmunda regalis*. While the more ardent fern enthusiasts concentrated on ferns, my gaze was constantly diverted to the flowering plants, such as a huge plant of *Smilacina racemosa* with berries about to ripen. Did I read someplace that this was a tetraploid? I was also taken by a large mass of a ground-hugging saxifrage with delicate white flowers. The paths wandered back and forth through this hillside garden. Log rounds, covered with black fish netting and growing with mosses, were used on the path - a most interesting and effective solution. In one area a late-blooming rhododendron was in flower.

I felt we could wander for hours through the woodland garden, the gardens around the house and the lower garden and still we would not have seen everything. And to see the garden in the spring when the hepaticas are in bloom and in the fall when the maples are ablaze with color makes me wish I lived in the northwest. But the dinner bell was ringing and we had to board the cars for the drive past Green Lake to Ivar's Salmon House. There we were ushered to a private dining room overlooking Lake Union. Following a

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"Best of the West" continued from page 5

delicious dinner of their salmon barbecued over an alder wood fire, Bors Vesterby outlined his photographic key for identification of the ferns of the state of Washington. It was now midnight Eastern Time and my concerns of nodding off did not materialize, the talk being of absorbing interest. Following the talk we headed back to Lander hall and a most welcome sleep.

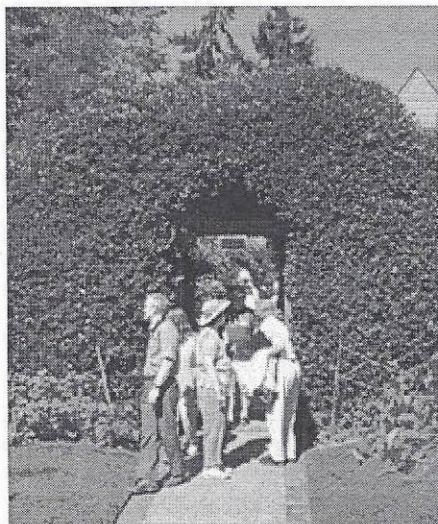


Photo by Bill Plummer

Day 3

Garden Visits

Sylvia Duryee

At 8:00 Jerry is there with a bus waiting for this motley crew for an 8:30 departure time to see members' gardens. First up is the garden of Sylvia Duryee. Pulling up to the garden there is a nine-foot high holly hedge with an arched entrance and a swinging gate, great portent of what is inside the gate. The walk leading through the gate to the house is a pebbled concrete lined with brick. The arched entrance reflects the arch in the front entranceway. The courtyard garden is massed with ferns and perennials - including several tall thistles adding a surprising note. The shrubs, trees both deciduous and ever-

green practically hide the house. In any other garden this would be a sign of neglect, but here it is artfully arranged and pruned to present a pleasing composition. This is a person who obviously loves plants in all their variety, although with close to 100 varieties, ferns play a major role in her landscaping. As if to emphasize this role a large *Dicksonia fibrosa* tree fern was off to the left of the foundation. The trunk is four feet tall and the fronds add another six feet to its height. Sylvia wraps the trunk to provide winter protection.

In the front border there is a huge clump of *Adiantum venustum* that seems to go on and on and then a six foot tall *Blechnum chilense*. To the left is a sweep of lawn with undulating edges that sweeps around the side of the house to the back beds with trees as a background so tall that the neighboring houses are almost invisible. Shrubs are faced off with ferns and flowers. Toward the back border there is a shady nook with arisaemas and other shade-loving plants. A tall irregular boulder with little pockets of moss makes a dramatic statement. Off the side porch is a handsome gnarled pine in a raised bed. Other plants that caught my attention were a familiar friend, *Osmunda regalis*, looking very royal indeed at six feet, a *Doodia media* with several reddish fronds, a five-foot tall *Dryopteris wallichiana*, a big clump of *Gymnocarpium oyamense* and a lovely blue gentian planted between two rocks. Walking around the back of the house I come across Sylvia's work benches and in a corner bed there are some tall arisaemas.

The courtyard garden is a delightful dense mélange of shrubs, trees, ferns, and low, medium and tall flowering plants contrasting with the open lawn area on the east side of the house. The courtyard beds on both sides of the curving path to the front door are filled with an assortment of plants. Carefully placed in these beds are selected rocks and driftwood accenting the plantings. Narrow stone paths comprised of irregular stepping stones lead off the front walk giving access to these beds. A heuchera with bronze foliage contrasts with a white flowering plant. Low-growing plants, such as *Dryas octopetala*, are cheek to jowl in these beds while thistle plants and tall arisaemas tower above them. A tree rhododendron provides an accent in the front corner of this garden room.

Sylvia is a true plantswoman reflected in the variety of plants and the design and lushness of her garden. It was a perfect beginning to the other private gardens which we are about to see.

Sue Olsen's Garden

Bellevue

From Sylvia's we headed east to Bellevue to be enchanted by a triad of gardens beginning with that of Sue Olsen. The house and garden are constructed on a hilly lot. At the bottom of the driveway is the house number backed by a lovely and lacy *Acer palmatum*. On the high side of the driveway Sue had planted some annuals to fill the spot which in the fall will be ablaze with cyclamen, some with corms 3-4 inches in diameter. And of course ferns, notably a *Pyrrosia shearereri*, next to a large rock. Another rock with a small basin carved out for water is surrounded by *Polypodium scolouleri* and more ferns. At the top of the driveway is the carport and a small founda-

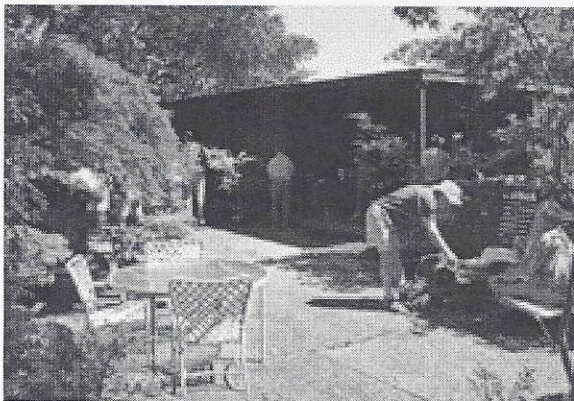


Photo by Bill Plummer

tion planting crowded with fern enthusiasts trying to identify each and every fern. To the right of the front door there is a raised section with containers of maples, rhododendrons and other plants. On the other two sides of the carport are more ferns and plants in the ground and in containers. As we skirt around to the back of the house to the left is a corner planted with ferns and yes, more maples. To the right are more ferns and rhododendrons planted in tubs sunk in the ground - a new concept to me.

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At the back of the house in the corner we noted the difference between *Athyrium niponicum* 'Ghost' and *A. n.* 'Pictum Silver Falls'. Others that particularly caught my eye were *Athyrium yokoscense*, *Dryopteris crispifolia* and a magnificent specimen of *Polystichum setiferum* 'Herrenhausen'. To us easterners Sue pointed out *Pellaea glabella* growing on a lava rock. Above another pot attracted attention with a planting of *Botrychium multifidum*. The back is terraced off with timbers creating a lovely concrete pebbled terrace. Above the terrace there is a large rhododendron ready to bloom shortly after we leave. Everywhere we go there are refreshments; the drinks, especially on the hot days, are welcome. At the back of the patio there is a grated bench holding dozens of plants, mostly maples, hostas and ferns but also one arisaema. Next to it is a large eight foot cut-leaf maple making a perfect mound of foliage. At the top of the lot a narrow terrace holds a hoop house filled with ferns in all sizes. The bank next to the house is planted with trees, including one maple, *Acer palmatum* 'Skeeter's Broom' with gorgeous red leaves. At bottom of the bank there is a sweep of lawn bordering the house. Sue's attached propagating house is a must for everyone to inspect. Surrounding the small patio are still more plants in tubs including *Cheilanthes* and other xerics and a large Japanese maple surrounded by ferns at its base.

Lan Bradner's Garden

Bellevue

The garden is entered via the carport and through a delightfully designed wrought iron gate. We are immediately confronted with a large stone wall at the base of which are container plants and in the corner a magnificent expanse of *Adiantum venustum* and my fa-

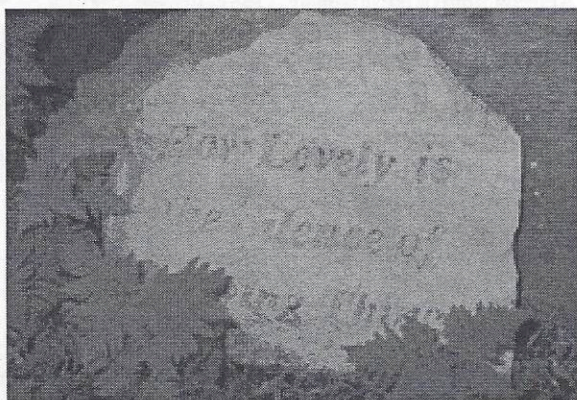


Photo by Bill Plummer

vorite hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* 'Cole's Prostrate'. On top of the wall are a variety of ferns and grasses providing a pleasing contrast in form and in color. More rock walls border the patio and in the middle of the patio is a raised bed. With the shade of the tall firs, the flagstone patio, the planting area above the patio and the small pool this is a very pleasant and restful garden and I immediately feel at home in it. But unlike my own garden, it is very neat and well-maintained with the dark mulch adding to the restfulness. The waterfall and pool, surrounded by boulders, ferns, a hosta with huge leaves and *Asarum europeum* with its dark green glossy foliage, particularly attract me. The ibis and the crocodile add a nice touch as does an unusual wood sculpture. But the nicest touch is the inscribed stone, "How Lovely is the Silence of Living Things". The planting of *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* in front complements the setting.

The patio is a very pleasant spot to sit and enjoy the setting while quenching one's thirst and indulging in some delicious Biscotti, B. HFF Munitum and B. HFF Adiantum, daughter Kris' original recipes created in honor of the 2003 BPS HFF tour. There is the raised bed to explore and to admire as well as the rhododendrons, ferns and hostas in the planting bed above the rock wall. Suddenly I realize that the tree I am sitting under is *Acer japonicum* 'Acontifolium', one of my favorites of the Asian maples. This towers above me and makes me wish I could give my two-foot tree growth hormones. Again and again there are massive clumps of ferns in addition to the *Adiantum venustum* - *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris affinis* 'Crispa Gracilis', *Athyrium niponicum*, both green and 'Pictum', and *Blechnum spicant* to name just a few. The upper level was lawn until last summer when it was torn up, irrigation installed and a flagstone terrace created. Here the ferns have not had a chance to fill in, but when they do invite me for another visit. Here on this terrace there is a lovely spreading green-leaved Japanese maple in an attractive brown oblong ceramic container. Another tall ellipsoidal container holds an erect burgundy-leaved Japanese maple. Oh, and there is an eight-foot tall *Rhododendron* 'Aladdin' in bloom, much too tender for Zone 5. Then my eye catches a rock with a bowl hewn out with five "stone" islands in this tranquil sea.

This time of year Lan's garden is essentially a foliage garden with ferns and hostas playing a dominant role. The hostas are in bloom, providing color as does a large fuchsia, a pink-flowering shrub and a few other flowering plants. To give us a taste of what the garden is like in other seasons, Lan hands out a small photo album showing her Matilija poppy, her tree peony with its 65 blooms, her *Iris prismatica* and the seed pods on *Iris foetidissima*. Fall photos include the deep red of *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki', the glowing orange of *Acer japonicum* 'Acontifolium' and the golden yellow of her *Ginkgo biloba*. Then at the farewell banquet she hands out final photos she took of our visit to her delightful garden.

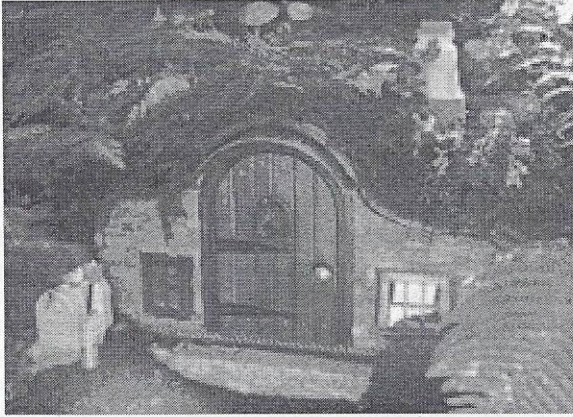
I think I might have been the only one in the group who looked at the plantings at the front entrance. There were planting pockets between the steps and the house. On the other side, a tall tree lent accent and next to it was a low-spreading Japanese maple with dark green and burgundy leaves. A flowering shrub, several groupings of ferns and hostas and several boulders completed the planting. Walking around and up to a landing I discovered a couple of raised beds with flowers and vegetables. This was Lan's sunny garden and in addition to the raised beds there were clumps of ornamental grasses, ferns and a large trough backed by two large narrow firs.

Pat and Marilyn Kennar's Garden

Our final stop on this four course feast of gardens is that of the Kennars, Pat and Marilyn. To the left there is a four-foot tall hedge and behind it a taller slatted fence and a Japanese-style gate to a small and intimate courtyard garden. One of the first things that catches our eyes as we enter the courtyard is an unusual and attractive Tic-Tac-Toe set of Frogs and Dragonflies. Immediately, Pat Acock and Robert Sykes have to play a game. There is so much to see in this small space that it is hard to gather it all in. To the left is a small L-shaped pool lined by large square stones. There are goldfish in the pool and a fountain providing the sound of running water. Then of course there are the ferns such as *Arachniodes simplicior* as well as the requisite *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' and

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Hobbit House.

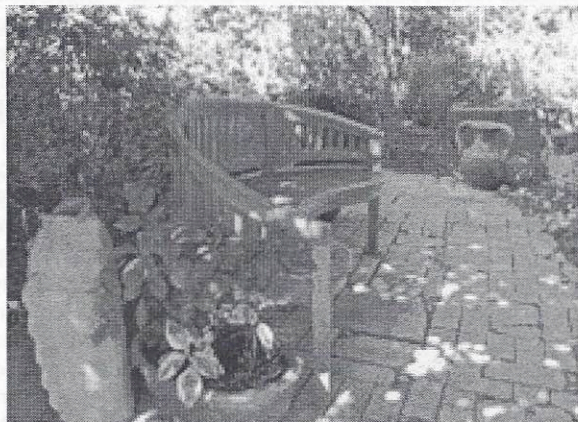
Photo by Bill Plummer.

Adiantum venustum, both in large ceramic pots. In another container there is a nice specimen of *Asplenium trichomanes* and a lovely *Selaginella*. On the far side is a raised bed containing various ceramic containers planted with a variety of plants. Here is a round white bowl with a small Asian maple underplanted with ferns including *Lygodium japonicum*. To the right is a magnificent specimen of *Adiantum aleuticum*. By the pool is a finely dissected *Acer palmatum* surrounded by some tall ferns. In another corner dwell carvings of hippopotamus and a manatee with still more ferns in the background. Here in the courtyard is a woodland garden in this shady nook. In the corner of the house are ferns, but also hosta, asarum and arisaema, with *A. ringens* looking particularly happy. On the opposite side of the courtyard garden backed by a fence is another planting crammed with flowering plants and ornamental grasses.

As we go around to the back of the house we discover a large deck loaded with planters of every description and benches and chairs to sit at and enjoy the garden. Sitting on one of the benches is Martin Rickard pouring himself a soft drink. The deck extends outside the railing providing room for more plants. There are steps off the deck leading to the garden below. On both sides of the steps are large clumps of *Polystichum munitum*. About the only place where nothing is growing is under the deck and that only for the lack of light. But there are scores of plants in front and a handsome placement of rocks and gravel and an old leather belt which at first glance appears to be a snake. There is a good sized lawn rimmed with plants of all descriptions. The bed in front of the "Potting Shed" is ablaze with flowers in white, pink, yellow, blue and rose. Looking up there is a sign on the front of the deck announcing that this is the "Palais de Poulet" with demi-douzaine poulets in residence. In addition to the potting shed there is a greenhouse and I capture Peter Meegdes as he emerges from an inspection tour. The lawn sweeps down with more beds on the side separating the lawn from the shady grove. What a pleasure it must for Pat and Marilyn to sit out on their deck and survey this wondrous scene.

To the far left near the back of their lot, there is a path leading into the grove and to get there one must cross a bridge constructed of stone blocks with moss growing in the cracks. This is just one of two such bridges. What a clever way to enter from one part of

a garden into another. Inside this garden there are not only plants to enchant one, but a moss-covered Hobbit home with a stone front and a handsome wood door and two small windows. The scene even includes a mailbox. In another spot is Pat's moss garden, his "MOSS - O - LEUM". Then I come upon a hanging birdbath with four birds perched on the rim. Were these four birds carved out of one stone or two? Another path leads beside a carved dump truck carrying a potted plant. I hope the driver of the truck was not potted. Hanging from one tree in this glade is a hanging fern basket lined with sphagnum moss. And somewhere in this amazing garden I come upon a very aptly named *Cardiocrinum giganteum* that must be ten feet all with large glossy green leaves. And everywhere there are ferns and more ferns many of them not known to me, but always a delight to see these primitive non-flowering plants growing with such abandon.



Ridge Garden.

Photo by Bill Plummer.

Day 4

The Ridge Garden

Ilga Jansons and Michael Dryfoos

I had little clue what was to await us as we walked up the steep driveway and entered the garden through a wooden portal, guarded by two lions. What an incredible site and sight, and to think that it has been created in only seven years. The hundreds of 50-year old rhododendrons and other mature plantings in the garden belie its age. Oh to come back in the spring when the rhododendrons are ablaze with color! Their home, blending into the landscape sits on the ridge overlooking the Koi Pond. Feeding the pond are a series of waterfalls that tumble down between huge boulders with moss, ferns and hostas softening the edges. The slope from the house to the pond is planted with white and blue hydrangea, ferns, hostas and ornamental grasses. Large screen structures help to focus one's view and shield the pump house and other distractions from disturbing the view of the plantings. Bordering the pond is a Joglo (or Gazebo), a 100-year old Javanese teak house with carvings on the ceiling and side panels. A pair of curious chairs in the shape of hands provides seating in the Joglo. The deck provides access to the Koi pond. Ilga demonstrated how one could be kissed by the Koi and several members of our group experienced being kissed by the Koi as they are fed.

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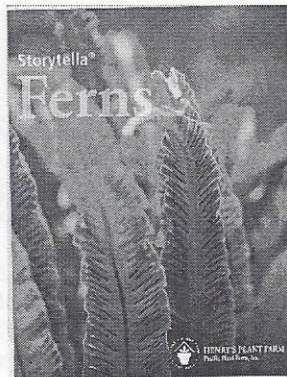
"Best of the West" *continued from page 11*

Ilga then led us on a tour of the garden. We come upon a sitting area paved with a gray brick and furnished with a stone bench, chairs, planters and containing a shrine-like statue. The path leads down past Hotei, the laughing Buddha, behind a collection of round, smooth river stones and flanked by a rhododendron and ferns. We next come upon the Bell Tower containing a massive Japanese gong. Throughout the garden there are haikus, sculptures, sitting areas - each one different and all with an Asian flavor. One of these sitting areas is under the Rose Arbor, a roofed structure providing protection from the noonday sun and the occasional shower. Provided with both a stone and wooden bench the floor is paved with brick in a circular pattern. Then suddenly there is the Tree House, two stories high, adorned with colored banners. There at the top is one of our group gazing down on us. Of course we all have to go up, restricted to four at a time. On the top deck there is a bed with red, orange and purple bedding and an intriguing brightly-colored cylindrical silk sleeve. A small alcove contains an Indian sculpture and Oriental rug. Farther along we come to another sitting area. Blue glazed pottery containing a large variegated hosta and flanked by ferns provides color. Behind is a slatted wooden screen. On the screen is a large intriguing sculpture that may or may not be a plant. The final resting spot on our outward journey is the "Room with a View", a three-sided wooden enclosure open to the sky. A group of windows overlooks a steep drop off. Sitting is provided by rattan chairs and bench. And always, flowers in glazed pottery provide the ambiance. On our return we come to a large sitting area with a replica of a Lutyens bench, large planters and a large bright ceramic fish. This area is paved with red brick and large stones. A small resting area is paved with irregular stone with creeping plants filling the cracks. On the hillside among ferns and rhododendrons is their moss garden, with large stones covered with a soft green moss. There are about a dozen resting places throughout the garden, each one distinct with different benches and paving amenities. A Vietnamese Buddhist sculpture dominates one attractive alcove. Scattered throughout are sculptures, e.g. a 'Tachi-gata' Japanese lantern and decorative pottery, such as an orange vessel with a lizard emerging. At the top of the driveway is a rock wall completely covered by a low-growing herb. Leading off to the right is an entry arbor that leads to the Garnesha fountain, an upright glass and wooden sculpture flowing with water. Beyond that is Ilga's alpine house with both elevated and platform beds, containing a variety of alpine plants. I kept wandering off seeing more and more and still not seeing it all. Two things that caught my eye on my last pilgrimage were the walkway panels and a tile flooring sculpture depicting Koi in an Escher-like pattern. And then it was time to go and Robert Sykes was granted the privilege of ringing the gong announcing our imminent departure.

Henry's Plant Farm

Snohomish Washington

When we arrive we walk through a large greenhouse with table after table containing ferns, ferns and more ferns, a prelude as to what we were to see over the next several hours. Henry's dates back 30 years when Henry



Mollgaard moved his greenhouses from south Seattle to the present location in Snohomish. The Nashes purchased the business in 1982 and under their ownership expanded to 130,000 square feet (three acres) under glass, poly, and dynaglass and another two acres of outside production. They specialize in producing young plants for greenhouse growers. In addition to growing some six dozen varieties of ferns they also grow a large variety of herbs, annuals, perennials, groundcovers, begonias and flowering and foliage house plants. They also produce their Storytells African violets as do propagators in Germany and Canada. Some of their plants are grown on for the local market. Most of their plants are contracted for.

After a brief introduction to their operation, we split up into smaller groups and began our respective tours. Our first stop was the greenhouses that contained their stock plants. It was a joy to see such robust and healthy ferns. After the spores are gathered the plants are given a haircut. The spores are sown into flats yielding almost 300 sporophytes. We saw flat after flat of trays with the sporophytes and more flats where they developed their first fronds. We watched as some of the workers plucked out the sporelings and transplanted them, 72 to a flat. Occasionally rogue ferns have to be removed. When the ferns have developed sufficiently they are shipped to the grower. In the case of Canadian growers, they pick them up in their own trucks. Finishing our tour we were treated to a great repast. After lunch and before departing we had a chance to wander a bit on our own. There were rows after row of hoop houses and greenhouses filled with some of the other plants they grow. Outside there were flat after flat of both foliage and flowering plants, the latter making large drifts of white and pink and yellow.

Day 6

Elandan Gardens

Bremerton, Washington

The bus picked us up at our dorms and drove us down to the piers to catch the ferry to Bremerton. Once on the ferry we pile out of the bus. Some go for coffee, others go up on deck to view the Seattle skyline as we wait for the ferry to cast off. Looking to the west we can see the islands across the waters and behind them the Olympic Mountains, some marked with snow. After an hour long ferry ride we board the bus and disembark. On the drive we pass the Bremerton Navy Yard and travel around the end of the inlet.



Photo by Bill Plummer.

We arrived at the garden and gift shop before owner/designer Dan Robinson. At the garden entrance there is a huge rock resting on three large boulders. Atop the rock is a dead and gnarled tree. Another is an 8-10 foot high narrow stone sculpture. (We learn later that these are the work of Dan's son, Will Robinson, There are some handsome

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good-sized Japanese maples and then a Cypress with the trunk after about eight feet assuming a 45 degree angle. Certainly not my style. Scattered about in haphazard style are some huge pieces of driftwood.

To the right of the shop is a Japanese maple atop a small rise with a waterfall cascading into a shallow pond, the bottom covered with large flat and rounded stones. As we await Dan's arrival we mill about in the shop. Joy Neal finds a fantastic black hat and models it for us. There is a collection of bonsai trees for sale on three benches under a shed. What appears to us to be a nursery outside makes some of us wonder why we have stopped here. There are some interesting plants, but it is much disorganized and sections look 'junky'.

Still awaiting Dan's appearance, I wander out the rear door and find myself in a veritable paradise. Here is the Bonsai Garden! A huge garden overlooks the water filled with myriad trees of all sizes trained to perfection. There are huge rocks tastefully placed, an immense trunk and roots of a dead tree, tall dark thin weathered trunks and bleached trunks all adding up to a dramatic wholeness. One Japanese maple that caught my eye had a large elongated boulder for a container. In scattered locations throughout the garden are scores of bonsai in brightly colored containers. In a sitting alcove overlooking the water perched on a table made of stone is a three-foot tall Bougainvillea with a massive trunk. We learn from Dan that this was bought in Florida as a 10 foot tall tree. It was chopped down to four feet, the resulting sprouts trained and the upper trunk split. The day we were there it had scattered blossoms, but it must be spectacular when covered with bloom. Many of Dan's aged-looking bonsai were created in the same manner. A 20 foot tall *Acer palmatum* was cut down to five feet and later reduced to two feet. (This must be the one planted in the elongated boulder.)

Walking along I come to a shallow pond with more bonsai, one an ancient looking tree with a thick, bleached and gnarled trunk in a round shallow dish and beyond it a taller, but similar tree with a massive trunk which tapers to a pencil point and is planted in a huge 2-3 foot high boulder. Stretching across the pond are two large logs resting on a boulder in the middle. Growing out of the larger log are two plants. A dramatic accent is a grouping of five upright boulders in the pond, the tallest about five feet. A small patch of water lilies adds to the effect. Another solitary boulder sits nearby.

Dan and Martin Rickard have a long discussion on an unusual specimen of *Polypodium glycyrrhiza*, a fern that Dan discovered in Oregon. Martin advises Dan to name and publish the name thus establishing priority.

There are several tables down by the water and there is where we eat our box lunches. On one side are a half dozen large pieces of driftwood that Dan has found and brought to his garden. On the other side is a grouping of four upright stones with round boulders perched on top. At another spot there is a triangular carved stone with a blue circle in the center. What it represents I do not know. Before leaving I wander around some more and discover a small round pond surrounded by small round stones and fed by a stream flowing over stones. Then it is time to board our bus for our next stop, the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden which houses the Hardy Fern Foundation plantings and propagation facilities.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Federal Way, Washington

We are greeted by garden co-director Steve Hootman and our first stop is the propagation facilities for the HFF. Two of our group, Michelle Bundy and Becky Reimer are responsible for the propagation. In addition to seeing the fern facilities we also get a chance to view the rhododendron propagation facilities. As a member of both it was great to see where the ferns and rhododendrons I get originate. In one of the hoop houses there is an array of mature ferns



Photo by Bill Plummer.

ready to be planted in the garden. There are some beautiful plants of *Dryopteris sieboldii*, but according to John Mickel it seems doubtful it would survive in my garden, but *D. tokyoensis*, another handsome fern, would be a welcome addition. In one of the rhododendron houses there is a flowering vireya with long tubular red flowers. Leaving the propagation area Steve takes us on a tour of the garden. One of the first ferns to catch my eye is *Dryopteris wallichiana* with large arching fronds five feet tall. Then there is a large clump of *Dryopteris sieboldii* dashing my spirits because I cannot duplicate it in my garden. Next we come upon dozens of Pitcher plants, *Sarracenia minor*. We traverse the alpine garden with one area carpeted with a low-growing groundcover with attractive purple blossoms and a clump of a striking primula. Blood grass lends a touch of red to the landscape towering over a planting of *Antennaria dioica*. No rock garden would be complete without dwarf evergreens and here are a couple *Tsuga canadensis*. Next we come upon a massive planting of *Adiantum aleuticum* 'Subpumilum' that I would die for nestled between two boulders. Not to be outdone is an equally large clump of a Washington native, *Penstemon procerus* ssp. *tolmiei*. Another dramatic clumping is a Himalayan gaultheria. Moss-covered paths meander through this hillside with plantings of rocks, ferns, shrubs, trees and alpine plants in a harmonious whole. But back to the ferns. In absolutely every garden we have seen extensive masses of *Adiantum venustum* and the RSF is no exception. Here is a mat that must be 50 sq. ft. in size. Oh what I would give to see such a mass of the Himalayan maidenhair in my garden. (This fall I purchased two more plants to try to simulate the effect I have seen in so many gardens). Equally desirable is a saxifrage simply covered with tiny white flowers making a most attractive groundcover. With the formal tour finished we are free to explore on our own. In the planting area by the office is a most desirable rhododendron, *R. forrestii* ssp. *forrestii*, but much too tender for a Zone 5 garden. Two handsome ferns in this planting were *Arachniodes simplicior* var. *major* and *Cyrtomium macrophyllum*. Can I grow

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them? Mickel rates them to Zone 6. I grow *C. falcatum*. These two are certainly worth a try as are *Blechnum penna-marina* and *B. spicant* rated to Zone 5. I have only managed to have them die on me twice so will a third try be successful?

Strolling back to our pick-up area I come upon a spectacular clump of the Asian may-apple, *Dryosma pleithe* and a little while later an unusual hosta, *H. kikutii* var. *caput-avis*.

Then there is a vast expanse of a low-growing rhododendron, *R. calostrotum* var. *keleticum*, unfortunately much too tender for me to even attempt. But then there is a familiar friend, *Mitchella repens*, but covering such a large area that it is unbelievable. What a sight that would be when in bloom or when covered with its red berries. Truly "red giants in a green sky".

Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is not only home to the Hardy Fern Foundation, but also to the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection. The last time I was here during a rhododendron annual meeting our time at RSBG was too short to see not only the rhododendrons and ferns but the bonsai collection as well. This day we had ample time, but as with any garden visit, one can never see everything even by retracing one's steps. And in one day we have seen two superb and excellent bonsai collections, one in a garden setting and the other displayed as in an art museum.

Day 8

Bainbridge Island Library Gardens

Another ferry ride, this time to Bainbridge Island As we leave we look back and see Seattle's Space Needle. Our first stop is the local library.

Japanese Garden

What a surprise to learn that this attractive low library is surrounded by not only a fern garden, but also a perennial garden and a Japanese garden. No formal time is devoted to exploring the perennial garden, but we learn that the Japanese garden was dedicated and is maintained by the local Japanese community. What a wonderful community gift. We en-

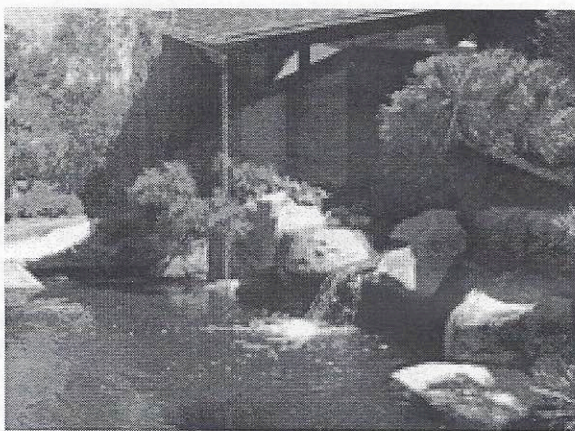


Photo by Bill Plummer.

ter the garden through a gate. The paving is irregular flagstone carefully fitted together. There are mounds on either side of the stones planted with trees, dwarf evergreens, shrubs, moss, low groundcovers and an occasional boulder. Numerous Haiku verses in Japanese and English are tastefully placed throughout the garden. The path then opens up to a large area. To the right a large raised area which abuts the library is lined with large boulders. A couple of tall trees dominate the raised bed. At the corner of the building there is a tall upright stone flanked by a pine tree and a small red-leaved Japanese maple. Across the patio there are two sculpted playful-looking otters, one standing and the other in repose. Across this patio a path leads through a gate and around the building to the fern garden. Large tall windows in the library look out upon a pool fed by a small waterfall. The gutters lead to a chain suspended over the pool. Large boulders and a couple contorted pines complete the picture.

The quiet pond;

A frog leaps in-

The sound of water

Basho

Bainbridge Island Library Fern Garden

Passing through the Japanese garden we come to a shady area at the back of the library and the fern garden designed and installed by Hardy Fern Foundation President John van den Meerendonk. A ramp leads down to the Children's Library. What an attractive entrance the children have with dozens of *Polystichum munitum* on either side of the walk. There is just a mass of greenery under the canopy of the trees. To my mind the varied shades of green and the difference in growth habit of ferns is not tiring. But still the use of stone, particularly upright stone in the garden provides a nice contrast. Also providing contrast are the remains of a partially burned trunk as well as the trunks of the living trees. A low spreading gnarled pine at the far end of the garden is striking. But all is not ferns. Several huge gunneras are planted under some willows and lend a nice contrast with their huge leaves and flower scape.



Photo by Bill Plummer.

There are several clumps of *Phyllitis scolopendrium* with

some of the fronds being crested. A discussion ensues as to whether it is stable. Every other garden we visited had large extents of *Adiantum venustum*, but in this garden we understand that it slowly died out. Strange! But maybe not so strange. If plants don't

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like a particular spot they decline. Move them a few feet and they will probably thrive. Some of our eastern ferns, e.g. *Dryopteris goldiana*, do not take kindly to the Northwest. Why?

There are benches for sitting, reading, relaxing or just enjoying the serenity of the garden. A newly constructed gazebo has been erected in the garden and would make an ideal place for story telling.

Jocelyn Horder's Garden

Before lunch in Poulsbo we board the bus and head for our next garden visit to Sylvia Duryee's sister, Jocelyn Horder and her garden. Although Jocelyn had difficulty walking she graciously welcomed us to her lovely home and garden. Both sisters have two passions - gardening and sailing. And what an ideal location for someone who loves both. A single story brick house with a small alcove at the entrance awaits us as we walk down the driveway from the bus. Both sides of the driveway are filled with trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses and flowers. What an inviting entrance to a home. The first thing that captures my eye is a small pool fed by a small waterfall and bordered by large moss-covered boulders. A small fern is growing in the moss on the boulder and a large *Polystichum munitum* provides a backdrop to the waterfall. An azalea plus other shrubs complete the inviting scene. To the left of this delightful picture is a reddish-leaved Japanese maple pruned to display its twisted branches.

The water from this pool flows under the driveway emerging on the opposite side. The bottom of the stream is covered with flat stones and water plants float on the surface. The scene is very restful, in part by the shade provided by trees and by the pleasing contrast of foliage and shades of green provided by the grasses, mosses, shrubs and trees. Boulders of various sizes are tastefully placed complimented by a tall thin piece of driftwood. The house side is just a mass of greenery with bushes growing cheek to jowl, but retaining their distinctive habit.

The house sits in a small inlet with a view of the Olympic Mountains as a backdrop. As I walk around the house my eye is taken by a tall blanching trunk of a long dead tree with two lower branches bending up and four higher branches bending down. Beyond the tree, closer to the water is a small lighthouse built out of cobblestones. Moored in the water is a sailboat with its mast adding a third dimension to the scene. This is the real front of the house with floor to ceiling windows providing a view of the front garden, the inlet and the mountains. Not a bad life to lead. On one side is a rock garden with masses of color - a half dozen shades of green as well as white and yellow from the foliage and pink, red, orange and shades of purple

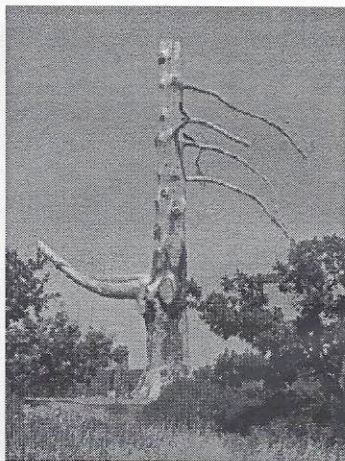


Photo by Bill Plummer.

from the flowering plants with a few boulders for accent. Tucked next to one of these boulders is a sedum covering several square feet. The left side of the front garden is given over to taller plants among them a yellow-foliaged juniper. Other plants provide all shades of green, gray and pink.

Exploring further we come to a large open work area which includes her bonsai collection. Two that caught my attention were two maples in a shallow container and a cascading pine in a tall round container. Lending color to this area was a barrel cactus in a large orange pot just covered with bright orange petals accented by the yellow stamens and pistils. This was not just a work area it was part of the garden.

Day 11

Lyman Black



Photo by Bill Plummer.

Following the superb farewell banquet we are served in Lyman and Liz Black's condo minium complex, we are all invited to tour Lyman's newly created garden. It is a small garden, twenty by forty feet at most on the shore of Lake Washington. There are lights so that the garden can be enjoyed on summer evenings. A large number of large stone are artfully placed with ferns newly planted in front of and among the stones. A perfect mound of a large low-spreading *Acer palmatum* forms a nice background for this area. In one corner Lyman has created a dry stream bed using small round "skipping" stones in a variety of colors. I had the pleasure of contributing a few stones picked up on the beach on the Olympic Peninsula. In one section of the garden is a raised bed with a very distinctive long stone looking deceptively like an alligator. We spend time enjoying the garden in the twilight.

Following the superb farewell banquet we are served in Lyman and Liz Black's condo minium complex, we are all invited to tour Lyman's newly created garden. It is a small garden, twenty by forty feet at most on the shore of Lake Washington. There are lights so that the garden can be enjoyed on summer evenings. A large number

What makes a garden?

Gardens are an expression of an individual's interests, taste and the hand they are dealt. Each of the gardens was unique in its own way and each appealed to me in a different way, some more than others. Certainly the climate of the Northwest is more conducive to growing a wider variety of plants than here in the Southern Tier of New York State with our sub-zero temperatures. But we do share one thing with Seattle. The Ithaca/Corning area has the dubious distinction of coming in second in the nation with the least number of sunny days throughout the year.

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I have remarked repeatedly on the large clumps of *Adiantum venustum* as well as other plants. A single plant is nice, but for drama one must have a large enough expanse to make a statement. My drift of more than a hundred *Trillium grandiflorum* makes such a statement. Many practices seen in almost all of the gardens are ones that I do not employ: namely the extensive use of containers in which to grow plants, the dramatic use of driftwood and large stones as a sculptural accents and the use of whimsical features. They are just not my style and would not complement the quiet beauty of my garden. But I thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed their use in these northwest gardens.

But of all the gardens, how does one choose the one that appealed to me most. Certainly The Miller Botanical Garden has a superb setting with many microclimates allowing it to grow a wider variety of plants than other gardens in the area. I could spend hours in the woodland garden. Sylvia grows her plants superbly well. Each "room" is a delight in itself. Sue has taken a hilly lot and integrated the house and the lot beautifully. And although she has a nursery, the casual visitor probably would not realize it. And although specializing in ferns and Japanese maples, they have been combined in a manner that is unobtrusive, unlike many specialized gardens. Lan's garden is the closest to what I have tried to do by making the garden a restful place. She uses her plants and design elements in a restrained way that feels so natural. Pat and Marilyn have four gardens and I just loved their courtyard garden and their shady grove being the shade gardener that I am. Ilga and Mike had the wherewithal to create a magnificent and special garden. The library fern garden will only get better and better in the coming years. (I sent a photo of the entrance to the 'Children's Library' to our local library director). Again although ferns were the dominant element other plants were incorporated into the design in a tasteful manner. And what can I say about the Japanese Garden except to say it was superb. What a gift to the community! The setting for Jocelyn Horder's garden on the inlet makes a beautiful location for a garden and Jocelyn has done a magnificent job in integrating the house and garden. The use of the waterfall and pool adds a peaceful and restful element to the garden. The use of a variety of low-growing plants in the front garden provides a lovely view of the garden, the inlet and the Olympic Mountains. Dan Robinson's Elandan Gardens is in a class by itself. Almost everything is done on a grand scale from his large scale bonsai to the massive rocks and driftwood he uses so effectively. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is primarily devoted to that species and to a display garden for the Hardy Fern Foundation. But other trees, shrubs and flowering plants are blended into the overall design of the garden. On our visit it was not immediately obvious that there were that many rhododendrons in the Rock Garden. Finally the small garden of Lyman Black is a new garden with great potential. The backbone of the garden is already there with the rocks and the trees. The ferns are small, but when they fill in, it will make a delightful space for not only Lyman but for the other residents of the condominium.

We saw these gardens for a fleeting hour on a summer day. To fully appreciate them we would have to see them throughout the year, but especially in the spring when the fiddleheads emerge and unfurl in their captivating beauty.

Hardy Helpers

The BPS/HFF Best of the West excursion would not have been possible without a tremendous amount of time and work on the part of a wonderful cadre of volunteers. I'm indebted to you all and can't begin to express my appreciation to:

Pat Acock for support and co-ordination on the other side of the pond.

Liz and Lyman Black for arranging such a magnificent setting for our farewell dinner and for sharing Lyman's newly installed fern garden and to Lyman for serving as a "go-fer".

Willanna Bradner for designing our handsome commemorative tee shirts and cover of the welcome packet and for hosting us in her lovely garden.

Michelle Bundy for putting together an incredibly comprehensive welcome packet and for hosting the tour to Elandan Gardens and the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

Katie Burki for organizing the spore distribution and table decorations.

Sylvia Duryee for bringing refreshments to the registration reception and for hosting us in her fascinating garden.

Steve Hootman for hosting us at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

Jocelyn Horder for sharing her magnificent garden.

Marilyn and Pat Kennar for hosting us in their garden of varied treasures and to Pat for guiding the garden tour bus.....including a brief stint as traffic director!

Art Kruckeberg for educating and hosting us in the Wenatchee Mountains.

Bill Plummer for exhaustive and extensive recording and reporting on the entire trip for our Quarterlies.

Becky Reimer for assisting Michelle Bundy in all of her activities.

Richie Steffen for arranging a bang up welcome reception and for leading and guiding on the Perry Creek trail.

Nils Sundquist for a late afternoon sweep and early morning mountain excursion.

Jeanie Taylor for chauffeuring and sharing botanical knowledge especially of our natives.

John van den Meerendonk for designing the beautiful Bainbridge Island Kitsap County Library fern and Japanese gardens and for conducting the informative tour there.

Bors Vesterby for his excellent slide presentation on designing a photographic key of native Washington ferns, for his related poster board display, and for leadership and guidance on the Perry Creek Trail and Mt. Rainier trip.

And finally to the participants for their enthusiasm as well as to Jerry Little, a non-HFF member who befriended us and led us in safe hands and good cheer at the helm of our buses.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for your moral support as well.

*Most sincerely,
Sue Olsen*

Welcome New Members

Big Dipper Farm

Jo and Terry Sullivan

Luanne Coachman and Robert Tasler, Jr.

Sarah Jurak

Cecil D. Grimes, Jr., M.D., P.C.

James A. Boldt

Tom Rodgers

Catherine Hovanic & Bill Brookreson

Keith Booney

Thomas J. Palm

Peter Podaras

Hardy Fern Foundation Endowment Fund Receives a Generous Gift From Board Member

SYLVIA C. DURYEE



Photo by Pat Kennar.

years with the Northwest Horticultural Society. There she served on the Board of Directors as well as Director of the Seed Exchange devoting many hours in listing, sorting and shipping the annual consignments of seeds. Her interest in the exchange led to many friendships and correspondences with enthusiasts from the U.S. and abroad. One of her contacts was with the late PhDr. Zdenek Seibert of the Czech Republic. He was an alpine specialist, and also a great authority in the fern world. He willingly shared spores - an exchange that brought many new introductions to the North American fern community.

The seed pursuit also allowed Sylvia to broaden her extensive knowledge of native plants with studies that ranged northward through B.C. and Alaska especially on annual explorations with her late husband, Phil on their boat the P.S. These plants are well documented in her slide collection which many have enjoyed in assorted programs that have been presented to specialty organizations.

Sylvia has been a regular contributor to the annual Fern Festival, a program that dates back over 30 years first as a NHS project and more recently as the primary fund raising activity of the HFF. She has helped with organization and direction as well as being a regular contributor of a wide assortment of ferns and companion plants.

Sylvia's had a lifelong interest in the plant community as well as nature. The Olmsted Brothers designed her family's garden and her mother fostered a love of nature in her children, a love that continues to enrich Sylvia's life and those around her today.

We are extremely grateful for this gift and on behalf of the board and the entire HFF community extend our sincere and warmest thanks to Sylvia for her support and kind generosity.

Sue Olsen

The Hardy Fern Foundation Habitat Garden *continued from page 23*

created. We had ten months to finalize a plan and coordinate gathering of mature plant material to display.

What happened next over the remaining months was short of a miracle in cooperative effort. In addition to presenting our annual Northwest Flower and Garden display booth, the HFF Fern Festival

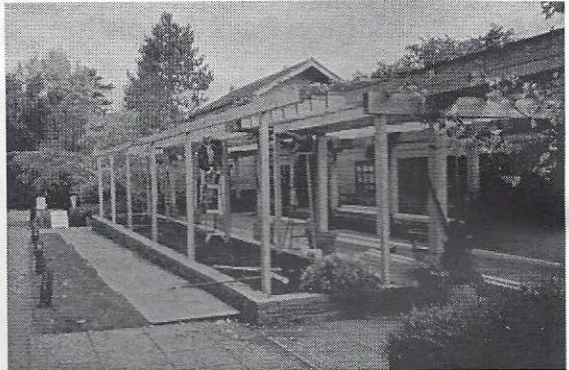


Plate 2

sale and hosting 19-24 BPS members on an eleven day tour in July 2003, we managed to move ahead with our "Signature Bed" project.

In early October 2003 the WPA staff stripped the previous display and a clean surface was presented. (See Plate 1). We were expected to plant everything in one week.

Monday morning of the 13th John van den Meerendonk and his crew constructed a lath/arbor structure to provide shade and support shade cloth which will bring relief from the sun in the spring and summer. (See Plate 2).

Rocks were added to create a scree and a meandering dry stream bed with a simulated bog or fen at one end.



Plate 3

Unfortunately the weather became dreadful and, from my vantage point unbearable to watch, with wind and cold rain by Wednesday. In spite of this John and his crew completed the layout and hard structure. We were ready to plant. (See Plate 3).

Friday, the day of planting brought reasonable weather and eleven dedicated members bearing a large number of mature ferns and companion plants. There were over 60 species of ferns and 24 varieties of companion plants plus blankets of moss as well as a handsome moss and Polypodium covered log and stump.



Plate 4

In approximately two hours we planted enough plant material to fill and cover the entire bed (See Plate 4). I have never more enjoyed working with such a great group of people.

The overall effect demonstrates the varied growing conditions and applications of native and temperate species ranging from higher altitudes, dry, well drained sites, those adapted to rocky slopes, streams and lower wetlands. A meadow forest habitat is represented at one end with the mossy logs and stumps. All in all it is a showcase for ferns and companions in a natural setting. And although the underlying structure of the design is controlled, the proper grouping of plants creates an idyllic garden room that will provide year-round pleasure. It was rewarding to be a part of such a coordinated effort in creating a structure with "good bones" and design elements that will enable the garden to maintain an identity

of its own throughout seasonal changes.

Special thanks to Lyman Black, Michelle Bundy, Katie Burki, Sylvia Duryee, Sue Olsen, Becky Reimer, Buz Smith, and Richie Steffen. Very special thanks to Jeanie Taylor for our wonderful logs.

The HFF board extends grateful thanks to John van den Meerendonk and his crew for donating their generous gift of time and materials to this project. Thank you, thank you, John.


Finally special thanks to the staff at the Arboretum, Dr. John Wott, Director, David Zuckerman, Head of Maintenance and Randall Hitchin, Registrar and Collections Manager.

I wish all of you the best of health and wellness in the New Year.

Pat Kennar

Immediate Past President

Bellevue, WA



THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY

The Hardy Fern Foundation Quarterly is published quarterly by the Hardy Fern Foundation, P.O. Box 166, Medina, WA 98039-0166.

Articles, photos, fern and gardening questions, letters to the editor, and other contributions are welcomed!

Please send your submissions to:
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2003 128th Ave SE,
Bellevue, WA, 98005

Newsletter:

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Assistants:	Michelle Bundy
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Feast in the East

There was so much enthusiasm for the Best of the West tour that the BPS and HFF are now planning a Mid-Atlantic USA trip in 2005 running from Tuesday June 28 to Friday July 8. John Scott has proposed a very interesting itinerary which follows. Further information, links and forms can be found at <http://hometown.aol.com/bps2005/myhomepage>.

Or contact John at 55 Hertzog School Rd., Mertztown, PA 18966-1719. e-mail Bps2005@aol.com. See you there!

Itinerary

Monday, June 27

*Best Western Conf. Center
Concordville for early arrivals*

Tuesday, June 28

Hot Breakfast Buffet (BW)

Registration 9:30-11:30
Leave *Phil. Int'l Airport* Motel (noon)
Pine Barrens
Box lunch
Pine Barrens cont.
*Best Western Concordville
Dinner on your own (BW)*

Wednesday, June 29

Hot Breakfast Buffet (BW)
Springwood (Lighty's Garden)
Winterthur
Welcome and *Box Lunch*
Ecology Tram Tour /
Native fern garden
Tour: English influence on American
Furniture or Rare Books & stroll
*Best Western Concordville
Dinner on your own*
7:30 Talk: *Intro to the Piedmont Flora*

Thursday, June 30

Hot Breakfast Buffet (BW)
Mt. Cuba
Box Lunch
Wild areas en route to Longwood
Arrive Longwood 4:45
Welcome
Dinner at Longwood Gardens
Tour fern walk
Fountain Display at dark
Leave Longwood parking lot at 10:30
Best Western Concordville

Friday, July 1

Hot Breakfast Buffet (BW)
Tyler Arboretum
Barnes Arboretum
Box Lunch
Henry Foundation
Chanticleer Gardens
Radnor Hotel
Dinner Buffet at Radnor Hotel
Talk: *Dryopteris, Polypodium, Asplenium*

Saturday, July 2

Buffet Breakfast (Radnor Hotel)
Chester Co., PA serpentine
Box lunch
MD - Susquehanna
Best Western Intercourse, PA
Dinner on your own

Sunday, July 3

Free continental Breakfast (BW)

Lancaster Co., PA

Box lunch

Lancaster Co., PA cont.

Dinner: Shady Maple Smorgasbord

Talk: *Pictorial key to PA ferns*

Best Western Intercourse, PA

Wednesday, July 6

Free continental Breakfast

Mickel's Garden or Tarrytown area

Box Lunch

Lyndhurst

Tarrytown Area Motel

Dinner on your own

Show and Tell: BPS/HFF 2003

Monday, July 4

Free continental Breakfast(BW)

Northern Berks

Rockland Botanical Garden

Box lunch

Kutztown Folk Festival

Ox roast dinner 4pm

Allentown Motel

Thursday, July 7

Free continental Breakfast

Brooklyn or NY Botanic Garden

Lunch on your own at the Garden

Buck Garden

Best Western New Hope

Dinner on your own and tour New

Hope

Tuesday, July 5

Free continental Breakfast

Nescopeck St. Park

Box lunch

Delaware Water Gap

Suffulk Branch Trail

Tarrytown Area Motel

Dinner on your own

Friday, July 8

Free continental Breakfast

Bowmen's Hill (Wherry Fern Taril)

Box Lunch

Schieber's Garden

Morris Arboretum (Fern House)

Farewell Dinner (Phila.)

Phila Int'l Motel

Cystopteris fragilis

Brittle Bladder Fern

Fragile Bladder Fern

James R. Horrocks

Salt Lake City, Utah



Brittle Fern

The genus name *Cystopteris* means literally "Bladder" fern, referring to the domed, inflated, bladder-like young indusia. The species name "fragilis" obviously refers to its dainty, fragile appearance. The Fragile Fern is one of the earliest ferns to appear in the spring and, after dry spells when the fronds wither, the rains conjure up a profusion of new emerald-green fronds. It is world-wide in its distribution in both the northern and southern hemispheres, being found even at high elevations in mountains in the tropics

continued on page 28

Cystopteris Fragilis continued from page 27

and, at the other extreme, within the Arctic Circle in eastern Canada. It is extremely hardy, being rated in Zone 1. It is often confused in the eastern United States with *C. protusa*, but the latter bears yellowish hairs on the rhizomes not found in any other species of *Cystopteris*. *C. dickeana*, resembles *C. fragilis*, and is regarded by some peridologists as a subspecies or variety of the latter. In *C. dickeana*, however, the blade and pinnules are narrower, and the pinnae overlap. The spores are wrinkled and warty on their surface rather than spiny as in *C. fragilis*. The most difficult look-alike would be *C. tenuis*, which can usually only be distinguished by an expert. *C. tenuis* is the fertile hybrid cross between *C. fragilis* and *C. protrusa*. *C. fragilis* also hybridizes with *C. bulbifera* to form *C. laurentiana*, with *C. montana* in Europe to form *C. x alpina* and with *C. tenuis*. The actual origin of *C. fragilis* is uncertain but may have involved extinct diploids or an unknown diploid and *C. reevesiana*. Another possibility is that *C. fragilis* is an autotetraploid which arose from a rare or extinct diploid. *C. fragilis* is a fertile tetraploid and this may account for its world-wide distribution. It often self-sows in the garden and even on the sides of clay pots in more humid climates. This species is epipetric on rocks and cliffs, frequenting crevices but also found in sandy soils and has been found growing along stream banks. It is abundant in its northern range but becomes rarer further south. A form in cultivation, variety 'Cristata' is the only known true variant.

Description: The rhizome is short-creeping and ascending, with numerous spreading rootlets, and with numerous old stipe bases which can be quite congested. The stipes are two-thirds the length of the blade, dark reddish-brown at the base but becoming reddish-brown to brown or pale-brown toward the apex. The bipinnate-pinnatifid fronds are narrowly lanceolate, from four to fifteen inches long and quite deciduous. In fact they are described as "thin and herbaceous". The fronds are produced all summer. The pinnae are set rather far apart, never overlapping, and the veins end mostly in teeth, not in shallow notches. The lowest pinnae-pair are shorter than the next above. The pinnules are somewhat triangular and are very short-stalked, or have no stalk at all. They are deeply toothed, the cutting quite variable. There are no tiny glad-tipped hairs present. The indusium is lanceolate, not glandular, and withers early. The sori are tiny, round and scattered on the teeth of the pinnules.

Culture: Easily grown in any garden but appreciates being placed among rocks, especially in crevices between rocks. It is more at home in the shade but can take a little morning sun. It is said to have a liking for some lime, but is often found growing in sub-acid soil in crevices of granitic rocks and among metamorphic rocks such as quartzite. (This is particularly true in the Unithah mountains of Utah.) This little fern is obviously quite adaptable and is cosmopolitan in its growth habit. The only drawback is its tendency to become rather dilapidated in the summer months. It is a little gem for the wild garden, and, if kept moist, will remain green until frost.

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Timber Press, Portland, OR.

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